

WASHINGTON DATELINE

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WASHINGTON, D. C. -- President Carter signed the anti-boycott legislation which prohibits United States firms from joining the Arab boycott of Israel. He signed the landmark measure in an impressive ceremony in the White House Rose Garden with a number of prominent people from the Jewish community and the American business community in attendance.

Prior to signing the bill, H.R. 5840, President Carter stated: "For many months I have spoken on the need for legislation to outlaw secondary and tertiary boycotts and discrimination against American businessmen on religious or national grounds. During the campaign (for the Presidency) I called this a profound moral issue from which we should not shrink.

"My concern about foreign boycotts stemmed from our special relationship with Israel, as well as from the economic, military and security needs of both our countries. But the issue also goes to the very heart of free trade among all nations."

He added that, therefore, he was particularly pleased to sign into law the 1977 amendments to the Export Administration Act, which will keep foreign boycott practices from intruding directly into American commerce.

The President added that the new law doesn't threaten or question the sovereign right of any nation to regulate its own commerce with other countries, nor is it directed toward any particular country. "The bill seeks, instead, to end the divisive effects on American life of foreign boycotts aimed at Jewish members of our society," he said. "If we allow such a precedent to become established, we open the door to similar action against any ethnic, religious or racial group in America."

President Carter credited the hard work of Senators Stevenson and Proxmire and Congressmen Zablocki, Rosenthal, Hamilton, Bingham, Solarz, and Whalen for the legislation. He also

noted the "patient perseverance" of the Business Round Table, the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, and the American Jewish Congress.

"The openness of their discussion and of the delicate legislative process which shaped this bill has reconfirmed my own belief in the value of open government," the President remarked. "This cooperative effort between the business community, the Jewish leaders, the Congress and the Executive Branch can serve as a model for what can be accomplished in even more difficult areas, when reasonable people agree to sit down together in good will and good faith.

"I'm confident that the divisive issues in the Middle East -- which give rise to current boycotts -- can be resolved equally satisfactorily through a similar process of reasonable, peaceful cooperation."

The President pledged the Administration's effective enforcement of the legislation. He concluded the ceremony by expressing his confidence that the "enforcement of this legislation will help to lessen the tensions in the Middle East and hopefully lead to a permanent peace in that troubled region."

Asked for his reaction to the bill signing, Stu Eizenstat, Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs and Policy, responded: "This is a proud day for the Carter Administration and for the United States and a proud day for the Jewish community because -- for the first time -- an Administration has had the guts to stand up to a foreign boycott and to seek and obtain legislation. This would not have been possible without the close cooperation of the Jewish community, Administration officials and members of Congress."

Max Kampelman, attorney at law, who was one of the negotiators (a group who represented the Jewish community who, in turn, worked with negotiators from the Business Round Table, to reach an agreement on the legislation) said that the President told him: "I hope my Administration can further persevere the Arabs into giving up the boycott altogether, as a way of achieving peace in the Mideast."

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, President, American Jewish Congress, stated: "This legislation affirms the determination of the American people

to defend American principles of free trade and freedom from discrimination. We're proud that our country should take the lead in protecting the right of our citizens and business firms to act without economic or political coercion from abroad. This effort will, however, be incomplete unless the U.S. is joined by other nations similarly committed to the principles embodied in the law signed today by President Carter.

"It is only by the vigorous enforcement of this law and the adoptions of effective regulations to implement its purposes and intent that this measure will achieve the salutary ends to which all of us look forward."

Others among the witnesses to the signing ceremony were Secretary of State Cyrus Vance; Vice President Walter Mondale; Under Secretary of Commerce Sidney Harman; Warren Christopher, Deputy Secretary of State; Julius Katz, Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs; David Small, Assistant Legal Advisor for Near East and South Asian Affairs; Regional H. Jones, Chairman of the Board, General Electric; Gerald E. Kandler, Counsel for General Legal Division, DuPont de Nemours & Co.; Richard Leshner, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Larry Fox, National Association of Manufacturers; Senators Adlai Stevenson; Harrison Williams; John Heinz; Harrison Schmitt; John Sparkman; Paul Sarbanes; Edward Brooke; and Robert Byrd; Congressmen Clement Zablocki, Lee Hamilton, Ben Rosenthal; Jonathan Bingham, Stephen Solarz; Charles Whalen and James Buchanan.

Among those from the Jewish community: Maxwell Greenberg, Max Kampelman, Paul S. Berger, Alfred H. Moses, and Arnold Forster, who acted as negotiators. From the Anti-Defamation League: Benjamin Epstein, Burton Joseph, David Brody, Seymour Graubard. From the American Jewish Committee: Ira Silverman, Melvin Merian, and Hyman Bookbinder. From the American Jewish Congress: Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, Naomi Levine and Phil Baum.

Also, Morris Amitay, American Israel Public Affairs Committee; Rabbi Alex Shindler, President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Chairman of Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish organizations;

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