

**September 18, 1962**

**William Brubeck, Executive Secretary, to McGeorge  
Bundy, 'Second Visit by U.S. Scientists to the  
Dimona Reactor'**

**Citation:**

"William Brubeck, Executive Secretary, to McGeorge Bundy, 'Second Visit by U.S. Scientists to the Dimona Reactor'", September 18, 1962, Wilson Center Digital Archive, RG 59, DF, 884A.1901/9-1462. Originally published in Avner Cohen and William Burr, eds., National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book #547 (April 21, 2016).  
<https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/123860>

**Summary:**

Memorandum summarizing response to US requests for a second visit to Dimona.

**Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

Authority NWD 949569

This doc. No. DE

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STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

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EO 12958, 25X  
IFS/CR/IR by Shaw

Date: JUL 18 2000

FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNNY  
THE WHITE HOUSE

DECLASSIFIED  
NW 42247  
By STATE D. 3-18-15

884A 1901

Subject: Second Visit by U. S. Scientists  
to the Dimona Reactor

The following information is submitted at the request of  
Mr. Rorer.

On June 22, 1962, Assistant Secretary Talbot pointed out  
to Ambassador Harman that the assurances the United States  
was able to give the world after the visit in 1961 to Dimona  
undoubtedly contributed to the relaxed attitude with which  
the world, initially very apprehensive of the development,  
now regards the Dimona project, and expressed hope that the  
Israeli Government would agree to our renewing the assurances  
we passed to other governments last year.

In early July, the Israeli Government permitted dispatch  
of a story from Jerusalem which stressed the peaceful purposes  
of the Dimona reactor. This story was given headline treat-  
ment in the Herald Tribune of July 5 in an article by Alvin  
Rosenfeld on intellectual soul-searching in Israel on the de-  
velopment of atomic weapons. The Israeli Government and its  
Embassy here, as a result, referred to assurances given by  
Prime Minister Ben-Gurion in 1960 and said there was no change  
in the situation. In parliamentary debate August 6, the Prime  
Minister reiterated that Israel's two reactors are intended  
solely for peace and science, "just as the reactors of India  
and Canada." We believe that both these developments were  
contrived to obviate further need for a visit by United States  
scientists. We continue to believe that the second visit is  
essential.

On August 24, the Embassy of Israel was reminded of the  
June 22 request and asked to seek a reply from its government.  
On September 14, Ambassador Harman was informed that we would  
like to take advantage of the presence in Israel between  
September 25 and 28 of two Atomic Energy Commission scientists  
who are scheduled to inspect the small United States-financed  
reactor to arrange their visit to the Dimona reactor.

On September 15,

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On September 15, Ambassador Harman informed the Department that in answer to his communication conveying our request for the visit by the two AEC scientists, his Government regretted that a decision could not be obtained until after the Prime Minister's return from Scandinavia at the end of September.

The Department has expressed its regret noting that this was a matter of primary importance, and said that we would be raising it again.

*/s/ William H. Brubeck*

William H. Brubeck  
Executive Secretary

S/S - RO  
SEP 21 1962  
A true copy of signed original

*PRO*  
NEA:NE:RPD *gvl* :vvg 9-18-62

*Ⓟ*  
NEA - Mr. Talbot

~~SECRET~~