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DCUGLAS E. ROSENTHAL DOMALD A. KAPLAN Antitrust Division Department of Justice Washington, D.C. 20530 Telephone: (202) 739-2464

Attorneys for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

٧.

BECHTEL CORPORATION, BECHTEL INCORPORATED, BECHTEL POWER CORPORATION, BECHTEL INTERNATIONAL, INC., and BECHTEL INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION,

Defendants.

Civil No. C 76 99 (GBH)

Filed: January 10, 1977

COMPETITIVE IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to Section 2(b) of the Antitrust Procedures and Penalties Act (15 U.S.C. §16(b)-(h) P.L. 93-528 (December 21, 1974))

("APPA"), the United States of America hereby files this Competitive Impact Statement ("C.I.S.") relating to a proposed Final Judgment in the above-entitled action to be entered against all defendants.

(1) NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE PROCEEDING

This action was filed on January 16, 1976, against Bechtel Corporation, Bechtel Incorporated, Bechtel Power Corporation, Bechtel International, Inc., and Bechtel International Corporation ("defendants"). Either Bechtel Corporation or Bechtel Incorporated, which are themselves affiliated, wholly own, directly or indirectly, the

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other defendants. The Complaint alleged that defendants and certain co-conspirators entered into and, in the United States, implemented a combination and conspiracy which resulted in an unreasonable restraint in the provision of parts, systems, material, equipment or services in connection with Major Construction Projects*/ in Arab League Countries in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. §1).

The defendants filed their Answer to the Complaint on April 26, 1976. They raised several affirmative defenses to the Complaint's allegations. Principal among these were that (a) the Arab League Boycott of Israel is political in nature and beyond the scope of the Sherman Act; (b) other agencies of the United States Government sanctioned the very participation in the Boycott with which defendants were charged and the Government is therefore estopped from this prosecution; and (c) the defendants are not liable because of the sovereign compulsion and act of state defenses.

More than one month prior to filing the Answer, preliminary discussions exploring possible settlement of this action were commenced. Negotiations continued for the next eight months and led to the submission of this proposed Final Judgment.

(2) PRACTICES AND EVENTS GIVING RISE TO THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE ANTITRUST LAWS

(a) The Commerce Involved

Defendants and other affiliated companies ("Bechtel Group") jointly constitute one of the largest Prime Contractors for Major Construction Projects in the world. Prime Contractors sell their services primarily to governmental and large commercial Clients. These services generally include some or all of the following:

^{*/} When terms are used in this C.I.S. that are defined in Section II of the proposed Final Judgment, the definition appearing there shall also apply here. Such terms will appear in both documents with initial capital letters.

 construction design, construction engineering, procuring and delivering equipment and supplies, site and economic feasibility studies, consulting and managing in connection with construction, and actually constructing such Major Construction Projects as refineries, pipeline systems, airports, nuclear or conventional power generating facilities, harbors, transportation systems, and building complexes.

In providing these services, Prime Contractors regularly deal with Subcontractors which produce or provide parts, systems, material, equipment or services used in connection with Major Construction Projects.*/ Prime Contractors frequently provide one or more of the following services to Clients in dealing with Subcontractors: suggest to the Client a list of qualified Subcontractors from which bids may be solicited; solicit Subcontractor bids; contract with specific Subcontractors for the furnishing of specified goods or services on their own behalf or on behalf of the Client; expedite the production, shipping and use of goods or services; inspect the quality of goods or services provided; arrange for forwarding goods and services to the construction site; and manage or monitor the use of those goods and services at the project site.

Three types of contractual arrangements between Prime Contractors and Clients on Major Construction Projects are most common.

First, the Prime Contractor may be engaged on a "turn-key" basis.

This means that the Client pays the contractor a single price

(either in one lump sum or in installments paid at various stages

^{*/} As used here and in the proposed Final Judgment, Subcontractors are businesses which sell goods as well as services for use in Major Construction Projects. Thus, for example, a manufacturer of steel or electronic equipment which is purchased for use in a Major Construction Project would be a Subcontractor, as would an electrical contractor which installs wiring and circuitry. Subcontractors in some cases enter into contractual relationships directly with Clients. However, the Prime Contractor usually has a substantial role in the Subcontractor selection process in those situations as well.

of the construction) for all design, procurement and construction services provided by the Prime Contractor, and for all Subcontractors' goods and services which the Prime Contractor has purchased for the project in its own name. Second, the Prime Contractor's fee for the project may be determined on a "cost-plus" basis. this arrangement the Client pays for the Prime Contractor-supplied services either at a cost plus mark-up which reflects the time spent on the Client's project by the Prime Contractor's personnel, or reflects the nature of the specific tasks performed. Subcontractors' goods and services are purchased by the Prime Contractor, usually in its own name, and then resold to the Client at a mark-up, specified in the contract, to cover the cost of procurement services. the Prime Contractor may charge the Client for its services, either on a time or task basis, including procurement services, and the Client directly purchases all Subcontractors' goods and services. The Subcontractor selection procedures used by the Prime Contractor with the second and third types of arrangements are customarily the same. In both, the Prime Contractor usually develops and evaluates bids and makes a purchase recommendation to the Client. The Client then makes the final Subcontractor selection. The difference between the second and third type of arrangement lies in the party which directly pays the Subcontractor. Turn-key arrangements leave construction contracting decisions and payments to the Prime Contractor's discretion, subject to any specific contractual limitations.

