



Prime Minister
 The position is
 that the Israelis are
 pressing the Americans for
 permission to sell A-4
 Skyhawk to Argentina, but the Americans
 remain firm in refusing.
 Dear Charles,

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

29 January 1985

Israeli Military Equipment for Argentina

You asked in your letter of 16 January if the Embassy in Washington could confirm that the US Government is continuing to apply a ban on the onward sale to Argentina of any of the A4 Skyhawk aircraft held by Israel.

The Americans have on a number of separate occasions recently reaffirmed that they stand by their commitment to consult us about potential sales to Argentina of sensitive military equipment. They have also told us that they have received from the Israelis a denial of press reports that they had sold Skyhawks to the Argentine navy.

In response to your letter, we instructed the Embassy to seek specific confirmation that the US Government is indeed continuing to refuse to authorise delivery of any of the Skyhawks from Israel to Argentina. I enclose copies of Washington telegrams nos 238 and 255 of 25 January. In short, American policy remains unchanged, and we have been specifically assured that we will be consulted if any change is contemplated in US policy on the Skyhawks. But the Israelis have evidently not given up hope, and we shall keep a very close eye on developments, as well as continuing to remind the Americans as appropriate of the strength of our views on this subject.

I am copying this letter to Sir Anthony Duff in the Cabinet Office.

Yours ever,
 Len Appleyard
 (L V Appleyard)
 Private Secretary

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