



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
MAR 4 1963

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ISA FILE COPY
AE-11-2 Israel

MEMORANDUM FOR: Charles W. Thomas (SCI)
Department of State

SUBJECT: INSPECTION OF ISRAELI REACTOR PROJECT

Atomic Energy Commission
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This is in response to your recent verbal request that the AEC consider a plan for securing periodic U.S. access to the site of the Dimona reactor in Israel. Under this plan, the Government of Israel would be requested to permit access to the Dimona site by AEC safeguards inspectors on a routine basis on the occasion of each visit made by our inspectors to Israel under our Agreement for Cooperation.

We have carefully considered this proposal and should like to propose that an alternate approach be made to the Israeli Government. Specifically, we believe that the Israeli Government should be requested to agree to access on a periodic basis by suitably qualified technical personnel other than AEC safeguards inspectors. The AEC will be pleased to recommend and make such personnel available from among its technical staff or those of our contractor organizations. We believe it is most important in attempting to set up such an arrangement with the Israeli Government to reach agreement on the following points:

1. There must be clear understanding that on the occasion of each visit, the U.S. visitors would have full and complete access to the entire facility for such period of time as they require to complete their observations.
2. While the visits would be given no publicity, we could not promise to regard them as classified and the visitors could not be required to follow any clandestine procedures with respect to their identity or movements while in Israel.

Our ability to make personnel available for these visits would be dependent on the agreement of the Israeli Government to these points.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS
ISA

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EO 13526, Sec. 3.3
VW 369DS
By DM/LM, NARA, Date 5/25/16

using the...
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S.C.,...
or revelation...
unauthorized person...
is prohibited.

We would also call your attention to the important limitations which would exist on the significance of the results which would be derived from visits of the type contemplated. From such visits it is possible to ascertain, at most, the nature and capabilities of the facilities of the Dimona site. It would not be possible for the visitors to perform materials accountability functions which are a critical part of the inspections carried out under our Agreements for Cooperation since these require the submission and review of records, the opportunity to take samples and the right to make inquiries or visits wherever necessary to establish the location and use of the material. Thus, these visits to Dimona would not provide assurance that the materials being used or produced in the Dimona facilities were not being employed for military purposes.

We strongly recommend that the Israeli Government be requested to accord the United States not only the opportunity to satisfy itself with respect to the nature of the facilities at the Dimona site but also with respect to the disposition of the materials produced in the Dimona reactor.

We have previously indicated to you the nature of our concern with respect to the making available of AEC safeguards inspectors for these visits but would like to record them here for your information. It is our belief that the successful accomplishment of the primary mission of our safeguards inspectors depends, among other things, on their acceptability to the countries in which they carry out their inspections. These inspections are undertaken on an entirely open basis through reliance on the rights accorded the United States under our Agreements. The acceptability of our inspectors would undoubtedly be prejudiced if the countries concerned felt that the inspectors had intelligence missions in addition to their agreed-upon access to the atomic energy activities of the other government. Disclosure that our inspectors were involved in visits to the Israeli closed site at Dimona would almost certainly be construed elsewhere as evidence that these inspectors also had other responsibilities of an intelligence nature. We believe this would be the case even though their access to Dimona would be with the agreement of the Israeli Government.

We understand that the Department of State is willing to approach the Israeli Government in the first instance on the basis of undertaking these visits with personnel other than safeguards inspectors but that the Department wishes to know in advance whether, in the event this approach is unacceptable, the Commission would be willing to make its safeguards inspectors available.

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In the event that the approach were unacceptable to the Israeli Government, the Commission is prepared promptly to consider whether it should make its safeguards inspectors available. We believe, however, that this consideration should not take place until a most strenuous effort has been made to secure the agreement of the Israeli Government to the first course of action. If the Israeli Government were to reject this proposal, the nature of their reaction to it, including any conditions which it appeared might be required to secure their agreement to some alternative proposal could then form the basis for a careful consideration of whether safeguards inspectors should be employed in this type of activity. In view of the Commission's reservations as to the desirability of this use of safeguards inspectors we believe that any request for their use should be made from a very high level in the Department of State.


A. A. Wells, Director
Division of International Affairs

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