

To : The Files

Date: March 19, 1947

DRB:MEL:BSM:rmb

From : Nathan B. Levin  
Bernard S. Morris

Subject: The Applicability of the Foreign Agents  
Registration Act to Certain Organizations  
Interested in the Creation of a Jewish  
State in Palestine

~~149-832~~  
~~149-06-2-20~~  
149-1603 ✓ E. W. G.  
~~149-893~~  
~~149-3177~~

I. THE PROBLEM

For a number of years the Foreign Agents Registration Section has been confronted with the problem posed by various Zionist and non-Zionist organizations interested in Palestinian politics and their potential obligations under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. While there are approximately a dozen such organizations, the Foreign Agents Registration Section is, at the present time, primarily concerned with two of these groups, namely, the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) and the nonsectarian American League for a Free Palestine (ALFP), both of which, although solicited, have failed to register under the Act.

For the following reasons it has become a matter of some import that a policy be formulated concerning these potentially registrable groups:

1. The possibility and, in some cases, the actual occurrence of the Act being used as a weapon in the factional strife among the various Zionist, non-Zionist and Arab organizations all of whom are pressing for their own solution to the "Palestine problem." (See point "3" below).
2. Pressure from the British Government upon the United States to take some positive action against the American League for a Free Palestine which, it claims, is assisting the "illegal" immigration of displaced Jews from Europe to Palestine. Up to now the chief complaint of the British is that the United States Treasury has permitted contributions to the ALFP to be tax exempt.<sup>1]</sup> However, it is

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1] See letters dated July 17, 1946 and August 12, 1946 from the State Department enclosing copies of aides-memoire dated June 28, 1946 and August 6, 1946 from the British Embassy requesting the views of the United States authorities regarding certain activities of the American League for a Free Palestine; Division of Records file (149-06-2-20).

more than probable that the British Embassy will ask for an opinion as to the applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act to the activities of the ALFP.

3. The attempts of Hallam M. Richardson, counsel for the League for Peace with Justice in Palestine, a pro-Arab group, to obtain the indictment of the ALFP by a Federal grand jury for the Southern District of New York for failure to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.<sup>2]</sup>
4. The impact on public opinion created not only by the series of dramatic advertisements inserted in the leading metropolitan newspapers during the past year by the ALFP but also by the propaganda activities of the Zionist Organization of America and its chief ideological opponent, the Arab Office.

## II. THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

### A. Relationship of the Zionist Organization of America to the World Zionist Organization

The World Zionist Organization, as its name implies, is a world-wide organization consisting of all Jews who accept the Zionist program and pay the Shekel,<sup>3]</sup> and has for its purpose the creation of a Jewish home in Palestine "secured by public law."<sup>4]</sup> It is organized on a dual basis of territorial unions (Federations) and party associations (Separate Unions).<sup>5]</sup> A territorial union is a regional organization, whereas the separate union is organized on an ideological basis comparable in some respects to a political party.

2] Letter of September 3, 1946 from United States Attorney John F. X. McGohey to Theron L. Caudle enclosing a photostatic copy of a communication from Hallam M. Richardson to the Foreman of the Federal Grand Jury, S.D.N.Y.; Division of Records file (149-06-2-20).

3] The Shekel is an annual payment to the World Zionist Executive. The payment varies in accordance with the economic conditions in each country, but it is nominal, usually between twenty-five and fifty cents. In the United States in 1946, the Shekel cost fifty cents.

4] Constitution of the Zionist Organization issued by the Executive of the Zionist Organization, Jerusalem, 1938, Article 1.

5] Ibid., Article 3, paragraph 1.

The supreme legislative body of the World Zionist Organization is the World Zionist Congress which, according to Article 15 of the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization, is to be convened every two years. Every Jew over eighteen years of age who accepts the basic tenets of Zionism, known as the Basle Program,<sup>6]</sup> and acquires a Shkel has a right to vote for the election of delegates to the Congress and if he is over 24, to be elected as a delegate.<sup>7]</sup> The Congress elects various committees and officers who supervise the affairs of the World Zionist Organization. Two of the committees, the General Council and the Executive Committee, have the authority to act for the World Zionist Organization in the interim between Congresses.<sup>8]</sup>

Of the four major Zionist organizations in the United States which elect delegates to the World Zionist Congress, the leading one is the Zionist Organization of America, claiming 190,000 members and led by such personalities as Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise,<sup>9]</sup> Louis Lipsky, Emanuel Neumann and Judge Louis Levinthal.<sup>10]</sup>

According to the constitutions of the ZOA and the WZO it would appear that the Zionist Organization of America is subordinated to and in some measure has its affairs directed by the World Zionist Organization. / Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Zionist Organization of America states:<sup>11]</sup>

"The Zionist Organization of America shall be affiliated with and shall elect delegates and alternates to the Congress of the World Zionist Organization, pursuant to its statutes, rules and regulations." (italics added).

