



~~SECRET~~

This document consists of 3 pages

No. of Copies, Series B

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

85a

Jan. 30, 1964

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ/RAE 03-229

By , NARA, Date 4-13-04

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Report on U.S. Inspection Team Visit to Dimona, Israel

This will report briefly and in a preliminary manner on a recent visit to Israel by a U. S. inspection team consisting of Richard W. Cook, Vice President, American Machine and Foundry Company (AMF), Ulysses M. Staebler, Atomic Energy Commission, and Clyde L. McClelland, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

The inspection team visited the Weizmann Institute at Rehovot, the AMF built reactor at the Nahal Soreq site, the ore processing plant at Haifa, and on Saturday, January 18, 1964, spent over 11 hours at the Dimona reactor site.

The team believes that all significant facilities at this site were inspected and that the circumstances permitted an adequate inspection of the reactor which was clearly designed as an experimental reactor with the acknowledged possibility of operation at 15-20% above its designed power level of 26 MW. This involves the use of only two cooling loops of the three available.

It was the impression of the inspection team that research was the present intention of the Israelis with the Dimona reactor. It was also the impression of the team that the Dimona site and the equipment located there represented an ambitious project for a country with Israel's capabilities.

The following is a summary of pertinent information provided to the team by the Israelis or deduced by the team from their observations and discussions:

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

~~SECRET~~

This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

FEB 7 1964

1518

*We may suggest
to send first!*

- a. The Dimona reactor went critical on December 26, 1963. Full power operation is not expected until late 1964, until which time an extensive series of tests will be conducted.
- b. The first core for the Dimona reactor was supplied by France; fuel from France is subject to control and is committed to be returned to the French.
- c. There is a possibility that the next core could be fabricated at Dimona; however, discussions are now underway with the French to obtain a second core from France. Fuel for the third and subsequent cores will definitely be of domestic origin.
- d. There are approximately 10 tons of uranium at Dimona, only about one ton of which is from Israeli ore. (This indicates a present domestic uranium output far below U.S. previously estimated capability for ore processing. The team's visit at the ore processing pilot plant at Haifa confirmed this low rate of production.)
- e. The Israelis are building sufficient ore processing, metal conversion and fuel fabrication facilities to supply their future reactor fuel requirements well beyond those needed for normal research reactor operation.
- f. Construction of an irradiated fuel reprocessing pilot plant has been delayed.
- g. A small quantity of plutonium for experimental work has been supplied to Israel by France.
- h. Security control of the Dimona site will be maintained at least until the plant is completed in a year or so, at which time it is quite likely the plant will be declassified.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 3 -

The U.S. Scientific Attache from the U.S. Embassy in Israel informed the team that the Israeli Government desired no release to a third country of any information given to or obtained by the U.S. team. It is considered essential to honor this request, including, especially the fact that the visit took place. The fact of the visit and the information obtained therefrom also are considered highly sensitive from the point of view of U.S. interests.

HARRY S. TRAYNOR
AEC Representative to the
U.S. Intelligence Board

~~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