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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

CIA No. 6867

7 February 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dolores Wahl
Bureau of Intelligence and Research
Department of State

SUBJECT : Communist Military Aid to India in 1971

Attached is the final draft of the memorandum you requested
on Communist military aid to India during 1971.

Office of Economic Research

Attachment
As stated above

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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COMMUNIST Military Aid to India in 1971

Moscow's Claims of Support

As tensions heightened on the Subcontinent after March 1971, Indian and Soviet military delegations flowed in both directions to assess Indian requirements and to clarify commitments. The magnitude and character of Soviet military aid commitments during this period, however, are unclear because of the sundry and conflicting information, inadequate visual sightings, and the difficulty of identifying all arms carriers and their cargoes. Known agreements with the USSR during 1971 totaled at least _____ and were all signed during the last half of 1971. Additional agreements totaling nearly _____ were concluded with Czechoslovakia and Poland. It seems clear, however, that the magnitude of Soviet deliveries during March-September was not unusual and consisted largely of arms listed under earlier agreements. The USSR probably began shipping military equipment to India under new agreements during the fourth quarter of 1971.

Although the published text of the Soviet-Indian Friendship Treaty of August 1971 contained no provisions for the Soviet supply of military aid to India, some reports indicate that secret military clauses to the Treaty do exist. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs reportedly stated that the treaty with the USSR was designed "...to insure a supply of arms and ammunition to the Indian army in the event of hostilities with Pakistan or China." Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko reportedly assured India "both formally and informally, that India can depend completely on military equipment from the Soviet Union on preferential terms and timely delivery." This commitment supposedly was confirmed by Indian Foreign Secretary Kaul. Information ostensibly obtained from _____ states that Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko "invited Mrs. Gandhi to send appropriate delegations to Moscow with military shopping lists, which he promised would be negotiated and delivered as quickly as possible."

Soviet Deliveries in 1971

All Soviet naval craft delivered to India in 1971 were scheduled under a February 1969 military agreement. During January-April 1971, the Indian Navy received _____ Osa-class guided missile patrol boats which were towed by Soviet merchant ships to Calcutta for final fitting out. These boats subsequently were based in Bombay

and Okha, attacking the Pakistani navy and port facilities at Karachi during the war in December.

Soviet deliveries of STYX missiles, naval ammunition, and spare parts took place under the February 1969 agreement and a 1970 spare parts accord. It is not known which Soviet arms carriers made the deliveries.

The Indian Air Force received bombers under a 1970 arms agreement

SU-7 fighter-

Deliveries of Soviet ground force equipment to India were reported beginning in the Fall and probably were part of military aid contracts signed after March 1971. Some sources reported that tanks, artillery, and anti-tank missiles were unloaded at Cochin during November 1971-January 1972, and a number of Soviet BTR-60PB armored personnel carriers were observed in the country for the first time during 1971.

Procurement in Eastern Europe

New Delhi has found Czechoslovakia and Poland convenient sources of arms for meeting its deficiencies of armored equipment. India purchased an additional OT-62 (Topas) tracked armored personnel carriers from Czechoslovakia during the first half of 1971. these vehicles were shipped in May and June from the Yugoslav port of Rijeka aboard Indian merchant vessels. In July, an Indian ship loaded unidentified Czech armored vehicles and tanks in Rijeka, indicating that further contracts had been concluded between the two countries. Scheduled August-September loadings of Czechoslovak military equipment for India included at least OT-64 (Skot) wheeled armored personnel carriers, tanks transporters (under a December 1970 contract), trucks, bridging equipment, and ammunition. While

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Moscow's role in these Czechoslovakian deliveries is unknown; the Soviet shipping organization INFLOT is known to have advised on at least some of the loading operations at Rijeka.

In July, India concluded a military aid agreement with Poland for T-55 medium tanks, New Delhi's first agreement with Warsaw for a major type of combat equipment. At least of the tanks were scheduled for shipment by late September, and delivery of all probably was completed by early November 1971. In October, India and Poland were negotiating for additional tanks with some of them to be delivered before the end of November. Some Indian merchant vessels are known to have carried explosives and ammunition from Varna, Bulgaria.