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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT WASHINGTON FIELD

FILE No. 65-4962-700

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REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 9/19/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/15-9/15/51	REPORT MADE BY [Redacted]
TITLE [Redacted]		CHARACTER OF CASE [Redacted]	

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: THIS REPORT NOT TO BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE OF THIS BUREAU

Information concerning Public Relations Board set forth. General intelligence information set forth. [Redacted], New York Showman, identified as participant Israeli public relations activities. Analysis probable origin and structure. DAAT set forth.

No date wru

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DETAILS:

*Statement info included 10/9/51
in letter to [Redacted] [Redacted]*

This is a joint report of SA [Redacted] and reporting agent.

All informants with symbol numbers in this report are of known reliability.

~~EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING~~

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature]
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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RECORDED - 73

- 5 - Bureau [Redacted] (AMSD)
- 3 - Washington Field (65-5284)
- 1 - New York (Info) (65-15150)
- 2 - Los Angeles

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LA 65-4962

(U) had been able to observe the minutes of several meetings of the board but did not see minutes of the earlier board meetings. ~~S~~

(U) The composition of the various boards on the dates available are being set forth. However, the discussions of the board are not being reported except those discussions which are deemed of interest. These board meetings are as follows: ~~S~~ ~~TOP SECRET~~

The first board meeting of which T-3 has any information was that one held on April 17, 1949, at the home of ARTHUR LOURIE in New York City. LOURIE is Consul General. The personnel in attendance were: ~~S~~

- (U) ELIAHU ELATH (Ambassador)
- RITA GROSSMAN (Head of the Production and Distribution Division of the Israeli Office of Information in New York.)
- URIEL HEYD (First Secretary, Israeli Embassy.)
- I. L. KENEN (Director, Office of Information, New York City.)
- (U) ~~S~~ HARRY ZINDER (Director, Israeli Office of Information, Washington, D.C.)
- ARTHUR LOURIE.

(U) At this meeting the board discussed ESTHER HERLITZ's cable concerning "B.R." and his participation in public relations in the United States. Fear was expressed during the discussion that B.R. might endeavor to take over the entire operation. ~~S~~

There was also discussion concerning the issuance of a pamphlet on the Arab question, which pamphlet would include a reference to possibilities of development of the Middle East as mentioned in paragraph four of HARRY S. TRUMAN's State of the Nation Speech. It was agreed that MARIE SYRKIN would be consulted concerning the Arab question as well as the Jerusalem question. ~~S~~

(U) VICTOR H. BERNSTEIN (Director, Public Relations, Jewish Agency for Palestine, American Section), came into the meeting to discuss the future of Palcor; i.e., whether or not to continue use of its cable service to service the press. It was stated that the Government of Israel was paying transmission charges and that the Jewish Agency had been composing it into bulletin form and distributing it to the press. ~~S~~

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LA 65-4962

T-3 stated that a Public Relations Board meeting was held at the Israeli Consulate General in New York City on May 9, 1949. It was attended by the following: ~~S~~

(U) ELIAHU ELATH
I. L. KENEN
ARTHUR LOURIE
B. R.
GIDEON STRAUS (at that time Vice Consul, New York City.)
HARRY ZINDER
RITA GROSSMAN

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The entire meeting was devoted to the plans and policies of B.R. B. R. stated that he had studied the existing organizations interested in the economics of Israel and had determined that most of them lacked money and staff and that some were merely paper organizations. B.R. stated that in conversation with the Prime Minister in Israel B.R. had insisted that any program of promoting Israel economically should be undertaken on a Government level and that he, B.R. would like to establish such a program in New York, Paris, London, Rome, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. B.R. estimated that the cost might run as high as \$250,000 for the first year and stated that he had asked the Government for \$75,000 and he would raise the remainder. He stated that he had asked for \$25,000 immediately from the Government and requested that it be placed in LOURIE's custody. B.R. proposed the utilization of all existing organizations. He stated that he intended to survey the economic services of the Jewish Agency's Economic Department in consultation with ROBERT NATHAN. B.R. also proposed strengthening the Israeli Office of Information in Tel Aviv and suggested that PEARLMAN (MOSHE PEARLMAN, Director, Press and Information Division, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs) submit a detailed account of his needs for the next six months as far as equipment, personnel and money were concerned. ~~S~~

