$S=0.885$
11499 reflections
920 parameters
H atoms not refined
$w=1 /\left[\sigma^{2}\left(F_{o}^{2}\right)+(0.0539 P)^{2}\right.$ $+33.5904 P$ ]
where $P=\left(F_{o}^{2}+2 F_{c}^{2}\right) / 3$

Extinction correction: SHELXL93
Extinction coefficient: 0.00109 (8)

Scattering factors from International Tables for Crystallography (Vol. C)

Table 1. Selected bond lengths ( $(\dot{A})$

| $\mathrm{Sr} 1-\mathrm{Ol7}$ | 2.456 (7) | Sr5-016 | 2.588 (7) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 1-\mathrm{O} 12$ | 2.488 (7) | Sr5-022 | 2.615 (6) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 1-\mathrm{Ol12}$ | 2.510 (6) | Sr5-032 | 2.737 (7) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 1-\mathrm{Ol} 3$ | 2.551 (6) | Sr5-036 | 2.751 (7) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 1-\mathrm{O} 24$ | 2.564 (6) | Sr6-028 ${ }^{\text {v }}$ | 2.412 (8) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 1-\mathrm{O} 211$ | 2.642 (6) | Sr6-019 | 2.469 (8) |
| Sr1-O33 | 2.919 (7) | Sr6-O111 ${ }^{\text {ii }}$ | 2.534 (6) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 1-\mathrm{O} 311$ | 2.939 (7) | Sr6-0212 ${ }^{\text {vi }}$ | 2.548 (6) |
| Srl-034 | 2.948 (6) | Sr6-018 | 2.550 (7) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 2-\mathrm{O} 27$ | 2.543 (6) | Sr6-0210 | 2.629 (6) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 2-016^{1}$ | 2.567 (7) | Sr6-038 | 2.802 (7) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 2-\mathrm{O} 22$ | 2.584 (7) | S6-0310 | 2.812 (7) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 2-\mathrm{O} 21$ | 2.586 (7) | $\mathrm{Sr} 6-\mathrm{O} 312^{\text {vi }}$ | 2.888 (8) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 2-\mathrm{O} 15$ | 2.602 (7) | O11-C11 | 1.300 (12) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 2-\mathrm{O} 23$ | 2.640 (7) | O21-C11 | 1.230 (12) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 2-\mathrm{Ol3}$ | 2.678 (6) | O12-C12 | 1.185 (12) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 2-\mathrm{O} 25$ | 2.906 (8) | O22-C12 | 1.246 (12) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 3-0212^{\text {ii }}$ | 2.530 (6) | O13-C13 | 1.326 (11) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 3-\mathrm{O} 29$ | 2.554 (7) | O23-C13 | 1.210 (11) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 3-0210^{\text {iii }}$ | 2.555 (7) | O14-C14 | 1.231 (11) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 3-\mathrm{O} 14^{\text {ii }}$ | 2.607 (6) | O24-C14 | 1.250 (11) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 3-\mathrm{O} 18$ | 2.610 (7) | O15-C15 | 1.239 (12) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 3-\mathrm{O} 111^{\text {ii }}$ | 2.716 (6) | O25-C15 | 1.258 (12) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 3-\mathrm{O} 211^{\text {ii }}$ | 2.718 (6) | O16-C16 | 1.246 (11) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 3-\mathrm{O} 24{ }^{\text {ii }}$ | 2.801 (6) | O26-C16 | 1.217 (11) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 4-\mathrm{O} 26^{\text {i }}$ | 2.434 (7) | O17-C17 | 1.230 (11) |
| Sr4-O110 ${ }^{\text {iii }}$ | 2.476 (7) | O27-C17 | 1.291 (11) |
| Sr4-027 | 2.519 (7) | O18-C18 | 1.260 (12) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 4-\mathrm{O} 14^{\text {ii }}$ | 2.525 (6) | O28-C18 | 1.266 (12) |
| Sr4-029 | 2.573 (7) | O19-C19 | 1.227 (12) |
| $\mathrm{Sr} 4-\mathrm{O} 21$ | 2.613 (7) | O29-C19 | 1.298 (12) |
| Sr4-031 | 2.810 (7) | O110-C110 | 1.199 (12) |
| Sr4-039 | 2.827 (7) | O210-C110 | 1.283 (12) |
| Sr4-037 | 2.988 (9) | O111-C111 | 1.235 (12) |
| Sr5-011 | 2.406 (7) | O211-C111 | 1.190 (11) |
| Sr5-023 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 2.455 (7) | O112-C112 | 1.258 (11) |
| Sr5-015 | 2.459 (7) | O212-C112 | 1.239 (12) |
| Sr5-025 ${ }^{\text {iv }}$ | 2.526 (8) |  |  |

Symmetry codes: (i) $\frac{3}{2}-x, \frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{1}{2}-z$; (ii) $\frac{1}{2}+x, \frac{1}{2}-y, \frac{1}{2}+z$; (iii) $\frac{3}{2}-x, \frac{1}{2}+y, \frac{3}{2}-z$; (iv) $\frac{3}{2}-x, y-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}-z$; (v) $\frac{3}{2}-x, y-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}-z$ (vi) $1-x,-y, 1-z$.

