February 20, 1961
US Mission to the United Nations (New York) Telegram No. 2242 to Department of State, 'Eyes Only' from Reid to Secretary

Citation:

Summary:
Departing Ambassador informs told President Kennedy that an American inspection of the Dimona nuclear facility can be arranged.

Credits:
This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation.

Original Language:
English

Contents:
- Scan of Original Document
FROM: NEW YORK (USUN)
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 2242, FEBRUARY 20, 6 PM

PRIORITY

"EYES ONLY" FOR THE SECRETARY FROM REID

DURING LUNCHEON MTG IN NY FEB 20 THEODORE KOLLEK, DIRECTOR GENERAL PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE SAID BEN-GURION HAD ASKED HIM TO TELL ME THAT HE WOULD - SUBJECT TO THE FORMATION OF A GOVT IN SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS - PERMIT A VISIT TO THE NUCLEAR REACTOR.

I NOTED THAT I WAS NOW PRIVATE CITIZEN AND ASKED HIM WHETHER HE WAS PLANNING TO REPORT THIS THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. KOLLEK SAID HE WOULD INDICATE THIS, IF THE SUBJECT WAS RAISED AT HIS MEETING WITH ASST. SECRETARY LEWIS JONES ON WED, BUT THAT BEN-GURION HAD ASKED HIM SPECIFICALLY TO GIVE ME THIS MESSAGE AS AN INITIAL INTERESTED PARTY.

KOLLEK ADDED WHILE AMB HERMAN HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SAY AT HIS INITIAL MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY THAT A VISIT TO THE REACTOR WOULD BE THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE NEW GOVT - BEN-GURION NOW HAD MADE A DEFINITE DECISION TO PERMIT THIS VISIT WITHIN SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS.

KOLLEK SAID FORMATION OF A NEW GOVT WITH A SMALL WORKING MAJORITY WAS DIFFICULT. HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY INCLUDE (BESIDES MAPAI) THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS AND PERHAPS - AT THE LAST MINUTE - THE PROGRESSIVE PARTIES. HE INDICATED GOLDA MEIR AND PINHAS SAPIR HAVE COMPOSED THEIR RECENT DIFFERENCES WITH BEN-GURION OVER THE LAVON AFFAIR AND WERE NOW WILLING TO SERVE IN NEW GOVT.