

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER WITH REGARD TO THE SPEECH OF PRESIDENT  
JOHNSON OF FEBRUARY 6TH, 1964.

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It was with great interest and satisfaction that I learned of the important statement of the President of the United States, Mr. Lyndon Johnson, made at the dinner held by the Weizmann Institute of Science in New-York late last week.

It is imperative for Israel, perhaps more than any other state in the world, to find a suitable economic solution to the problem of sweetening the waters of the sea. The solution of this problem is to a great extent based on the hope that it will be possible to harness cheap nuclear power to desalinate water. For years, Israel's scientific institutions have been engaged in research into the various problems relating to desalination of water, and have invested great sums in this programme. As a matter of course these institutions maintain scientific relationships and exchanges of information with various institutes of science and research throughout the world in general, and in the United States in particular.

Because of the implacable logic of Israel's needs, the size of its arid areas, and its scientific potential, Israel may very well serve as a pilot plant for applied research in this area. This may be an intermediary stage between pure scientific research and its wide-scale industrial application and exploitation.

The readiness of the United States to co-operate with Israel in desalinating water, as expressed by President Johnson, merits our particular appreciation.

Israel, on its part, will welcome continued and widening co-operation between it and the United States in this field as in other scientific areas.

The results of Israel's research work and projects for sweetening salt water will in due course be placed at the disposal of other countries throughout the world, and particularly of the states in our region which suffer from lack of water.

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