There are several large Prime Contractors operating throughout the world. Some of the largest of these, including the Bechtel Group, are incorporated in the United States. These large Prime Contractors are capable of serving Clients in any region of the world. In the past few years an increasing percentage of large-scale construction projects have been undertaken in the Arab League Countries and elsewhere in the Middle East. Of the approximately \$12 billion in overseas new construction contracts awarded to

United States Prime Contractors in 1974, \$1 billion was awarded for the construction of projects in the Middle East. In 1975, total foreign contracts increased to approximately \$22 billion, with approximately \$7 1/2 billion in awards from Middle East clients --nearly two-thirds of the total increase. The Bechtel Group has current construction projects in a number of Middle East states which, upon completion, will have cost a total of several billion dollars. Parts, systems, material, equipment and services supplied by Subcontractors generally represent 30-50% of the total cost of a Major Construction Project. The terms of trade with respect. to Major Construction Projects are substantially similar throughout the world. One exception affects Major Construction Projects in many Arab League Countries: on these projects, the parties must generally observe the Arab League Boycott of Israel ("Boycott")

The Arab Boycott

In 1946 the Council of the Arab League established a permanent boycott committee to implement its decision to institute a member state boycott of "Zionist" goods and products. Pursuant to this decision the Arab League established local boycott offices in several of its member countries. While the initial boycott of 1946 was designed only to prevent entry of "Zionist" goods into Arab countries, its scope was broadened in 1951 to encompass a secondary boycott against third parties viewed as being friends of or providing assistance to the State of Israel. To effectuate this broader purpose, the Arab League established the Central Office for the Boycott of Israel in Damascus, Syria. The Central Boycott Office assumed primary responsibility for establishing the terms of and for policing the Boycott.

The principal means for effectuating the Boycott is the preparation and publication of blacklists which name business entities and individuals with whom Arab League Country purchasers may not

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deal, or whose goods and services may not be imported into Arab League Countries. These blacklists are not widely published; however, constantly updated versions are regularly provided to the local boycott offices in those Arab League member states which actively participate in the Boycott. Some member states prepare individualized blacklists effective within their own jurisdiction. These are based upon the master blacklist furnished by the Central Boycott Office, but reflect particular local considerations. A recent version of the blacklist promulgated in Saudi Arabia contains the names of more than twelve hundred United States business entities, including firms which manufacture goods or provide services used in construction projects. Those United States firms designated on this and similar boycott lists are referred to as "United States Blacklisted Persons".

The terms of the Boycott include the requirement of adherence to the blacklist with respect to business in Arab League Countries. Several member states, including Saudi Arabia, have promulgated decrees, including codes of regulations, which require compliance with the Boycott as a matter of national law by all Persons within their respective jurisdictions. These laws provide penalties ranging from confiscation of blacklisted goods, to fines, to imprisonment for several years. Accordingly, those doing business in such states are under compulsion to participate in the Boycott. Arab League Country purchasers of goods and services, including Clients undertaking Major Construction Projects, are responsible for seeing that goods and services furnished by Blacklisted Persons are not imported into Arab League Countries. The customs services of these member states police compliance with the Boycott through their power to inspect, confiscate or refuse entry to unauthorized imports.

In sum, the Boycott is a long-standing arrangement among certain Arab League Countries, the Central Boycott Office, enterprises

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doing business in those Arab League Countries, and others, pursuant to which international import trade and commerce in those countries is conducted consistent with a concerted refusal to deal with Black-listed Persons—including United States Blacklisted Persons. It is, as such, a horizontal agreement among purchasers in Arab League Countries, the purpose of which is to restrain the trade between those countries and others in the products of Blacklisted Persons.

(c) The Nature of the Violation of the Antitrust Laws

A conspiracy, even if entered into abroad among foreigners, may be subject to United States antitrust law if it is capable of effecting a restraint upon, and is intended to affect United States domestic or foreign commerce. (See, e.g., United States v. Aluminum Company of America, 148 F.2d 416, 444 (2d Cir. 1945)). However, here, since (1) the United States may not be reasonably expected to achieve compliance by the attempt to impose its own law in conflict with that of a foreign jurisdiction; (2) the illegal conduct is to take place in the territory of the foreign sovereign; and (3) the application of United States antitrust law to foreign conduct directly conflicts with foreign law valid in a foreign sovereignty thereby imposing substantial hardship upon the one against whom it would be applied, it would be inappropriate both as a matter of law and enforcement policy to apply United States law to this concerted refusal to deal as it operates in Arab League Countries. This is the principle of comity which makes it possible for nations with conflicting laws and policies to deal among themselves. (Restatement, Second, Foreign Relations Law) of the United States, Section 40, A.L.I. 1965). Accordingly, for the reasons just stated, it would be inappropriate to apply United States antitrust law to the Arab Boycott as so far described.

However, a principal element of the charge against the

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defendants contained in the Complaint was that they had not only agreed to implement the Boycott as to several Major Construction Projects in Arab League Countries, but had, in fact, implemented it within the sovereign jurisdiction of the United States by means of actions and agreements aimed against Blacklisted Persons. was this actual implementation in restraint of United States commerce which clearly subjected defendants to United States antitrust law. Such implementation in the United States could not be excused on the ground that it was directed by a foreign state, since that would intrude on the terms of trade within the sovereign territory of the United States where United States law is paramount. If Arab states have a valid claim to control significant commercial conduct within their sovereign territories under the principle of comity, so does the United States Government within its sovereign territory. Accordingly, a restraint of trade in United States commerce in violation of the Sherman Act may result from the Boycott although it is a requirement of law in a foreign jurisdiction.

