

SAC, Newark

March 4, 1948

Director, FBI

Limited Classification
Review Conducted
See Top Serial
Form 4-774

b7c - FBI

**HAGANAH ORGANIZATION
VOORHIS ACT**

Reurlet December 12, 1947, captioned as above.

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FBI

In reply to your inquiry concerning the "Haganah Organization," the following information is being set forth:

The Military Intelligence Division of the War Department in September, 1943, advised that the Haganah is the defense army of the Jewish Agency for Palestine in that country. The Haganah was said to have been founded in, or shortly after, 1919 and through the aid rendered by the Palestinian National Labor Federation, known as the Histadrut, it finally developed into a well organized defense force. The word "Haganah" itself means defense. It is reported that the Haganah actually since the early 20's has consisted of two groups, a legal group composed of the police force, the constabulary, etc., and an unofficial defense force made up of volunteers from the Jewish community. It was reported that this unofficial group was naturally illegal and had to be trained in secrecy.

The Haganah reportedly was dominated by individuals who believed in a policy of "havlegh" (self-restraint). There grew up within the organization a small group which objected to this policy of self-restraint and advocated acts of violence, retaliation and terrorism. In the middle 30's this minority broke with the Haganah and formed the Irgun Zvai Leumi. Both the Irgun and the Haganah are presently in existence in Palestine.

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On September 14, 1947, an advertisement appeared on page 15 of the New York newspaper "PM". This advertisement had in it the question, "What Is The Haganah?" and the explanation that the Haganah is the Jewish peoples defense army of Palestine and is the only organization actively engaged sending immigration ships to Palestine. This advertisement appeared in the newspaper over the name of an organization known as Americans for Haganah.

The Department of Justice on December 23, 1947, advised the Bureau that a letter had been addressed to the organization Americans for Haganah, Incorporated, informing the officers thereof of the

- 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

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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 ☆ MAR 5 1948 P.M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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existence of the Foreign Agents Registration Act and of the possible obligations thereunder on the part of the organization. The Department advised that in due course a reply was received from the organization denying that its activities came within the purview of the Act. The Bureau was requested to transmit any information received concerning Americans for Haganah to the Department.

The possibility exists that the activity reported in reference letter is sponsored by Americans for Haganah, Incorporated. It is desired that you undertake an investigation to determine the veracity of the information originally reported. This investigation must be most discreet and caution should be exercised to assure that no undue criticism will be directed against the Bureau because of this inquiry. If it is determined that the information originally furnished was of a reliable nature, the inquiry should proceed under the character "Neutrality Act".

Your attention is directed to the memorandum from your office dated February 6, 1948, bearing the caption "Irgun Zvai Leumi, Registration Act. Voorhis Act." b-7d

Consideration should be given to the fact that the data reported in reference memorandum may tie in with the facts reported in your letter of February 6, 1948.