

December 17, 1960

**Memorandum of Conversation, 'Suggested Guidance
for Chairman McCone's Use in 'Meet the Press'
Interview December 18 If Asked About Reported
Israeli Atomic Weapons Developments'**

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
December 20, 1960

For: Brig. Gen. A. J. Goodpaster
The White House

From: Walter J. Stoessel, Jr. *WJS*

Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum of conversation dated December 17 on the subject "Suggested Guidance for Chairman McCone's use in 'Meet the Press' interview December 18 if asked about reported Israeli Atomic Weapons Developments", for the information of Mr. Gordon Gray.



SECRET Enclosure *Copy sent to Mr. Gray*

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

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DATE: December 17, 1960

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SUBJECT: Suggested Guidance for Chairman McCone's use in "Meet the Press" interview December 18 if asked about reported Israeli Atomic Weapons Developments

PARTICIPANTS: Deputy Under Secretary Raymond A. Hare
Myron B. Kratzer, AEC
Raymond F. Courtney, S/AE



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AEC - Mr. Kratzer
White House - Mr. Gordon Gray ✓

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Mr. Kratzer called at the Department on Mr. McCone's instructions to discuss with us our suggestions concerning how Mr. McCone might handle questions on this subject. He was given a copy of the Contingency Guidance which had been prepared for Department use in the event that an Israeli announcement might make it necessary for us to answer questions from the press. It was pointed out, however, that this was not specifically applicable to the situation at the moment, when there has been no Israeli announcement but when there have been press reports from London of an alleged development by Israel of "an experimental nuclear bomb" and when there has been a formal Israeli disavowal.

Mr. Hare said that he had discussed the matter with Mr. Dillon and believed that Mr. Dillon probably had spoken with Mr. McCone in the following sense. It would be best if statements could be limited at the present time to three points:

1. The London reports, including the denial by a spokesman of the Israeli Embassy there that Israel had either the means or the intention of using her atomic research for the construction of an atom bomb, had, of course, been noted with interest. It would not be appropriate to comment further on press reports conjecturing developments in another country.

2. It is firmly established and well-known United States policy that we oppose the proliferation of nuclear weapons throughout the world, and our law does not permit us to assist other countries to develop nuclear weapons capabilities.

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Authority: MR 87-264 E1

By: NLE Date: 1/16/77

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3. If questioned or if the course of discussion made it appear advisable, it would be appropriate to say that we have been cooperating with Israel in a research program on peaceful uses of atomic energy, under President Eisenhower's Atoms-for-Peace program, and assisted Israel in setting up a small research reactor for this purpose, as we are doing in various other countries.

It was felt that Chairman McCone could with dignity respond along the above lines without being drawn into implications of either U.S. association with an alleged Israeli weapons program, attempts to probe the extent of our knowledge, or actions which we might contemplate.



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