OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

MEMO FOR MR. LAIRD

March 17, 1969

Attached is a memorandum for your signature which I believe conveys the sense of urgency you feel about the Israeli/Nuclear issue. I have shown the memorandum to Dr. Foster, Dr. Tucker and Mr. Earle. All agree with it completely.

The suggestion of a Saturday morning meeting may not be optimum, but it is about the only time this week that is available and helps convey the sense of urgency. The meeting, in any event, should only take about half an hour, I should think. Perhaps that will not be too inordinate in terms of a Saturday meeting.

Rpt
Robert E. Pursley
Colonel, USAF
Military Assistant

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

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MEMORANDUM FOR:  The Secretary of State  
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  

SUBJECT:  Stopping the Introduction of Nuclear Weapons into the Middle East  

On February 27, 1969, I sent you a memorandum advising you I was persuaded that 

at a rapid pace and may have both this year. I suggested that 
such developments were not in the United States' interests and should, 
if at all possible, be stopped. Furthermore, I suggested we should meet 
at the earliest opportunity to consider measures which the United States 
could take to preclude further Israeli nuclear missile development. All 

Finally, I recommended we meet with the President, following our meeting, 
to discuss the difficult and dangerous issues posed by the possibility of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. 

Since February 27 I have seen additional evidence of activity that 
would enhance Israel's capability in developing nuclear weapons. I 
referr to the granting, last June and October, of export licenses for 
two CDC 6400 computers and one 180/360/65 computer for Israel. As Dave 
Packard indicated in his March 14, 1969, memorandum to the Secretary of 
State and the Secretary of Commerce, we believe the CDC 6400, in particular, could be a critical tool in nuclear weapons development. Although 
I understand one of the two CDC 6400s has been shipped, I strongly indorse 
Dave Packard's recommendation that shipment of the second CDC 6400 be 
withheld until we have had the opportunity to discuss this whole problem area. 

I wish to repeat my request, moreover, that we meet at the earliest 
possible opportunity to exchange views on the possible introduction of 
nuclear weapons into the Middle East and that we maintain the closest 
possible consultation on all matters which could affect such an eventuality. I would like to suggest a meeting in my office at 10:00 a.m., 
Saturday, March 22. If that time is not convenient, would you please 
suggest alternative times that would be preferable. 

[Signature]