AMBASSADOR HARIAN TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY TALBOT MARCH 15 THAT
PRIME MINISTER ESHKOL AND FOREIGN MINISTER MEIR TOOK VERY
SERIOUS VIEW OF NEW YORK TIMES DISCLOSURES ON DIMONA REACTOR
(DEPTL 1691). VISITS HAD BEEN HANDLED ON BASIS COMPLETE SECRECY
SO GOI BOILED OVER THAT REPORTER FINNEY ABLE MENTION VISITS
MADE YEAR AGO AND MONTH AND HALF AGO. RESULTS OF DISCLOSURES
UNPREDICTABLE SINCE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL
DELICATE. GOI ALREADY UNDER CRITICISM BY BEN-GURION FOR GIVING
IN TO ALLEGED US PRESSURE ON JERUSALEM PARADE.

TALBOT SAID WE ALSO REGRETTED LEAKS. UNFORTUNATE THAT FINNEY WAS
ABLE TO FOLLOW UP REMARKS OF DEPUTY PRINIP ABBA EBAN ON "MEET
THE PRESS." WE HAD GOTTEN TO EBAN BEFORE ISRAEL EMBASSY AWARE
OF IT AND TO KEY USG OFFICIALS BEFORE DEPARTMENT KNEW IT. WE
WERE LIMITING COMMENT TO BROAD REMARKS DESIGNED TO FUZZ DETAILS.
WE DID NOT ANTICIPATE MORE STORIES.

TALBOT REMARKED PAST MONTHS MARKED BY MOST EXTRAORDINARY LEAKS
WHICH HAD ADVERSE EFFECT UPON CONDUCT QUIET DIPLOMACY IN
NEAR EAST.

GP-3
RUSK