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Mercosur being armed by Russia, next country: Argentina

By: fromPortugal on: 11.08.2006 [13:02] (993 reads)



Russia is negotiating its first-ever arms sales to Argentina in a deal that could see Russian arms being swapped for Argentine beef.

Russia already had military deals with Peru, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela, among others, but said that, as far as Argentina was concerned, "in 123 years of relations between our countries that path has not been trodden, the Argentine Defense Ministry's statement said.

Russia hopes to sell Argentina a wide range of weapons, including Mi-17 and Mi-35M helicopters, high-speed missile boats and patrol boats, Buk-M1-2 and Tunguska air defense systems, Igla shoulder-fired missiles, military vehicles and rifles, Interfax said.

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Russia, Argentina in Talks On First-Ever Arms Deal

By Anna Smolchenko

Staff Writer

MOSCOW — Russia is negotiating its first-ever arms sales to Argentina in a deal that could see Russian arms being swapped for Argentine beef.

The news came less than two weeks after a controversial \$3 billion arms deal between Russia and Venezuela that has been widely seen in Moscow as the trigger for U.S. sanctions on Russian defense firms.

The potential deal includes military helicopters, high-speed patrol boats and rifles, Interfax reported Wednesday, citing a source in the Russian military.

Selling arms to Argentina, led by President Nestor Kirchner — an ally of Venezuela's leftist leader Hugo Chavez — could risk further upsetting the United States. Chavez has sought to strengthen defense and trade ties between Latin American countries.

Buenos Aires daily La Nacion reported Monday that Russian officials had offered to swap weapons for Argentine food products.

A spokesman for state arms trader Rosoboronexport declined to say whether an arms deal was in the works, saying "the question is political."

Russian officials, including the deputy head of the Defense Ministry's defense procurement service, have met at least three times this year with Argentine Defense Minister Nilda Garre.

At the latest meeting on Aug. 2, Garre met with Yury Korchagin, Russia's ambassador in Buenos Aires, and discussed "technical-military cooperation," according to a statement from Garre's ministry.

Speaking by telephone from Buenos Aires on Wednesday, Korchagin said the meeting was "very good." He declined to give further details, but said a bilateral agreement in 2004 had laid the groundwork for military cooperation.

Garre's meeting with Korchagin was her third with Russian officials this year. On Jan. 18, she met

with Korchagin, and on April 7 with Alexander Fomin, deputy head of the Defense Ministry's Federal Service for Military and Technical Cooperation, Garre's ministry said.

During the meeting, Korchagin said Russia already had military deals with Peru, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela, among others, but said that, as far as Argentina was concerned, "in 123 years of relations between our countries, that path has not been trodden," the Argentine Defense Ministry's statement said.

Garre said Argentina had "maintained a low level of armament purchases in the last few years, due to, among other reasons, the economic situation of the country," the statement said.

The Federal Service for Military and Technical Cooperation declined to comment Wednesday. The service is responsible for Russia's defense deals.

Russia hopes to sell Argentina a wide range of weapons, including Mi-17 and Mi-35M helicopters, high-speed missile boats and patrol boats, Buk-M1-2 and Tunguska air defense systems, Igla shoulder-fired missiles, military vehicles and rifles, Interfax said.

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Russia Negotiates Arms Sales to Argentina

Created: 09.08.2006 09:53 MSK (GMT +3), Updated: 09:53 MSK

MosNews

Russia is negotiating arms sales to Argentina less than two weeks after angering Washington with a \$3 billion deal to sell jets and helicopters to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez.

Russian Ambassador Yuri Korchagin met with Argentine Minister of Defense Nilda Garre on August 2 to express Moscow's willingness to "open a road to military and technical cooperation," according to a statement from Argentina's Ministry of Defense, The Washington Times wrote Wednesday.

The statement said the Russian official presented a formal letter of intent, but an Argentine Defense Ministry spokesman declined to provide further details.

A leading Argentine newspaper, La Nacion, reported on Monday that in earlier meetings, the Russian officials raised the idea of trading Argentine beef, of which Russia is the largest importer, for military helicopters and armor-plated patrol boats.

Argentina has for years looked to acquire artillery-capable helicopters, but its 2001-2002 economic collapse scuttled those plans, and a Venezuelan buyout of Argentina's debt to the World Bank last year has done little to ease the burden.

