

Report by Quakers On Israel Assailed By Jewish Groups

The American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith have denounced as "anti-Israel" a 1970 Quaker report calling on Israel to take a step toward peace in the Middle East by pledging to withdraw from territories occupied in the 1967 war.

In a 100-page analysis entitled "Truth and Peace in the Middle East—A Critical Analysis of the Quaker Report," the congress and the league accused the American Friends Committee of advancing "blatant bias" and "recommendations detrimental to the cause of peace in the Middle East."

The Quaker report, "Search for Peace in the Middle East," was published in May, 1970. In addition to calling for an Israeli withdrawal, the 20,000-word study said the Arab countries should respond with an "unequivocal public commitment" to accept the Israeli state within frontiers to be drawn in negotiations.

The report was the work of nine American, British and Canadian Quaker leaders who gathered material over a two year period in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt.

The reply published by the two Jewish groups last week accused the Quaker authors of distorting historical data to reinforce a "preconceived pro-Arab bias," and of "masking the effort with claims of objectivity."

The Jewish groups said the Quakers were in effect suggesting that Israel "forgo the possibility of negotiating a real peace, with secure and agreed borders, and rely instead on Arab 'willingness' to live in peace."

The analysis asked: "Once Israel has committed herself as a first step to withdraw from the occupied territory, as the report proposes, what would she have left to negotiate with in the next phase?"

The analysis said that the Quaker report was "particularly regrettable because of the long history of mutual respect and sympathy between American Jews and American Friends and their past collaboration in many humanitarian causes."

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