

Ambassador Re'ed-Ben Gurion meeting (Embtel 625)

(a) Weapons: In response to question whether Israel "can state categorically that it has no plans for producing nuclear weapons", Ben Gurion said "The reply is a categorical yes. I made it perfectly clear in my statement to the Knesset and our Ambassador made it clear to the Secretary of State".

(b) Plutonium: Regarding Israel's plans for disposing of plutonium which will be bred by the new reactor, Ben Gurion said: "I told you from our phosphates we can produce uranium. But no country is selling uranium--only if it gets plutonium; only if it will get it back". "As far as we know this is a condition when we come to purchase it" (from another country). There is "no plutonium now in Israel".

(c) IAEA: Responding to a question whether Israel would agree to adequate safeguards with respect to the plutonium produced, Ben Gurion stated flatly: "I refuse, we don't want Russians coming in as part of an international body . . . "If you mean international safeguards (referring to IAEA), the same law should apply for everybody" . . . "We will not permit international bodies to inspect the reactor until all reactors are treated as equals".

(d) Visits: Ben Gurion agreed to visits to Dimona by nationals of "friendly powers" and to a visit by qualified US scientist provided there would be no leaks. Asked if the visit would be completely "free and open", he said "yes".

(e) Third Reactor: Ben Gurion denied that a third reactor is in the construction or planning stage.