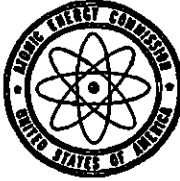


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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION No. 1 of 9 copies, Series A
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

This document consists of 2 pages

December 13, 1960

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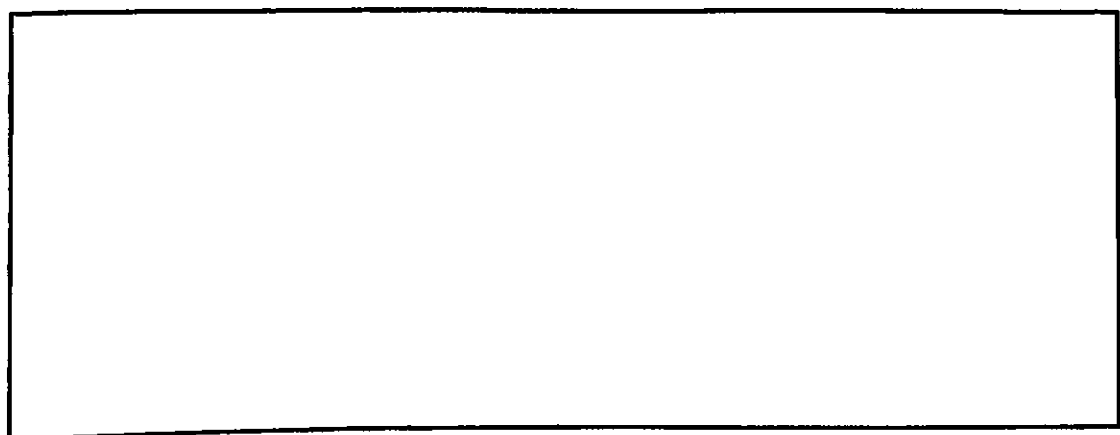
MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN McCONE ✓
COMMISSIONER GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER OLSON
COMMISSIONER WILSON

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF JCAE [redacted]

On Friday, December 9, the JCAE met in executive session to hear testimony from representatives of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of State. Representatives of the AEC (Messrs. Bloch, Kratzer, Staebler, Ohlke and the writer) were also present at the Joint Committee's invitation.

The hearing was called by Senator Anderson after JCAE staff members informed him of significant information recently received from the [redacted]

JCAE members present were Senators Anderson, Pastore and Gore, and Representatives Van Zandt, Bates and Durham (a surprising turnout in view of the time of year and the current European trip).



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BY: HAROLD STEINBERG DOE/NN-523 HLS

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Chairman McGone

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December 13, 1960

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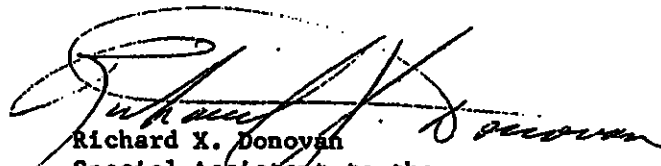
Phil Farley indicated that the analysis of the evidence was such that Secretary Herter was calling in the Israeli Ambassador that afternoon (December 9) to ask for an explanation. Sen. Anderson asked Farley what authority the U.S. had to demand an explanation. Farley replied that nothing would be demanded, but that the security of the U.S. is sufficiently involved to warrant an expression of our concern. He said that if Israel indicated that [redacted] was for peaceful purposes, then Herter would state that [redacted] it was creating needless suspicion and risk and should be ended. If the Israeli reply [redacted] then Herter would express the grave concern of our government over the effect of this program on the security of the Middle East and the world.

Sen. Pastore showed agitation that we should be "snooping around" [redacted] our supposed friends, and thought it would have been more proper to have confronted Israel directly when the first evidence was received. Sen. Gore, on the other hand, defended the subterfuge but blamed [redacted]

[redacted] Both, for different reasons, blamed CIA and State Department for tardy action.

AEC was not involved in the discussion except to provide brief information on the extent of our cooperation and assistance to Israel under our bilateral program. The JCAE seemed much concerned that if the [redacted] become public knowledge, the U.S. would be blamed because of its close economic ties to that country. The members were therefore apprehensive lest it become known that the U.S. had knowledge of the program before it was made public.

The meeting terminated without any firm conclusions, further action appearing to hinge on the outcome of Herter's diplomatic step.


Richard X. Donovan
Special Assistant to the
General Manager (Congressional)

cc: General Manager

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