

Libya Missile Chronology

[2010-2005](#) | [2004-2000](#) | [1999-1995](#) | [1994-1990](#) | [1989-1980](#) | [1979-1969](#)

Last update: February 2011

**This chronology is no longer being updated.
For current developments, please see the Libya Missile Overview.**

This annotated chronology is based on the data sources that follow each entry. Public sources often provide conflicting information on classified military programs. In some cases we are unable to resolve these discrepancies, in others we have deliberately refrained from doing so to highlight the potential influence of false or misleading information as it appeared over time. In many cases, we are unable to independently verify claims. Hence in reviewing this chronology, readers should take into account the credibility of the sources employed here.

Inclusion in this chronology does not necessarily indicate that a particular development is of direct or indirect proliferation significance. Some entries provide international or domestic context for technological development and national policymaking. Moreover, some entries may refer to developments with positive consequences for nonproliferation.

2010-2005

7 January 2010

Korea Aerospace Industries revealed that it is discussing the sale of a UAV called the Night Intruder-300 or RQ-101 to Libya. The RQ-101 has a service ceiling of 4.5 kilometers, cruise speeds of 120-150 kilometers per hour, a service radius of 200 kilometers, and the ability to operate six hours in the air. This UAV could perform missions such as surveillance, reconnaissance, target acquisition, bombing guidance, battlefield supervision, and checking target breakdown. The sale of this technology to Libya could create tension in South Korea-Israel relations, as the ground-control system was developed with Israeli assistance.

—Jung Sung-ki, "S. Korea to Transfer UAV, Missile Technologies to UAE," *The Korean Times*, 7 January 2010.

4 September 2009

Libya is in the process of negotiating the sale of 8,000 m-range 70 mm multiple rocket launchers (MRLs) from South Korea's Hanwha Corporation. Hanwha and South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) revealed this information following the conclusion of a contract with Jordan. The 8,000 m-range 70 mm MRL is based on a larger South Korean model, was first developed in 2000, and is intended to be used at the regiment/brigade level.

—David C. Isby, "Jordan agrees to build South Korean 70 mm MRLs," *Jane's Missiles and Rockets*, 4 September 2009.

24 February 2009

The Croatian shipbuilding company Adria Mar is expected to sign a contract with Libya soon to supply its Coast

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



Guard with a 60-meter MCP60 missile corvette. Adria Mar engineers have also begun repairs on three Libyan Navy vessels, including a missile boat and a large amphibious assault ship.

—Eduard Sostaric, "Al-Qadhafi saves Croatian shipyards," *Nacional*, 24 February 2009 reported in "Libyan warship overhaul contracts keep Croatian shipbuilding alive," BBC Worldwide Monitoring, 3 March 2009.

26 December 2008

Rosoboronexport's arms contract with Libya, involving the modernized S-125 Pechora-2M air-defense system, is now being fulfilled by Russian industry. The company's broader contract for the system also involves Egypt, Syria, Myanmar, Vietnam, Venezuela and Turkmenistan, and is worth 250 million dollars. Clients will receive approximately 200 launchers altogether (70 of which are going to Egypt).

—Aleksy Nikolskiy, & "Simple, like the Kalashnikov: a contract worth 250m dollars for the delivery to five countries of the Modernized Pechora-2M Air-Defense Missile System has taken effect," *Vedomosti*, 26 December 2008, reported in & "Russian export contract for modernized S-125 Pechora-2M systems take effect," BBC Worldwide Monitoring, 4 January 2009.

20 October 2008

Russia may sell more than \$2 billion in weapons to Libya during Qadhafi's visit to Moscow at the end of the month, including surface-to-air missile systems such as the S-300, TOR-M1 and Buk. Russia is also preparing contracts to update Libya's Soviet-era weaponry. Russia has been negotiating these arms contracts with Libya since 2007 [Note: See NTI Chronology 9 May 2007].

— "Massive Russian Arms Deal for Libya on Cards," Gulfnews.com, 21 October 2008; "Libya Could Buy Arms Worth Over \$2 Bln From Russia," *Daily News Bulletin Moscow*, 20 October 2008, www.istockanalyst.com.

5 September 2008

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice meets with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for an historic state visit. Rice is the first U.S. Secretary of State to visit Libya since 1953, marking a turning point in U.S.-Libyan relations. Washington is currently negotiating a "military memorandum of understanding," which could allow for significantly increased military sales, cooperation in the science and technology fields, and to coordinated efforts in the fight against terrorism. In addition, the Bush administration has offered to help ease restrictions on aerospace and dual-use equipment sales to Libya.

— Sue Pleming, "Rice meets Qadhafi on Historic Libya Visit," Reuters, 6 September 2008; "Rice in Talks with Libya's Qadhafi," BBC News, 5 September 2008; "U.S. Preparing Military Agreement with Libya," World Tribune, 5 September 2008.

1 June 2008

Libyan TV reports that Qadhafi's army held morning military exercises with air force units, involving anti-aircraft missile systems Vega, Osa, Igla and Kvadrat as well as anti-aircraft guns. The exercises were supervised by the deputy chief of staff and were intended as a "response to a mock air strike on a selected location on the coast. The mock strike was warded off by the air defense and the reinforced 32nd brigade."

