AIR MAIL

Director, F.B.I.

RE: FOUNDARY ASSOCIATES, INC.
Neutrality Act
Fraud Against the Government
Conspiracy

Dear Sir:

There is herewith enclosed one photostatic copy of a memorandum furnished this office by the Los Angeles Office of Naval Intelligence. The memorandum bears the title, "Haganah—Local Activities of, with Particular Reference to the Recruiting of U. S. Marine Corps Tank Personnel."

The information contained herein pertains to the above captioned case.

Very truly yours,

R. B. Hood
SAC

CC: Newark, Air Mail—Encl.
   New York, Air Mail—Encl.
CONFIDENTIAL

120-49

DIG-1100
San Diego, Calif. 4 October 49

DIG-1100 Conf MII-38 rpt dated 27 July 1949, Ser 95-48; subj: Palestine-Palestine Airline, further information re:

Conversations with confidential informants.

CONCLUSIONS: Local activities re., with particular reference to the recruiting of U. S. Marine Corps Tank Personnel.

THIS INFORMATION IS AS OF JULY-AUGUST 1949

BRIEF:

Person prominent in local activities of SERVICE AIRMAIL (Israeli Front) address telephone inquiry to U.S. Marine Corps warrant officer regarding availability of surplus CHC tanks. First lieutenant, CHC, actively engaged in recruiting CHC tank personnel for service with Middle East recruiters interested in "secret" Hollywood office by HACERI representatives associated with motion picture industry. Rates of pay and contract arrangements cited. Walter Dgueshell and Louis D. BAUMER mentioned as sponsors of the project. Recruiter with two recruits en route to Tel Aviv via Rome, Italy, turned back at New York by purported FBI agents. Recruiter departed quantity of CHC tank training films and manuals; has photographs added of CHC tank training terrain, Camp Pendleton, California; latter possibly connected with undetected Pendleton theft of CHC ammunition and field telephones. Recruiter possibly eligible for disciplinary action under Navy Court Martial Order No. 26-1947.

REPORT:

The interviews and inquiries upon which this report is based had their inception in the following information received from the local office of another U.S. Government investigative agency:

At 100-6, 2 July 1948, Expost: AHLE, a prominent figure in the various activities of SERVICE AIRMAIL (see page 5 of reference [a]), conferred with Bernard FINESMAN and a third individual at FINESMAN's "secret" office, 158 South La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, California. FINESMAN (also mentioned on page 5 of reference [a] as one of six persons most active in the affairs of SERVICE AIRMAIL) has lately been identified as the following person:

Bernard FINEZMAN (Anti-Trade: FINESMAN)

1783 West Vista, Hollywood, California

Social Security No. 909-12-5863

Has "secret" office (address given above)

(Original & Notor Ditto) DIG-10: FBI-SE.
CONFIDENTIAL

DIA-1136 Serial 106-48

6 October 1948

Subject: BAGHAN—Local Activities of, with Particular Reference to the
Recruiting of U. S. Marine Corps Tank Personnel.

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THIS INFORMATION IS AS OF JULY-AUGUST 1948

She and her husband, Capt. Army Tank Corps, U. S. II

is a producer at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture studio

Born 2/22/28, New York City

Parents both born in Russia.

FIREHAN, further, is referred to by competent authority as "money bag", and
"head of the boys" behind the procuring of U. S. material for the Jewish
forces in Palestine.

The object of the above-mentioned conference was to discuss ways and
means of acquiring certain armed tanks for service in Palestine. The

Tanks in question are thirty-six in number, and categorized as surplus,
are located at the U. S. Marine Corps Storage and Repair Depot, Barston,
California. During the conference, frequent references were made to "Charlie";
believed to be Charles CRAPLIE, the motion picture actor. Apparently
"Charlie" had to be consulted on both the financial aspect and the general

availability of the proposed acquisition. Also consulted were numerous

Capt. Army Tank Corps, U. S. II.

FIREHAN, obtained from his closest files, and at one point, FIREHAN placed a telephone call to the

U.S. Marine Recruiting Office, San Diego, California, asking for sub-Officer!

BARKER, then one Major Abe ROSSIN (phonetics), and finally, on being told that

another of these seven individuals was available, for "Colonel SORRESEN" on

extension #462.

(Notes: The Eighenenth Naval District telephone directory lists the

Captain's name as Capt. Army Tank Corps, U. S. II.

We have also listed his office at 11th Avenue, SORRESEN, AOR 435 200 462.)

FIREHAN, on being put through to SORRESEN, asked the latter, with

whom he seemed to be very well acquainted, to find out certain details concern-
ing the tanks at Barston, and approximately half an hour later, SORRESEN,

having volunteered to call the Marine Depot at Barston, returned FIREHAN's

call and gave FIREHAN the desired data.

Subsequently, during the conference, FIREHAN stated that the tanks, if

purchased, would be loaded on a barge or barge, and that he would get them

to Palestine somehow. The inference was that this would be a clandestine

export; but no explanation was made as to how thirty-six armed tanks would

be moved surgically.

