

**December 22, 1964**

**Letter from Alan C. Goodison, Eastern Department  
of the Foreign Office, to A. R. H. Kellas, British  
Embassy in Tel Aviv**

**Citation:**

"Letter from Alan C. Goodison, Eastern Department of the Foreign Office, to A. R. H. Kellas, British Embassy in Tel Aviv", December 22, 1964, Wilson Center Digital Archive, British National Archives, FO 371/175844. Originally published in Avner Cohen and William Burr, eds., National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book #432 (June 25, 2013). <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/117165>

**Summary:**

After consulting the Defense Intelligence Staff, Goodison writes to Kellas that "we must now accept the end of 1968 as the earliest possible date" for an Israeli nuclear bomb. As the Canadian report suggested an Israeli test by 1966, either 1968 was a typo or the Defense Intelligence Staff provided more detailed comments than are available in the file.

**Credits:**

This document was made possible with support from Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY)

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

*Security vetting*

65

FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W.1.

ER 1241/32/G

SECRET

December 22, 1964.

CANADIAN/U.K. EYES ONLY

Thank you for your letter 1242/64G of October 8 about nuclear development in Israel.

2. We consulted the Defence Intelligence Staff about the Canadian DSI paper 1/64. They agreed that the paper was well organised, made the most of the basic material available and, as far as they could see, left none outstanding. They agreed with what was said and with the conclusions. They added that such differences as there might be between them and the Canadians would only be in shade and not in matter or conclusions and were not therefore worth dwelling on.

3. In the light of their comments, the reservations which we have had here about the date by which the Israelis could produce a nuclear bomb would no longer seem to be valid, and we must now accept the end of 1968 as the earliest possible date.

4. I have been asked by the D.I.S. to draw your attention to the fact that the Canadian paper and any correspondence based on it must, for the time being at any rate, remain classified Secret and Canadian/U.K. eyes only.

(A.C. Goodison)

A.R.H. Kellas, Esq., C.M.G.  
British Embassy,  
TEL AVIV.

SECRETCANADIAN/U.K. EYES ONLY

Reference:-		PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
FO 371/175844/ER 1241/32G		1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2			
COPYRIGHT - NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION							