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# • Network of Soviet arms deals

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By far the biggest supplier of arms to the Arab countries today is the Soviet Union, which barely had a toehold in the area 15 years ago. The growing Russian influence has been mainly at the expense of the United States and Britain.

Soviet equipment appears in Arab arsenals from Morocco in the west to the two Yemeni Republics at the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula.

Five of the "radical" Arab states are almost entirely equipped with Soviet weapons. They are the United Arab Republic, Syria, Iraq, Algeria, and (North) Yemen.

But Algeria is showing signs of wanting to move away from sole dependence on the Russians and recently has put in several orders for French weapons. And Iraq is reportedly considering buying French Mirage V ground attack planes.

Two other Arab "radicals" — Sudan and the South Yemen People's Republic — are becoming increasingly dependent on the Russians, although they still retain a number of British weapons.

But Libya, the newest of the "radicals," where a group of young officers overthrew the monarchy last Sept. 1, has so far made no move toward buying Soviet military hardware.

Instead it has concluded a deal for the purchase of 110 Mirage jet planes from France. The contract is for Mirage III interceptors, Mirage V's, and for trainer/reconnaissance aircraft. Deliveries will start in 1971 and will be spread over four years.

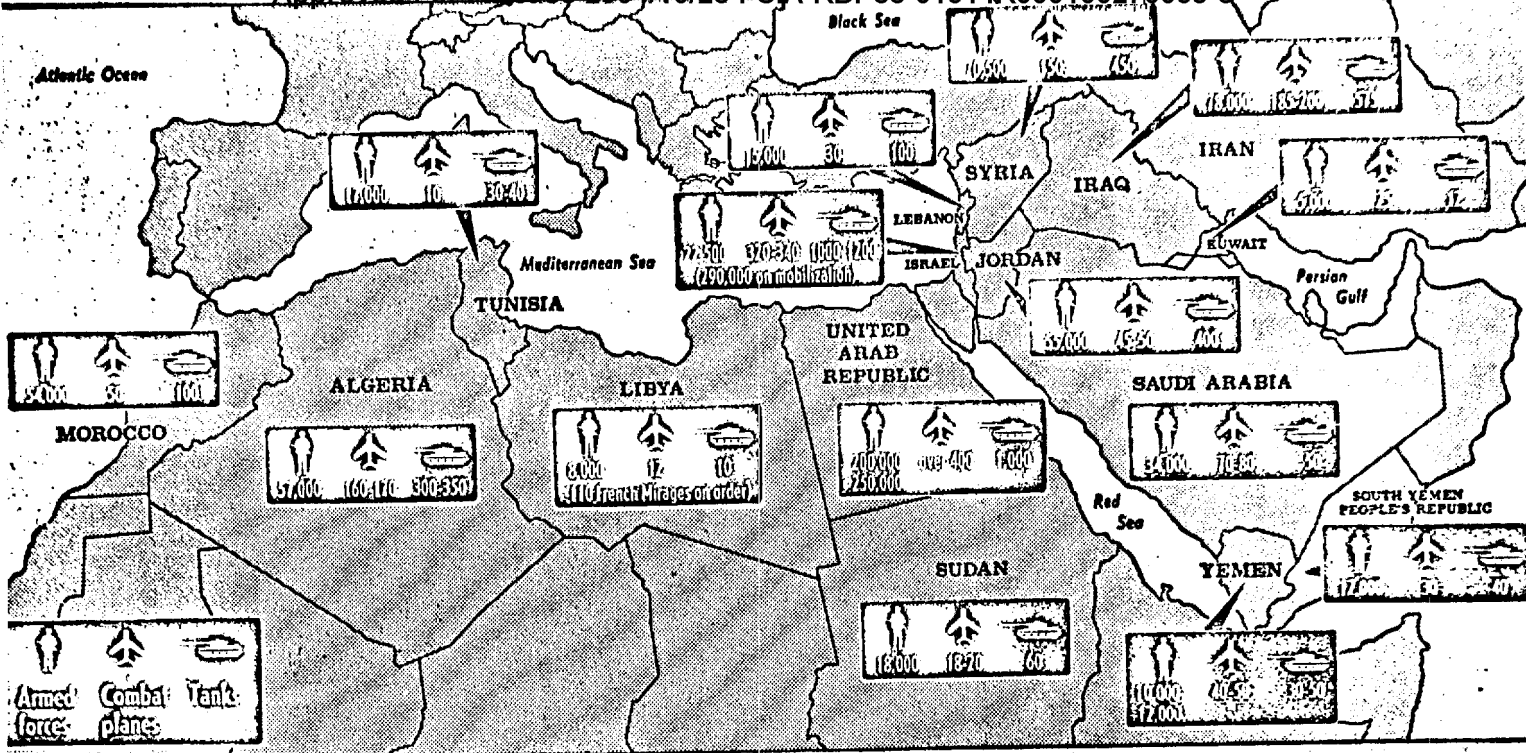
Israel has strongly protested the French-Libyan deal on the grounds that Libya does not need the Mirages and that they will probably find their way to the United Arab Republic.

