

Chief General

March 12, 1948

Vincent Quinn, Assistant Attorney General

TRQ:RPM:DJ

File

World Zionist Organization

E. W. O.

149-1603

For the past nine months considerable pressure has been brought upon the Department by the State Department, induced no doubt by ultimate British pressure, to prosecute every known violation of our laws on the part of domestic organizations supporting the Palestine underground morally as well as materially through furnishing money, supplies and shipping in support of the illegal Palestine immigration. The State Department has specifically referred to the provisions of the Foreign Agents Registration Act and expressed the opinion that this Government would be derelict in its duty if it failed to enforce compliance with the registration requirements.

REOPEN

You will recall that some months back, at the time a memorandum of law was prepared for the State Department covering possible neutrality violations, the State Department indicated this country might become financially liable to other powers with whom we were at peace if injury or damage resulted to them as a consequence of our failure to enforce any of our laws.

Beginning at about that time communications were addressed to all organizations known to be supporting the Palestine underground soliciting their registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Such letters either received no replies or dilatory replies and conferences, and recently follow-up letters of much stronger tenor were sent out. The latter in most instances brought about personal conferences at which the basis for registration was explained to the organizations' representatives and in most cases admitted by them. In most of these cases, however, was registration effected, please generally being made for additional time to consider.

The Zionist Organization of America, an affiliate of the World Zionist Organization, is probably the most important and influential of the Jewish groups. By its constitutional provisions regarding discipline and for the collection of the shewel, it is technically within the Foreign Agents Registration Act. It has rendered moral support to the Jewish Agency for Palestine whose allyary arm is The Hagannah. The Hagannah, as you know, is different from and opposed to the Irgun and 'Stern Gang' which have been the underground groups responsible for the Jewish Agency's

cc: Records
Caron.
Mr. Wheatley
Mr. Foley
FAR Section

BY *TRQ*
On MAR 22 1948
FBI and Kellogg

Chief General

March 12, 1948

.. Vincent Quinn, Assistant Attorney General

RECEIVED

File

New-Jd Zionist Organization

E. W. O.

149-1603

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cc: Records
Carson.
Mr. Wheeler
Mr. Foley
FAR Section

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BY TW-OK
On MAR 22 1948

which occurred in Palestine. If the Zionist Organization of America as the leader of the Jewish organizations in America (though not affiliated with them) is to be exempted from registration, then the Department might as well forget its entire campaign to secure registration of these organizations. Any letting up in the attitude of the Department, such as granting the extension here sought, undoubtedly would similarly affect the Department's program.

You should also know that in addition to the official representations of the State Department, this Department has received a flood of protests from all sections of the country and from all levels protesting against our apparent inactivity and failure to enforce the laws applicable to them.

I would be disinclined to grant the extension here sought, not so much in the particular case as because of its effect as to other registrable organizations. However, I realize that the sole sanction against non-compliance with the Act is to institute criminal proceedings and that such proceedings could not be initiated much less completed within the extended period requested. As you know, registration in no wise restricts the activities of the organization, is relatively easy to effect and carries no stigma whatsoever against the registrant.

149-1603