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May 1, 1961

Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Philips Talbot to Secretary of State, 'Ben--Gurion Visit and Israel’s Reactor'

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Summary:

Ambassador Harman requests that the US visit to Dimona be delayed until after Prime Minister Ben-Gurion and President Kennedy meet in New York on May 30th.

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English

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DEPARTMENT

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

7066

TO: The Secretary

May 1, 1961

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: NEA - Phillips Talbot

SUBJECT: Ben-Gurion Visit and Israel's Reactor

Discussion:

On April 27, Ambassador Harman called at the Department (TAB A) to discuss plans for Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's talk with the President, now scheduled for May 30 in New York. According to Ambassador Harman, in addition to meeting with the President, Prime Minister Ben-Gurion wishes to meet with you separately. He wishes such a meeting to take place in Washington, where the Prime Minister would remain for approximately two days. As you know, the chief reason for our scheduling Mr. Ben-Gurion's talk with the President in New York was to avoid the extra interest which would accompany his visit to Washington.

On May 1, Minister Gazit of the Israel Embassy called at the Department (TAB B) to convey Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's wish that the visit of two qualified American observers to the Dimona reactor be deferred. This visit has been planned for the week of May 15, but the Israelis now wish it to take place after the Prime Minister has spoken with the President. As you know, the Department under the urging of the President has pressed the Israelis for several months to schedule the Dimona visit at the earliest feasible date. More recently it has been our hope that the results of the visit would be available to the President for his discussion with the Prime Minister.

Recommendations:

That you authorize us to inform the Israeli Embassy:

1. That after weighing all considerations it had been the President's view that official contacts with Prime Minister Ben-Gurion be confined to the scheduled discussions in New York on May 30.

Approved OK per fyi

Disapproved

MAY 2 1961

2. That

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By STATE 3-19-15

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2. That since you expect to be accompanying the President on his journey to New York and Europe it is your hope to meet with the Prime Minister in New York.

Approved DR MAY 2 1961

Disapproved_____

3. That because of the intense interest of our government in atomic energy developments elsewhere it is our belief that the visit to Dimona by the two qualified American observers should proceed as scheduled, i.e. the week of May 15.

Approved DR MAY 2 1961

Disapproved_____

Attachments:

NEA:AHMeyer:mws

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