April 29, 1964

Letter from Alan C. Goodison, Eastern Department of the Foreign Office to Arthur R. H. Kellas, British Embassy

Citation:

"Letter from Alan C. Goodison, Eastern Department of the Foreign Office to Arthur R. H. Kellas, British Embassy", April 29, 1964, Wilson Center Digital Archive, British National Archives (Kew Gardens), FO 371/175843. Originally published in Avner Cohen and William Burr, eds., National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book #432 (June 25, 2013). https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/117127

Summary:

In a letter to Arthur Kellas, counselor at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, Alan Goodison of the Foreign Office's Eastern Department disclosed the Argentine-Israel uranium deal, which involved the transfer of 80-100 tons over 33 months. Since evidence suggested that Israel had facilities for plutonium separation, they estimated that there would be enough plutonium for a weapon within 20 months; however, Goodison had no proof that the Israelis planned to produce a nuclear weapon, only that they had the capability to do so. Minutes are attached.

Credits:

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

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

BR1241 15 / G 65 ENATERS 17 (A TRAEL FROM F.O. Minule SUBJECT: A C. Goodizon Canadian authorities reported agreement between Aggentine Republic and Israel for SECRET sale of between & and 100 tons of manum No. Apr 29th concertate and period 33 months. Dated Received Apr 30th References MINUTES ((Gacai) Sa_ 30/4 Mr. Dagans Mis. NEAD Mr Da AEDD Mr. Razstone General Dept Leaky JV % Mr Wiele Parso Mr Stevengen Fet Steren (Printing Instructions) 30/4 An HELLAS TELA It Beast the Israelis which to ratain the And any fork on their nuclear road, where they option ce Cy - and land Byense confronted with fuely civil as against civil plus inititary ane D.J. Mailland Cario F.E. Ramsbolken Pare they . yotho ,

the latter. Alland -F.R. HWight, Washington Kitturger, D.S. b. Askell, D.S. A.D. Pedsak, CRC, 88 Mso this such throws light an recent brach 8) D. Ankell, D.I.S. pronouncements a the litter & safeguards. This why reinfrees my cashir comments a that subject a induse the last rentence of Mr Goodism's letter. (Action (Main Indexed) Completed) But Jun Clastine 5/1-1/2/66 HEX DS (Mr. Shiphind) wit yet son? W. DS- from the May J235 59897 5 PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE Reference: -371/175843/ER 1241/15G FO COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

2.552.6 Manufar als in the state of the second se . SECRET AND GUARD 88 legistry No. Insert Telephone No. & Ext. when appropriate. Top Secret. Secret. and Guard Confidential. ACG Restricted. 28/4 Open. The Canadian Intelligence Authorities Draft. Letter to: have informed the Defence Intelligence Staff A.R.H. Kellas, Esq. that the Argentine Republic and Israel have British Embassy, Tel Aviv. signed an agreement for the sale of the entire From: Argentine production of uranium concentrate MARGIN A.C. Goodison to Israel. This involves the transfer of 80-100 tons of concentrate over a period of THIS 33 months. This means that Israel now has Copy to: victually unhunted undertaken supplies of uranium free of safe-C.J. Audland, Esq. Z British Embassy, guards. Buenos Aires. If as recent evidence leads us to suppose 2. WRITTEN D.J. Maitland, Esq. the Israelis have adequate facilities for British Embassy, Cairo. plutonium separation it now appears on a P.E.Ramsbotham, Esq. British Embassy, very rough estimate that she would have 8 Paris. enough plutonium to fuel a nuclear bomb P.R.H. Wright, Esq. 6 beginning British Embassy, after between 18 and 20 months from the date Washington. Skillis year NOTHING when the Dimona reactor became critical, D. Arkell, Esq., that is to say in June or August 1965. Defence Intelligence and Although this information is unconfirmed Staff, 3. Metropole Bldgs.

Aw 200 parts CRO NEAD AED ya.a H (87285)

