

ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH
THE CREATION OF THE NEW STATE OF ISRAEL

On July 16, 1947, a tech on David R. Wahl in Washington, D.C., revealed Wahl contacted Dr. Emanuel Newman, a member of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Newman expressed his regret that he could not see Wahl the previous day. Newman spoke of an unidentified meeting to be held the next day which would be composed of representatives of various organizations and indicated that Abe Feinberg had mentioned Wahl's name. Abe Feinberg is possibly identical with Abraham Feinberg. (65-56402-1-1901)

[redacted] reported that on 8-7-47, Ella Shalit, Wahl's secretary, attempted to contact Abraham Feinberg at the American Friends for Haganah at Murray Hill 2-2560. She was advised to try Longacre 3-4224. The significance of this attempted contact is not known. (65-56402-2985, Page 48)

In connection with the plan of Rabbi Baruch Korff of New York to parachute into Palestine, the "Daily Worker" on 8-25-47, carried the following article:

"Big parachute drop called publicity gag. Americans for Haganah yesterday branded as utterly irresponsible and absurd the announcement to the press in Paris by Rabbi Baruch Korff of New York of plans for a Jewish mass parachute descent on Palestine. Abraham Feinberg, president of the organization, stated that Korff is merely attempting to ride the wave of headlines about the exodus refugees, thus capitalizing shamefully on human misery! 'Rabbi Korff has been collecting funds from gullible people for about a year,' Feinberg said, 'but we challenge him to show that any Jews have reached Palestine by land, sea or air through his efforts.'" (100-57300-58, Pg. 3)

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On September 9, 1947, [redacted]

[redacted] advised that one Ira Sherman of New York, contacted David Wahl. Sherman stated Abe, possibly Abraham Feinberg, was very much excited (about some unidentified matter apparently connected with Israeli affairs) and wanted some immediate action. Wahl requested that Abe be told that Wahl was working on a plan to have Crum come to Washington to meet with Secretary of State Marshall. (65-56402-2985, Pg. 65)

Confidential Informant [redacted]

[redacted] *Trash Cover on Communist Party Headquarters, New York City* made available a letter dated October 10, 1947, signed by Abraham Feinberg, President of Americans for Haganah, and directed to the Jewish daily, "Morning Freiheit," 50 East 13th Street, NYC. Transmitted with Feinberg's letter was a copy of a "News Release," entitled, "4,000 Balkan Jews on Haganah Ships Broadcast Their Determination to Enter Palestine; Appeal to United Nations and Conscience of the World." (97-2866-6)

An advertisement appeared in the "New York Times" for December 19, 1947, stating that Americans for Haganah, Inc., was sponsoring two mass meetings on December 23, 1947, which listed as speakers, among others, Abraham Feinberg, President. (97-2866-13)

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An agent of the New York Office observed the proceedings that took place at mass meetings held by Americans for Haganah, Inc., on December 23, 1947, at Manhattan Center, NYC, and the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, New York. At the meeting held in New York City, Abraham Feinberg was the chairman. Among the principal speakers at the NYC meeting were Helen Warren, described as an executive Committee member for this organization, who was with the USO in Europe and worked with the underground in Germany during the Nazi regime to aid Jews to escape to Palestine. Another speaker was Moshe Shertok, who was introduced as the man who carried the cause for the Jewish State in the UN Assembly. There were pleas for funds made at both meetings. (97-2866-10)

On 2-26-48, [redacted]

[redacted] advised David Wahl of NYC had been in contact with Bartley Cavanaugh Crum in San Francisco. The source stated Crum was advised a "meeting of the Executives" had been held at which time it was decided to "get a new executive" to be consolidated with the American Zionists Party, which would be consolidated with Abe Fineberg (phonetic) and others identified with the movement. Wahl also stated a meeting consisting of Wahl, Fineberg, Silver (phonetic), and others was scheduled to be held 3-1-48 to work out details. The source stated Crum indicated he would attend the meeting. Abe Fineberg is possibly identical with Abraham Feinberg. (100-334436-143)

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British sources advise Wahl and Abe Feinberg of Americans for Haganah applied for visas at British Consulate, New York, 4-12-48, for entry into Palestine. (65-56402-3203)

The July 22, 1948, edition of the "New York Times" set forth an article captioned "Neuman Scores New Jewish Group." This article included information that among the Committee forming Americans United for Israel was Abraham Feinberg. Neuman is possibly identical with Dr. Emanuel Newman, who was active in the Jewish Committee for Palestine. (97-2866-33)

In numbers 12 and 13 of Volume II of "Haganah Speaks," a bi-monthly publication of Americans for Haganah, Inc., there appeared an announcement that a new organization known as "Americans United for Israel, Incorporated," was being formed to take over all projects for assistance to the embattled people of Israel. This announcement further stated Americans for Haganah, Inc. would dissolve itself and that its functions would be taken over by the new organization. Listed on the Committee of the new organization was Abraham Feinberg. (97-2866-33)

Feinberg's Attempts to Exert Pressure on
Justice Department at Request of Israelis
to Quash Cases Involving Individuals Charged
With Violations of Neutrality Act:

Information was received from [redacted]

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which reflected the following:

On November 22, 1948, Wahl was in contact with an unknown individual and asked the time of Abe Feinberg's appointment at the White House. He instructed the unknown individual to tell Abe to "butter up" Niles (David K. Niles).

