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1961 JAN 13 PM 8 19

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Origin SENT TO: Amembassy VIENNA *1194*
Info RPTD INFO: Amembassy TEL AVIV *541*

IAEA.

EMBTEL 1087 and 1100.

IAEA/1-1161

FYI Department's current efforts concerning Israeli Beersheba reactor directed toward diminishing further publicity and speculation over recent developments while at same time privately suggesting means Israel might allay concern by demonstrating peaceful nature this facility. This best accomplished through diplomatic channels; open debate this subject in Board likely have adverse effect. Both Israel and France have now issued statements, and reaffirmed these privately to us, giving categoric assurances new Israeli project solely for peaceful purposes. Department believes that these statements should be given due weight and that it is important to promote period of calm during which Israel may provide further concrete evidence its exclusively peaceful intent. Such evidence would help allay Arab fears and less opportunity for unfriendly forces make capital of these fe

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Drafted by: *man*
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Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: S/AE - R. F. Courtney

Clearances:

- S/AE - Mr. Courtney (in draft)
- NEA/NE - Mr. Meyer
- UNP - Mr. Stanger
- S/AE - Mr. Farley
- S/S-CR
- AEC - Mr. Hudson (in substance)

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Department has stressed to Israel desirability its permitting Western scientist to visit Beersheba reactor facility at early date. Obviously in our interest and that of Agency if knowledgeable experts sent Israel under Agency auspices who could obtain first-hand information on current Israeli atomic energy program. Israelis have, however, reacted strongly against any suggestions implying outside QUOTE inspection UNQUOTE, particularly IAEA QUOTE inspection UNQUOTE at present time. Department believes Israeli position this regard unlikely change in immediate future and would hope Board discussions would not repeat not press this course of action thus prejudicing Israeli willingness accept experts accordance its routine technical assistance requests. You should attempt avoid situation in Board in which US appears impugn present Israeli public assurances on one hand or on other hand that US content current situation and engaged in whitewash Israeli activities. END FYI.

You should make every effort through informal consultations friendly delegations and in Board to limit discussion this subject. If subject raised in context technical assistance item, you should emphasize public (repeat public) assurances given by Israel and France and note that Board not repeat not seized any new information tending bring these assurances into question. At same time, you should encourage and support Israeli technical assistance requests.

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In this connection, concur your handling Cole's initiatives. Suggest you confirm to Cole Department view inadvisable write Keenan at present but indicate we may wish consult with Cole in future should developments indicate an offer by him of Agency services to Israel would be productive.

If subject arises solely in context safeguards debate, you should be guided by above. You may also point out as appropriate 1) traditional US position favoring safeguards both for Agency activities and in bilateral transactions; 2) appropriate safeguards attached all US assistance provided Israeli atomic energy projects; 3) Board discussion further underlines necessity for Board approval GC(IV)108 at current session.

Hudson will bring material requested EMBTEL 1100 plus compendium public statements for use Board discussions.

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