— Libyan TV, Tripoli referenced in "Libyan Army Holds Military Exercises, Launches Anti-Aircraft Missiles," BBC Worldwide Monitoring, 1 June 2008.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



17 April 2008

Russia cancels Libya's \$4.5 billion debt in return for ten military, energy and construction contracts worth \$2.5 billion. Libya wishes to modernize its outdated weapons inventory, and has purchased improvements for its air defense systems, fighter aircraft, helicopters, submarines and warships from several major Russian corporations such as Gazprom, Russian Railways and Rosoboronexport. Some of the new improvements include the Tor-M2E short-range air-defense system, which uses the 9M331 missile and is based on an MZKT-6922 wheeled chassis, and possibly the S-300PMU2 Favorit surface-to-air missile system.

— Stefan Marx, "Russia's Debt Deal with Libya clears way for Weapon Sales," Jane's Information Group, 2 May 2008; "Ukrainian Website Upbeat on Defence Cooperation with Libya," BBC Monitoring Kiev Unit, 29 April 2008.

15 April 2008

Russian President Vladimir Putin plans to visit Libya to negotiate arms contracts and energy deals, a first for a Russian head of state. Last month Putin told the State Duma that a visit to Libya would help "iron out a financial problem with the country." Many officials believe Putin was referring to an arms-for-debt deal similar to the recent agreement with Algeria.

— Max Delany, "Putin to Talk Gas and Arms in Libya," The Moscow Times, 15 April 2008.

15 August 2007

French President Sarkozy is facing criticism over a French-sponsored arms deal. A military agreement was signed between EADS/MBDA, which is 15% French-owned, and Libya that involves Milan ADT-ER anti-tank missiles and Tetra communications equipment worth roughly £200 million. The deal is rumored to be linked to the release of several Bulgarian nurses in July, as shortly after their release President Sarkozy flew to Tripoli to sign a number of agreements involving cooperation in the defense industrial field and in peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

— Robin Hughes, "France Agrees Libyan Arms Sale," Jane's Defence Weekly, 15 August 2007; Kim Willsher, "Libya and France sign £200m Arms Deal," The Guardian, 3 August 2008.

29 May 2007

British Prime Minister Tony Blair meets with Libyan leader Colonel Qadhafi to discuss several issues, including the defense deal between the two countries. In the coming months Libya plans to buy British missiles and air defense systems, but nothing has yet been finalized.

— Will Woodward, "First Stop of Blair's Farewell Africa Tour: Gadafy's Tent: PM sees Energy and Arms Sales Deals Signed: Leader once Shunned by West is 'Easy to Deal with,'" The Guardian, 30 May 2007; "British PM Praises Libyan President During Visit; Landmark BP Deal Signed," Global Insight, 30 May 2007.

4 May 2007

Russia and Libya are working towards a \$2.2 billion arms agreement, their first arms deal in over fifteen years. Libya plans to purchase four batteries of S-300PMU-2 long-range anti-aircraft missile systems and approximately 20 Tor-M1 short-range anti-aircraft missile systems. The S-300PMU-2 has anti-ballistic missile capabilities.

—"Russia to Supply over 2.2 Billion Dollars' Worth of Weapons to Libya," BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union-Political, 6 May 2007.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



15 May 2006

The United States restores full diplomatic relations with Libya. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says the U.S. "intends to remove Libya from the list of designated state sponsors of terrorism and [Libya] will also be omitted from the annual certification of countries not cooperating fully with United States anti-terrorism efforts." This historic announcement follows Libya's decision to renounce its WMD and MTCR-class missile programs in 2003. The U.S. hopes "states with even more threatening WMD and missile programs will see Libya's experience as a model to emulate."

— "U.S. Diplomatic Relations with Libya, May 15, 2006," United States Diplomatic Mission to Italy, 15 May 2006; "Libya's Decision to Eliminate WMD and MTCR-Class Missile Programs: An International Model," U.S. Department of State, 15 May 2006.

19 August 2005

The White House announces that Richard Lugar, Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, is scheduled to make a trip to Libya on behalf of U.S. President George W. Bush to discuss the possibility of normalizing relations between Libya and the United States. U.S. and Libyan relations have improved recently as a result of Libya's decision to voluntarily dismantle its weapons of mass destruction programs.

— "Lugar to Meet with Libyan Officials," Global Security Newswire, 19 August 2005.

6 August 2005

In a telephone meeting with Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, British Prime Minister Tony Blair indicates an interest in improving his country's relations with Libya, which cooled soon after Libya's voluntary abandonment of its weapons of mass destruction programs.

— "Qaddafi Receives Telephone Call from Blair," Qatar News Agency, 6 August 2005.

25 February 2005

Taiwanese businessman Hsieh Chin-Yi is arrested for allegedly smuggling missile components to Libya. He had exported missile parts disguised as general merchandise to Libya since 1999. He also faces forgery charges because the items are declared as "car parts." In 2000, Hsieh was also caught in Zurich for carrying missile components in his bag at the Zurich airport. He was immediately expelled from the airport.

— "AFP: Taiwanese Man Arrested for Selling Missile Components to Libya," AFP, 25 February 2005 in FBIS Document CPP20050225000097.

5 February 2005

French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie travels to Tripoli to sign a letter of intent on military cooperation and procurement. Libya also expresses that it wants to monitor its borders better to check illegal immigration.

— "France, Libya Intensify Military Cooperation," *Le Monde*, 8 February 2005.

