

Carter Says Nixon Did Violate Law

Washington

Toughening his stand on former President Richard Nixon's role in the Watergate scandal, President Carter yesterday told reporters, "I personally think that he did violate the law, and I think he did commit impeachable offenses."

Last week, after the first David Frost television interview with Nixon, Carter said he thought Nixon, while in office, had lied to the American people. But when asked then if Nixon had broken the law, Carter replied "I don't know."

Carter's latest comments came several hours before the second Frost-Nixon show — which Carter said he did not intend to watch — and after publication of polls indicating that a majority of Americans now believe Nixon was guilty.

Carter spoke in response to reporters' questions after his formal televised news conference yesterday. In what has become a

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the PLO continued to espouse the commitment that Israel had to be destroyed," he said.

"I would like to see this resolved," he continued. "There is a chance that it will be done. We are trying to add our efforts to bring this about. But I have no assurance it will be accomplished."

In London, however, Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon yesterday flatly ruled out acceptance of "a separate Palestinian state" as part of a settlement, saying Israel would accept only a Palestinian federation with Jordan.

During the press conference, Carter reiterated his support for providing a homeland for the Palestinians, calling it crucial to a peace settlement.

"I don't think there can be any reasonable hope for a settlement of the Middle Eastern question ... without a homeland for the Palestinians," he said. "The exact definition of what that homeland might be ... (has) to be worked out by the parties involved. But for the Palestinians to have a homeland and for the refugee question to be resolved is obviously of crucial significance."

Clearly hoping to calm Israeli nervousness over this issue, the President also pledged that the United States' "special relationship" with Israel "will be permanent as long as I am in office."

"It is absolutely crucial that no one in our country or around the world ever doubt that our No. 1 commitment in the Middle East is to protect the right of Israel to exist, to exist permanently and to exist in peace," he said.

Carter said his meetings with European leaders had produced "a renewed spirit of hope and confidence" within the Western democracies.

Carter, in his seventh nationally televised presidential news conference, made these other points:

- He rejected Senator George McGovern's contentions that he has neglected programs to help the poor and needy, saying: "These kinds of programs have been forwarded by me to the Congress in a very strong and continuing way."

- He said that although AFL-CIO Leader George Meany disapproves of many of his actions and publicly castigates him, that "doesn't mean we have any personal disruption of our communication."

- He approved Attorney General Griffin Bell's decision to seek indictments against FBI officials who allegedly broke the law in domestic surveillance cases. "No special excuses should be given for officials in the FBI," he said.

- He has no timetable for establishing full diplomatic relations with China, but expects Leonard Woodcock, the United Auto Workers president, "to be ambassador to the Peoples' Republic of China" when the time comes.

- He agrees with his top pollster, Patrick Caddell, that it was important for him to concentrate heavily in style during his first months in office to win the public's confidence. "The confidence of people in government is a crucial element of leadership."

Although Caddell concluded that the heaviest threats to him came from within the Democratic party from people such as California Governor Brown, Carter said he considers he has a "close and friendly relationship" with Brown. "I feel quite secure in my position," he said, drawing laughter.

- He said pay raises given his staff after a few weeks on the job were justified. Carter noted his own salary was increased shortly after he took office and "I think I earn it."