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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : J. Walter Yeagley, AAG
Internal Security Division

DATE: March 31, 1965

JWY:NBL:rcw

FROM : *NBL* Nathan B. Lenvin, Chief
Registration Section

146-1-51-14032

SUBJECT: AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL

Attached hereto is the entire file relating to the American Zionist Council (AZC) and our efforts to obtain its registration under the terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

As you may recall, our original determination that registration was required was based upon information obtained from the registration statement filed by the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Israel, to the effect that that organization had made substantial contributions to the subject in order to finance its activities within this country.

In her Memorandum to Files, Mrs. Bowman points out certain lacunae, which fail to establish all of this material as meeting all of the requirements for registration under the provisions of Section 2 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act. However, in the light of Mr. Katzenbach's rulings during the course of meetings with representatives of the subject organization, we were well aware that no full and complete registration statement in the ordinary sense would be received. It seems to me, therefore, that at this stage of the game our only alternative to a refusal to accept what has been submitted as compliance with the Act would be to institute prosecutive proceedings. Since in my view this would be impractical, I recommend that the material submitted be accepted as a registration statement and put into such form as would be available for public inspection in the event such an occasion should arise.

With regard to the request by Mr. Rothenberg that the names of the recipients of funds from the subject in connection with speaking engagements be omitted

OK JWY I would like to see how the file is set up.

DOCKETED

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from the public file, I am inclined to agree that no useful purpose would be served by including these names in the material which would be made available for public inspection.

In connection with our original basis for requesting the registration of the AZC, it is interesting to note that the contemplated report of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as shown to me by Mr. Norville Jones, a staff member of the Committee, states that the receipt of a subsidy from a foreign principal without direction or control by the foreign principal would, in the view of the Committee, not create an obligation to register. In the event it was determined that prosecution should be instituted and such prosecution was initiated subsequent to the issuance of the report, such a statement by the Committee indicating the intent of Congress in regard to coverage of the Foreign Agents Registration Act would, in my view, seriously militate against any successful prosecution.

Also the relationship was terminated
Attachments *a couple of years ago - at least.*
Jay

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