- 6] The Basle Program drawn in 1897 by the First Zionist Congress states: "The aim of Zionism is to create for the Jewish people a home in Palestine secured by public law."
- 7] Constitution of the Zionist Organization, *op. cit.*, Article 23.
- 8] *Ibid.*, Article 49, paragraph 1 and Article 53, paragraph 1.
- 9] Dr. Stephen S. Wise, founder and former president of the Zionist Organization of America, severed his connection with the Organization on January 3, 1947 in protest against its policies. (New York Times, January 4, 1947, p. 17.)
- 10] The Palestine Year Book, vol. II, edited by Sophie A. Udin and published by the Zionist Organization of America, New York, N. Y., 1946, p. 568.
- 11] Constitution of the Zionist Organization of America As Amended by the Forty-third Annual Zionist Convention held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1940.

Section 6, Article 79 of the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization, captioned "Discipline" states:

"(1) The adhesion to the [World] Zionist Organization presupposes subordination to its laws and the resolutions of its governing bodies.

"(2)(a) External political negotiations with Governments and the League of Nations may be conducted by Zionists and Zionist groups only with the approval of the Executive [Committee of the WZO].

" (b) In special cases the Executive can demand that special political actions of another kind which fall within the sphere of competence of the Executive shall be undertaken only with its approval.

"(3) The adhesion of persons and bodies to the [World] Zionist Organization presupposes that in all Zionist questions the duty of discipline in regard to the [World] Zionist Organization must take precedence over the duty of discipline in regard to any other organization."

To implement the foregoing constitutional provisions of the World Zionist Organization, the Constitution of the Zionist Organization of America provides in Article IX, Section 10:

"Except with respect to the powers expressly vested by this Constitution in the Executive or Administrative Council, the Executive and Administrative may exercise concurrently the following powers:

(a) . . . to determine subject to the authority . . . of the World Zionist Congress all questions of Zionist policy . . ."

In addition to being subordinated to and in some measure controlled by the World Zionist Organization, the Zionist Organization of America is a levying and collecting agent for and on behalf of the World Zionist Organization in its collection and transmission of the Shekel. Article 64 of the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization provides that the Shekel shall be collected and remitted, without deduction, by the constituent organizations to the Executive of the World Zionist Organization at intervals to be fixed by the Executive and that only the Shekel receipts issued by the Executive or on its behalf shall be valid. The Zionist Organization

of America collects the Shekel for the World Zionist Organization at the same time that it collects dues for membership in the Zionist Organization of America. Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Zionist Organization of America states:

"Membership dues of the Zionist Organization shall be \$5.00 per annum, which shall include payment of the Shekel to the World Zionist Organization."

Thus, every member of the Zionist Organization of America becomes a member of the World Zionist Organization.

B. Public Relations Activities of the Zionist Organization of America<sup>12]</sup>

The ZOA's Public Relations Department issues numerous informative and educational pamphlets on Palestine, containing background and reference data for use in community celebrations. The Department also puts out a bulletin, "Inside Palestine," every month, which is made up of news items and descriptive material having to do with the "Homeland" which are not ordinarily available in this country. The bulletin is distributed to libraries, universities, newspapers, government agencies and to chaplains.

The Zionist Organization of America publishes three official periodicals. The New Palestine, edited by Dr. Ludwig Lewinsohn, is a magazine devoted to articles, criticism and comment of interest to all those concerned with Zionism and Jewish affairs. The News Reporter issue of The New Palestine, edited by Ernest E. Barbarash, is a newspaper, which comes out once a month, as does the magazine. It records Zionist activities throughout the country, news of the Homeland, and other events of interest to the membership of the organization. Dos Yiddishe Folk, edited by Dr. Simon Bernstein, is a monthly Yiddish publication, the contents of which are now chiefly directed toward the Zionist education of new arrivals in the United States.

Through the Zionist Speakers Bureau, under the direction of Yale Goldberg, hundreds of speakers have been provided for local and regional Zionist meetings throughout the nation. Leading national

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<sup>12]</sup> This section is based on the description of the ZOA's activities outlined in The Palestine Year Book, vol. I, edited by Sophie A. Udin and published by the Zionist Organization of America, Washington, D. C., 1945, pp. 378-382.

figures as well as eminent Zionists have addressed Zionist groups under the sponsorship of the Bureau.

The Book Department, under the direction of Isidore Cooperman, has promoted the sales of books on Jewish and Zionist affairs throughout this country and abroad. It has been instrumental in establishing Zionist bookshelves in leading universities and in public and community libraries, and has done much to stimulate interest in Zionist history and literature. The Department has also worked in cooperation with the Jewish Book Council of America.

The Expansion Fund under the direction of Dr. Sidney Marks makes available to the country at large all the information at the disposal of those in a position to know what Palestine needs and what Palestine means to Jewry. The projects which the Fund covers range from the intensification of Zionist culture to practical participation in the upbuilding of the Jewish Commonwealth.

Among the major interests of the Fund is the Committee on Unity for Palestine, which carries on an intensive public relations campaign designed to counteract anti-Zionist propaganda throughout the country. The Committee is under the chairmanship of Dr. Felix A. Levy with Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, Executive Director, and Mr. Oscar Leonard, Secretary. In the course of its work the Committee has published and distributed a series of popular leaflets, a monthly bulletin, and a number of pamphlets designed to counteract the arguments of the anti-Zionist group. During its existence its work has been extremely effective in communities where Zionism has never before been an active force. The Committee's public relations program has nullified much of the effect of the anti-Zionist activity.

