

~~SECRET~~ SENSITIVE

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

27 November 1968

In reply refer to:  
I-26174/68

His Excellency  
Lieutenant General Yitzhak Rabin  
Ambassador of Israel  
2916 Chesapeake Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

DECLASSIFIED

Authority FCIS 64-68, 101-204333

By JC NARA, Date 7-26-01

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

This will acknowledge and respond to your letter of 22 November 1968, requesting on behalf of the Government of Israel that the United States sell to the Government of Israel fifty Phantom aircraft and related equipment and training. The Government of the United States agrees to sell to the Government of Israel fifty F-4 Phantom aircraft and related equipment and services in accordance with this exchange of letters and technical and financial annexes to be negotiated separately. This transaction is subject to the provisions of the Foreign Military Sales Act and the Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement of July 23, 1952.

The United States Government, for its part, accepts the assurances given by the Government of Israel as stated in your letter:

"On its part the Government of Israel reaffirms its long-standing policy as laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding of March 10, 1965, that it will not be the first power in the Middle East to introduce nuclear weapons and agrees not to use any aircraft supplied by the United States as a nuclear weapons carrier."

In this connection, I have made clear the position of the United States Government that the physical possession and control of nuclear arms by a Middle Eastern power would be deemed to constitute the introduction of nuclear weapons.

I wish also to confirm the understanding of the Government of Israel as set forth in the fifth paragraph of your letter of 22 November 1968. Such unusual and compelling circumstances would exist in the event of action inconsistent with your policy and agreement as set forth in your letter.

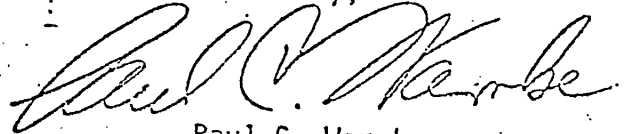
The agreement contained in the last paragraph of your letter concerning the secrecy of this undertaking is satisfactory to us.

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It is understood that we can now proceed to negotiate the technical and financial details of this transaction.

Sincerely,



Paul C. Warnke