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5. INDIA PURCHASES 68 BRITISH JET LIGHT AIRCRAFT



New Delhi has announced its signature of a contract to purchase 68 Canberra jet light aircraft from Britain, [redacted]

London
3 Feb 57
Press

A press report from London states that the order calls for 54 bombers, six trainers, and eight photographic reconnaissance aircraft.

[redacted] notes that the timing of India's decision may have been influenced by the UN resolution on Kashmir.

Comment India has been negotiating with Britain' for over a year over the purchase of Canberras. Although technical considerations were a factor which held up the signing of the contract, the chief cause of the delay apparently was indecision as to whether or not to accept a Soviet offer to provide IL-28 jet light bombers, reportedly at half the price of Canberras.

The government's decision reflects its unwillingness to become dependent on Soviet sources of supply for important types of military equipment despite the difference in cost.

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