February 2005

US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs William Burns reiterates Washington's desire to establish normalized relations with Libya and praises Libya for abandoning WMD. Burns also reviewed matters of "specific

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



concern over Libya's past involvement in terrorism."

—"U.S. Reaffirms Goal of Normal Libya Relations," *Agence France-Presse*, 11 February 2005.

February 2005

Mu'ammarr Al-Qadhafi demands that the United States buy all 417 Scud Missiles at \$2 million dollars a piece. The United States plans to buy 10 for testing, but Libya demands that all be purchased for \$834 million. They also demand that the United States come to their defense in the event of hostile attack.

—"Israel: US Rejects Demand to Buy Libya's 417 Scuds at \$2 Million Apiece," *Yedi'ot Aharoton*, 1 Feb 2005, in FBIS Document GMP20050203000215.

January 2005

With the abandonment of WMD, Libya is called upon by Western nations including France, Germany, Canada, Britain, Italy and United States and opens its doors to better relations and economic ties. Libya is also asked to play a full role in the North African dialogue with the European Union.

—"West Beats a Path to Forgive Libya Its Pariah Status," *Times Online*, 18 January 2005.

January 2005

In an interview asking about Iran's nuclear weapons, Al-Qadhafi says that Iran is an independent country and knows where its interests lie. He also calls upon countries such as the United States, Britain, France, Russia, China, India, and Israel to destroy their weapons.

—"Al-Qadhafi Says Libya 'Served World Peace' By Halting Nuclear Programme," *BBC Monitoring*, 2 January 2005.

January 2005

Mu'ammarr Qadhafi says that the United States and the United Kingdom have not rewarded Libya for dismantling its WMD program, although they have made pledges.

—"Qadhafi Says U.S., U.K. Have Not Yet Rewarded Libya for Renouncing Weapons of Mass Destruction," *Global Security Newswire*, 31 January 2005.

January 2005

The General People's Congress of Libya calls on all countries possessing Weapons of Mass Destruction to get rid of them with a vision to make the world safer. Libya also renews its call to make Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East WMD-free regions without exception, including Israel's nuclear arsenal.

—"Libya Calls on All Countries to Scrap WMDs," *Panafrican News Agency*, 13 January 2005.

[Back to Top](#)

2004-2000

December 2004

The Canadian spy agency is found to have probed Libya and their interest in nuclear weapons as recently as the

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



previous spring.

— "Report Says CSIS Probed Libya," *Toronto Star*, 6 December 2004.

22 October 2004

Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance Paula A. DeSutter testifies before the Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Human Rights that the dismantling of Libya's WMD programs is now complete. This includes Libya's MTCR-class missile programs.

— "Completing of Verification Work in Libya," Department of State, 22 September 2004, www.state.gov.

October 2004

The United States lifts most sanctions on Libya after Tripoli gives up its nuclear weapons program. However, Libya still remains on the United States Department of State's list of state "sponsors" of terrorism.

— "The Strongman Is Still Making Trouble," *Newsweek*, 1 November 2004.

20 September 2004

The last teams from the US Department of State tasked with verifying the elimination of Libya's WMD programs leave Tripoli.

— "Completing of Verification Work in Libya," Department of State, 22 September 2004, www.state.gov.

September 2004

The United States removes economic restrictions placed on Libya including renewal of oil imports to America from Libya.

— "Removal of American Restrictions on Oil Imports from Libya," *Financial Times*, 24 October 2004.

11 April 2004

A *New York Times* report states that Libya has told US officials that it will convert hundreds of its Scud-B missiles into short-range weapons to be used for defensive purposes and that it will discontinue all military trade with North Korea.

— "U.S. Says Libya Will Convert Missiles to Defensive Weapons," *The New York Times*, 11 April 2004.

30 January 2004

The Japanese Kyodo news agency reports that a US administration official has said that Scud-C missiles confiscated from Libya are technically identical to North Korean Nodong missiles. American and British inspectors have found more than 100 missiles in Libya so far.

— "US Believes Libya Scud-C Missiles Based on N Korean Technology," ITAR-TASS, 30 January 2004.

27 January 2004

Components of Libya's abandoned missile program, including guidance sets for long-range missiles, arrive in Knoxville, Tennessee en route to Oak Ridge nuclear weapons plant for inspection by US officials.

— "U.S. Plane Carrying Components of Libya's Nuclear and Missile Programs Arrives in the United States," Associated Press, 27 January 2004.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



20 January 2004

American and British weapons experts arrive in Libya to begin dismantling, destroying, and removing technology and other materials related to Libya's secret programs to develop WMD.

— "Arms Team in Libya for Inspections; UN Agrees to Verify Weapons Destruction," *International Herald Tribune*, 21 January 2004.

19 December 2003

A US administration official reports that Libya has admitted to working with North Korea to develop Scud missiles. "Libya admitted elements of the history of its cooperation with North Korea to develop extended range Scud missiles.... They provided us access to this system and related production facilities." Earlier the same day, Libya announced it would abandon its weapons of mass destruction programs and accept international arms inspections.

— "Libya Admits Working with N. Korea on Scud Missiles: U.S. Official," *Japan Economic Newswire*, 19 December 2003.