Upon receipt of the above information, it was deemed advisable by this

office to make some inquiry concerning SORRESEN as a presumably active

member of the U. S. Marine Corps; and as a result, the following incidental

information was developed concerning the local activities of BAGHAN:

From Source "A" it was learned that during the past several months, SORRESEN

who is in what a warrant officer and now a Colonel, though there is some

indication that he may have been nicknamed "Colonel" by his intimates, has

been visited a number of times on his duty station by one Harold (Hal) V.

BARKER, 1st Lieut., U. S. Marine Corps (inactive), 117 S. Horris Drive, Holly-

wood, California. BARKER, according to Source "A", who got his information

from SORRESEN, is a free-lance Hollywood extra whose screen name is Greg

BARTON, and whose only known performances of any note were achieved in the

film, "Tank at Oxford". Source "A" also learned from SORRESEN that BARKER

is employed by certain aspects of the Hollywood motion picture industry who

are, in addition, actual representatives and that, during his frequent

visits to San Diego (always made by commercial air), BARKER has, under

the terms of his employment, contacted numerous Marine Corps personnel in an

effort to recruit them for duty with BAGHAN. His main effort in this re-

quest appears to have centered on active and inactive Marine Corps Tankers.
SUBJECT: HARKER—Local Activities of, with Particular Reference to the Recruiting of U.S. Marine Corps Tank Personnel.

THE INFORMATION IS AS OF JUNE-JULY 1946

of which there are many in the San Diego area, since Marine Corps tank personnel are believed to have the unique distinction of being trained to service and maintain, as well as operate, their own tanks. The extent of HARKER's success in this endeavor is not known.

What is known, however, is his mode of operating. This has been described by Source "E", who states that one evening, on or about 10 July 1946, when he was at a "short-line" in the Marine Corps, he received a telephonic call at San Diego, from "Hal" BAKER in Beverly Hills, California, asking if he wanted a job. BAKER stated at the time that he could not say too much about it over the telephone, but that he had talked to several other members of the "old outfit" who were interested, and that he would be in San Diego later on to discuss the matter further.

On 11 July 1946, according to Source "E", HARKER again telephoned him, this time from San Diego, and arranged a meeting which took place the same day when HARKER arrived on the Marine Corps station, San Diego, at noon, driving what appeared to be BAKER'S 1946 Ford coupe, and took Source "E" to a drug store across the street from the base. There HARKER enlarged on the previous offer, explaining that it was not really a combat proposition, that it amounted to nothing more than training tankers for ENGELMAN, and that there would be $300.00 a month in it for Source "E". This led to an arrangement whereby the negotiations would be continued in Los Angeles.

Accordingly, in the late afternoon of 12 July 1946, Source "E" went to Los Angeles by train, and eventually met HARKER in the lobby of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood. Shortly thereafter, they were joined by another member of the "old outfit", and ex-Marine, hereinafter referred to as Sergeant M., who had just arrived from San Francisco. The three men had several drinks together, and later had a steak dinner in a good class restaurant in a side street near Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, not far from the well-known Brunswick's Chinese (autistic picture theatre).

Following the dinner, the trio drove in HARKER'S 1949 Dodge coupe to an office building at 120 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, and went to the 7th floor to a suite of offices occupied by FISHER. HARKER left Source "E" and Sergeant M. sitting in an outer office with two other recruits, both Jewish but otherwise unidentified, while he conferred with FISHER. The Jewish recruits were then interviewed, privately and separately, followed by Sergeant M., and finally Source "E". He stated, however, that while he was in process of a similar offer and signed up by, after several days of deliberation, decided against the proposal and has since had no further contact with HARKER. His interview with FISHER was concluded by the latter's asking HARKER how the two Marines were off for spending money; and on being told that they were "pretty low", FISHER presented each of the pair with $30.00, plus the cost of their dinner and drinks.

A slight variation of this above took place in the case of Source "C" who likewise had been approached in San Diego by HARKER, and had decided to take advantage of a free trip to Los Angeles to see what it was all about.
CONFIDENTIAL

4 October 1943

Subject: ENQUIRY—Local Activities of, with Particular Reference to the
Requisition of W. & M. Marine Corps Non-Personnel:

THIS INFORMATION IS AS OF JULY-AUGUST 1942

Source "O" is an ex-Marine, who, following his discharge from the service, became an insurance salesman, and at the time of his contact with SIEGEL was not making much of a success in his new work.

He relates that on 3 July 1942 at San Diego, he received the following telegram (which is now held by this office): "CALL MR. COLBERT SATURDAY ABOUT 1030 AT BEVERLY HILLS /a/ HILTON BAKKER". Complying with this wire, he telephoned BAKKER and arranged to have him to Los Angeles, stipulating that all expenses would be paid for him at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

While being interviewed for a job, accepting this invitation, Source "O" accompanied by his wife (also taking advantage of a free trip), went to Los Angeles on 17 July 1942 and took a room on the 3rd floor of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Here he was later called upon by BAKKER who explained the nature of the job (since described as Source "P") and with the added interesting statement that "Vicente MAGANA and Bernard BAKKER are associated in this". (Note: Bernard M. BAKKER is known to have been in Los Angeles recently.)

