

245. Editorial Note

On May 13, 1963, CIA Director McCone discussed with Secretary Rusk at some length Israel's nuclear energy program and its prospects for producing nuclear weapons. According to McCone's record of the meeting, [3 paragraphs of text not declassified] (Memorandum for the Record, May 14; Central Intelligence Agency, Job 80 D 01285A, DCI (McCone) Files, Memoranda for the Record)

On May 15, McCone met with President Kennedy and discussed Israel's nuclear energy program. According to McCone's notes, [1 paragraph of text not declassified].

McCone made the following note for action to be taken: [1 paragraph of text not declassified]. (Memorandum for the Record, May 17; *ibid.*)

246. Memorandum From the Department of State Executive Secretary (Brubeck) to the President's Special Assistant for National Security Affairs (Bundy)

Washington, May 14, 1963.

SUBJECT

Message from Israel Prime Minister Ben-Gurion to the President

On May 14, the Israel Ambassador handed the Department the letter of May 12 from Prime Minister Ben-Gurion to the President. This letter replies to the President's message of May 5.¹

The Prime Minister's message contains the following principal elements:

1. A long, critical commentary on Nasser and Nasser's intentions.
2. Mention of the threat to Israel which could follow any change of government in Jordan.

Source: Department of State, Central Files, POL 1 ISR-US. Secret. Drafted by Crawford and cleared by Strong and Talbot.

¹ The memorandum of Harman's conversation with Talbot, May 14, is *ibid.*, POL ARAB-ISR. Ben Gurion's letter is attached to the source text but not printed. For Kennedy's letter, see Document 236.