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By VAI NARA Date 1-17-06

WH-1(1-2)
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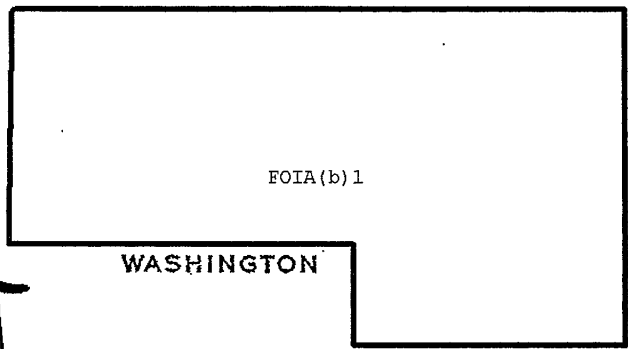
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Reviewed by: Ambassador W. Witman, II

Date: 8/28 1976



S/S 13168

August 28, 1969

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Authority: 2556

By: Steve Vogel Date: 04-19-2005

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Israel's Nuclear Program

During a meeting today with Israeli Ambassador Rabin, the Ambassador alluded to my approach to him of July 29 about Israel's nuclear intentions, noting this was one item he assumed would be on the agenda for Prime Minister Meir's visit next month.

I said we were interested in hearing Israel's response and asked whether the Ambassador had anything to say now or whether we could expect anything before the Prime Minister arrives. The Ambassador said he believed the Government of Israel would postpone a response. Speaking personally, the Ambassador expressed the opinion that this was a difficult subject for his government to deal with a month before elections.

I noted that there was a difference between what Israel said publicly and what it said to us privately. The questions of missile deployment and of Israel's definition of what is meant by "introduction" of nuclear weapons would not appear to depend upon elections. The Ambassador said only that in Israel's democratic system there were no secrets.

I concluded by noting that, since this question would apparently not be resolved before Mrs. Meir arrives, the Ambassador could assume that it would be on the agenda for her visit.

Elliot L. Richardson *S/S cwm*
A True Copy

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