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Memorandum

TO : Files

FROM : *e* Nathan B. Lenvin

SUBJECT: MAURICE M. BOUKSTEIN;
AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL

DATE: November 6, 1962

JWY:NBL:rcw

~~149-3755~~

~~149-06-2-20~~

146-1-51-1403

On Wednesday, October 31, 1962, I conferred with Mr. Maurice Boukstein in regard to a problem he wished to discuss which may involve the application of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Mr. Boukstein stated that the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Israel was thinking of financing a number of academic grants for Bar Mitzvah girls and boys to study in Israel with particular emphasis on Jewish culture and education. The question had been raised as to whether this grant, if made to the association handling the Bar Mitzvah grants, would be required to register. I expressed the view to Mr. Boukstein that in my opinion such activities would come within the purview of the exemption from registration provided by Section 3(e) of the statute and there would not be a requirement for registration.

During the course of this meeting some mention was made of the information supplied by the American Section of the Jewish Agency in its financial reporting which revealed payments and subventions to the American Zionist Council. Mr. Boukstein inquired whether the Department was going to take any action, and I advised him that this was a matter which was still under consideration and I was in no position to advise him of any action we might take, but I did inquire whether, in his view, there would be any protest raised by the Council in the event a decision was made to solicit the registration of the American Zionist Council, since it was clear it occupied an agency status as a result of the funds received from the American Section of the Jewish Agency. Mr. Boukstein replied that in his view it was doubtful that any great protest would be made since in the discussions he has had with the various officials connected both with the Zionist Council and the Jewish Agency he had made it clear that in his view an agency relationship would result which may well require registration.

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He hazarded a view that perhaps the most that would be sought would be a non-pressing of any request for registration on the basis of bona fide representations that the Jewish Agency no longer would contribute funds to the American Zionist Council. I did not express any opinion as to what action the Department would or would not take in this regard.

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