Officials have yet to offer a public response to the Russian proposal. "Argentina has maintained in recent years a low level of military purchases because of the economic situation, among other reasons," Garre told the ambassador, according to the official account of the meeting.

The United States has already registered its concerns about Russian arms sales to Venezuela, whose president has been using his country's oil wealth to counter American influence in the region.

On Friday, the U.S. government imposed sanctions on seven arms companies in Cuba, India, North Korea and Russia, including Moscow's state-owned Sukhoi, a maker of fighter aircraft, and its state-owned export firm, Rosoboronexport.

Washington said the sanctions, which will remain in place until July 28, 2008, were imposed because of transfers of military technology to Iran. But Russian media are linking the sanctions instead to Washington's anger over Rosoboronexport's deal with Mr. Chavez, announced on July 27.

In July, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, or SIPRI, reported that military purchases in Latin America and the Caribbean spiked by 7.2 percent in 2005. The report says Venezuela experienced the third-largest yearly increase after Brazil and Chile.

[link](#)

Chavez seeks anti-U.S. military alliance

By Martin Arostegui
THE WASHINGTON TIMES
August 2, 2006

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, on a world tour during which he signed a \$3 billion arms deal with Russia, has begun talking about combining several of South America's largest armies to counter U.S. influence.

"We must form a defensive military pact between the armies of the region with a common doctrine and organization," Mr. Chavez said July 5 in Caracas during a military parade, which Argentine President Nestor Kirchner and Bolivian President Evo Morales

attended.

In another speech before he left for Moscow last week, Mr. Chavez said: **"We must form the armed forces of Mercosur, merging warfare capabilities of the continent."**

Mercosur is a South American trading group to which Venezuela was admitted last month. The group's other members are Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay. Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru are associate members.

Mr. Chavez elaborated on the rationale for a combined military during a visit to Bolivia in May on which he was accompanied by Venezuela's army chief, Gen. Raul Baduel.

The need is for a Latin American alliance "equivalent to NATO, with our own doctrine, not one that's handed down by the gringos," he said in a TV broadcast at the Inca shrine of Lake Titicaca.

Mr. Chavez called the United States the "greatest threat" to the world when he announced the purchase of 24 Su-30 Sukhoi fighter jets and 53 Mi-17, Mi-26 and Mi-35 combat helicopters from Russia last week. The long-term deal provides for a total of \$3 billion worth of arms for Venezuela. Mr. Chavez also is purchasing more than 100,000 AK-103 automatic rifles from Russia and working to develop an indigenous arms industry.

He has announced plans to set up a munitions factory in the city of Maracay to produce upgraded versions of Russian assault rifles and light anti-tank weapons and hopes to assemble Russian military aircraft in Venezuela.

According to confidential defense documents obtained from military sources of another country, the Venezuelan air force approached the Russian Defense Ministry three years ago about setting up a "maintenance center" for advanced fighter aircraft.

"Future deliveries will be made with the participation of specialists of the Venezuelan air force in the joint assembly of the planes and their test flights following their assembly on Venezuelan territory," states a 2003 letter to Russian Aeronautic Corp. President Nikolai Nikitin, signed by Gen. Regulo Anselini, the Venezuelan air force chief.

Sukhoi and more advanced MiG aircraft have been flown to Venezuela's Libertador air base and have made demonstration flights over the southern Caribbean.

U.S. military sales to Venezuela are banned, and the State Department last week asked Russia to review its arms deals with Mr. Chavez, but Moscow refused. "The cooperation between Venezuela and Russia is not directed against anybody," Russian President Vladimir Putin said.

Argentine military analyst and former security official Mario Baizan said he thinks a certain level of military coordination is already being established between Venezuela and other South American countries. Venezuela "is trying to promote a doctrine of asymmetrical warfare to resist intervention by outside powers," he said.

Mercosur officials have publicly rejected the idea of turning their common market into a military alliance, and Brazilian army chiefs have voiced opposition to Mr. Chavez's plans.

Venezuelan proposals have been similarly rebuffed by Chile, which has undertaken its own arms buildup, purchasing U.S. F-16 combat aircraft and missile frigates from Britain and the Netherlands.

But others are receptive. **After Mr. Kirchner's July visit to Caracas, Argentina established a bilateral military commission with Venezuela.**

Venezuelan generals met with Bolivia's high command last month to propose a "merger" of their armed forces, according to military officials in La Paz who say the Bolivian chief of staff, Gen. Freddy Bersatti, backs the idea.

