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March 6, 1978

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

FOIA-78-64
rec'd 3-9-78

Jim Felton, Director
Division of Rules & Regulations
Office of Administration
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

IN RESPONSE REFER
TO NRDC 78-18

Re: Euratom Safeguards and the Diversion of 200 Tons of Uranium
to Israel.

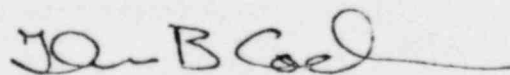
Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act and/or Sunshine Acts, I hereby request copies of all reports, papers, background material, drafts correspondence and other documentation relating to:

- a) the adequacy of EURATOM safeguards;
- b) thefts, diversions, attempted thefts or attempted diversions of SNM within EURATOM countries, by EURATOM countries, or SNM under EURATOM control, or SNM shipped to, or from, EURATOM countries;
- c) the "plumbat incident", the alleged diversion of 200 tons of uranium to Israel as described in the book Operation Uranium Ship

With regard to (c) above, I refer you to the allegation on page 192 of the book (enclosed) that indicates that U.S. government agencies (namely, the CIA) has information on this matter.

Sincerely,



Thomas B. Cochran

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BEFORE ENTEBBE THERE WAS
**OPERATION
URANIUM SHIP**

A TRUE STORY

NOW THE FIRST FULL ACCOUNT OF THE MOST
DAZZLING ESPIONAGE STRIKE ISRAEL EVER MADE.



BY DENNIS EISENBERG,
ELI LANDAU AND MENAHEM PORTUGALI

OPERATION URANIUM SHIP

The affair was to be hushed up.* Officially the United States was not to be told.

Two months after the death of the "old fox," as they admirably called the head of the German intelligence service, the CIA was given an unexpected present. It was a secret file from the private archives of the general, and it was transferred to the CIA as the last wish of the dying Gehlen.

In it, American agents read the full story of the disappearance of the *Scheersberg A*. There were details of the hijacking, the identity of the men involved, the stages that preceded the disappearance of the 560 barrels of yellowish ore. The file disclosed that at the meeting to find out what happened to the "yellowcake" and what to do about it, the general had not revealed everything he really knew to his colleagues. There was no indication that the German secret service was directly involved. The CIA drew its own conclusions, however.

In January, 1977, President Carter was sworn in as the thirty-ninth President of the United States. One of his first steps was to try and increase American control of the world trade in fissionable material, and thus limit its uncontrolled spread throughout the world.

Enrico Jacchia leaped immediately to the defense of the American President. In his new role as general director of the European Community, this former chief of nuclear safeguards said: "The American President is right. Jimmy Carter is right on moral as well as political grounds."

Did the President have the "plumbat incident" in mind? Was it mere coincidence that in April, 1977, Mr. Paul Leventhal, a former U.S. Senate expert on nuclear proliferation, told the world about the disappearance of the uranium aboard the *Scheersberg A*—an incident that had occurred eight and a half years earlier? It was the first time the public had ever heard of the matter. It looked as though the well-known tactic of John Foster Dulles was being employed by the new President: the technique of controlled leakage of news.

*Following the inquiry held by Euratom, certain officials of the organization resigned. The findings of this inquiry are top secret.

OPERATION URANIUM SHIP

To coincide with the "revelation" by Paul Leventhal, three of the largest U.S. dailies, *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, published the scoop that reverberated all around the world:

ISRAEL PERFORMS NUCLEAR ENTEBBE

A cargo of 200 tons of uranium on its way from West Germany to Italy disappeared mysteriously in a brilliant diversion operation and reached the Israeli atomic reactor at Dimona. This cargo is sufficient to produce thirty nuclear bombs.

The Israeli Atomic Energy Commission immediately denied any Israeli connection with the disappearance of the uranium. Israel has said all along that the uranium it needs for the Dimona reactor is obtained as a by-product from the phosphate plants standing next to the Dead Sea.

Not far from the nuclear reactor at Dimona stands the extraordinary rock of Masada, where Jewish zealots defied the attempts of the mighty Roman army to conquer them. From their fortress on top of this squat, flat-topped rock which dominates the Dead Sea a few hundred men, women, and children held out for three years. And when they were about to be overcome, rather than surrender their status as free people, they killed themselves in an awe-inspiring mass suicide.

Today Israeli tank crew and other armored unit officers hold their swearing-in parade ceremonies on the rocky summit of Masada. It is a deliberate demonstration that, far from the quiet, passive spirit of the Jews who marched to their deaths in concentration camp gas chambers, the Israelis of today are filled with the same spirit of heroism and courage that marked the patriots of Masada.