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SYRIA/LEBANON/
MISSILES

JENNINGS: Soviet missiles in the Middle East are the cause of new concern today. And here's our Pentagon correspondent, John McWethy.

MCWETHY: U.S. intelligence sources tell ABC News that Syria has moved several batteries of SAM-9 anti-aircraft missiles deep into Lebanon to positions west of the Bekaa Valley north of the Beirut-Damascus highway. American sources say this puts the missiles into excellent position to strike at American aircraft that now fly reconnaissance missions over the area. The SAM-9 missiles are fast, short-range weapons designed to strike aircraft flying below 16,000 feet. The missiles are located around Syrian ammunition storage areas. American sources say no decision has yet been made on whether to remove the weapons by force, but they do admit that broad discussions are under way with Israel about possible military moves against Syria, which could include hitting the new missiles. U.S. government sources say they now anticipate if there is to be any retaliation for the killing of 239 American servicemen at Beirut airport it will be directed against Syrian positions in Lebanon. Sources say the Reagan administration believes that Syria both allowed and encouraged Iranian terrorists to strike at the American compound last month, and that makes Syria the primary target for retaliation. John McWethy, ABC News, the Pentagon.