



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1975-1-28, Assad, Israel, Boycott
Damascus, S.A.R.

January 28, 1975

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OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

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

Dear Pierce:

It has been our understanding, since reopening here, that we are not to have direct contact with the Arab Boycott Office on grounds that contact would constitute 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 now been in existence a number of years and is a reality of the Middle East and Damascus scene. We recognize the governments that organized it, as we do the governments that organized OPEC, so why not have low-key contacts with it in the same way that we do with OPEC? Additionally, we could provide better service to American firms involved in boycott questions if we had access to, and could obtain information from, the Boycott Office directly rather than relying on indirect and secondary sources.

The Boycott Office is a generally recognized institution in Damascus and its officials are seen regularly on the social and diplomatic circuits. The British, Italians, and West German's all have

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20540

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regular dealing with it on an official or informal working level basis.

We would appreciate it if you would look into this matter and give us the Department's current guidance on it.

Sincerely,



Robert H. Pelletreau

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