DEFENCE

Germany is paying Portugual for use of an air base with 50 Alpha Jets

Portugal benefits in

Alpha Jet giveaway

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IN MUNICH

Germany has been forced to

scrap 90 Dassault/Dornier
Alpha Jets and give away a
further 50 after failing to find
a buyer for the ageing ground-
attack aircraft. They are to be
phased out in the restructuring
of the country's air force.
The Alpha Jets were given to
Portugal as payment for the
German air force's use of Beja
air base, Portugal, as a tactical
training centre. Germany's 150-
man Beja training detachment,
which has been active since
1964, is to be withdrawn by
the end of this month.
The aircraft are from Ger-
man bases at Husum, Old-
enburg and Furstenfeldbruck.
Including 18 aircraft already
stationed at Beja, they have
been handed over to the Portu-
guese air force.
Ninety of the German air
force's original 175 Alpha Jets
are to be scrapped, after a bid
to purchase the aircraft by the
French air force fell through.
No other potential buyers have
been found.
The remaining 35 Alpha Jets
will continue to be used by 49
Fighter-Bomber wing at
Furstenfeldbruck for Panavia
Tornado lead-in training until
their retirement in 1995. All
subsequent lead-in training for
Tornado pilots will take place
at the US Air Force's Holloman
AFB, New Mexico.
According to the German air
force, the restructuring pro-
gramm e was designed to
"...adapt to changes in the

European security environ-
ment" since re-unification, and
is to be completed by 1995.
The changes implemented
include reducing the Soviet-
equipped, former East German
air force to 60 operational air-
craft, while all 72 German
McDonnel l Douglas RF-4E
Phantom reconnaissance air-
craft have been retired and
divided among the Greek and
Turkish air forces.

More aircraft are to be phased
out by the turn of the century,
leaving a force of about 500
aircraft based on the Eurofighter
2000 and the Tornado. •

Dassault redoubles Pakistan effort

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rench aerospace manufac-
turer Dassault is redoubling
its efforts to sell the Mirage
2000 to Pakistan. Its renewed
drive comes in the light of the
possible lifting of the current
US embargo, which would free
Lockheed to deliver 60 F-16s
originally ordered by the Paki-
stan air force.
Dassault had seized on the
F-16 embargo by offering Paki-
stan the Mirage 2000 in a $1.4
billion package which includes
the AS30L laser-guided missile.
A decision on the French offer
is expected early in 1994.
The long-standing negotia-
tions between France and Paki-
stan have largely been stalled

over finance. Russian manufac-
turer Sukhoi has also at-
tempted to sell the Su-27
Flanker to Islamabad.
The US sanctions had been
imposed in an attempt to halt
Pakistan's nuclear-weapon de-
velopment programme. Around
30 of the 71 F-16s on order
have been built by Lockheed
and paid for by Pakistan. These
aircraft are in storage.
Dassault also hopes to sell
up to 12 Mirage 2000-5 aircraft
to Qatar to replace its Mirage
F.1E/B combat aircraft. Qatar is
trying to offset the acquisition
cost of the Mirage 2000-5 by
selling its Mirage F.lEs. Spain is
a possible buyer. •

French put Spirit into Transall C-160s

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he French air force is to
equip 20 of its Transall
C.160 transport aircraft with
the Alkan Spirit defensive-aids
system (DAS).
The Spirit system has two
Alkan Type 507 decoy dispens-
ers scabbed on to each side of
the aircraft's fuselage, and a
cockpit-control box compatible
with night-vision goggles. Each
dispenser can house 16 infra-

SLIMLINE VYMPEL R-37
The most detailed picture yet to appear of the Vympel R-37 long-range air-to-air missile under development in Russia shows a weapon with similar length to that of the R-33 (AA-9 Amos), but of considerably reduced diameter. The missile, with a range in excess of 100km (55nm), is carried semi-recessed on the four outer-fuselage stations of a Mikoyan MiG-31M prototype and has a body diameter of around 300mm, compared to the AA-9s' 380mm. Unlike the AA-9, for which it is generally viewed as being the replacement, the R-37 has four folding rear fins. On the AA-9, only the upper two rear-control surfaces are articulated to allow for conformal storage. The all-folding-fin configura-tion on the R-37 would appear to indicate that it can also be stored internally, on an as-yet unidentified combat aircraft. Vympel has previously designed an R-77 (AA-I2) with a!l-/oldmg rear-control surfaces for internal carriage.

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red decoy flares or chaff car-
tridges.
In the C.160 configuration,
the Spirit DAS will be inter-
faced with the Thomson-CSF
Sherloc radar-warning receiver
and Israeli company Elta's pas-
sive missile-approach warner.
Alkan claims that, in this
configuration, the system can
be used to discriminate be-
tween two simultaneous threats
and prioritise between them.
The French air force may
also adapt the Spirit DAS for
use on Lockheed C-130Hs. D

Chile considers Barak

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he Chilean army is consid-
ering acquiring a mobile
land-based variant of the Israel
Aircraft Industries/Rafael Barak
naval point-defence missile sys-
tem. A co-production agree-
ment is also on offer as part of
the package.
Chilean army officials have
attended a test launch of a
Barak missile in Israel. The
Chilean navy has already or-
dered the Barak system, while
the army is looking for a mo-
bile air-defence system capable
of defending army units and.
high-value sites from aircraft
and missiles.

The system on offer to the
army includes an Elta search
radar and the same fire-control
radar as that installed on the
ship version. •

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