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# DEFENSE NEWS

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## Soviet Treaty Compliance Threatens SNF Talks

By THERESA HITCHENS  
And GEORGE LEOPOLD  
Defense News Staff Writers

BRUSSELS, Belgium — A deepening dispute over Soviet compliance with a conventional arms pact has compounded NATO's difficulties in forging a unified negotiating position for separate talks on eliminating short-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

NATO and U.S. officials doubt whether an agreed negotiating position on short-range nuclear forces (SNF) will be ready for approval by NATO leaders this spring

as has been expected. Such a setback could delay a final decision until the next round of high-level NATO meetings at the end of the year.

Talks on short-range nuclear weapons, those with ranges below 300 miles, had been expected to start in the fall.

Officials in Washington acknowledged last week that NATO's negotiating framework for SNF talks still is being developed, and that it is unlikely negotiations will begin this fall.

However, they add there is little pressure within NATO to open talks soon. "It

is just not a moment to rush forward," a U.S. official said last Thursday, adding that the conventional arms dispute has "tied everything in knots."

Concerns over Soviet compliance with the Conventional Forces Europe (CFE) treaty focus on the reassignment of three Soviet motorized rifle divisions to coastal defense units. "There isn't much enthusiasm for moving forward with SNF" as a result of the CFE dispute, U.S. Gen. John Galvin, NATO's supreme allied commander, told the Senate Armed Services Committee last Thursday.

Despite difficulties in forging an SNF negotiating mandate, NATO officials remained convinced that such nuclear weapons eventually will be banned from Europe.

"I think we'll get [an SNF accord], but it may take another year or two," a senior NATO nuclear expert said last week.

A key question being debated by NATO officials is what form an SNF agreement should take. Officials at NATO headquarters here and in Washington increasingly favor a non-binding political pact over a

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## Navy Eyes Laser Links For Subs

By NEIL MUNRO  
Defense News Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — To improve communica-



MBB PHOTO

**The Netherlands will lease 20 light antitank helicopters, possibly like the German Army's PAH-1, above,**

*until more modern attack helicopters can be procured in 1995, possibly either Franco-German Tigers or U.S. Army AH-64 Apaches. The Netherlands plans 2 percent defense cuts in real terms for each of the next three years. See story, page 3.*

ions with submarines, the U.S. Navy is examining the prospects for a network of low-orbiting laser communications satellites.

The satellite network would use compact lasers to transmit information to and from submerged submarines, and could be deployed around 2005, said one Navy source.

Money for a research effort could be put into the budget in 1994, said Vice Adm. Jerry Tuttle, Navy director for space and electronic warfare. There is no money in the 1992 budget request, because "I don't have the money [but] I'd like to very much," he said, adding "someday, we'll have [satellite laser communications]."

"It is not a technology availability problem, it is a cost problem," said Phil Speser, a laser expert at Foresight Science & Technology Inc., Port Townsend, Wash. "Within the next couple of years, it definitely is in the routine category," he said.

The Navy's interest in the proposed system has grown in the last six months, said one naval source. "It is more than a gleam in someone's eye," he said. However, a Navy proposal to fund studies of the effort in 1991 had been rejected, he said, adding that he did not know

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# Swiss Fighter Race Comes Down to Mirage, F/A-18

By GIOVANNI de BRIGANTI  
Defense News Staff Writer

PARIS — Switzerland is expected to select a new fighter aircraft by late March or early April, according to sources in Bern. However, the Soviet-made MiG-29, once under consideration, is

out of the running.

The Swiss Cabinet said Feb. 27 it will not evaluate the MiG-29 fighter that the Soviet Union last June had offered to sell to Switzerland.

Now competing for the Swiss order, worth an estimated 3.4 bil-

lion Swiss francs (\$2.55 billion), are the U.S. McDonnell Douglas F-18 Hornet and the French Dassault Aviation Mirage 2000-5.

In October 1988, the Swiss defense ministry had selected the F-18 after eliminating the Mirage 2000 and the General Dynamics F-16. But in June 1990, Swiss Defense Minister Kaspar Villiger requested a new evaluation of the improved Mirage 2000-5 as a possibly more effective alternative to the F-18.

Lee Whitney, a spokesman for McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Co.,

St. Louis, said, "We're very confident that the Swiss government's current evaluation of its future fighter aircraft requirements will reaffirm the earlier selection of the F/A-18."

Reduced tensions in Europe may cause Switzerland to cut its fighter requirement from 34 to 24, Swiss officials have said. The officials say the F-18 is being offered at a fly-away price of about 50 million Swiss francs (\$37.6 million) at October 1990 values, while the Mirage 2000-5 would cost more than 250 million

French francs (\$48.1 million).

Compared with previous versions, the Mirage 2000-5 features an all-glass cockpit with liquid crystal displays, the Thomson-CSF RDY multimode radar and a new weapon system, including the MICA air-to-air missile being developed by Matra for the French Air Force's Rafale fighter.

