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(48)

BACKGROUND PAPER
ON
AIM-9M RELEASE TO ISRAEL (U)

SUBJECT

NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF STATE EQUITIES

(U) The GOI continues to press hard for release of the AIM-9M.

BACKGROUND

(S) The GOI wishes to acquire the AIM-9M as soon as possible based upon concern over their opposition's upgraded air-to-air threat. Senior Israeli officials from their Ministry of Defense and the IAF continue to raise the issue.

DISCUSSION

- (S) Secretary of Defense Weinberger agreed to release AIM-9M to Israel after its release to NATO.
 - (S) 100 AIM-9M missiles were placed in the Special Defense Acquisition Fund (SDAF) for Israeli emergency use.
- (S) Release of the AIM-9M to Israel is predicated on its release to all NATO countries (NDPC PS-1/85 [Revised]).
 - (S/NF) Currently, the missile has been released only to Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands and United Kingdom.
 - (S/NF) The Navy is preparing to sponsor a revision that will probably widen release within NATO, special treaty nations, Switzerland, and possibly Israel.
 - (U) Navy is still staffing and a decision is expected in the near future.
- (S) Based on the increased threat of MIG-29s in Syria and Iraq, Israel continues to press for release.
 - (S) A DIA study verified Israeli fighter superiority into the 1990s and did not support release.
 - (S) In Feb 89 policy review, CSAF reaffirmed withholding release to Israel at this time.
- (S) Recent defection of a MIG-23, which was new Soviet front line equipment and not an export version, renewed Israeli attempts for release.

RELEASABILITY - This paper is not releasable to the GOI.

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Lt Col Galante/PRIB/54310
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- (U) During a Nov 89 visit, AF/PRI agreed to revisit the release issue in an attempt to speed up general release to NATO.

CONCLUSION

(S) The AIM-9M is not currently releasable to Israel and will not be until general release to NATO.

RECOMMENDATION

(U) None--For information only.

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