(U)

B.R. also suggested an all-over press job concerning the economic picture only. He said that he intended to work in the economic field only and that he felt that this would help every Jewish organization concentrating on Israel; that he wanted to place a series of pieces in from eight to twelve top magazines and stated that he had already spoken to DeWITT WALLACE of Reader's Digest and would call on HERBERT MAYES of Cosmopolitan and DAVID SMART of Coronet. B.R. also proposed encouraging the wealthy to visit Israel to stimulate investment. He also proposed making funds available for important propaganda programs. B.R.

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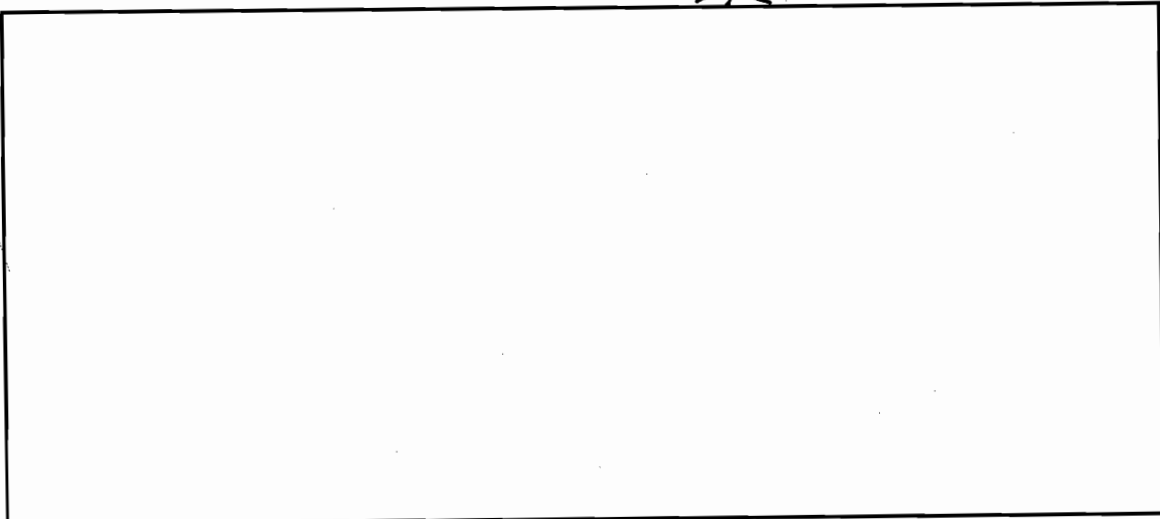
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LA 65-4962

also wanted to hire a man to work for him at the Consulate in New York in order that the program emanate from the Government itself. B.R. suggested that funds made available to him be kept in a separate account and that LOURIE sign all checks. ~~S~~

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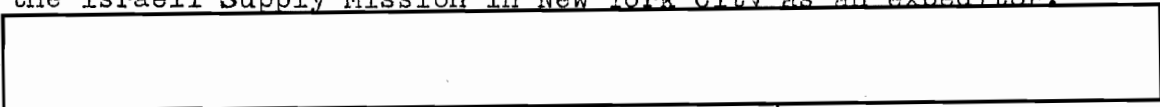
Informant stated that ELATH asked B.R. if the global characteristics of B.R.'s work would exclude him from control by local Israeli authorities. B.R. stated that he would follow whatever way was the most practical and would get the best results; that he wanted to avoid red tape; that if in getting the job done it could be done more quickly through the Public Relations Board and economic organizations he would work with them but stated he did not wish to be hindered by anyone. ~~S~~



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The identity of Mr. GUTMAN is unknown, however, T-6 has advised that one YAAGOV GUTMAN was in late 1948 employed at the Israeli Supply Mission in New York City as an expeditor.



