

X T 11 6
February 4, 1975
1975-2-43 Assad, Israel, Boycott

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Robert H. Pelletreau, Esquire
American Embassy
Damascus

Dear Bob:

In response to your query about the Arab Boycott Office, we are enjoined by law (the Export Administration Act of 1969, pertinent paragraph enclosed) to oppose restrictive trade practices or boycotts against friendly countries. This legislation is aimed specifically at the Arab boycott. Its terms are legally binding on USC representatives. What private businessmen do is, of course, up to them, but we do give them copies of the relevant Export Regulation and a related form. Enclosed are copies of these, plus a recent report published on the boycott.

In short, it would probably be a violation of law for U.S. representatives to have contact with the Boycott Office; certainly anything that smacks of cooperation would be clearly illegal. There are occasions on which officers in various American embassies have had contact on instructions about the boycott with Arab host government officials. In those cases the first thing the American official says is that the US does not recognize the boycott.

We have forwarded under separate cover the publications and lists you asked for in your letter of January 21. We are able to get most items free, so the total cost was only \$5.70. My check is enclosed to rebate you the balance from the check you sent.

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January 10, 1948

It was very good to hear from you. We'll keep in touch.

OFFICIAL INFORMATION

Sincerely,

Pierce K. Bullen, ~~Resident~~
NEA/ARN
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures:cc:

1. Export Regulation
2. Check are not to have direct contact with the Arab Boycott Office on grounds that contact would result in our recognition. We have never seen this in writing though and wonder first, whether there is a written instruction to that effect and second, whether it is still valid in light of today's circumstances.

From our point of view, the Arab Boycott Office has not been in existence a number of years and is a relatively new office and has no means. We would like to refer to the fact that we have not been able to obtain the information that we need, so we are unable to provide the information that we need. If we had access to the information that we need, we would be able to provide the information that we need. The Boycott Office is not directly rather than relying on indirect and secondary sources.

The Boycott Office is a generally recognized institution in the Arab world and its officials are seen in the press in the social and diplomatic circuits. The British, Italians, and West Germans all have

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