

[Tab 6]

BOYCOTT OF BLACKLISTED TANKERS*Background*

Foreign Minister Hakim is Lebanon's protagonist in enforcing the Arab League boycott of Israel. Efforts are reportedly being made to prevent foreign-owned tankers which have called at Haifa from loading at Lebanese ports. Concurrently, the Lebanese Government is attempting to enforce the boycott by requesting all airlines to discontinue their services to Israel.

Probable Lebanese Position

Lebanese officials will probably avoid discussion of the boycott. Defense would be along traditional lines that Arabs are still at war with Israel, and that Lebanese are taking advantage of sovereign rights similar to those invoked by United States in China embargo.

United States Position

Advantage should be taken of every appropriate occasion to make clear United States disapproval of Arab boycott measures which make solution of Arab-Israel problems more difficult. Concessions from Israel are more remote in face of increased Arab efforts to strangle Israel economically.

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ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS

Arab-Israel differences and the part played by the United States in the establishment and support of Israel contribute very substantially to (a) continued and increasing anti-American and anti-Western sentiment in the Arab world, (b) Western inability to create an atmosphere of confidence, (c) lack of progress in strengthening the defense of the Near East, and (d) delay in improving the fundamental economic and social conditions of the area. The Arab states continue to believe that U.S. policy in the Near East is partial to

¹ One of a series of position papers on regional problems in the Near East prepared for the briefing book for the Secretary's trip to the Middle East and South Asia; see footnote 1, Document 604.