

The third and final stage of The West Indies bases negotiations will take place early in February 1961 at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. At that time a new master agreement will be signed replacing the 1941 leased-bases agreement and subsequent agreements.

U.S. Notes Reports of Israel's Atomic Energy Activities

Department Statement

Press release 702 dated December 19

The Department of State has noted press reports of statements by Israeli Government spokesmen concerning the peaceful character of Israeli atomic energy activities. The Department welcomes these reported assurances that the Government of Israel has no intention of producing nuclear weapons and that its program is concerned exclusively with the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

U.S.-Israeli cooperation in the field of atomic energy is limited to research cooperation under President Eisenhower's atoms-for-peace program. In the same way as we have done in many countries in pursuance of our atoms-for-peace program, we have assisted Israel in constructing near Rehoboth a small research reactor for peaceful purposes and we have exchanged unclassified atomic energy information with Israel. Our bilateral agreement with Israel¹ provides that our assistance may not be developed into military use and that safeguards, including inspection, will be enforced to this end.

United States cooperation or assistance in any program to develop a nuclear weapon capability would not be possible. Such action would be precluded both by our policy of discouraging the proliferation of independent nuclear weapons capabilities and by the U.S. Atomic Energy Act.

As a result of unofficial reports to the effect that a new and larger nuclear reactor was under construction in Israel, the Secretary of State called in the Ambassador of Israel [Avraham Harman] on December 9 to express his concern and to request information. A response has not yet been received.

¹Treaties and Other International Acts Series 3311.

President's Representative on Cuban Refugee Problem Submits Report

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

DECEMBER 19, 1960.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On November 10th you asked me to act for you to look into problems relating to more than 80,000 Cuban refugees now in this country, and to report to you.¹

On December 2d you authorized me also to act for you on a temporary emergency basis to deal with urgent situations of hardship affecting some of these refugees. This was because it had become clear that such action was needed immediately, while several weeks would be required to assemble firm statistical information as to the numbers of these people in need of help, on which to base a responsible final report to you. For such immediate needs you made available to me moneys from the contingency fund of the Mutual Security Program.

At that time I stated that as soon as possible I would submit an interim report. Its purpose is to furnish for you, for the public here and abroad, and for the refugees themselves, as much information about the problem and the steps being taken as can be given pending the development of the firmer statistical data above mentioned which is now in process. Such an interim report is herewith respectfully submitted.

Faithfully yours,

TRACY S. VOORHEES

THE PRESIDENT
The White House
Washington, D.C.

INTERIM REPORT ON THE CUBAN REFUGEE PROBLEM

The Influx of Cuban Refugees

For the second time within four years our country has become the place of refuge for very large numbers of human beings who have come to our shores for asylum from oppression in their homelands.

Four years ago the United States opened its heart and its homes to 33,000 Hungarians.²

¹ BULLETIN of Dec. 12, 1960, p. 888.

² For text of the final report of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugee Relief, see *ibid.*, June 17, 1957, p. 984.