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# **National Intelligence Bulletin**

OSD Review Completed

State Dept. review  
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DIA review(s)  
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LATE ITEMSOUTH VIETNAM

The US has begun the emergency evacuation of remaining Americans from South Vietnam. The effort encountered some problems initially. The communist assault on Saigon has closed Tan Son Nhut airfield and led to panic and chaos throughout the capital area.

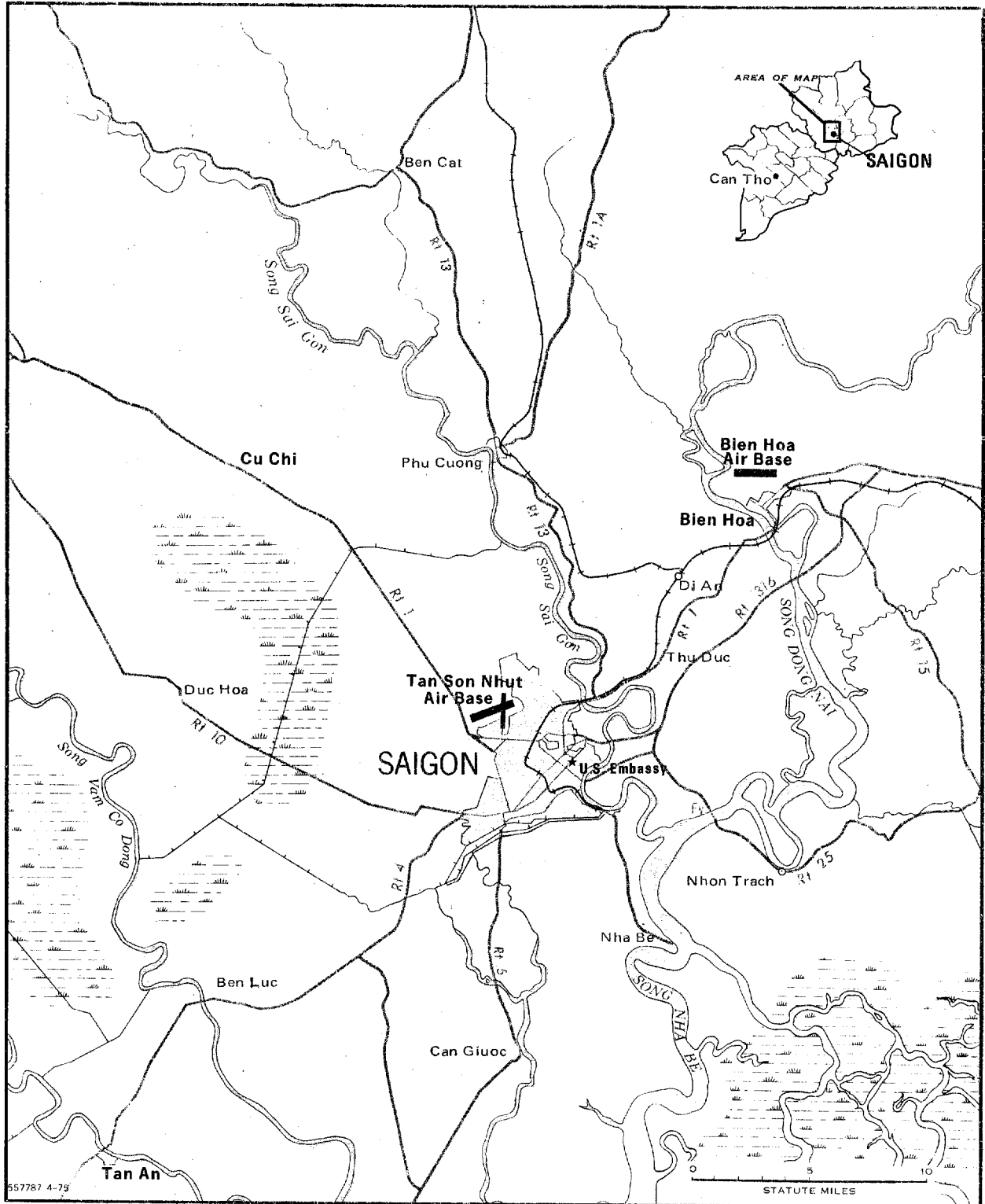
The first US helicopters from a naval task force off the coast landed at Tan Son Nhut with a US marine security force shortly after 2 a.m. EDT. The US commander of the evacuation operation reported that some Americans in downtown Saigon had been unable to reach an evacuation point, but later reporting indicates a large number of Americans had arrived at the US defense attaché compound.

