

SEGREGATE

NSD, (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C)

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October 29, 1970

NSD

NSD

Office of the Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear

NSD

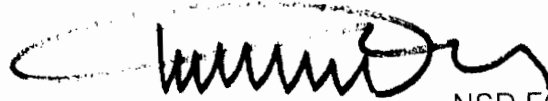
NSD

Thank you for your letter of October 12, responding to my inquiry regarding the disclosures made by Leonard Slater in his recently published book, *THE PLEDGE*, that during the period 1946-8 a substantial operation was carried out in this country to purchase and ship war materials to Palestine in apparent clear contravention of the law.

That the Justice Department was apparently aware of the operation at the time is suggested by the fact that it brought charges against a handful of lower-echelon persons, only one of whom was ever jailed. None of the important people in the operation were charged, including more than a dozen prominent lawyers. Mr. Slater's frank disclosure of what went on may cause some people to conclude that the Department's prosecution at the time was somewhat selective. Most people will be shocked to learn that the fact that the crime has only now come to light permits the malefactors to go unpunished. It would seem that at the very least, the Department would wish to publicly express its indignation at the act described while explaining that it was powerless to take action now. If the police were to discover that I had committed a murder ten years ago for which I could not now be brought to justice, I am sure that they would feel an obligation to disclose their discovery of the crime. To hide the fact of criminal violation of the law, though belatedly discovered, would properly be regarded by the public with some strong suspicion, particularly when the offenders were members of the Bar sworn to uphold the law. However well time may have insulated them against criminal prosecution, they are still liable to censure or disbarment by their colleagues.

The Department is aware of the disclosure in Slater's book. Will you be kind enough to advise me whether, statute or no statute of limitations, the acts described were criminal and illegal if and when they occurred?

Very truly yours,



Norman F. Dacey
President

NSD FOIA 08-095-0073