

149-1603

Mr. Quinn

May 27, 1948

B. D. B.

Mr. Foley

W.F.L.R.

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Zionist Organizations
Foreign Agents Registration Act

RECORDED

Several weeks ago, I prepared a memorandum outlining the obligations of certain Zionist organizations to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. You will recall that Mr. Ford appended notations to several of these organizations saying, "push", or "push this one". Accordingly, conversations have been continued with representatives of many of these organizations and despite the fact that the evidence in most cases clearly requires registration, as none of the organizations has complied.

BY []
On JUN 1 1948

Earlier this week in a telephone conversation with Mr. Levin of the Foreign Agents Registration Section, Mr. Hilmer of Americans for Maganah advised that his organization did not intend to register since a certain high official in the Department of Justice, whom he refused to name, had told another important Zionist organization that despite letters and conversations with representatives of the Section the Department would not require any Zionist group to register and need not fear prosecution.

In view of the foregoing, it would obviously be of great assistance to the Foreign Agents Registration Section to know whether the alleged statement now represents the policy of the Department, and it would save considerable embarrassment to be advised of this fact. Friday evening, for example, I have agreed to see Mr. Hilmer although he has been advised that, in view of the facts presented in a conference by the Executive Secretary of the organization, the Department has no doubt that registration is required and that further discussion can accomplish little. Likewise, in the past several days, letters have been sent to most of these Zionist organizations advising them that, unless compliance was forthcoming immediately, the Department must assume that the organizations do not intend to fulfill their obligations under the Act. I have also instructed Mr. Levin and Mr. Morris to prepare the evidence in these cases for reference to the United States Attorneys.

In the circumstances, you will appreciate that it would be most helpful to know whether there has been any change in the Department's attitude toward these groups. Many of the groups have recently been acting in a particularly open manner concerning their representation of a foreign principle as that term is defined in the Act, notoriously brazen has been the American League for a Free Palestine concerning whose recruitment program you have been advised in several memoranda from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

CC: Records
Chrono.
Mr. Foley
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(FARS)