

TELEGRAM Department of State

(W) INCO-URANIUM

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DATE: JANUARY 8, 6 P.M.

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ROGER CHANNEL FOR GRANT AND TYLER.

RE EMBTEL 2319.

JACQUES MARTIN, QUAI ATOMIC EXPERT, ASKED LYON TO CALL TODAY AND REFERRED TO CONVERSATION MENTIONED REFTEL. MARTIN SAID THAT IN SPITE OF FRENCH URGING ISRAELIS HAVE SO FAR REFUSED TO SIGN UNDERTAKING WITH GOF TO PURCHASE RAW MATERIAL ONLY IN FRANCE AND TO DATE HAVE ONLY BEEN ACQUIRING AMOUNTS TO KEEP PLANT RUNNING AT CRITICAL LEVEL. MARTIN SAYS THAT CONSEQUENTLY PLANT WILL ONLY BE ABLE CONTINUE OPERATION FOR "FEW WEEKS" UNLESS ISRAELIS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING URANIUM FROM OTHER SOURCES THAN FRANCE. MARTIN ASKED WHETHER WE HAD ANY INFORMATION THAT ISRAELIS HAD SUCCEEDED IN TAPPING OTHER SOURCES. IN GOF VIEW THESE COULD BE EITHER PORTUGAL, SPAIN, ARGENTINA OR BELGIUM. FRENCH BELIEVE THEY CAN SAFELY ELIMINATE GABON. THEY ALSO DOUBT IN VIEW OF SPANISH POLICY TOWARD ARAB COUNTRIES THAT SPAIN WOULD BE LIKELY SELLER. THEY ALSO THINK PORTUGAL UNLIKELY. FIELD THUS NARROWS TO ARGENTINA OR BELGIUM. GOF KNOWS THAT ARGENTINA FURNISHED SOME URANIUM TO ISRAEL IN PAST. MARTIN INDICATED HE HAD TAKEN SOUNDINGS WITH VARIOUS EMBASSIES HERE BUT HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH DEFINITE DECISION THROUGH LYON GATHERED FROM WHAT MARTIN SAID AND LEFT UNSAID THAT FINGER POINTS TO BELGIUM. DOES DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY INFORMATION IN THIS CONNECTION WHICH WE CAN GIVE FRENCH?

DURING COURSE CONVERSATION MARTIN REMARKED HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AMERICAN EXPERTS HAD EITHER JUST INSPECTED OR WERE ABOUT TO INSPECT DIMONIA REACTOR.

GP-3.

BOHLEN

Paris - 3199

1-8-64

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