(S)

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T-3 stated that at this meeting of the Press Relations Board jurisdiction and function of the two offices (Washington and New York) were decided upon. Washington was to cover other Embassies, Congress, Washington Press and the National Press Club. New York Office was to cover the United Nations, Organizations (Jewish), and the press emanating from New York. ~~S~~

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(see factual 426)

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- 9 - ~~TOP SECRET~~

LA 65-4962

Informant stated that it was mentioned at this meeting that MARIE SYRKIN had prepared a manuscript on Jerusalem. ~~S~~

(U)

Informant stated that a Press Relations Board meeting was held at the Consulate of New York City on July 18, 1949. It was attended by the following: ~~S~~

(U)

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- ARTHUR LOURIE
- REUVEN DAFNI (at that time Israeli Consul at Los Angeles.)
- I. L. KENEN
- MOSHE YUVAL
- HARRY ZINDER

(U)

Informant stated that LOURIE had welcomed DAFNI back from his trip to Israel. Informant stated that DAFNI reported on meeting which had been held at Tel Aviv and reported on certain changes (not further identified) at the office in Tel Aviv following the departure of ABE HARMAN (who is presently Director of the Israeli Office of Information in the United States and who is also Counsellor at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.) DAFNI stated that he had visited the new office of P.I.O. (Palestine Office of Information?) and felt that GERSHON AGRON would be of great help in coordinating all the various offices of the Israeli Government. He stated that the matter of public relations in the United States had been discussed at a meeting held at SHARETT's Office (MOSHE SHARETT, Foreign Minister). The meeting had been attended by the following: ~~S~~

(U)

- ELIAHU ELATH
- SHILOAH (Probably REUVEN SHILOAH, described by T-7 as BEN-GURION's right-hand man and also in charge of all Israeli intelligence.)
- PEARLMAN
- KOHN (identity unknown.)
- AGRON
- DAFNI

(U)

DAFNI reported everything had been thrashed out thoroughly and that some excellent suggestions had been made until it came to the question of money. Informant stated that DAFNI said he had been informed that the Consulate in New York had a special budget allocation of \$100 a month for telecommunications with Los Angeles; that he felt that the Palcor cables should be teletyped to Los Angeles daily inasmuch as the Jewish Telegraph Agency reaches Los Angeles two days after publication. Informant stated that KENEN reported that the Palcor Service directly to the

LA 65-4962

~~TOP SECRET~~

New York Office had started on June 20, 1949 and that one member of the staff spent much of the day decoding and stenciling Palcor cables and then sent it air mail to Los Angeles, Washington and Canada.

(U) ~~DAFNI reported that his office and the Washington Office had worked out a code so that classified messages could be transmitted.~~

(U) Informant stated that a meeting of the Press Relations Board was held on September 7, 1949 at the Consulate in New York and that it was attended by the following:

ELIAHU ELATH
RUTH GOLDSCHMIDT (Director of the Research and Reference
Division of the Israeli Office of Information,
New York City.)

MOSHE KEREN
HARRY ZINDER

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(U) Informant stated that ELATH stated that the plan to publish an American edition of the Palestine Post had been scrapped due to lack of funds and that "Israel Speaks" would be continued; that ABE FEINBERG and D. H. WAHL had approached ELATH with a view to securing Government assistance and of improving the paper; that no funds were being solicited. ELATH welcomed their proposal on condition that the paper follow the Government line and not become involved in internal Zionist friction. The board agreed that close liaison be maintained with "Israel Speaks" and that in the day to day relations the New York Office should deal in technical liaison providing material to the paper, and the Washington Office should deal with the question of editorial policies within the framework of the Public Relations Board.

(U)

Miss GOLDSCHMIDT suggested that a better Tel Aviv correspondent be secured for the paper and that the board take an interest in improving the quality of the news and feature material issued by the paper.

(U)

Informant stated that following the meeting a short conference was held with FEINBERG and WAHL on "Israel Speaks"; that ELATH reported to them the board's agreement to provide additional material and assistance to the paper. ELATH pointed out that the paper would be given confidential briefing but in turn the Government would expect the loyal cooperation of the paper. FEINBERG assured the board on this matter but said that the editors would feel free to conduct the paper as an independent publication and to criticize the Government (of Israel) when

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- 11 -

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LA 65-4962

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(U) it felt necessary. ELATH said that the board would fully respect the right of the paper to do so; that the only concern was that "Israel Speaks" might become a factional organ; that the board would cooperate with "Israel Speaks" as long as it was advantageous to the Government. ~~S~~

