



U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, D.C. 20530

NSD FOI/PA #15-200

Mr. Grant F. Smith  
Director of Research  
IRmep  
P.O. Box 32041  
Washington, D.C. 20007

AUG 19 2015

Dear Mr. Smith:

While processing your August 4, 2014, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, the Federal Bureau of Investigation located three records and referred them to the National Security Division (NSD) of the Department of Justice for processing. NSD received this referral on August 19, 2015.

We have reviewed these items and have determined to release them in full. Copies are enclosed.

Sincerely,

Kevin Tiernan  
Records and FOIA Unit Chief

Address Reply to  
The Attorney General  
and Refer to  
Initials and number

JRS

149-1311

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MAR 27 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Overseas News Agency, Inc.  
Jewish Telegraphic Agency  
Jacob Landau

Reference is made to your memorandum of January 21, 1944 addressed to the Criminal Division requesting advice as to whether the Overseas News Agency, Inc. or its Managing Editor, Jacob Landau, is registered with the Department under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, and whether its activity described in your memorandum would constitute a violation of the Registration Act. This type of inquiry would best be directed to this Section. I note the Criminal Division replied to you on January 28, 1944 having only checked the Division of Records file. Neither the Overseas News Agency nor Landau has registered.

For a number of reasons it appears that the Overseas News Agency and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency with which it is connected may be subject to the Foreign Agents Registration Act, although I do not believe the facts set forth in your memorandum of January 21 are sufficient alone to afford a basis for registration, in view of the provisions of Section 1(d) of the Act which eliminates from the definition of a foreign principal certain news agencies. In addition to the facts cited in your memorandum, however, we have found that the Tass News Agency in New York has been paying, in the past, Overseas News Agency for preparing reports of information which Tass sends abroad. We have also had some reason to believe that the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has been receiving cables and other reports from various sources in the U.S.S.R. for publication or dissemination in the United States, and, pursuant to some contract or arrangement recently entered into, has been sending news stories to the U.S.S.R. We are anticipating a conference with Mr. Landau on the matter in order to clarify the registration status of the Agency and would appreciate any further information you may have on either Landau, the Overseas News Agency, or the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Since the question of registration very largely

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MAR 28 1944

INITIALS OF OFFICER

- 2 -

applicability of Section 1(d) to these news agencies, any information which the Bureau may be able to secure which bears on the applicability of this section will be very helpful. If it develops from the facts that Section 1(d) is not applicable to either of these news agencies, the performance of services such as you describe for the Czechoslovak Information Service or such as Overseas News appears to be performing for Tass Agency would require registration. ✓

James R. Sharp, Chief,  
Foreign Agents Registration Section,  
War Division

JRS  
149-1311

*Dept. of Justice  
Washington, D. C.*

MAY 30 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Overseas News Agency, Inc.  
Jewish Telegraphic Agency  
Jacob Landau

Reference is made to your memorandum of May 11, 1944. You say that the Bureau has interests of an intelligence nature, separate and apart from those involving a possible violation of the registration Act or related statutes with regard to the Overseas News Agency and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. You request copies of any documents produced by Mr. Landau and a detailed resume of the information furnished by him as a result of my conference with him.

Our file in this matter is somewhat extensive and it would be impossible for me for sometime to furnish the information requested. If you will have one of the Special Agents of the Bureau call at my office I will be glad to make available to him our file in the matter.

*James R. Sharp*  
James R. Sharp, Chief  
Foreign Agents Registration Section  
War Division

FBI

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAY 31 1944  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Declassified by: MAB

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

USDO/NSD  
Date: 8-19-15

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
FROM : James M. McInerney, Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division  
SUBJECT: Jewish Telegraph Agency  
Registration Act

DATE: January 30, 1951

JMM:VEF:NBL:et

149-1311

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

*JK*

Reference is made to your memorandum of January 15, 1951, with which were enclosed copies of the reports of Special Agents James J. Canavan and John J. Danahy. You request our opinion as to whether the subject has violated the terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act and the extent of any further investigation desired.

*B*

An examination of the above referenced reports as well as the other information submitted regarding the subject indicates that the Jewish Telegraph Agency would fall within the purview of Section 1(d) of the Act and therefore is excluded from the term "agent of a foreign principal" unless competent evidence is obtained that the subject is in receipt of a subsidy or its policies are determined by a foreign government or a foreign political party. The receipt of a loan without any conditions attached thereto from the State of Israel does not have the effect of placing the subject in the position of being controlled, subsidized or financed by that State and therefore is insufficient to remove the subject from the operation of Section 1(d) of the Act.

*Removal*

In view of the foregoing, no specific investigation is being requested at this time. This Division, however, will appreciate whatever information which from time to time may come to the attention of the Bureau indicating that the subject is being financed or subsidized or that its policies are being controlled by the State of Israel.

*Let to NY  
2-27-51  
JMM*

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*G.I.R. - 7*

*EX - 35*

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Department of Justice  
National Security Division  
Records and FOIA Unit  
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Washington, DC 20530



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