Another highly successful phase of the Expansion Fund activity is the Radio Project. "Palestine Speaks!" a radio program depicting notable events in the history and development of Palestine, designed to appeal to the general public as well as to American Jewry, is now broadcast by over 125 local stations in the United States and 10 Canadian stations. These programs have been recorded for distribution with the assistance of outstanding American artists of the screen and radio and have been a compelling factor in bringing the story of Jewish Palestine before the American public.

The Palestine Economic Bureau, another of the Expansion Fund projects, attempts to interest American Zionists in the economic problems involved in the establishment of the Commonwealth. The Bureau publishes a monthly economic bulletin, and plans to interest American industry in the economic potentialities of the Homeland. It works through locally established economic committees.

C. Political Activities

Zionism today is fundamentally a political movement and its activities are directed toward the establishment of a political state in Palestine.<sup>13]</sup> The central political instrument of the Zionist movement in America is the American Zionist Emergency Council (AZEC) comprising the four major American Zionist groups, namely, the Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah, Poale Zion and Mizrachi.<sup>14]</sup> The purpose of the Council is to represent and promote the Zionist cause in the United States. Associated with the Council are two non-Jewish groups, the American Palestine Committee and the Christian Council on Palestine. It is claimed that

"Through the efforts of the AZEC, thirty-five state legislatures have passed resolutions favoring the Jewish Commonwealth in Palestine, and their governors have issued proclamations to that effect. The pre-occupation of large sections of the United States Congress with the Palestine question may in no small measure be traced to the public relations activities of the Zionist Organization (of America)."<sup>15]</sup>

The ZOA takes for itself the credit for having both major political parties in the United States adopt Palestine planks in their platforms in the 1944 Presidential campaign.<sup>16]</sup>

D. Applicability of the Foreign Agents Registration Act to the ZOA

The executive headquarters of the World Zionist Organization is located in Jerusalem and, therefore, is a foreign principal as that term is defined by Section 1(b)(4) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act which states that the term "foreign principal" includes an organization having its principal place of business in a foreign country.

13] See, for example, the political resolutions adopted at the 22nd World Zionist Congress, 1946, wherein it was stated that "The 22nd Zionist Congress reaffirms the following political demand repeatedly voiced by the organ of the [World] Zionist Organization: Palestine is to be established as a Jewish Commonwealth...." (The New Palestine, January 3, 1947, p. 3).

14] The Palestine Year Book, vol. 1, 1945, op. cit., article entitled "The American Zionist Emergency Council," by Arthur Lourie, p. 368.

15] The Palestine Year Book, vol. 1, 1945, op. cit., article entitled "Zionist Organization of America" by Saul S. Spiro, p. 377.

16] Ibid.

The Zionist Organization of America is an "agent", as that term is defined by Section 1(c) of the Act, of the World Zionist Organization. As indicated above, it acts as a publicity agent for the World Zionist Organization; in some measure it acts at the order, request, or under the direction of the World Zionist Organization; and it collects money for and transmits money to the World Zionist Organization. Therefore the Zionist Organization of America should be required to register with this Department in accordance with the requirements of Section 2 of the Act, unless entitled to one of the exemptions provided by Section 3 of the Act. As shown above, the Zionist Organization of America engages in political activity, as that term is defined by Rule 100, on behalf of its foreign principal and on its own behalf, and therefore is not entitled to any exemption from registration.

During the period when the Department of State was responsible for the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, an attempt was made to procure the registration of the Zionist Organization of America, but met with no success.<sup>17]</sup> It would appear that the State Department made no effort actively to pursue the matter.

Upon the transfer of the administration of the Act to the Department of Justice further attempts by members of this Department were made to procure the registration of the ZOA.

On June 14, 1943, Messrs. Roudebush and Lane of the Department conferred with Doctor Nahum Goldman of the Jewish Agency for Palestine and Mr. Robert Szold of the ZOA. At that time Mr. Szold was told that the Department would like to study the ZOA's situation further and it would communicate with him before making any final decision in the matter.

A few months later it would appear from a memorandum by Mr. Sharp that he was called on the telephone by Mr. Vanesch on October 21, 1943, who stated that he had been asked to look into the Department's dealings with the ZOA and requested that he might be asked to participate in any conference that was held with them. Also, according to this memorandum, Mr. Vanesch stated that some pressure was on somewhere in the Government and suggested that it would be unwise to do anything in this matter until Mr. Sharp heard from him. Mr. Sharp concluded this memorandum by stating, "I have not yet heard anything further from him (Mr. Vanesch) but under the circumstances do not desire for the moment to write the ZOA . . . ."

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17] Correspondence between the ZOA and the State and Justice Departments is contained in Division of Records file (149-1603).

