

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

David Low
S/AE FILE COPY

December 4, 1956

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH DR. LAHAV CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF ISRAELI
ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAM

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Ephraim Lahav, Scientific Counselor,
Embassy of Israel

Mr. J. P. Trevithick)
Mr. R. N. Slawson) AEC - DIA
Mr. A. H. Furnia)

COPIES TO: Mr. G. C. Smith/State (3)
Mr. N. Rogers/DIA (2)

On July 17, 1956, Dr. Bergmann, Chairman of the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission, dispatched a letter to Chairman Strauss indicating that the Government of Israel desired to purchase 10 tons of heavy water from the AEC for use in a 10 megawatt natural uranium heavy water experimental reactor. In connection with this request from Israel a meeting was held on September 14, 1956, at which time the Israeli representatives were presented with a draft unclassified power bilateral and informed that the U.S. desired that the sale of the heavy water should take place under the aegis of a power bilateral. Pursuant to Dr. Bergmann's letter and the subsequent meeting, Dr. Lahav phoned Mr. Slawson and arranged for a meeting with AEC representatives on December 4, 1956 to discuss several matters.

Dr. Lahav initiated the conversation by reporting that the Israeli Embassy would shortly submit a hazards report on the pool-type reactor in connection with which Israel has submitted a request for financial assistance. Dr. Lahav indicated that the delay in the submission of the report was due to the Israeli Government's indecision regarding the location of the site for the reactor. He said, however, the site now has finally been chosen and everything is ready to progress with the procedures necessary to construct the reactor. Dr. Lahav next indicated that the draft power bilateral which was presented to the Israeli representatives at the September meeting had been dispatched to the Government in Israel for study. He said that as soon as the pertinent comments concerning the bilateral are received he will contact AEC.

CHIEF ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
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*12/12 cy to NE - Mr. Bergman
cy to Embassy*

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Dr. Lahav then inquired about the training program at ISNSE. He said that as yet Israel had not submitted applications for the next session. I told him that the next session would be the fifth session and would begin in February 1957. I presented him with some applications and a brochure regarding the course, but I informed him that I thought that all of the selections had been made for the course and it would now be impossible to obtain places for the two Israeli applicants. However, I informed him that I would check this matter with our training officer and inform him definitely as to whether or not these applications could be accepted for the course.

Referring again to the September meeting, Dr. Lahav raised a question concerning the sale of heavy water to Israel. Dr. Lahav asked if the heavy water could be transferred to Israel under Article III of the present U.S.-Israel Agreement for Cooperation rather than under the terms of a power bilateral. Mr. Trevithick replied that we would consider this question and inform him as to whether or not this could be accomplished under the present bilateral.

In connection with the heavy water Dr. Lahav also asked about the reply to Dr. Bergmann's letter. Mr. Trevithick replied that he was under the impression that the discussions which had taken place during the previous meeting in September and the conversations which Chairman Strauss had had with the Israeli Ambassador constituted the U.S. reply to Dr. Bergmann's letter. Dr. Lahav did not question Mr. Trevithick further in regard to the Bergmann letter.

Dr. Lahav raised a question then about his visiting some of our laboratory installations, such as, Argonne and Oak Ridge. Mr. Trevithick replied that we would be happy to arrange visits for Dr. Lahav to these installations at his convenience. Dr. Lahav suggested perhaps January or February would be most convenient to him.

Dr. Lahav closed the meeting by stating that he would be waiting to hear from us concerning the several questions which had been raised, principally concerning the heavy water and the applications for the Israeli students. Dr. Lahav then stated that everything is ready to proceed with the procedures necessary to construct the reactor. Dr. Lahav then indicated that the draft power bilateral which was presented to the Israeli representatives at the September meeting had been dispatched to the Government for study. He said that as soon as the pertinent comments concerning the bilateral are received he will contact AEC.

A.H. Furnia
12/10/56

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