But the French argument is that it is better for a Western power to supply Libya than for the Soviet Union to gain yet another foothold in North Africa.

Three "conservative" Arab monarchies — Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait — still depend on the United States, Britain, and France for their military equipment, although Jordan's King Hussein has found it hard to resist Soviet offers. Another monarchy, Morocco, has bought a number of Soviet tanks and aircraft. But few of them are operational owing to shortage of spare parts and lack of trained personnel to handle them.

Tunisia and Lebanon, the Arab moderates, rely mainly on French arms.

Communist China comes into the Middle East arms picture as a supplier of light weapons to the Palestine guerrillas under a 1965 agreement. The Soviet Union has so far refrained from sending weapons to the guerrillas directly. But some Soviet arms reach the Palestinians from Egypt and other sources.



## Weapons in Arab arsenals

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These tables were compiled by Priscilla A. Clapp, research associate with the International Studies Division of Bolt Beranek and Newman, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass.

### Morocco

**Armed forces:** 54,000

**Aircraft:** 14 MIG-17 jet fighters (Soviet — not believed to be operational)  
 12-15 F-5 supersonic fighters (U.S.)  
 2 Il-28 light bombers (Soviet)  
 24 Fouga Magister armed jet trainers (French)

12 T-6 trainers (ex-French)  
 6 MS. 733 light transports (French)  
 1 Heron transport (British)  
 4 C-47 transports (U.S.)  
 2 C-119G transports (U.S.)  
 2 Bonanza transports (U.S.)  
 6 Broussard transports (French)  
 MS 500 aircraft (French)  
 4 Bell 47 helicopters (U.S.)  
 8 Alouette II helicopters (French)  
 A few UH-12E helicopters and HH-43B helicopters (U.S.)  
 24 Agusta-Bell 204B helicopters (made in Italy under U.S. license)

**Armor:** 30-40 AMX-13 light tanks (French)  
 70 T-34 and T-54 medium tanks (Soviet and Czech. Probably few are operational for lack of spare parts.)  
 EBR-75 and Panhard armored cars (French)

**Artillery:** 40 90-mm. Scorpion self-propelled antiaircraft guns (U.S.)  
 mortars and antitank weapons  
 recoilless guns (Soviet)  
 75-mm. and 105-mm. howitzers (probably French)  
 SU-100 self-propelled guns (Soviet)

**Small arms:** NATO-type 7.62-mm. rifles and machine guns produced in Morocco  
**Navy:** 1 frigate (ex-British), 1 corvette (ex-French), 1 seaward patrol craft (ex-French), 1 patrol vessel (built in France with another on order), 1 utility landing craft (built in France)

### Algeria

**Armed forces:** 57,000 with current draft calling for 20,000 more personnel

**Aircraft:** 130 MIG fighters (Soviet) — 30 MIG-15's, 50 MIG-17's, and 50 MIG-21's (These figures are low estimates based in part on the poor maintenance record of the Algerian Air Force.)

