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March 9, 1948

William E. Foley, Acting Chief, Foreign Agents Registration Section, wrote Zionist Organization of America February 25, 1948, setting forth grounds on which that Organization must register as agent of a foreign principal (World Zionist Organization) under the provisions of Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938. This letter followed a conference resulting from an earlier letter dated January 23, 1948. At the conference it was suggested that the registration papers should be filed not later than March 19th.

The demand for registration is based upon broad general definitions in the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 and co-related provisions in the Constitution of the World Zionist Organization and provisions in the Zionist Organization of America Constitution with respect to "discipline" on matters of Zionist and Palestine policy, and the recognized distribution by Zionist Organization of America of publicity material with respect to World Zionist Organization's political hopes and policy on the Palestine issue generally.

The letter from the Attorney General's office indicates the matter has been pending for several years but has been lying dormant since 1944.

In view of the imminence of a new political status for Palestine, it will be incumbent upon the World Zionist Organization and Zionist Organization of America to change their constitutions. The World Zionist Organization meets in Geneva, I think, in July. Changes in its constitution cannot be made until then and will, of course, be influenced more or less by what happens in Palestine in the meantime.

It is suggested that the Attorney General's office permit this matter to rest for 60 or 90 days until the status of Palestine is definitely determined by UN and World Zionist Organization and Zionist Organization of America can act in accordance with such new status.

*Personal note from Ed Flynn re AG has
detached*

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