

63

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

RSR

SECRET

047

44  
Action  
SS  
Info

RR RUEHCR RUEKDA RUEPAE  
DE RUFHPA 332 2231750  
ZNY SSSSS  
R 111740Z  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO RUEHCRPXSECSTATE WASHDC (786)  
INFO RUEKDA/DOD WASHDC  
RUEPAE/AEC WASHDC  
ZEN/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE EIGHT  
STATE GRNC  
BT

08035  
1965 AUG 11 PM 2 10

SECRET AUG 11  
DEPT RPT AS DESIRED

L I M D I S  
LIBREVILLE'S 364

*INCO Uranium Gabon*

*Power 786  
8/11/65*

PARIS DOES NOT HAVE COPY DEPTTEL 131 TO LIBREVILLE BUT BELIEVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS MAY BE PERTINENT:

1. TO EMBASSY'S BEST KNOWLEDGE, PRODUCTION AND EXPORT GABONESE URANIUM COMPLETELY IN FRENCH HANDS, VIZ. COMPAGNIE DE FRANCEVILLE AND ENTIRE PRODUCTION OF APPROX. 440 TONS PER ANNUM CONTAINED URANIUM METAL IS SHIPPED TO FRANCE.
2. IN VIEW PRESUMED FRENCH INTEREST IN STRINGENTLY REGULATING ISRAELI ACCESS TO URANIUM ORE, SEEMS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT DIVERSIONS, IF ANY, WOULD OCCUR UNDER FRENCH RATHER THAN GABONESE CONTROL. DOUBTFUL FRENCH WOULD ALLOW GABONESE SUFFICIENT FREEDOM OF ACTION UNDERTAKE DIVERSION. EMBASSY DEFERS TO LIBREVILLE ON QUESTION WHETHER GABONESE PHYSICALLY ABLE DIVERT ORE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE FRENCH BUT THIS SEEMS FROM HERE A PRIORI UNLIKELY. IN ANY EVENT, REPORTS AVAILABLE TO USG OF PREVIOUS ISRAELI ATTEMPT PURCHASE URANIUM FROM GABON WHICH FOILED BY GOF (TDCS DB 3/654990 OF 10 JUNE 1963, WHICH NOT LOCALLY AVAILABLE, BELIEVED DEAL WITH SUBJECT) POINTS IN THIS DIRECTION.
3. QUESTION ARISES WHETHER FRENCH NOW HAVE INTEREST IN FOSTERING ACQUISITION BY ISRAEL OF TYPE AND QUANTITY FISSILE MATERIAL REQUIRED FOR DEVELOPEMENT NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY. INDICATIONS GOF'S CURRENT ATTITUDE REACHING EMBASSY REPORTED INTERALIA POLTO 935 EMBTELS 5925, 183 AND 341. EMBASSY INCLINED TO VIEW THAT THESE INDICATIONS ACCURATELY REFLECT GOF'S PRESENT INTERESTS.  
CAS CONCURS.

COMMENT: AS DEPT AWARE FRENCH ALSO DEVELOPING URANIUM FIND IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. GP-1. MCBRIDE

SECRET

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"

*Classified by 1049*

*(1)*