Levinson Named President Of Southwest ZOA Region

The 45th annual convention of the Southwest Zionist Region, held in Houston (Tex.) Sept. 2-4, elected Dr. Marcus Levinson of Houston as president to succeed Sidney L. Harel of Shreveport.

Mr. Levinson, who was elected honorary president, was further honored with a bronze plaque and with the naming of a colony in Israel in his honor.

Other officers elected include: Charles Bender, Breckenridge, and Louis F. Fried, Houston, honorary presidents; Julius G. Livingston, Tulsa, chairman; board of directors; Isaac Abramson, Shreveport, Leon Brachman, Fort Worth, and Leon Seidlin, New Orleans, vice presidents; Dean Millies, Coriell, secretary; Joseph Swift, Galveston, treasurer.

Elected to the Board of Directors from each state in the Region were: Martin Ehrenberg, Little Rock (Ark.); Dr. Sidney Jacobs, New Orleans; Arthur Bavel, Albuquerque (N. M.); Charles Goodall, Tulsa (Okla.).

Benjamin C. Gruen, noted author and attorney, who was the main speaker, in dealing with the problems of the new state, urged, primarily, full support of the United Jewish Appeal, government loans and other large-scale aid by banking institutions.

"Importantly important in long range planning," he declared, "is private capital investment. In order to make these opportunities for such investment," he said, "are dramatic and great-from Atlanta, from Washington, from New York to Jerusalem. Israel, with its rich spiritual heritage, will be the center of some new trading area in the Middle East."

Mr. Gruen also stressed the

Lassar Elected Brooklyn Region President; Tribute Paid to Benjamin Browdy

Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York and Borough President John Cashmore of Brooklyn enthusiastically greeted the delegates of the 38 Zionist districts of the Brooklyn Region at its 14th Annual Convention at the Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst, which opened Saturday evening, September 17.

Aubrey S. Eban, special representative of the State of Israel to the United Nations, was the principal speaker at the Saturday evening session, and Assistant District Attorney William I. Siegel presided.

The luncheon session on Sunday was held as a tribute to Benjamin C. Browdy, the retiring president of the Region, who died.

Among those who praised Mr. Browdy for his devoted service to Zion were Borough President Cashmore, chairman of the Brooklyn Christian Fellowship Committee, and former Appeals Commissioner Albert D. Scharz, president of the Region, who said:

"The afternoon session was devoted to the election of officers and reports by the chairman of the following panels: Publications, Assistant District Attorney Aaron Nunestein; Membership, Joseph S. Schenber; Funds, and Economic Activities, Thomas Cohen; Youth Activities, Dr. Nissan Ezakov; and Education, Rabbi Feidus of Flatbush.

The following were the officers elected for the coming year:

Charles Bender, of Breckenridge (Tex.), has left on a four week visit to Israel. Mr. Bender is the honorary president of the ZOA.
80,000 Chicagoans hear Israeli music

An audience of some 80,000 Chicagoans, including the Grant Park Symphony Orchestra, in an outdoor concert of Israeli music presented under the sponsorship of the Zionist Organization of Chicago as a public service to the Chicago community. The concert, "Israel Music Under the Stars," was conducted by Michel Mahať, who spent several weeks last winter as guest conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in Tel Aviv. Featured were Israeli compositions of Mahler, Dvorak, and Mandelstain, with two movements of his Symphony No. 5, and two songs, "Eshet Chayyi" and "Shir Le-Negev." Milton Silverstein is president of the ZOA.

Bronx Region to honor Flynn

Edward J. Flynn, loyal friend of Israel and the Bronx's leading public citizen, will be honored by the Bronx Zionist Region, president David Moskowitz has announced. The occasion will be a testimonial dinner to be held at the Commodore Hotel on the evening of Thursday, October 27, in announcing plans for the event, Mr. Moskowitz said: "The decision to afford public recognition to Mr. Flynn for his contribution to the formation of Zion was unanimously made by the Executive Committee of our Region in behalf of the 45 districts in the area, and its membership of over 30,000.

Leading the committee members were representatives of the Executive Committee, including Martin M. Frank, chairman, and Jules S. Frankel as secretary. Mayor La Guardia has been a designated treasurer.

