

**November 30, 1964**

**Cable 749 from the US Embassy in Argentina to the  
Department of State, 'Sale of Uranium to Israel'**

**Citation:**

"Cable 749 from the US Embassy in Argentina to the Department of State, 'Sale of Uranium to Israel'", November 30, 1964, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives 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/117163>

**Summary:**

Although the Embassy noted that the Foreign Office's apparent support of safeguards did not necessarily represent the Argentine government's thinking, it concluded that more Argentine dialogue should be allowed before Washington took further representation.

**Credits:**

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**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

*Inco-Uranium 17 ISR-ARG*

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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SECRET

Action

SCI FSA981EXX794VV BAA512

0-24343

RR RUEHCR  
DE RUESBA 317 30/2108Z  
R 302043Z ZEA

1964 NOV 30 PM 4 51

Info

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO RUEHCR/SECSTATE WASHDC  
INFO RUOMVL/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
STATE GRNC  
BT  
SECRET

135

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ACTION DEPT 749 INFO TELAVIV FIVE VIENNA NINE FROM BAIRE  
NOV 30, 6 PM  
VIENNA FOR IAEA.

*Inco-Uranium 17  
ISR-Arg*

SUBJECT: SALE OF URANIUM TO ISRAEL.

REF: DEPTTEL 549, INFO TEL AVIV 436, VIENNA UNN.

EMBASSY DELIVERED FOLLOW-UP NOTE TO FONOFF NOVEMBER 27  
URGING EARLY RESP HSE TO PREVIOUS INQUIRY WHETHER GOA  
PREPARED APPLY SAFEGUARDS CONNECTION URANIUM SALE TO ISRAEL.  
IN DISCUSSION WITH FONOFF OFFICIALS, EMBOFF WAS TOLD FONOFF  
HAD, AS RESULT OUR INQUIRY, MADE FORMAL REQUEST OF GOA  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT BUT THAT  
TO DATE NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED. OFFICIALS ASSURED US  
FONOFF WOULD PRESS FOR REPLY SOONEST.  
CFN 749 30 6 549 436 27

RMR

PAGE 2 RUESBA 317 S E C R E T  
ACCORDING TO REMARKS BY OFFICIALS, SENTIMENT IN FONOFF  
APPEARS FAVOR APPLICATION SAFEGUARDS NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF A  
DISPORITION TO BELIEVE THAT COMMON APPLICATION THEREOF  
MAY BE EFFECTIVE IN MINIMIZING PROLIFERATION NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS BUT, AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, BECAUSE GOA  
SENSITIVE TO PROBABLY ATTACKS FROM SOME DOMESTIC QUARTERS  
AS RESULT SALE. IN THIS VIEW APPLICATION SAFEGUARDS,  
AEAST NOMINALLY CONSISTENT WITH THOSE OF IAEA, WOULD  
ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING THAT ARGENTINA ENGAGING IN TRANSFER  
NUCLEAR MATERIALS ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH PEACEFUL USES  
THEREOF AND THUS PLACE BEST POSSIBLE FACE ON TRANSACTION.  
PROPOSED SALE NOT YET PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE IN ARGENTINA.

*Buenos Aires 749*

SECRET

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SECRET

-2- 749, NOVEMBER 30, 6 PM, FROM BUENOS AIRES

EMBASSY DOES NOT REPEAT NOT CONCLUDE THAT FOREGOING, AND PERHAPS TENTATIVE, FONOFF VIEW NECESSARILY PORTRAYS ULTIMATE GOA POSITION, BUT BELIEVES IT CONSTITUTES REASON TO PROVIDE GOA FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO WORK OUT RESPONSE OUR INQUIRY WITHOUT OUR TAKING, FOR THE MOMENT, FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS AT HIGHEST LEVELS HERE OR AT TEL AVIV. IN VIEW QUIHILLALT'S SENSITIVITY TO OUR APPROACHING ISRAELIS BEFORE MATTER

PAGE 3 RUESBA 317 S E C R E T  
THOROUGHLY EXAMINED BY GOA, WE BELIEVE APPROACH AT TEL AVIV UNLIKELY TO AFFECT GOA DECISION FAVORABLY.

QUIHILLALT HAS DEPARTED BAIRES FOR VIENNA. EMBASSY UNDERTAKING DETERMINE FROM CNEA IF ITS POSITION THIS MATTER FIRMED UP BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

GP-1. MARTIN

SECRET