

January 8, 1964

Cable from the US Embassy in France to the Department of State

Citation:

"Cable from the US Embassy in France to the Department of State", January 8, 1964, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives of the United States (NARA), Record Group 59, Department of State Records Subject-Numeric File, 1964-1966 Inco-Uranium. Originally published in Avner Cohen and William Burr, eds., National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book #432 (June 25, 2013).

<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/117054>

Summary:

This telegram, sent through the special "Roger channel" used for intelligence subjects, refers to an earlier embassy message, number 2319, dated November 12, 1963, which has yet to be found at the US at the National Archives. That telegram may refer to French actions to halt the supply of uranium to Israel which were alluded to indirectly in this message. Jacques Martin, a French Foreign Ministry expert on nuclear matters, told US embassy officials that the Israelis, who had refused to sign an agreement to purchase uranium exclusively from France, were looking for other sources, most likely Belgium and Argentina.

Credits:

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English

Contents:

Original Scan

TELEGRAM Department of State

AE 11-21SR
HE 1-1 FR-1SR

(D) INCO-URANIUM

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SECRET

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DATE: JANUARY 8, 6 P.M.

SECRET

ROGER CHANNEL FOR GRANT AND TYLER.

RE EMBTEL 2319.

JACQUES MARTIN, QUAI ATOMIC EXPERT, ASKED LYON TO CALL TODAY AND REFERRED TO CONVERSATION MENTIONED REFTTEL. MARTIN SAID THAT IN SPITE OF FRENCH URGING ISRAELIS HAVE SO FAR REFUSED TO SIGN UNDERTAKING WITH GOF TO PURCHASE RAW MATERIAL ONLY IN FRANCE AND TO DATE HAVE ONLY BEEN ACQUIRING AMOUNTS TO KEEP PLANT RUNNING AT CRITICAL LEVEL. MARTIN SAYS THAT CONSEQUENTLY PLANT WILL ONLY BE ABLE CONTINUE OPERATION FOR "FEW WEEKS" UNLESS ISRAELIS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING URANIUM FROM OTHER SOURCES THAN FRANCE. MARTIN ASKED WHETHER WE HAD ANY INFORMATION THAT ISRAELIS HAD SUCCEEDED IN TAPPING OTHER SOURCES. IN GOF VIEW THESE COULD BE EITHER PORTUGAL, SPAIN, ARGENTINA OR BELGIUM. FRENCH BELIEVE THEY CAN SAFELY ELIMINATE GABON. THEY ALSO DOUBT IN VIEW OF SPANISH POLICY TOWARD ARAB COUNTRIES THAT SPAIN WOULD BE LIKELY SELLER. THEY ALSO THINK PORTUGAL UNLIKELY. FIELD THUS NARROWS TO ARGENTINA OR BELGIUM. GOF KNOWS THAT ARGENTINA FURNISHED SOME URANIUM TO ISRAEL IN PAST. MARTIN INDICATED HE HAD TAKEN SOUNDINGS WITH VARIOUS EMBASSIES HERE BUT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH DEFINITE DECISION THROUGH LYON GATHERED FROM WHAT MARTIN SAID AND LEFT UNSAID THAT FINGER POINTS TO BELGIUM. DOES DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY INFORMATION IN THIS CONNECTION WHICH WE CAN GIVE FRENCH?

DURING COURSE CONVERSATION MARTIN REMARKED HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AMERICAN EXPERTS HAD EITHER JUST INSPECTED OR WERE ABOUT TO INSPECT DIMONIA REACTOR.

GP-3.

BOHLEN

SECRET

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Paris - 3199
1-8-64