19 December 2003

Libyan leader Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi promises to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction programs and to limit its missile range and payload capacity to no greater than 300km (approximately 186 miles) and will destroy all missiles that exceed that range or carry payloads greater than 1,100lbs. Libya's chemical- and nuclear-capable missiles were thought to be at an advanced stage. US officials say the decision was prompted by a recent discovery of direct evidence of Libya's illegal weapons program. Libya acknowledged contacts with North Korea on long-range ballistic missile development and showed officials North Korean-supplied Scud-C missiles with a range of about 800 kilometers.

— Alastair Jamieson, "Gaddafi to Surrender Secret WMD," *Scotsman*, 20 December 2003; Julian Coman and Colin Brown, "Libya Forced to back Down After Seizures: US-led Operation Found Evidence of Illegal Weapons Program," *Ottawa Citizen*, 21 December 2003; "Glance at Libya's WMD Programs and Stockpiles," *Associated Press*, 19 December 2003; Jim Mannion, "Libya's Nuclear Program More Advanced than Thought: US Intelligence," *Agence France Presse*, 20 December 2003.

10 December 2003

Yemen denies reports that it delivered a shipment of North Korean Scud missiles to Libya. A Yemeni government statement declares such reports "fabricated and baseless. That shipment of weapons belongs to the Yemeni armed forces. It is in their possession and not for any other party."

— "Yemen Denies Sending Missiles to Libya," *Deutsche Presse-Agentur*, 10 December 2003.

9 December 2003

The Spanish daily *El Mundo* reports that a North Korean cargo ship intercepted by the Spanish military in December 2002 carrying 15 complete Scud missiles, a set of conventional warheads, and 85 chemical products (some 20 holding nitric acid) arrived in Libya. It is reported that the United States ignored the incident because it was in negotiations with several Middle Eastern countries, including Libya, to grant asylum to then Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The ship, named *So San*, flew the Cambodian flag and claimed to be sailing for Yemen, which had

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



legally purchased the weapons. The ship was released, sailed on to Yemen, and eventually the cargo found its way to Libya. An anonymous NATO official is the source of the reports.

— "N. Korean Missiles Intercepted Off Yemen Were for Libya," *Japan Economic Newswire*, 9 December 2003;
"Spain: U.S. Should Explain Libya Missile Shipment, Madrid Says," *Inter Press Services*, 9 December 2003.

6 June 2003

In its most recent report on proliferation, the CIA includes Libya among a handful of nations that have the most active weapons of mass destruction and missile programs.

— Agence France Presse, "US Official Warns Rogue States," *Advertiser*, 6 June 2003.

14 February 2003

An unnamed senior Libyan source confirms that Libya is seeking to extend the range of its ballistic missiles, Scuds currently with a range of 350km (220 miles), to 500km.

— Edward Pilkington and Ewen MacAskill, "Threat of War: Libya Working to Extend the Range of Its Missiles," *Guardian* (London), 14 February 2003.

11 February 2003

CIA Director George Tenet warns that, over the past 12 months, Libya is one of a handful of countries that has moved to obtain equipment to produce weapons-grade nuclear materials and the ability to deliver them as nuclear bombs. Tenet makes special mention of Libya's increased access to dual-use technologies.

— Walter Pincus, "CIA Head Predicts Nuclear Race; Small Nations Pursuing Arms," *Washington Post*, 12 February 2003.

9 December 2002

A Spanish frigate intercepts North Korean ship *So San*, carrying 15 Scud missiles and two dozen tanks containing a rocket-fuel additive from North Korea to Yemen that were thought, by one intelligence official, to possibly be destined for Libya, Syria, or Iran. The United States releases the ship two days later.

— James Harding, Mark Huband, and Peter Spiegel, "US Releases Missiles Ship for Yemen," *Financial Times*, 12 December 2002; Joby Warrick, "On North Korean Freighter, a Hidden Missile Factory," *Washington Post*, 14 August 2003.

2 November 2002

A senior University of Belgrade professor tells Belgrade-based newspaper *Blic* that the university's aerodynamics department, which has 30 Libyan scientists as students, was working on the development of a 900-mile-range cruise missile.

— Richard Beeston and Zoran Kusovac, "Belgrade Told to Stop Arms Sales to Saddam," *The Times* (London), 2 November 2002.

31 October 2002

The US says, in a confidential complaint sent to senior Yugoslav officials this year, that it has evidence that three Serbian firms have helped Libya develop a 900km-range cruise missile able to carry a 1,100-lbs. payload.

— Daniel Simpson, "Belgrade Accused of Involvement in Arms Sales to Baghdad," *New York Times*, 31 October

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



2002; "Yugoslavia: Firms Helped Libya Acquire Cruise Missiles, US Says," Global Security Newswire, Nuclear Threat Initiative, 31 October 2002.

13 September 2002

The Bush administration imposes penalties on three Russian military contractors that may have sold missiles to Libya, Sudan, and Syria. The companies, all government owned, are the Tula Design Bureau of Instrument Building, an anti-aircraft and anti-tank systems producer; the State Scientific Production Enterprise Bazalt, a maker of bombs, grenades and other munitions; and Rostov Airframe Plant 168.

— James Dao, "US Cites Russian Firms in Arms Sales to Lands Tied to Terror," *New York Times*, 13 September 2002.

6 September 2002

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says Libya is developing long-range missiles and nuclear weapons with help from Iraq and North Korea and, though unverified, may be receiving financial assistance from Saudi Arabia.

— Ross Dunn, "Libya Leads Arab Race for Nuclear Bomb: Sharon," *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 September 2002.

