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Press Release

Contact: Phil Craft
212-860-0606

For Immediate Release

March 13, 2003

MALONEY LEADS CONGRESSIONAL EFFORT AGAINST BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), together with Congressman Mike Pence (R-IN), recently organized a letter to President Bush urging the Administration to make clear that the United States will take a strong stand against countries who boycott Israel. Congresswoman Maloney led the effort in reaction to growing indications that the boycott is being revived around the world. In June 2002, the 57 members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference agreed to reactivate the boycott. In October 2002, 18 members of the Arab League agreed to strengthen the boycott. Most recently, in February 2003, the 114 member nations of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) agreed to take concrete measures against certain Israeli products.

Congresswoman Maloney said, "I am pleased that a strong, bipartisan group of House members has expressed concern about this important issue. The Administration has done a good job of reinforcing the idea that America will take strong action against those who participate in the boycott. By sending this letter, we are expressing our hope that the Administration will continue to send the message that the United States has very strong laws against those who participate in the boycott, and that those laws will be enforced."

The letter, which was signed by a bipartisan coalition of 33 members, expressed appreciation of the Administration's "prior efforts to vigorously enforce US anti-boycott statutes and regulations, and we hope that you will continue to take a strong position against efforts to reinvigorate and expand the boycott."

A copy of the full text of the letter follows:

Dear President Bush,

We are writing to urge you to take action to prevent the spreading boycott of Israeli goods and services, and the secondary boycott of companies who do business with Israel. As you are aware, in October 2002, 18 members of the Arab League pledged to tighten the boycott of Israel. This followed a June 2002 agreement by the 57 members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to reactivate the boycott. Recently, the 114 member nations of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) agreed to take "concrete measures" against products from Jewish settlements in Palestinian areas.

For decades, the United States has taken a strong stance against the boycott. We are pleased that your administration has been very vocal in warning US companies and individuals that they would face serious consequences if they implement secondary boycotts against Israel. We hope that you will use all diplomatic means possible to notify the NAM members that the United States will view a renewal of the boycott negatively, and that there are serious consequences under United States laws for US participants in the boycott.

We appreciate your administration's prior efforts to vigorously enforce US anti-boycott statutes and regulations, and we hope that you will continue to take a strong position against efforts to reinvigorate and expand the boycott.

Signed:

Rep. Carolyn Maloney

Rep. Mike Pence

Rep. Jon C. Porter

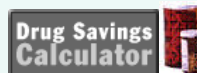
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