

September 18, 1962

William Brubeck, Executive Secretary, to McGeorge Bundy, 'Second Visit by U.S. Scientists to the Dimona Reactor'

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Summary:

Memorandum summarizing response to US requests for a second visit to Dimona.

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61

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Date: JUL 18 2000

FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

DECLASSIFIED
NW 42247
By STATE D. 3-18-15

884A 1901

Subject: Second Visit by U. S. Scientists
to the Dimona Reactor

The following information is submitted at the request of
Mr. Rorer.

On June 22, 1962, Assistant Secretary Talbot pointed out
to Ambassador Harman that the assurances the United States
was able to give the world after the visit in 1961 to Dimona
undoubtedly contributed to the relaxed attitude with which
the world, initially very apprehensive of the development,
now regards the Dimona project, and expressed hope that the
Israeli Government would agree to our renewing the assurances
we passed to other governments last year.

In early July, the Israeli Government permitted dispatch
of a story from Jerusalem which stressed the peaceful purposes
of the Dimona reactor. This story was given headline treat-
ment in the Herald Tribune of July 5 in an article by Alvin
Rosenfeld on intellectual soul-searching in Israel on the de-
velopment of atomic weapons. The Israeli Government and its
Embassy here, as a result, referred to assurances given by
Prime Minister Ben-Gurion in 1960 and said there was no change
in the situation. In parliamentary debate August 6, the Prime
Minister reiterated that Israel's two reactors are intended
solely for peace and science, "just as the reactors of India
and Canada." We believe that both these developments were
contrived to obviate further need for a visit by United States
scientists. We continue to believe that the second visit is
essential.

On August 24, the Embassy of Israel was reminded of the
June 22 request and asked to seek a reply from its government.
On September 14, Ambassador Harman was informed that we would
like to take advantage of the presence in Israel between
September 25 and 28 of two Atomic Energy Commission scientists
who are scheduled to inspect the small United States-financed
reactor to arrange their visit to the Dimona reactor.

On September 15,

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On September 15, Ambassador Harman informed the Department that in answer to his communication conveying our request for the visit by the two AEC scientists, his Government regretted that a decision could not be obtained until after the Prime Minister's return from Scandinavia at the end of September.

The Department has expressed its regret noting that this was a matter of primary importance, and said that we would be raising it again.

/s/ William H. Brubeck

William H. Brubeck
Executive Secretary

S/S - RO
SEP 21 1962
A true copy of signed original

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NEA - Mr. Talbot

~~SECRET~~