

of the Ben-Gurion visit, time might now be ripe for you or Mac to take up this question with the President. I think the case for a Nasser visit is strong even if nothing concrete came of it. As a very important wheel in the Arab and neutralist world, he too should get the Kennedy treatment.

"However, I see no reason in waiting until Spring 1962 if we are to start things rolling. We don't want to jump quickly lest it be too obvious we are reacting to Moscow-Cairo differences; on the other hand, if he wants to explore a limited accommodation, a visit should come early in the process. Moreover, Nasser's knowledge that we plan to invite him might make him less obstreperous at the September neutralist confab. Ergo, why not buck attached to President with positive endorsement now. In particular it may be worthwhile to urge course 3 (see Page 3)." (Kennedy Library, National Security Files, Staff Memoranda, Robert Komer)

The same day Bundy forwarded to President Kennedy the May 16 Bowles memorandum and the memorandum of the Fulbright-Kamel conversation under cover of a note that reads in part:

"As you know, things are moving a little better between Nasser and us. The attached suggestion from the Department of State makes sense so long as we are reasonably sure that we could mount a Nasser visit without disruptive action by the Zionists. My hunch is that this should be wholly possible; but you might want to see the judgment of others." (Ibid., Country Series, United Arab Republic, 1/61-6/61)

65. Telegram from the Department of State to the Embassy in the United Arab Republic

Washington, June 15, 1961, 9:13 p.m.

2121. Vienna for Farley. Verbatim text. Chargé requested convey following personal message from Secretary to FonMin Fawzi on June 17 or as soon thereafter as possible:¹

Source: Department of State, Central Files, 110.11-RU/6-1561. Secret, Priority. Drafted by Brewer (NEA/NF) on June 11; cleared by Strong, Talbot, Furnas (S/AF) in draft; Navez (S/S), and Swank (S) in draft; and approved by Talbot who initialed for Rusk. Repeated to Vienna.

¹In addition to this message to the United Arab Republic, on June 17, the Department of State instructed Near Eastern posts to inform host governments of the results of the scientists' visit to the Dimona reactor. Circular telegram 2047, June 17; *ibid.*, 883A, 1901/6-1761. The telegram has not been found in Department of State files, but it is summarized in a "Chronology of Israel Assurances of Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and Related Events," March 18, 1961, *ibid.*, A3, n.180.