20-30 Il-28 light bombers (Soviet)  
 28 Fouga Magister armed jet trainers (on order from France)  
 30-40 Yak-11 trainers (Soviet)  
 10 An-12 and 10 Il-14 transports (Soviet)

30-40 Mi-4 helicopters (Soviet)  
 2 SA-330 Puma helicopters (French)  
**Missiles:** 50 SA-2 Guideline surface-to-air missiles (some believed to have been brought in from the U.A.R.)

**Armor:** 300-350 T-34 and T-54/55 medium tanks (Soviet)  
 150 BTR-152 armored personnel carriers (Soviet)  
 AML armored cars (probably in service with French-supplied gendarmerie)

**Artillery:** all Soviet

82-mm. mortars and possibly heavy mortars  
small rocket launchers  
30-50 107-mm. recoilless rifles  
57-mm. and 85-mm. antitank guns  
57-mm. to 100-mm. antiaircraft guns with radar  
76-mm. field guns  
122-mm. corps guns  
122-mm. and 152-mm. howitzers  
SU-100 self-propelled guns  
5-10 SU-152 self-propelled guns  
140-mm. and 240-mm. multiple rocket launchers for four artillery groups

**Small arms:** all Soviet

**Navy:** all Soviet

6 submarine chasers  
2 coastal minesweepers  
8-10 P-6 motor torpedo boats  
6 Komar missile patrol boats  
4 Osa missile patrol boats

**Tunisia**

**Armed forces:** 17,000

**Aircraft:** 15 Saab 91D Safr trainers (Swedish)

12 T-6 trainers (ex-French)  
8 MB.326 jet trainers (Italian)  
2 Alouette II helicopters (French)  
3 Flamant transports (French)

**Armor:** 15-20 M-41 Bulldog tanks (U.S.)

15-20 AMX-13 light tanks (French)  
Panhard armored cars (French)

**Artillery and small arms:** U.S. and British

**Navy:** 1 corvette and 1 patrol craft (both ex-French)

**Libya**

**Armed forces:** 8,000

**Aircraft:** 10 F-5 supersonic fighters (U.S. Another 8 on order)

2-5 T-33A armed jet trainers (U.S.)  
5 C-47 transports and 1 C-140 Jet Star transport (U.S.)  
2 helicopters (U.S.)

6 C-130 Hercules transports on order (U.S.)

110 Mirage jets on order from France

**Armor:** 8 or possibly a few more Centurion tanks (British)

Saracen, Saladin, and Ferret armored cars for one armored regiment (all British). An order for 188 British Chieftain tanks is awaiting confirmation. If it is withdrawn French AMX-30 tanks will probably be bought.

**Artillery:** Some French guns

Bazookas  
60-mm. and 81-mm. mortars (U.S.)  
105-mm. howitzers

**Small arms:** British and U.S.

**Navy:** 3 fast missile patrol boats on order from Britain, at least one delivered

1 corvette (built in Britain)  
2 inshore minesweepers (ex-British)  
2 customs patrol vessels (built in Britain)  
3 fast patrol launches on customs duty

**Sudan**

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**Armed forces:** 18,000

**Aircraft:** 10-20 MIG-21 interceptors delivered or on order (Soviet)

4 BAC Jet Provost T.51 trainers (British)

6-8 BAC 145 Jet Provost T.52 trainers (British)

7 Hunting Provost T.53 trainers (British)

2 Gomhouria trainers (U.A.R.)

3 Pembroke transports (British)

2 C-47 transports (U.S.)

L-29 Delfin jet trainers (Czech)

Sudan is believed to have sent two of its Jet Provosts to Nigeria. The air force has been trained by Britain, Ethiopia, Yugoslavia, and the Soviet Union.

