

# Allies to Give U.S. Planes To S. Viets

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has persuaded three Asian allies to lend South Vietnam U.S.-supplied F5 fighter planes for a hurry-up buildup of the South Vietnamese air force, the Pentagon reported today.

Pentagon spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim said Iran, Taiwan and South Korea have agreed to supply these planes from their inventories and that some deliveries are already under way.

The F5 is in short supply in the United States and for this reason U.S. officials over the past few days had approached several countries to work out some sort of barter arrangement.

Friedheim did not say how the U.S. would replace these aircraft but indicated this could be with newer F5s in the future or possibly even more sophisticated F4 Phantom fighters.

The F5 is a relative simplified jet fighter designed specifically for use by America's allies. Its primary role is air defense.

Since the proposed Vietnamese peace settlement was disclosed last week, the United States has been rushing to supply South Vietnam with additional aircraft along with artillery and armored equipment in advance of a cease-fire.

In addition to the F5s, South Vietnam is being supplied with C130 transports, helicopters, A37 jet close-support fighters and A1 prop-driven fighters.

Friedheim acknowledged for the first time today that the C130, a four-engine aircraft, was being delivered to South Vietnam. The planes, he said, will be

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taken from National Guard and Reserve units in the United States.

He refused to discuss numbers but sources both in Washington and Saigon said South Vietnam will receive about 30 of the C130s. These planes began arriving Thursday.

The South Vietnamese air force never before has received these planes, although they have served as U.S. tactical transports for a about a decade.

In addition, sources said about 30 additional A37s are being stripped from the Air Guard and regular Air Force units here to strengthen the South Vietnamese Air Force.

No numbers were placed on the F5

but it is believed that Saigon eventually will receive about 125 of these planes. It now has only one squadron of 24 F5s in its inventory.

Friedheim said the delivery of new weapons is in support of the efforts to negotiate a peace settlement and to "enhance the possibility for successfully concluding the hostilities."

He would not comment when asked about reports that the U.S. would contract out to civilians the training and maintenance for the South Vietnamese once U.S. military forces withdraw.

The proposed peace agreement calls for the withdrawal of all U.S. military forces within 60 days of signing and Friedheim said the U.S. was fully capable of accomplishing that.