

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
M/OPSECRET

December 7, 1960

NEA - Mr. Jones
S/AE - Mr. Farley

For your information or action, there is quoted below an excerpt from the informal notes of M/OP on the OCB luncheon meeting of December 7:

"ISRAELI NUCLEAR PLANT

NA!

"Mr. Gray initiated a general discussion of the Israeli nuclear plant and the Israeli announcement concerning it which is expected in the near future. Mr. Merchant called attention to the great political sensitivity of this matter and urged that we avoid any comment or action which would enhance political complications by raising doubts regarding the announcement or imply US involvement in any way. It was agreed that the Department would be the sole spokesman on this matter and that we would disclaim knowledge and avoid comment to the press. It was generally felt that the Israeli cover story would not be successful for long. In considering the repercussions which were bound to arise from this development, Mr. Merchant proposed that the US adopt the following courses of action:

- (1) That the Department do everything possible to disassociate the US with the Israeli nuclear project in the eyes of the Arab world;
- (2) That we should use the emergence of this project as leverage to persuade India to agree to the IAEA safeguards; and
- (3) That we utilize this development with the USSR insofar as possible in order to obtain Russian agreement on nuclear testing."

Charles E. Rogers
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Deputy Operations Coordinator

Action: NEA - Mr. Jones
S/AE - Mr. FarleyCopies: D - Mr. Gullion
EUR - Mr. Kohler
P - Mr. Berding

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