June 2002

Iran and Libya sign a deal for Tehran to transfer Shihab-3 missile technology. The deal is reportedly for five years, and Libya will pay Iran \$13.5 million per year. North Korea will also participate in the project according to *Middle East Newslines*.

— "Iran Begins Export of Shihab-3 Technology," *Middle East Newslines*, vol. 4, no. 351, 18 September 2002, www.menewslines.com.

13 February 2002

US Congressional and Israeli intelligence sources say Libya's development of a medium-range ballistic based on the Scud design has received assistance from China, India, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Serbia.

— Steve Rodan, "Libya Steps Up Pursuit of MRBM Capability," *Jane's Defense Weekly*, 13 February 2002.

9 September 2001

The Central Intelligence Agency, in its semi-annual report to Congress, confirms that China has supplied missile and related technology to Libya, Pakistan, and North Korea.

— "China Supplied Missile Technology to Pakistan: CIA," *Hindu*, 9 September 2001.

12 April 2001

Chugan Chosun reports that there are nine North Korean technicians in Libya assisting with its missile development program.

— Choe Hong Sŏp, "'[Israel] Pukhan-Chungdong Missile Connection Magara'," *Chugan Chosun*, 12 April 2001, www.weekly.chosun.com.

6 April 2001

Lee Jae Uk, a senior researcher at the Korea Institute of Defense Analysis, releases a report that says North Korea exported up to 540 ballistic missiles to the Middle East between 1985 and 2000. The number includes 490 Scud-B and Scud-C missiles and 50 Nodong missiles that were sold to Libya last year. According to Lee's report, the Scud-B

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



and Scud-C missiles sold for between \$2 million and \$2.5 million, and the Nodong has been sold for around \$7 million.

— Kim Min Sŏk, "North Sold 540 Missiles in Mideast," *Joongang Ilbo*, 7 April 2001, <http://english.joins.com>; David C. Isby, "North Korea Remains Committed to Missile Proliferation," *Jane's Missiles and Rockets*, 1 June 2001.

25 September 2000

The *Sunday Telegraph* of London reveals that Libya acquired the first of four consignments of North Korea's surface-to-surface Nodong missiles and launchers in July. The missiles have a range of 1,500 kilometers, and a further three shipments, totaling 50 missiles and launchers, is to be delivered over the next three years. The first shipment consists of missiles that are capable of carrying conventional, nuclear and chemical warheads and is estimated to have cost approximately \$500 million. Nine North Korean missile engineers and technicians were also on board, and are to spend two years in Libya to make the missiles operational. North Korea has also agreed to build the infrastructure necessary for maintaining and storing the missiles in Libya, and to train Libyans in all aspects of missile technology over a period of five years. The missile shipment was originally thought to have been destined for Pakistan, but a detailed investigation showed that the cargo was headed to Libya via Malta. While Libya has been attempting to develop its own long-range missile, al-Fatah, it has also been engaged in extending the range of the Russian-designed Scud missile through a project called al-Jadid.

— Douglas Davis, "Report: Libyan Missiles Can Hit Israel," *Jerusalem Post*, 25 September 2000; Lynne O'Donnell, "Albright Opens Door on Timewarp," *Australian*, 24 October 2000.

9 August 2000

A CIA report to Congress alleges that Russian entities continued to supply ballistic missile-related goods, technology, and expertise to Libya, India, and Iran.

— "Unclassified Report to Congress on the Acquisition of Technology Relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction and Advanced Conventional Munitions, Through December 31, 1999," US Central Intelligence Agency, 9 August 2000; in "CIA WMD Report," *Disarmament Diplomacy*, No. 49; in The Acronym Institute Web Site, www.acronym.org.uk.

2 August 2000

Russia and Libya agree to revive defense ties that were suspended during the years of internationally imposed sanctions on Libya. "Defense commentators" say the new relationship could potentially bring Libya multiple-rocket launchers and Iskander tactical missiles.

— Vladimir Radyuhin, "Russia to Resume Arms Sales to Libya," *Hindu*, 2 August 2000.

June 2000

US experts say that despite repeated appeals, North Korea has continued to sell intermediate and long-range missiles such as the Nodong and Taepodong-1 to Libya, Iran, and Syria. Sources say that commercial contacts are mostly used to hide the weapons transactions.

— "Iraq, N. Korea Believed Cooperating on Missiles, WMD," *Middle East Newslines*, vol. 2, no. 218, 8 June 2000, www.menewslines.com.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



30 May 2000

Libya and Egypt are reportedly buying the Scud-D from North Korea, which has a range of 400 miles.

— Richard Beeston, "Syria's 400-mile Missile Alarms Israel," *The Times* (London), 30 May 2000.

29 May 2000

Austrian far-right leader Jörg Haider denies charges that he had helped Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi set up a missile defense system.

— Michael Leidig, "Haider Linked to Libyan Leader: Former Austrian Far-Right Leader Had 'Private Visit' with Gadhafi," *Ottawa Citizen*, 29 May 2000.

14 April 2000

China has been training Libyan technicians at a wind tunnel facility in China. China agreed in December 1999 to transfer a wind tunnel facility to Libya, which US intelligence officials believe could be used in Libya's missile development program for modeling and simulation.

— Walter Pincus, "China Training Libyans, Official Says," *Washington Post*, 14 April 2000.