The Complaint alleges that, beginning at least as early as 1971, and continuing to at least the date of the filing of the Complaint, the defendants joined the Boycott conspiracy against United States Blacklisted Persons and furthered that conspiracy in the United States. At trial the Government would have shown that the defendants signed contracts requiring them to black—list certain United States Persons with whom they might other—wise deal in the procurement of Subcontractor services as to Major Construction Projects; that they actually effectuated these contracts to the detriment of certain blacklisted potential United States Subcontractors; and that they entered into agreements with non-blacklisted United States Subcontractors requiring them to refuse to deal with United States Blacklisted Persons as their own Subcontractors in connection with providing goods and services to Major Construction Projects in Arab League Countries where the

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Bechtel Group was the Prime Contractor.

The Government was prepared to show further, that defendants' actions implementing the Boycott had a substantial and direct effect on United States commerce in that (i) certain Persons were denied the opportunity to sell goods and services for use in connection with Major Construction Projects in Arab League Countries or even to submit bids to supply such goods and services because they were United States Blacklisted Persons; or (ii) Persons which were or desired to become Subcontractors on Arab League Country Major Construction Projects were restrained from freely doing business in or with Israel for fear of being blacklisted themselves. The relief sought in the Complaint was a judgment decreeing that the alleged conduct was a violation of the Sherman Act and enjoining defendants from continuing that conduct.

The Government further would have contended that, as a matter of law, none of the affirmative defenses raised in defendants' Answer (see page 2 above) could defeat the relief sought in the Complaint. First, in response to the assertion that the Arab Boycott was politically motivated, the United States would have contended, inter alia, that its implementation by defendants had an anticompetitive effect on United States interstate and foreign commerce and, thus, was illegal under the Sherman Act regardless of the motivation. (see, e.g., Fashion Originators' Guila of America v. Federal Trade Commission, 312 U.S. 457 (1941)). Second, even if it were found as a matter of fact that certain agencies of the United States Government had acquiesced in, or even encouraged, participation in the Boycott by United States enterprises of the kind with which defendants were charged (a fact which the Government would have vigorously disputed), the United States could not be estopped from seeking prospective relief by enforcing a law express ing its sovereign and public interest (see, e.g., Pan American Co. v. United States, (273 U.S. 456 (1927)). Finally, as to the third

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principal defense, (foreign sovereign compulsion and act of 1 state) the Government would have contended that foreign sovereign 2 3 compulsion may not override enforcement of conflicting United 4 States law expressing a sovereign and public interest as to conduct within the United States (see, e.g., Sabre Shipping Co. 5 6 v. The American President Line Ltd., 285 F. Supp. 949 (S.D.N.Y. 7 1968)) and that the act of state defense does not apply to conduct 8 outside the territory of the state whose acts are invoked as 9 its basis, especially where the law of that state is not the 10 applicable law for testing the legality of the extraterritorial 11 conduct (see, e.g., Banco Nationale de Cuba v. Sabbatino, 376 12 U.S. 398 (1964); United States v. Sisal Sales Corp., 274 U.S. 13 268 (1927)). While the Government believes it would prevail 14 at trial, this proposed settlement means that these issues as 15 raised by the facts of this case will not be judicially determined 16 in this action. 17

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EXPLANATION OF THE PROPOSED FINAL JUDGMENT (3) AND ITS EFFECTS ON COMPETITION

This section of the C.I.S. is divided into two parts. first part the principal prohibitory provisions of the proposed Final Judgment, which are found in Section IV, are described and explained, followed by a similar description and explanation of specific limitations set forth in Section V. The second part will discuss the various procedural and formal provisions of the proposed Final Judgment.

The Conduct Prohibited by the Proposed Final Judgment (a)

The heart of this proposed Final Judgment is found in Sections IV and V. Section IV describes the conduct in which defendants may no longer engage. Section V describes five specific forms of conduct which might possibly be interpreted as falling within Section IV's prohibitions, but which the proposed Final Judgment in-

tends to permit defendants to continue.

The framework created by Sections IV and V is designed to prohibit defendants from continuing to engage in the conduct to which the allegations of the Complaint were addressed. In paragraph 22 of the Complaint, it is alleged that, pursuant to the Arab Boycott conspiracy, defendants and Persons acting on their behalf, within the jurisdiction of the United States, did a number of things including: (i) refusing to deal with Blacklisted Persons as Subcontractors in connection with Major Construction Projects; (ii) requiring Subcontractors to refuse to deal with Blacklisted Persons on such projects where defendants were Prime Contractors; and (iii) obtaining lists and other identification of Blacklisted Persons to aid in the foregoing refusals to deal. The proposed Final Judgment specifically enjoins these practices and a number of related practices as well.

Section IV(A)

This section generally enjoins and restrains defendants from refusing to deal with United States Blacklisted Persons as Subcontractors in connection with Major Construction Projects where a defendant is acting as a Prime Contractor or Subcontractor. The provision refers to performing, implementing or enforcing a contract, agreement, arrangement or understanding since it is only contracts, combinations or conspiracies in restraint of trade which are prohibited by Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

Section IV(A) prevents defendants from taking steps to effectuate such an agreement in the United States, but not in an Arab League Country. The focus of the Complaint in this case was that defendants be subject to United States antitrust enforcement if they did some act implementing an agreement to boycott blacklisted United States Subcontractors, even if that agreement was entered into in an Arab League Country under a requirement of that country's law. Such an agreement cannot be the basis for justifying any conduct

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or imposing any binding obligation to perform acts in violation of this Final Judgment. When United States Prime Contractors act to prevent the use of goods or services of United States Blacklisted Persons in connection with Major Construction Projects in Arab League Countries, they implement the Arab Boycott conspiracy in United States commerce and, it follows, the Court can enjoin such conduct under the Sherman Act. This is what Section IV(A) and other provisions of the proposed Final Judgment are designed to do.

