DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: COUNCIL ON NUCLEAR POWER.
The Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Union of South Africa, VIENNA.

Sale of Uranium to Israel.

In a recent conversation with an official of this Department, the Envoy of Israel mentioned the negotiations in 1958/59 between the Union and Israel regarding the sale of South African uranium. He then claimed that these negotiations have failed because we withdrew our offer, which was subject to an assurance of peaceful use, to provide uranium. He appears to be under the impression that we withdrew our offer at the time as a result of the deterioration in relations between the Union and Israel which flowed from the latter's action at the United Nations. Since are relations have improved following this incident, he suggested that the matter might be considered again.

The Envoy's allegation regarding the reasons for the failure of these negotiations is obviously not based on the correct facts. The Union's policy in respect of guarantees under which we accepted a mere assurance of peaceful use was only adopted in one of our first contracts (with Japan). This was explained to him. And he responded with a statement that Israel will not agree to any bilateral agreement with the Union under which guarantees will be enforced by means of South African inspection measures that would limit Israel's sovereignty. He is also of the opinion that Israel will probably not agree with our proposal to sell uranium under an assurance that the buyer will negotiate with IAEA for the administration of guarantees by this Agency. However, he added that Israel…

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