Mr. Chavez has provided the Bolivian air force with T-34 jet trainers as well as two Super Puma helicopters. Mr. Chavez says he is sending Bolivia weapons to replace equipment, which the United States is confiscating over differences in anti-drug and counterterrorism policies.

[link](#)

As time pass we can watch some moves that shows the future plans of some countries.

After Venezuela entering MERCOSUR, the next big decision was the aquisition of russian weapons. mainly the heavy class fighters.

On the other hand we see that Russia's Gazprom is entering in the pipeline deal, a huge pipeline deal that will link all South American countries with special relevance to Brazil and Argentina.

Now we start to listening that Argentine is a strong candidate to receive russian weapons.

*Several aspects must be considered, first look at the map and we see that if Argentine buys armment, two major MERCOSUR countries will have the same origin of weapons, so if they want to cooperate, the weapons will be **compatible_ on the countries, they can share_** the resources if situation requires.*

*Another important MERCOSUR countrie is Brazil, the biggest South American countrie. Brazil is to buy modern plans, where russian SU-35 heavy fighter participates in the contest. But the US pressure on Brazil no to buy is huge. but the **intentions** are there.*

*President Lula have already made important decisions, like the start of making their own uranium for their nuclear plants, and their ambitious space program where are being assisted by **Russia**. The first brazilian astronaut had travelled on a russian spaceship to ISS station.*

Since president Lula is going to have elections this year, a low profile concerning military matters is required. So if Lula wins the re-election, we could assist very interesting developments on this area.

We cannot forget that Brazil is one of the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China), all of them huge countries, and all of them with SU-3X heavy fighter planes, all except Brazil. until...when?

When Chavez spoke that MERCOSUR should have a military organization, some countries take cautious responses. but you don't need to declare now such huge step, first you have to arm, like they appear to be doing.

And why you need protection? well, when oil start to flow to south American Countries and China, instead flowing to US, you will need to be prepared.

And modern russian weapons with countries united are well capable to do the job. keep US at distance.

I recommend the lecture of this article on the economic section: [Gazprom's huge Venezuela gas deal alarms US](#)

It is very interesting to see that Russia with Gazprom is entering in huge markets, China, Europe, Africa (Algeria) and South America. and in all of them Russian weapons are entering, all except Europe, but here first US must go out and this is tough job.

Comments by FromPortugal

12 comments

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eye out for USA
by Yasis on 11.08.2006 [14:19]
USA won't like these countries building up relations with Russia and becoming more independent. They must beware of USA plots to disrupt their plans.

Good post
by Zoraida on 11.08.2006 [14:23]
FromPortugal, very interesting:-)

Not to be overlooked
by boardman2 on 11.08.2006 [15:21]
. . . is the increasing general use of barter in international trade! — Bob

Nice to know
by cm on 11.08.2006 [15:38]
that Russia sells arms to Latin America.
But the true question is: What about Syria and Iran?

a good deal!
by sidliner on 11.08.2006 [16:51]
Rosoboronexport is very reluctant to enter barter trades nowadays, so if that is what they offer to Argentina, then a signal from Putin was given to accept products in return.
Argentina should really take this deal because it is a very good and unique offer, and only offered because Putin knows how cash-strapped Argentinians still are.

Effectively obsolete arms
by Syrian on 11.08.2006 [17:14]
No matter what kind of arms Russia is selling them now, they don't really need them. The way things are going in South America, I don't think the imperialists will try anything for a decade or so, if they still exist by then.
Thus, these weapons will be obsolete by then.
The people who really need the weapons, are us. But Russia doesn't want our business. I wonder why. No matter, Russia isn't the only entity with weapons, and never underestimate our intelligence. We are quite self-sufficient.

Syrian, how about China?
by pdove on 11.08.2006 [18:24]

I know China has many capable missiles which are cheap and effective. Why can not Syria purchase some from China or via Iran?

Do not hang on one rope only, you need to have several vendor compete for you business.

I admire Syria for its people and society, where it has effective military force and people are united. Golan Height will be returned to Syria sooner or later.

The fate of Israel is doomed when Arab people understand their strength and what they can do. Arab people do not lack determination, money, and weapon, but a effective way to take on the enemy.

