

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

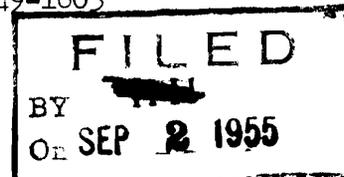
TO : Files

DATE: August 1, 1955

FROM : ^{NB} Nathan E. Lenvin

WFT:NBL:rc

149-1603

SUBJECT: WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION;
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

By letter dated July 5, 1955, addressed to me at Truro, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, Mr. Maurice M. Boukstein requested an opportunity to consult with me concerning the above captioned organizations. Mr. Boukstein came to Truro on July 13, 1955.

At the outset of the meeting Mr. Boukstein referred to the decision made by the Foreign Agents Registration Section a number of years ago regarding the obligations of the ZOA as an agent of the WZO under the terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. This decision, which was made by the then Chief of the Foreign Agents Registration Section, held in effect that in view of certain changes made in the Constitution of the WZO, the ZOA would not be required to register. Mr. Boukstein stated that since that time discussions have been held by responsible officers of the WZO with regard to the drafting of a new Constitution, since it was his opinion that the change which was made in order to avoid the registration requirements of the Act was simply a matter of expediency and in all probability did not involve any fundamental alteration in the relationship between the two organizations. Mr. Boukstein stated that his principal object in conferring with me was to get an informal opinion regarding the new Constitution which he had recently drafted and which he intended to present at the next meeting or convention of the WZO.

In 1948, the request for the registration of the ZOA was made upon the basis of provisions in the Constitution of the WZO that its constituent organizations, of which ZOA was one, were subject to the discipline and direction of the World Organization. This was the provision which was eliminated from the Constitution in order to avoid the registration requirements of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. In the draft of the new Constitution which was shown to me by Mr. Boukstein, the basic character and relationships of the World Organization undergo a basic change. The World Organization under the proposed new Constitution patterns itself after the Federation of Free World Trade Organizations. In effect, the World Organization becomes the agent, or instrument, of the various constituent organizations rather than the constituent organizations being subject to direction by the World Organization. Policy and program are to be

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formulated by delegates of the constituent organizations and the execution of such policy and program is to be thereafter left to the World Organization.

Some discussion was had as to whether such a change would for all practical purposes alter the possible obligations of the ZOA, and other Zionist organizations in the United States affiliated with the WZO, under the terms of the Act. I expressed the opinion to Mr. Boukstein that once a policy or a program had been determined the Zionist organizations in the United States would then be subject to the execution of such programs and be subject to the discipline of the World Organization if they failed to follow and to execute the programs as set forth. Mr. Boukstein reluctantly agreed with this view and then proposed certain alterations be made in the draft of the Constitution which would in effect leave each Zionist organization in the United States free to determine for itself whether it would or would not follow the program or policy as set down by the WZO.

Mr. Boukstein then inquired whether under such provisions in the Constitution a prima facie agency status existed. In reply thereto I expressed an informal opinion that the wording of the Constitution, as changed, did not create an agency relationship but pointed out that the activities of the Zionist organizations in the United States may create an agency status regardless of how the Constitution may be worded. Mr. Boukstein said he was not concerned with that problem at the moment, that they would meet it when and if it arose, but his primary purpose in conferring with me at this time was to get an informal view as to the Constitution itself and as to whether it would create a prima facie agency relationship as in the case of the previous Constitution referred to earlier.

Mr. Boukstein stated he expected to leave for a trip to Europe and Israel sometime within the next week or so, and that thereafter he would transmit for the information of the Foreign Agents Registration Section a copy of any new Constitution which might be adopted by the Executive of the WZO or which might be submitted to its members for adoption.

In conclusion, Mr. Boukstein pointed out another fundamental change in the proposed new Constitution which in effect would eliminate membership in the World Organization by any Jew anywhere in the ~~United States~~ world who bought a "shekel." The future World Organization would be composed only of organizations and would not have individual memberships as it does today.

July 1, 1955

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HANOVER 2-7600

July 5th, 1955.

Mr. Nathan D. Linvin
Truro
Cape Cod, Mass.

Dear Mr. Linvin:

I called your office today to fix an appointment when I could come to see you in order that I might discuss with you again a problem which I once mentioned to you in your office. Your secretary told me that you are not expected for the remainder of the month. Hence my barging in on your vacation like this, for which I hope you will forgive me.

I am going abroad for about six weeks on the 1st of August and I did want very much to see you for an hour or so before my departure. I would be prepared to come to Cape Cod if you will allow it, and if you will tell me when I can do so. It would be most convenient for me any day after next Monday.

I hope you are having a pleasant vacation. I know from experience that the Cape can be wonderful this time of the year - and it sure is hot in this town.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Maurice M. Boukstein

MMB:LG

149-1602

M. J. T.

149-1603
Hand-written reply advising
Mr. Boukstein I would be
pleased to confer with him at
his convenience.

NB
July 7, 1955