# Synthesis of the pseudohalide-dinitrogen complexes trans- $\left[\mathrm{ReX}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)\left(\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{PPh}_{2}\right)_{2}\right]\left(\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NCS}, \mathrm{NCO}\right.$ or $\left.\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)$ and crystal structures of the isothiocyanate and azide complexes 

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#### Abstract

The isothiocyanate-, isocyanate- and azide-dinitrogen complexes trans-[ReX( $\left.\left.\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\mathrm{dppe})_{2}\right]\left(\mathbf{1 a}, \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NCS} ; \mathbf{l b}, \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NCO} ; \mathbf{l c}, \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{N}_{3}\right.$; dppe $\left.=\mathrm{Ph}_{2} \mathrm{PCH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{PPh}_{2}\right)$ have been prepared by reactions of NaX with trans-[ $\left.\mathrm{RcCl}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\mathrm{dppe})_{2}\right]$. The crystal structurcs for $1 \mathbf{a}$ and $\mathbf{1 c}$ are reported; $\mathbf{1 a}$ is the first dinitrogen-isothiocyanate complex to be structurally characterized.


## 1. Introduction

In spite of the large number of dinitrogen complexes known with an anionic stabilizing co-ligand in the trans position (mainly hydride or chloride, and, to a lesser extent, including bromide, alkyldithiocarbamate or alkoxide) [1], there are very few examples of dinitrogen complexes with a pseudo-halide co-ligand, such as azide [2], cyanide [3] or thiocyanate [3], in particular $\left[\mathrm{Ru}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)\left(\mathrm{NH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2}\right]\left[\mathrm{PF}_{6}\right]$ [2] and $\left[\mathrm{NBu}_{4}\right]\left[\mathrm{MoY}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\text { dppe })_{2}\right]\left(\mathrm{Y}=\mathrm{N}_{3}, \mathrm{CN}\right.$ or SCN ; the binding modes have not been ascertained) [3]. However, such types of $N_{2}$ complex would be of particular interest in the field of nitrogen fixation, because, for example, of the significance in this field of such pseudo-halides. In fact, azide and cyanide are recognized substrates of nitrogenase [4], and thiocyanate is known [5] to interact with isolated FeMoco. Moreover, the investigation of the mode of binding of the latter ligand (through the N or the S atom) [6] to a $\mathrm{N}_{2}$-binding metal site might also provide an insight into the

[^0]relative affinity of the site for such atoms. Furthermore, possible effects on the stabilization of the metal$\mathrm{N}_{2}$ bond might also be recognized.

## 2. Results and discussion

In extension of our studies [7] of the activation of nitrogenase substrates or other interacting species, we have now synthesized dinitrogen complexes with an isothiocyanate, isocyanate or azide co-ligand trans$\left[\operatorname{ReX}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\mathrm{dppe})_{2}\right](\mathbf{1 a}, \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NCS} ; \mathbf{1 b}, \mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NCO} ; 1 \mathbf{c}$, $X=N_{3}$ ). To our knowledge 1a is the first and ic the second example of a dinitrogen complex with such co-ligands to be structurally characterized by X-ray studies.

Complexes 1 were prepared by reacting trans$\left[\mathrm{ReCl}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\text { dppe })_{2}\right]$ with the appropriate NaX salt $(\mathrm{X}=$ SCN, NCO or $\mathrm{N}_{3}$, respectively), used in a $c a$. tenfold molar excess, in refluxing $\mathrm{THF} / \mathrm{MeOH}$ (eqn. 1) for 3 (1a or 1c) or 6 (1b) days. They were isolated (ca. $85 \%$ yields) as pink (1a) and yellow (lb and 1c) crystalline solids, respectively (Table 1). Their trans geometry is consistent with the singlet resonances observed in the ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR spectra $[\delta-106.13$ (1a), -107.49 (1b) or

TABLE 1. Analytical ${ }^{14}$ and phesical data for complexes trans$\left[\operatorname{ReX}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\text { dppe })_{2}\right]\left[\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NCS}(\mathbf{1 a}), \mathrm{NCO}(\mathbf{1 b})\right.$ or $\left.\mathrm{N}_{2}(\mathbf{1} \mathbf{c})\right]$

| Complex | X | Colour | Analyses <br> (Found (calc.) (\%)) |  |  | $\mathrm{IR}^{1}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | C | N | H | $\overline{\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)}$ | $\nu(\mathrm{X})$ |
| 1 a | NCS | Pink | $\begin{gathered} 59.69 \\ (59.59) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.21 \\ (3.93) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.68 \\ (4.53) \end{gathered}$ | 1985 | 2090 |
| $1 b^{\text {c }}$ | NCO | Yellow | $\begin{gathered} 59.18 \\ (58.63) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.41 \\ (3.72) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.08 \\ (5.18) \end{gathered}$ | 1952 | 2235 |
| 1 c | $\mathrm{N}_{3}$ | Yellow | $\begin{gathered} 59.74 \\ (59.34) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 6.36 \\ (6.65) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.99 \\ (4.60) \end{gathered}$ | 1965 | 2060 |

