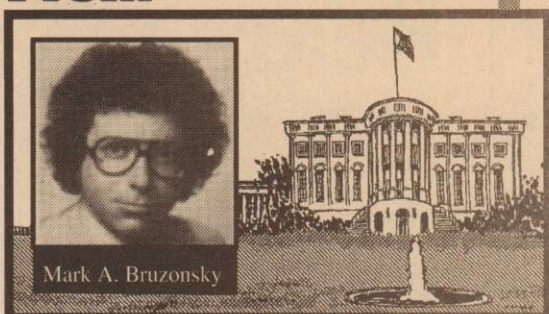


\$10 billion loan
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More significant
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no to Israel

From



Washington

AMERICAN JEWS CROSS SWORDS

A GROUP known as The Jewish Committee On the Middle East -- JCOME -- has just published advertisements with the theme "Just say 'No' to Israel" in a number of publications including Roll Call, the weekly that circulates to Congress and others on Capitol Hill. This has been done, of course, in anticipation of the renewal of the debate about extending Israel \$10 billion dollars in loan guarantees.

The ad, reproduced here, opens with the "Just say no" headline -- a take-off on Nancy Reagan's "just say no to drugs" campaign of recent years.

JCOME is an association of independent American Jews, including Jewish professors at over 160 universities throughout the United States, who have been speaking up for major changes in US policy for a number of years.

A number of persons on JCOME advisory committee are well-known American Jews for long opposed to Israeli policies including Dr Yigal Arens, the son of Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens; Professor Noam Chomsky at MIT; and professors of Middle East or international affairs at such major universities as

Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, and Stanford. This writer should also note his own leadership role with JCOME in recent years.

Other Jewish organisations, far less outspoken than JCOME, have also become involved in calling for restrictions on new aid to Israel.

The American-Israel Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, in tandem with a group calling itself "The Jewish Peace Lobby", has sent out a mailing whose opening paragraph says:

"Each person receiving this letter can make an immediate contribution to Mid-east peace. Write or phone your two senators and your member of Congress to tell them that you don't want American assistance facilitating the Israeli government's settlement drive in the occupied territories, and that the housing loan guarantees requested by Is-

rael should therefore be made conditional on a settlement freeze."

Another sign of the times -- of the heightened schisms within American Jewry -- is the unprecedented "Open Letter" that a prominent mid-western American Jewish businessman has just sent to every member of the US Congress.

Arthur Kobacker of Columbus, Ohio, is chairman of the Kobacker Company and a well-known philanthropist who has earned such distinctions in recent years as the Ronald McDonald House Philanthropist of the Decade Award and the Dr Martin Luther King Jr Humanitarian Award, both from Columbus associations.

Kobacker is a graduate of Yale University with honorary doctorates from Ohio Dominican and Franklin University. He also has received the Temple Israel Humanitarian Award from a synagogue in Columbus and the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Kiwanis Club in his hometown.

In short, Kobacker is a very well-known and well-respected Jewish American who has made substantial contributions to many causes. He himself strongly prefers this "Jewish American" phrasing to the more common "American Jewish" terminology for he feels it more properly emphasises Judaism as religion rather than as something closer to a nationality.

His Open Letter is reproduced on this page.

NO ISRAEL