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**Enclosure/4/**

Washington, January 17, 1961.

**/4/Secret.**

Summary of Additional Recent Information on  
Israeli Atomic Energy Program

- 1. We have been assured categorically at the highest level of the Israeli Government that Israel has no plans for the production of atomic weapons.**
2. We have been assured that there is no third reactor in either the construction or planning stage. Israel hopes to have a power reactor in due course, perhaps in ten years but possibly no sooner than fifteen years.
- 3. We have been assured that Israel will be glad to receive visits by scientists from friendly countries at the Dimona reactor when public interest has quieted down.** In particular, a scientist from the United States will be welcome as early as possible on this condition.
- 4. We have been given responsible assurances by the French that the French-Israeli cooperation program is limited to the 24 megawatt research reactor, that the French will supply all the uranium for this reactor, that the plutonium produced in the reactor will all be returned to France, that adequate arrangements have been agreed upon to assure the exclusively peaceful use of the reactor,** and that resident French inspectors or periodic inspection visits will be accepted. The French assured us that they do not want to be associated with any Israeli nuclear weapons program, that they have urged public assurances of peaceful intention by the Israelis, and that they support our efforts to this same end.
5. Specific information on the Dimona reactor is the following:
  - a. The reactor will **go critical in about three to four years** and is now in the second year of construction.
  - b. There is no plutonium now in Israel and plutonium from the reactor will, as a condition attached to purchase of uranium abroad, return to the supplying country.
  - c. Israel is producing only experimental quantities of heavy water and of uranium from phosphate.
  - d. No power generation is to be attempted in connection with the Dimona reactor, which is intended to provide general experience and know-how as well as a more effective research tool.

- e. The stack visible in ground photographs is a water tower for this water-cooled reactor.
  - f. The incoming 100 KVA power lines are explained by the fact that the reactor installation serves as a distribution point not only for the reactor complex but for phosphate mining operations and a potash plant in the area.
  - g. In addition to the reactor the complex will include a hot laboratory, cold laboratory, waste disposal plant, a facility for rods, offices including library services, and a medical unit.
  - h. The reactor and ancillary facilities are expected to cost \$34 million of which \$17.8 million would be foreign exchange. The reactor itself is expected to cost \$15.4 million of which \$10 million would be foreign exchange.
6. The secrecy initially attached to the reactor arose from the fears of participating foreign companies over the prospect of Arab boycott.
7. While Israel accepts the general principle of international safeguards to assure the peaceful use of atomic energy, it believes also in equality; thus it does not propose to open the Dimona reactor to international inspection until such inspection applies to comparable reactors everywhere.