According to a late report more than 2,000 people, including several hundred Americans, now have been safely evacuated.

The evacuation of Americans from Can Tho has encountered resistance from South Vietnamese forces. The US consul general, together with 22 other Americans plus Filipinos and Vietnamese civilians, tried to flee down the Mekong by boat, but were attacked by South Vietnamese helicopter gunships. Late reports indicate they too have been rescued.

Communist forces began their attack early this morning with massive artillery and rocket bombardments of Tan Son Nhut airfield. Many South Vietnamese aircraft were destroyed on the ground, but others managed to take off despite the rubble and heavy groundfire. Some aircraft participated in the defense of Saigon, while others flew to Can Tho. A number of government aircraft and helicopters flew to US ships off the coast or to bases in Thailand. At least three South Vietnamese aircraft were shot down over Saigon by SA-7 missiles.

The communists followed the Tan Son Nhut assault with a spate of small attacks in the suburbs of the capital.



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Government units just northwest of Saigon abandoned their positions, and a number of government outposts were lost as the result of ground attacks. North Vietnamese sappers also penetrated the southern edge of Saigon and attacked a large military communications site.

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North Vietnamese forces also launched large-scale attacks west and southwest of Saigon. A large communist force supported by tanks attacked the South Vietnamese 25th Division at Cu Chi

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Heavy fighting is occurring along Route 4 southwest of Saigon, and the communist forces attacking in that area could reach Cholon and the outskirts of the capital within hours.

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The North Vietnamese assault on the capital came on the heels of the communist rejection yesterday of President Minh's call for negotiations. North Vietnamese and Viet Cong media have characterized the new Saigon government as just another "reactionary administration" and reiterated earlier demands that the government administrative structure "be abolished," its "war machine" dismantled and that the US leave immediately.

In a desperate effort to meet some of these demands, the Minh government today requested that all American personnel leave the country within 24 hours and announced plans to overhaul the governmental apparatus and legalize the Communist Party. In another desperate gesture of reconciliation Saigon Radio today referred to the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong as "our brothers of the other side."

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In his acceptance speech two days ago, President Minh asked for a cease-fire in order to arrange a "political solution within the framework of the Paris Agreement" and called upon the South Vietnamese military to "defend the remaining territory." It now seems clear, however, that Hanoi has rejected the gradual transfer of power and negotiations on a co-equal governmental basis implied by Minh and is determined to accept nothing short of surrender.

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CAMBODIA

The Khmer communists have finally confirmed their intention to keep Prince Sihanouk on as nominal head of state. In a communiqué broadcast by Phnom Penh radio yesterday to mark the completion of a "special national congress," Deputy Prime Minister Khieu Samphan--who himself read the communiqué over the air--announced that the congress had "decided" that Sihanouk would remain on and that Penn Nouth would also be "allowed" to remain as prime minister.

The announcement leaves little doubt about the severely circumscribed role that Sihanouk and Penn Nouth will play. Samphan's reference to "thorough review and debate" suggests, however, that the decision to allow the Prince and Penn Nouth any role whatsoever was a bitter pill for some communist leaders to swallow. In this regard, Samphan hinted that other non-communist figures--such as Foreign Minister Sarin Chak--may be on their way out by saying that they would be "rewarded according to their respective contributions and abilities."

Samphan introduced a note of caution to the communists' previously stated willingness to accept "all unconditional aid." He made allusions, instead, to "foreign interferences...under the form of humanitarianism." At the same time, however, he spoke of "striving to develop unity with...people throughout the world," including "peace- and justice-loving Americans," and again stressed a "nonaligned and neutral" foreign policy.

In addition to the communiqué, Phnom Penh radio over the weekend broadcast its first postwar "editorial." A relatively new art form for communist propagandists, the editorial was noteworthy for its references to "the great Cambodian revolutionary organization" that achieved victory through its "clear-sighted and correct line." However oblique, this is the first public acknowledgment of the dominant role played by the covert Khmer Communist Party.



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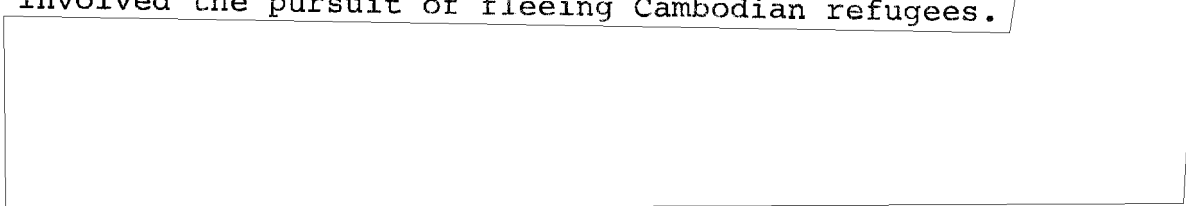
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The US defense attaché in Bangkok indicates that press reports of a Cambodian communist buildup along the Thai border are exaggerated. Although Thai officials have expressed anxiety over the proximity of Khmer communist forces to Thailand, there is no evidence to substantiate reports that the communists are massing troops along the border. The Khmer communists reportedly are under instructions not to cross into Thailand, except in cases of hot pursuit. Communist forces are still attempting to consolidate their control, and alleged border violations probably involved the pursuit of fleeing Cambodian refugees.

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NORTH KOREA - CHINA

The joint communiqué ending the visit of North Korean President Kim Il-song to Peking struck a moderate and restrained tone.

The document was, in fact, remarkable in its routine treatment of the Korean reunification issue, which must have occupied a central place in bilateral discussions. China reaffirmed support for "peaceful reunification" of the peninsula on the basis of Kim's earlier five-point proposal.

Unlike some of Kim's threatening rhetoric during the early stages of the visit, the communiqué barely criticized Seoul and the US. The document briefly reiterated long-standing demands for a complete US troop withdrawal and the dismantling of the UN command, without spelling out a time frame for these actions. The two sides termed recent developments in Indochina encouraging and of "far-reaching influence" on the world situation, but the communiqué drew no direct link between Indochina and the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Although senior military officers were prominent on both sides during substantive talks and military assistance was almost certainly discussed, the communiqué omitted any mention of Chinese economic or military aid. If differences exist between Pyongyang and Peking on reunification strategy, they were not apparent in the communiqué; it said the visit was a "complete success" and that the two reached "completely identical views on all the questions discussed." While the communiqué and the closing banquet speeches by Kim and Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping were all moderate in tone and lacked new substance, new North Korean diplomatic initiatives or even contained and controlled military probes remain possible.

China's view of developments in Korea is heavily influenced by the effects they might have on Sino-US relations, which remain important to Peking.

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USSR - MIDDLE EAST

Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam's visit to the USSR last week marked a continuation of Moscow's efforts to prepare for a resumption of the Geneva peace conference.

The communiqué issued at the end of the visit on Friday, however, left unclear whether the Soviets made substantial progress on Geneva with the Syrians, particularly over the issue of representation for the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Syrians are strong advocates of early participation at Geneva by an independent PLO delegation. The Soviets support the "equal" participation of PLO representatives, but they have been ambiguous about the timing of Palestinian attendance and have kept open the possibility that the PLO might attend as part of another delegation.

The Palestinian issue will be discussed during the visit to Moscow, which began yesterday, of a PLO delegation headed by Yasir Arafat. Foreign Minister Gromyko also is apparently planning a trip to the Middle East next month to continue discussions on resuming the Geneva conference.

The Syrian-Soviet communiqué was markedly warmer on bilateral issues than the one issued three days earlier after Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi's visit. In what may be an effort to signal their continued displeasure with Cairo, the Soviets once again stated their commitment to building Syrian military strength and praised Syria's political policies.