On June 7, 1944, Messrs. Sharp and Ennis of this Department conferred with Judge Levinthal, Rabbi Goldstein and Mr. Saul S. Spiro, Acting Executive Director of the ZOA. The ZOA representatives were told (1) that the ZOA's activities were such that they did not appear to be exempt from registration as being solely religious, and (2) that the relationship between the ZOA and the World Zionist Organization was close enough to constitute "agency" within the meaning of the Act. The Zionist representatives agreed to submit a brief setting out the facts of their activities in connection with the World Zionist Organization. The Department wrote Judge Levinthal on June 7, 1944, requesting information concerning the religious character of the ZOA's activities, the financial connection and nature of the cooperation between the ZOA and the World Zionist Organization and the extent of cooperation between the ZOA and the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Judge Levinthal replied on June 16, 1944, stating that the requested data was being assembled. This material does not appear to have been submitted to the Department, and no further action in this matter has ever been taken.

### III. OTHER REGISTRABLE ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS

While the Zionist Organization of America is the largest and most powerful single Zionist group in the United States, there are a number of other Zionist organizations, comparable to the ZOA in their connections with the World Zionist Organization and with international Zionist parties, which seem to come within the purview of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. The most important of these are the following:

#### A. The Mizrahi Organization of America

The Mizrahi Organization of America, 1133 Broadway, New York City 10, founded in 1911, claims 35,000 members. It is a religious Zionist Organization aiming at the reconstruction of the Jewish Homeland on a traditional religious basis. It is united in a World Mizrahi Organization with headquarters in Jerusalem. Affiliated with the MOA are the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America claiming 31,000 members, the Hapoel Hamizrachi of America, a religious youth pioneer group with a membership of 4,000 and the Hashomer Hadati, Inc., another youth group claiming 500 members.<sup>18]</sup>

<sup>18]</sup> The Palestine Year Book, vol. I, 1945, op. cit., pp. 326, 461 & 467, and The American Jewish Yearbook, vol. 47, 1945, published by The Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, pp. 577 & 589.

B. The United Zionist Socialist Labor Party

The United Zionist Socialist Labor Party (Poale-Zion Be're Zion) 45 East 17th St., New York City (3), claiming a membership of 20,000 is dedicated to rebuilding Palestine as a Jewish homeland on a socialistic basis. It is affiliated with the World Zionist Organization and part of the World Confederation of Poale Zion with headquarters in Tel Aviv, Palestine.<sup>19]</sup>

C. The New Zionist Organization of America (NZO)

The New Zionist Organization of America (NZO), a part of the World New Zionist Organization,<sup>20]</sup> is located at 55 West 42nd Street, New York City 18, the address now of the United Zionists-Revisionists, Inc. (see below). Although one of the conditions attached to the Revisionists' re-entry into the World Zionist Organization was the dissolution of the World New Zionist Organization, this has not yet transpired.

D. United Zionists-Revisionists, Inc.

In 1946 the New Zionist Organization of America and the Jewish State Party combined to form the United Zionists-Revisionists, Inc., 55 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y.<sup>21]</sup> At a conference held on April 7, 1946 at the Park Central Hotel, New York City, the United Zionists-Revisionists proclaimed a platform for the election of delegates to the 22nd World Zionist Congress which severely criticized present Zionist leadership, demanded the abolition of the British Mandate and the creation of a Jewish State on both sides of the Jordan, etc.<sup>22]</sup>

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19] The Palestine Year Book, vol. I, 1945, op. cit., p. 326 and American Jewish Yearbook, vol. 47, 1945, op. cit., p. 606.

20] Brochure entitled "The New Zionist Organization of America, Its Aims, Principles and Policies," published by the New Zionist Organization of America, 55 West 42nd St., N. Y., p. 4; in the analyst's files.

21] Form letter dated April 30, 1946 signed by Col. Morris J. Mendelsohn, Chairman, National Shekel & Election Committee of the United Zionists-Revisionists, Inc.; in the analyst's files.

22] Pamphlet entitled "The Election Platform of the United Zionists-Revisionists," 55 West 42nd St., New York 18, N. Y.; in the analyst's files.

E. Brith Trumpeldor of America, Inc.

The NZO is affiliated with Brith Trumpeldor of America, Inc., an organization interested in training Jewish youth in the principles of state Zionism so that it may become pioneers and future citizens of the Jewish State in Palestine.<sup>23]</sup> Brith Trumpeldor has received some publicity because of its activities in drilling uniformed groups at its headquarters at 55 West 42nd Street, N. Y.<sup>24]</sup> Brith Trumpeldor and the New Zionist Organization are under investigation by the FBI.<sup>25]</sup>

F. The World Jewish Congress

Differing in structure and purpose from the organizations mentioned above, but, nevertheless, a candidate for registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act is the World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York City (23), headed by Dr. Stephen S. Wise. The World Jewish Congress, established in 1936 by delegates representing 33 countries, is a pro-Zionist roof organization of Jewish communities located throughout the world. Its aim is to defend Jewish rights all over the world and to deal with various aspects of Jewish life whenever the cooperation of the different Jewish communities is necessary. Its headquarters were formerly located in Geneva, Switzerland and Paris, France, but after the collapse of France and the breakup of the League of Nations, its offices were transferred to America.<sup>26]</sup>

The Canadian Jewish Congress, the Jews of Australia, of North Africa, of New Zealand, of the United Kingdom and of other parts of the British Commonwealth are affiliated with the World Jewish Congress. The Jews of the Soviet Union contact the World Jewish Congress through a Special War Assistance Service. The Jewish population of Latin America, together forming the Inter-American Jewish Council, is also affiliated with the World Jewish Congress. The Jewish National Council of Palestine (Vaad Leumi) is an integral

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23] American Jewish Yearbook, vol. 47, 1945, op. cit., p. 572.

