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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : Files

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

DATE: February 3, 1964

JWY:NBL:rcw

~~149-06-2-20~~

SUBJECT: AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL
Conference, New York

In accordance with a suggestion received from Mr. Yeagley by telephone in New York on Thursday, January 30, 1964, I conferred with Judge Simon Rifkind and Mr. Nathaniel S. Rothenberg in Judge Rifkind's office, from approximately 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. on Friday, January 31, 1964.

Judge Rifkind opened the meeting by showing me a pamphlet distributed by the American Council for Judaism which contained charges that the Zionists were acting as propaganda agents for the State of Israel and that the Jewish Agency was being used as a conduit for funds to Zionist organizations in the United States. Apparently this disturbed Judge Rifkind considerably and he was concerned that any disclosure which were to be made by the subject organization should not be such as to substantiate these charges made by the American Council.

We then entered into a discussion as to the adequacy of the information which had previously been submitted by the subject and in this connection Judge Rifkind outlined for me briefly the substance of his conversations with Mr. Katzenbach and Mr. Yeagley in the former's office on Thursday, January 30. In essence, Judge Rifkind stated that Mr. Katzenbach was quite "relaxed" about this whole thing and indicated he desired that the subject and the Registration Section work out an acceptable formula in regard to the information which we desired and which could be made available for public inspection. In this connection, I advised Judge Rifkind that the material regarding the nature of the subject's activities which had been submitted to me previously by Mr. Adrian Dewind could be accepted as

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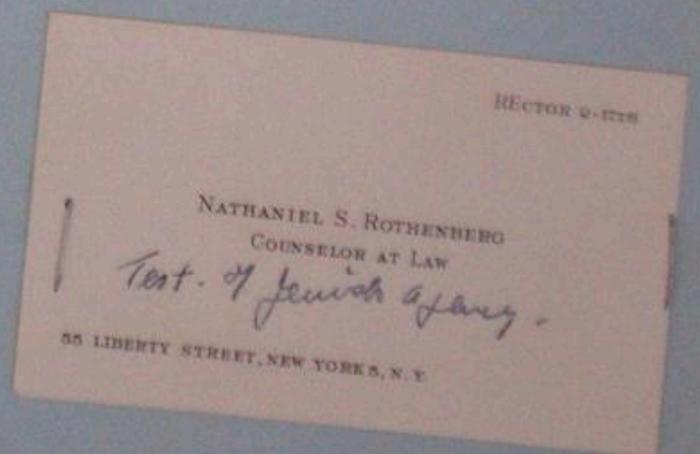
an adequate description of the nature of the activities of the subject, but that we still needed an acceptable statement as to the finances of the organization. Judge Rifkind then mentioned the fact that Mr. Yeagley had indicated that the last batch of this type of material which had been submitted had too much detail and that we were not interested in knowing each dollar that was spent but we did want a fairly comprehensive statement as to the amounts expended and the purpose. In addition, I pointed out that this last batch of financial information only covered a 3-month statement and did not cover the full period during which the subject had been receiving funds from the American Section of the Jewish Agency. In this regard, Judge Rifkind pointed out that they had previously submitted what he described as the budget for the subject which did state in round figures the various amounts allocated for each of the various departments of the subject organization. I replied that this statement was much too general and that what we needed was really something in between the two. Getting down to specifics, I pointed out that in the testimony by the American Section before the Fulbright Committee they did list by month and year the amounts which had been paid by the American Section to the subject and I inquired as to whether there was any objection to having the American Zionist Council submit something similar to the Department. Judge Rifkind replied by stating that he could see no objection, but that they would want to check into the accuracy of these figures since this information came from the American Section and not from the American Zionist Organization although Judge Rifkind did state he saw no reason to doubt the accuracy of this information.

I then pointed out that perhaps our biggest problem lay in getting an acceptable statement as to the expenditures of the American Zionist Organization and to have such statement cover a proper period of time. To this Judge Rifkind replied that he was assured by Mr. Katzenbach that the Department did not wish the American Zionist Organization to go to undue expense and trouble in providing this information and that the Department would be reasonable in regard to the period and details which this statement would contain.

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The meeting with Judge Rifkind then adjourned with the understanding that he personally would not need to participate in the future in regard to arriving at a final solution of this matter, but that we could negotiate directly with Mr. Rothenberg. Consequently, after leaving Judge Rifkind's office I continued conferring with Mr. Rothenberg and we finally agreed that I would prepare a letter directly to him in which we would attempt to point out the various deficiencies or drawbacks to the financial information which had been submitted previously and that we would attempt to outline in this letter a statement as to what we believed the American Zionist Organization should submit. The understanding was clear that whatever was submitted would be available for public inspection. Mr. Rothenberg made one caveat, that they would have to be sure that anything they submitted would not ultimately prejudice the organization in the eyes of the public. The matter was then left at that stage.

I agreed to give Mr. Rothenberg a copy of the testimony by the American Section of the Jewish Agency before the Fulbright Committee.



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