

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

*Israel Canal*  
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statements in support of research...  
Mr. Bergman replied that the...  
April 19, 1956  
...  
**MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION**

**SUBJECT: MEETING WITH DR. BERGMAN, ISRAEL, APRIL 11, 1956**

**PARTICIPANTS:** Dr. Ernst Bergman Israeli Atomic Energy Commission  
Mr. I. Pelah " " " " " " " "  
Mr. Dostrovsky " " " " " " " "

Mr. Salkind, Ambassador of Israel for Economic  
High School post-graduate people in this country for training, and  
Mr. H. Ekern, Dept. of State  
Mr. Bengelsdorf, Atomic Energy Commission  
Mr. T. O. Jones " " " " " " " "  
Dr. Kaufmann " " " " " " " "  
Mr. Averill " " " " " " " "

Dr. Bergman initiated the discussion by extending his thanks to the Atomic Energy Commission for the steps it had taken to facilitate the visit of the Israeli mission to various Commission installations. He indicated that the trip had been fruitful, inasmuch as it had crystallized Israeli thinking as to the type of reactor that they would develop in the immediate future. In particular, Dr. Bergman indicated that the Israelis were planning to build a natural uranium-heavy water-moderated reactor and that they had already given their specifications to a number of American firms and expected to receive bids in about five or six weeks. Dr. Bergman said that the Israelis plan to fuel this reactor with natural uranium produced in Israel as a byproduct of their phosphate extracting industry. He also indicated that Israel would like to take advantage of the terms of the bilateral with this country to obtain the required heavy water as well as some U-235 for experimental purposes. He inquired as to whether the furnishing of the heavy water to Israel would pose any particular difficulties. Mr. Bengelsdorf replied that as a general rule, the provision of heavy water posed no special problems and he indicated that the major undertakings that the Commission sought in such an arrangement were that (a) the material should be used for peaceful purposes and (b) the material must be kept within the territorial limits of the recipient country. (In earlier discussions with Mr. Hall, the Israelis had been provided with a copy of the standard form heavy water contract.)

Mr. Bengelsdorf asked Dr. Bergman whether there had been much discussion in the past as to the President's offer to provide financial

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assistance in support of research reactors in foreign countries. Dr. Bergman replied that the Israelis had been advised about this possibility by Chairman Strauss, but other than that, they apparently knew little about the specific details. The Chairman had suggested to the group that after they had selected a firm to construct their reactor they should transmit the proposed contract to the Commission for review so that the Commission might determine its eligibility under the President's offer. Messrs. Jones and Bengelsdorf briefly outlined the general nature of the President's offer, and at the conclusion of the meeting the Israelis were provided with a list of the items that should be covered in any proposal for financial assistance.

Mr. Bergman raised the question as to the possibilities for locating highly skilled post-graduate people in this country for training, and in particular he made reference to Dr. Pelah who is a physicist and who is interested in getting reactor experience and doing work in criticality assembly. Dr. Kaufmann indicated that it might be feasible for us to locate Dr. Pelah at one of our installations or one of the major universities interested in this field (Michigan), and he suggested that Dr. Pelah, provide the Atomic Energy Commission through Dr. Salkind, with a resume of his background, writings and publications.

The question also came up as to what facilities were available for training health physicists in this country. It was agreed that the staff would provide Dr. Salkind with a list of the major institutions that offered training in this area.

In the course of the discussion on the research reactor, Dr. Kaufmann inquired as to whether the Israelis planned to have the uranium fabricated into fuel elements in this country, and he indicated that it was general Commission policy not to fabricate these elements when such services were reasonably available commercially. Dr. Doetrowsky replied that Israel did plan to fabricate these elements in this country and that they had been in contact with a number of American firms in this connection. There was some discussion as to whether fabrication of uranium in this country would pose any legal problems. It was agreed that the Atomic Energy Commission would explore this point further with its lawyers.

H. D. Bengelsdorf

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