

bearing. For this reason, and because there is some possibility that the U.S. and U.K. have agreed to "squeeze" Israel and might regard the release of this shipment as affecting such a squeeze, I would recommend that a decision be deferred and the U.S. and U.K. be consulted.²²

(d) You will recall that the Israelis have pressed you on several occasions to release their order for seventy 6-pounder anti-tank guns. As in the case of the Browning machine guns, this constitutes a fairly substantial order and these guns have a mixed offensive-defensive capability. Even prior to the Lake Tiberias incident and the recent discussions in Washington, both the U.K. and the U.S. had some misgivings about releasing these guns to Israel. In the present circumstances, I would recommend that they be not released.²³

(e) The Canadian Commercial Corporation has been asked if it can provide for the Israeli Government the drawings necessary for converting the River-class frigates now held by the Israeli Navy into anti-submarine vessels equipped with (i) squids, (ii) four 40-mm. anti-aircraft guns and (iii) Mark 19 twin four-inch dual-purpose guns. The drawings can be made available and it appears that there are no security objections to their release. The J.I.B. have pointed out that the proposed alterations to these vessels are not merely a matter of bolting a few guns to the deck surface but would involve something fairly close to major reconstruction of the hull. Thus, the process is likely to be considerably more expensive than the Israelis may suspect. These drawings are of Canadian origin, and the Israelis were advised by the U.K. to apply to us for them. The alterations which they would permit would as their major effect serve to increase the defensive and anti-submarine capabilities of the vessels in question, although the addition of four-inch dual-purpose guns might provide an increase in offensive fire power. By far the most important change, however, would be the addition of the squids, which I understand are solely an anti-submarine weapon. In the circumstances, I would recommend (subject to J.I.B. advice which has been requested but not yet received) that these drawings be released. The Israelis should be warned, if the drawings are delivered, that the alterations proposed are very far-reaching and expensive and that they should consider carefully whether it is advisable to proceed with them.²⁴

6. I should be grateful for your comments on the criteria which have been suggested above and on the recommendations made on the five particular cases.

7. You might also indicate whether for the time being you would wish us to suspend the previously established procedure and refer to you *all* applications for arms exports to the Middle East, regardless of size.²⁵

J. L[ÉGER]

²² Note marginale :/Marginal Note:
This has been done. [L.B. Pearson]

²³ Note marginale :/Marginal Note:
I agree L.B. P[earson]

²⁴ Note marginale :/Marginal Note:
Yes L.B. P[earson]

²⁵ Note marginale :/Marginal Note:
Yes. I will take all these up at the next Cabinet. L.B. P[earson]