(U) T-3 reported that a meeting of the Public Relations Board was held at the Embassy in Washington on September 16, 1949. It was attended by the following: ~~S~~

(U) ELIAHU ELATH
RUTH GOLDSCHMIDT
RITA GROSSMAN
ESTHER HERLITZ (Head of the American Desk, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.)
URIEL HEYD
I. L. KENEN
MOSHE KEREN
ARTHUR LIVERHANT (former Press Attache of the Israeli Mission to the United States in 1948 and subsequently First Secretary at the Embassy.)
ARTHUR LOURIE
MOSHE YUVAL
HARRY ZINDER

(U) At this meeting LOURIE discussed his trip to Israel. LOURIE also reported that there was still \$50,000 in the treasury from the B.R. fund; that \$10,000 had been set aside for an undefined program; that \$15,000 would be turned over to the Public Relations Board, and that RADAÏ (Secretary General, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs) was prepared to give the Los Angeles Office \$3,000 for information work above and beyond the \$15,000. ~~S~~

(U) The employment of MARIE SYRKIN was discussed and it was mentioned that her employment had been approved but that it was not clear whether her salary would come out of the board's budget. ~~S~~

(U) Informant stated that another Public Relations Board meeting was held at the Consulate at New York on October 17, 1949 and that it was attended by: ~~S~~

MINNA DAVIDOVITCH (who at that time was Assistant to the Press Advisor, Embassy, Washington.)
RITA GROSSMAN

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LA 65-4962

(U) ~~S~~
I. L. KENEN
MOSHE KEREN
ARTHUR LOURIE
HARRY ZINDER

(U) Informant stated that Dr. KEREN announced ZINDER's resignation at this meeting, which was to be effective November 5, 1949. ZINDER stated that for the time being D.AVIDOVITCH would carry on his work. ~~S~~ ~~TOP SECRET~~

(U) Informant stated that the Press Relations Board meeting was held at the Embassy, Washington, on November 3, 1949 and that it was attended by the following: ~~S~~

(U) ~~S~~
VICTOR BERNSTEIN
RITA GROSSMAN
AVRAHAM HARMON (who was at that time Israeli Consul General in Canada.)
ESTHER HERLITZ
I. L. KENEN
MOSHE KEREN
ARTHUR LOURIE
MARIE SYRKIN
MOSHE YUVAL
HARRY ZINDER

(U) At this meeting, according to informant T-3, the composition of the board was discussed in view of ZINDER's resignation. The original membership was composed of ELATH, LOURIE, ZAMICHOW (BERNARD), DAFNI and KENEN. Miss GROSSMAN later replaced ZAMICHOW. It was agreed that Washington and New York would select the names of personnel to attend subsequent meetings and would submit the list to WALTER EYTAN (Director General, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs) for approval. ~~S~~

(U) At this meeting Miss HERLITZ announced that Dr. KEREN had been appointed to coordinate the policies of public relations work in the United States. ~~S~~

(U) Informant stated that a Press Relations Board meeting was held on December 16, 1949 at New York City and it was attended by the following: ~~S~~

RUTH GOLDSCHMIDT
RITA GROSSMAN

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LA 65-4962

ESTHER HERLITZ
I. L. KENEN
MOSHE KEREN
ARTHUR LOURIE
MOSHE YUVAL

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Informant stated that a Press Relations Board meeting was held on December 28, 1949 at Washington, D.C. and was attended by:

ARTHUR LOURIE
MOSHE KEREN
I. L. KENEN
MEIR SHALIT (at that time SHALIT had recently been appointed Assistant Press Attache at the Embassy.)
MOSHE YUVAL
MINNA DAVIDOVITCH

(U)

Informant stated that at this meeting the question of asking MARIE SYRKIN to help with the News Letter (published by the Israeli Office of Information in Washington) was again brought up. KEREN agreed to talk to Miss SYRKIN on his next trip to New York.

Informant stated that a Press Relations Board meeting was held at the Consulate at New York on January 18, 1950 and that it was composed of the following:

VICTOR BERNSTEIN
MINNA DAVIDOVITCH
RUTH GOLDSCHMIDT
RITA GROSSMAN
I. L. KENEN
MOSHE KEREN
ARTHUR LOURIE

Informant stated that KEREN reported that MARIE SYRKIN was ready to assist in the production of the News Letter and she would be responsible to the Embassy.