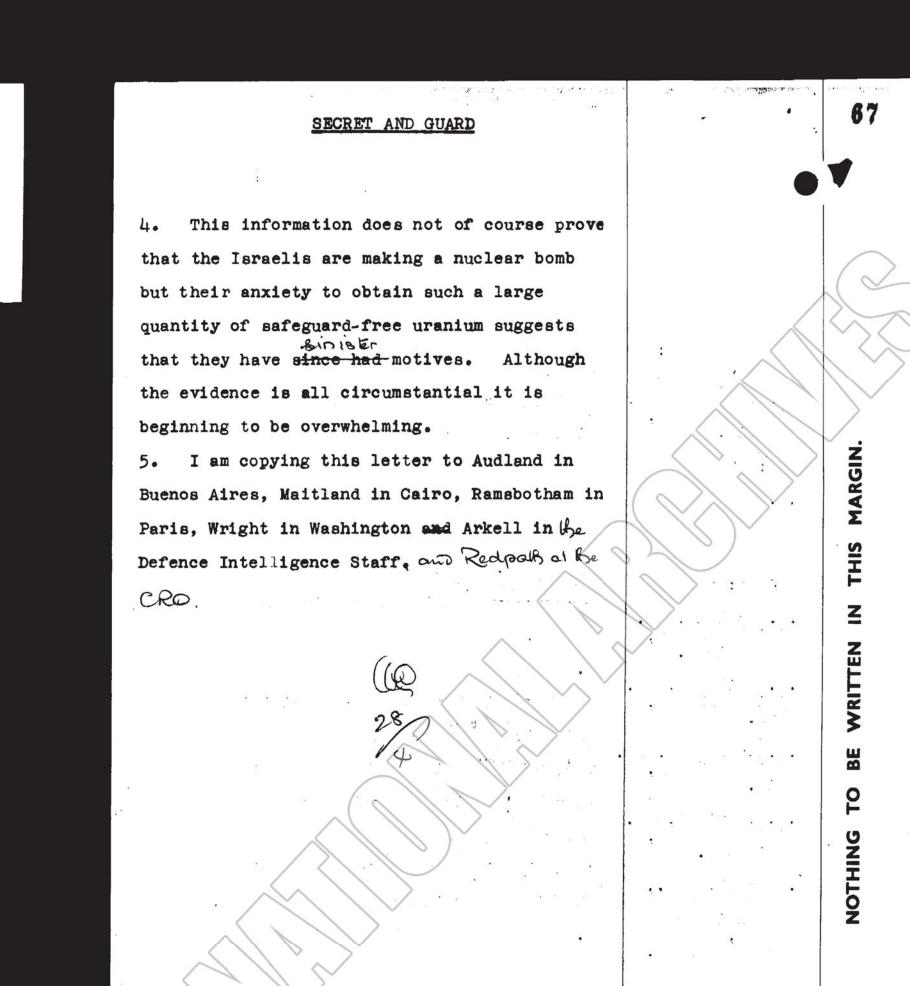
looking for a buyer for their uranium. If you or Buenos Aires can obtain any confirmation of it we should be very grateful. Since this is Canadian information we are not in a position to hand it over to the Americans. We understand that the Canadians are reluctant to do so because the Americans have refused them information on their recent inspection of Dimona; we shall be talking further to the Councision bere that this is pethaps short. Sight?. Canadians about this.

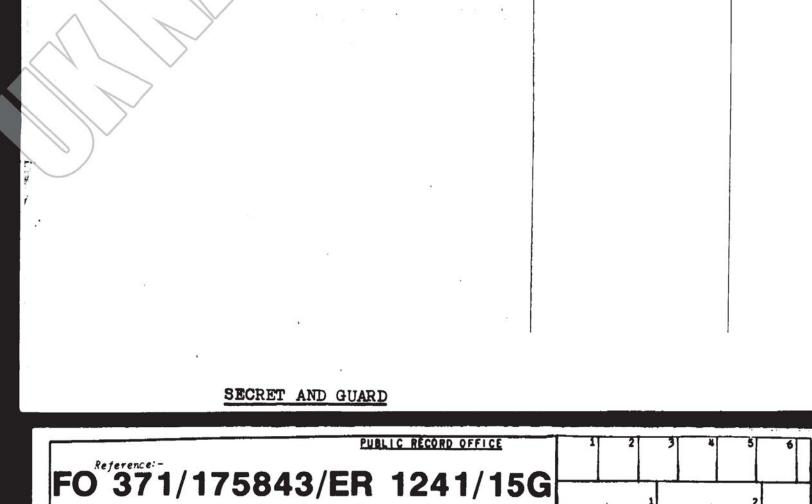
we know that last November the Argentine were

14. This

SECRET AND GUARD

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE	1	2	3	4	5	6
FO ^{*/} 371/175843/ER 1241/15G						
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WI	THOUT	PERMIS	SION	111		111







Desp in Rept

RE-LIVED IN ARCHIVES

30 APR 19

ERIANIS

68

SECRET AND GUARD FOREIGN OFFICE S.W.1. April 29,-1964. The Canadian Intelligence authorities have informed the Defence Intelligence Staff that the Argentine Repulie and Israel have signed an agreement for the sale of the entire Argentine production of uranium concentrate to Israel. This involves the transfer of 80-100 tons of concentrate over a period of 33 months. This means that Israel now has virtually unlimited supplies of uranium free of safeguarda. If, as recent evidence leads us to suppose, the 2. Israelis have facilities for plutenium separation it now appears on a very rough estimate that she would have enough plutonium to fuel a nuclear bomb after between 18 and 20 months from the beginning of this year when the Dimona reactor became critical, that is to say in June or August 1965. Although this information is unconfirmed we know 3. that last November the Argentine were looking for a buyer for their uranium. If you or Buenos Aires can obtain any confirmation of it we should be very grateful. Since this is Canadian information we are not in a position to hand it over to the Americans. We understand that the Canadians are reluctant to do so because the Americans have refused them information on their recent inspection of Dimona; I have suggested to the Canadian High Commission here that this is perhaps short-sighted. 4. This information does not of course prove that the Israelis are making a nuclear bomb but their anxiety to obtain such a large quantity of safeguard-free uranium suggests that they have simister motives. Although the

> I am copying this letter to Audland in Buebos Aires, 5.

Maitiand in Cairo, Remsbotham in Paris, Wright in Washington, Arkell in the Defence Intelligence Staff, and Redpath at the C.R.O.

evidence is all circumstantial it is beginding to be

(A.C. Goodison)

A.R.H. Kellas, Esq., British Embassy, TEL AVIV.

overwhelming.

SECRET AND GUARD

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE		2	3	4	5	6
FO 371/175843/ER 1241/15	<u>c</u>					
FU 3/ 1/ 1/3043/En 1241/13		1	1		2	
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALL	Y WITHOUT	PERMIS	SION			