

Head of Joint Chiefs Criticizes Jewish Influence in the U.S.

By Michael Getler
Washington Post Staff Writer

Gen. George S. Brown, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has publicly suggested that Israel has too much influence in the U.S. Congress and that Jews "own, you know, the banks in this country, the newspapers."

Brown, the nation's highest ranking military officer, also suggested that if a severe new oil embargo imposed not merely inconvenience but suffering among people in this country/Americans might "get tough-minded enough to set down the Jewish influence in this country and break that lobby."

The four-star Air Force general, who took over as chairman of the joint chiefs

in July, made these remarks during a question-and-answer session on Oct. 10 after a speech attended by about 150 persons at the Duke University law school forum in Durham, N.C.

In a telephone interview last night Gen. Brown acknowledged that he made those remarks. He explained that he just tried to cover too much ground in a single answer to a question on the complex and volatile Mideast situation "and it just came out too damn poorly."

As Air Force chief of staff, Brown was in charge of the American arms airlift to Israel last fall that is widely credited with helping stave off severe military problems for the Israelis. He

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said that "it is going to be awfully easy to conclude [from his Duke remarks], for anyone who wants to, that the chairman is anti-Semitic. That's just not true."

Brown's comments with respect to Israeli and Jewish influence in this country came as part of his response to a question concerning whether the United States was contemplating the use of force against oil-producing nations.

The general appeared at Duke soon after both President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had alluded to the danger of war over natural resources and after Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger had subsequently indicated that "amicable negotiations" and not military actions was the likely course.

"Now," Brown said, "in answer to the question of would we use force in the Middle East, I don't know. I hope not. We have no plans to. It is conceivable, I guess, it's kind of almost as bad as the 'Seven Days in May' thing, but you can conjure up a situation where there is another oil embargo and people in this country are not only inconvenienced, and uncomfortable, but suffer and they get tough-

minded enough to set down the Jewish influence in this country and break that lobby.

"It's so strong you wouldn't believe now," Brown went on. "We have the Israelis coming to us for equipment. We say we can't possibly get the Congress to support a program like that. They say, 'Don't worry about the Congress. We'll take care of the Congress.'"

"Now this is somebody from another country," Brown added, "but they can do it. They own, you know, the banks in this country, the newspapers, you just look at where the Jewish money is in this country."

The chairman of the joint chiefs then went on to describe the "terrible disruption" another oil embargo would also bring about in Europe and Japan which could also bring about a demand that something be done.

He added, too, that aside from the embargo possibilities there was also a big problem with the money rolling into the Middle East and Persian Gulf oil producers.

"... It's not going to be too many years when all of the money is in their corner of the bank, you know, 700 or 800 billion dollars. And they're going to be the world's banker... they're taking on a role they aren't equipped to handle and I don't know whether the world will put up with it. It's a heck of a problem to contemplate, but I don't intend to go off to war in the Middle East,

if that's the question."

Brown's references to Jews have caused some hand-wringing and anguish among those few top-level civilian and military officials at the Pentagon who have been made aware of them.

The general, a World War II bomber pilot and the personal choice of Schlesinger for the top military job last summer, is highly regarded within military and Defense Department circles where there is concern that his remarks will hurt him. There is also a widespread feeling of despair over these remarks, and the way they were phrased, because Brown, as one of the Navy's top commanders put it yesterday, "certainly is no anti-Semite."

The only public report of Brown's remarks apparently was an article in The North Carolina Anvil, a so-called alternative newspaper published in Durham. The article said local reporters from other papers were present but reported only a general "rehash" of Brown's overall presentation, which included a press conference, prepared speech and question-and-answer session, to the assembled law students and professors.

A recording of Brown's pres-



GEN. GEORGE S. BROWN
... acknowledged remarks

entation was made by a second-year law student in charge of the event. A representative of The Washington Post and later Pentagon officials, listened to the tape.