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Authority NND 949670

Department of State

[Handwritten initials]

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Action

~~SECRET~~

Classification

Control 14430

Rec'd: November 26, 1960
9:44 a.m.

AEC

Info

FROM: Paris

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NEA

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SAE

INR

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2162, November 26, 1 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 2162; REPEATED INFORMATION TEL AVIV 29

PASS WELLS, AEC, FROM ROULEAU

RMR

Further Embassy telegram 2138 dated 25 November.

Gomberg, returning from Israel stopped Paris enroute Michigan. Explained he had "urgent and secret" item regarding Israeli ~~nuclear power reactor~~ but not sure to whom he should reveal information. Failing in attempt obtain information for onward transmission, since Gomberg apparently wished disclose information higher level, I urged stop in Washington and discuss with you. Claimed this impossible. Stated he had been "held with tongs" and Embassy Tel Aviv though apparently learned of substance CA-3636 while there. Claims personal friend Ben Gurion told him one week ago that within three weeks Israel would announce five year plan (?) simultaneously revealing construction nuclear power plant vicinity of Beersheba. Admitted uncertainty timing of announcement though no question existence facility. Stated except for official status his presence in Israel would have visited site. Parried questions as to power rating and completion date, but said France providing assistance. With reference French denial participation Israeli project commented that "France intends to do everything to regain place as major power". Lack of details precludes evaluation importance Gomberg information. However, implied France will supply natural uranium for large nuclear power plant and ~~has aided in design and construction, apparently without consideration IAEA or EURATOM implications.~~

AN:BLB-14

HOUGHTON

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