Schwefel back from Israel

Louis Schwefel, Zionist worker and former chairman of the ZOA Suburban Section, has returned to New York from Israel where he has been living for the past three years. Mr. and Mrs. Schwefel will remain in New York several months before returning to Israel.
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

The President of the United States, Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower, has sent a letter to...
Mr. Alexander H. Campbell  
Assistant Attorney General

"For its humanitarian objectives I sincerely trust the Zionist Organization of America will not be adversely affected, but for its political activities I certainly hope it is forced to identify itself for what it is.

John T., Harah."

Subsequent to the publication of the above-quoted article the Bureau secured, through a confidential source, a copy of the press release made by Daniel Frisch referred to in the article. This press release is attached hereto. There is also attached a copy of the Rosh Hashonah issue of "The New Palestine," a publication of the Zionist Organization of America. You will note that on page three of this publication a portion of the press release by Daniel Frisch is set forth.

It would be appreciated if you would advise this Bureau whether the attached material contains any information which in your opinion indicates that the Zionist Organization of America or its officers are engaged in activities which may be in contravention of the Foreign Agents Registration Act or any other federal statute. Will you also advise whether any investigation should be undertaken by this Bureau in connection with this matter."
Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) ____________________________ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

Dept. of Justice, Criminal Division, advised they already processed this document for you; therefore, we are not reproducing it.

For your information:

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-341909-19
SAC, NEW YORK

DIRECTOR, FBI

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
REGISTRATION ACT

November 30, 1949

By your letter October 10, 1949, forwarding two copies of the ZOA press release, "The Clock Must Not Be Turned Back," and two copies of the ZOA publication, "The New Palestine."

One copy of each of the above described items was forwarded to Mr. Alexander M. Campbell, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, on October 28, 1949. At the same time Mr. Campbell was advised of the contents of the item appearing on the editorial page of the "Washington Post" on September 16, 1949, as set forth in Bureau letter to your office September 22, 1949. Mr. Campbell was requested to advise the Bureau whether the material contained any information which in his opinion indicated that the ZOA or its officers are engaged in activities which may be in contravention of the Registration Act or any other Federal statute and whether any investigation should be undertaken by the Bureau in connection with this matter.

On November 8, 1949, Mr. Campbell advised that the conclusion had been reached that the activities of the subject and its officers are not in contravention of the Registration Act. He stated that while no specific investigation is being requested at this time, he desires to receive any information regarding the activities of the ZOA which from time to time may come to the attention of the Bureau, especially information relating to activities on behalf of a foreign principal.

The New York Office should, therefore, be alert to forward any information of the type desired by Mr. Campbell to the Bureau immediately upon receipt in the future in order that it may be made available to him. For your information and the completion of your files, one copy of Mr. Campbell's memorandum of November 8, 1949, is attached hereto.

Enclosure

100-341909

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE OCT 1 2 1979 BY 31-16SK-DEC
7/7/85 918820.50

NOV 20 1949

COMMA PB
DIRECTOR, FBI

D. N. Ladd

AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE, INC.

VZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

REGISTRATION ACT

PURPOSE:

This is in response to your request for information regarding the Registration Act investigations of captioned A-7-66.

AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE, INC. (ALFP)

The ALFP was incorporated under the laws of the state of New York and was in active existence from March, 1944, to January 31, 1949, when it was officially disbanded. The organization was closely affiliated with the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation (HCNL), which was its parent group. Its source of income was derived from contributions, membership fees, and loans.

The HCNL registered under the terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act on June 25, 1944, and regularly filed supplemental statements as required until it was dissolved in January, 1949.

The purposes of the ALFP were to bring about the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine and to assist Jews throughout the world in settling there.

Numerous prominent individuals in the United States identified themselves with the League and/or numerous front type groups which were established to foster the purposes of the League. These individuals included ex-Senator Guy Gillette, who became its president in August, 1945, Louis Bresenfeld, Ben Hecht, Will Rogers, Jr., Harry Louis Selden, Andrew L. Somers and Stella Adler.

