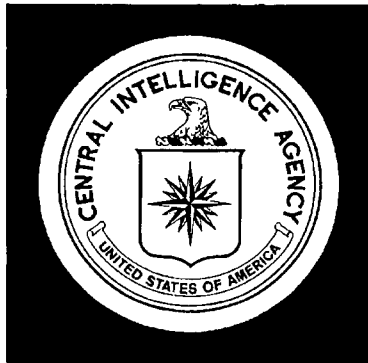
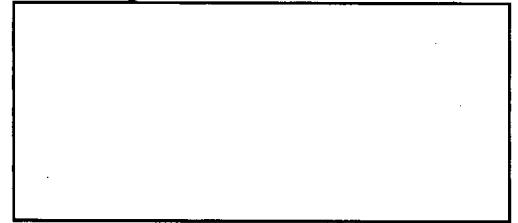


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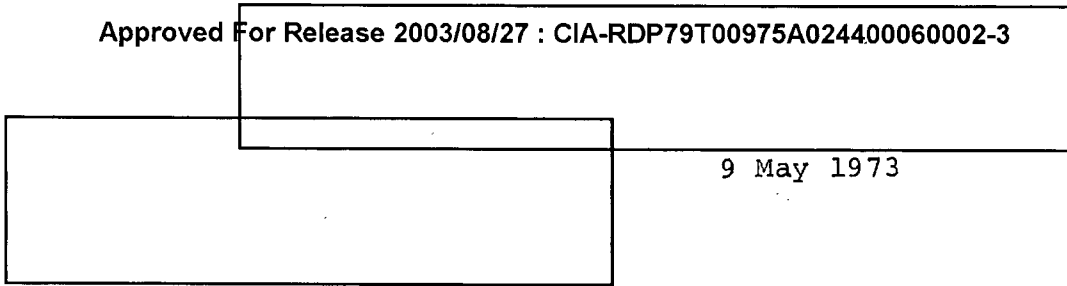


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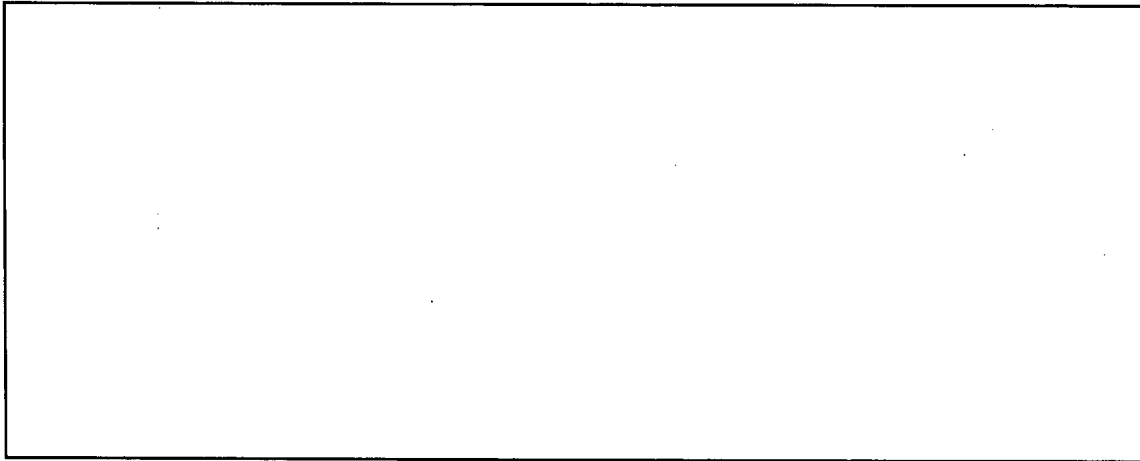
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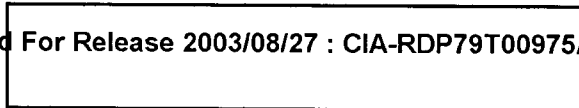
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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: Aircraft transfers improve Egypt's capabilities, but Israeli military superiority is not threatened. (Page 1)

