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On basis lead given by Deputy PrMin Eban at "Meet the Press" TV interview, NYTimes reporter John Finney, who for some years Scientific Editor, ascertained from Ulysses S. Staebler, leader US Dimona teams 1964 and 1965, that he had visited Dimona facility. This consistent with guidance agreed upon for publicity on visit. Impossible therefore delete statement that "US scientific personnel have been to Dimona" contained Deptel 915.

In answer query by Finney about secrecy surrounding Dimona visits, Department explained for his background information that publicity would cause GOI internal political difficulties. We understand this explanation satisfied Finney, but he intends to publish story using mention of Dimona visits as springboard for story on need for extension international control such nuclear facilities.

Believe effort stop story at this late date likely be unsuccessful and would provide press greater incentive uncover facts.

Since disclosure visits would cause no problems for USG and might even offer certain political advantages in terms easing area tensions, we would welcome GOI decision use Eban ~~and~~ statement implying US knowledge nature

Drafted by:

Telegraphic transmission and

NEA:NE:HERussell:rvc:es:3/11/65

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By ms, NARA, Date 1-14-04

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Dimona to allay Arab fears about Dimona by public admission US has assured itself as to peaceful character reactor.

Israeli Counselor Gazit when apprised of above asked Departmental intercession to have reference to visit deleted from New York Times story. Department officer said it most unlikely any US newspaper would respond to such a request. In addition this might serve to renew Finney's long-held suspicions of Israeli intentions which now seem dissipated and produce a more damaging account.

GP-3.

END

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In a cable to the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, Secretary of State Dean Rusk comments on reasons for the secrecy surrounding International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safety visits to the Israeli nuclear reactor site located in the city of Dimona. Department Of State, 11 Mar. 1965. U.S. Declassified Documents Online, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CK2349575212/USDD?u=wash74137&sid=USDD&xid=feddfb0>. Accessed 10 July 2020.



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Duplicity, Deception, and Self-Deception: Israel, the United States, and the Dimona Inspections, 1964-65

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