

Soviet Reported Keeping New MIGs Out of Egypt

LONDON (UPI) — The Soviet Union, which is reliably reported to have provided Egypt with more than 400 jet fighters and bombers since the 1967 Mideast War, is holding up delivery of the latest type MIG23s apparently for fear they might fall into Israeli hands, diplomatic reports said yesterday.

Moscow was reported recently to have agreed to supply 200 of the all-weather MIG23 supersonic jet fighters — the most advanced Soviet fighter plane — which is reported to be faster than the American-built F4 Phantoms.

The MIG23, which is reported

to have a top speed of up to 1,800 miles an hour, as compared to the Phantom's 1,400, were to have been part of a new major arms supply program for Cairo which also included missiles and other advanced weapons.

Reports from Morocco last month said Moscow already had started shipping the MIG23s to Egypt, but diplomatic reports reaching London said the Kremlin apparently has put off delivery indefinitely.

As far as is known, the Russians have kept back the MIG23 even from her closest allies in East Europe.