Analysis

US weapon sales increasing

By Hans A. von Spakovsky

US military arms sales are contin-
ing to increase, according to govern-
ment figures. While both presidential candidates have
spoken about nuclear war and the need to reduce
arms sales, President Carter has ad-
dressed the role of the United States as the largest arms dealer in the
world.

In the last decade alone, the US has
made foreign military sales ag-
grements in the staggering amount of $113 billion dollars, ac-
cording to data assembled for
congressional presentation on US Security Assistance Programs in
fiscal year 1981. If one includes weapons sold through commer-
cial licenses since 1971 under the
Arms Export Control Act, plus the
monetary value of the US Military Assistance Program (including train-
ing programs and the sale of excess defense equip-
ment), the total reaches almost $113 billion dollars.

It is interesting to note, however, that deliveries under the
FMS agreements have not kept up with the $113 billion dollar US
delivery rate has hovered at 6 bil-
dion dollars a year. If the United States military is to step up all military
sales abroad overnight, enough unfilled orders exist to continue
shipments at the rate of 6 billion a year till the 1988 Presidential elec-
tions.

Jimmy Carter's claim of being a
"peace-maker" is not supported
by the record of increasing arms
sales during his administration. In
the 1976 campaign, Carter
promised to try to reduce
American weapons sales if he
were elected, and, in 1977, US
military and commercial sales did
drop to 10 billion dollars from a
1976 high of 16 billion.

This is a deceptive figure,
however, as the difference is almost entirely due to a reduction
in sales to Saudi Arabia. (50 percent of the cut was in pro-
jects managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers under the
Saudi Arabian Engineer As-
cistance Agreement). Since then,
total US sales have increased 40 percent.

As US-China relations con-
tinued to improve, culminating in
Carter's abrogation of the US-
Taiwan defense treaty, military sales to Taiwan increased 250 per-
cent to over one-half billion dol-
ars in 1979. Recent US concern
over the security of Thailand is
evidenced by the quadrupling of arms sales in 1979 over the
previous year.

The congressional data in-
dicates that in the last decade alone, the United States has sold
57 billion dollars worth of arms in
the Middle East and South Asia
(including India and Pakistan). In
the last three years, sales to Iran
tumbled sharply, reaching zero under
the arms embargo imposed by
Carter last year. Efforts to main-
tain a strong Arab ally in the Per-
sian Gulf seem to have switched
from Iran to Saudi Arabia, the
chief US oil supplier, as military
sales to Saudi Arabia approached 6.5 billion dollars in 1979.

Supporters of the American
defense industry point to the
many jobs it provides in our
strained economy and the value
of exports in reducing our trade
deficit. They believe foreign sales
are necessary to absorb research
and development costs, and to
maintain the American
technological lead in the arms in-
dustry during the 1980's. The idea
that "if we don't sell it to them, someone else will," has
been one of the basic defenses of
arms dealers. Whether this is a
valid conclusion or moral justifica-
tion is debatable, but it is true to an extent. According to
data released by the US Arms
Control and Disarmament
Agency, the US share of the
world market has gone down
from 50 percent in 1980 to 38 per-
cent in 1977, as the French, West
Germans, British, and
Israelis have increased their
markets.

One of the most foreboding
developments of recent years has
been the diffusion of weaponry
technology and an increase in the
number of producer-nations. Israel, for instance, has been es-
pically successful in establishing
and building its own arms in-
dustry.

Attempts to establish any kind
of control, regulation, or halting
of weapons transfers has not
been very successful. Many third-
world countries look on negotia-
tion to control the weapons flow
as discriminatory or attempts by
the West to exert political-
military blackmail. Increasing
sales in underdeveloped regions
demonstrate the willingness of
government to buy guns instead of butter. Attempted em-
hargos have also not proved very
effective; in too many instances,
countries like France and Italy have shown their willingness to
sell to just about anyone.

Whether any kind of inter-
national agreement to limit arms
sales can be reached at the present
time or in the future is questionable. However, the
moral, economic, and foreign
policy implications of American participation in the trade is cer-
tainly a vital issue for debate in
the current campaigns.

... the grace of God
yields a harvest of
holiness ...

HALLOWEEN

no ghosts, neither goblins nor
goblins . . .
It is the Eve of All the Hallowed . . .
THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS will be
celebrated by the Tech Catholic
Community
Friday evening, October 31, 1980
at 9 pm in the MIT Chapel

THE FEAST OF ALL SOULS will be
celebrated by the Tech Catholic
Community
Sunday, November 2, 1980 in the MIT
Chapel
9 am, 12 noon, and 5 pm

RESUME OF A PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER

APPLICANT: Standard Oil of California

ADDRESS: 225 Bush Street
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Attn: Coordinator of Professional Employment

OBJECTIVE: Hire the best minds we can find, give them room to breathe, and see
where they take us.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR 100 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE:

-1860. Fred Taylor, using something called a cable drill, reaches
the hard-won depth of 600 feet. Rock gives way to oil.
-1959. The first of the modern hydraulic fracturing processes, developed
by Schlumberger, is commercialized, providing
economic response to hard oil demands for the next 10 years.
-1967. Social researchers come up with a naphtha reforming
process called Rheinmetall, which increases refinery
capacity to produce unleaded gasoline.
-1978. With construction and installation directed by Socal
engineers, the largest offshore rig in history is settled in the
turbulent North Atlantic. The central platform is 910 feet
at the height of the Great Pyramid, and the largest man-made
object ever moved.
-1980. We don't know what the breakthroughs will be this year,
but we've committed $8.8 billion to making sure there are some.

ACTIVITIES: Earth sciences, engineering, computer sciences, alternate energy
research, and more.

REFERENCES: 18,000 employees worldwide.

Standard Oil Company of California
Chevron																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														