

**ADMINISTRATION STATEMENT
JEOPARDIZES PEACE,
A STEP TOWARDS ESCALATING TENSIONS**

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- House Republican Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) has warned that the Carter Administration statement calling upon Israel to withdraw from all captured territories as part of a Middle East peace agreement is jeopardizing chances for peace in that area.

Rhodes termed the State Department announcement "an astonishing example of diplomacy by publicity in which the Administration took still another step toward escalating tensions in one of the world's most dangerous places."

In a joint news conference with Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker, Rhodes charged that the Carter policy is endangering "the carefully structured plans of President Ford and Dr. Kissinger to arrange a basis for peace negotiations between the parties themselves."

"The Administration has escalated the rhetoric in a way that can only serve further to harden the lines," the House Republican Leader said in a statement that he read to newsmen.

In response to a question later, Rhodes said, "I don't think that Israel is going to relinquish to the Syrians direct control of the Golan Heights. I would not. I think that Israel is going to be reluctant, and I would support their reluctance, to relinquish control of the Christian and Jewish Holy Places in Old Jerusalem."

Rhodes observed that, before the Carter Administration statements, the United States "had never given a formula for a settlement in the Middle East" but rather had sought to have the parties make the settlement themselves.

"I'm afraid that the statements which have been made represent a very wide departure from that. We are actually telling the people of the Middle East the shape of the settlement. I think that's not likely to be successful."



NEVADA SENATOR JACK SCHOFIELD, LEFT, GREETES WORLD WAR II ACE GREGORY (PAPPY) BOYINGTON AT THE HOTEL SAHARA DURING BOYINGTON'S RECENT VISIT TO ADDRESS THE UNLV WORKSHOP IN AEROSPACE EDUCATION. SCHOFIELD, DIRECTOR OF THE WORKSHOP FOR NINE YEARS, ALSO WAS A WW II COMBAT PILOT. BOYINGTON'S EXPLOITS AS A FIGHTER PILOT IN THE PACIFIC GAVE RISE TO THE CURRENT TELEVISION SERIES "BAA BAA BLACK SHEEP."

In the prepared statement, Rhodes said: "We have no desire to make the search for peace in the Middle East a matter for partisan debate. But recent events require comment. The carefully structured plans of President Ford and Dr. Kissinger to arrange a basis for peace negotiations between the parties themselves achieved

a considerable degree of success." Because the results of that patient negotiation are now endangered, we feel obliged to speak out."

"On Monday (June 27) the State Department publicly defined the Carter Administration's view of the proper elements of a Middle Eastern settlement. It was an astonishing example of diplomacy by publicity, in which the Administration took still another step toward escalating tensions in one of the world's most dangerous places.

"We do not question the President's commitment to peace, but it is our duty as Minority Leaders in Congress to take note that the Administration's position is in sharp contrast to a foreign policy in which the United States assisted the Arab and Israeli governments in a calm and rational negotiating process that brought about a fragile peace."

"We believe that the President's statement has raised the expectations of one of the parties to the dispute and has placed the other in a position in which it may no longer repose its full confidence in the United States as an impartial and objective arbiter. We believe the Administration has escalated the rhetoric in a way that can only serve further to harden the lines."

"We have to remember three things because you can be sure that the Arabs and Israelis understand them. One, no country will negotiate its own destruction. Two, no country will negotiate seriously if it can get what it wants outside of the negotiations. Three, any effective mediator must preserve a posture of impartiality.

"As Leaders of the Republican Party in Congress, we wish to express the view that open covenants arrived at between the parties quietly and with adequate preparation are the best and the only way to bring real peace to the Middle East. When the question of peace and war is at stake, the issue must be approached with the care it deserves."

U.S. FIRMS DENY PARTICIPATION IN ARAB BOYCOTT

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Three major American corporations and two banks have denied a claim by the Arab Boycott Committee that they have submitted proof of compliance with anti-Israel boycott rules, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said here.

ADL national chairman, Burton M. Joseph, said that General Electric, General Motors, Westinghouse and Barclays Bank and Bank of America have informed the ADL that

they do not discriminate and that they maintain business relationships with both Israel and the Arab world. Joseph said the ADL checked with the five after the Arab Boycott Committee said that Barclays was removed from the boycott list and the other four would not be put on because they had given proof of not having business ties with Israel.

Joseph said the companies "were being used as innocent pawns in an Arab propaganda effort to

counter the new U.S. anti-boycott law."

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