"Calculated values in parentheses; " strong bands ( $\mathrm{cm}{ }^{1}$ ) in KBr discs; ${ }^{c}$ for the cyanate isomer, $r\left(\mathrm{~N}_{2}\right)=1972$ and $v(\mathrm{X})=2225 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$
-104.04 (1c) ppm relative to $\mathrm{P}(\mathrm{OMe})_{3}$, in $\mathrm{CD}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ (Table 2)].

$$
\begin{align*}
& \operatorname{trans}-\left[\operatorname{ReCl}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\text { dppe })_{2}\right]+\mathrm{NaX} \longrightarrow \\
& \operatorname{trans}-\left[\operatorname{ReX}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\text { dppe })_{2}\right]+\mathrm{NaCl} \tag{1}
\end{align*}
$$

In their IR spectra (Table 1$), \nu\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)$ band is observed at 1985, 1952 and $1965 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, respectively; other strong (and sharp) bands at 2090, 2235 and $2060 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ are assigned to $\nu(\mathrm{NCS}), \nu(\mathrm{NCO})$ and $\nu\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)$, respectively. The band at $2090 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ observed for $1 \mathbf{a}$ would fit the empirical criterion for either a N -bonded or a S-bonded NCS ligand since the relevant $\nu(\mathrm{CN})$ ranges have been reported [8] as 2100-2050 or 2130-2085 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$, respectively. The distinction between these types of binding modes could also not be based on the expected [8] different ranges for $\nu(\mathrm{CS})(870-820$ or $760-700 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ for a N - or a S-bonded ligand, respectively) or $\delta(\mathrm{NCS})\left(485-475\right.$ or $470-430 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ for the N or S-coordination, respectively), because of interference by dppe bands in these frequency ranges

However (see below), the X-ray diffraction study of 1a revealed that the NCS ligand binds through the N -atom (i.e. the "hard" rather than the "soft" end) and, therefore, it must be regarded as a metal isothio-

TABLE 2. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR data ${ }^{a}$ for complexes trans$\left[\operatorname{ReX}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\text { dppe })_{2}\right]\left[\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NCS}(1 \mathbf{a}), \mathrm{NCO}(1 \mathrm{~b})\right.$ or $\left.\mathrm{N}_{3}(1 \mathbf{c})\right]$

| Complex | X | ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ |  |  | $\frac{\mathrm{P}}{\delta(\mathrm{ppm})}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\bar{\delta}(\mathrm{ppm})^{\text {b }}$ | Integration | Assignment |  |
| 1 a | NCS | $7.1-6.8$ m | 40 | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ | $-106.13 \mathrm{~s}$ |
|  |  | 2.4-2.3m | 8 | $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ |  |
| 1b | NCO | $7.3-6.9 \mathrm{~m}$ | 40 | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ | $-107.49 \mathrm{~s}$ |
|  |  | $2.5-2.3 \mathrm{~m}$ | 8 | $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ |  |
| 1c | $\mathrm{N}_{3}$ | $7.1-6.6 \mathrm{~m}$ | 40 | $\mathrm{C}_{6} \mathrm{H}_{5}$ | -104.04 s |
|  |  | $2.5-2.2 \mathrm{~m}$ | 8 | $\mathrm{CH}_{2}$ |  |

[^1]

Fig. 1. View of the structure of the complex trans-[Re(NCS) $\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)\left(\right.$ dppe $\left._{2}\right]$ (1a) with the atomic labelling scheme.
cyanate ( $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{NCS}$ ) rather than a thiocyanate species ( $\mathrm{M}-\mathrm{SCN}$ ).

In complex Ib, the NCO ligand is also believed to bind the metal through the N atom in view of the observed IR band (Table 1), with medium intensity, at $1330 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$, which lies within the expected range (1370-1300 $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$ ) [9] for the $\nu_{s}(\mathrm{NCO})$ vibration of an isocyanate ligand.


Fig, 2. View of the structure of the complex trans$\left[\operatorname{Re}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\mathrm{dppe})_{2}\right]$ (lc) with the atomic labelling scheme. The two $\mathrm{N}_{3}$ and $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ ligands are disordered between the two apical positions; one of the two forms is represented in the Figure.

