

**July 20, 1960**

**Letter from South African Ambassador A.G. Dunn to  
South African Department for Foreign Affairs  
Official M.I. Botha on the Sale of Uranium to Israel**

**Citation:**

"Letter from South African Ambassador A.G. Dunn to South African Department for Foreign Affairs Official M.I. Botha on the Sale of Uranium to Israel", July 20, 1960, Wilson Center Digital Archive, South African National Archive, BLO 353, PS17/109/12 vol. 2. Obtained and contributed by Sasha Polakow-Suransky.  
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**Summary:**

South African Ambassador to the United States A.G. Dunn states that the United States would not approve of South Africa selling uranium to Israel even if the contract specified that they would obey IAEA safeguards once they were implemented worldwide.

**Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

2-4/73

EMBASSY OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA  
3101 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. U.S.A.

20th July, 1960.

SECRET

Airbag (Safehand)

The Secretary for External Affairs,

PRETORIA



Sale of Uranium to Israel.

Your minute 137/11/35 of July 7th, 1960, to Vienna refers.

If the attitudes revealed by the Americans in the course of conversations relative to the application of safeguards to all contracts for the provision of uranium can be taken as a continuing criterion, then it must be expected that the Americans would view with disfavour the conclusion of a contract in terms of which the purchaser would be prepared to subject uranium so obtained to an IAEA safeguards provisions if and when these were applied on the world-wide scale.

The Americans, perhaps not without reason, are concerned that such contracts, while superficially adhering to the principle of the eventual application of a safeguards system under the aegis of the IAEA, would nevertheless encourage the postponement of such a system and also the free-for-all which they would decry.

In parenthesis it might be mentioned that in a very recent conversation with the State Department official concerned with safeguards, the impression was created by the official concerned that the Americans are confident of being able to muster sufficient support amongst Western and uncommitted countries for a satisfactory safeguards system being pushed through the Conference in September. It is understood that the tactics that the Americans propose to follow have been reported to you by our Mission in Vienna and it would be appreciated if your decision in the matter, when reached, could also be communicated to this Embassy.

Copy to London, Vienna, Ottawa and Canberra.

K.T.G.T.DUM

Chargé d'Affaires a.i.