The Bureau instituted investigation of the HCNL and its affiliated groups, including the ALFP, in December, 1945, and investigation continued until March, 1951, when it was established that the HCNL, as well as the ALFP, had dissolved. In March, 1949, it was determined that upon dissolution of the ALFP it was succeeded by an organization called Irgun Zvai Leumi (Freedom Movement) on which we currently have a pending investigation. During the investigation of the ALFP, it was established that the group was actively engaged in this country in supporting the Irgun Zvai Leumi (IZL), both by
recruiting men to serve with the Irgun military organization in Palestine and by raising funds to support the Irgun cause. The IZL was an underground terrorist type group which was outlawed as such by the Israeli Government after the state of Israel was established. The former members of the IZL then formed a political party, the Tenuat Hakerut, which is considered extremely to the right in its platform.

Our investigation of the HCNL and the ALFP was vast extensive, the results being recorded in an eleven volume case file. Copies of reports were transmitted to the Criminal Division as received. On November 21, 1947, the Criminal Division sent us a lengthy memorandum analyzing the activities of domestic groups supporting Palestine illegal immigration and underground terrorism. With respect to the two organizations under consideration, the Criminal Division stated in part as fellows:

The ALFP, which is one of the principal groups supporting illegal immigration and terrorist activities in Palestine, is registrable on the basis of its admitted collection and transmission of funds to the Repatriation Commissioner of the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation at Basle, Switzerland. In addition, it is reliably reported to have been founded by representatives of Irgun Eost Leumi who came to this country to raise funds and propagandize for their cause. ALFP was placed on notice as to its obligation to register but declined to comply on the advice of counsel who considered the Registration Act inapplicable to his client.

The HCNL, which is the parent of and, for all practical purposes, interchangeable with ALFP, is registered as an agent of the Jewish People generally. Its failure to name the Irgun Eost Leumi as its true principal is under consideration as a basis for prosecution for false registration.

The investigation in this matter is being continued and from time to time, as warranted, additional investigations will be requested.

The Bureau did in fact receive from time to time requests from the Criminal Division for investigations of a specific nature with regard to the HCNL and the ALFP. These requests were handled expeditiously and the results of our investigations forwarded to the Criminal Division.
An effort was made to determine what action was instituted by the Criminal Division following the refusal of the ALFP to register on advice of counsel. On May 18, 1948, we requested the Criminal Division to outline specifically what further investigation, if any, was desired. On May 25, 1948, the Criminal Division stated, "No further investigation is being requested at this time since the information already submitted by the Bureau clearly indicates that the activities of the League come within the purview of the Foreign Agents Registration Act." The Criminal Division further advised that the League was being given ten days within which to submit a registration statement and, if it failed to do so, the case would be turned over to the United States Attorney at New York City for possible prosecution. Then we inquired as to the status of the case on August 23, 1948, the Criminal Division on September 16, 1948, merely advised that the organization had not yet complied with the registration requirements.

We again inquired as to the status on October 6, 1948, and on October 15, were advised that the Criminal Division desired no further specific investigation but merely desired to receive any additional information "which may from time to time come to the attention of the Bureau." This request has been complied with implicitly.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA (20A)

Prior to the declaration of independence by the State of Israel in May, 1948, Zionist affairs throughout the world were handled through a well-organized system. The main organization in this system was known as the World Zionist Organization. The active arm of this organization was known as the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the American branch of which registered with the Attorney General on September 14, 1943. The World Zionist Organization was a higher body than the Jewish Agency for Palestine and it determined the policy and the directives of the Jewish Agency. The 20A was organized in 1897 and is affiliated with the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

The purpose of the 20A is to safeguard the integrity and independence of Israel as a free and democratic commonwealth by means consistent with the laws of the United States; to assist in the economic development of Israel; to strengthen
Jewish sentiment and consciousness as a people; and to promote its cultural creativity.

Many persons prominent in the Zionist movement in the United States have been active in the ZOA, including Dr. Emanuel Neumann, past president; Daniel Frisch; Mendel Fisher; Dr. Israel Goldstein; Jacques Torczyner, all of New York City; Joseph Chernett, former President of the Washington branch; and Isidore Turuer, former Vice-President of the Washington group.