24] New York Times, January 14, 1946, p. 5.

25] Memorandum dated January 24, 1946, from J. E. Hoover to Assistant Attorney General T. L. Caudle, entitled "Brith Trumpeldor of America, Inc."; and FBI Report entitled "Brith Trumpeldor of America, Inc., aka, Betar; New Zionist Organization of America, Inc.," made at New York by James J. McCarthy; Division of Records file (149-06-2-20).

26] Files of the President's War Relief Control Board: information attached to an application dated March 22, 1945, of the Committee for Overseas Relief Supplies by Miss E. Hilb, Relief & Rehabilitation Department, of the World Jewish Congress.

part of the World Jewish Congress. The only representative of the World Jewish Congress in the United States is the American Jewish Congress.<sup>27]</sup>

The World Jewish Congress operates in a number of spheres including those of relief and rehabilitation. It devotes considerable energy, however, to political affairs and has a special or separate political department. Its political activity is illustrated in a four-point program proposed by Dr. Maurice L. Parlzweig, head of the Political Department of the World Jewish Congress at the sessions of the War Emergency Conference called in 1944 at Atlantic City, New Jersey, under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress at which 300 delegates from 38 countries participated:<sup>28]</sup>

1. Frank recognition by international authority that a distinctive Jewish problem exists.
2. The outlawry of organized anti-Semitism by international convention and national legislation.
3. Establishment of a financial instrumentality with powers and resources adequate to reconstruct Jewish life.
4. The full, unfettered opportunity to reconstruct Jewish life in Palestine.

Other indications of the type of activity carried on by the World Jewish Congress are the following:

World Jewish Congress cooperates with the American Jewish Conference in submitting a "Security" Program to the San Francisco Conference.<sup>29]</sup>

In August 1946 the World Jewish Congress, cooperating with the American Jewish Conference and the Board of Deputies of British Jews, presented all 21 delegations at the Paris Peace Conference with a statement outlining extensive and detailed rights for Jews in Hungary and Romania to be written into the peace treaties.<sup>30]</sup>

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27] Censorship intercept No. 9294: letter dated May 26, 1944, from the World Jewish Congress, 1834 Broadway, New York 23, N. Y., to the President of the Jewish Community of Rabat, Africa.

28] The Southern Israelite, December 1, 1944, p. 2.

29] New York Times, April 30, 1945, p. 9.

30] New York Times, August 4, 1946, p. 15.

In August 1946 representatives of the World Jewish Congress were heard by Commissions of the Paris Peace Conference in order that they might present amendments and recommendations on the draft treaties with Italy, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary.<sup>31]</sup>

In August 1946 the World Jewish Congress announced that it would fight the admission of Afghanistan in the United Nations because Afghanistan was terrorizing its 5,000 Jewish inhabitants and violating the United Nations' principles of human rights.<sup>32]</sup>

In cooperation with the American Jewish Congress and the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the World Jewish Congress submitted a memorandum to the United Nations General Assembly urging the speedy establishment of the proposed International Refugee Organization.<sup>33]</sup>

On June 17, 1946 the possible obligation of the World Jewish Congress to register under the Act was brought to the attention of Mr. C. Irving Dwork, Director of the Washington Office of the World Jewish Congress,<sup>34]</sup> who subsequently wrote the Department that the status of the World Jewish Congress under the Act was being examined by its legal staff.<sup>35]</sup> On July 12, 1946, the Department wrote the World Jewish Congress asking whether it had reached some decision on the matter and was informed in a letter dated August 1, 1946 that a final answer would be postponed pending the return to the United States of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the Congress.<sup>36]</sup> No further communication from the World Jewish Congress having been received, the Department wrote the Congress again on October 16, 1946 for a reply.<sup>37]</sup> No communication has been received from the World Jewish Congress to date.

The American Jewish Congress, the American affiliate of the World Jewish Congress, is an organization set up for the purpose of creating a democratic community throughout the country and

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31] New York Times, August 12, 1946, p. 5.

32] New York Post, August 15, 1946, p. 19.

33] New York Times, November 14, 1946, p. 23.

34] File memorandum dated June 17, 1946 entitled "Conference with Mr. C. Irving Dwork" by Bernard S. Morris; Division of Records file (149-3477), section 1.

35] Letter of June 26, 1946 from Dwork to the Department; Division of Records file (149-3477), section 1.

36] Division of Records file (149-3477), section 1.

