

June 22, 1964

**Letter from R. J. T. McLaren, Eastern Department of
the Foreign Office, to A. M. Warburton, British
Embassy Bonn.**

Citation:

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<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/117193>

Summary:

McLaren wonders why the West Germans want safeguard-free uranium from the Argentine government, noting that it could be re-exported to Israel. He also confirms that information about the Argentine-Israeli deal had been passed to the Americans.

Credits:

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RS

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Registry No. ER 1241/21G.

Top Secret.
Secret. & Guard
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Insert Telephone No. & Ext. when appropriate.

Draft.

Miss A.M. Warburton,
Brown

from

R.S.T. Nicholls

Copy to :-

A.L.H. Kellas, Tel Aviv

F.R.H. Wright,
Washington

C.J. Andland,
Buenos Aires,

D. Arkell,

D.  ENCL. (brown)

Copy

1. Copy of Mr Goodison's letter of 17 April 29 at ER 1241/15 G

2. Copy of Mr Andland's letter of June 9 at 7/21 G

3. The earlier correspondence was marked 'Guard'. This letter is not so marked because the information which was the subject of Goodison's letter of April 29 has now, with Canadian permission, been passed to the Americans.

(87285) Hw.

I enclose ~~copy~~ copies of correspondence we have had with the Embassy in Buenos Aires on the subject of sales of safeguard-free Argentine uranium concentrate to Israel.

2. You will note from Andland's letter of June 4 that the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission has recently sold uranium concentrate to West Germany. This strikes us as odd. What would the Germans want with safeguard-free uranium? One suspicion (and, I hope, unlikely) possibility is that they might want to reexport it to Israel. On the face of it this seems very unlikely but in view of the air of mystery surrounding the subject of German military assistance to Israel the kite seems just worth flying.

Uranium sales could conceivably amount for some of the very large sums mentioned in your letter 10644/59 of June 2 to Alan Goodison. This is obviously a delicate subject to raise with the Germans but we should be very grateful for anything you may be able to find out.

I am sending copies of this letter to Kellas in Tel Aviv, Wright in Washington, Andland in Buenos Aires and Arkell in the Defence Intelligence staff.

without enclosures
16/6
RS/6

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(ER 1241/21/G

SECRET

June 22, 1964

--- I enclose copies of correspondence we have had with the Embassy in Buenos Aires on the subject of sales of safeguard-free Argentine uranium concentrate to Israel.

2. You will note from Audland's letter of June 4 that the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission has recently sold uranium concentrate to West Germany. This strikes us as odd. What would the Germans want with safeguard-free uranium? One ominous possibility is that they might want to re-export it to Israel. On the face of it this seems very unlikely but in view of the air of mystery surrounding the subject of German military assistance to Israel the kite seems just worth flying. Uranium sales could conceivably amount for some of the very large sums mentioned in your letter 10644/59 of June 2 to Alan Goodison (not to all). This is obviously a delicate subject to raise with the Germans but we should be very grateful for anything you may be able to find out.

3. The earlier correspondence was marked 'Guard'. This letter is not so marked because the information which was the subject of Goodison's letter of April 29 has now, with Canadian permission, been passed to the Americans.

4. I am sending copies of this letter without enclosures to Kellas in Tel Aviv, Wright in Washington, Audland in Buenos Aires and Askill in the Defence Intelligence Staff.

(R.J.T. McLaren)

Miss A.M. Warburton,
BONN.

SECRET

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