SUBJECT:
B.I.S. comments on aspects of Israeli nuclear activity in spirit of agreement with Argentina, to purchase of uranium concentrate. No evidence to support view that Israel have chemical separation plant and unlikely that it would be housed in research building.

Enclosed copy of:

Reference and relevant papers:
-15 G
-126 G

MINUTES

[Handwritten text]

Curt 1/4
FROM: R. C. Tweedie
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEFENCE INTELLIGENCE STAFF
Metropole Buildings, Northumberland Avenue, LONDON W.C.2
Telephone: whitehall 8474, ext. 31

26th August, 1964.

and quote: 258/130 AL 13/1

Dear Goodison,

Thank you for the copy of your letter to Kelly in Tel Aviv of 29th April and Kelly's reply of 5th July, 1964. Three points emerge:

First, all available evidence shows that the Canadian report concerning negotiations for an "agreement" between Israel and the Argentine for the purchase of 80-100 tons of Argentine uranium concentrate was incorrect. There may have been exploratory conversations to this end, but of an actual "agreement" there is no evidence to support the Canadian report.

Second, there is little evidence available in D.I.S. to support the view that the Israelis have a chemical separation plant in working order. We have a suspicion that the building described by the Americans in their second visit as a "laundry" may be intended as a separation plant but, if we accept the now detailed statement from the third American visit at its face value, the building can hardly have had appropriate equipment in it at the time of the visit.

Last, Kelly's suggestion that the chemical separation plant could be housed in the reactor building is very unlikely. Chemical separation is a tricky business and, on past experience of the nuclear programme, requires to be housed in a building of its own.

Yours sincerely,

for A.D. D.I. (S.I.) 52

R. Tweedie

A. C. Goodison, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.I.