**Armor:** 20 T-34 medium tanks (Soviet)

10 or more T-54 medium tanks (Soviet)

30 Sherman tanks (U.S.)

14 Saladin armored cars (British)

**Artillery and small arms:** British, Soviet and German

**Navy:** 4 patrol boats (built in Yugoslavia)

**Jordan**

**Armed forces:** 55,000

Iraq has 12,000 troops in Jordan, Syria about 5,000, and Saudi Arabia 1,500 communications troops. There also is a contingent of about 300 Pakistani troops.

**Aircraft:** 17 Hunter jet fighters (from Britain and Pakistan. It is hoped to get another squadron.)

18 F-104A supersonic fighters (U.S. Another squadron of 18 is on order.)

5-10 F-86F Sabrejets (from Pakistan)

A few Vampire jet fighters in reserve (British, may not be operational)

5 Hunter and F-104B jet trainers

4 C-47 transports (U.S.)

2 Heron and 2 Dove transports (British)

4 Alouette III helicopters (French)

4 Westland Whirlwind helicopters (British)

**Missiles:** Hawk surface-to-air missiles (U.S.)

Tigercat surface-to-air missiles, part of a British air defense system, apparently installed although it is not known if it is operational.

**Armor:** 250 M-47/48 Patton tanks (U.S.)

100 Centurion tanks, marks 9 and 10 (British)

Some older Centurions (marks 3 to 7) have been sent by Egypt and Iraq.

With old Jordanian Centurions, there may be about 50-75 altogether.

200 M-113 and Saracen armored personnel carriers (U.S. and British)

M-114 armored reconnaissance vehicles (U.S.)

150 Saladin and Ferret armored cars (British)

**Artillery:** Antitank and antiaircraft weapons (U.S.)

106-mm. jeep-mounted recoilless rifles (U.S.)

50 105-mm. and 155-mm. howitzers (U.S.)

155-mm. Long Tom guns (U.S.)

several batteries of 25-pounder artillery (British)

rocket launchers (U.S.)

10 Chipmunk Approved (British)  
3-7 Alouette II/III helicopters (French)  
A few Vampires (British)  
**Missiles:** Crotale (French surface-to-air missile) believed to be on order with deliveries to begin in 1971  
**Armor:** 18 M-41 light tanks (U.S.)  
42 AMX-13 light tanks (French)  
40 Centurions (British)  
A number of old Charioteer tanks (from Jordan)  
**Artillery:** Probably mostly French  
**Small arms:** French or U.S.  
**Navy:** 1 coastal escort (French)  
3 coastal patrol launches (U.S.)  
1 landing craft (U.S.)

### Syria

**Armed forces:** 70,500  
Some 6,000 Iraqi troops are stationed in Syria.  
All weapons are Soviet unless otherwise marked.  
**Aircraft:** 20 Su-7 fighter bombers  
70 MIG-15, MIG-17, and MIG-19 fighters  
55-60 MIG-21 interceptors  
5-10 MIG-15 UTI trainers  
Yak-11 and Yak-18 trainers  
Chipmunk trainers (British)  
6-8 Il-14 transports  
6 C-47 transports and a few Beech-185 transports (U.S.)  
15 Mi-1 and Mi-4 helicopters, and a few Mi-8 helicopters  
**Missiles:** 8-10 batteries of SA-2 Guideline surface-to-air missiles (about 100 launchers)  
**Armor:** 150 T-34 medium tanks  
300 T-54/55 medium tanks  
500 BTR-152 armored personnel carriers  
**Artillery:** 37-mm., 57-mm., 85-mm., and 100-mm antiaircraft guns with radar  
57-mm. and 85-mm. antitank guns  
152-mm. towed artillery  
40 SU-100 self-propelled guns  
20 SU-152 self-propelled guns  
82-mm., 120-mm., and 160-mm. mortars  
multiple rocket launchers  
antitank guided missiles  
**Small arms:** all Soviet  
**Navy:** 2 T43 minesweepers (ex-Soviet)  
3 coastal patrol vessels (ex-French submarine chasers)  
6-10 Komar missile patrol boats (ex-Soviet)  
15-21 motor torpedo boats (ex-Soviet)  
several small craft (built in France)  
1 destroyer and 2 M-class submarines reportedly on order from the Soviet Union.

