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Sir Antony Acland, KCVO, CMG,
Permanent Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

26 May 1982.

*P. N. has seen.**See Anthony,**MR 27/5*

ISRAELI ARMS SUPPLIES TO ARGENTINA

1. Lord Sieff spoke to me today to follow up our earlier conversation yesterday, reported in my letter of yesterday.
2. He said that he had immediately made enquiries. He had been assured "at a high level" that there was no change in Israeli policy on arms supplies to Argentina as previously described to him and conveyed to me in the conversation reported in my letter of 4 May. The Israeli Government dealt with certain other countries but they were being careful not to increase supplies to those other countries. For example he had noticed the report in today's "Daily Mail" (page 4, column 5) about a possible delivery to Argentina in an Ecuadorian aircraft. But he had been assured that those supplies were genuinely for Ecuador and they were of equipment that would not be suitable for what Israel had in the past sold to Argentina.
3. His informant had said that the Israeli Government could not, of course, control sales by private arms dealers outside Israel; nor could they guarantee that arms legitimately supplied by Israel to third countries might not be resold to Argentina at the very substantial premium that the Argentines seemed prepared to pay. But he repeated that the assurances given to him were categorical; and that this policy of the Government of Israel would continue to be followed, in spite of the fact that pressures of various kinds were now beginning to be brought to bear on the Jewish community in the Argentine.
4. Lord Sieff added that of course he could not guarantee that he was being told the truth. But at least he had gone to a high level and he hoped that the effect of this might in any case be salutary.
5. We agreed to keep in touch as necessary. I am copying this letter to Robert Armstrong and John Coles.

Michael Falliser
(Michael Falliser)