A four-day trip to Damascus by Soviet Deputy Defense Minister Kulikov coincided with Khaddam's stay in Moscow and may have been designed to underscore continuing Soviet military support at a time when Moscow was pressing Khaddam on Geneva. Kulikov met with President Asad and Syrian military leaders and probably checked Damascus' use of Moscow's substantial military aid.

Syria's dispute with Iraq over the Euphrates River was likely discussed in Moscow.

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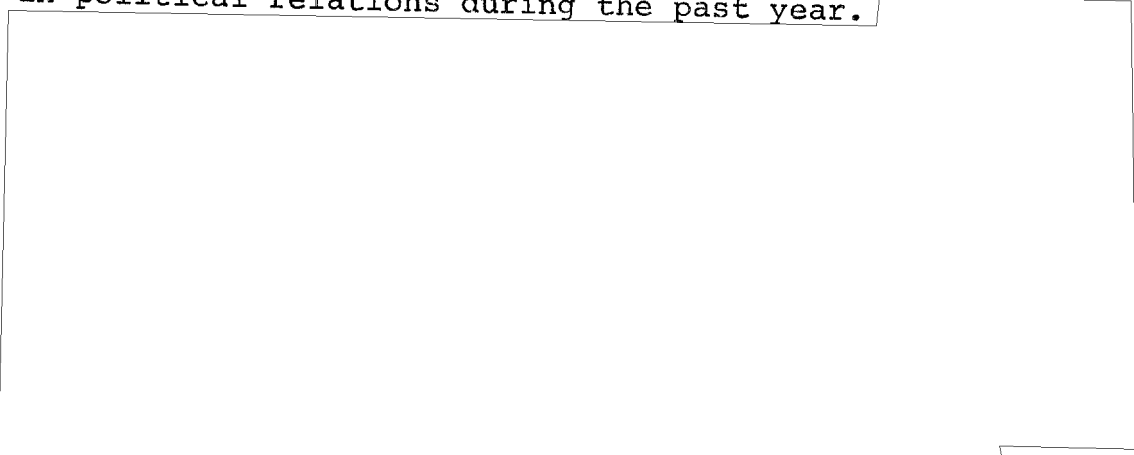
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YUGOSLAVIA

Moscow is assisting President Tito in his efforts to modernize the Yugoslav armed forces, despite strains in political relations during the past year.

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On April 10, an attaché's source saw a radar, probably the Low Blow--the tracking and missile-guidance radar for the SA-3--at a SAM site near the same airfield. Excavations for an SA-3 site had been noted earlier near a site in northwestern Yugoslavia.

Rehearsals for the Victory Day parade on May 9 in Belgrade have provided additional first-time sightings of modern Soviet weaponry there. On April 24, army troops were observed carrying the SA-7 Grail surface-to-air missile, and on April 27 eight SA-6 Gainful surface-to-air launchers with missiles were seen. More parade practices are scheduled for the next several days, and other items of advanced Soviet military equipment may thus be seen.

The new arms probably were supplied under a large supplemental Soviet credit, reportedly agreed on in December 1973. There are indications that Belgrade has also been provided with plans for manufacturing rocket munitions, and there are signs that Yugoslav rocket units are training at firing ranges in the USSR.

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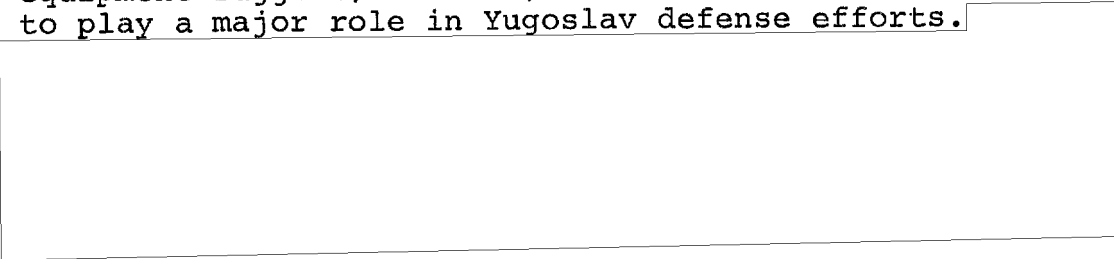
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Belgrade has been trying to develop military contacts with the West. Increased Soviet-Yugoslav military cooperation and the appearance of this advanced military equipment suggest, however, that Moscow is continuing to play a major role in Yugoslav defense efforts.

