

**SECRET**

35-3.42

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

7. Israel Preparing Case to Justify  
Development of Independent Nu-  
clear Capability

The government appears to be preparing a case to justify development of an independent nuclear capability. It is also preparing for an intensified campaign to obtain advanced weapons systems from foreign sources--particularly the US.

The US Embassy in Tel Aviv believes that such a course is clearly indicated by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's recent public statements emphasizing that limitations on arms in the Middle East as favored by the US would in effect deny arms to Israel alone, except in the unlikely event that the Soviet Union took similar action regarding the Arab states. Placing Israel at such a disadvantage, the prime minister said, is likely to increase the danger of war in the Middle East.

Ben-Gurion stated that neither a guarantee nor any alliance is sufficient for Israel's protection without adequate independent strength. The Knesset subsequently adopted a resolution to increase Israel's "deterrent strength."

These actions have been accompanied by intensive propaganda at home and abroad, on the increased threat that the projected union of Egypt, Iraq, and Syria allegedly poses for Israel. In actuality, these states have been so preoccupied with their own difficulties that they have made no progress on the unification of their armed forces, which was to have been one of the first steps to implement their union.  
(SECRET)

**SECRET**

**NATIONAL  
SECURITY  
ARCHIVE**

This document is from the holdings of:

The National Security Archive

Suite 701, Gelman Library, The George Washington University

2130 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20037

Phone: 202/994-7000, Fax: 202/994-7005, [nsarchiv@gwu.edu](mailto:nsarchiv@gwu.edu)