I enclose a copy of the 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 Ainslie's letter of June 4 that the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission has recently sold uranium concentrate to have sold to Germany. This follows

I am informed that the Schindler company in Switzerland is also interested in this potential market. It seems very unlikely that the French have been approached about the sale of uranium concentrate to Israel.

W Craddock

[Signature]

Reference:

FO 371/175844/ER 1241/21G
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 14 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 sum mentioned in your letter 106WA/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 Kelles in Tel Aviv, Wright in Washington, Audland in Buenos Aires and Askell in the Defence Intelligence Staff.

(R.J.T. McLaren)

Miss A.N. Harburtson,
Bonn.

SECRET