

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

DEC 9 PM 10

04497

For DCJT use on

~~SECRET~~

Classification

Origin
Info

SENT TO: Amembassy TEL AVIV PRIORITY 441
Amembassy PARIS 2460
Amembassy LONDON 3186
EYES ONLY
FOR AMBASSADORS

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW
 Retain class'n
 Declassify after 2025
Change/classify to _____
with concurrence of _____
EO 12958, 25X (6)
IPB/CR/IR by [Signature] Date: 1/14/00

Secretary called in Harman Dec 9 stated matter has come up about which we are very disturbed and wish to speak frankly in the manner in which Israeli and we accustomed deal with each other. Secretary read ~~EMTEL~~ EMBTEL 486. This was first US heard of such large research reactor. Description this research reactor not rpt not consistent with information concerning large nuclear installation which Israeli have never mentioned to us but concerning which increasing amount of information including photographs has recently been received. Secretary showed Harman photographs of installation south of Beersheba. Pointed out over-all scope of installation, diameter containment building and capacity power lines far in excess research reactor requirements and could serve reactor of 10 times size that mentioned URTEL 486. Such reactor would produce sufficient plutonium annually make several atomic bombs. Obvious inconsistency between ~~the~~ above information and projected Israeli announcement gives us great concern. Installation this apparent size would cost on order \$80 million and has not been mentioned in recent discussions Israeli economic development plans and possible US financial

784A.5611/12-960
XR 7
884A.1901

Declassified Case: NW# 36321 Date: 10-12-2018

The Secretary

classification approved by: [Signature]

Drafted by:

S/AE: PJE/ley 12/9/60

Clearances:

S/S - Mr. Seip [Signature]

NEA: GLJones [Signature]

~~SECRET~~

Classification

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED".

4

~~SECRET~~

Classification

assistance. Knowledge of potential nuclear weapons capacity would have very
 disturbing impact on Middle East and ⁶ ~~effect~~ ^{affect} US interests as well as those Israeli
 themselves. We would be much relieved learn account in ^{EMBTEL} ~~NOTE~~ 486 is accurate and
 reflects extent Israeli atomic program. ^{program announcement} If ~~inaccurate~~ or only partially ~~account~~
 we fear will stimulate interst and comment. Pointed out US scientists and in-
 dustrial representatives have recently noted scale and high ~~secrecy~~ of Israeli
 atomic program as well as French involvement in large scale reactor construction.
 Thus speculations real objectives and scope of Israeli program are increasingly
 widespread and may bring question into open.

Secretary reiterated US hopes information communicated can be explained
 in open and satisfactory way which will remove bases for concern and that our
 desire is to explore matter directly and frankly in order avoid misunderstanding.

Harman disclaimed knowledge of facts and stated he would report US concern
 and questions to his Government and request urgent advice.

Secretary subsequently informed UK and French Embassies of general tenor
 his conversation with Harman. ^{HERTER} French said ^R ~~Ambassador Alexander~~ would relay Secretary's
 concern and seek information from Paris.

HERTER

Herber
(R/S)

~~SECRET~~

Classification

EYES ONLY OR PRESIDENTIAL HANDLING

Classification S-EO

No. Copies Received _____

EYES ONLY

Master File - Copy No. 8

S ✓ ~~#~~ *Mr. Deinger*

U ✓ ~~#~~ *Mr. Sullivan* *7w 0-7m*

M ✓ ~~#~~

S/S - ✓ ~~#~~ *show RO*

O ~~#~~

G ~~#~~

C ~~#~~

E _____

H ~~#~~

INR ✓ ~~#~~ ~~#~~

IO _____

L _____

P _____

S/AE ✓ ~~#~~

SP ~~#~~

S/B _____

AF _____

ARA _____

EUR ✓ ~~#~~

FE _____

NEA ✓ ~~#~~

U/MSC _____

U/PR _____

POST Tel Aviv

INCOMING _____

OUTGOING ✓

NUMBER 441

DATE 12/9/60

CONTROL 04497

SUBJECT Israeli Reactor

WHITE HOUSE 13

CIA ✓ 11 *(by)*

E050x2 CIA

SEC. DEFENSE ~~#~~

ISA _____

JCS _____

ICA _____

USIA _____

OTHER *Mr. Strossel for trip*

to Mr. Borgon 12/16

CONFERENCE OR SPECIAL FILE _____

S/S 14394 *Mr. May*
#5-STA

Copies Destroyed 1, 3, 2, 5, 7, 10, 15 Date _____ By _____

7, 11, 14

EYES ONLY OR PRESIDENTIAL HANDLING

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

December 15, 1960

Copy #11 to INR - Mr.
for CIA. Action taken in
response to Mr. Cumming's
initiative with the concurrence
of S/AE - Mr. Courtney.

EO50x2 CIA

ECS
ECS

FM-7800-501/12-160

~~SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
December 15, 1960

S/S-#14394

S - Mr. Krebs

Memorandum of the Secretary's
Conversation of December 9 with
the Israeli Ambassador re the
Palestine Conciliation Commission

The subject memorandum (Tab A) is submitted for approval prior to distribution. This memorandum is not deemed suitable for distribution to CIA.

S/AE - Mr. Farley believes that no formal memorandum of conversation is required on the question of the Israeli reactor, which was also discussed at this meeting, in light of the reporting telegram to Tel Aviv (Tab B).

Approve RK

Disapprove _____


Emory C. Swank

FW-7840.5611/12-960

~~SECRET~~ EYES ONLY

**NATIONAL
SECURITY
ARCHIVE**

This document is from the holdings of:

The National Security Archive

Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University

2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037

Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, nsarchiv@gwu.edu