

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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U.S.

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Talbot

DATE: 28 December 1962

FROM : J. W. Spain *JWS*

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for file on
Automatic
Security*

SUBJECT: Israeli Nuclear Capabilities

1. The attached documents contain most of the pertinent information we have on the subject at the moment. Perhaps the most useful is the Office of Scientific Intelligence Report entitled "The Israeli Nuclear Energy Program." The British Joint Intelligence Committee paper is very thin; however, London may know more than is revealed here. (As you probably know, under the terms of a December 27, 1960 Operations Coordinating Board Memorandum issued at the order of President Eisenhower, we are not authorized to exchange information with the British on this subject without the Department's approval.) It may be that we will want to ask for this approval some time soon. *(20)*

2. The proposed text on Israeli nuclear capabilities for National Intelligence Estimate 30-62 is a first draft. It will be refined considerably as we polish it here and as the agencies coordinate it. Naturally, any comment on it any of your people may have will be most welcome. The approved NIE should be ready in mid-January.

3. May I offer one other disquieting thought? We have had a tendency to concentrate on Dimona in looking at this problem. In view of (1) the possibility of other nuclear sites in Israel (pages 17 and 18 of the OSI Report), (2) our virtually complete ignorance as to French-Israeli relations in this field, and

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(3) our lack of knowledge of what assets and resources the Israelis may have been able to tap in the whole international science field, it is as least possible that there may be nothing at Dimona but that the Israelis will turn up one day with a weapon developed in other places or by other means. In short, even a negative result from a thorough inspection at Dimona may be no guarantee that Israel is not in the nuclear weapons game.

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