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Defense Minister Ehud Barak in the U.S. this week. (AP)

Last update - 20:27 25/03/2010

Exclusive / Despite row, U.S. and Israel sign massive arms deal

By [Amos Harel](#), Haaretz Correspondent

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As Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was in Washington this week absorbing the full wrath of the Obama administration, the Pentagon and Israel's defense establishment were in the process of sealing a large arms deal.

According to the deal, Israel will purchase three new Hercules C-130J airplanes. The deal for the three aircrafts, designed by Lockheed Martin, is worth roughly a quarter billion dollars. Each aircraft costs \$70 million.

The aircrafts were manufactured specifically for Israeli needs, and include a large number of systems produced by Israel's defense industry.

The deal will be covered by ^{Advertisement} American foreign assistance funds. The Pentagon will issue a formal announcement on the matter on Thursday evening.

America and Israel have still not reached an agreement regarding the purchase of the Lockheed F-35 war plane. It is still not clear when that deal, which is

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20:32 Barak: U.S. ties are 'pillar and cornerstone' of Israel's security

18:26 Syria to Palestinians: Quit Mideast peace talks, resume violence

16:56 Thousands mourn IDF officer and soldier killed in Gaza

16:57 Netanyahu: Israel will respond to any attack

11:39 Hamas is reminding the world it exists

20:10 Passover Seder, Cup 4: Obama, this year in Jerusalem

estimated to be worth more than \$3 billion, will finally be sealed and carried out.

If that deal is signed in the near future, Israel will likely receive its first F-35 in 2014.

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14:51 Replace Temple Mount mosques with Jewish Temple, rightist campaign says

22:48 TV ROUND-UP: IDF probes Gaza deaths; Arab League condemns Israel

20:41 Obama makes surprise visit to Afghanistan

14:24 ADL: Carter has reverted to anti-Israel stance, despite recent apology

12:46 Egypt antiquities chief: I gave the Zionist enemy a slap in the face

13:09 IDF to seal off West Bank for the duration of Passover

19:33 Christian pilgrims flock to Jerusalem to mark Palm Sunday

PROMOTION: Mamilla Hotel

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