

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Alexander M. Campbell, Assistant Attorney
General, Criminal Division
Zionist Organization of America
Registration Act
Your file 100-341909

CONFIDENTIAL

10/28
October 5, 1949

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149-1603
FCTA

Reference is made to your memorandum of October 26, 1949, with which you transmitted a press release issued by the subject organization through Ernest E. Barbarish, Director of Public Relations, and a copy of the subject's publication entitled "The New Palestine." You request our advice as to whether the enclosed material contains any information which, in our opinion, indicates that the subject or its officers are engaged in activities which may be in contravention of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. You also request our advice as to whether any investigation should be undertaken by the Bureau in connection with this matter.

As you know, the obligations of the subject organization under the terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act have been a subject of study and consideration by the Foreign Agents Registration Section for the past several years. In April of 1947 a comprehensive memorandum was prepared by that Section outlining in considerable detail the activities and relationships of the subject in connection with the World Zionist Organization. As a result of this memorandum, a letter was transmitted to the subject again soliciting its registration under the Act. This letter resulted in a series of conferences being held between representatives of the Attorney General's office and representatives of the subject. As a result of these conferences the subject organization materially changed its constitution and at the same time effected a change in the constitution of the World Zionist Organization in an effort to remove itself from its agency status. As a result all attempts to procure the registration of the subject organization were dropped.

While the information contained in your memorandum of October 28, 1949 and the enclosures thereto reveal that the subject organization as well as its officers are engaged in political activities on behalf of the State of Israel, there is no indication that such activities are being conducted at the request or under the direction or control of the State of Israel. Funds collected by the subject and transmitted to the State of Israel are, to all intents and purposes, to be used for charitable objectives and therefore do not place the subject within the purview of the registration requirements of the Act.

In view of the foregoing, the conclusion is reached that the activities of the subject and its officers are not in contravention

cc-Records ✓

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of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. While no specific investigation is being requested at this time, this Division will appreciate receiving any information regarding the activities of the subject which from time to time may come to the attention of the Bureau, especially as they relate to activities on behalf of a foreign principal.