A preliminary reduction of the unit cell indicated the possibility of higher metric symmetry (orthorhombic $C$ ), but the $R_{\text {int }}$ value was $0.223, c f . R_{\text {int }}$ was 0.038 for the chosen monoclinic cell. The intensity statistics indicated centrosymmetry. All non-H atoms were located from $E$ maps and the subsequent $\Delta \rho$ syntheses. Since the number of collected reflections satisfying the criterion $I>2 \sigma(I)$ was not large enough, all furan rings were treated as residues of common geometry in the final steps of refinement [using the SADI command in SHELXL93 (Sheldrick, 1993)], and DELU was used to stabilize the anisotropic displacement parameters by restraining common components of neighbouring atoms to be approxomately equal. The H atoms bonded to the furan rings were placed geometrically with a $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ distance of 0.93 A . Their isotropic displacement parameters were taken to be 1.2 times those of their attached C atoms.

Data collection: KM-4 Users Guide (Kuma Diffraction, 1989). Cell refinement: KM-4 Users Guide. Data reduction: KM-4 Users Guide. Program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS86 (Sheldrick, 1990).

Lists of atomic coordinates, displacement parameters, structure factors and complete geometry have been deposited with the IUCr (Reference: JZ1136). Copies may be obtained through The Managing Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

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Acta Cryst. (1997). C53, 289-292

# [Bis(thiodiphenylphosphino-S)amido]-chlorobis(dimethylphenylphosphine- $P$ )nitridorhenium(V) 

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## Abstract

The title complex, $\left[\mathrm{ReNCl}\left(\mathrm{C}_{24} \mathrm{H}_{20} \mathrm{NP}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2}\right)\left(\mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{P}\right)_{2}\right]$, is formed during the reaction of $\left[\mathrm{ReNCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{3}\right]$ with a stoichiometric amount of $\mathrm{Na}\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)$ in dichloromethane/methanol. The equatorial sphere of the six-coordinate complex is occupied by two $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}$ ligands and the tetraphenyldithioimidodiphosphinate anion, which binds in a bidentate manner via the sulfur donors. The chloro ligand is arranged in a position trans with respect to the terminal nitrido N atom, with exceptionally long $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{Cl}$ bond lengths [2.598(4) and 2.632 (5) $\AA$ for the two crystallographically independent molecules] due to the structural trans influence of ' $\mathrm{N}^{3-}$ '.

## Comment

Recently, we have shown that $\left[\mathrm{ReNCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{3}\right]$ is a suitable starting material for obtaining rhenium mixed-ligand complexes which contain phosphines and chelating co-ligands (Abram \& Ritter, 1993; Ritter \& Abram, 1994). In contrast to similar reactions with $\left[\mathrm{ReNCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{P}\right)_{2}\right]$, where the equatorial coordination sphere is completely replaced by chelating ligands, the more basic $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}$ ligand remains and mixed-ligand complexes are formed.

The reaction of $\left[\operatorname{ReNCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{3}\right]$ with one equivalent of sodium tetraphenyldithioimidodiphosphinate yields the yellow air-stable title compound, [ReNCl$\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}_{2}\right)_{2}$, (I). The formation of significant amounts of the bis-chelate $\left[\mathrm{ReN}\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNP}\right.\right.$ $\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2}$ ] can only be observed when a large excess of the ligand, i.e. when the ratio of $\left[\mathrm{ReNCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{3}\right]$ to ligand is ten or higher, and long refluxing times are applied. The title compound is readily soluble in organic solvents such as $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ or $\mathrm{CHCl}_{3}$ and only sparingly soluble in alcohols. The IR spectrum of the compound shows a narrow band for the ReN vibration at $1055 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, which is the same value as observed for $\left[\mathrm{ReNCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{3}\right]$. In the $\mathrm{FAB}^{+}$ mass spectrum of the complex, rhenium-containing fragments can be observed at $m / z=924,822$ and 787, which can be assigned to $\left[\mathrm{ReN}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{2}-\right.$ $\left.\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)\right]^{+}, \quad\left[\mathrm{ReNCl}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)\right]^{+}$ and $\left[\mathrm{ReN}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}^{2}\right)\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)\right]^{+}$, respectively. No evidence could be found for the molecular ion peak. This agrees well with the results of mass spectrometry
studies on other six-coordinate rhenium-nitrido complexes where, in general, cleavage of the bond trans to the nitrido ligand is preferred (Abram \& Ritter, 1993; Ritter \& Abram, 1994; Hübener, Abram \& Strähle, 1994).