Informant stated that at this meeting the question of arms to Arabs was discussed; that Dr. KEREN had discussed with (Jewish) organizations the serious situation arising out of Egypt receiving arms; that the balance of power in the Middle East was completely changed by this move and it would be advisable to contact

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LA 65-4962

the major papers in order to refute Mr. ACHESON's letter to Congressman JAVITS. Dr. KEREN was against asking American Jews to make protest. KENEN suggested that action be initiated at the Security Council or that a story be leaked at Lake Success. KENEN pointed out that it would be difficult to get support from the papers since the question of armaments was part of the East-West complication. BERNSTEIN suggested that the organization which had made a protest on IRAQ POGROMS could now communicate privately with the United States Government. Dr. KEREN finally asked KENEN to seek editorial support from the Times and Herald-Tribune and KENEN proposed that KEREN approach DREW PEARSON.

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In connection with this discussion of arms attention is directed to information set out above concerning the efforts being made by the Israelis to change the policies of the United States State Department.

T-3 reported that on February 20, 1950 a Public Relations Board meeting was held at Consulate of New York City and it was attended by the following:

(U)
~~S~~
ELIAHU ELATH
VICTOR BERNSTEIN
MINNA DAVIDOVITCH
RUTH GOLDSCHMIDT
RITA GROSSMAN
MOSHE KEREN
I. L. KENEN
ARTHUR LOURIE
MARIE SYRKIN

Informant stated that a Press Relations Board meeting was held at New York City on June 2, 1950 and it was attended by:

REUVEN DAFNI
AVRAHAM HARMON
MOSHE KEREN
I. L. KENEN
ARTHUR LOURIE
ISAAC ROSENCRANZ (this is YITZSHAK HANS ROSENKRANZ who was employed as Assistant Press Advisor at the Embassy on May 1, 1950 and who was terminated on September 22, 1950, according to T-6.)
RUTH GOLDSCHMIDT
RITA GROSSMAN

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~~TOP SECRET~~
- 15 -

LA 65-4962

he, together with the Press Division of the Foreign Ministry, had moved to the Prime Minister's Office and that the exact relationship between his Division and the Press Attache abroad had not been decided upon definitely at that time. PEARLMAN in answering DAFNI's request to be returned to visit Israel to personally set out his position in a dispute in which he was opposed by ELIAHU ELATH, stated that the matter would be taken up within the next few weeks and that the foreign ministry was very jealous of its personnel and would have to decide whether at that moment members of their staff serving abroad should come to Israel for visits. As a possible solution to DAFNI's request PEARLMAN tells him that his best bet would be to make application to return to Israel through ESTHER HERLITZ, who was at that time Acting Head of the American Division of the Foreign Ministry, and PEARLMAN concludes by stating that when he gets a chance to talk to anyone else of influence he would do so and trusts that his attempts would be successful. PEARLMAN stated in conclusion that he himself had sent a note to ESTHER HERLITZ strongly recommending DAFNI's visit.

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In connection with DAFNI's desire to visit Israel, T-3 stated that DAFNI departed Los Angeles for Israel on June 8, 1949 and returned to Los Angeles on July 15, 1949.

(U)

In connection with DAFNI's differences with ELATH the information furnished by T-3 discloses that there was a constant squabble between the three Offices of Information then existent in the United States (New York, Washington and Los Angeles) and that DAFNI was of the opinion that public relations work should be decentralized and that I. L. KENEN was as resolute that public relations work should be centralized in one office.