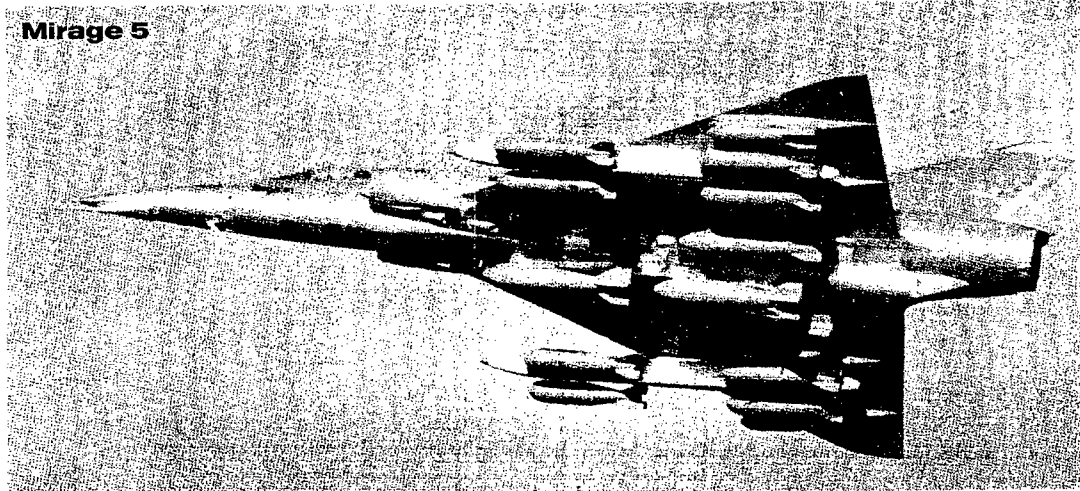


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Ground Attack Aircraft in Egypt



Low Altitude Capabilities

	Combat radius	Payload	Mission time
Mirage 5	265 nm	6,000 lbs	1.3 hrs
SU-7 Fitter	75 nm	4,400 lbs	0.4 hrs

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ARAB STATES - ISRAEL: Transfers of Libyan and Iraqi ground-attack aircraft to Egypt have improved Cairo's capability to attack Israeli targets, but Israel's military superiority is not threatened.

About 30 Libyan Mirages--probably Mirage 5s-- and some 16 Iraqi Hunter aircraft were transferred to Egypt last month. The Mirage 5 is superior to all other ground-attack aircraft in the Egyptian inventory, including the SU-7 Fitter A, the swing-wing SU-17 Fitter B, and the MIG-17 Fresco.

Both the Mirage and the two Fitter variants can reach targets in Israel proper, but only the Mirage can fly at the low altitudes required to penetrate Israeli defenses and still reach Israel with an adequate payload.

The Libyan Mirages are believed to be flown by Egyptians

[Redacted]

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The Hunters, which have about twice the payload capability of the MIG-17, would be useful in ground-attack missions close to the Suez Canal. In such a role, they would complement Egyptian use of MIG-17s, MIG-21 interceptors configured for a strike role, as well as the Mirages and Fitters.

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[Redacted]

The aircraft [redacted] add only slightly to the numerical superiority in aircraft already held by the Arabs. The new aircraft, however, could make it more difficult for Israel to defend against air attacks, particularly if Egypt and Syria launched a coordinated strike.

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FOR THE RECORD*

USSR-US: Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Alkhimov leaves Moscow today at the head of a seven-man delegation for 18 days of trade talks in the US. []

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Japan-USSR: Soviet supply of uranium-enriching services is expected to be one of the major topics discussed when a high-level Japanese atomic energy team visits the Soviet Union in June. []

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Iran: The Shah will leave Tehran around 21 May to visit Yugoslavia, Romania, and Bulgaria, while Prime Minister Hoveyda goes to Poland. []

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Saudi Arabia - Egypt: King Faysal, while en route to France for a four-day official visit, will stop in Cairo on 12 May for two days of talks with President Sadat. []

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Sudan: President Numayri promulgated Sudan's first permanent constitution yesterday. It incorporates the provisions of last year's peace accord ending the 17-year-old southern rebellion. []

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**These items are prepared overnight by CIA without coordination.*

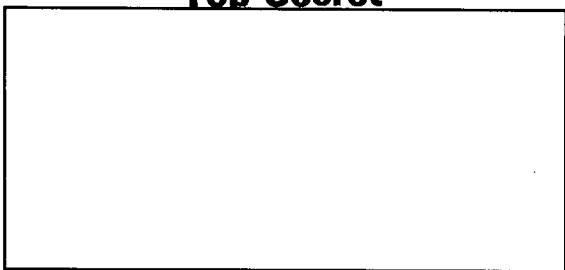
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