(I)

Crystals of the title compound were obtained from a $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ /methanol solution. The triclinic unit cell contains two crystallographically independent [ReNCl$\left.\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)\right]$ molecules (Fig. 1). The molecular geometry of the second molecule does not differ significantly and therefore will not be discussed in detail. Selected bond distances and angles are given in Table 1.

The Re atom is octahedrally coordinated, with the $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}$ and chelating ligands in equatorial positions. Distortions from idealized octahedral geometry are evident. The $\mathrm{N}(11)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{P}(13)$ angle of $86.5(2)^{\circ}$ is much smaller than those to the other equatorially coordinated donor atoms, which range between 95.3 (2) and $106.4(2)^{\circ}$. The geometry of $\left[\mathrm{ReNCl}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{2}{ }^{-}\right.$ $\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)$ ] is thus similar to that of [ReNCl-


Fig. 1. ZORTEP (Zsolnai, 1994) diagram of one of the two independent molecules of $\left[\operatorname{ReNCl}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}_{2}\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)\right]\right.$ showing $30 \%$ probability displacement ellipsoids. The H atoms have been omitted for clarity.
$\left.\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{HEt}_{2} \mathrm{tcb}\right)\right]$ (where $\mathrm{HEt}_{2} \mathrm{tcb}^{-}$is $N, N$-diethylthiocarbamoylbenzamidinate) (Abram \& Ritter, 1993) and $\left[\mathrm{ReNCl}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{dtc}\right)\right]$ (where $\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{dtc}^{-}$is dimethyldithiocarbamate) (Ritter \& Abram, 1994). An exceptionally long bond distance is found between the Re atom and the chloro ligand, which is coordinated trans with respect to the terminal nitrido N atom. This is due to the labilizing trans influence of ' N 3-, and has been discussed previously (Abram \& Ritter, 1993; Ritter \& Abram, 1994; Forsellini, Casellato, Graziani \& Magon, 1982). The formation of a six-coordinate complex is in contrast to the results which were obtained from the reaction of $\left[\operatorname{ReNCl}\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{P}\right)_{2}\right]$ with $\mathrm{Na}\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)$, where the five-coordinate [ReNCl$\left.\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{3} \mathrm{P}\right)\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)\right]$ is formed. In this complex, chlorine is coordinated in the basal plane of a square pyramid, with an $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{Cl}$ distance of about $2.37 \AA$ (Rossi et al., 1993).

## Experimental

mer- $\left[\mathrm{ReNCl}_{2}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{3}\right]$ ( $68 \mathrm{mg}, 0.1 \mathrm{mmol}$ ) was dissolved in $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(20 \mathrm{ml})$ and a solution of $\mathrm{Na}\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)(150 \mathrm{mg}$, 0.3 mmol ) in methanol ( 20 ml ) was added. The resulting mixture was refluxed for 1 h and the precipitated NaCl was removed by filtration. Upon standing, yellow crystals of $\left[\operatorname{ReNCl}\left(\mathrm{Me}_{2} \mathrm{PhP}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{SPh}_{2} \mathrm{PNPPh}_{2} \mathrm{~S}\right)\right]$ were formed. These were filtered off and washed with water and methanol. Yield: 72 mg ( $75 \%$ based on Re).

## Crystal data

$\left[\mathrm{ReNCl}\left(\mathrm{C}_{24} \mathrm{H}_{20} \mathrm{NP}_{2} \mathrm{~S}_{2}\right)\right.$ -
$\left.\left(\mathrm{C}_{8} \mathrm{H}_{11} \mathrm{P}\right)_{2}\right]$
$M_{r}=960.41$
Triclinic
$P \overline{1}$
$a=10.476(1)$
$b=19.543$ (3) $\AA$
$c=20.690(3) \AA$
$\alpha=74.32$ (7) ${ }^{\circ}$
$\beta=89.44$ (7) ${ }^{\circ}$
$\gamma=81.22(6)^{\circ}$
$V=4028(1) \AA^{3}$
$Z=4$
$D_{x}=1.584 \mathrm{Mg} \mathrm{m}^{-3}$
$D_{m}$ not measured
Data collection
Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer
$\omega$ scans
Absorption correction: semi-empirical $\psi$ scans (Frenz, 1983)
$T_{\text {min }}=0.735, T_{\text {max }}=0.843$
18424 measured reflections
15722 independent reflections

