



DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION
1608
CONFIDENTIAL

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NO.: CA-3636 October 19, 1960

SUBJECT: Reported Atomic Power Reactor Project at Beersheba

TO: The American Embassy, TEL AVIV

RPTD INFO: PARIS, VIENNA

Reference is made to the Embassy's despatch No. 75 dated August 2, 1960, subject: French Atomic Energy Project in Israel.

Enclosed is a statement and list of questions, prepared by another U. S. Government agency, expressing interest in any further information or details which may become available to the Embassy concerning a French-assisted nuclear power reactor project at Beersheba recently reported to the Embassy by an American technician. As will be noted from the enclosure, no information is so far available substantiating the Embassy's report.

HERTER

Enclosure:

RD-A-8216 dated
September 19, 1960

AE Developments - Israel

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DRAFTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

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CLEARANCES:

ICD/CGB Mr. Muller
S/AE -
RME -

RSB - Mr. Flowerree
S/SA -

INR - Mr. Lowman

NF - Mr. Hamilton

3. If the information is denied.

- a. What is the current Israeli plan for nuclear power?
- b. What is the current status of the Franco-Israeli agreement for atomic energy cooperation?

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INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REQUIREMENT == CONFIDENTIAL == R D No. A-8216
date= 19 September 1960

AREA= Israel SUBJECT= Ad Hoc/Nuclear Power Plant
REFERENCE= State, Tel Aviv, Despatch No. 75, 2 August 1960, Confidential

BACKGROUND

1. This requirement pertains to Category III of the Priority National Scientific and Technical Intelligence Objective and is of Routine collection priority

2. Tel Aviv Despatch No. 75 reports the impression of an American business-
man that the French are assisting Israel in the construction of a gas-cooled power
reactor having a capacity of 60 megawatts of electricity. While there have been a
number of statements over the past few years that sooner or later Israel must turn
to nuclear reactors for its power requirements, we have no information that a
nuclear power project is now under construction or contemplated in the next few
years. In April 1958, Dr. Ernest Bergaman, Chairman of the Israel AEC, stated that
the Franco-Israeli agreement for assistance in the atomic energy field was limited
to the exchange of information on uranium chemistry and methods for the production
of heavy water. We have no information from either Israel or France that the French
are assisting Israel on any type of nuclear energy project.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Please report all information which might confirm or deny the existence of the project reported in Despatch No. 75.
2. If the information is confirmed:
 - a. When was the construction of the power station started? What is the expected date of completion? What is the exact location of this station?
 - b. What organizations, both French and Israeli, are involved in the supply of materials and components and in its construction?
 - c. What is the expected capital cost of the station? What are the expected operating costs? What is the expected cost per kilowatt-hours and how will this compare with conventional power costs?
 - d. Give the following specifications for the reactor:
 - (1) What is the total thermal power, gross and net electric power of the station?
 - (2) What are the reactor fuel specifications--type of material, amount, cladding, and fuel element assembly? Who will supply the material and fabricate the fuel elements?
 - (3) What material will be used as reactor moderator? How much will be needed? Who will supply the material?
 - (4) What material will be used as the primary collant? How will it be supplied? If gas, what are the specified inlet and outlet temperatures and pressures?
 - (5) What will be used as the secondary collant? What are the requirements for water for the station? How will these be met?
 - e. How will the irradiated fuel elements from the reactor be handled? Does Israel plan to establish a chemical separation plant? If so, when, where, and what processes are being considered?
3. If the information is denied:
 - a. What is the current Israeli plan for nuclear power?
 - b. What is the current status of the Franco-Israeli agreement for atomic energy cooperation?

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