On November 23, 1948, Wahl and Lou Weintraub, a member of the Executive Committee of Israel Speaks, Inc., held a conference at which Wahl wanted to know if Weintraub was present when Bill Boyle spoke to Tom Clark about the situation in Los Angeles. Weintraub assured him that Clark had said they would have two weeks. Wahl and Weintraub then discussed an approach to Claude Pepper and the necessity to impress upon him the importance of the case and that the people in New York were most anxious that Pepper give it his personal attention.

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The plan was: (1) To make absolutely sure about the continuances for Schwimmer (2) The December 3 date to be moved to December 15 or 20 in order to move to dismiss the indictment, and (3) The same option with respect to Winters.

Subsequent to this conference, Abe Feinberg contacted Wahl and told him that they had accomplished the Florida business temporarily, but that Lou Weintraub should see Claude the following day to accomplish a couple of things. Wahl mentioned to Feinberg that Claude needed an offer in a certain way and Wahl told him how to do it. Feinberg cautioned Wahl that he could not approach "these guys with fire in your eyes." Feinberg also related that the "big boy" was very nice to him that day. Wahl inquired whether he had spoken to him about this situation and Feinberg answered that he had not but that he had spoken to Matt (probably Matthew Connolly) who was to let him know on Friday. Feinberg said that he told Matt that they would postpone it until after the inauguration. Feinberg pointed out that he had spent 45 minutes with Clifford (Clark Clifford) but he did not think that Clifford would go as far as they wanted him to and he did not think that Clifford would put in an American resolution. (Probably referring to efforts on their part to have the arms embargo lifted with respect to Israel). Feinberg stated that he left Clifford with the thought that if they could come out with a Truman resolution and it solved the problem that would be the instrument through which peace could be arrived at.

On December 4, 1948, Lou Weintraub advised Wahl that he had been in contact with Max Lowenthal who, in turn, had been in touch with Feinberg. Wahl mentioned that he and Feinberg were having a meeting the following day to go over the Palestinian situation. Feinberg's idea was not to dissolve but to compromise and keep the committee of contributors. It was his idea to bring the committee into the World Zionist Organization.

On December 8, 1948, Feinberg inquired of Wahl if he had heard from Lou Weintraub. Wahl answered that Weintraub was sweating it out in Washington and was waiting for a call from Miami. Feinberg inquired about the statements made by Max Lowenthal that "it is all fixed." Wahl pointed out that Lowenthal had been passing that information along and then a report came up from Miami that the people who were supposed to be fixed never heard of it. Wahl also mentioned that Weintraub had "this guy" of Pepper's (probably Clemens) trying to see if the thing was clinched down there.

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On December 11, 1948, Wahl was in touch with an unknown individual and advised that he had an appointment with Feinberg for 2:30 p.m. the following day. The unknown individual mentioned the possibility of seeing the President on Friday. This individual also mentioned that he knew why the Senator (Pepper) jumped through the hoop for Feinberg since Max (Lowenthal) introduced him.

On 12-14-48 Weintraub was in contact with Wahl and advised that "Dave is standing on his head in Washington and will try to do something with Peyton (Ford) as the information in Florida has changed. Bart (Crum) is reluctant to come in unless Abe (Feinberg) thinks his friend Bill will not be offended. Bart thinks they have the Senator (Pepper) on the limb and may cut themselves off. Instead of the Florida fellows being interlopers if they weren't in the picture nothing would be done. A letter has been sent from Miami to the Department (of Justice) which should be there this morning or tomorrow. The guy to whom it's addressed may be in New York on this Chambers business. Phyllis has not heard from Campbell (Alexander) since Friday. On Friday the Senator's telegram to Phyllis said that the Senator had talked to Campbell and Campbell was agreeable." "Bill" is possibly identical with Bill Boyle, former Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. The identity of "Phyllis" is not known.

On December 18, 1948, Bart Crum and Wahl discussed the entire situation which Crum complained was being improperly handled. Concerning Feinberg, Crum complained that it was not right for Feinberg to have the whole responsibility and to undertake the obligation. Crum also pointed out that there were a lot of people involved in this affair and the Department of Justice knew it. He further pointed out that there were 70 people involved on the West Coast. Crum went on to state that it was necessary to have a group working rather than Feinberg and that it would be necessary to have a war chest. This group should include Feinberg who would act as chairman and be responsible for the disbursement of funds. He stated that this thing should be handled on a professional basis and that the program is "de jure" recognition (of Israel) and lifting the arms embargo. Crum related that if this was accomplished,

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the three cases and the 70 potential indictments in Los Angeles would be rendered moot. Wahl advised Crum that he would start immediately by calling Feinberg and a few other people together and "laying the thing on the line."

