

June 22, 1964

**Letter from R. J. T. McLaren, Eastern Department of
the Foreign Office, to A. M. Warburton, British
Embassy Bonn.**

Citation:

"Letter from R. J. T. McLaren, Eastern Department of the Foreign Office, to A. M. Warburton, British Embassy Bonn.", June 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/117193>

Summary:

McLaren wonders why the West Germans want safeguard-free uranium from the Argentine government, noting that it could be re-exported to Israel. He also confirms that information about the Argentine-Israeli deal had been passed to the Americans.

Credits:

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Original Language:

English

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Registry
No.

ER 1241/21G.

Top Secret.
Secret. & Guard
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Insert Telephone No. & Ext.
when appropriate.

Draft.

Miss A.M. Warburton,

Brown

from

R.S.T. Nicholas

Copy to :-

A.L.H. Kellas, Tel Aviv

F.R.H. Wright,
Washington

C.J. Andland,
Buenos Aires,

D. Arkell,

D. **RECEIVED**
DIVISION

18 JUN 1964

SENT TO
TYPE

REMARKS

Enclosure (brownish)

Copy

① Copy of Mr Goodison's
letter of 17 April 29

at ER 1241/15 G

② Copy of Mr Andland's
letter of June 4 at 721 G

3. The earlier correspondence
was marked 'Guard'. This
letter is not so marked
because the information
which was the subject of
Goodison's letter of April
29 has now, with Canadian
permission, been passed to the
Americans.

(87285) Hw.

1. I enclose ~~a~~ copy copies of correspondence
we have had with the Embassy in ~~Paris~~
Buenos Aires on the subject of sales of
safeguard-free Argentine uranium concentrate to
Israel.

2. You will note from Andland's letter of
June 4 that the Argentine National Atomic
Energy Commission has recently sold uranium
concentrate to ~~the~~ West Germany. This strikes
us as odd. What would the Germans want
with safeguard-free uranium? One suspicion
(and, I hope, unlikely) possibility is that they
might want to reexport it to Israel. On the
face of it this seems very unlikely but in
view of the air of mystery surrounding the
subject of German military assistance to Israel
the kite seems just worth flying.
Uranium sales could conceivably amount for
some of the very large sums mentioned in
your letter 10644/59 of June 2 to Alan
(not to all) Goodison. This is obviously a delicate
subject to raise with the Germans but we
should be very grateful for anything you
may be able to find out.

4. I am sending copies of this letter to
Kellas in Tel Aviv, Wright in Washington,
Andland in Buenos Aires and Arkell in
the Defence Intelligence Staff.

for
15/6

16/6

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(ER 1241/21/G

SECRET

June 22, 1964

--- I enclose copies of correspondence we have had with the Embassy in Buenos Aires on the subject of sales of safeguard-free Argentine uranium concentrate to Israel.

2. You will note from Audland's letter of June 4 that the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission has recently sold uranium concentrate to West Germany. This strikes us as odd. What would the Germans want with safeguard-free uranium? One ominous possibility is that they might want to re-export it to Israel. On the face of it this seems very unlikely but in view of the air of mystery surrounding the subject of German military assistance to Israel the kite seems just worth flying. Uranium sales could conceivably amount for some of the very large sums mentioned in your letter 10644/59 of June 2 to Alan Goodison (not to all). This is obviously a delicate subject to raise with the Germans but we should be very grateful for anything you may be able to find out.

3. The earlier correspondence was marked 'Guard'. This letter is not so marked because the information which was the subject of Goodison's letter of April 29 has now, with Canadian permission, been passed to the Americans.

4. I am sending copies of this letter without enclosures to Kellas in Tel Aviv, Wright in Washington, Audland in Buenos Aires and Askill in the Defence Intelligence Staff.

(R.J.T. McLaren)

Miss A.M. Warburton,
BONN.

SECRET

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