However, the analogous cyanate complex (with the O-bonded NCO ligand) also appears to be formed in reaction $1,(X=N C O)$; it was isolated when shorter refluxing periods were used (such as 3 days), but was always contaminated by the isocyanate. A weak IR band at $1265 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ is assigned [9] to $\nu_{\mathrm{s}}(\mathrm{NCO})$ of the O-bonded ligand, whereas $\nu_{\mathrm{as}}(\mathrm{NCO})$ is observed as a strong band at $2225 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1} . \nu\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)$ is detected as a strong band at a wavenumber ( $1972 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ) slightly above that observed ( $1952 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ) for the isocyanate complex 1b, suggesting that cyanate behaves as a somewhat weaker electron donor than isocyanate ligand. In the ${ }^{31} \mathrm{P}$ NMR spectrum of the cyanate complex, the expected singlet resonance is observed at $\delta-105.36 \mathrm{ppm}$ (Table 2).

The structures of the complexes $\mathbf{1 a}$ and $\mathbf{1 c}$, determined by X-ray diffraction study methods, are shown in Figs. 1 and 2, respectively. The relevant bond distances and angles are given in Tables 3 and 4, respectively. In each complex, the Re atom displays an octahedral coordination, involving four $P$ atoms from the
two chelating dppe ligands in the equatorial positions, and two N atoms (one from $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ and the other from the pseudo-halide ligand) in the apical positions. The complex 1c has a crystallographic imposed $C_{\mathrm{i}}$ symmetry, so that the two apical ligands are disordered between two positions with equal occupancy factor. Because of this feature the $\mathrm{N}(1)$ and $\mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right)$ atoms are not well resolved and the structural parameters involving these atoms must be regarded as not very precise.

The isothiocyanate ligand in 1a is linearly coordinated through the N atom [ $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{C}$ bond angle of $\left.178.8(6)^{\circ}\right]^{\circ}$, but in 1c the $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{N}$ bond angle is $150.3(5)^{\circ}$. In $\mathbf{1 a}$ the $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}_{2}$ bond length is rather short [1.951(6) Å], indicative of considerable degree of double bond character; it is even slightly shorter than that reported for the related complex trans- $\left[\operatorname{ReCl}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)\right.$ $\left.\left(\mathrm{PMe}_{2} \mathrm{Ph}\right)_{4}\right], 1.97(2) \AA[10]$.

The $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{C}$ bond length in the isothiocyanate ligand, $1.136(10) \AA$, is very close to that found for the $\mathrm{N} \equiv \mathrm{C}$ bond of the acetonitrile ligand in trans-[ $\mathrm{ReCl}(\mathrm{NCMe})-$

TABLE 3. Selected bond distances $(\AA)$ and angles $\left({ }^{\circ}\right)$ with esd's in parentheses for complex $\left[\operatorname{Re}(N C S)\left(N_{2}\right)(d p p e)_{2}\right] \cdot \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}(\mathbf{1 a})$

| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | 1.951(6) | $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | $1.845(8)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}(3)$ | $2.104(6)$ | $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | $1.851(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(1)$ | 2.414(2) | $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $1.845(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(2)$ | 2.411(2) | $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $1.820(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(3)$ | 2.411(2) | $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | $1.835(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(4)$ | 2.408(2) | $\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{C}(27)$ | $1.849(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | 1.119(10) | $\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{C}(29)$ | 1.848(7) |
| N(3)-C(53) | 1.136(10) | $\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{C}(35)$ | $1.833(7)$ |
| S-C(53) | 1.642(9) | $\mathrm{P}(4)-\mathrm{C}(28)$ | $1.831(7)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | 1.514(12) | $\mathrm{P}(4)-\mathrm{C}(41)$ | $1.830(6)$ |
| C(27)-C(28) | $1.537(10)$ | $\mathrm{P}(4)-\mathrm{C}(17)$ | 1.840(7) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | 1.857(8) |  |  |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}(3)$ | 176.2(3) | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | 120.6(2) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(1)$ | 92.1(2) | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 121.8(3) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(2)$ | 87.8(2) | $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(3)$ | 100.8(3) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(3)$ | 92.4(2) | $\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 101.0(4) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(4)$ | 91.9(2) | $\mathrm{C}(3)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 101.3(3) |
| $\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(1)$ | $90.2(2)$ | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | 106.4(3) |
| $\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(2)$ | 89.6(2) | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | 118.8(2) |
| $\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(3)$ | 90.3(2) | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | 121.4(3) |
| $\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(4)$ | 85.9(2) | $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | 102.6 (3) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(2)$ | 81.2(1) | $\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | 102.8(3) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(3)$ | 98.0(1) | $\mathrm{C}(15)-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(21)$ | 102.4 (3) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(4)$ | 176.0(1) | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{C}(27)$ | 108.3(3) |
| $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(3)$ | 179.2(1) | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{C}(29)$ | 122.9(2) |
| $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(4)$ | 99.5(1) | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{C}(35)$ | 118.8(3) |
| $\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(4)$ | 81.3(1) | $\mathrm{C}(27)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{C}(29)$ | 99.3(3) |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | 177.7(6) | $\mathrm{C}(27)-\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{C}(35)$ | 101.4(3) |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{C}(53)$ | 178.8(6) | $\mathrm{C}(29)-\mathbf{P}(3)-\mathrm{C}(35)$ | 102.5(3) |
| S-C(53)-N(3) | 177.4(7) | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(4)-\mathrm{C}(28)$ | 107.0(3) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | 107.6(5) | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(4)-\mathrm{C}(41)$ | 121.9(2) |
| $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | $106.7(5)$ | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(4)-\mathrm{C}(47)$ | 118.7(2) |
| $\mathrm{P}(3)-\mathrm{C}(27)-\mathrm{C}(28)$ | 108.2(5) | $\mathrm{C}(28)-\mathrm{P}(4)-\mathrm{C}(41)$ | 101.2(3) |
| $\mathrm{P}(4)-\mathrm{C}(28)-\mathrm{C}(27)$ | 106.9(5) | $\mathrm{C}(28)-\mathrm{P}(4)-\mathrm{C}(47)$ | 102.8(3) |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | 107.9(3) | $\mathrm{C}(41)-\mathrm{P}(4)-\mathrm{C}(47)$ | 102.3(3) |

TABLE 4. Selected bond distances ( $\AA$ ) and angles (i) with esds in parentheses for complex $\left[\operatorname{Re}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\mathrm{dppe})_{2}\right]$ (1c)

| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}(1)$ | $2.058(3)$ | $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Cl} 1)$ | 1.84.3(3) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(1)$ | $2.397(1)$ | $P(1)-(3)$ | $1.855(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(2)$ | 2.41001 ) | $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(9)$ | 1.839(3) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | $0.969(11)$ | $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{CO})$ | $1.86 .5(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{N}(3)$ | $1.199(10)$ | $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $1.845(3)$ |
| $\mathrm{N}(3)-\mathrm{N}(4)$ | $1.2000(13)$ | $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{Cl} 21)$ | $18422)$ |
| $C(1)-C(2)$ | $1.521(4)$ |  |  |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(1)$ | $86.2(1)$ | Re--P(1)-C(9) | 124.4(1) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(2)$ | 86.4 (1) | C(1) $P(1) C(3)$ | $103.3(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(2)$ | $80.6(1)$ | ( $(1)-\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{Cl} 9)$ | $98.8(2)$ |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}(1)-\mathrm{N}(2)$ | $176.8(7)$ | C(3)-P(1)-C(9) | 103.00 (1) |
| $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right)-\mathrm{N}(3)$ | 150.3(5) | Re-P(2)-(12) | 110.0011 |
| $N\left(1^{\prime}\right)-N(3)-N(4)$ | $175.1(10)$ | $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(15)$ | $121.301)$ |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)-\mathrm{C}(1)-\mathrm{C}(2)$ | $109.1(2)$ | Re- P(2)-C(21) | 117.301) |
| $\mathrm{P}(2)-\mathrm{C}(2)-\mathrm{C}(1)$ | 111.4(2) | C(2)-P(2)-C(15) | 98.1(2) |
| Re-P(1)-C(1) | 106.2(1) | C(2)-P(2)-C(21) | $103.2(2)$ |
| Re-P(1)-C(3) | 117.6(1) | (115)-P(2)-C(2) | 104.0(1) |

The primed atom is related to the unprimed ome by the transformation $-x,-y,-z=$
$\left.(\text { dppe })_{2}\right], 1.141(9) \AA[11]$, and comparable with that found in $\left[\mathrm{Mo}(\mathrm{NCS}) \mathrm{Cl}(\mathrm{dppe})_{2}\right], 1.172(10) \AA$ [12]. The azide group is symmetrical, i.e. it has identical $\mathrm{N}\left(1^{\prime}\right)$ $N(3)$ and $N(3)-N(4)$ distances, $1.199(10)$ and $1.200(13)$ $\AA$, as observed for $\left[\mathrm{Ru}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)\left(\mathrm{NH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{NH}_{2}\right)_{2}\right]-$ [ $\mathrm{PF}_{6}$ ] [average $1.162(23) \AA$ A] [2] or in the ionic azide, $1.154(15) \AA[13]$; however, in our complex 1c, the Re- $\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{N}$ bond angle, $150.3(5)^{\circ}$, is much larger than that in the Ru complex, $116.7(7)^{\circ}$. [2]. suggesting a stronger involvement of the azide ligand in $\pi$-bonding to the rhenium than in that to the ruthenium centre, in these species.

