February 10, 1984

Mr. Edwin T. Frantz  
Vice President  
The Stouffer Corporation  
29800 Bainbridge Road  
Solon, Ohio 44139

Dear Mr. Frantz:

Thank you for your letter of February 7, informing us of the suspension of the International Nestle Boycott Committee action. For your information the American Library Association never officially adopted the boycott as a position of the Association. This was resolution passed by the Association's membership but only the ALA Council has the authority to adopt official positions. The members felt they simply wanted to go on record supporting the boycott. However, in view of the wide publicity that this matter has received, I am directing this information to the Editor of the American Library Association's official journal, American Library. Information about the boycott has not already appeared. We will have it appear in a forthcoming issue.

I appreciate your bringing us up to date on these matters and congratulations on a successful solution to the problem.

Sincerely,

Robert Wedgeworth  
Executive Director

RW:jh
February 7, 1984

Mr. Robert Wedgeworth
Executive Director
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Mr. Wedgeworth:

Good Morning!

It is my understanding that as Secretary of the ALA Council and ALA Executive Board, you are the person in a position to direct any materials on the Nestle boycott issue so they may reach appropriate members of ALA's governing bodies.

You have probably heard of the discussions which have taken place between the International Nestle Boycott Committee and Nestle and the suspension of the Nestle boycott by INBC.


As a result of the intensive discussion, involving UNICEF, Nestle further clarified its policies in the four INBC areas of concern and INBC has recommended a suspension of the boycott. INBC commends Nestle for taking the leadership role in industry's compliance with the International Code. Nestle recognizes and supports the commitment of INBC and its members to safeguard the children of the Third World from hazards related to the inappropriate marketing of infant formula. At the joint press conference announcing the agreement, Mr. Douglas Johnson announced for INFACT that the Nestle boycott is over.

Mr. Wedgeworth, I am requesting that the American Library Association repeal its Nestle boycott resolution and lift all ALA support of this issue. We feel Nestle has demonstrated its corporate responsibility in implementation of the World Health Organization Code and by responding to the concerns of organizations and individuals in this specific issue. We ask that just as you were strong to condemn inappropriate marketing practices that you will be equally as strong to support Nestle in its corporate responsibility actions to implement the World Health Organization Code.
I ask that I be informed of any action the ALA may take on this issue. If you have further questions, I would be very happy to provide the information you may need.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin T. Frantz

ETF/jl
WASHINGTON, January 26--Nestle today welcomed the decision by the International Nestle Boycott Committee (INBC) to end its boycott of the company's products.

"This decision is one more affirmation that Nestle is making every effort to fully implement the World Health Organization (WHO) Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes," said Rafael D. Pagan, Jr., President of the Nestle Coordination Center for Nutrition, Inc.

The INBC boycott was part of an industry-wide effort by activist groups resulting from controversy over the proper role of infant formula in the Third World and ways of marketing the products there.

Partly as a result of this controversy over the proper role of infant formula, the World Health Assembly adopted the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes in May, 1981.

"Nestle endorsed the WHO Code the day it was passed in May, 1981," said Pagan, "and has taken several steps to implement it."
In March, 1982, Nestle announced comprehensive policy guidelines (marketing instructions) to implement the Code in countries which had not yet taken measures to put the Code into effect. All companies of the Nestle Group were then instructed to reinforce their cooperation with governments, pediatricians, and other health professionals with a view of clarifying ambiguities in the WHO Recommendations and encouraging the development of national measures adapting the specific provisions of the Code to the needs of each country.

The following May, 1982, Nestle announced the formation of the Nestle Infant Formula Audit Commission (NIFAC), an independent body charged with auditing the company's infant formula marketing practices and investigating allegations that Nestle was in violation of local codes or the WHO Code. This commission is chaired by former Senator Edmund S. Muskie and includes prominent scientists and clergy.

In October 1982, the Commission submitted to Nestle a comprehensive set of recommended changes to its marketing instructions.

"Now that this controversy has been satisfactorily resolved," Pagan said, "we can concentrate our efforts on the real causes of infant mortality and morbidity in developing nations—contaminated water, ignorance, malnutrition, and inadequate health care."

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Editor's Note: A copy of a Joint Statement issued by INBC and Nestle is attached.
Joint Statement of INBC and Nestle

January 25, 1984

The International Nestle Boycott Committee has decided to suspend its international boycott of Nestle Company products.

Over the last decade a controversy has grown over the proper role of infant formula in the Third World, ways of marketing the products there, and the health hazards for infants resulting from improper use.

Much of this controversy has been directed at infant formula manufacturers, and in 1977 INFACT, supported by other organizations, initiated a boycott of the products of Nestle, the world's largest manufacturer of infant formula.

Out of concern for the health of infants, the World Health Assembly in May, 1981 adopted the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (WHO/UNICEF Code) which provides guidelines to industry, governments, health authorities and non-governmental organizations. Nestle made a firm commitment to implement that code. Since that time there has been considerable pressure on all infant formula
companies to fully comply with the Code, and much progress has been made.

INBC continued to express concern about differences it had with Nestle's interpretation of some provisions of the Code. In December, 1983 INBC announced four areas of concern: educational materials, hazard warnings on labels, gifts to health professionals and free supplies to hospitals. Both Nestle and INBC sought further explanation and guidance from WHO and UNICEF on these areas of the Code.

As a result of intensive discussions involving UNICEF, Nestle further clarified its policies in these four areas of concern and INBC has recommended a suspension of the boycott.

Both parties praise UNICEF's assistance in clarifying provisions of the Code.

INBC commends Nestle for taking the leadership role in industry's compliance with the International Code.

Nestle recognizes and supports the commitment of INBC and its members to safeguard the children of the Third World from hazards related to the inappropriate marketing of infant formula.

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