### Iraq

**Armed forces:** 78,000  
All weapons Soviet unless otherwise marked.  
**Aircraft:** 20 SU-7 fighter bombers  
50 MIG-21 interceptors  
45 MIG-17 and MIG-19 fighters  
8 TU-16 medium bombers  
10 Il-28 light bombers

54 Hunter jet fighters (British)  
20 Jet Provost trainers (British)  
8-10 An-12 transports  
About 10 Il-14 transports  
4 Dover and Heron transports (British)  
Yak, MIG-15 UTI and Il-28U trainers  
11 Wessex helicopters (British)  
9 Mi-4 helicopters  
**Armor:** 300 T-54/55 medium tanks  
180 T-34 medium tanks  
55 Centurion medium tanks (British)  
40 M-24 light tanks (U.S.)  
75 AML-60 and AML-90 armored cars (French). (The option for another 75 may have been taken)  
Armored half-tracks (French)  
Ferret armored cars (British)  
**Artillery:** 20-mm. cannon (French)  
Recoilless rifles (French)  
57-mm. and 85-mm. antitank guns  
37-mm., 57-mm., 85-mm., and 100-mm. antiaircraft guns, some with radar  
**Field guns:** 122-mm. and 152-mm. howitzers  
155-mm. medium-range guns (French)  
82-mm., 120-mm., and 160-mm. mortars  
SU-100 and SU-152 selfpropelled artillery  
multiple rocket launchers  
antitank guided missiles  
**Small arms:** Mainly Soviet, although Britain has supplied the Vickers heavy machine gun; France has shipped ammunition for certain infantry weapons  
**Navy:** 3 SOI-type patrol boats  
12 P-6 motor torpedo boats, not all operational  
6 small patrol boats  
4 old patrol boats (built in Britain in 1937)  
Soviet missile patrol boats are expected

### Saudi Arabia

**Armed forces:** 34,000  
**Aircraft:** 40 Lightning fighters (British, not all currently operational)  
6 Hunter F.6 fighters (British)  
11 F-86F fighters (U.S.)  
25 Jet Provost armed trainers (British)  
6 T-33A jet trainers (U.S.)  
A few T-34A, T-41A and T-6 trainers (U.S.)  
10-12 Chipmunk trainers (British)  
9 C-130E, 2 C-118, 10 C-47 and a few C-123B transports (U.S.)  
25 AB 205/206 helicopters (Italian)  
6 Alouette III helicopters (French)  
2 C-140 Jet Star transports on order (U.S.)  
Saudi Arabia employs some mercenary pilots  
**Missiles:** 6 batteries of Hawk surface-to-air missiles (U.S.)  
At least 37 Thunderbird surface-to-air missiles (British)  
**Armor:** AMX-13 light tanks (French)  
M-24 and M-41 light tanks (U.S.)  
M-47 medium tanks (U.S.)  
100 Chieftain tanks on order from Britain  
AML-90 Panhard armored cars (French. Estimates vary. Some say only 60. Others 200-220.)

