



August 21, 1965

Airgram A-160 from the US Embassy in Argentina to the Department of State, 'EXCON: Argentine Exports of Uranium Oxide'

Citation:

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Summary:

A request by an Argentine Congressman gave the yellow cake sale to Israel a public airing.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

DECLASSIFIED Authority WND 959000

AIRGRAM

INCO-URANIUM 17
ISR-ARG
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A-160 CONFIDENTIAL

NO. _____

TO : Department of State

INFO : AmEmbassy TEL AVIV

FROM : AmEmbassy BUENOS AIRES

SUBJECT : EXCON: Argentine Exports of Uranium Oxide

REF : A-691, February 3, 1965

HANDLING INDICATOR

1965 AUG 23 11 5 57

ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
BRANCH

DATE AUGUST 21, 1965

Argentine exports of uranium oxide ("yellow cake") to Israel have been given public airing as a consequence of a Congressional request for information directed to the Executive Branch by Peronist (Union Popular) Deputy Carlos A. COTTONARO of Cordoba.

According to LA RAZON of August 18, Cottonaro's request for information is prefaced by the flat statement that, "In fulfillment of Decree 530/62, the National Atomic Energy Commission has exported uranium to Israel". Asserting the importance of uranium in the modern world, Cottonaro declares that it is "indispensable" that the Executive Branch provide detailed information on these exports. Continuing, Cottonaro asks the following questions:

"How much uranium 308 ("yellow cake") actually has been exported?

Has Argentina already received payment for these exports through the Banque Pour Commerce Suisse Israelien in Geneva?

Has Argentina sold uranium to any other country? If so, in what quantities and at what price?

What is the present system of exploitation of uranium in the country and where are the mines located?

Does not the Executive Branch consider that exporting such a valuable mineral impairs national reserves?

What machinery and equipment have been acquired with the proceeds of these uranium exports?"

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

In Out

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Drafted by: HMM
ECON:HMMontgomery, Jr.:kw 8-20-65

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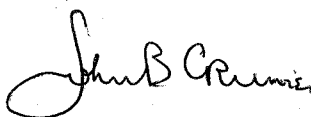
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BUENOS AIRES

Neither the Guido Government, which negotiated the sale of uranium to Israel, nor the Illia Government, which honored this commitment, have ever made this transaction public, for fear that announcement of the sale would create problems in Argentina's burgeoning relations with the Arab states.

The Embassy, which does not have positive information on the volume of Argentine exports of uranium, will watch with interest for the reaction of the Executive Branch to Deputy Cottonaro's inquiry, as well as for any local, diplomatic or political repercussions it may produce.

For the Ambassador:



John B. Crume
First Secretary of Embassy

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