This study also clearly shows that $\mathrm{NCS}^{-}, \mathrm{NCO}^{-}$and $\mathrm{N}_{3}^{-}$can act as good $\mathrm{Re}-\mathrm{N}_{2}$ bond-stabilizing ligands and the corresponding dinitrogen compounds can readily be prepared by simple displacement of $\mathrm{Cl}^{-}$from a chloro/dinitrogen complex. The potential significance of these findings for the extension of the available range of $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ complexes and for the study of the activation of such substrates by $\mathrm{N}_{2}$-binding centres is being explored.

## 3. Experimental section

The reactions were carried out under dinitrogen by use of standard gas-flow or high-vacuum techniques. The complex trans- $\left[\mathrm{ReCl}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\mathrm{dppe})_{2}\right]$ was prepared by a published method [14] and the pseudo-halide salts were used as purchased (Aldrich). The solvents were dried by standard methods and distilled under dinitrogen prior to use. Infrared spectra were recorded with a Perkin-Elmer 683 spectrophotometer and the NMR
spectra with a Varian Unity 300 spectrometer. Microanalyses were by Mr. Luis Vieira (Complexo I).
3.1. Preparation of complexes trans- $/ \operatorname{ReX}\left(N_{2}\right)(\text { dppe })_{2} /$ ( $\boldsymbol{l} \boldsymbol{a}, X=\mathrm{NCS}, \boldsymbol{l}, X=\mathrm{NCO}, \boldsymbol{l}, X=N_{i}$ )

After addition of $\mathrm{NaX}[1.9 \mathrm{~mm}$ ol, i.e.. $155 \mathrm{mg}(\mathrm{X}=$ NCS $)$ or $124 \mathrm{mg}\left(\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NCO}\right.$ or $\left.\left.\mathrm{N}_{8}\right)\right]$ to a suspension of trans- $-\left[\operatorname{ReCl}\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\mathrm{dppe})_{2}\right] \quad(0.19 \mathrm{mmol}, 200 \mathrm{mg})$ in THF/ MeOH ( $70 \mathrm{~cm}^{2}$ of a $1: 1.5$ volume mixture) the mixture was refluxed under dinitrogen for 3 days ( $X=$ NCS or $\mathrm{N}_{5}$ ) or 6 days ( $\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NCO}$ ). The solution was then filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to $\mathrm{ca} .5 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$. Addition of MeOH led to precipitation of complexes 1 as a pink ( $\mathbf{1 a}$ ) or a yellow ( $\mathbf{1 b}$ or 1e) solid. which was filtered off. washed with MeOH, and dried in cacuo. Crystalline products were obtained by crystallization from $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2} / \mathrm{Et}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ (ca. $80^{\circ}$ yield).

In the case of $\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{NCO}$, shorter periods of reflux led to the isolation of mixtures of $\mathbf{1 b}$ with the corresponding cyanate isomer.
3.2. Determination of the onstal structures of trans$\mid \operatorname{ReX}\left(N_{2}\right)(d p p e)_{2} /\left(\right.$ Ia. $\left.X=\operatorname{NCS}: I c, X=N_{3}\right)$

Crystal data for la. $\mathbf{C H}_{2} \mathbf{C l}_{2}, \mathrm{C}_{53} \mathbf{H}_{4 \times} \mathrm{N}_{3} \mathrm{P}_{ \pm} \mathrm{ReS}$. $\mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}, \mathrm{M}=1154.07$, triclinic, space group $P \overline{\mathrm{I}} . a=$ $12.383(6), b=13.073(3), c=15.659(9)$ A,$~ \alpha=82.36(2)$, $\beta=86.41(2), \gamma=82.43(2), V=2488(2) \AA . Z=2 . D_{\text {c }}$ $=1.541 \mathrm{~cm}{ }^{*} . F(000)=1160 . \mu\left(\mathrm{MO} \mathrm{K}_{a}\right)=27.89$ $\mathrm{cm}^{-1}$.

