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March 26, 1964

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

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Summary:

According Jacques Martin, a French Foreign Ministry expert, the Israelis were demanding to know why the French were holding up uranium shipments. The French replied that until Israel was ready to purchase only from France, allowing France “some control over the situation” [in Dimona], the restrictions would continue.

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GRAM **Department of State**

INCO URANIUM 17 ISR-FR
(xe) INCO URANIUM

Paris 4529

59 H

Action
INRD

Info
RMR

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CONTROL: 20453
RECD: MARCH 26 1964, 4:32 P.M.

FROM: PARIS

ACTION: SECSTATE 4529

INFO:

DATE: MARCH 26 1964, 7:00 P.M.

SECRET

REFTEL 4647

ROGER CHANNEL

Inco uranium

014

INFORMATION CONTAINED PARAGRAPH 1 REFTEL WAS RELAYED TO MARTIN THIS MORNING. HE WAS GRATEFUL AND SAID IT CONFIRMED RENCH FINDINGS.

ASSYRO STATUS OF NEGOTAITONS FRENCH-ISRAELI URANIUM PURCHASE AGREEMENT, MARTIN SAID THAT SOM WEEKS AGO SHORTLY FOLLOWING HIS CONVERSATION WITH LYON ISRAELI EMBASSY OFFICIAL HAD LONG DISCUSSION WITH HIM DEMANDING EXPLANATION AS TO WHY FRENCH WERE HOLDING UP DELIVERY OF RAW MATERIALS, ETC. MARTIN EXPLAINED TO ISRAELI OFFICIAL THAT UNTIL ISRAELIS WERE PREPARED TO AGREE TO PURCHASE RAW MATERIALS ONLY FROM FRANCE, AND THUS ENABLE FRANCE TO HAVE SOME CONTROL OVER SITUATION, PRESENT RESTRICTIONS WOULD CONTINUE.

MARTIN SAYS HE NOW HOPES TO HAVE REPLY FROM ISRAEL SHORTLY AND IS OPTIMISTIC THAT IF OTHER SOURCES NOT AVAILABLE TO ISRAELIS THEY WILL AGREE TO FRENCH TERMS, I. E. TO PURCHASE RAW MATERIALS ONLY FROM FRANCE.

CFN 4647 ROGER CHANNEL 1 MARTIN LYON

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