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Dept. of State, ISS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

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TOP SECRET
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

17 MAR 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of State
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Director, Central Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: Stopping the Introduction of Nuclear Weapons Into the Middle East

25X1 and 6, E.O.13526

On February 27, 1969, I sent you a memorandum advising you I was persuaded that [redacted] at a rapid pace and may have both this year. I suggested that such developments were not in the United States' interests and should, if at all possible, be stopped. Furthermore, I suggested we should meet at the earliest opportunity to consider measures which the United States could take to preclude further Israeli nuclear missile development. Finally, I recommended we meet with the President, following our meeting, to discuss the difficult and dangerous issues posed by the possibility of nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

Since February 27 I have seen additional evidence of activity that would enhance Israel's capability in developing nuclear weapons. I refer to the granting, last June and October, of export licenses for two CDC 6400 computers and one IBM 360/65 computer for Israel. As Dave Packard indicated in his March 14, 1969, memorandum to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce, we believe the CDC 6400, in particular, could be a critical tool in nuclear weapons development. Although I understand one of the two CDC 6400s has been shipped, I strongly indorse Dave Packard's recommendation that shipment of the second CDC 6400 be withheld until we have had the opportunity to discuss this whole problem area.

I wish to repeat my request, moreover, that we meet at the earliest possible opportunity to exchange views on the possible introduction of nuclear weapons into the Middle East and that we maintain the closest possible consultation on all matters which could affect such an eventuality. I would like to suggest a meeting in my office at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 22. If that time is not convenient, would you please suggest alternative times that would be preferable.

[Signature]

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