

May 31, 1961
State Department Telegram 5701 to U.S. Embassy
United Kingdom

Citation:

"State Department Telegram 5701 to U.S. Embassy United Kingdom", May 31, 1961, Wilson Center Digital Archive, RG 59, DF, 033.84A41/5-3061. Originally published in Avner Cohen and William Burr, eds., National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book #547 (April 21, 2016).

<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/123843>

Summary:

British Embassy was informed about the contents of President Kennedy's discussion with Ben-Gurion on the Dimona reactor.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

1961 MAY 31 PM 8 32

SECRET
Classification

15748

For DCJT use only.

Origin

SENT TO: Amembassy London - PRIORITY 5701
 " Tel Aviv 880

Info:

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

033.84a 41/5-3161
42-884a.1901

Deptel 5574 — 033.84a 41/5-2961
42-884a.1901

Responsive to Home's request, Dept 30th informed British Embassy

in brief outline of (a) President's discussion with Ben Gurion re
Dimona reactor and (b) findings of US scientists who visited Dimona
May 18-22 as follows:

1. Observations of US scientists who visited Dimona indicate
that reactor is of size and character described by Israelis. Reactor
will not be in operation for at least two years and possibly thre.e.

2. Ben Gurion informed President Israel's interest is to acquire
training and experience in anticipation of a time when atomic energy
can produce cheap power. Israel is particularly interested in
utilizing atomic energy for desalinizing sea water.

3. Ben Gurion said US could make known its conclusions re Dimona
as it chose.

4. Ben Gurion agreed in principle to future visits by "neutral"
scientists.

British Embassy was informed that in view favorable nature these
developments it is our view no useful purpose served by Lord Home

033.84a 41/5-3161

RM/R
Anal 31
Rev
Cat

CLASSIFIED FILE

Drafted by: *WJ*

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

NEA:NE:WJHamilton:ebb:hmh

NEA:Phillips Talbot

Clearances: *WJ* AHMeyer:hmh

S/S - Mr. Manfull *WJ*

S/S-CR *WJ*

MAY 31 1961 PM

SECRET
Classification

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS
COPY IS PROHIBITED
UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED".

of telegram to London, Tel Aviv

SECRET
Classification

pressing Ben Gurion heavily on nuclear program although probably Ben Gurion would anticipate some expression of interest in view of past discussions between UK and Israel on subject.

In response to Embassy question, Dept expressed hope British would not rpt not find it necessary at this stage to reveal to Ben Gurion that we had supplied details of conversation with President.

RUSK
(T)

RUSK

SECRET
Classification