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Our study of Feldman's useful exploratory talks in Israel leads us con-

clude that although Israel's leaders are understandably hesitant to state

carte blanche acquiescence in implementation Johnson Plan equally they have

apparently NOT repeat NOT found in Plan sufficient hazards to Israel to justify

immediate
its/rejection. Objections put up by Ben-Gurion and Mrs. Meir seem to us essen-

tially diversionary. In short, we have come out of this phase just about where

we might have expected.

Having explored preliminary reactions on one side without meeting rejec-

tion, we think similar exploration should be carried out on other. By these

we NOT repeat NOT necessarily committed finally to proceed with Johnson Plan

at this time. Rather, we will have facts on which this Government can determine

whether worthwhile commit US to Plan and attempt proceed its implementation.

Accordingly, you instructed proceed with Alternative ONE repeat ONE as

modified by DEPTEL 184, particularly in regard to stress you should lay on

essentiality of UAR's avoiding provocative propaganda if Plan to work.

XEAX

Drafted by:
NEA:IE:WRCrawford:ebb 8/22/62

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:
The Secretary

Clearances:
NEA:Mr. Grant   White House:Mr. Bundy   White House:Mr. Komer

S/S - Mr. Furnas

SECRET EYES ONLY

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In stating situation on Hawks for Israel, you should make clear that this not matter of our desire make offer or gift, but of the inability of US, along with other countries, turn down repeated and insistent requests for purchase. In the light of continuing UAR acquisitions of new types of equipment and in the absence of any limitation on the arms race in the area. You should emphasize purely defensive character this system and the long lead time in any undertaking which leaves room for effective work toward arms limitation in the area.

END.

RUSK