

MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP - 1961

We commend the Congress of the United States of America for including in legislation adopted during the first half of its 87th session a renewed expression of the historic concern of the Federal government for the protection of the essential rights, liberties and dignities of all its citizens. In the Act for International Development of 1961, which supersedes all previous legislation on foreign aid, we are grateful for the statement of policy contained in Section 102, which states in part:

The Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States to support the principles of increased economic cooperation and trade among countries, freedom of the press, information, and religion, freedom of navigation in international waterways, and recognition of the right of all private persons to travel and pursue their lawful activities without discrimination as to race or religion.

Likewise, in the Foreign Assistance and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1962, we are equally grateful for the strong anti-bias provision in Section 108 which reads:

It is the sense of Congress that any attempt by foreign nations to create distinctions because of their race or religion among American citizens in the granting of personal or commercial access or any other rights otherwise available to United States citizens generally is repugnant to our principles; and in all negotiations between the United States and any foreign state arising as a result of funds appropriated under this title these principles shall be applied as the President may determine.

Despite these expressions, the United States still acquiesces in Arab discrimination against U.S. citizens of the Jewish faith. There are numerous examples of the blacklisting by nations of the Arab League of Americans whose travel routes or religious affiliations do not conform with Arab desires. Furthermore, there has been an Arab League boycott, which has projected into the American business scene discrimination against companies having American Jews among their officers, owners, directors or employees.

There have been equally repugnant examples of the objections of the Arab League to U.S. military or civilian personnel of the Jewish religion serving at bases built in an Arab country with U.S. funds. All of these acts are limitations of citizenship and violations of fundamental human rights. We urge the Executive and Legislative branches of the United States government, on the basis of the reaffirmations cited above, to deny U.S. funds or support to peoples and nations which seek to discriminate against U.S. citizens because of race or religion.

On behalf of the United States delegates of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, convened in XXIII Biennial Assembly in Washington, D.C., November 15, 1961, we record this expression of our sentiment and order copies transmitted to the appropriate officials and agencies of the United States government.