

Pentagon probes fighter prices

WASHINGTON D.C.

US Assistant Defence Secretary James Wade has asked the US Air Force to account for the real-price increase of McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagles and General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcons. Wade has been appointed by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger to oversee Department of Defence efforts to crack down on cases of overspending.

Calculated in 1970 dollars, the flyaway cost of the F-15 has risen from \$5.5 million to \$7.4 million; the actual F-15 flyaway cost is \$26.3 million in 1985 dollars. The F-16 cost in 1980 was \$3.9 million "over the fence" in 1975 dollars, and rose to \$4.8 million last year (in 1975 dollars). This year's flyaway cost for an F-16 averages \$14 million in 1985 dollars.

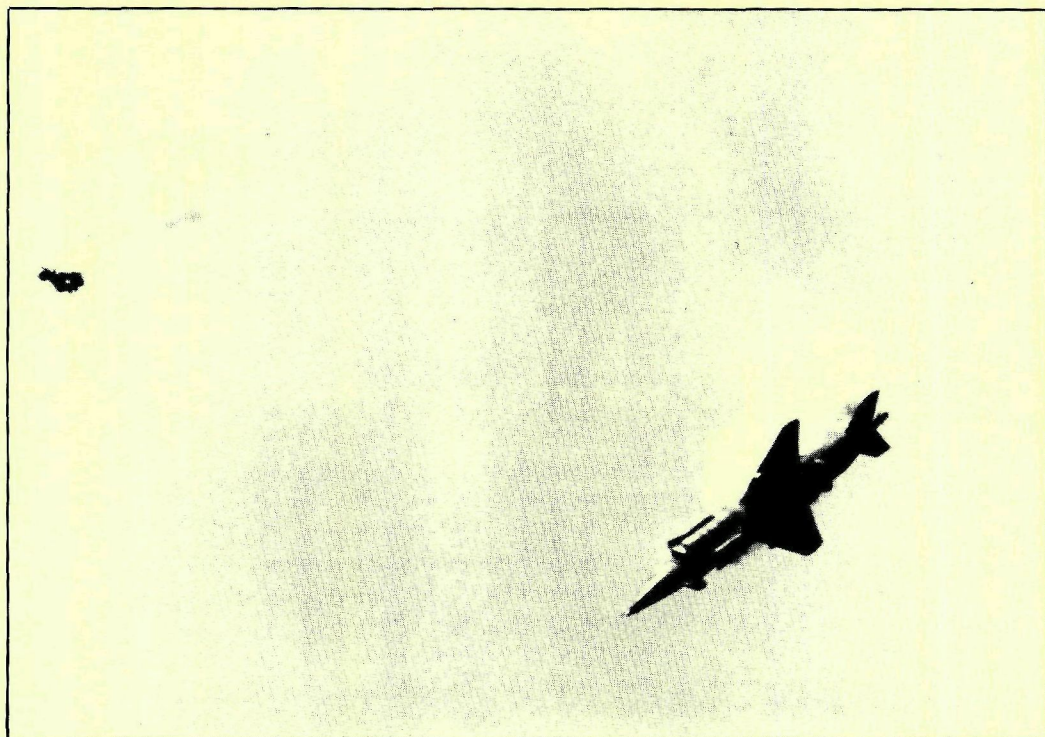
Wade says: "We would have expected learning-curve effects to lead to a small decrease in the average unit flyaway cost in constant dollars", and has instructed that the USAF provides an explanation.

C-17 proposals sought

LONG BEACH

Almost 40 companies have been invited by prime contractor McDonnell Douglas to submit proposals on avionics systems for the US Air Force C-17.

Potential subcontractors have been asked for their proposals for systems including the mission computer/electronic display system, electronic flight control system, integrated radio management system, headup display, air data computer,



The Soviet pilot ejects before his Forger aircraft hits the water and sinks in the Norwegian Sea

aircraft propulsion, data management computer, weather radar, and station keeping system.

Contracts for the full-scale development phase of the programme with options on production will be let in the last quarter of the year.

Assembly of the first test aircraft is scheduled for 1987, with the first test flight in 1989. The Air Force plans to buy 210 C-17s.

USA requests Japanese technology

TOKYO

The US Government has officially requested the transfer of military technology from Japan—possibly for a Toshiba-developed image homing guidance system.

Takakazu Kuriyama, director of the North American Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, testified in parliament that the request had been made, but did not specify what type of technology was wanted.

However, *Flight* understands that the US Government may be interested in the Toshiba image homing guidance system for possible application to a future portable anti-aircraft missile which may replace the current General Dynamics FIM-92 Stinger in the US inventory.

Peru updates Mirage 5 fleet

LIMA

The Peruvian Air Force is saving \$320,000 an aircraft by updating its Mirage 5s in-house, rather than having the work done by Dassault-Breguet.

The Peruvian Air Force estimates it can update each Mirage 5 with an inertial navigation system and new weapons aiming computer for \$80,000 each, while Dassault quoted \$400,000 an aircraft. The PAF has some 25 Mirage 5s and 30 Mirage 50s, with 26 Mirage 2000s on order. Peru has also been contracted to service the ten Mirage 5s transferred to Argentina and expects to sign up Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela.

RN rescues Soviet pilot

LOFOTEN

Royal Navy seamen rescued a Soviet Navy pilot after his Yak-38 Forger aircraft crashed into the sea off Norway 80 n.m. south-west of the Lofoten Islands.

The seamen were in a boat from *HMS Newcastle*, a Type 42 guided-missile destroyer, one of 17 British ships and submarines monitoring a large Soviet exercise in the Atlantic and Norwegian Sea. The Forger pilot, who was taking part in the exercise, ejected near *Newcastle's* boat.

After helping the pilot free from his parachute the Navy crew assisted the pilot into a strop lowered by a Soviet Helix helicopter which arrived on the scene soon afterwards. Two seaboats from the Russian aircraft carrier *Kiev* then arrived to collect aircraft wreckage. The pilot's injuries were assessed as minor.