



**December 23, 1960**  
**US Embassy Tel Aviv telegram 574 to State  
Department**

**Citation:**

"US Embassy Tel Aviv telegram 574 to State Department", December 23, 1960, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives, Record Group 469, U.S. Operations Mission to Israel, Executive Office Classified Central Files 1952-1961, box 10, Atomic Matters 1960. <https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/121947>

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

# GRAM

OUTGOING

Original Scan  
Foreign Service of the  
United States of America

*Mr. Haggerty*  
*at home*

Charge: **AMB**

Classification

Control:

Date: **574**  
**December 23, 1960**  
**3:50 p.m.**

## LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

SENT DEPARTMENT **574**

ROGER CHANDEL

INFORM	ACTION	INITIALS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AMB	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DCM	
	FOL	
	ECO	
	CON	
	ADM	
	GSO	
	PER	
	B&F	
	SY	
	USIS	
	ARMY	
	AIR	
	NAVY	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USOM	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILE	

In conversation with Director Liggit, USOM, December 22, Addy Cohen, Director, Economic Assistance Branch, Ministry of Finance, broached question of Negev reactor. Although Cohen at first treated matter with levity, impression came through that he believed reactor could be used eventually for weapons purposes. He expressed satisfaction that this might be "deterrent" to Arab action against Israel. Cohen indicated that he was privy to secret information on this subject and recalled helicopter flight in May when he, Dinstein, Liggit and Don Stoops of DLF had observed reactor site from short distance. He said he had been unable identify construction then because it was "Top Secret".

Later on December 22 Cohen told Williams he had flown within four or five kilometers of site in helicopter in February with Ambassador, Haggerty and Chalfant of USOM. In answer to question

**SECRET**  
Classification

UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED" REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS NOT AUTHORIZED

"Single-address messages to the Department can be diverted to pouch (appropriate to the classification of the message) without retyping. Type "By Pouch" after the address, omit the serial number, and pouch in envelope marked "For DC/T".

**GRAM****Foreign Service of the  
United States of America****OUTGOING**

Charge:

~~SECRET~~  
Classification

Control:

574

-2-

Date:

December 23, 1960

from one member of party he had stated then that building would be textile plant "because", said Cohen, "that was our story at that time."

Cohen who has raised question frequently in past few days told Agricultural Attache Chappell December 21 that he suspected some correlation between the delay in signing PL-480 Agreement and the atomic development. He added "we have been misbehaving a little". In answer to subsequent question from Chappell December 22 regarding Jerusalem Post statement that atomic plant would cost about 250 million Israeli pounds, Cohen replied "Well, we haven't spent that much yet."

Source close to Prime Minister told Canadian Ambassador Dec. 20 in answer to query about so much secrecy re Negev reactor, that he could not justify it, that secrecy was a "stupid mistake on the part of Israel". In response to further question as to why matter had been broached at this time, source said he had only a "personal theory" which was that the American Central Intelligence Agency had been caught off guard before Sinai and this time did not want to be caught napping.

REID

DCM:MWWilliams/CRLiggit:mjw 12-23-60

~~SECRET~~

Classification

UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED" REPRODUCTION  
FROM THIS COPY IS NOT AUTHORIZED