37] Ibid.

for the defense of Jewish rights wherever they are threatened. It has chapters in the leading cities of the United States. It raises its funds from welfare funds, business groups, as well as through its own Congress Chapters. Its principal activities are carried out through its Commission on Community Interrelation, Commission on Economic Discrimination and Commission on Law and Legislation.

As a representative of the World Jewish Congress in America, the American Jewish Congress undertakes to meet a certain share of the budget of the World Jewish Congress, as is done by the other affiliates of the World Jewish Congress. Consequently, 35% of all monies raised in America by the American Jewish Congress from the sources indicated above are allocated by the American Jewish Congress to the budget of the World Jewish Congress.<sup>38]</sup>

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<sup>38]</sup> The above outline of the American Jewish Congress was taken from information attached to the application of the Committee for Overseas Relief Supplies enclosed in letter to Mr. Brunot of the President's War Relief Control Board, March 22, 1945 by Miss E. Hilb, Relief and Rehabilitation Department, World Jewish Congress.

IV. THE AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR A FREE PALESTINE

A. IDENTIFICATION

The American League for a Free Palestine, Inc. (ALFP) claiming a membership of 140,000 and with principal offices at 25 W. 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y. was established in 1944 as an American nonsectarian organization to support the principles and objectives of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation.<sup>39]</sup> According to one of its letterheads, "The American League for a Free Palestine backs the aims and objectives of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation for the recognition of the Hebrew people of Europe and Palestine as a renescent nation and the up-building of Palestine in its historic boundaries as an independent state, within the framework of a world order based upon the principles of the Four Freedoms and the Atlantic Charter."

The Department files contain a considerable amount of material regarding the Hebrew Committee (Division of Records file 149-893). In a letter, dated July 27, 1946, from Mr. Peter Bergson, Chairman of the Committee to Mr. Nathan Elliff, then Chief of the Foreign Agents Registration Section, it was stated that the "main activity of the Hebrew Committee centered in the preparation of the plan for the establishment of a provisional government of Palestine to be launched via a proclamation of independence, as the temporary government of the Republic of Palestine." Though Mr. Bergson categorically denied, during the course of an interview held on July 24, 1946 between him and members of the Foreign Agents Registration Section that the Hebrew Committee has any connections with the Irgun Zvai Leumi (extremist nationalist organization in Palestine), there is considerable evidence indicating that the Hebrew Committee actively supports the Irgun with money and material. This evidence appeared so probative that at one time the Foreign Agents Registration Section was prepared to recommend the indictment of the Hebrew Committee for failure to name the Irgun as a foreign principal of the Committee. The case would have depended primarily on the testimony of one Jankelis Chilevicius, a former Treasurer of the Irgun's financial front who turned informer for the British after they succeeded in bringing him to the United States and supplying him with funds. When Chilevicius stated that he would not testify as a government witness in any action brought against the Hebrew Committee, the case was dropped. According to a recent FBI report ("Brith Trumpeldor of America, Inc.; New Zionist Organization of America", by James J. McCarthy, February 8, 1947, New York. pp. 52-53, Division of Records file 149-06-2-20) a confidential informant of the Bureau stated that the Bergson group was

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39] The Hebrew Committee of National Liberation is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act as an Agent of the "Hebrew Nation." Registration #263, Division of Records file 149-893.

recruited from Irgun membership in order to develop a youth movement in the United States and that it continued to be the arm of the Irgun.

Officers of the ALFP are:40]

President : Hon. Guy M. Gillette  
Co-Chairmen : Louis Bromfield  
Ben Hecht  
Will Rogers, Jr.  
Harry Louis Selden  
Andrew L. Somers, M. C.  
Alex Wilf  
William B. Ziff  
Vice-Chairmen: Stella Adler  
Konrad Bercovici  
Lester Cohen  
Fowler Harper  
A. Hadani-Rafaelli  
Nathan George Horwitt  
Arthur Szyk  
Exec. Director: Y. Ben-Ami  
Exec. Sec. : Maurice Rosenblatt  
Treasurer : Mrs. Louis Untermeyer  
Secretary : Maurice Rifkin

Branches of the American League for a Free Palestine are as follows:41]

New England Division  
18 Tremont Street, Boston Massachusetts.  
Greater New York Division  
25 W. 45th Street, New York, N. Y.  
Pennsylvania Division  
106 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.  
Washington, D. C. Division  
2315 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington D. C.  
(the headquarters of Hebrew Committee of National Liberation ).  
Midwest Division  
130 N. Wells Street, Chicago, Ill.  
Far West Division  
636 N. Doheny Drive, Los Angeles, Calif.

40.] Pamphlet entitled The Fight for Liberation and Nationhood, Special Report 1947, published by the American League for a Free Palestine, Inc., p. 17

41.] Ibid.

B. POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES OF THE LEAGUE.

To accomplish its objectives, the League has attempted to influence public opinion and solicit funds through a variety of propaganda methods. The following highlights of the activities of the League during 1944-1946 were listed in the issue of February 1946 of The Answer<sup>42]</sup> magazine (p.27):

"July 1944-January 1945 -- Campaign to expose the occupational regime of Great Britain in Palestine -- its anti-Jewish laws, violation of civil liberties, concentration camps and torture chambers, and the ordinance that confined the Hebrews into a 'Pale' of settlement.

