

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7c-FBI

Assistant Attorney General Alexander M. Campbell
Criminal Division
Director, FBI

September 21, 1948

SECRET

PALESTINE SITUATION - RECRUITMENT PROGRAM
ALIEN REGISTRATION ACT - REGISTRATION ACT

Classified by 2113
Declassify on: OADR
b7c-FBI
b-2

Limited Classification
Review Conducted
See Top Serial
Form 4-774

There are attached hereto the original and one copy of a memorandum setting forth considerable information concerning activities properly falling under the above caption.

You will note that investigations concerning ten American seamen were instituted in December, 1947 by this Bureau at the request of the Department of State. It appears now that the activities engaged in by these men were on behalf of the Jewish forces in Palestine. Specifically, they appear to have been on behalf of the Haganah and/or the Jewish Agency for Palestine.

[REDACTED]

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In view of the wide-scale activities of the persons connected with this matter, the attached memorandum setting forth complete details is being forwarded herewith for your consideration.

It would be appreciated if you would advise this Bureau what investigation, if any, you desire undertaken in connection with this matter.

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[REDACTED]

In view of the delicate situation existing with respect to the Palestinian problem, it would be appreciated if you would outline specifically any further investigation you desire in connection with this matter. You will recall that the opinion of the Criminal Division with respect to the Palestinian Recruitment Program was solicited in a memorandum addressed to Mr. T. Vincent Quinn, former Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, on June 1, 1948.

At that time Mr. Quinn was requested to advise whether the facts developed to date concerning the activities of the individuals and organizations found to be involved in the Palestinian Recruitment Program indicated a violation of any of the laws of the United States. Your immediate advice with regard to these matters would be greatly appreciated.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

Attachment 97-2912 CC: 97-2751 & 65-57868

RECORDED
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September 21, 1948

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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RE: PALESTINE SITUATION - RECRUITMENT PROGRAM
NEUTRALITY ACT - REGISTRATION ACT

On December 27, 1947, this Bureau received information from the Department of State to the effect that ten American merchant seamen who were discharged in Marseille, France from the vessels, S.S. Trade Winds and S.S. Farfield (later known as the S.S. Exodus 1947) had contacted the American Consul in Marseille in an effort to obtain passports enabling them to return to the United States. The Consul in Marseille had reported that four of these seamen were contacted by known agents of the Soviet Embassy and by a Romanian national who was also a Soviet agent. Of the remaining six seamen, the Consul reported there was a strong possibility that five had also been contacted by Soviet agents.

Information subsequently received from the State Department reflected that some of these seamen had also been in contact with a known Italian Communist.

Upon receipt of this information separate espionage investigations were undertaken to determine if any of these men were connected with the Russian espionage system. It was learned that each of the seamen had been issued a passport to enable him to return to the United States and that all of the seamen had returned to the United States prior to the time that the investigation could be instituted. In reporting the case to the State Department the American Consul in Marseille had indicated that it was very unusual for an American seaman to request a U. S. passport in a foreign country for the purpose of returning to the United States. He related that any American seaman abroad could readily sign aboard a vessel proceeding to the United States without an American passport and rely upon his ability to prove his United States citizenship upon arriving in this country. The fact that ten of these seamen had requested a passport within a very short period of time aroused his suspicions and he had an investigation conducted at Marseille because of this fact.

When it was learned that each of the men was, in fact, an American citizen, the American Consul in Marseille, in compliance with his directives, had to issue a passport. He advised the State Department, however, that since the investigation which he had had conducted reflected contacts between some of the seamen and known Russian agents, he was of the opinion that the men might endeavor upon arriving in the United States to turn their passports over to some Russian agent in order that the passports might be used in Russian espionage activities in the future.

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Egan _____
- Mr. Gurnea _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Mohr _____
- Mr. Pennington _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

[REDACTED] b7c - FBI

97-2912. CC:97-2751 &

65-57868

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In the light of this statement, the investigation of this Bureau sought first to determine whether each seaman had retained his passport after his arrival in the United States. It has now been learned that the men did retain their passports. The State Department has taken up the passports of all of these seamen, with the exception of one and investigation concerning him is continuing.

The results of the investigations conducted by this Bureau are set forth in report form. One copy of each of the pertinent reports is attached hereto. These reports are described as follows:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated July 26, 1948, at Boston, Massachusetts, captioned, [redacted] Espionage - R."

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated July 12, 1948, at New York City, captioned, [redacted] Espionage - R."

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Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 13, 1948, at Birmingham, Alabama, captioned, [redacted] Espionage - R."

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated July 26, 1948, at Boston, Massachusetts, captioned, [redacted] Espionage-(R)."

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 5, 1948, at Los Angeles, California, captioned, [redacted] Espionage - R."

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated July 16, 1948, at New York, New York, captioned, [redacted] Espionage - R."

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated July 27, 1948, at New York, New York, captioned, [redacted] Espionage - R."

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated July 12, 1948, at New York, New York, captioned, [redacted] Espionage - R."

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated July 28, 1948 at New York, New York, captioned [redacted] Espionage - R."

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated July 13, 1948, at New York, New York, captioned, [redacted] Espionage - R."

~~SECRET~~