The Mirage Dash 5 prototype first flew in October 1990. It also is being marketed by Dassault to Finland, which has a requirement for at least 60 modern fighters.

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# PIPELINE

## France To Join NATO Effort

France will join NATO in developing a new military strategy — a move some at NATO believe could signify a softening in French support for a European military structure independent from the alliance.

NATO officials lauded the French move as a possible first step toward better integrating France's military posture with that of the other 15 allies.

France withdrew its forces from the NATO command in 1966, with then-French president Charles De Gaulle rejecting what he saw as American domination of NATO military policy.

The French move further could signal that France may be preparing to abdicate leadership of the European effort to create an independent defense decision-making body under the European Community, some at NATO say.

## Mitterrand Orders Review

French President Francois Mitterrand has ordered a sweeping review of future defense policy, urging widespread debate on the subject throughout all levels of government, French officials at NATO said last week.

The primary aim is to review lessons learned in the Gulf War, with an eye to future force structure and budgetary pressures, one French diplomat said Friday.

## U.K. Trident Program Slows

Delays in Britain's Trident submarine building program will delay fielding of the nuclear

of which have problems affecting their reactor systems, will have to remain in service longer than planned.

The precise date for Trident to enter service has always been kept vague, with official statements talking of the mid-1990s. A contract for the third of the four Trident boats was signed in November 1990, with VSEL of Barrow in northwest England after lengthy negotiations, leading to a six-month delay. The negotiations, while causing a delay, reduced the cost of the third boat by 14 percent.

The actual vessels account for about one third of the overall 9.86 billion pound (\$18.7 billion) cost of the Trident program.

## Herzfeld OKs Training Office

An organizational plan for a new Pentagon-wide training and simulation office was approved by Charles Herzfeld, head of defense research and engineering, last Tuesday, officials say. The military services and the Joint Chiefs of Staff have until March 15 to comment on the plan.

A more ambitious policy directive, detailing what areas of training and simulation the new office will be involved in, is expected to be issued by mid-April, officials add.

## Reuter Blasts Tornado Ban

Edzard Reuter, chairman of the German Daimler-Benz group, has attacked the German government's "hypocrisy" for having pressured Daimler's Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB) unit not to exhibit the Tornado

The day before the Techno-German 91 show was due to open on Feb. 25, MBB was advised by the German Economics Ministry that President Richard von Weizsaecker would refuse to inaugurate the show unless the Tornado exhibit was removed, a Deutsche Aerospace official said.

The ministry, which organized the all-German high technology exhibition, also required Panavia, the joint venture company that markets the Tornado, to wall up its large Tornado exhibit.

MBB and Panavia have been trying to sell the Tornado to South Korea for three years. "We cannot tolerate this kind of hypocrisy in German policy," Reuter said in a March 1 statement.

Although it finally replaced the Tornado exhibit with the Do-228 commuter airliner, MBB gave a 1.6 meter model of the Tornado to the South Korean air force.

## Yazar Takes Turkish Post

Turkey's new defense minister, Mehmet Yazar, likely will be more of a team player in Ankara than his predecessor. Yazar, a former state minister under Prime Minister Akbulut Yildirim, came to the defense post last Tuesday after a long career in party politics.

Yazar started out as a conservative opponent to the ruling Motherland Party but joined the party in 1987. He is now considered a close adviser to President Turgut Ozal. Yazar, 55, replaces Husnu Dogan, who was dismissed in late February after Dogan disapproved of Ozal's wife. Semra, running for the

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subs by at least six months. Britain's four Polaris ballistic missile submarines, at least two

attack aircraft at a government-sponsored technology exhibition in Seoul, South Korea.

chairmanship of the Motherland Party in Istanbul.

# HIGHLIGHTS

**Navy May Have to Upgrade Radios**

*The Navy may modify existing radios to compensate for delay of its Link 16 communications network. . . . . 4*

**Italians Press for Arms Export Regime**

*A group of Italian legislators, cutting across the spectrum of political parties, last week pressed for an international arms export regime. . . . . 4*

**Japan Antes Up \$9 Billion**

*The Japanese parliament last week approved \$9 billion in contributions to the allied forces involved in the gulf war. . . . . 5*

**Panel Orders F-14D Funds Released**

*A House committee last week ordered the DoD to release nearly \$1 billion to fund the manufacture of 12 Navy F-14D fighter aircraft. . . . . 6*

**European Firms Wait on JPATS**

*Confusion surrounding specifications for the U.S. Air Force JPATS program has convinced several European firms to sit out its opening phases. . . 8*

**JPATS Race Is on . . . Almost**

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**Wanted: American Partners**

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*Private contractors are expected to begin work on a new primary training aircraft for the Canadian Armed Forces beginning in late 1992. . . . 10*

**More Demand for Night Simulators?**

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*With the end of the Persian Gulf war, securities analysts say defense stocks are not likely to keep pace with the rising stock market. . . . . 40*

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*General Motors is selling its stake in Tactical Truck Corp., a joint venture with Harsco Corp. to make future tactical military vehicles. . . . . 42*

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