

May 31, 1961
State Department Telegram 5701 to U.S. Embassy
United Kingdom

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Summary:

British Embassy was informed about the contents of President Kennedy's discussion with Ben-Gurion on the Dimona reactor.

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Responsive to Home's request, Dept 30th informed British Embassy

in brief outline of (a) President's discussion with Ben Gurion re
Dimona reactor and (b) findings of US scientists who visited Dimona
May 18-22 as follows:

1. Observations of US scientists who visited Dimona indicate
that reactor is of size and character described by Israelis. Reactor
will not be in operation for at least two years and possibly thre.e.

2. Ben Gurion informed President Israel's interest is to acquire
training and experience in anticipation of a time when atomic energy
can produce cheap power. Israel is particularly interested in
utilizing atomic energy for desalinizing sea water.

3. Ben Gurion said US could make known its conclusions re Dimona
as it chose.

4. Ben Gurion agreed in principle to future visits by "neutral"
scientists.

British Embassy was informed that in view favorable nature these
developments it is our view no useful purpose served by Lord Home

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Drafted by: *WJ*

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Clearances: *WJ* AHMeyer:hmh

S/S - Mr. Manfull *WJ*

S/S-CR *WJ*

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pressing Ben Gurion heavily on nuclear program although probably Ben Gurion would anticipate some expression of interest in view of past discussions between UK and Israel on subject.

In response to Embassy question, Dept expressed hope British would not rpt not find it necessary at this stage to reveal to Ben Gurion that we had supplied details of conversation with President.

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