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You have suggested that an initial visit take place toward the end of this year in the pre-startup stage. I am asking Ambassador Barbour to keep in touch with you so that the visit can be arranged for at a time when the reactor's core is being loaded and before internal radiation hazards have developed.

The ~~Israeli~~ overwhelming endorsement of the partial test ban treaty has moved us all a small step in the direction of a more peaceful world. Our purpose must be to continue striving toward the effective control of the power of the atom so that it may be used only for the welfare of man. The spirit you have shown in your letter to me is a clear indication that you share that same high purpose.

Sincerely,

John F. Kennedy

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In conveying foregoing, you should say: "President Kennedy has taken note of the Prime Minister's request that for the present information obtained from the visits envisaged in this exchange of letters should not repeat not be passed on to Nassar. The USG will of course comply with this request, but the President is also taking note of the fact that the Prime Minister has not fully made up his own mind, and has asked you to express his own belief that there are real advantages for security in setting to rest any fears which might otherwise lead to nuclear weapons acquisitions efforts by others in the area. It was this notion, shared on both sides, which underlay the agreement of May 1961 between the President and Ben-Gurion, and the President hopes that there can be further consideration of this matter as opportunity serves."

You should inform PRIMIN that you expect President's reply to Ben-Gurion's May 12 letter on Israel's security problems will be received shortly.

Embassy should arrange with PRIMIN a point of continuing contact (perhaps through Science Attache Webster on Embassy side) for determination of timing end-1963 visit, keeping Department continuously informed.

CP-1

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END

RUSK

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