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IFS/CR/IR by Shaw

Date: JUL 18 2000

FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNNY
THE WHITE HOUSE

DECLASSIFIED
NW 452247
By STATE D. 3-18-15

884A 1001

Subject: Second Visit by U. S. Scientists
to the Dimona Reactor

The following information is submitted at the request of
Mr. Komer.

On June 22, 1962, Assistant Secretary Talbot pointed out to Ambassador Herman that the assurances the United States was able to give the world after the visit in 1961 to Dimona undoubtedly contributed to the relaxed attitude with which the world, initially very apprehensive of the development, now regards the Dimona project, and expressed hope that the Israeli Government would agree to our renewing the assurances we passed to other governments last year.

In early July, the Israeli Government permitted dispatch of a story from Jerusalem which stressed the peaceful purposes of the Dimona reactor. This story was given headline treatment in the Herald Tribune of July 5 in an article by Alvin Rosenfeld on intellectual soul-searching in Israel on the development of atomic weapons. The Israeli Government and its Embassy here, as a result, referred to assurances given by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion in 1960 and said there was no change in the situation. In parliamentary debate August 6, the Prime Minister reiterated that Israel's two reactors are intended solely for peace and science, "just as the reactors of India and Canada." We believe that both these developments were contrived to obviate further need for a visit by United States scientists. We continue to believe that the second visit is essential.

On August 24, the Embassy of Israel was reminded of the June 22 request and asked to seek a reply from its government. On September 14, Ambassador Herman was informed that we would like to take advantage of the presence in Israel between September 25 and 28 of two Atomic Energy Commission scientists who are scheduled to inspect the small United States-financed reactor to arrange their visit to the Dimona reactor.

On September 15,

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On September 15, Ambassador Harman informed the Department that in answer to his communication conveying our request for the visit by the two AEC scientists, his Government regretted that a decision could not be obtained until after the Prime Minister's return from Scandinavia at the end of September.

The Department has expressed its regret noting that this was a matter of primary importance, and said that we would be raising it again.

/s/ William H. Brubeck

William H. Brubeck
Executive Secretary

S/S-RO
SEP 21 1962
A true copy of signed original

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NEA - Mr. Talbot

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