

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 1941

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Attorney General Robert H. Jackson announced today that "Austrian Action, Incorporated", a recently organized New York corporation, had voluntarily filed a registration statement under the Voorhis Act. It is the first organization to file under the Act, which was passed in 1940 for the purpose of obtaining disclosure of certain types of organized political and kindred activity within the United States.

In its registration statement, Austrian Action states that it is an organization for persons who are for a "free Austria" and "pledged" to combat Nazism. It states that one of its purposes is "to procure by all lawful means the liberation of the subjugated people of Austria from the enforced domination of any and all foreign powers."

The Attorney General took the occasion to point out, with respect to any and all registrations filed under the Voorhis Act, that while on the one hand registration should not be regarded as carrying any implication of approval by the Department of Justice, on the other hand neither should any stigma attach to the mere act of registration. The Attorney General pointed out that the purpose of the Voorhis Act was to provide a full disclosure of the activities of certain types of organizations and to enable the public to form its own estimate.

The Attorney General further stated that experience had shown that considerable confusion existed as to the purposes of the Act and as to the character of organizations affected by it.

"Among the organizations required to register under the Act," the Attorney General stated, "there may be some whose activities are entirely consistent with our national interest. Such organizations can best satisfy the public and the Government of their good faith by voluntary and frank disclosure of their activities through registration."

The administration of the Voorhis Act is being carried on by the Special Defense Unit of the Department of Justice where it is under the immediate charge of R. Keith Kane, Assistant Chief of the Unit.

Representatives of the Special Defense Unit will be available for conference with organizations desiring to register or with those which are in doubt as to their status.