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# U.S. Plans to Sell Jordan \$350-Million in Weapons

## Congress Advised of Project to Deliver Air-Defense Missiles and Guns — Doubts Voiced on Capitol Hill

NYTimes **By BERNARD GWERTZMAN** JUL 12 1975  
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WASHINGTON, July 11—The Ford Administration informed key members of Congress today that it would sell Jordan a modern air-defense system costing about \$350-million, more than three times what had initially been disclosed.

A letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Speaker of the House revealed plans to sell 14 batteries of Hawk ground-to-air missiles, with a sale price of about \$260-million, and eight batteries of Vulcan antiaircraft guns costing about \$90-million.

In addition, it was learned from Administration officials that the United States would sell Jordan about 300 shoulder-fired Redeye antiaircraft missiles for about \$4-million.

When it was disclosed in May that the United States would sell Hawk missiles to Jordan, Administration officials told newsmen and Israelis that the total sales would amount to about \$100-million. There was no explanation for the larger figure.

The proposed sales resulted in immediate expressions of

concern on Capitol Hill today. Senator Clifford P. Case of New Jersey, the ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, introduced a resolution calling for hearings on the sale to determine whether it should be permitted.

Representative Jonathan B. Bingham, Democrat of the Bronx, said he and other Congressmen would introduce a resolution on Monday to kill the sale.

Under a law adopted last year, any proposed military sale of \$25-million or more must be reported to Congress, which then has 20 days to act. If it takes no action, the sale is allowed to proceed. So far this year, Congress has not tried to block any military sale.

Mr. Case, in his statement, expressed particular concern over the "rather large" number of Hawk missiles involved and the fact that they would be mobile and not fixed in place.

He said that mobile Hawks, which are similar to the Soviet SAM-6, can be used in support

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# U.S. REVEALS PLAN FOR JORDAN ARMS

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of advancing ground forces. He also said he was upset by the fact that the Administration's letter to Congress did not include mention of the sale of the highly portable Redeyes because the amount was less than \$25-million.

The Redeyes, which weigh about 28 pounds, are effective against helicopters and slow-flying planes. Mr. Case said he was concerned because "the Redeyes might fall into the hands of terrorists in the Middle East."

Mr. Bingham said he was opposing the sale because it was so much larger than first indicated by the Administration and that "the size and strategic implications are frightening."

The Israelis have also complained privately about the sale, and their supporters in Washington were on the phone today to pass the word about the contemplated action.

The Jordanians have been seeking an up-to-date air defense system for many years. King Hussein has said one reason for Jordan's refusal to participate directly in the Arab war against Israel in October, 1973, was a lack of air defense.

The Administration gave serious attention to his request but only began to take serious action after the Arab summit conference at Rabat last fall, when King Hussein lost considerable influence and had to give up the right to negotiate for the West Bank of the Jordan River to the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In a memorandum justifying the sale, the White House told Congress that the transaction "would be in the national interest of the United States, strengthening Hussein's internal position and reinforcing Jordan's policies of moderation at a time when Jordan was under heavy political pressure from outside

forces (including the P.L.O.) and when the morale of its armed forces was suffering from the absence of any air defense."

The sale, the memorandum said, "would not alter the overwhelming military superiority which Israel enjoys vis-à-vis Jordan, but should contribute significantly to the confidence of the Jordanian military in their ability to deter attack on their country from any direction, thus helping to support a moderate and responsible government and maintain its close ties to the United States."

The sale will be in cash, with Jordan expected to receive most of the money from Saudi Arabia.