

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Israel - Bureau
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Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: April 11, 1956

SUBJECT: Israeli Atomic Energy Program

PARTICIPANTS: Israel: Mr. Ernst Bergmann
Mr. I. Pelah
Mr. I. Dostrovsky
Mr. Victor A. Salkind, Scientific Counselor,
Embassy of Israel

AEC: Messrs. Avrill, Bengelsdorf, Thomas Jones, and
Kaufmann

COMESOCOF

State: Mr. Halvor O. Ekorn, S/AE

COPIES TO: AEC
NEA
Embassy Tel Aviv

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Dr. Bergmann and his delegation called at the Division of International Affairs, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, to present a final report on their tour of U.S. atomic energy installations. They expressed their gratitude for the opportunity and confirmed that their visit had been most informative.

The Israeli delegation said that they had decided to construct a heavy water 10 megawatt research reactor fueled by natural uranium, the uranium to be produced in Israel. At the same time, they would like assurances from the AEC that they would be able to obtain research quantities of enriched uranium, and the heavy water necessary to operate their reactor. Dr. Bergmann explained that Israel enjoyed a fairly advanced technological position in the atomic field and wished to skip over the experimental phase of operating a swimming pool type reactor. They had submitted their specifications for the reactor they had in mind to several American companies and would be receiving estimates of the cost and of the time required for construction.

The implementation of the President's offer of \$350,000 towards construction of a reactor was explained to them by Mr. Jones and the Israeli delegation appeared to understand the terms. The visitors also inquired as to training opportunities for specialists and operators, and the AEC spokesmen assured them that suitable arrangements could be made. The same applied to training with regard to the radiological hazards. A further Israeli request for training in metallurgy of reactor components entailed some reservations on the part of the AEC inasmuch as certain aspects of this field are still classified. However, it was thought that some assistance might be found.

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