"September 1944 -- Campaign to bring to the attention of the late President Roosevelt and Premier Churchill, when they conferred in Quebec, the plight of the Hebrew people of Europe.

"January 1945 -- Campaign to secure a fair trial for the Hebrew patriots who killed Lord Moyne.

"February 1945 -- Campaign supporting Mr. Pell, American Delegate on the War Crimes Commission, in his efforts to punish war criminals en masse.

"February 1945-June 1945 -- Campaign for the recognition and representation of the Hebrew Nation (this campaign included not only mobilization of public opinion, but also intensive diplomatic activities, congressional action, and a special delegation of the American League to San Francisco in support of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation).

"September 1945-December 1945 -- Campaign to bring about the evacuation of the Hebrews still in concentration camps in Germany (again, this campaign comprised not only education of public opinion, but also intensive diplomatic activities, negotiations with President Truman and Secretary of State

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<sup>42]</sup> The Answer is a weekly publication supporting the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, the American League for a Free Palestine and the French League for a Free Palestine. (The Answer, January 24, 1947, p.2.)

Byrnes, and legislative action, as well as a mission to London led by Senator Gillette).

"December 1945 -- Campaign to expose the bluff of the so-called Arab League as a stooge of British Imperialism.

"January 1946 -- Campaign to explain to the American public the meaning of the activities of the Hebrew Underground in Palestine.

"January 1946 -- The American League presents its views to the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry."

In the spring of 1946, the American League for a Free Palestine inaugurated a campaign to collect money to move Jewish refugees from Europe to Palestine by means of an "underground railway." In a large advertisement inserted in the New York Times for April 17, 1946 p. 20-L, it was stated:

"give us the money . . .

We'll  
get  
them  
there!

"It costs \$250 to move one concentration camp victim from Europe to Palestine.

"We ask you now to give as much as you can to help these abandoned people reach the only home that waits for them.

"We guarantee -- each of us guarantees -- that your contributions in response to this appeal will be used entirely and only for this purpose. . . ."

This advertisement was signed by Messrs. Ben Hecht, Louis Bromfield, and Will Rogers, Jr. as members of the Repatriation Supervisory Board of the ALFP. Similar advertisements appeared in other newspapers, for example, the New York Post, May 14, 1946, the Yiddish-language Forward, April 25, 1946, and the Jewish Journal, April 21, 1946.

In the New York Times for January 18, 1947, p.5, a spokesman of the American League for a Free Palestine stated that some \$300,000 collected in recent months was transmitted to the Repatriation Commission of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation at Basle, Switzerland. The League spokesman implied that although the American League itself

does not purchase ships for running the British blockade of the Palestine Coast, the Basle group is using the funds for this purpose.

In its financial statement for the year, January 1, 1946 to December 31, 1946, the League lists, among others, the following disbursements;<sup>43]</sup>

Contributions to Hebrew Committee of National Liberation Fund . . . . .	\$2,325.00
Transferred to Repatriation Commissioner in Europe . . . . .	\$295,013.04
Transferred to Tyre Shipping Corporation (see below p. 21). . . . .	\$20,500.00
Other disbursements by order of Repatriation Commissioner . . . . .	\$1,741.36

The scope of the League's work in the United States is summed up as follows;<sup>44]</sup>

"Parallel activity in France, where a strong French League functions; in Mexico, in England, in Italy, in Central and South America.

"Financial aid to repatriation; support of resistance; assistance to victims of British oppression.

"Publication and circulation of the Answer and comparable periodicals abroad; of pamphlets and books; of multi-language matter of all kinds.

"Defense of civil liberties in Palestine and in the D. P. camps."

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[43] Financial Statement, American League For A Free Palestine, Inc., January 1, 1946 to December 31, 1946, prepared by Louis J. Yampolsky, Certified Public Accountant, 805 Jefferson Building, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

[44] Pamphlet entitled The Fight for Liberation and Nationhood, op. cit., p. 15.

The American League for a Free Palestine has apparently launched a satellite organization called the "Palestine Resistance Committee" whose headquarters are now located at 123 W. 44th Street, Suite 304, New York 18, N. Y. The news story announcing the formation of the Committee stated:<sup>45]</sup>

"In the first American move to extend open aid to the Hebrew Resistance forces in Palestine, a cablegram has been sent to three leading Hebrew newspapers in Palestine announcing the formation here of the Palestine Resistance Committee which will raise funds to help the resistance fighters.

"Addressed to the newspapers Haboker, Hamashkif, and Davar in Tel Aviv, the cablegram read: 'Please inform your readers that the courageous Resistance against oppressive measures of occupying forces will receive American aid not in the form of words but in actual material help and money through the Palestine Resistance Committee. We are appealing for funds to help the wounded Resistance fighters of a desperate Palestine. Contributions will be used to purchase American medical supplies to help the wounded fighters of the Resistance and to help the families of the wounded and imprisoned Hebrew fighters of Palestine. This is a nonsectarian, non-partisan committee of all faiths which is acting in the spirit of all Americans who will not stand idly by while a noble fight for freedom is waged against diplomatic double-dealing and imperialistic maneuvers.'