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## ANNEX

The French Arms Industry

The French arms industry is booming. Export orders reached a record high in 1974, and French armament and aeronautic manufacturers are optimistic that exports will continue to expand over the next several years. We estimate that French arms makers took orders last year for at least \$2.5 billion from Third World nations, France's principal customers. These orders put France about on a par with the Soviet Union, which is believed to have signed arms agreements for about \$2.7 billion in 1974. US arms sales for the year ending in July 1974 totaled around \$8 billion.

The French government works hard for these sales because of the positive effect they have on France's balance of payments and on domestic employment. Money for additional equipment to modernize the French armed forces is limited these days, so the arms industry is especially dependent on export sales to stay healthy.

France can produce virtually all types of modern military equipment. Since 1966, French arms manufacturers have exported to some 30 countries nearly 700 modern jet fighters, about 300 light and medium tanks, more than 1,100 armored personnel carriers, and some 70 self-propelled artillery pieces.

The French arms industry does have its limitations. It cannot rapidly supply customers with large quantities of major items such as tanks and aircraft. France does not stockpile military equipment for later sale, and when major new sales are made, the items must be fitted into future production schedules.

The Dassault-Breguet aircraft company avoids peaks and valleys in company employment by setting a fairly low production rate. Dassault now has orders and options that will keep the plant running at its current rate--about 15 fighter aircraft a month--at least through 1977. This figure does not include any of the Mirage F1 orders



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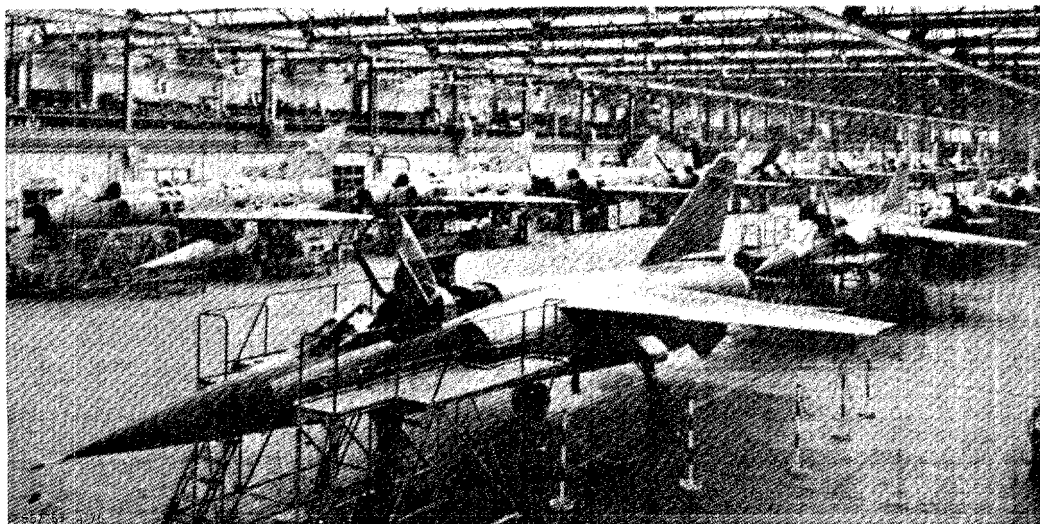
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from the Middle East that are pending or orders for the improved F1/E multipurpose fighter, should this aircraft go into series production. If Dassault needed to increase production at a future date, it probably could double the capacity of existing facilities by adding additional shifts of workers.

Dassault is now clearing a backlog of orders for some 230 Mirage IIIs and Mirage 5s and is turning them out at a rate of 11 a month. At this pace, the production run will last until about December 1976. In addition to Mirage IIIs and 5s, Dassault currently is producing about four Fls a month. The output of Fls could be doubled or even tripled, once the Mirage III and 5 are phased out. Dassault has export orders for at least 75, and perhaps, as many as 130 Fls. Dassault still has about 50 Fls to go on a French air force order of 105.

