

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Files

DATE: March 7, 1957

FROM : ^{NB} Nathan B. Lenvin

WFT:NBL:rc

SUBJECT: MAURICE M. BOUKSTEIN;
ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA ✓

149-1603 ✓

~~149-8755~~

Mr. Boukstein, an attorney with offices at 150 Broadway, New York City, conferred with me on March 6, 1957, in regard to a proposed revision of the constitution of the World Zionist Organization of America and as to how such revision may affect the status of the ZOA under the terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

One section of this proposed constitution stated that in the implementation of the Zionist program the constituent or affiliated organizations (one of which would be the ZOA) would be bound by any decision rendered by the Executive of the WZO. In the light of this wording, I advised Mr. Boukstein that in my opinion the ZOA, if it agreed to be bound by this constitution, would be constituted an agent of a foreign principal since it would be acting within the United States at the order or request of a foreign principal (WZO has its headquarters in Jerusalem). In reply thereto, Mr. Boukstein stated that the ZOA would engage in no activity within the United States at the order or request of a foreign principal, since the program of the WZO envisages only activity outside this country. Consequently, there would be no instance, at least as far as the constitution is concerned, where the ZOA would be required to act within this country as a result of its affiliation with the WZO.

In the light of the foregoing statements, I expressed a tentative opinion that the ZOA would not come within the purview of the Foreign Agents Registration Act since the pertinent provisions of the statute contemplate an agency status only when there is activity within the United States.

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