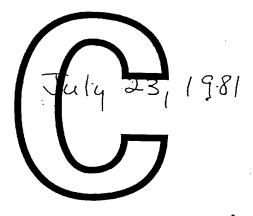
26503

\* 4



USSR-IRAN-ISRAEL: Aircraft Forced Down

Last weekend Soviet fighter aircraft apparently forced down a transport plane as it returned from Tehran after delivering arms and supplies from Israel.

The CL-44 transport out d by an Argentine air cargo firm--was intercep ed near the Turkish-Soviet border by two Soviet fig ters

yesterday, when Moscow c aimer that the aircraft crashed after straying into Soviet airspace.

The Argentine firm ad contracted with the Israelis of deliver at least part of at estimated 5,000 tons of weapons and 300,000 tons of medical supplies and food to Iran beginning early this month. The cargo probably included critically needed aircraft spare parts and ammunition. The transport had just completed the third of 12 flights planned to Tehran and was returning to Cyprus when it was intercepted.

Argentina has begun efforts to determine the status of the aircraft and its crew. So far the Soviets have been restrained in their communiques on the incident. The Israelis now will have to find another means to transport supplies to Iran, probably by ship.