Later the same day, Source "O" was interviewed in Room 1030 of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel (entire tenth floor of which, he states, appeared to be occupied by persons connected in one way or another with SIEGEL) by a Major SIEGEL (phonetic), probably identical with the individual of the same name cited in paragraph 2, above, than Source "O" describes as "B", 50 yrs. old, dark hair, Jewish appearance, heavy build; veteran of a U.S. Third Army Tank Battalion. He is present during the interview was a man of non-Jewish appearance who was introduced as "a high-ranking officer of the Jewish Navy", a title that may have been borne out by a British-type, naval battle-cruiser with strange insignia, which Source "O" noted hanging in the room at the time.

This interview terminated rather abruptly, however, when Source "O" apparently gave the wrong answer to a question by stating that his sole interest in the proposed use was strictly one of money. This statement, according to his explanation, was made partly in response to his feeling, revealed in his being held that before the negotiations could proceed any further he would have to be interviewed by a Mr. SIEGEL, but that Mr. SIEGEL, unfortunately, had just flown east and no one knew when he could be back. To date, according to Source "O", he has had no further word from SIEGEL.

In his search for names and addresses of Marines who might be employed to SIEGEL'S interests, BAKKER, besides availing himself of SIEGEL'S services, is known to have approached a Mr. J.M. SIEGEL, 2320 W. La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, California (surprisingly omitting bearing in connection with possible shortage in assistants), and a SGT. LIEBHARDT, USNR, Instructor, Signal School, Camp Del Mar, California. In BAKKER'S case, SIEGEL asked for names and addresses of former buddies, stating that he was anxious to get such men for parts in a motion picture in which he hoped to star, and which was entitled, "To the Shore of Lex Jinn". He neglected to inform BAKKER, however, that the picture had already been completed. In SGT. LIEBHARDT'S case, no explanation was offered. BAKKER merely asked LIEBHARDT to get the names of all of their old buddies who still were on active duty, and to see that the names were as soon as possible. LIEBHARDT was told to call Broderick B-3568 (Beverly Hills) during business hours, and to reserve the charges which he did when providing BAKKER with the names and addresses of two Staff 100's, all members of the 9th Tank Battalion.
SUBJECT: NSC-40 Local Activities of, with Particular Reference to the Recruiting of U.S. Marine Corps Tank Personnel.

This information is as of July-August 1948

Baker turned up in another role than, on or about 1 August 1948, he left him to several of his acquaintances that he was on his way to Italy, on a monthly salary of $850.00, plus expenses. He informed several of his friends in Los Angeles that he had been discharged from the service, and that he was going to Italy. One of his acquaintances, Rosevean Smith, was immediately notified to see him on his arrival at New York City. It was agreed that he would be in New York City on 15 August 1948, and that he would meet him in the afternoon at the hotel where he was staying. Smith was to act as his agent, and was to be paid $500.00 for his services.

Baker had arranged the above episode by writing that he would leave New York on 15 August 1948, and that he would be in Italy on 20 August 1948. He also arranged for the rent of his flat in New York City, and for the transportation of his luggage to Italy. He further stated that he would be staying with his brother-in-law in Rome, and that he would be there for about four weeks.

Baker has also stated that Baker had projected himself as a schoolboy in Los Angeles, and that he had been recruited by Baker following his release from the service. Following his release from the service, Baker had been employed as a teacher in the Los Angeles public schools, and had been associated with several Hollywood studios. In Baker's opinion, Baker believed that his actions were to be beneficial to the Hollywood motion pictureindustry, and that his actions would be in accordance with the provisions of law relating to neutrality.

In still another role, Baker shows up as an agent of a network of contractors, maintenance manuals, publications on tank tactics, as well as photographs and maps of模eshadow training areas of the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Barracks (in whose facilities the USMC was based). These manuals and publications were obtained on a lease by Baker from the USMC, and were released to the public by Baker. Baker also obtained a lease on two houses by Baker from the USMC, and was released as CO, 11th Reserve Tank Battalion on 20 June 1948, and transferred to duty at Quantico, Virginia.

Baker, states that his CO, Collins, leased this material to Baker's in good faith, but at least inquiring as to its ultimate purpose, though he did not institute immediate recall on learning of Baker's connections with Hollywood. Baker, himself, was responsible for the loss of the training films, some of which were not available to the public at the time of the interview. Baker, however, has not been properly accounted for several months.

In the interview, Baker admits to having photographed certain sections of Pendleton's tank training areas designated by Baker, and to have included a shot of a significant cliff located near the isolated rifle range (in the back hills of the reservation). The latter may or may not have had any connection with the still un discovered and stable (1945 10) that