Our only investigation of the ZOA was occasioned by a memorandum dated January 9, 1948, to the Department advising that any further inquiry should be conducted by the Bureau. The Department on February 6, 1948, requested an investigation to determine the name of the organization responsible for

The Washington Field checked the records of the Foreign Agents Registration Section, Department of Justice, on April 6, 1948, in connection with the above investigation and ascertained that the ZOA was not registered. The Department file reflected, however, that under date of February 25, 1948, a letter together with the necessary registration forms were directed to the organization by the Department advising them that pursuant to an agreement reached with Rabbi Schuman of the ZOA, the organization was requested to comply with the requirements of the Registration Act and to submit registration statements. Reports, which included the above information regarding the agreement of the ZOA to register, were sent to the Department on May 3, 1948, with a request that the Bureau be advised what further investigation should be undertaken and whether the facts developed indicated a violation of any Federal Statute.

The Department replied on May 12, 1948, that no violation of any
By memorandum dated March 21, 1949, the Department was furnished additional information concerning the ZOA activities which appeared in Public Relations News Letter No. 341 dated February 21, 1949, published by "The Public Relations News." The article indicated that the ZOA, through its Economic Affairs Committee, was endeavoring to transmit to Israel certain up-to-date information concerning American industry. A reply from the Department was requested in the event additional data was desired with regard to the above matter or to the activities of the Zionist Organization of America. No reply was received to this communication.

On October 28, 1949, a memorandum was sent to the Criminal Division quoting a letter to the editor which appeared in the September 28, 1949 issue of the Washington Post attributed to one John E. Marsh. Marsh referred to a press release of Daniel Friesch, President of the ZOA, and suggested that the release easily led to the conclusion that the ZOA was the agent of a foreign state and as such should be registered. A copy of the press release referred to by Marsh was secured and forwarded to the Department at the same time. The Department was requested to advise whether the above material contained any information indicating that the ZOA or its officers were in contravention of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. The Department was also requested to advise whether any investigation should be undertaken by the Bureau in connection with this matter.

In reply dated November 8, 1949, the Department advised in part as follows:

As you know, the obligations of the subject organization under the terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act have been a subject of study and consideration by the Foreign Agents Registration Section for the past several years. In April of 1947 a comprehensive memorandum was prepared by that Section outlining in considerable detail the activities and relationships of the subject in
connection with the World Zionist Organization. As a result of this memorandum, a letter was transmitted to the subject again soliciting its registration under the Act. This letter resulted in a series of conferences being held between representatives of the Attorney General's office and representatives of the subject. As a result of these conferences the subject organization materially changed its constitution and at the same time effected a change in the constitution of the World Zionist Organization in an effort to remove itself from its agency status. As a result all attempts to procure the registration of the subject organization were dropped.

The Department further concluded that the activities of the ZOA and its officers were not in contravention of the Foreign Agents Registration Act and stated that no specific investigation was being requested at that time.

You will recall that Mr. Nathan B. Levin of the Department advised our Washington Field Office Agent in confidence that the ZOA brought about a minor change in its constitution so that it might state it was no longer the agent of a foreign principal. As noted above, the Department stated the ZOA materially changed its constitution and at the same time effected a change in the constitution of the World Zionist Organization. The Department has not advised the Bureau of the nature of the changes made in the constitutions of these Zionist groups.

ACTIONS: The above is submitted in accordance with your request.
Dear Mr. Hoover,

My name is [redacted] and I am thirteen years old and am a Washingtonian. My father is Jewish and belongs to the Jewish Organization of America. My mother is non-Jewish. She keeps making accusations against my father. She says the Jewish Organization is a political movement to overthrow the United States Government. Will you please send me some information concerning this subject. Will you please send this information to this address.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,
TRUE COPY

Nov. 5, 1951

Dear Mr. Hoover,

My name is [redacted] I am thirteen years old and am a Washingtonian.

My father is Jewish and belongs to the Zionist Organization of America. My mother is non-Jewish. She keeps making accusations against my father. She says the Zionists Organization is a political movement to overthrow the United States Government. Will you please send me some information concerning this subject. Will you please send this information to this address.

Thank you very much.

Yours Truly,

[Signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
Dear [Name],

Your letter dated November 5, 1951, has been received.

