

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

March 17, 1969

MEMO FOR MR. LAIRD

Attached is a memorandum for your signature which I believe conveys the sense of urgency you feel about the Israeli/Nuclear issue. I have shown the memorandum to Dr. Foster, Dr. Tucker and Mr. Earle. All agree with it completely.'

The suggestion of a Saturday morning meeting may not be optimum, but it is about the only time this week that is available and helps convey the sense of urgency. The meeting, in any event, should only take about half an hour, I should think. Perhaps that will not be too inordinate in terms of a Saturday meeting.

*REP*  
Robert E. Pursley  
Colonel, USAF  
Military Assistant

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

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Dept. of State, ISS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.  
( ) Release (Y) Excise ( ) Deny ( ) Declassify  
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With concurrence David C. [unclear] (not) obtained  
IPS by [Signature] Date 1-1-7

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

17 MAR 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of State  
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: Stopping the Introduction of Nuclear Weapons into the  
Middle East

25X1 and 6, E.O.13526

On February 27, 1969, I sent you a memorandum advising you I was  
persuaded that [redacted] at a rapid pace and may have both this year. I suggested that  
such developments were not in the United States' interests and should,  
if at all possible, be stopped. Furthermore, I suggested we should meet  
at the earliest opportunity to consider measures which the United States  
could take to preclude further Israeli nuclear missile development.  
Finally, I recommended we meet with the President, following our meet-  
ing, to discuss the difficult and dangerous issues posed by the possi-  
bility of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

OSD 3.3(b)(4)(5)

Since February 27 I have seen additional evidence of activity that  
would enhance Israel's capability in developing nuclear weapons. I  
refer to the granting, last June and October, of export licenses for  
two CDC 6400 computers and one IBM 360/65 computer for Israel. As Dave  
Packard indicated in his March 14, 1969, memorandum to the Secretary of  
State and the Secretary of Commerce, we believe the CDC 6400, in parti-  
cular, could be a critical tool in nuclear weapons development. Although  
I understand one of the two CDC 6400s has been shipped, I strongly endorse  
Dave Packard's recommendation that shipment of the second CDC 6400 be  
withheld until we have had the opportunity to discuss this whole problem  
area.

OSD 3.3(b)(4)(5)

I wish to repeat my request, moreover, that we meet at the earliest  
possible opportunity to exchange views on the possible introduction of  
nuclear weapons into the Middle East and that we maintain the closest  
possible consultation on all matters which could affect such an eventu-  
ality. I would like to suggest a meeting in my office at 10:00 a.m.,  
Saturday, March 22. If that time is not convenient, would you please  
suggest alternative times that would be preferable.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

OSD File No. 1

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