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June 11, 1964

Cable from the US Embassy in France to the Department of State, 'Franco-Israeli Nuclear Relations'

Citation:

"Cable from the US Embassy in France to the Department of State, 'Franco-Israeli Nuclear Relations'", June 11, 1964, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives of the United States (NARA), 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/117056

Summary:

Peter Ramsbotham, chief of the chancery at the British Embassy in France, passed along information to the US Embassy about his meeting with George Soutou, a senior official at the French Foreign Ministry. While the French by then did not want Israel to acquire nuclear weapons, they believed that the Israelis were seeking them.

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

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(xe) INCO URANIUM 17
ISR-FR

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

45-48

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Control: 11287
Rec'd: JUNE 11, 1964
6:51 P.M.

166 6049

Action: EUR

Info: SS G SP L NEA IO DAC SCI P USIA NSC INR CIA NSA OSD ARMY NAVY AIR AEC RMR

FROM: PARIS

ACTION: SECSTATE 6049

INFO: TEL AVIV 64

DATE: JUNE 11, 7 P.M.

NOFORN

FRANCO-ISRAELI NUCLEAR RELATIONS

UK EMBOFF TELLS US THAT SOUTOU (QUAI DIRECTOR, AFRICA) AND DE LA GRANDVILLE (QUAI, PACTES) MADE FOLLOWING POINTS TO UK EMB EIGHT OF FRANCO-ISRAELI NUCLEAR RELATIONS: (1) GOF DOES NOT WANT ISRAEL TO ACQUIRE MILITARY NUCLEAR CAPABILITY; (2) FRENCH ESTIMATE ISRAELIS WISH TO ACQUIRE SUCH A CAPABILITY; (3) AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH FRENCH SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH URANIUM LOOSELY WORDED RE FRENCH CONTROLS OVER USES FRENCH SUPPLIED NUCLEAR FUEL, BUT INTENT IS FUEL NOT BE USED FOR PRODUCTION MILITARILY USEFUL FISSILE MATERIALS; (4) IF FRENCH EVER CONVINCED ISRAEL ATTEMPTING CIRCUMVENT CONTROLS NOTABLY BY OBTAINING SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF URANIUM FROM NON-FRENCH SOURCES, GOF WOULD CONSIDER FRANCO-ISRAELI AGREEMENT NO LONGER BINDING.

PROTECT SOURCE.

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