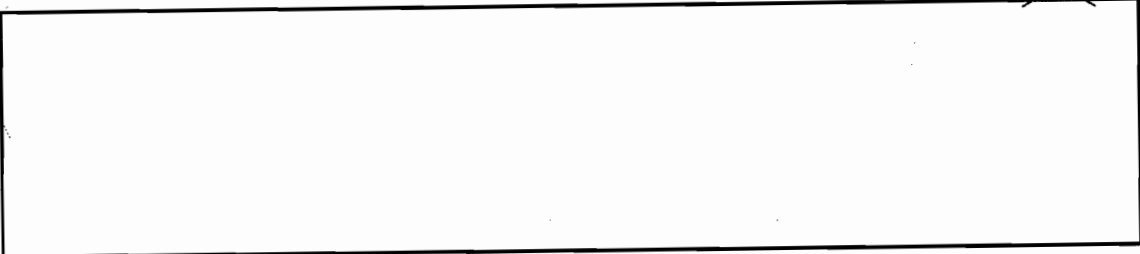
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In connection with DAFNI's visit to Israel it is pointed out, supra, that immediately upon his return to the United States he reported to the Public Relations Board in New York. It is also noted that DAFNI makes reference to a shakeup in Israel after the departure of AVRAHAM HARMON.

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LA 65-4962

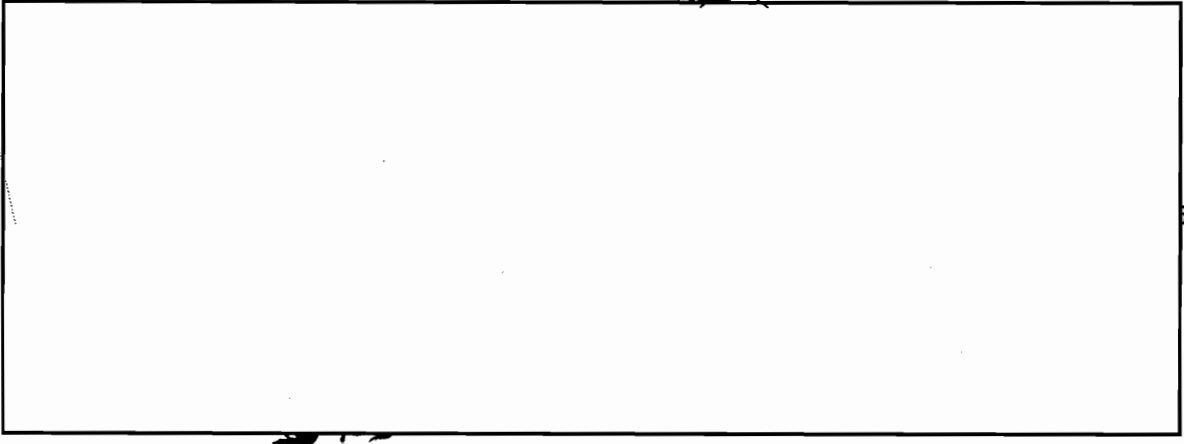
July 20, 1949 to KENEN reflects that RITA was probably flying the 28th. This message was not a DAAT message. It is also pointed out that at the Press Relations Board meeting in New York on July 18, 1949 RITA GROSSMAN was not in attendance and that she had attended all previous meetings.

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It is pointed out that the Public Relations Board, which set policy for the Israeli Office of Information in the United States, was composed of the ranking Israeli officials in the United States, with the exception of the Military Attache and members of Israel's delegation to the United Nations. It is also noted that the majority of the DAAT messages dealt with, mainly, matters pertaining to the United Nations. I. L. KENEN was Director of Public Relations for the Israeli delegation to the United Nations and ARTHUR LOURIE was an alternate delegate.

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T-3 stated that on March 1, 1950, REUVEN DAFNI advised THEODORE KOLLEK (at that time Head of the American Desk, Israeli Foreign Office) of his thoughts concerning the future of the Israeli Office of Information in the United States. DAFNI called KOLLEK's attention to a report made by SY KENEN, which report consisted of the activities of the Israeli Office of Information and which report contained two appendices, one by RITA GROSSMAN and the other by RUTH GOLDSCHMIDT. The KENEN report also contained a confidential report on relations between

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LA 65-4962

Washington and New York, and KENEN's conclusions and suggestions for a future program. DAFNI states that KOLLEK must remember when they first started talking about an Office of Information in New York, which office was to combine military as well as political information; that at the time the question of a weekly or biweekly publication was raised; that during the long weeks and months that followed this question was constantly discussed in the regular biweekly meeting of the Public Relations Board either in Washington or New York but that for reasons inherent in the personal struggle which went on between HAZY and SY nothing came of it. (HAZY, according to T-3, is HARRY ZINDER.) ~~S~~

