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Friday, June 26, 2015

John P. Carlin Assistant AG for National Security
U.S. Department of Justice/NSD - FARA Unit
600 E Street, NW BICN Building # Room 1300
Washington, DC 20530

RE: Jewish Agency for Israel 2015 campus/camp propaganda activities

Dear John P. Carlin,

On June 24 the Jewish Agency, a quasi-governmental organization located in Israel, announced plans to dispatch operatives to 170 university campuses across North America and other geographies. (News report enclosed.) These operatives are to be trained in Israel to distribute Israeli government propaganda, according to the report.

The Jewish Agency has a long history skirting compliance with the 1938 Foreign Agents Registration Act in the United States. According to Justice Department files, the head of the organization traveled to the US to organize an arms smuggling network in the late 1940s in violation of the Arms Export Control Act and Neutrality Act. It financed felon Al Schwimmer who illegally exported WWII surplus aircraft and engines from the US.¹ In 1963 Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings, records seized from the Jewish Agency's American Section revealed it was illegally funding propaganda and legislative campaigns in the United States and laundering money to other organizations to support Israeli government initiatives, including to the founder of the then-unincorporated American Israel Public Affairs Committee.² The Justice Department ordered a U.S. conduit, the American Zionist Council to register as a foreign agent in 1962 because of this activity.³ In August of 1970 its American Section staged a "reconstitution" the DOJ deemed "sketchy" to change its foreign principal to the World Zionist Organization.⁴ In 2001 the Jewish Agency American Section tried to wriggle out of FARA registration by claiming its activities were religious and educational, rather than political, a stance the DOJ rejected.⁵

We urge you to obtain the necessary reports of activities filed by each foreign agent dispatched to the United States by the Jewish Agency. We would like to begin reviewing these Jewish Agency reports for accuracy and comprehensiveness just as soon as they are filed. We also urge that the DOJ be vigilant that this foreign program not be funded from Jewish Federations, allocations from U.S. taxpayers or other U.S. conduits in order to skirt transparency, given the Jewish Agency's money-laundering past.

Sincerely,



Grant F. Smith, Director of Research

¹ <http://israellobby.org/Schwimmer/>

² <http://israellobby.org/JA-AZC/default.asp>

³ <http://israellobby.org/AZCDOJ/default.asp>

⁴ http://www.israellobby.org/JA/12311970_JAFI_Reconstitution.pdf

⁵ http://www.israellobby.org/JA/10292001_JAFI.pdf

Jewish Agency to increase number of 'Israel fellows' on campuses

85 emissaries will be sent to 170 universities and colleges worldwide to combat efforts to 'delegitimize' Israel

BY TIMES OF ISRAEL STAFF | June 24, 2015, 11:25 pm |

The Jewish Agency will increase the number of emissaries, or Israel Fellows, dispatched to college campuses abroad by more than 30 percent in order to help combat rising efforts to "delegitimize" the State of Israel, Jewish Agency Chairman Natan Sharansky announced.

"Our goal is to thwart those who seek to confuse young Jews and draw them away from Israel," Sharansky said during a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and seven cabinet ministers in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

"Our Israel Fellows are doing an outstanding job of bringing young Jews to experience Israel, encouraging them to become involved in advocacy for Israel, and inspiring them to feel deeply attached to Israel," he added.

According to a statement by the Agency, 85 fellows will be sent to 170 university campuses across North America, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, South Africa, and Germany, up from 65 on 120 campuses this past academic year. The 31% increase in the number of Israel Fellows and the 42% increase in campus coverage represent the program's largest expansion since it was created in 2003, the statement added.

Israel Fellows, according to the Jewish Agency, are young Israeli college graduates sent abroad to work as part of local campus Hillel staffs, helping connect Jewish students to their Jewish identities and to Israel and supporting Israel-related activities on campus. The fellows spend a year or more in their campus postings, after receiving extensive training in Jerusalem.

The Jewish Agency said it is set to dispatch a total of 1,600 emissaries over the course of the summer, including some 1,200 camp counselors sent to Jewish summer camps in North America and 400 long-term emissaries sent to Jewish communities around the world in order to strengthen the communities' connections to Israel and Jewish life and present them with opportunities to

experience life in Israel on a variety of Jewish Agency programs.