Crystal data for 1c. $\mathrm{C}_{82} \mathrm{H}_{4} \mathrm{~N}_{5} \mathrm{P}_{4} \mathrm{Rc}, \mathrm{M}=1053.08$. triclinic, space group $P \overline{1}, a=10.317(3), b=10.531(3)$, $c=12.005(4) \AA . \alpha=71.20(2), \quad \beta=87.29(2), \gamma=$ $62.37(2)^{\circ}, V=1140.1(7) \AA^{3}, Z=1 \quad D=1.534 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~cm}^{-3}$. $F(000)=530, \mu(\mathrm{MoK} \alpha)=28.79 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$

The intensity data were collected at room temperature $\left(22^{\circ} \mathrm{C}\right)$ on Siemens AED (1a) and Philips PW 1100 (1c) diffractometers using niobium-filtered (1a) and graphite-monochromated (1c) Mo $\mathrm{K} \alpha$ radiation ( $\bar{\lambda}=$ $0.71073 \AA$ ) and the $\theta-2 \theta$ scan technigue. 12087 (1a) and 4996 (1c) unique reflections were measured. with $\theta$ in the range 3-28 (1a) and 3-27 (1c), 8108 (1a) and 4954 (1c). reflections with $l \geqslant 2 \sigma(I)$ were used in the refinement. One standard reflection was monitored every 50 measurements; no significant decay was noticed over the time of data collection. The individual profiles were analyzed following Lehmann and Larsen [15]. Intensities were corrected for Lorentz and polarization effects, a correction for absorption cffects [16] was applied to the data of $\mathbf{1 a}$ (maximum and minimum values for the transmission factors were 1.312 and 0.852 respectively).

The structures were solved by Patterson and Fourier methods and refined by blocked full-matrix (1a) and full-matrix (1c) least-squares. with anisotropic thermal

TABLE 5. Fractional atomic coordinates $\left(\times 10^{4}\right)$ and equivalent isotropic thermal parameters ( $\AA^{2} \times 10^{4}$ ) with esd's in parentheses for the non-hydrogen atoms of complex $\left\lfloor\operatorname{Re}(\mathrm{NCS})\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\text { dppe })_{2}\right\rfloor \cdot \mathrm{CH}_{2} \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ (1a)