Section IV(B)

This section prevents defendants from requiring that other Persons refuse to deal with United States Blacklisted Persons in connection with Major Construction Projects. For example, defendants would not be permitted to require a Subcontractor to use only those products manufactured by a company which is not a United States Blacklisted Person. Imposing such a requirement on Subcontractors pursuant to the Arab Boycott would be yet another form of Boycott implementation in the United States beyond the power of Arab sovereign compulsion.

Section IV(C)

This section would reach possible situations of Arab Boycott implementation not reached by Sections IV(A) and IV(B). Defendants are here enjoined from implementing the Boycott even where there is no direct contractual relationship between them and a Client or other Prime Contractor, or where they do not directly contract with Subcontractors. For example, Prime Contractors often organize separate corporations, the activities of which are limited to doing business in particular countries or areas of the world, or to building a single Major Construction Project. While the actual work is performed by the parent corporation itself or by personnel normally associated with the parent corporation, these separate corporations are the contracting parties.

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Thus, this proposed Final Judgment would prohibit defendants from carrying out those provisions of agreements, on behalf of a separately incorporated Arab League Country signatory, which require that the signatory refuse to deal with United States Blacklisted Persons in connection with a Major Construction Project.

Also, under this section, defendants would be prohibited from interfering with a Subcontractor which selects a United States Blacklisted Person as its own Subcontractor, or from acting in any way to review or approve a list of Persons the Subcontractor proposes to use as its own Subcontractors, for the purpose of eliminating United States Blacklisted Persons. This prohibition would apply even where the Prime Contractor is not a signatory to Subcontractor agreements between the Client or one of its agents and the Subcontractor. This is consistent with the terms of Section V(D) (see page 20 below).

Section IV(D)

Agreements in restraint of United States commerce negotiated and entered into within the United States are violations of United States law which always can be reached by our Courts, whether or not they are implemented, since the Sherman Act prohibits conspiracies in restraint of trade themselves as well as acts in furtherance of those conspiracies. See, e.g., United States v. Trenton Potteries Co., 273 U.S. 392 (1927); United States v. Socony Vacuum Oil Co., Inc., 310 U.S. 150 (1940). Thus, defendants are specifically enjoined from negotiating and entering into agreements within the United States to refuse to deal with United States Blacklisted Persons or to require others to do so regardless of any requirement by the Arab state in which the project is located.

Section IV(E)

As United States Frime Contractors, in many instances, do not directly purchase the products of Subcontractors, this section is designed to prohibit defendants from doing anything in United

States commerce which would knowingly facilitate direct enforcement of the Boycott by the Client or any other Person. Of the situations to which this provision would apply, the following occurs most frequently: The Prime Contractor selects qualified Subcontractors for a Client and then, either before or after bids are solicited, participates in the Client's decision to remove all United States Blacklisted Persons from consideration. The Client then contracts directly with the selected Subcontractor. This section would prohibit any such participation in Subcontractor selection decisions where the Client refuses to deal with United States Blacklisted Persons, and would prohibit defendants, as well, from providing any other services related to the procurement of Subcontractor goods and services. However, if the Client specifically and unilaterally selects the Subcontractor, even if according to Boycott principles, and simply directs defendants to procure the required goods or services from its choice, under Section V(C) defendants will be permitted to do so and to perform certain other procurement-related services since they will not be taking any conspiratorial action which violates antitrust law.

On some Middle East Major Construction Projects, Clients have engaged a second Prime Contractor to act as a consultant only. Such second Prime Contractor may either select the Sub-contractor for the Client or participate in the Client's Sub-contractor selection decision, leaving to defendants all other procurement services, such as issuance of purchase orders and inspection of Subcontractor performance, even though defendants were not involved in the selection of Subcontractors. If defendants know or have reason to know of the participation of this second Prime Contractor or any other Person in a Client's Subcontractor selection decision and that in making that decision, United States Blacklisted Persons were excluded from consideration, then Section IV(E) prohibits defendants from providing any procurement ser-

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ORM LAA 93 12-7 73 vices related to the Subcontractor selection process. This is so because to do so, in the language of Section IV(E), defendants would be implementing a "contract, agreement, arrangement or understanding which provides that [a] Client boycott or refuse to deal with any United States Blacklisted Person as a Subcontractor in connection with any Major Construction Project, . . " Nowever, if defendants have reason to believe that a Subcontractor was "specifically and unilaterally" selected by the Client, then under Section V(C) (see pages 18-19 below), they may continue to provide procurement services.

Section IV(F)

This provision is designed to complement other provisions of Section IV, in particular Section IV(E). As Clients for Major Construction Projects in Arab League Countries become more sophisticated in the manner in which they undertake such projects, they are likely to assume some of the functions which Prime Contractors have in the past performed, especially the final selection of Subcontractors of significant services and materials. However, these Clients may well continue to require the assistance of Prime Contractors to develop lists of bidders, write the specifications furnished to bidders, actually solicit the bids, evaluate them and make a recommendation as to which Subcontractor to select on technical grounds. Under Section IV(F), defendants must not discriminate against United States Blacklisted Persons in performing any of these functions.

