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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BRITISH EMBASSY

TEL AVIV

July 6, 1964

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 - 1247
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 etc,

(A. R. H. Kellas)

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

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