| Atom | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ | $U^{\text {a }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Re | 1864(1) | 2660(1) | 2580(1) | 282(1) |
| S | 2380(3) | 295(2) | 384(2) | 878(11) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)$ | 510(1) | 3795(1) | 1744(1) | 360(5) |
| $\mathrm{P}(2)$ | 3048(1) | 3779(1) | 1745(1) | 346(5) |
| $\mathrm{P}(3)$ | 660 (1) | 1553(1) | 3403(1) | 360(5) |
| $\mathrm{P}(4)$ | 3210(1) | 1442(1) | 3345(1) | 326(5) |
| N(1) | 1762(4) | 3589(4) | 3467(4) | 394(18) |
| N(2) | 1739(6) | 4125(6) | 3971(4) | 617(26) |
| N(3) | 2087(4) | 1662(4) | 1618(3) | 373(17) |
| C(1) | 1236(6) | 4640(6) | 914(5) | 486(25) |
| C(2) | 2174(7) | 4977(6) | 1340(5) | 488(26) |
| C(3) | -388(6) | 3259(5) | 1066(4) | 405(21) |
| C(4) | $-1483(7)$ | 3272(6) | 1259(5) | 529(27) |
| C(5) | -2135(8) | 2819(7) | $768(7)$ | 683(34) |
| C(6) | - 1697(9) | 2332(7) | $93(6)$ | $711(38)$ |
| C(7) | -598(9) | 2292(7) | $-107(5)$ | 629(33) |
| C(8) | 67(7) | 2773(6) | 373(5) | 498(25) |
| C(9) | -466(6) | 4777(5) | 2232(5) | 449(23) |
| $\mathrm{C}(10)$ | -646(6) | 4738(7) | $3109(5)$ | 568(29) |
| C(11) | - 1368(8) | 5512(8) | 3454(7) | 751(39) |
| C(12) | - 1916(7) | 6286(7) | 2923(9) | 775(45) |
| C(13) | - 1749(8) | 6316(7) | 2047(8) | 768(40) |
| C(14) | - 1047(7) | 5580(6) | 1704(6) | 595(30) |
| C(15) | 4085(5) | $4276(4)$ | 2293(4) | 370(20) |
| C(16) | 5171(6) | 3843(6) | 2268(5) | 482(25) |
| C(17) | 5934(7) | $4165(8)$ | 2745(6) | 626(33) |
| C(18) | 5626(7) | 4950(7) | 3259(6) | 652(34) |
| C(19) | 4582(7) | $5378(7)$ | 3296(6) | 637(33) |
| C(20) | 3807(7) | $5055(6)$ | 2809(5) | 515(26) |
| C(21) | 3797(5) | 3402(5) | 764(4) | 415(22) |
| C(22) | 3889(9) | $4100(7)$ | 15(6) | $760(37)$ |
| C(23) | 4505(13) | 3780(9) | -690(6) | 1093(58) |
| $\mathrm{C}(24)$ | 5029(10) | 2799(9) | -674(6) | 824(45) |
| C(25) | $4948(8)$ | 2094(8) | 49(6) | 652(33) |
| C(26) | 4314(7) | $2408(6)$ | 753(4) | $506(26)$ |
| C(27) | 1477(6) | 615(6) | 4174(4) | 440(23) |
| C(28) | 2572 (6) | 265(5) | 3717(4) | 396(21) |
| C(29) | -57(5) | 637(5) | 2915(4) | 391(20) |
| C(30) | -539(7) | - 147(7) | 3432(5) | 625(31) |
| C(31) | - 1032(7) | $-860(7)$ | 3076(7) | 722 (35) |
| $\mathrm{C}(32)$ | - 1081(6) | $-801(6)$ | 2196 (6) | 568(29) |
| C(33) | -631(6) | - 16(6) | 1682(5) | 521(26) |
| C(34) | -143(6) | 709(5) | 2035(4) | 411(22) |
| C(35) | -404(6) | 2131(6) | 4124(4) | $479(24)$ |
| C(36) | $-107(8)$ | 2602(7) | 4807(5) | 654(33) |
| C(37) | -885(11) | 3118(10) | $5312(6)$ | 932(48) |
| C(38) | -1960(11) | 3162(12) | 5156 (8) | 1077(58) |
| C(39) | - 2271(10) | 2715(11) | 4494(8) | 1062(54) |
| C(40) | - 1503(7) | 2208(8) | 3969(6) | $678(34)$ |
| C(41) | 4467(5) | 896(5) | 2806(4) | $367(19)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(42)$ | 4421(6) | 171(6) | 2237(4) | 470(24) |
| C(43) | 5345(7) | -170(7) | 1762(5) | 601(31) |
| C(44) | 6313 (7) | 206(8) | $1830(6)$ | 658(33) |
| C(45) | 6382(7) | 881(7) | $2405(6)$ | $625(32)$ |
| C(46) | 5464(6) | 1244(6) | 2887(5) | 459(24) |
| $\mathrm{C}(47)$ | 3707(5) | 1771(5) | 4345(4) | 357(19) |
| C(48) | 4006(6) | $2762(6)$ | 4354(4) | 462(24) |
| C(49) | 4404(7) | 3027(7) | 5092(5) | 571(29) |
| C(50) | 4469 (7) | 2342 (7) | 5826(5) | $632(32)$ |

TABLE 5. (continued)

| Atom | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ | $U^{\text {a }}$ |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| $\mathrm{C}(51)$ | $4175(8)$ | $1366(7)$ | $5835(5)$ | $656(33)$ |
| $\mathrm{C}(52)$ | $3795(7)$ | $1074(6)$ | $5097(5)$ | $527(26)$ |
| C(53) | $2225(6)$ | $1114(6)$ | $1105(5)$ | $502(25)$ |
| C1(1) | $951(3)$ | $7119(3)$ | $2394(2)$ | $1118(15)$ |
| C1(2) | $2999(3)$ | $7836(3)$ | $2610(3)$ | $1404(20)$ |
| C(54) | $1696(13)$ | $8179(9)$ | $2396(12)$ | $1176(73)$ |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Equivalent isotropic $U$ defined as one-third of the trace of the orthogonalized $U_{i j}$ tensor.
parameters in the last cycles of refinement for all the non-hydrogen atoms. In $1 \mathbf{c}$ the two $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{N}_{3}$ ligands were found to be disordered, and distributed between the two apical positions with equal occupancy factor in order to justify the crystallographically imposed $C_{\mathrm{i}}$ symmetry of the complex. Because of the overlapping of the two peaks, the $N(1)$ and $N\left(1^{\prime}\right)$ atoms are not well

