Implementation of the new policy normally will be accomplished by Saudi Arabian Consulates, who are responsible for legalization of commercial invoices and certificates of origin. [Emphasis added]

Similarly, the *Minutes of the Monthly Round Table Conference* of the *Foreign Credit Interchange Bureau* of March 7, 1956 discloses that Mr. Milton Blecher, Business Analyst of the New York Field Office of the United States Department of Commerce was among the discussants at the Conference and that the following comments on the Saudi Arabian boycott were made:

CHAIRMAN: QUESTION: "Customers in Saudi Arabi have advised that a certificate is required by the Saudi Arabian authorities as to the Jewish or Christian status of the firm for which a letter of credit is to be opened. Such a certificate is to be verified or visaed by the Saudi Arabian Consul in New York. Lack of this certificate, or a certificate indicating that the supplier firm is 'Jewish' would make it impossible to conclude the sale. It is not clear just what is meant by a 'Jewish firm' nor can we comply with such a request without protesting the implication. Has there been any action by the Department of Commerce or by the FCIB to make the impertinence of this requirement known to the Saudi-Arabian authorities?"

MR. MILTON BLECHER (U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE): Saudi Arabia intends to boycott all Jewish or Jewish-directed firms from trading with that country, according to information received by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce.

This new policy greatly extends the provisions of the existing boycott against firms having branches, assembly plants, or general agents in Israel, as well as firms having shares in Israeli companies.

Implementation of the new policy normally will be accomplished by Saudi Arabian consulates, who are responsible for legalization of commercial invoices and certificates of origin.

CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Blecher in his comments also answered question No. 2.

QUESTION: "Several stories have appeared recently in the press regarding a trading boycott by Saudi Arabia against certain American firms. Can you develop this further at the Round Table?"

MEMBER: One part of the discussion has not been clarified. Is this something being considered or are their firms now shipping to Saudi Arabia and having any difficulty.

PANEL MEMBER: I just heard of one case where the consulate in Beirut refused to clear the trans-shipment documents.

MEMBER: Within the last month we received a letter of credit from Saudi Arabi and there was absolutely no question.

PANEL MEMBER: I think there is a private clearance going on here by the consulate and they have certain information on certain firms on the strength of which they act.

MEMBER: We have made several shipments and all that has been required of us has been certificate of origin and that would be legalized by the Saudi Arabian consulate.

MEMBER: What would be considered a Jewish corporation?

CHAIRMAN: Can anybody answer that?

PANEL MEMBER: As far as I know if any member of the firm or part-owner of the firm is of the Jewish faith they will not allow the goods in.

The Department of Commerce is thus aware of the facts. Foreign credit men working in this country are aware of the facts. Virtually the only interested party not aware of the facts is our State Department.

In the one precedent in our history for this withholding of consular approval of commercial documents submitted by American Jewish firms, the then Acting Secretary of State, Alvey A. Adee, in 1895 found this practice to be an "unjust and invidious discrimination against American Jews":

"But the Russian discrimination against American Jews is not confined simply to the matter of viseing passports. *This department was informed a few years since by the Russian Minister here that Russian consuls in this country would refuse authentication to legal documents for use in Russia when Jews are ascertained to be interested. This is an unjust and invidious discrimination against American Jews. . . .*" (*Foreign Relations,* 1895, page 1067. [Emphasis added]

Acting Secretary Adee called for immediate cessation of these practices and the adoption of preventive measures by this country. It is to be expected that now that all pretense has been dropped and the actual involvement of government officials in the current anti-Jewish boycott is a matter of full public disclosure and information, our State Department officials will similarly be disposed to demand an immediate stop to this intolerable behavior by Arab diplomats in this country.

It is also significant that none of these exporters maintains any branches or transacts any business with the government of Israel or with any Israeli firms. The allegation that only firms with Israeli branches or connections are excluded from Arab trade is a transparent artifice employed by the Arab League to conceal its intention to boycott Jewish firms wherever situated, as is indicated in the remarks of Mr. Blecher of the U. S. Department of Commerce quoted earlier. It cannot be mere accident that so many individual