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Russia Signs USD 1 Bln Contract on Supplies of Fighter Jets, Helicopters With Venezuela

Created: 21.07.2006 18:54 MSK (GMT +3), Updated: 19:02 MSK
MosNews

Russia has signed a contract on supplies of military planes and helicopters to Venezuela worth over \$1 billion, the defense minister is quoted by RIA Novosti news agency as saying.

Sergei Ivanov said 30 Su-30 Flanker air-superiority fighters and 30 helicopters would be supplied to Venezuela.

The Russian Su-30 Flankers will replace a Venezuelan contingent of U.S. F-16 multi-role fighters after Washington imposed an embargo on arms sales to the country May 15, which it says poses a threat to regional stability.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who has moved to curb American influence in the region and consolidate ties with other South American nations since he came to power in 1998, earlier accused the United States of breaching an agreement to supply parts for Venezuela's F-16s.

Oil-rich Venezuela is a major purchaser of Russian weapons and hardware. In late 2004, the two countries signed a \$54 million contract for the supply of 100,000 automatic rifles. In June this year, the outspoken Chavez said he planned to build a plant to make Kalashnikov rifles and cartridges in the country.

In mid 2005, Caracas signed a contract to buy six Mi-17 Hip and eight Mi-35 Hind multi-purpose helicopters from Russia, which has already supplied three of the aircraft.

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MONEY

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Russian Authorities to Review Shell's Sakhalin-2 Project for Cost Overruns



Russia's Natural

Resources Minister Yuri Trutnev said on Thursday July 20 that next week the country's authorities will begin a month-long audit of Shell's giant Sakhalin-2 oil and gas project in the Far East. As MosNews has already reported, Russian authorities are criticizing Shell for delays and cost overruns.

FEATURE

MosNews

Flight Attendant Honored for Saving Lives



Literally overnight, Viktoria Zilberstein became a hero after she opened the emergency hatch in the rear of the burning A-310 plane that crashed on landing in Russian Siberia on July

TIME

05:11:41 Moscow, GMT+3

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9. The young flight attendant helped at least 10 passengers to escape.

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INTERVIEW

ABC News

[U.S. Suffers Winner's Complex – Gorbachev](#)



Mikhail

Gorbachev is generally regarded as the man who broke down the "iron curtain" that separated the communist world from the West and thawed the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. Now, 15 years after a coup removed him from power and the Soviet Union dissolved, he has some stern words for the United States.

COLUMN

MosNews

[Genealogy of Fifth Generation Fighters](#)



The more talk there is about

fifth-generation fighters, the more often the question arises: what exactly is a fifth-generation fighter? A special report from Lenta.ru traces back to the roots of this highly sought after aircraft.

COMMENTARY

GIDI WEITZ AND AMIR BEN-DAVID

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[Gazprom's Eye Fixed on Israel](#)



Israel and Russia have started

negotiations on contracts for the supply of natural gas and the construction of a pipeline to carry it. Who will profit from the billion-dollar deal? Gidi Weitz and Amir Ben-David at Yediot Ahronot, the Seven Days weekend magazine, search for a key to the puzzle.

IMAGES

[Cars Dive into Moscow Canal](#)



One after

another, a blue BMW and a red convertible broke through an embankment and plunged into the waters of the Moscow Canal in the center of the city. What happened was not actually a tragedy, not a real one, at least.