Mo $K \alpha$ radiation
$\lambda=0.71073 \AA$
Cell parameters from 25 reflections
$\theta=9.40-14.07^{\circ}$
$\mu=3.377 \mathrm{~mm}^{-1}$
$T=203$ (2) K
Needle
$0.40 \times 0.10 \times 0.05 \mathrm{~mm}$
Yellow

11533 reflections with

$$
\begin{aligned}
& I>2 \sigma(I) \\
& R_{\text {int }}=0.0305 \\
& \theta_{\max }=26.02^{\circ} \\
& h=-1 \rightarrow 12 \\
& k=-23 \rightarrow 24 \\
& l=-25 \rightarrow 25 \\
& 3 \text { standard reflections } \\
& \text { every } 300 \text { reflections } \\
& \text { frequency: } 60 \mathrm{~min} \\
& \text { intensity decay: none }
\end{aligned}
$$

## Refinement

Refinement on $F^{2}$

$$
\begin{gathered}
w=1 /\left[\sigma^{2}\left(F_{o}^{2}\right)+(0.0363 P)^{2}\right. \\
\quad+7.9532 P] \\
\text { where } P=\left(F_{o}^{2}+2 F_{c}^{2}\right) / 3 \\
(\Delta / \sigma)_{\max }=-0.001 \\
\Delta \rho_{\max }=1.417 \mathrm{e} \AA^{-3} \\
\Delta \rho_{\min }=-1.040 \mathrm{e} \AA^{-3} \\
\text { Extinction correction: none } \\
\text { Scattering factors from } \\
\text { International Tables for } \\
\text { Crystallography (Vol. C) }
\end{gathered}
$$

$R(F)=0.044$
$w R\left(F^{2}\right)=0.105$
$S=1.12$
15689 reflections
901 parameters
H atoms placed in calculated positions

Table 1. Selected geometric parameters $\left.\left(\AA^{\circ}\right)^{\circ}\right)$ for the first molecule of $(I)$

| $\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{N}(11)$ | $1.667(6)$ | $\mathrm{Re}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ | $2.632(4)$ |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| $\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{P}(13)$ | $2.410(4)$ | $\mathrm{N}(12)-\mathrm{P}(11)$ | $1.586(6)$ |
| $\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{P}(14)$ | $2.418(5)$ | $\mathrm{N}(12)-\mathrm{P}(12)$ | $1.588(6)$ |
| $\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{S}(11)$ | $2.499(4)$ | $\mathrm{P}(11)-\mathrm{S}(11)$ | $2.023(4)$ |
| $\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{S}(12)$ | $2.505(4)$ | $\mathrm{P}(12)-\mathrm{S}(12)$ | $2.027(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{N}(11)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{P}(13)$ | $86.5(2)$ | $\mathrm{N}(11)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ | $171.2(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{N}(11)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{P}(14)$ | $95.2(2)$ | $\mathrm{P}(13)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ | $88.42(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(13)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{P}(14)$ | $96.61(15)$ | $\mathrm{P}(14)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ | $78.19(15)$ |
| $\mathrm{N}(11)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{S}(11)$ | $106.4(2)$ | $\mathrm{S}(11)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ | $80.35(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(13)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{S}(11)$ | $86.14(14)$ | $\mathrm{S}(12)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{Cl}(1)$ | $85.23(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(14)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{S}(11)$ | $158.27(8)$ | $\mathrm{P}(11)-\mathrm{N}(12)-\mathrm{P}(12)$ | $132.2(4)$ |
| $\mathrm{N}(11)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{S}(12)$ | $100.4(2)$ | $\mathrm{N}(12)-\mathrm{P}(11)-\mathrm{S}(11)$ | $118.0(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(13)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{S}(12)$ | $171.67(7)$ | $\mathrm{N}(12)-\mathrm{P}(12)-\mathrm{S}(12)$ | $118.0(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(14)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{S}(12)$ | $87.38(15)$ | $\mathrm{P}(11)-\mathrm{S}(11)-\operatorname{Re}(1)$ | $102.91(14)$ |
| $\mathrm{S}(11)-\operatorname{Re}(1)-\mathrm{S}(12)$ | $87.48(14)$ | $\mathrm{P}(12)-\mathrm{S}(12)-\operatorname{Re}(1)$ | $105.3(2)$ |

Scattering factors, dispersion corrections and absorption coefficients were taken from International Tables for Crystallography (Vol. C).

