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From the Private Secretary

16 January 1985

ISRAELI MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR ARGENTINA

You will be aware that steps are being taken to bring to the attention of the Israeli authorities our great concern at the scale and the nature of the sales of military equipment which they are making to Argentina.

There is a particular point concerning the sale of A4 Skyhawk aircraft. These aircraft are of American origin. On past occasions when we have protested to the Israelis about their reported intention to sell these aircraft to Argentina they have rebutted the accusation by saying that the conditions imposed by the United States prevent them from selling the aircraft on to third countries.

It would be helpful if the Embassy in Washington could confirm that the United States is continuing to apply such a ban to the onward sale of any of the A4 Skyhawk aircraft held by Israel.

I am copying this letter to Sir Anthony Duff (Cabinet Office).

Charles Powell

L.V. Appleyard, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

SECRET