I heard from Albert Sabin at the end of June from Geneva, and again on the 10th July when he was passing through London, about your meeting.

Talking to him brought me back to our conversations many years ago when we spoke about the manufacture in Israel of wet process phosphoric acid (merchant grade) by conventional sulphuric acid attack. This we did long before the decision was taken - very much against my counsel - at the end of 1967 and beginning of 1968 to develop the Arad complex on the basis of "Allied" fluid bed technology, so far as the manufacture of hydrochloric acid is concerned.

Albert said he had heard that there is phosphate rock and potash in Iran. I haven't had any news to this effect but they will have plenty of ammonia in due course, and they also have sulphur. I have been talking for a long time now about a co-operative effort between Israel and Iran involving wet process manufacture of merchant phosphoric acid in Israel (sulphuric acid to be produced from imported Iranian sulphur). Such a plant per se may not be entirely conventional because of the relatively high NaCl content of Negev rock, but this point could be taken care of. Israeli phosphoric acid and potash could go to Iran, to be swapped against sulphur and ammonia.

This would enable Iran to produce fertilisers for consumption east of Suez. Conversely Israel could venture west on the basis of imported ammonia and sulphur together with indigenous P₂O₅ and K₂O. It may also have been an idea, when Iran had still plenty of money, for the Shah to buy a non-controlling share in ICL - for political reasons indirectly, say through a merchant bank in Western Europe.

Continued ...
I haven't seen you or heard directly from you for a long time. Are you ever coming to London?

In the meantime, I remain, with kindest regards to Rosa and you, also from Trude,

Frank Schon

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cc: Dr. Albert B. Sabin