

261. Memorandum by the Working Group on Near East Arms  
Limitation

Washington, undated.

MEMORANDUM FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY

SUBJECT

Arms Limitation and Control Arrangement for the Near East

*I. Problem:*

- A. [2-1/2 lines of source text not declassified]
- B. Both Israel and the UAR are also devoting increasing efforts to the development of strategic missiles. Israel will shortly overtake the UAR's present lead.
- C. Israel, meanwhile, is seeking greater degree of security assurances from the U.S. through a public security guarantee.
- D. The UAR's compulsion to counter such developments is likely to bring it into increasing dependence on the Soviet Union for its security.
- E. Nuclear proliferation in the Near East, if allowed to continue unchecked, will reduce U.S. capability to intervene. It will also have a disturbing effect on world stability leading other larger countries to feel they must develop their own nuclear capability.

*II. Objective:*

That the U.S. obtain Israel and UAR agreement not to acquire, at a minimum, (1) nuclear weapons and (2) surface to surface strategic missiles, and that the U.S. maintain unobtrusive, reasonably simple surveillance by the consent of the parties, which will complement their own efforts.

*III. Plan of Action:*

*A. Undertaking an Initial Approach:*

- 1. The Presidential emissary will undertake a secret probe, arriving in Cairo for a three day visit early in June, thence proceeding to a third country and returning via Israel. Both Nasser and Ben-Gurion will be apprised in advance by Presidential communication and firm assurance will be sought from both to keep the approach secret.

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Source: Department of State, NEA/IAI Files: Lot 80 D 102, JPG Master Copy Probe #7 Jan 1963 (Arms/McCloy). Top Secret. Presumably this is the memorandum Komer forwarded to President Kennedy on May 31; see Document 260. Thirteen attachments, none printed, contain additional guidance on a variety of issues related to the arms limitation initiative. A handwritten note at the top of the source text reads: "The Secretary. (Return directly to Grant)." b7c