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EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT
(H. R. 15377)

- Q. Yesterday, Marilyn Berger and Joe Policoff asked for the President's position on the Export Administration Act, which contains the anti-boycott amendment. Among the questions was whether the Administration was trying to block the bill and whether Senator Tower had told the President it should not be voted on.

GUIDANCE:

This is an extremely complex issue which involves not only the Administration's position regarding Arab boycott legislation, but it also involves the Zablocki Amendment regarding nuclear exports. It is my understanding that the House and Senate conferees will be discussing the matter again today, and therefore, I am reluctant to comment specifically on a fluid and fast-moving legislative situation.

As a follow-up to the questions I received yesterday, I can tell you that the Administration has been in close touch with key conferees and we have offered a constructive compromise on the Arab boycott provisions which we believe provide a responsible means of meeting the interests of all sides. We hope the conferees will give this compromise serious consideration.

With regard to the question of whether Senator Tower is acting on the President's behalf in blocking consideration of this legislation in the Senate, I would point out that Senator Tower is the ranking Republican on the Senate Banking and Currency Committee and he has

consistently opposed legislation regarding Arab boycotts. He is acting on his own behalf on this matter, not on behalf of the President and you will have to speak to Senator Tower regarding any of his detailed views regarding the holding on this legislation. I would also point out that Senator Tower has accepted the Administration's proposed compromise and therefore if the rest of the conferees accept the compromise the deadlock will be broken.

FYI ONLY:

Part of the Administration's compromise, which is based on modification of the Stevenson provisions, is that the conferees drop the Zablocki Amendment completely.

FURTHER FYI:

You should strongly resist efforts to be drawn into discussing details of the various proposals because of the very fluid legislative situation. You should also make very clear that there is no question or issue of Arab blackmail regarding threats of threats of retaliation by another oil embargo.