

May 15, 1961

Director of the Office of Near Eastern Affairs Robert C. Strong to Armin H. Meyer, 'Suggested Points to be Made to U.S. Scientists, Dr. Staebler and Dr. Croach, at the Meeting at 2:30 p.m., May 15'

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Summary:

Instructions for the two US observers visiting the Israeli nuclear facility at Dimona.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

NE
SECRET

TO : NEA--Mr. Armin H. Meyer

DATE: May 15, 1961

FROM : NE--Robert C. Strong *RC S per wff*

SUBJECT: Suggested Points to be Made to U.S. Scientists, Dr. Staebler and Dr. Croach, at the Meeting at 2:30 p.m., May 15

1. Secrecy

Israel has agreed to this visit only as the result of considerable and prolonged U.S. pressure, and only on condition that it take place without publicity.

2. Timing of Report

It is essential that the scientists' general impressions (as to the size of the installation, intended use, date of completion, etc.) be in the Department's hands by May 25, or May 26 at the very latest. If, because of unexpected delays, the scientists cannot report in person to you and Mr. Farley by that time, they should arrange to cable the reports suitably classified (TOP SECRET--NIACT) to the Department (ATTENTION: FARLEY-MEYER) from an appropriate post on their route of return. (Which?). While, to maintain absolute secrecy regarding this visit, the United States has agreed to Israel's suggestion that there be no contact between the scientists and the U.S. Charge in Tel Aviv, N. Spencer Barnes, it might be that the scientists will find themselves unavoidably detained in Israel beyond the deadline of May 25. In this case, they should explain to their Israel hosts that the United States Government has requested a full report on their visit in preparation for President Kennedy's forthcoming meeting with Prime Minister Ben-Gurion and that, since they will not reach the United States in time to make the report and it obviously cannot be filed by uncoded commercial telegraph, a one-time contact with Mr. Barnes is essential in order that the report be transmitted.

3. Relations with Israel Scientists

If the Dimona installation proves to be, as Israel has publicly announced, entirely for peaceful purposes, the scientists may wish to ask the senior scientists with whom they come in contact why Israel does not lay to rest the understandable apprehensions of the international community by practicing a "normal scientific openness" about the Dimona reactor.

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