12 April 2000

A 44-year old Taiwanese businessman, with three cast-iron parts for Scud missiles in his bags, is arrested at Zurich's airport in Switzerland and charged with trying to smuggle the parts into Libya. Libya is thought to be trying to obtain North Korean long-range missiles, and Chinese help to Libya may include training for military personnel to operate imported North Korean missiles or the indigenous al-Fatah.

— Bill Gertz, "Beijing Delivered Missile Technology to Libya, US Says," *Washington Times*, 13 April 2000; Ian Brodie, "China 'Is Helping Libya on Missiles'," *The Times* (London), 14 April 2000; Joby Warrick, "On North Korean Freighter, a Hidden Missile Factory," *Washington Post*, 14 August 2003.

2 March 2000

US National Security Agency Director Lt. General Michael Hayden outlines the proliferation of Chinese missile technology to Libya in a classified report sent to senior US government officials, and says the latest transfer occurred the previous month. China also announces that it has concluded a \$477 million deal with the Libyan government to build a railroad system, but some US intelligence officials fear the rail agreement will provide cover for secret missile cooperation.

— Bill Gertz, "Beijing Delivered Missile Technology to Libya, US Says," *Washington Times*, 13 April 2000; "China Set to Build Railway in Libya under 477-Million-Dollar Deal," *Agence France Presse*, 4 March 2000.

12 January 2000

Libya denies attempting to import banned long-range missile parts through Britain.

— "Libya Missile Denial," *Herald Sun*, 12 January 2000.

[Back to Top](#)

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



1999-1995

December 1999

Intelligence reports say China agreed to supply Libya with a hypersonic wind tunnel used for modeling and simulation, key elements of missile development.

— Bill Gertz, "Beijing Delivered Missile Technology to Libya, US Says," *Washington Times*, 13 April 2000.

24 November 1999

British officials at Gatwick Airport formally seize 32 crates of Scud missile parts illegally bound for Libya. The cargo was originally discovered in July, but the British government delayed formal seizure in order to protect its investigation of the smuggling operation. Paperwork seized with the equipment indicates that other shipments had already reached Libya through Britain. Included in the consignment, sent from Taiwan in the name of a knitwear company Hontex, were components of the jet propulsion system for Scuds with a distance of up to 600 miles. A senior British official said the shipment was part of Libya's program to develop the long-range al-Fatah missile. The al-Fatah missile development complex is located 310 miles southeast of Tripoli, where Libya is supposedly trying to develop a longer range alternative to the Russian-made Scuds it already possesses, which have a range of only 185 miles.

— Nicholas Rufford, "Libyans Smuggled Scuds through UK," *Sunday Times*, 9 January 2000; Michael Binyon, "Missile Find Sours West's Libya Links," *The Times* (London), 10 January 2000; Michael Binyon, "Britain Hid Missile Seizure from Libya," *The Times* (London), 11 January 2000.

November 1999

A US Congressional report by the nine-member Republican North Korea Advisory Group suggests that, barring any political or economic intervention, North Korea will export long-range missiles it is developing to countries such as Libya, Iran, Syria, and Pakistan.

— US Congress, House, North Korea Advisory Group, *Report to The Speaker US House of Representatives*, 106th Congress, 1st session, 1999; "N. Korea Likely to Export New Missiles to Iran, Syria," *Middle East Newslines*, 4 November 1999, www.menewslines.com; "Congressional Study Says North Korea Threat Increasing," *Korea Times*, 4 November 1999.

October 1999

Libyan Defense Minister and army chief of staff, General Abu Bakr Jaber, signs a contract for the delivery of 50 Nodong missiles and seven launchers. According to *Middle East Newslines*, the contract for the missile is signed with North Korea's state-owned Ch'ngch'zn'gang Corporation. The deliveries are to begin in July 2000 and will continue in three more consignments over two years from the first delivery. The agreement includes the dispatch of nine North Korean engineers and technicians to assist with the project for two years in order to make the missiles operational.

— Con Coughlin, "Missile Deal Puts Israel in Gaddafi Sights," *Sunday Telegraph*, Issue 1948, 24 September 2000 www.telegraph.co.uk; "Libya Acquires No-Dong Missiles from N. Korea," *Middle East Newslines*, vol. 2, no. 370, 24 September 2000, www.menewslines.com.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



5 September 1999

After the lifting of UN sanctions earlier in the year, Russia is said to have entered negotiations with Libya on modernization of the entire Libyan air-defense system.

— Michael Walker, "Cut-Price Russian Arms a Threat to West," *Straights Times* (Singapore), 5 September 1999.

30 June 1999

Indian Customs agents force North Korean freighter *Kuwolsan* to reveal its covert cargo — an almost complete assembly line for ballistic missiles, with Libya its intended recipient, according to US intelligence officials. The shipment did not include everything needed for missile production, which leads experts to believe that other shipments may have occurred prior to or following this consignment. Agents find tips of nose cones, sheet metal for rocket frames, machine tools, guidance systems, and multiple pages of engineers' drawings labeled "Scud-B" and "Scud-C" hidden inside wooden crates marked "water refinement equipment." While some crates contained water treatment equipment, most of the others contained equipment that appeared to have been transported straight from a missile factory, including: components for missile subassembly; machine tools for setting up a fabrication facility; instrumentation for evaluating the performance of a full missile system; equipment for calibrating missile components; nose cones; stacks of metal pipe and heavy-duty presses used for milling high-grade steel; a plate-bending machine capable of rolling thick metal sheets; toroidal air bottles used to guide warheads after separation from a missile, and theodolites, devices that measure missile trajectories. Documents seized with the shipment reveal design plans for a modified Scud, altered to increase the range up to approximately 500 miles.

