

58a

P.F.94495/B.3.a./NR.

R. Thistlethwaite,
British Embassy,
Washington.

Subject:- Menachem BEGIN

Source CHEST has recently informed us that this man intends visiting the U.S.A., in the middle of November, when he will probably be in touch with Israel LIPTSHITZ, who is at present living in New York.

I attach a short note on BEGIN who is also the subject of an entry in the Jewish Terrorist Index, of which I believe the F.B.I. have a copy.

WR

15th October, 1948.

Sir Percy Sillitoe.

NR/JS

✓
NR/JS
NR B3A
18/10/48

Menachen BEIGIN alias SARAGOVSKI alias EISENBERG.
Born Poland 1906.

1. This man first came to our notice in 1939 as a leading member of the Revisionist Youth Movement, BETAR, in Poland. We have also seen unsubstantiated reports alleging that he had previously been a member of the local Communist Party and had been with the International Brigade in Spain. We were not, however, able to confirm this information.
2. Shortly after the German invasion of Poland, BEIGIN escaped to Lithuania, where he was arrested by the N.K.V.D. sometime in 1940. It appears that he remained under arrest until the outbreak of the Russian-German war when he was evacuated to Turkestan and was believed then to have joined the Polish Forces. We have not been able to discover the circumstances of his release by the NKVD. BEIGIN proceeded to Palestine in 1942 as a member of the Polish Forces, with whom he served some eighteen months, before deserting in 1944.
3. BEIGIN is believed to have assumed the leadership of the Irgun Zvai Leumi in 1942. He has been living in hiding in Palestine since 1944, but is now reported to be in Tel Aviv negotiating the agreement between the I.Z.L. and the Hagana.
4. As a result of the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine, the Irgun Zvai Leumi announced their dissolution as an underground military force inside the borders of "Israel". BEIGIN has, however, formed a new political party, known as Tenuat Hacharut or Freedom Movement, and his visit to the United States is probably to secure support for this organization. It is thought that he will be in touch with members of the Hebrew Committee of National Liberation, many of whom are now stated to have joined the Freedom Party.

15th October, 1948.