C On February 5, 1949, Wahl contacted Congressman Celler and told the Congressman that a matter came up and Bart Crum, Lou Weintraub and he wanted to see the Congressman. He stated that he wished to discuss a case in Miami which involved an accusation against individuals flying planes to Israel. Wahl stated that one of the fliers had been convicted on this charge in Miami the day before. Celler agreed to see them at noon.

Wahl thereafter contacted Feinberg and advised him of the appointment with Celler.

On February 12, 1949, Feinberg attempted to reach Robert E. Hannegan, without success.

On February 13, 1949, Wahl had a conference with an unknown man whom Wahl asked to arrange an introduction with Ed (probably Ed Pauley) as Wahl wanted to take Ed, Feinberg and the unknown man to lunch. Wahl mentioned that he had called Pepper and told him to forget the whole thing.

On the same day Wahl contacted Lou Weintraub, who mentioned that he, Abe Feinberg and four others had held a meeting at which Max had given instructions as a result of which Feinberg was trying to get hold of Bart Crum. Wahl pointed out that Feinberg's present attitude was not to bother Bill Boyle on this stuff and that someone should go to see Dean (Acheson) and Tom (Clark) and others. Wahl stated that Feinberg was trying to reach Bob (Hannegan) in Florida to see if he would call Tom and authorize Hannegan to straighten out things down there.

On February 27, 1949, Wahl was in touch with an unidentified man who mentioned that he had tried to contact Feinberg. The man mentioned that it was not a lawyer's problem any more but a political shindig. He remarked that Feinberg was in the middle with his head on the chopping block and that Feinberg and his group, as well as the Democratic Party, were on the spot.

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In connection with the above, it is noted that the information furnished by [] reflects an exerted effort by Feinberg, Wahl and others to use political pressure on the Department of Justice through prominent public officials in order to have cases involving the indictment or possible indictment of individuals involved in violations of the Neutrality Act quashed or favorably handled. In that connection, a case had been pending in Miami involving Adolph William Schwimmer, Irving Schindler, et al, in November, 1948, for conspiracy to violate the Neutrality Act in connection with the transporting of planes to Israel when Israel was at war with the Arab States. (101-2261-76) L

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Information received from an anonymous source reflects the direct interest of the Israeli Government in this matter. This information is as follows:

On April 1, 1949, Eliahu Elath, Israeli Ambassador to the United States, was advised by his government that it was agreed that the matter relating to Schwimmer and other people under indictment should be taken to the "highest level" in order to "squash it once and forever."

In this connection, one of several courses of action suggested to Elath by the Israeli Government was for Elath to have Abe (believed to be Abraham Feinberg of New York City) take it up with his friends.

This same anonymous source advised that a suggested answer to the proposal concerning Abe was that Abe failed over a period of four months and further that Emanuel Celler (New York Congressman) similarly failed. The Israeli Government was to be further informed that the matter was being considered by the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and that efforts were being made to use "all available sources" but that there was no hope of settling the matter outside of judicial channels.

Elath was subsequently advised by his government on April 5, 1949, (apparently prior to transmitting the above-suggested reply) that among other things Abe was of the opinion that Eddie Jacobson (President Truman's friend) could be of no use, but that he (Abe) was prepared to ask Johnson's intervention.

(Apparently Louis Johnson, then Secretary of Defense.)
(105-10828-46)

Further indication of outside pressure that had been exerted to prevent prosecution in these cases is reflected in the following information:

On December 15, 1948, Joseph Brock of the Criminal Division, who handled this and other Neutrality Act cases, advised Bureau Supervisor Kline Weatherford in absolute confidence that a situation had arisen regarding the trial of the individuals indicted which he felt offered serious potential repercussions. He explained that a proposal had been made to change the venue with regard to Schindler and Levin from Miami to New York and Los Angeles, respectively. He added that he was requested to discuss the matter with Peyton Ford, who instructed that the proposal be accepted providing all of the defendants would enter pleas of guilty. Naturally, Schindler and Levin must enter pleas of guilty in order to effect the change in venue with respect to them. Mr. Brock informed that he objected to this proposal and voiced his disapproval to Mr. Ford; however, it was apparent that Mr. Ford was acting upon instructions and accordingly the USA in Miami was advised of the proposal and instructed to comply with it. Mr. Brock observed that politics on an extremely high level was entering into the case which was of grave concern and keen displeasure to him. He explained that he had done everything possible to expedite prosecution of these individuals and regretted that it was necessary to accede to the proposal made by this Jewish group.

Mr. Brock additionally informed Agent Weatherford that the Criminal Division had received a letter from the USA in Miami dated December 13, 1948, advising that it was impossible to comply with the Department's instructions, since subject Winters had openly and publicly declared his intention to fight the case. Mr. Brock added that the USA evidenced his displeasure with the "Gentlemen's Agreement" that had been entered into permitting a change of venue for Schindler and Levin. He pointed out that on December 15, 1948, a wire was sent to the USA in Miami stating: "Arrest defendants immediately. Case should proceed in usual manner. Issue subpoena for witnesses." (2-875-762)