Section IV(F) could, as well, facilitate the opening up of Arab League Country Major Construction Project business to United States Subcontractors which are blacklisted. Under this section the bid solicitation process may, in some instances, result in the Bechtel Group recommending a Subcontractor for the Client's selection which is a United States Blacklisted Person because that Subcontractor submitted the low bid or was other-

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wise the best choice. A Client, operating wholly within an Arab League Country, would be free to ignore that recommendation for the sole reason that the Subcontractor was blacklisted. However, the Client would at least receive the bid of a United States Blacklisted Person-something which under present practices would not happen. Section IV(G)

This provision involves the reverse situation from that dealt with by Section IV(F). Here it is contemplated that the Client might present the defendants with a list of possible Subcontractors for bid solicitations from which United States Blacklisted Persons have been excluded. If defendants are not permitted to add to this list the names of qualified potential bidders who are United States Blacklisted Persons, or if defendants know or have reason to know that United States Blacklisted Persons have been excluded from this list, then the services which defendants can provide to the Client are limited to making a recommendation only as to which listed Subcontractor would be the best choice. They may not then proceed to solicit bids, make a final selection from among submitted bids or even procure, in their own name or in the name of the Client, goods or services from the selected Subcontractor. By prohibiting defendants from providing normal Prime Contractor procurement services where it is clear that the Client will not even consider bids from potential Subcontractors which are United States Blacklisted Persons, the proposed Final Judgment will prevent defendants from actively aiding Clients seeking to enforce the Arab Boycott conspiracy in United States commerce.

Section IV(H)

As the Arab Boycott blacklist is the means by which this conspiracy has been implemented, this section prohibits defendants not only from using the blacklist for any purpose prohibited by Section IV, but even simply from maintaining it in the United

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States, in connection with Major Construction Projects in Arab League Countries. The provisions of this section apply both to blacklists and lists of approved or accepted Subcontractors from which the names of qualified United States Blacklisted Persons have been excluded. Defendants are not prevented, however, from having any copy of the blacklist in their possession, so long as it is not used to further the conduct enjoined in the proposed Final Judgment. Section V(A)

It is a common practice in the construction industry (which is required in some Arab League Countries) that the parties provide in the prime contract that it be interpreted according to the laws of the country in which the project is located. As defendants may not be able to negotiate such clauses out of contracts for Major Construction Projects in Arab League Countries, and as such clauses cannot in themselves be made the subject of antitrust enforcement under the theory of this action, since this action focuses on their implementation, the United States has agreed to permit such clauses to be included, provided that their language, in form or substance, is limited to a simple statement of which jurisdiction's laws shall apply, provided that the import of such an agreement is limited by the conditions of this Final Judgment and, provided further, that these contracts are negotiated and signed outside the United States. The position of the Department is that entering into an agreement in the United States which incorporates by reference a body of law including Boycott statutes, if intended to bring the Arab Boycott to United States shores, falls within the Sherman Act's prohibition against conspiracies in restraint of trade. All such agreements entered into in the United States are proscribed to avoid the necessarily difficult inquiry into the intent of such language. (See the discussion at pages 7-8 and T2-13 above.)

Section V(A) was not intended, however, to permit or empower defendants to engage in any conduct, directed or authorized by

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such clauses, which would be in violation of the proposed Final Judgment, as the proviso at the end of the section makes clear. This provision deals solely with permissible agreements outside the United States and does not pertain to any activity by defendants within the United States.

Section V(B)

This provision recognizes that the proposed Final Judgment, like the Complaint, is directed at Arab Boycott enforcement in United States commerce. If defendants, acting outside the United States, solicit bids on an Arab League Country project from only non-Blacklisted foreign companies operating outside the United States, and specifically do not solicit bids from any United States Subcontractors, they will not be discriminating among United States Persons based on the Arab Boycott. However, if defendants solicit a bid from even one United States firm then, under Section IV(F), they must not exclude Persons from that bid solicitation because they are United States Blacklisted Persons. It would be the act of excluding United States Blacklisted Persons when bids are being solicited from other United States businesses which results in the requisite effect on United States commerce for appropriate Sherman Act application. It should be noted that under Section II(D), a United States Blacklisted Person would include either a Blacklisted Person organized under the laws of a foreign country, but which has its principal office or place of business in the United States, or a subsidiary or Affiliate of any foreign Blacklisted Person which is organized under the laws of the United States or one of its subdivisions.

Section V(C)

This section establishes what may well be the basic structure of future Subcontractor selection with respect to Major Construction Projects in Arab League Countries, if Clients there persist in observing the Boycott. Under this section, defendants

will have to inform the Client that, under Sections IV(E) and IV(F), they cannot screen potential bidders for United States Blacklisted Persons and similarly cannot participate in any manner in the decision to select a Subcontractor. They can simply solicit bids from all Persons who, in defendants' professional judgment, should be invited to bid on the project. They also can study those bids independently, recommend a Subcontractor, and then proceed to procure the equipment after the Client has specifically and unilaterally made its choice from the submitted bids. The Department realizes that even this total isolation of defendants from the Client's Subcontractor determination does not prevent the Client from refusing to deal with low-bidding United States Subcontractors which are blacklisted. Rather, this provision recognizes the Client's right to determine independently the specific source of the goods or services it wishes to procure. However, at the very least, the United States Prime Contractor will no longer be doing any screening or gatekeeping.

Even though defendants will continue to be able to participate in Major Construction Projects where the Client refuses to deal with United States Subcontractors who are blacklisted, Sections IV(E), IV(F) and V(C) should have a beneficial effect on competition in that United States Blacklisted Persons will be able to, at least, bid upon the major business opportunities relating to projects in Arab League Countries and, perhaps, on economic grounds, even to convince a few Arab purchasers to relax their adherence to the Boycott. Further, if a Client seeks to use defendants' procurement expertise in making its final Subcontractor selection decision, the Client must agree not to reject a bidder solely because that bidder is a United States Blacklisted Person. Otherwise the defendants would be participating in the Boycott process.

