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Business

Published: Sunday, August 07, 2005

Bylined to: [Ireland Online](#)



Ireland Online: Venezuela signs arms deal with China

Ireland Online reports that Venezuela's defense minister has signed a deal to buy Chinese radar systems, the latest in a series of military purchases by the government of President Hugo Chavez.

The Chinese-made long range surveillance radars will be used by Venezuela's air force, defense officials said.

Defense Minister Admiral Ramon Orlando Maniglia and Qu Huimin, the vice president of China's Electronics Import & Export, signed the accord Thursday, the state-run Bolivarian News Agency reported.

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The deal also includes the purchase of "other air security equipment" such as radios, and the possibility of renting a satellite communications system, the Defense Ministry said in a statement. The cost of the deal was not disclosed.

Venezuela has stepped up purchases of military equipment this year, agreeing to buy Russian rifles and military helicopters.

- US officials have accused Chavez of backing Colombian guerrillas with weapons -- charges Chavez denies as ridiculous.

The former army paratrooper has made a priority of fortifying Venezuela's military, saying troops are ready to face any foreign attack if necessary.

[Venezuela signs arms deal with China](#)

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-- Roy S. Carson, Editor/Publisher Editor@VHeadline.com

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