Data collection: CAD-4 Software (Enraf-Nonius, 1989). Cell refinement: CAD-4 Software. Data reduction: CAD-4 Software, SDP (Frenz, 1983) and HKL (Kretschmar, 1994). Program(s) used to solve structure: SHELXS86 (Sheldrick, 1990). Program(s) used to refine structure: SHELXL93 (Sheldrick, 1993). Molecular graphics: ZORTEP (Zsolnai, 1994). Software used to prepare material for publication: SHELXL93.

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Lists of atomic coordinates, displacement parameters, structure factors and complete geometry have been deposited with the IUCr (Reference: FR1002). Copies may be obtained through The Managing Editor, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England.

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## cis-Di(nitrato- $O, O^{\prime}$ )bis(tricyclohexylphosphine oxide- $O$ )nickel(II)

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#### Abstract

The formal pseudo-octahedral coordination around the $\mathrm{Ni}^{\mathrm{II}}$ atom in the title complex, $\left[\mathrm{Ni}\left(\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{OPCy}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]$, places the $\mathrm{OPCy}_{3}$ ligands $\left(\mathrm{C}_{18} \mathrm{H}_{33} \mathrm{OP}\right.$; Cy is cyclohexyl, $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{11}$ ) in an unusual mutually cis conformation. This may be rationalized by viewing each bidentate $\mathrm{NO}_{3}$ group as occupying only one site of a tetrahedral coordination shell.


## Comment

The ability of stereochemically demanding ligands to stabilize unusual coordination geometries and electronic states has been well documented (Brown \& Lee, 1993; Murray, Hope, Hvoslef \& Power, 1984). cis-[Ni ( $\eta^{2}$ $\left.\left.\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{OPCy}_{3}\right)_{2}\right]$, (I), was obtained during our studies of a series of tricyclohexylphosphine complexes, prepared to help elucidate the nature of this stabilization process.

(I)

The coordination geometry about nickel would be conventionally described as octahedral, with six O atoms bound to the metal. Distortion of the octahedron is caused by the intrinsically small bite angles of the bidentate nitrate groups [61.2 (1) and $61.6(1)^{\circ}$ for $\mathrm{O}(3)-$ $\mathrm{Ni}(1)-\mathrm{O}(4)$ and $\mathrm{O}(6)-\mathrm{Ni}(1)-\mathrm{O}(7)$, respectively]. It has been noted, however, by Cotton \& Bergman (1964), that such bidentate ligands may be viewed as occupying one coordination site of a metal. Thus, compound (I) could be described alternatively as having a distorted tetrahedral structure about the $\mathrm{Ni}(1)$ atom. This alternative description is supported by the $\mathrm{N}(1) \cdots \mathrm{Ni}(1) \cdots \mathrm{N}(2)$ angle of $108.6(1)^{\circ}$ and by consideration of the relative stereochemistry of the $\mathrm{OPCy}_{3}$ ligands [ $\mathrm{O}(1)-\mathrm{Ni}(1)-$ $\mathrm{O}(2) 95.3$ (1) and $\left.\mathrm{P}(1) \cdots \mathrm{Ni}(1) \cdots \mathrm{P}(2) 115.92(3)^{\circ}\right]$. In an octahedral arrangement, these ligands must be viewed as being mutually cis. Such a relationship between bulky groups is unexpected. For example, $\mathrm{PCy}_{3}$ ligands are normally situated trans with respect to one another, the cis geometry being a rarity (Watson, Woodward, Conole, Kessler \& Sykara, 1994; Clark \& HampdenSmith, 1987). Although sterically less demanding than $\mathrm{PCy}_{3}$, as defined by the classic cone angle (Tolman, 1977), $\mathrm{OPCy}_{3}$ is nevertheless a large ligand and it is unusual for such ligands to preferentially adopt a cis arrangement. A similar conformation is found in the related complex $\left[\mathrm{Ni}\left(\eta^{2}-\mathrm{NO}_{3}\right)_{2}\left(\mathrm{OAsPh}_{3}\right)_{2}\right.$ ] (Marques \& Tomita, 1990) and comparable geometric parameters are in good agreement between the complexes.

The $\mathrm{NO}_{3}$ ligands are symmetrically bidentate, as classified by Kleywegt et al. (1985). The P-O distances of 1.505 (3) and 1.502 (3) $\AA$ are slightly shorter than


Fig. 1. ORTEPII (Johnson, 1976) view of (I) with $50 \%$ probability ellipsoids. H atoms have been omitted for clarity.