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Section V(D)

In some Major Construction Projects, Clients independently procure the goods and services of Subcontractors leaving to the Prime Contractor only design and construction functions. Where the Client has truly acted independently, without defendants' participation, in soliciting bids, evaluating those bids, and selecting a Subcontractor, defendants have not enforced the Arab Boycott conspiracy against United States Blacklisted Persons, no matter what the source or basis of the Client's selection of Subcontractors. Thus, this provision permits defendants to continue to perform construction, design and other functions on Major Construction Projects in such a situation. However, to assure that defendants remain totally removed from the Boycottinfluenced Subcontractor selection process, a proviso reaffirms the affirmative requirements of Section IV(E) (see pages 13-15 above) by prohibiting defendants from performing any inspection services in the United States where the object of such inspection is to determine whether Subcontractors are United States Blacklisted Persons.

Section V(E)

This section simply assures that defendants will be able to continue to engage in the normal process of soliciting competitive bids, evaluating those bids and making a recommendation based on professional judgment and normal criteria, where such practices are permitted elsewhere within Sections IV and V. Defendants can perform these normal functions where a Client has proposed a list of Subcontractors (even though defendants arguably knew or may have known that no United States Blacklisted Persons were included), provided defendants are not limited to soliciting bids from only those Subcontractors suggested by the Client. As Section IV(F) requires, they must solicit bids, as well, from qualified United States Subcontractors who are

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blacklisted.

(b) Procedural Provisions The Stipulation

The United States and defendants have stipulated that the proposed Final Judgment, in the form negotiated by the parties, may be entered by the Court at any time after compliance with the procedures of the APPA, provided that the United States has not withdrawn its consent. This stipulation also provides that there has been no admission by either party with respect to any issue of fact or law.

Section I

Section I of the proposed Final Judgment is a statement by the Court that it has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties and that the Complaint states a cause of action under Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

Section III

The proposed Final Judgment applies to the defendants and each of their respective directors, officers, agents, members, employees and subsidiaries, and to all Persons in active concert or participation with defendants, who received actual notice that the proposed Final Judgment has been entered. It would also apply to successors and assigns of Bechtel Corporation or Bechtel Incorporated, of which all companies of the Bechtel Group are subsidiaries.

Section VI

This section and Section VII would entitle defendants to a modification of the proposed Final Judgment in certain specific instances. Under Section VI, defendants would be entitled to a modification permitting them to exercise rights or benefits with respect to business in Arab League Countries that others, not subject to the proposed Final Judgment, may be

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entitled to exercise or enjoy, where such rights are created by an Act of Congress or an International Agreement. "International Agreement," as defined by Section II(J), is limited to formal treaties, Presidential agreements and other agreements entered into on behalf of the United States which are sufficiently important to require subsequent Congressional approval. Further, such rights or benefits are limited only to those which defendants could enjoy consistent with antitrust law. This provision, while unusual in antitrust consent judgments, recognizes that the Arab Boycott involves issues other than those of antitrust enforcement which may be the subject of overriding diplomatic or legislative action.

Section VII

As it is conceivable that the United States may seek to enforce antitrust law against other United States Prime Contractors for Boycott-related violations similar to those alleged in the Complaint in this case, Section VII was included to protect defendants from being placed at a competitive disadvantage where another such case is terminated by a consent judgment more favorable than this proposed Final Judgment. Defendants would have to show that they would, in fact, necessarily be placed at a competitive disadvantage with respect to Major Construction Projects by being held to the terms of this proposed Final Judgment.

Section VIII

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The proposed Final Judgment also affords the United States a method for monitoring compliance with its provisions by inspecting documents and records in control of defendants and by conducting interviews with officers, directors, employees and agents of each defendant, provided that counsel may be present at any such interviews. Defendants may also be required to report to the plaintiff in writing under oath with respect

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to any matters contained in the proposed Final Judgment. Section VIII further gives defendants the right to receive notice before certain specified documents or other information obtained pursuant to this section are disclosed to other Persons by the Department. This applies only where documents are pre-marked and are of the type described in Rule 26 (C)(7) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or are diplomatically sensitive. Such notice need not be given where the disclosure contemplated would be (i) to a duly authorized representative of the Executive Branch of the federal government, (ii) in a Grand Jury proceeding or (iii) in any legal proceeding where a defendant is a party. This provision, however, gives defendants no automatic right to prevent or limit disclosure. Once they receive notice, defendants will have the option of making an application to the Court (pursuant to Section IX) for a protective order, which the Department is free to oppose.

Section IX

Under this section the Court will retain jurisdiction for the purpose of enabling any of the parties to the Final Judgment to apply at any time for any order as may be necessary for the interpreting and carrying out of the Final Judgment or its modification or enforcement, for the punishing of violations of the Final Judgment, or for the purpose of enabling any defendant to make objections arising out of Section VIII.

Section X

The proposed Final Judgment provides that it shall be terminated twenty years from the date of its entry. This does not mean defendants will then be free to resume the activities upon which the Complaint was based.

Section XI

Finally, this Section constitutes a determination that entry of the proposed Final Judgment is in the public interest. Under

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the provisions of Section 2(e) of the APPA (15 U.S.C. $\S16(e)$), entry is conditioned upon this Court's determination that it is in the public interest.