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(U) T-3 advised that in the main DAFNI criticised KENEN quite strongly and set out the differences which had arisen between the three offices of information. DAFNI also advised KOLLEK that he was forwarding a report of Mr. ROSENKRANS who had been helping DAFNI on matters of public relations and information while his wife, MINNA DAFNI, was confined (a child was born to the DAFNIs on November 1, 1948). DAFNI stated that ROSENKRANS was leaving his office in a few weeks but had been in Los Angeles long enough to get a good picture of what was happening and he thought that KOLLEK would be interested in having his report as well. He reminded KOLLEK that ROSENKRANS was the Foreign Editor of the Palestine Post for quite some time and was well qualified. ~~S~~

(U) It is interesting to note that DAFNI and KOLLEK talked about an office of information in New York which "would combine military as well as political information." ~~S~~

(U) T-3 advised that he had no information concerning ROSENKRANS' report, however, T-3 advises that the following information is contained in the so-called "KENEN Report". ~~S~~

(U) The KENEN Report covers the operation and activities of the Israeli Office of Information in New York for the year 1949. It is stated that this Office of Information served the public on behalf of the Israeli delegation on the United Nations and the Consulate General in New York. Functionally it is divided into two sections, the Production and Distribution Division which processes information into news releases and publishes and disseminates documents. It is under the director of Miss RITA GROSSMAN. The Research and Reference Division of the Office deals primarily with information for the general public. This division analyses clippings and files all periodicals, and is under the direction of Miss RUTH GOLDSCHMIDT. ~~S~~

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LA 65-4962

(U) The report contains a great many statistical accomplishments (such as documents, news releases, pamphlets, etc., published and distributed.) ~~S~~

(U) The report further states that beginning September 26, 1949 the distribution of a weekly news service was begun. This service is identified as I.S.I. (Israel Service of Information) and it is sent to Anglo-Jewish newspapers, Jewish organizations and individuals. The report further states that frequent conferences were held with representatives of the Jewish agencies and the American Zionist Council to discuss public relations policies and techniques. It states that the 104 National Jewish Agencies in New York receive releases and constantly ask for news editorial advice, feature material and photographs and had cooperated in helping produce some of the more important publications by buying and distributing large quantities. ~~S~~

TOP SECRET

(U) The report states that the Office of Information performs extensive service for the United Nations delegation in other than purely press ways in that members of the staff had prepared preliminary surveys on United Nations major problems. Informant stated that attached to KENEN's report was a memorandum entitled "Relations between Washington and New York" and "Proposals on Function and Jurisdiction". With regard to relations between Washington and New York the memorandum states that it was prepared as a result of the visit of Foreign Minister SHARETT. T-3 advised that this section of the report was a detailed itemization of the differences which had arisen between the offices over functions and jurisdiction. ~~S~~

(U) In concluding his report SHARETT makes a number of proposals and offers detailed argument to support his conclusion. His proposals (without the argument) are as follows; ~~S~~

- (U) 1. The Government of Israel should have one central office of information in the United States.
2. The central office of information should be in New York.
- (U) 3. The New York Office of Information must remain with the U.N. delegation and the Consulate. ~~S~~
4. The Information Office in New York must be responsible finally to the Ambassador.

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- 20 -

~~TOP SECRET~~

LA 65-4962

5. The Public Relations Board should consist of major Israeli officials in this country and should be concerned with matters of policies--not implementation.

6. The Washington Press Attache has a major task in the nation's capitol.

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Under proposal 6, KENEN set forth the following:

a. The Washington Press Attache has a full-time assignment handling the Washington newspapers and Washington's many columnist and commentators whose articles are syndicated throughout the country.

b. His basis of operations is in the National Press Club, the press galleries on the hill and press rooms in Government offices. He briefs radio commentators and courts business and magazine specialists.

c. He collects intelligence, meeting press attaches of other Embassies, publicity men of national political parties, Congress and Government officials.

d. Washington is a city of personal contact. The Washington Office is a goodwill and intelligence outpost for the Government. It is not an office of information in the sense of production and distribution.

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RE EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

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