— Joby Warrick, "On North Korean Freighter, a Hidden Missile Factory," *Washington Post*, 14 August 2003; Lynne O'Donnell, "Weapons Smuggler Caught," *Weekend Australian*, 7 August 1999.

21 June 1999

The number of North Koreans possibly involved in missile development in Libya and Egypt has increased.

— "Up to 300 N. Koreans in Egypt for Missile Program," *World Tribune*, 21 June 2001, www.worldtribune.com; "Up to 300 N. Koreans Aid Egypt's Missile Program," *Middle East Newslines*, vol. 3, no. 242, 21 June 2001, www.menewslines.com.

26 May 1999

A Congressional report charges that China has proliferated missile technology and nuclear secrets to Libya, Iran, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia.

— Ben Fenton, "China Gave US Secrets to Unstable Regimes: 700-page Report Calls China a Nuclear Threat after Stealing Data for 40 Years," *Ottawa Citizen*, 26 May 1999.

March 1999

Intelligence officials say missile cooperation begins between the state-run China Precision Machinery Import-Export Co. and the Libyan government, supposedly to help in the development of Libya's long-range al-Fatah missile.

— Bill Gertz, "Beijing Delivered Missile Technology to Libya, US Says," *Washington Times*, 13 April 2000.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



1999

Unnamed US officials say a US spy satellite photographed Libyan efforts to enlarge a missile test facility as part of the development program.

— Bill Gertz, "Beijing Delivered Missile Technology to Libya, US Says," *Washington Times*, 13 April 2000.

17 July 1998

The United States imposes trade restrictions and halts assistance to nine Russian enterprises charged with helping Libya, among others, with the development of weapons of mass destruction or missiles to deliver them. The nine enterprises are: INOR Scientific Centre, the Grafit and Polyus Research Institutes, the Tikhomirov Institute, Glavkosmos, the Komintern plant in Novosibirsk, the MOSO Company, Baltic State Technical University, and Europalace 2000.

— "Russians Face US Sanctions," *Financial Times*, 17 July 1998.

21 June 1998

Libya and South Africa strike a \$700 million deal in which Libya will provide oil in return for South African weapons, which include surface-to-air missile systems.

— Con Coughlin, "Mandela in Arms Deal with Libya: Secret Arms-for-Oil Pact Worth \$700 Million," *Ottawa Citizen*, 21 June 1998.

17 June 1998

US intelligence reports claim China is passing missile technology to Libya. Libyan technicians developing the long-range al-Fatah missile have supposedly received help from Chinese missile experts.

— Tom Rhodes, "China 'Helping Libya and Iran to Build Missiles'," *The Times*, 17 June 1998; Bill Gertz, "Beijing Delivered Missile Technology to Libya," *Washington Times*, 13 April 2000.

20 May 1998

Russia's FSB includes Libya with North Korea, Pakistan, and Iran on its "black list" of foreign entities they suspect of having military programs that are illegally developing weapons of mass destruction and missiles for their delivery. The list was developed in accordance with the Russian National Security Concept of December 1997, which states that the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems is one of the top priorities of Russian national security.

— "Russian Security Service Lists Firms Developing Weapons of Mass Destruction," *Interfax*, 20 May 1998; "Nerasprostraneniye yadernogo oruzhiya—osnova bezopasnosti strany," *Segodnya*, 23 May 1998.

15 February 1998

The House of Representatives Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare reports that Iraq signed an agreement to provide Libya with ballistic missile experts. The report was based on US, German, and Israeli intelligence. The White House later states that it has "no credible evidence that Iraq has exported weapons of mass destruction technology to other countries since the Gulf war."

— "Report: Arab States Shielding Iraq's Weapons," *St. Petersburg Times*, 15 February 1998; Reuters, "Standoff with Iraq; Iraqi Arms-Export Doubts," *New York Times*, 17 February 1998.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



20 January 1998

Libya announces that the al-Fatah medium-range missile was specifically developed for strikes against Israel. Libya does not yet have missiles capable of reaching Israel, but is trying to build or purchase some.

— Arie O'Sullivan, "F-15I, the IAF's State-of-the-Art Deterrent," *Jerusalem Post*, 20 January 1998.

21 November 1997

Unnamed intelligence sources believe Iran and Libya have struck a deal to collaborate on the development of a ballistic missile with a range of more than 1,250 miles. Western intelligence sources say Libya is already at an advanced stage in the production of the al-Fatah missile, a surface-to-surface missile with a range of more than 600 miles. It is believed that Tehran would supply Libya with surface-to-surface missiles and technology, eventually resulting in an enhanced missile with a range of more than 800 miles and a 1,650lbs. warhead in the first phase, and an advanced system with a range of more than 1,250 miles and a warhead of 2,200lbs. at a later stage. Moreover, the deal struck between Libya and Iran is said to involve building a plant in Libya to make fuel and fuel components for ballistic missiles.

— Michael Evans, "Tehran Deal to Help with Libyan Missile," *The Times*, 21 November 1997.