(4) EFFECTS ON PRIVATE PLAINTIFFS

Section 4 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. §15) provides that any person who has been injured as a result of conduct prohibited by the antitrust laws may bring suit in federal court to recover three times the damages such person has suffered, as well as costs and reasonable attorney's fees. The entry of the proposed Final Judgment will not have any effect on the right of any potential private plaintiff who claims to have been damaged by the alleged violation to sue for monetary damages or any other legal or equitable remedies. However, this Final Judgment may not be used as prima facie evidence in private litigation pursuant to Section 5(a) of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. §16(a)).

(5) PROCEDURES AVAILABLE FOR MODIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED CONSENT JUDGMENT

The proposed Final Judgment is subject to a stipulation between the United States and the defendants providing that the United States may withdraw its consent to the proposed Final Judgment until such time as the Court has found that its entry is in the public interest. The proposed Final Judgment provides, in Section IX, for retention of jurisdiction of this action by the Court to permit, among other things, the parties thereto to apply to the Court for such orders as may be necessary or appropriate for its modification.

As provided in the APPA, any person wishing to comment upon the proposed Final Judgment may, for a 60-day period prior to the effective date of the proposed Final Judgment, submit them in writing to the United States Department of Justice, Joel Davidow, Chief, Foreign Commerce Section, Antitrust Division,

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Washington, D.C. 20530. The comments and the Department's response to them will be filed with the Court and published in the Federal Register. The Department of Justice will thereafter evaluate any and all such comments and determine whether there is any reason for withdrawal of its consent to the proposed Final Judgment.

(6) ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED FINAL JUDGMENT ACTUALLY CONSIDERED BY THE UNITED STATES

The United States gave active consideration to several alternative proposals for final relief in this proceeding.

These alternative proposals fall into two general categories:

(a) full trial on the merits or motion for summary judgment,
either of which would have led to a litigated judgment imposed by
the Court, or (b) a proposed final judgment with provisions different from, or not included in the proposed Final Judgment being
submitted with this C.I.S.

(a) A Litigated Judgment

As in any antitrust case, the Department had the alternative of rejecting all settlement proposals and proceeding to a determination of the lawsuit by the Court on the merits. This may have been achieved either by a full evidentiary trial or by a motion for summary judgment based on facts not in dispute. These alternatives are never finally rejected until the Department is able to examine and compare a proposed judgment against the relief which might have been obtained after a successful determination by the Court of the issues in dispute. Here it was determined that no significant additional relief could have been obtained in a litigated judgment. Accordingly, there was no justification for undertaking the risks and costs of litigation.

(b) Alternative Provisions for a Proposed Final Judgment

Throughout its negotiations with defendants, the Department

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Judgment and different versions of the provisions which have been included. While numerous proposals have been considered and rejected for grammatical, technical and legal reasons, only those provisions discussed below were given serious consideration as alternatives to the language finally agreed to. Section IV

The United States initially considered proposals regarding the principal prohibitory section of the proposed Final Judgment, Section IV, which did not include the present subsections, IV(F), IV(G) and IV(H). Sections IV(F) and IV(G) were added, as is stated in Part 3 of this C.I.S., to reach particular aspects or methods of Subcontractor selection.

The original proposal for Section IV(H) considered by the United States would have prohibited defendants from obtaining, maintaining, communicating or using, in connection with any Major Construction Project, the two types of lists described in this provision. This broad alternative was rejected since the Complaint charged only using the blacklist to aid in the refusal to deal with United States Blacklisted Persons. This Section was further limited to prohibit only maintenance of the described lists in the United States since: (i) it is the enforcement of the Boycott in the United States which is the offense charged; and (ii) defendants may be required to maintain such lists within the Arab League Country in which they are doing business.

include any of the provisions of Section V. In general, the United States agreed to include these limitations because a judgment without them would have jeopardized the continued con-

The original proposal the United States considered did not

duct of any business by defendants (and possibly others) in Arab League Countries, and would have forced conduct by the defendants

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which went beyond the theory of the case. Without these provisions, some of the broad prohibitions of Section IV could have been interpreted to require defendants to refrain from acting as Prime Contractors wherever they had reason to believe that the Arab Boycott was a factor in the selection of any Person to participate in Major Construction Projects—a fact that can be reasonably inferred with respect to every Major Construction Project in certain Arab League Countries, including those where the Bechtel Group does extensive business. Further, these provisions may have appeared to impinge upon the sovereignty of Arab League Countries over their internal affairs with a possible result that, instead of opening up this commerce to United States Blacklisted Persons, it would be closed off entirely for all United States Prime Contractors and Subcontractors. This would have been beyond the purpose and allegations of the Complaint.

The following alternative or additional proposals were considered with respect to individual subsections of Section V. Section V(A)

Inited States considered an alternative which would have limited this section's scope to contracts, agreements and purchase orders which provide that defendant abide by the laws of the country in which the Major Construction Project is located only as to its activities within that country. As explained in Part 3 of this C.I.S., it is standard practice in the construction industry to provide in contracts that the law of the locality in which a project is located shall govern the performance of such contracts wherever that performance takes place. Thus, if defendants were building an oil refinery in Texas, it would be common to provide that the state law of Texas would apply, or, if they were building a pipeline in Venezuela, the law of that country would be stipulated. As long as there is no specific reference to the Arab Boycott, or no inclusion of

a specific Boycott clause, the United States believes it is not necessary to create a special exception to the normal construction industry practice for projects in Arab League Countries.

As it originally appeared in the proposed Final Judgment, this Section did not include the proviso stating that defendants were not otherwise relieved from any specific prohibitions or obligations of the judgment. The original proposal, while intended to apply only to the language of contracts, agreements or purchase orders and not defendants' conduct or performance under them, was believed to create a potential ambiguity which could permit defendants to engage in Boycott enforcement in the United States because the laws of the Arab League Country in which the project was located would invariably include specific statutes requiring Boycott enforcement as to business conducted in that country. The proviso eliminates any such ambiguity.

