

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Your 1157 and 1161

On basis lead given by Deputy Primin Eban at "Meet the Press" TV inter-
view, 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.

- BUNDY
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- WALKER
- WOOD
- WYATT
- ZIEGLER

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 USC and might even
offer certain political advantages in terms easing area tensions, we would
welcome GOI decision use Eban ~~xxxx~~ statement implying US knowledge nature

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| NE - Mr. Davies | NEA/P - Mr. Baldanza |
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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

RUSK

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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=fedfdb0>. Accessed 10 July 2020.



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