Iran/China is our main supplier
by Syrian on 12.08.2006 [05:38]

But such transactions are silent, unlike noisy Russian transactions. Everything from Russia comes at a huge mark up, it would be better for us to buy inferior weapons in a larger quantity. For example, all Russian SS missiles are far too expensive for their specifications, when placed in comparision to what's available from China/North Korea/Iran etc.

We also design our own weapons, when such things are denied to us. We designed our own deterrant against zionist nuclear weapons, and in fact we are the **only** reason why israhell hasn't used their nuclear weapons against their "neighbours".

cost?
by alruna on 12.08.2006 [08:53]

So how much does it cost to buy a a scud-class missile from the USA, Russia, China and North Korea respectively?

Thanks, Syrian
by pdove on 12.08.2006 [14:03]

For the great info.

Chinese weapon are often very effective at a low price. But I think the most effective way will be the Chinese thinking and strategy in the war. It will allow the soldiers able to use the available weapons effectively. Send some people to study military in China. Lately Herzbolah seems to understand some essence of the struggle from Chairman Mao.

@ALRUNA
by CANUKISTAN_VIEW on 12.08.2006 [15:03]

ENGINEERS and scientists in China, Russia, India MAKES PROBABLY HALF THE USAWESTERN EUROPEAN SALARIES! And management salaries is probably ONLY 20%! This is why USA and Western Europe THAY JUST CANNOT COMPETE ON LABOR PLUS THEY DO NOT HAVE RAW MATERIALS like aluminum, copper, titanium, berillium, zirconium, ruthenium, rodhio, etc. THAT ARE NOW SKY ROCKETING AS THE COMMODITY MARKET STARTED BOOMING IN 2000 (9-11-2000 is not a coincidence) AFTER 23 YEARS OF PRICE DECLINE! So these prices have a lot to catch-up in terms of inflation compensation, new market labor rates, higher demand, limited supplies due to decades of price deflation and therefore no investments.

THIS MAYOR COMMODITY MARKET TURN AROUND IS CAUSING THE PANIC IN WESTERN EUROPE AND USA - This explains the wars and their new enemy "war on terror" to mask the war for re-gaining control of these commodity markets. THIS IS NOT OPEN FOR DISCUSSION - IT IS JUST A HISTORICAL FACTS! Search for THE ADEN SISTERS excellent reports.

THIS EXPLAINS THAT THE WEALTH IS MOVING EAST AND SOUTH! Who do you thing is richer and wealthier in REAL TERMS an European country sitting on land without energy and minerals or THOSE SITTING ON MILLIONS OF TONS OF COPPER, OIL, GAS, GOLD, SILVER AND NOW ADD WATER?

The only aflunce most USA and Western Europe people have IS BASED ON PAPER CURRENCIES THAT HAS NO INTRINSIC VALUE BESIDE THE PAPER AND THE INK AND ITS PRICE IS THEREFORE BASED ON FAITH!

Cheers from Canada - PEACE PEACE

Mercosur versus Andean Pact
by CANUKISTAN_VIEW on 12.08.2006 [15:20]

It is a very sad development in south america that ALL COUNTRIES ON THE WEST COAST (red in the maps) ARE ALIGNING THEMSELVES UNDER AN ALTERNATIVE GROPU CALLED Comunidad de Naciones Andinas. These countries are more pro-USA and for globalization policies. One hope here is to get Bolivia into Mercosur and Bolivia to get ACCESS TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN - otherwise they are blocked! CHILE WON A WAR AGAINST BOLIVIA IN 1879 and since then Bolivia has been deprived from its legitimate ocean coast as well as Peru lost very mineral-rich land in the Chilean North. My guts feeling tells me that BOLIVIA AND PERU WILL GO FOR THEIR STOLEN LAND and Chile will be supported by USA.

●
Chilean foreign minister ALEJANDRO FOXLEY is a well known zionist-nazi memeber of the TRILATERAL COMMISSION created by Rockefeller in 1974 to develop and implement the GLOBALIZATION. This comission and their TOP memebers are also members of the Bilderberg group i.e. the highest level of all cosnpirators and criminals. Names such as Bush, Rockefeller, Morgan, Kissinger, Chenny, Wolfowits, Perle, Faith,.... ARE ALL THERE!

So Chile is IN REALITY A PRO-SIONIST-NAZI REGIME ready to be unmasked!

Chilean government, although so-called center-left IS REALLY IN THE POLITICAL RIGHT SPECTRUM working as one of the best USA allied in south america, after Colombia facist regime.

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