ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

111 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

September 9, 1938

Hon. Joseph C. Green
Chief, Office of Arms and Munitions Control
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Green:

Acknowledgment is made of the receipt of your letter of September 6th, together with enclosures, consisting of a copy of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Registration of Agents of Foreign Principals under the Act of Congress approved June 8th, 1938, together with a copy of a Registration Statement.

In the opinion of our counsel, the Zionist Organization of America is not an organization whose registration is contemplated by the Act. However, we are desirous of complying with any law that does affect our organization and, in compliance with your suggestion, we are pleased to submit a "detailed statement of the facts".

The Zionist Organization of America, a membership corporation, is composed of American Jews who recognize the necessity and desirability for the establishment in Palestine of a Jewish National Home for those Jews throughout the world who, for any number of reasons (political disabilities, economic status, religious sentiment, cultural need, etc) are in need of such a Home.

The establishment of the Jewish National Home in Palestine has been recognized as a part of public policy by an Act of Congress. We refer to the Joint Resolution, favoring the establishment of a National Home for the Jewish people, passed by both Houses of the 67th Congress of the United States of America and signed by the President of the United States on September 21st, 1922. Copy of said Resolution is attached. The purposes of the Zionist Organization of America have also been embodied in the text of the Anglo-American Convention of December 3, 1924, pertaining to the administration of Palestine.

The work of the Zionist Organization of America has a two-fold purpose. The first aims at explaining the principal thought and practical application of Zionism to American Jews so that their support may become available and also at winning the
friendly cooperation and assistance of public opinion generally.

The second is being done in collaboration with
and as a part of two fund-raising instrumentalities, the Keren
Hayesod (Palestine Foundation Fund) and the Keren Kayemeth (Jewish
National Fund of America, Inc.). The amounts raised by these
affiliates are applied for the purchase of land, colonization and
development of Palestine as the Jewish National Home. In a sense,
this activity has its parallel in the work of organizations like
the Boards of Foreign Missions of the various religious denomina-

It should be added that these monetary contrib-
utions for the upbuilding of Palestine are paralleled by similar
contributions on the part of Zionist groups and organizations in
most of the countries of the world. All of these groups are repre-
sented by a World Zionist Congress which meets bi-annually and is
composed of delegates from the various Zionist groups.

The World Zionist Congress is the supreme moral
body of the Zionist movement in the sense that its decisions as to
policies and fund-raising are to guide the various groups partici-
pating in the work of the Zionist movement. It should be made clear,
however, that neither the Zionist Organization of America nor any of
its affiliates receive any funds from the World Zionist Congress
or may, in any form, be viewed as an "agent" who is "subsidized
directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, by a foreign principal". On
the contrary, every member of the Zionist Organization of America
pays an annual due of 50¢ (known as the Shekel) for the privilege of
participating in the election of delegates to the Zionist World
Congress.

In addition to the World Zionist Congress there
exist the Jewish Agency for Palestine which is a body composed of
representative Zionists and Jewish non-Zionists and which is recog-
nized in the Mandate of the League of Nations and by the Mandatory
Government as a "public body for the purpose of advising and coopera-
ting with the Administration of Palestine in such economic, social
and other matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish
National Home" (Article 4 of the Palestine Mandate).

Again, the Zionist Organization of America receives
no funds from the Agency. On the contrary, it assists, through the
Palestine Foundation Fund in the collection of monies needed by the
Agency for its program of developing Palestine as the Jewish National
Home.

I believe this statement of the structure, purposes
and affiliations of the Zionist Organization of America will show the
non-applicability of the Act to it. If, however, there is any further
information which you still desire, I shall be pleased to supply it.
May we have the favor of your opinion.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Walter Margulis
Secretary
JOINT RESOLUTION

favoring the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people. SIXTY-SEVENTH Congress of the United States of America; at the Second Session, begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the fifth of December, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one.

RESOLVED

By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the United States of America favors the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of Christian and all other non-Jewish communities in Palestine, and that the holy places and religious buildings and sites in Palestine shall be adequately protected.

Signed: T. R. Gillette
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Albert B. Cummins
President of the Senate Pro Tempore

Approved:

September 21, 1933

Signed: Warren G. Harding