



[home](#) | [about](#) | [news](#) | [search](#) | [donate](#) | [IRmep](#)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Lenvin

DATE: October 17, 1963

FROM: Mr. Yeagley

Mrs. Bowman 10/21

149-66-2-20

SUBJECT: AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL

146-1-51-14032

This noon the Deputy Attorney General had a meeting with Judge Rifkind and Mr. De Wind, attorneys for the captioned organization, concerning our view that the Council is obligated to register. In your absence I went to the meeting alone and arrived late. I gather that the Deputy had just finished telling them why the Department was insisting that the Council register.

Judge Rifkind then made a plea for no registration, stating it was the opinion of most of the persons affiliated with the Council that such registration would be so publicized by the American Council on Judaism that it would eventually destroy the Zionist movement. He stated that the organization did nothing whatever after receipt of the funds from the Jewish Agency that it had not done and been doing for many years before on its own. He said that no special duties were required of it whatever. Mr. De Wind thought there was no difference between its situation and a hypothetical situation such as the NAACP receiving grants from some group in England but continuing with its same program and functions.

The Deputy made it clear that he did not have the sort of discretion in determining the government's position in such cases as Judge Rifkind had suggested and that it seemed clear to the government that the Council came squarely within the provisions of the Act and would be required to register. Judge Rifkind noted that at one point he thought that our requirements would be resolved by the Council filing materials that would amount to disclosure. I stated that it is possible that further government action might have been ended with such submissions but that the information that had been supplied was far from adequate and did not in our judgment amount to a disclosure at all.

Judge Rifkind said that he would discuss the matter further with his principals and that he thought the Council would probably

146-1-51-14032

36	NOV 18 1963	CE
WILLIAM BRADEN		

Noted
10/17/63
DOCKETED

FILE
NBL
Noted - JAB

- 2 -

supply all the information to the Department required of the average registrant but that he did not believe that his clients would file any papers or sign any papers indicating that the organization was an agent of a foreign principal. I told him that any such information or material that is supplied on that basis would be made a part of the Department's public files available for inspection by the public even though it did not constitute a formal registration and that we could not arrive at any Departmental position at all at this time regarding such a filing but that a Department position would only be reached after an examination of the material filed.

[home](#) | [about](#) | [news](#) | [search](#) | [donate](#)

Contents of this website Copyright 2008-2017 Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy, Inc. All rights reserved.
[Terms and Conditions for use of materials found on this website.](#)