If necessary to close a new contract, Dassault probably would be willing to manipulate delivery schedules to provide a new customer with at least a few aircraft at an earlier date. The company has been averaging about 28 months from order to first delivery.



**Mirage III/5 and F1 parallel production lines at Dassault-Breguet**

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A Better Position

The French are now in a better export position on tanks than on aircraft. The French army recently completed supplying its units with AMX-30 tanks, and, except for small numbers of replacements and spare parts, all AMX-30 tanks now being produced could be exported. France could probably turn out up to 35 a month, although production reportedly now stands at about 22 a month.

Monthly production rates for other hardware vary sharply; in several items, production is well below plant capacity. The US defense attaché in Paris reported in February that Aerospatiale is tooling up to produce a new wire-guided, heavy antitank missile, the Hot. By next April, the company will be producing the missile at a rate of 50 a month. The company plans to reach a capacity of 500 a month by August 1977. Paris hopes to find as good an export market for this system as for other antitank missiles produced in France--the SS-11, SS-12, Entac, and Milan.

Although the French have been willing in the past to slow the flow of equipment to their own forces in favor of foreign customers, manipulation of production and delivery rates could become difficult as more production is devoted to foreign consumers. France could well get involved in having to choose between two countries competing for preferred treatment in the delivery of airplanes or tanks.

Paris would try to persuade the competing customers to apportion production. Thus, the Turks are negotiating with France for the rapid delivery of a number of F1 fighters; the French have suggested that Ankara sound out Libya to see if Tripoli would agree to Turkey's getting first delivery of the planes.

Another possible solution would be to license the production of French arms in foreign countries.

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--More than 250 Mirage IIIs and 5s have already been assembled in Australia, Switzerland, and Belgium under French license.

--South Africa is assembling some of the 48 Fls it purchased from France.

--Pakistan is negotiating to assemble Mirage fighter aircraft.

--Spain is assembling AMX-30 tanks.

Arab Buyers

The French sell a wide range of arms in Western Europe and the US, but in recent years they have turned more to the Third World. They have had success in Latin America because of US arms embargoes. Since the Middle East war in the fall of 1973, they have been especially successful in selling arms to the Arabs, who placed orders worth nearly \$2 billion last year.

Using aggressive sales tactics, Dassault has kept its family of Mirage fighter planes at the forefront of these sales. Despite French efforts to sell the Mirage Fl/E as the F-104 replacement aircraft in Western Europe, Dassault's prospects appear tied to the Third World, especially Arab markets.

As sales of the Mirage III and 5 wind down, interest in the Fl is rising. Deliveries of Fls to Spain and South Africa have begun, and initial deliveries to Greece are scheduled in the next few months. Arab purchasers will probably begin getting Fls sometime next year.

In 1974, Kuwait ordered at least 16--and possibly as many as 36--Fls. Major new sales of the Fl appear certain, following French agreement in January to provide Egypt with new military hardware.

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Libya is currently negotiating for 39 Fls, and Iraq has mentioned an interest in purchasing at least 50 Mirage jets.

Egypt recently received the first 9 of 38 Mirage 5 fighter-bombers purchased for Cairo by Saudi Arabia in 1973. The delivery schedule calls for three planes a month. Egypt has also signed a contract for some 42 Anglo-French Gazelle helicopters. Delivery of these all-purpose, lightweight helicopters is scheduled to begin in the fall.

France sold significant amounts of ground forces equipment to the Arab nations in 1974. Important sales were 100 AMX-30 tanks to Saudi Arabia and 50 to Morocco. Abu Dhabi recently signed a contract for over 150 Panhard armored cars fitted with 90-mm. guns, plus enough armored personnel carriers for an infantry brigade and a smaller but unspecified number of armored personnel carriers fitted with 20-mm. guns.

### Bright Outlook

The outlook for sales of tactical missiles in the Arab states also is bright.

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Sales of French naval equipment have not kept pace with air and ground forces equipment. Nevertheless, France does have prospects, especially for fast missile patrol boats and electronics equipment.

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