



INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

51

SECRET

Action

Classification

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FROM: NEW YORK (USUN)

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2242, FEBRUARY 20, 6 PM

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USUN 2242

EYES ONLY

PRIORITY

"EYES ONLY" FOR THE SECRETARY FROM REID

DURING LUNCHEON MTG IN NY FEB 20 THEODORE KOLLEK, DIRECTOR GENERAL PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE SAID BEN-GURION HAD ASKED HIM TO TELL ME THAT HE WOULD - SUBJECT TO THE FORMATION OF A GOVT IN SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS - PERMIT A VISIT TO THE NUCLEAR REACTOR.

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I NOTED THAT I WAS NOW PRIVATE CITIZEN AND ASKED HIM WHETHER HE WAS PLANNING TO REPORT THIS THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. KOLLEK SAID HE WOULD INDICATE THIS, IF THE SUBJECT WAS RAISED AT HIS MEETING WITH ASST. SECRETARY LEWIS JONES ON WED, BUT THAT BEN-GURION HAD ASKED HIM SPECIFICALLY TO GIVE ME THIS MESSAGE AS AN INITIAL INTERESTED PARTY.

784a. 5611/2-2061

KOLLEK ADDED WHILE AMB HERMAN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SAY AT HIS INITIAL MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY THAT A VISIT TO THE REACTOR WOULD BE THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE NEW GOVT - BEN-GURION NOW HAD MADE A DEFINITE DECISION TO PERMIT THIS VISIT WITHIN SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS.

KOLLEK SAID FORMATION OF A NEW GOVT WITH A SMALL WORKING MAJORITY WAS DIFFICULT. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY INCLUDE (BESIDES MAPAI) THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS AND PERHAPS - AT THE LAST MINUTE - THE PROGRESSIVE PARTIES. HE INDICATED GOLDA MEIR AND PINHAS SAPIR HAVE COMPOSED THEIR RECENT DIFFERENCES WITH BEN-GURION OVER THE LAVON AFFAIR AND WERE NOW WILLING TO SERVE IN NEW GOVT.

MB

STEVENSON

SECRET

Classification

EYES ONLY

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