

June 16, 1961

**Department of State Memorandum of Conversation,
'The Dimona Reactor'**

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Summary:

The State Department made plans to brief Arab governments on the US visit to Dimona, but Deputy Assistant Secretary Armin Meyer asked Ambassador Harman if his government would be willing to work with US representatives at the IAEA Board of Governors meeting to make an announcement of the visit to Dimona and also to undertake quiet discussions at the meeting about a possible neutral visit to Dimona. Harman, however, objected to an IAEA role in the Dimona matter until the rest of the world had accepted the idea of inspections and he wanted Washington to coordinate any visit by neutral scientists.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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PART II of V

Memorandum of Conversation

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SUBJECT: The Dimona Reactor

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Avraham Harman of Israel ✓
Mr. Mordechai Gazit, Minister, Embassy of Israel
NEA - Deputy Assistant Secretary Armin H. Meyer
NEA/NE - Mr. William R. Crawford, Jr.

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Mr. Meyer recalled Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's generous agreement in conversation with the President that the United States might use as it wishes the information gained as a result of the recent visit by American scientists to the Dimona reactor, and that a visit by "neutrals" would be acceptable. Pursuant to the Prime Minister's agreement, the Department has "in the works" a quiet indication to the Arabs through diplomatic channels, of the findings of the scientists. Noting that Mr. Farley is now in Vienna attending the Board of Governors meeting of the IAEA, Mr. Meyer wondered whether the Israel observer at the meeting might not get in touch with Mr. Farley to consider an appropriate announcement of the scientists' visit by the Israel observer at the IAEA conference. In addition, Israel might feel that some useful discussion of a neutral visit to Dimona might be initiated with appropriate, individual representatives to the Board of Governors meeting.

Ambassador Harman replied that he is quite sure Prime Minister Ben-Gurion would not accept the idea of this sort of discussion taking place in the Vienna framework. Israel does support the principle of international inspection, but its support has always been conditional on general acceptance. If a neutral visit is to take place, the best way to make arrangements is by quiet coordination in Washington following Mr. Farley's return. There is need for great caution in this regard in the light of the problems caused by Israel's forthcoming elections. Ambassador Harman agreed to check with Jerusalem regarding discussion of Israel's reactor in the IAEA context.

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