

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

Jesse WH

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Action

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Info

Control: 15084  
Rec'd: December 29, 1960  
4:07 a.m.

FROM: Tel Aviv

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 590, December 28, 5 p.m. ONLY

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PRIORITY

EYES ONLY SECRETARY

Further to Embassy telegram 577 the Department may wish to consider my talking informally or officially with Mrs. Meir to suggest some or all of the following:

1. Depending on whether area and international concern growing and Department wishes -- I could suggest we believe it would be useful for GOI -- on its own initiative -- to ask for an IAEA scientific designee to visit nuclear site or internationally known scientists; preferably from U.S. While former would obviously help allay other countries concern, doubt whether B-G would favor it, unless he saw it as act of statesmanship that would benefit Israel and not slow down progress of reactor due to Arab boycott. Visit of international scientists would serve more limited objective of providing fuller and respected information on which suggest IAEA inspection later date.

Still another alternative -- if low key approach preferred -- would be at time of next AEC safeguards inspection of Nahal Rubin reactor (which occurred June 8) to include high level scientist in inspection team -- to visit new reactor and, as appropriate under article I of bilateral, exchange information on "research reactors".

2. At conversation with Mrs. Meir -- or following visit suggested paragraph 1 above if more appropriate -- Department may wish

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-2- 590, December 28, 5 p.m. from Tel Aviv

may wish urge GOI place reactor under IAEA safeguards as agency project. This action could be presented as step by Israel -- clearly on its own initiative -- marking a significant contribution to the furtherance of area tranquility and peace. It would also appear to be consistent with GOI vote in favor of IAEA safeguards general conference last September and with statements of GOI that the reactor is designed exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Possibility of Ben-Gurion being willing to do this would be influenced -- in part -- by position of France, U.S. and UK. Department might wish to initiate, if it has not already done so, consultations along this line with these governments.

Comment A:

Comment B:

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