**Artillery:** light mortars  
25-pounder artillery (British)  
Vigilant antitank missiles (British)  
antiaircraft artillery  
**Small arms:** Probably U.S. and/or British  
**Navy:** one coastal escort vessel (ex-U.S. Coast Guard)  
15 fast naval patrol boats on order from Britain

### Yemen (North)

**Armed forces:** 10,000-12,000  
All weapons Soviet  
**Aircraft:** 20-25 MIG-17 fighters  
16 MIG-21 interceptors (with Soviet pilots)  
  
8-12 Il-28 light bombers (with Soviet pilots)  
a few Il-10 piston aircraft  
Il-14 transports  
20-30 Yak-11 trainers  
Mi-1 and Mi-4 helicopters  
**Armor:** 30 T-34 medium tanks  
possibly T-54 medium tanks and PT-76 light tanks  
50 BTR armored personnel carriers  
**Artillery:** 57-mm. and 85-mm. antitank guns  
82-mm. and 107-mm. recoilless rifles  
82-mm. and 120-mm. mortars  
85-mm. field guns  
122-mm. howitzers  
130-mm. long-range cannon  
Multiple rocket launchers  
Many of these weapons may not be operational now  
**Small arms:** All Soviet. Many of them may have reached Yemen by way of the U.A.R.

### Southern Yemen

**Armed forces:** 12,000  
**Aircraft:** 12 MIG-17 fighters (flown by Soviet pilots)  
4 BAC 167 Strikemaster jet trainers (British, manned by Italian pilots under contract)  
4 Jet Provost T.52 jet trainers (British)  
10 MIG-21 interceptors (flown and maintained by Russians)  
4 C-47 transports (ex-British)  
6 DHC Beaver transports (ex-British)  
6 Westland Sioux helicopters (British)  
**Armor:** 40 T-34 or T-54 medium tanks (Soviet)  
25 BTR armored personnel carriers (Soviet)  
Ferret armored cars (British)  
**Artillery:** 57-mm. or 100-mm. antiaircraft guns with radar (Soviet)  
antitank guns, small caliber (Soviet)  
antiaircraft guns, probably 37-mm. (Soviet)  
portable mortars and rocket launchers (Soviet)  
heavy field artillery (Soviet)  
**Small arms:** Soviet and British  
**Navy:** 3 inshore minesweepers (ex-British)

**Armed forces:** 5,000, some stationed in Egypt  
**Aircraft:** 4 Hunter FGA .57 (British)  
12 Lightning F53 interceptor ground attack planes, not all operational (British)  
6 Jet Provost armed jet trainers (British)  
6 BAC 167 Strikemaster armed jet trainers (British)  
2 DHC-4 Caribou transports (British)  
2 Westland Whirlwind helicopters (British)

6 Agusta-Bell helicopters (Italian, more may be on order)  
2 Hunter T.67 trainers (British)  
2 Lightning T.55 trainers (British)  
2 HS Devon light transports (British)  
1 Argosy freighter (British)  
The Kuwaiti Air Force is trained by the Royal Air Force. RAF personnel may fly some of the newer Kuwaiti aircraft.

**Missiles:** Crotale surface-to-air missiles believed to be on order (French)  
**Armor:** 12 Centurion medium tanks (British)  
70 Vickers MBT tanks on order, due for delivery in 1971 (British)  
25-50 Ferret armored cars (British)  
Saracen armored cars (British)  
Panhard AML armored cars (French)  
**Artillery:** Light and heavy mortars  
Several batteries of 25 pounder artillery (British)  
350 Vigilant antitank missiles ordered from Britain, some delivered  
**Small arms:** all British  
**Navy:** 4 patrol boats ordered from Britain, two delivered

### Palestine guerrillas

7.62-mm. AK-47 assault rifle, 12.7 mm. Goryunov SPG heavy machine gun and 7.62 mm. RPK machine gun (Soviet, received from Egypt)  
Chinese Communist copies of the Soviet 7.62 mm. AK-47 rifle and of the German Schmeisser automatic rifle  
Mortars (origin not certain)  
130-mm. rocket launchers (Soviet origin)  
240-mm. rocket launchers (Soviet design, supplied by Czechoslovakia)  
This is a representative list of Palestinian weapons. It should not be considered as complete.

Last of three surveys on the Middle East military balance.