TABLE 6. Fractional atomic coordinates $\left(\times 10^{4}\right)$ and equivalent isotropic thermal parameters $\left(\hat{A}^{2} \times 10^{4}\right)$ with esd's in parentheses for the non-hydrogen atoms of complex $\left[\operatorname{Re}\left(\mathrm{N}_{3}\right)\left(\mathrm{N}_{2}\right)(\mathrm{dppe})_{2}\right]$ (1c)

| Atom | $x$ | $y$ | $z$ | $U^{\text {a }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Re | 0 | 0 | 0 | 250(1) |
| $\mathrm{P}(1)$ | 344(1) | 1869(1) | -1496(1) | 275(2) |
| P (2) | 751(1) | 1089(1) | 1104(1) | 295(2) |
| $\mathrm{N}(1)$ | 2211(3) | -1424(3) | 47(2) | 414(11) |
| N(2) | 3263(13) | -2071(11) | 98(8) | 543(41) |
| N(3) | -3432(9) | 1607(9) | 102(7) | 449(31) |
| N(4) | -4626(7) | 1694(9) | 232(8) | 953(43) |
| C(1) | 1801(3) | 2096(3) | -918(2) | 324(10) |
| C(2) | 1399(3) | 2409(3) | 181(2) | $346(11)$ |
| C(3) | -1198(3) | 3815(3) | -2001(2) | 307(9) |
| C(4) | -1054(3) | 5092(3) | -2073(2) | 346(10) |
| C(5) | -2264(3) | 6526(3) | -2400(2) | 414(11) |
| C(6) | -3635(3) | 6721(3) | -2672(3) | 558(14) |
| C(7) | -3783(4) | 5474(4) | -2633(4) | 628(16) |
| C(8) | -2591(3) | 4033(3) | -2290(3) | 467(13) |
| C(9) | 1091(3) | 1589(3) | -2804(2) | 319(10) |
| C(10) | 1893(3) | 127(3) | -2836(2) | 373(11) |
| C(11) | 2534(3) | -122(4) | -3796(3) | 460(13) |
| C(12) | 2407(4) | 1088(4) | -4716(2) | 509(14) |
| C(13) | 1632(4) | 2541(4) | -4691(2) | 564(15) |
| C(14) | 969(3) | 2809(3) | -3743(2) | 456(12) |
| C(15) | -596(3) | 2407(3) | 1767(2) | 372(11) |
| C(16) | -1848(3) | 3630(3) | 1070(3) | 486(13) |
| C(17) | -2880(4) | 4739(4) | 1461(4) | 637(18) |
| C(18) | -2675(5) | 4633(5) | 2566(4) | 709(23) |
| C(19) | -1448(4) | 3422(5) | $3269(3)$ | 636(22) |
| C(20) | -412(4) | 2307(4) | 2884(3) | 473(15) |
| C(21) | $2310(3)$ | -230(3) | 2227(2) | 354(10) |
| C(22) | $2108(3)$ | -1134(3) | 3234(2) | 447(13) |
| C(23) | 3271(4) | -2137(4) | 4083(3) | $540(15)$ |
| C(24) | 4652(4) | -2275(4) | 3941(3) | 560(15) |
| C(25) | 4881(4) | -1423(4) | 2943(3) | 577(15) |
| C(26) | 3725(3) | -414(4) | 2085(3) | 463(13) |

${ }^{\text {a }}$ Equivalent isotropic $U$ defined as one-third of the trace of the orthogonalized $U_{i j}$ tensor.
resolved. A refinement of the structure in the noncentrosymmetric space group P1 with each of two ligands occupying an apical position gave worse results. The hydrogen atoms were clearly localized in the final $\Delta F$ map and refined isotropically. A weighting scheme $w-K\left[\sigma^{2}\left(F_{\mathrm{o}}\right)+g F_{\mathrm{o}}^{2}\right]^{-1}$ was used in the last cycles of refinement with $K=0.400$ and $g=0.0029$ (1a) and $K=1.0$ and $g=0.0008$ ( 1 c ). The final $R$ and $R_{\mathrm{w}}$ values were 0.0437 and 0.0530 (1a) and 0.0220 and 0.0276 (1c). The SHELX-76 and SHELXS 86 computer programs were used [17]. Atomic scattering factors, corrected for anomalous dispersion, were taken from ref. 18. Final atomic coordinates for the non-hydrogen atoms of $\mathbf{1 a}$ and lc are given in Tables 5 and 6 respectively. All calculations were carried out with the Gould Powernode 6040 and Encore 91 computers of the Contro di Studio per la Strutturistica Diffrattometrica del C.N.R., Parma. Additional data are available from the authors.

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[^1]:    ${ }^{a}$ In $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$; s-singlet; m-complex multiplet; ${ }^{b}$ relative to internal SiMe $_{4}$, assigned to dppe; ${ }^{c}$ relative to $\mathrm{P}(\mathrm{OMe})_{3}$, assigned to $4 P$ (dppe): ${ }^{d}-105.36 \mathrm{ppm}$ (s) for the cyanate isomer.

