DEFENCE

USA cancels defunct

Chinese contracts
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he USA is to terminate four
foreign military-sales (FMS)
contracts with China, which
were suspended when sanctions
were imposed in retaliation for
the June 1989 Tiananmen
Square massacre.
The four contracts include the
Peace Pearl programme to up-
date Chinese Shenyang F-8 II
interceptors with US avionics.
Equipment held by the USA will
be returned to China "...as is,
with no follow-on support, re-
pairs, maintenance or training",
says the US State Department.
Two F-8 II prototypes and a
mock-up delivered to Peace
Pearl prime contractor Grum-
man will be shipped back to
China, along with four shipsets
of avionics-upgrade kits. The
modification kits comprise fire-
control, environmental-control

and electrical-power systems.
The State Department says
that equipment to be returned to
China is "ageing" and of "lim-
ited utility". Also to be returned
are two Hughes TPQ-37 artil-
lery-locating radars, four Mk46
torpedoes and equipment for a
munitions production line.
The USA will reimburse funds
remaining in China's FMS ac-
count and the State Department
emphasises that there are no
plans for further arms sales to
China. The Chinese cancelled
plans to upgrade the F-8 in 1990
and purchased Sukhoi Su-27 in-
terceptors from the former So-
viet Union instead.
• China has ordered France to
close its consulate in Guangzhou
in retaliation for the "absolutely
unacceptable" sale of 60 Dassault
Mirage 2000-5s to Taiwan. •

NEWS IN BRIEF

HELLSTAR STOPPED
The Israeli navy is to terminate
the Israel Aircraft Industries
Hellstar unmanned helicopter
programme. Instead, the navy
will purchase another two heli-
copters to be deployed on its
missile boats. The Aerospatiale
AS. 565 Panther is the most
likely candidate. Development
problems and budget restric-
tions led to the termination.
Hellstar was to have an Elta
target-detection radar and a
stabilised day/night obser-
vation system integrated with
a laser rangefinder/designator.

JASDF HANDOVER
The first British Aerospace U-
125 variant of the 125-800
corporate jet was handed over
to the Japan Air Self-Defence
Force on 18 December. The
corporate jet is the first of
three which were ordered in
1989 for flight inspection and
calibration of ground-based ra-
dios and navigation aids. Mis-
sion avionics are supplied by
LTV/Sierra Research.

RADAR TENDER
The UK Ministry of Defence
has issued an invitation to
tender for two tactical long-
range air-defence radars for the
Royal Air Force. The tenders
are due by 31' March 1993.
Companies invited to bid for
Staff Requirement Air
(SRA)918 are Marconi Radar
Systems and Siemens Plessey
Systems in the UK, Alenia in
Italy, Telefunken in Germany
(through AEG UK), France's
Thomson-CSF and General
Electric and Westinghouse in
the USA.

UAV RESUMPTION
Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical
has resumed testing of the
BQM-145A medium-range un-
manned air vehicle (MR-UAV)
with the successful first flight
of the second prototype on 21
December. The first YBQM-145
prototype was destroyed when
it crashed during its first
ground launch in September
1992. The accident followed
two successful air launches.

COLOMBIA TAKES DELIVERY OF TUCANOS
Fourteen Embraer EMB.312 Tucanos for the Colombian air force were delivered in two batches during the second half of December 1992. Two VIP-configured EMB.110P Bandierantes were also delivered in late December.

Iraqi MiG provides first AMRAAM kill
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he USA has reinforced its
fighter force in Saudi Arabia
following the shooting down of
an Iraqi air force fighter, be-
lieved to be a Mikoyan MiG-29
Fulcrum, on 27 December by a
US Air Force General Dynamics
F-16 in the southern air-
exclusion zone (AEZ). The zone
is enforced by US, UK and
French aircraft.

The carrier USS Kitty Hawk,
which was on patrol in the
Persian Gulf but had temporarily
been moved to support US Ma-
rines in Somalia, was returned to
the Gulf, but a squadron each of
Grumman F-14 Tomcats and
McDonnell Douglas F-18 Hor-
nets was flown from it to Dhah-
ran AB in north-east Saudi
Arabia on 28 December. Addi-
tional USAF McDonnell Douglas
KC-10 tankers and Lockheed
RC-135 communications-intelli-
gence-gathering aircraft have
also been sent to Saudi Arabia.
The MiG kill was taken after
two aircraft penetrated south of
the 32nd parallel at 07.20 GMT
but retreated as the F-16s ap-
proached. At 07.40 GMT the
MiGs again penetrated the AEZ
and when the F-16s again ap-
proached them, turned head on
to the F-16s. After ignoring
radio calls to leave the area, the
lead F-16 shot down the lead
MiG, 37km (20nm) inside the
AEZ, using the AIM-120 ad-
vanced medium-range air-to-air
missile (AMRAAM), the first
time the weapon has been used
in combat. The missile shot was
taken beyond visual range.

The remaining MiG was flown
away undamaged and an Iraqi
search-and-rescue helicopter was
allowed to comb the area for the
downed MiG pilot.
The following day another
pair of aircraft, again thought to
be MiG-29s, penetrated the AEZ
but left when approached by US
aircraft.

• The Turkish parliament has
voted in favour of allowing 48
combat aircraft belonging to the
Coalition Task Force to con-
tinue to operate from bases in
Turkey for a further six months.
The US, UK and French aircraft
are being used to impose an AEZ
in northern Iraq to protect
Kurds and other minorities from
Iraqi persecution. •

Loral Vought lands
A1ACMS contract

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he US Army has awarded a
$139 million contract to
Loral Vought Systems for 351
Army Tactical Missile System
(ATACMS) missiles in the an-
nual purchase for 1993.
The ATACMS, which became
the first US Army tactical sur-
face-to-surface missile to be fired
in combat during Operation De-
sert Storm, was developed by
LTV Missiles division before
Loral acquired it. LTV won the
contract to produce ATACMS in
1986. Each missile, which is
fired from a Loral Vought-built
M270 launcher, contains about
950 submunitions. •

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