

May 5, 1961

**Memorandum by Secretary of State Rusk to
President Kennedy, 'Visit to Israeli Reactor'**

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Summary:

The Israeli Embassy has confirmed the visit by two American observers to the Dimona nuclear facility for May 18.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Visit to Israeli Reactor

You will be interested to know that the Israeli Embassy has confirmed plans for the visit of two qualified American observers to the Israeli reactor at Dimona. The Israelis informed us on May 4 that the American observers would be received in Israel on May 18. In the interests of avoiding publicity the visitors will be guests of the Israeli government during their four-day stay in Israel. Their immediate hosts will be Israel's atomic energy officials.

The Israelis sought to defer the visit until after your talk with Prime Minister Ben Gurion on May 30. However, they did not appear to feel too strongly about this and so in view of our long interest in this visit, we felt we should adhere to the previously planned mid-May dates. Furthermore it is hoped that the findings of our scientists will be available to you for your talk with Ben Gurion.

The two American observers will be: Mr. Hyman M. Stachler, Senior Assistant Director of the Division of Reactor Development of the AEC, and Mr. James William Greath, Jr., Reactor scientist, presently stationed at the AEC Savannah River Laboratory.

/S/ DEAN RUSK

Dean Rusk

S/S - RO

MAY 5 1961

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