

كنيدى الى إشكول حول قلقه من مفاعل ديمونة

26 أغسطس 1963

واشنطن فى 26 أغسطس 1963، الساعة 7:38 مساء

" عزيزى السيد رئيس الوزراء،

لاقت رسالتكم المؤرخة فى 19 أغسطس ترحيبا هنا. وأنا أقدر مدى صعوبة القرار الذى اتخذتموه، ولكننى مقتنع بأن موافقتكم الكريمة على دعوة علمائنا لزيارة مجمع ديمونة بشكل منتظم، هو تصرف يشى بحكمة عميقة إزاء أمن إسرائيل على المدى الطويل، وبتقدير للواقع الرهيب الذى يفرضه العصر النووى على المجتمع البشرى.

لقد اقترحتم إجراء زيارة مبدئية للمفاعل فى نهاية العام الحالى، خلال مرحلة ما قبل بدء التشغيل. وقد طلبت من السفير بربور البقاء على اتصال معكم، بحيث يمكن ترتيب الزيارة فى وقت يكون فيه قلب المفاعل محملا، وقبل وجود مخاطر من الإشعاع الداخلى.

وقد تحركنا جميعا بفضل التأييد الغامر الذى حظيت به معاهدة حظر التجارب النووية الجزئية مؤخرا، خطوة صغيرة الى الأمام فى اتجاه عالم أكثر سلاما. ويجب أن يكون هدفنا هو مواصلة السعى نحو السيطرة الفعلية على القوة الذرية، بحيث يمكن استخدامها فقط من أجل رفاهية الإنسان. وإن الروح التى عبرتم عنها فى رسالتكم الموجهة لى، مؤثر واضح على أنكم تشاركونى الغرض السامى نفسه.

مع خالص تقديرى وتحياتى،

جون كنيدي

Washington, August 26, 1963, 7:38 p.m.
193. Charge should deliver following
reply to PriMin Eshkol's August 19 letter
re Dimona visits:

"Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

"Your letter of August 19²[See Document 317.](#) was most welcome here. I

appreciate that this was a difficult
decision, yet I am convinced that in
generously agreeing to invite our
scientists to visit the Dimona complex
on the regular basis that was proposed
you have acted from a deep wisdom
regarding Israel's security in the longer
term and the awesome realities which
the atomic age imposes on the
community of man.

You have suggested that an initial visit
take place toward the end of this year in
the pre-startup stage. I am asking
Ambassador Barbour to keep in touch
with you so that the visit can be
arranged for at a time when the reactor's

core is being loaded and before internal radiation hazards have developed.

The recent overwhelming endorsement of the partial test ban treaty has moved us all a small step in the direction of a more peaceful world. Our purpose must be to continue striving toward the effective control of the power of the atom so that it may be used only for the welfare of man. The spirit you have shown in your letter to me is a clear indication that you share that same high purpose.

Sincerely, John F. Kennedy”

In conveying foregoing, you should say: [The following oral instructions were conveyed to the Department of State for transmission to the Embassy in Tel Aviv in a memorandum from McGeorge Bundy to Rusk, August 23, which also informed Rusk that Kennedy had approved the draft letter to Eshkol. \(Kennedy Library, National Security](#)

[Files, Countries Series, Israel, 8/23/63–8/27/63](#)) "President Kennedy has taken note of the Prime Minister's request that for the present information obtained from the visits envisaged in this exchange of letters should not be passed on to Nasser. The USG will of course comply with this request, but the President is also taking note of the fact that the Prime Minister has not fully made up his own mind, and has asked you to express his own belief that there are real advantages for security in setting to rest any fears which might otherwise lead to nuclear weapons acquisitions efforts by others in the area. It was this notion, shared on both sides, which underlay the agreement of May 1961 between the President and Ben-Gurion, and the President hopes that there can be further consideration of this matter as opportunity serves."

You should inform PriMin that you expect President's reply to Ben-Gurion's May 12 letter on Israel's security problems will be received shortly. Embassy should arrange with PriMin a point of continuing contact (perhaps through Science Attachebber on Embassy side) for determination of timing end-1963 visit, keeping Department continuously informed.
Rusk