"The cablegram was signed by Andrew L. Somers, M. C.; Ben Hecht, Louis Bromfield, Taylor Caldwell, Lester Cohen, Konrad Bercovici, Joseph L. Morse, Nathan George Horwitt, and Frances Gunther."

Somers, Hecht, Bromfield, Cohen, Bercovici and Horwitt are officials of the American League for a Free Palestine.

The Committee has engaged in a number of publicity activities including public meetings, parties, the sale of the publication "Black Paper -- the British Terror in Palestine," published by

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<sup>45]</sup> The Answer, Friday, October 25, 1946, p. 2.

The Answer,<sup>46]</sup> and large advertisements soliciting contributions for the "Underground Fighters" in Palestine such as appeared in the newspaper PI on March 9, 1947, page 9.

According to a newspaper story in the Cleveland, Ohio News, February 27, 1947, Rabbi Emanuel Zapinsky is the executive secretary of the Palestine Resistance Committee which ". . . acts as a liaison agency among the Irgun Zvai Leumi, Haganah, and Stern groups . . ." Rabbi Zapinsky is quoted as having said "11 unknown agents of the Irgun have come to the United States to enlist sympathy and support for the Palestine organizations which are actively fighting the British. They came in legally on students' passports and it is hoped that their identities remain unknown." Zapinsky, the story continued, would not officially admit that the Palestine Resistance Committee collects funds for bombs, machine guns and dynamite but admitted that ". . . most sensible adults are sure the Agency's money is used for more than surgical instruments."

The American League for a Free Palestine, through a subsidiary organization known as the American Sea & Air Volunteers for Hebrew Repatriation, located in the offices of the American League, is apparently recruiting crews to man the ships which will be used to run the British blockade of the Palestinian coast.<sup>47]</sup>

In a news item appearing in the New York Times for March 11, 1947, p. 14, datelined Jerusalem, March 10, it was stated that 19 crewmen and 2 reporters, all American citizens, were among those seized by the British authorities aboard the ship "Abril" (the "Ben Hecht") which was carrying immigrants to Palestine. These persons have been remanded by a magistrate in Haifa, and will be held for a fortnight pending investigation into charges arising from the ship's arrival in Palestine waters. The crew which appears to have been collected by the American Sea & Air Volunteers for Hebrew Repatriation, is charged with "abetting persons illegally to immigrate to Palestine." A Haifa attorney has been retained by the Tyre Shipping Company which is the owner of the Abril, to "protect its interests if the ship Abril were confiscated and to defend the crew if necessary." One of the directors of the Tyre Shipping Company is Alexander Wilf, who, as has been noted, is one of the co-chairmen of the American League for a Free Palestine. Mr. Fowler V. Harper, a vice-chairman of the American League was quoted in the above-cited news item as stating that "this (the seizure of the Abril) will be a test case in the sense that a British court will decide whether Mr. Bevin's foreign policy or international law is paramount."

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46] The Answer, December 6, 1946, p. 7.

47] FBI Report by James J. McCarthy, op.cit., pp. 66-69.

C. Applicability of the F.A.R.A. to the Activities of the ALFP

Section 1(b) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act states that the term "foreign principal" includes "a person outside the United States" and "a partnership, association, corporation or other combination of individuals organized under the laws of, or having its principal place of business in, a foreign country."

In the case of the American League for a Free Palestine, the prime foreign principal would be the person or organization to whom funds are being transmitted for repatriation purposes.

Second, there is some evidence indicating that the Irgun Zvai Leumi, the extremist Palestine underground movement, may be a foreign principal of the League.

On November 27, 1946, Johan J. Smertenko, Vice President of the ALFP, held a press conference in Rome, Italy, where he distributed a statement, copies of which were given to American, British and Italian correspondents. One portion of this statement said that the ALFP "approves and supports Hebrew underground resistance in its struggle against British oppression." Further, during the course of this conference, Smertenko stated that the American League materially supports the Irgun Zvai Leumi with funds, medical supplies, clothing and ships to run the British blockade.<sup>48]</sup>

In the pamphlet The Fight for Liberation and Nationhood, cited above, the League states: "The American League for a Free Palestine has confidently and unequivocally stood forth as champion of the active Resistance in Palestine, concentrating on making the American people fully aware of the nature and importance of the Hebrew fight."

Thirdly, the American League has been instrumental in establishing a British League for a Free Palestine in England, a French League for a Free Palestine in Paris, and a Mexican League for a Free Palestine in Mexico. Under the terms of the Act, if information is sent to or received from any of these foreign Leagues, such a course of activity would constitute the American League as the agent of the foreign League.

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<sup>48]</sup> This information was contained in a secret telegram, dated November 30, 1946, from the American Embassy in Rome and is now in the files of the Near Eastern Division of the Department of State.