



July 06, 1964
Letter from Arthur R. H. Kellas, British Embassy in Tel Aviv, to Alan C. Goodison, Eastern Department of the Foreign Office

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Summary:

In response to Alan Goodison's April 29 letter, which referred to evidence for an Israeli plutonium separation facility, Arthur Kellas, counselor to the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, states that the British Embassy had "not seen such evidence [for a separation facility] and should be grateful to know what it is."

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TEL AVIV

July 6, 1964

Dear Sir,
You will recall that in your letter of April 29 about the sale of uranium concentrate to Israel, you said that, "as recent evidence leads us to suppose, the Israelis have facilities for plutonium separation".

2. We have not seen such evidence and should be grateful to know what it is. The extent of our knowledge here,

is that Dimona has a tall chimney which could be dual purpose and serve a chemical separation plant as well as the reactor proper. As to room for the plant itself, it could undoubtedly be small enough to be hidden within the existing reactor. We ourselves still agree with the French appreciation reported in Ramsbotham's letter no. 1247/16/64 of June 11, viz. that the Israelis will want to put themselves in a position to build a nuclear weapon ("to put themselves in a position to make a nuclear bomb if they wanted to") but we do not know that they have yet done so. Could you let us know on what your statement is based? It is obviously important to know whether the Israelis have a chemical separation plant or not.

3. I am sending copies of this letter to Ramsbotham in Paris, Wright in Washington and Maitland in Cairo, and enclose copies for the Defence Intelligence Staff and the Commonwealth Relations Office.

Yours sincerely,

A. R. H. Kellas

(A. R. H. Kellas)

A. C. Goodison, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

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