An alternative provision considered included a clause at the end of Section V(B) which would have denied to defendants protection where they were engaging in a concerted refusal to deal with all United States Persons. Since the investigation uncovered no evidence of such a conspiracy, and the Complaint only dealt with what was uncovered, a refusal to deal with United States Blacklisted Persons, this clause was not required. If it is found in the future that defendants are refusing to deal with all United States Subcontractors for all of its Major Construction Projects in Arab League Countries in order to avoid dealing with United States Blacklisted Persons, the Department will have to make an independent determination as to the appropriate course of action.

Additional Section V Provision Considered

An additional provision of Section V which was considered would have permitted defendants to insert in their agreements

with Subcontractors a clause providing that, if that Subcontractor's goods or personnel were refused admittance into the country in which the Major Construction Project was located due to the laws, regulations, policies or official acts of that country, the Subcontractor would assume the risks of loss and hold defendants harmless. Another alternative version of this provision would have required, where such a clause was included, that defendants make a good faith effort to obtain the admission of the Subcontractor's goods or personnel into the project country. was agreed that the question of who shall bear the cost of any failure or inability of the Subcontractor's goods or personnel to gain admission into the project country should be left either to general principles of law or contractual negotiations between Subcontractors and the defendants. Including this provision in the proposed Final Judgment was viewed as creating unnecessary inflexibility for all parties: Subcontractors, defendants and the Department; and it was agreed that the wiser course would be to handle each situation on a case-by-case basis. The Department does not believe that the defendants are necessarily obligated to assume all risks of loss to be in compliance with this proposed Final Judgment.

Section VII

As originally considered by the United States, this section would have empowered the Court to modify the Final Judgment to conform to any judgment entered in any other antitrust case, arising out of the Arab Boycott, brought by the Department of Justice, even if the United States lost that case and the judgment entered discharged that defendant from any liability. This provision was not acceptable because of the vagaries of litigation and because special facts might result in the loss of other Arab Boycott cases while the Department's legal theory remained un-affected. Consequently, the right of defendants to a modification

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of the Final Judgment was limited only to those instances where a consent judgment was entered in a similar case. At the same time a proviso was added making it clear that all parties retained their right to petition the Court for a modification, pursuant to the general jurisdictional grant reserved to the Court under Section IX, in light of the results of a litigated case.

Section VIII

The United States considered an alternate version of this clause which did not include the second sentence of the last paragraph of the section providing for ten days' notice to defendants before the disclosure, under some circumstances, of certain pre-designated material obtained pursuant to this section. As the additional language created no prohibition to the disclosure otherwise permitted under the section, but simply set up a notice procedure, the Department agreed to its inclusion on the grounds of fairness.

Section X

Early proposals for a Final Judgment in this case did not include a date for the expiration of its provisions. Such a perpetual judgment was rejected because of the volatile nature of Middle East relationships. Neither the Department nor the defendants should be forever wedded to a judgment based upon 1977 facts and the present statutory and decisional state of antitrust law. Automatic termination of the judgment would permit the parties to adjust their positions accordingly at that time.

Additional Separate Sections Not Included in the

Proposed Final Judgment

The United States originally considered including in the proposed Final Judgment provisions which would have required the defendants to file with the Department of Justice extensive and detailed reports of all phases of the Subcontractor selection process if defendants entered into any contract, outside the

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United States, which included a clause requiring them or their Subcontractors to refuse to deal with United States Blacklisted Persons. As with this proposed Final Judgment, this earlier version would not have specifically prohibited entering into such contracts outside the United States so long as, pursuant to such clauses, defendants did not refuse to deal, or require others to refuse to deal with United States Blacklisted Persons. Also included was a provision requiring defendants to use "good faith efforts" to attempt to gain the entry of the products of Blacklisted Persons selected as Subcontractors into Arab League Countries.

These provisions were rejected in favor of the more standard and general visitation provision's (Section VIII of the proposed Final Judgment) since they would have required the Antitrust Division to become involved extensively in the regulation of defendants' daily business affairs. This would be a highly undesirable precedent and would create an undue strain on the Antitrust Division's resources. It might also so severely increase the cost to defendants in doing business in the Middle East that they would be placed at a competitive disadvantage with respect to other United States and foreign contractors -- a result inconsistent with the Department's objective, under the antitrust laws, to promote competition. Further, when the prohibitions and obligations of Section IV were made more specific, and Section V's narrow and limited exceptions were added, it became unnecessary to require defendants to submit to detailed regulatory-type observation of their affairs. The Department's power under Section VIII should be sufficiently broad to meet any need for discovery into the conduct of defendants on Arab League Country Major Construction Projects which the Department could reasonably have under its judgment enforcement and monitoring responsibilities.

Finally, any requirement that defendants make a good faith

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effort to achieve the entry of the goods or personnel of selected blacklisted Subcontractors was similarly rejected as impractical and not capable of policing. It is possible that this requirement would have placed the Department of Justice, a law enforcement agency, in the anomalous position of requiring defendants to engage in conduct subject to another country's sovereign jurisdiction which violated the laws of that country.

(7) DETERMINATIVE DOCUMENTS

There are no materials or documents which the Government considered determinative in formulating this proposed Final Judgment. Therefore, none are being filed with this document.

Respectfully submitted)

DOUGLAS E. ROSENTHAL

DONALD A. KAPLAN

Dated: Washington, D.C. January /// , 1977