Although I would like very much to be able to give you the information you request, I am unable to do so because any facts in FBI files are required by law to be held confidential and available only to federal and state officials authorized to receive them. I am sure you can understand why this is a good rule, and I want to point out particularly that the fact I cannot assist you does not mean either that we do or do not have any information in our files regarding the organization you mention.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Director

[Stamp: Recorded - 60]

[Stamp: 100 - 341909 - 21]

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[Stamp: Nov 19 1951]

[Stamp: 58 Dec 18 1951]
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☐ Deleted under exemption(s) ___________________________ with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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Dept. of Justice, Criminal Division, advised they already processed this document for you; therefore, we are not reproducing it.

☐ For your information:

☐ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-341909-22
ReBulet to New York November 30, 1949. The Criminal Division, by memorandum dated November 20, 1953, captioned as above, made reference to the memorandum from the Criminal Division dated November 8, 1949, wherein the conclusion was reached that the activities of the above subject and its officers were not at that time in contravention of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, as a result of the changes in the constitutions of the World Zionist Organization and those of the subject which were made in an effort to remove the Zionist Organization of America from an agency status.

The Department's memorandum of November 20, 1953, advised that the November 23, 1953, issue of "The American Zionist," published by the subject, carries the headline "ZOA in Action: Mobilizes Public Opinion for Israel." The article states among other things that the ZOA, with the aid of its nation-wide constituency has taken the lead in arousing public opinion in the falsehoods spread by the enemies of Israel.

According to the Department, this article, as well as others appearing in previous issues of "The American Zionist," examined by attorneys of the Foreign Agents Registration Section, strongly suggests that the subject is acting within the United States as a publicity agent for the State of Israel within the meaning of Section 1(c) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. There is no evidence, however, according to the Department, that such activity is the result of a request from the State of Israel or is being carried on at the order or under the direction of the State of Israel.

The Department requested in its memorandum of November 20, 1953, though therefore, any information coming to the attention of the Bureau which would tend to establish that the Zionist Organization of America is acting within the United States at the order or request or under the direction of the State of Israel be brought promptly to the attention of the Criminal Division.
In view of the above, although the Department requested no investigation, it is believed desirable at this time to prepare a report setting forth pertinent material as contained in the files of the New York, Los Angeles, and Washington Field offices which may be of interest to the Department regarding its request to be advised of any information coming to our attention which may tend to establish that the captioned organization is acting within the United States at the order or under the direction of the State of Israel.

The Los Angeles and Washington Field offices should review their files re captioned organization for any pertinent data which may be available and which falls within the categories as set forth by the Criminal Division and furnish such data to the New York office in a form which the New York office may use as an insert in a report which New York will prepare after it has likewise reviewed the New York files along the same lines as noted for the Los Angeles and Washington Field offices. The New York office will prepare one report suitable for dissemination to the Department in order that the Department will have in its possession any pertinent data concerning the captioned organization known to the Bureau at this time.

This matter should be handled expeditiously so that the required report may be promptly disseminated to the Criminal Division.

- 2 -
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-341909)
FROM: SAC, WFO (2-129)
SUBJECT: ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA REGISTRATION ACT
(Office of Origin: MILWAUKEE)

DATE: December 23, 1953

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE OCT 12 1979 BY 31165X-DLC
2/10/85 946-1.8C 2/10/85 946-1.80

Be Bureau Letter dated December 8, 1953, requesting that
this office furnish in insert form pertinent information contained
in the files of the Washington Field Office in connection with the
subject organization.

A review of the files of the Washington Field Office
failed to reflect any pertinent information which tends to establish
that the ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA is acting within the
United States, at the order of or under the direction of the State
of Israel. HUC.

2 - New York (2-385) (BK) 1/00-341909 - 23
JAN 8 1954

F2C

UNCONFIRMED

HAWND2D-A 3: 968:224 1953
Dec 30 1953
ML 23
TO: Director, FBI
FROM: SAC, New York (2-385)
SUBJECT: ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA
REGISTRATION ACT

Reference NY air-tel 1/28/54.

Referenced NY air-tel requested Los Angeles to submit results of lead set forth in bullet 12/8/53. To date no information has been received by this office. This case is now delinquent in NIO. Please expedite.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE OCT 12 1979
BY STAND.LSGK-DLC
RECORDED-37 FEB 18 1954
EX-102
FEB 23 1954