11 August 1997

Italian police confiscate German-made machinery parts illegally bound for Libya that could be used in missile manufacturing. The parts, tracked by Italian officers since January, were discovered in three cargo containers in the port of La Spezia.

— "Missile Parts for Libya," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 11 August 1997; "Libya-Bound Cargo Seized," *Financial Times*, 12 August 1997.

6 August 1997

According to a secret NATO report leaked to a Spanish newspaper, Libya will have ballistic missiles with a 1,250-mile range by 2006.

— Scott Peterson, "Peace in the Balance: A New Instability Threatens the Middle East," *Christian Science Monitor*, 6 August 1997.

21 July 1997

Libya may have given the IRA up to 20 surface-to-air missiles during the mid-1980s.

— David Sharrock, "IRA Ceasefire: Two Feeble Cheers as the Weapons Are Put Away — Again," *Guardian*, 21 July 1997.

3 January 1997

A Colonel in Israel's Air Force Reserves alleges that Egypt is cooperating with Libya on the development of chemical and biological warheads.

— Yoash Tsiddon-Chatto, "We Must Reshuffle Priorities," *Jerusalem Post*, 3 January 1997.

9 December 1996

The *Washington Times*, citing a top-secret CIA report from October 2, says that two "Ukrainian entities" have agreed to sell \$500 million worth of short-range Scud-B missiles to Libya. Ukraine denies the allegations.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



— Bill Gertz, "Kiev Imperils US Aid with Libya Arms Deal," *Washington Times*, 9 December 1996; "World in Brief; Missile Sale Denied," *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, 11 December 1996; Martin Walker, "Inside America: Lake Faces Rough Rise in the Senate; CIA Leaks Suggest Move to Trip Up Clinton Nominee," *Guardian* (London), 10 December 1996.

26 November 1996

A leaked NATO classified document forecasts that, by 2006, Libya's missiles will have a range of 1,864 miles (3,000km) and will be capable of being fitted with nuclear, chemical, or biological warheads. Intelligence experts also warn that Libya could proliferate to other countries or terrorist organizations.

— "Libya Feared Capable of Mass Destruction Within 10 Years," *Herald* (Glasgow), 26 November 1996.

10 October 1996

In its assessment of ballistic missile capabilities, the International Institute for Strategic Studies stresses the concern Western powers have over Libya's potential chemical and biological weapons-capable missiles.

— Michael Evans, "'Growing Missile Threat' to Europe," *The Times*, 10 October 1996.

July 1996

The US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency tells Congress that Libya is suspected of chemical and biological warhead development and possible possession.

— Associated Press, "Israel Links Up to US Missile Warning Satellite," *Jerusalem Post*, 5 January 1997.

11 April 1996

A report by the US Defense Department warns that Libya is spending several hundred million dollars a year to develop chemical and biological weapons and the missiles to deliver them.

— R. Jeffrey Smith, "Germ, Nuclear Arms Top Pentagon's List of Threats," *Washington Post*, 12 April 1996.

12 February 1996

In his testimony before the US Senate Select Committee, CIA Director John Deutch says that North Korea has sold Scud-B and Scud-C missile to Libya, Syria, Iran, and others. The missiles have a range of 300 and 500km, respectively.

— John M. Deutch, "Worldwide Threat Assessment Brief to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence by the Director of Central Intelligence, John M. Deutch," 22 February 1996, www.odci.gov.

21 January 1996

US intelligence reports that Libya has expressed interest in acquiring North Korea's Taepodong missile, which is in the development stage and will reportedly have a range of 2,000-3,500km.

— Andrew Gillian, "Rogue States: The New Threat," *Sunday Mail*, 21 January 1996.

1 April 1995

Western intelligence agencies believe Libya and Iran are cooperating to develop a 600-mile-range surface-to-surface missile called al-Fatah. Libya is in the early stages of development of this missile and has sought a partner for the project willing to provide missile technology. After negotiations with Iran, it is believed that Libya will pay

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



Iran more than \$31 million in return for material and technological know-how, which could include equipment for a liquid fuel plant. In addition to developing the al-Fatah, it is believed that the two countries will collaborate to increase the range of the old Soviet-made Scud-B missile.

— Michael Evans, "Libya and Iran 'Plan Joint Missile Project'," *Times*, 1 April 1995.

13 March 1995

A daily newspaper in Jerusalem quotes a high-ranking Israeli defense official as saying that Libya has long- and medium-range missiles ready to launch at Israel.

— "Arabs Target Israel," *Times-Picayune*, 13 March 1995.

8 March 1995

US Defense Secretary William Perry downplays the ballistic missile threat from Libya, saying that the threat from Libyan missiles capable of reaching the continental United States is more than 10 years away.

— AAP, *Hobart Mercury*, 16 February 1995.

1995

US firm Halliburton agrees to pay \$2.61 million in civil penalties and \$1.2 million to the US government for violating a US trade embargo by shipping oilfield equipment to Libya. Federal officials were concerned that some of the well servicing equipment sent to Libya between late 1987 and early 1990 could have been used to help develop nuclear weapons. It is unclear whether this equipment would have been used in missile development or strictly nuclear development.

— Bill Miller, "McDonnell Douglas to Pay \$2.1 Million Fine in Export Case," *Washington Post*, 15 November 2001; Jason Leopold, "Halliburton Won't Back Off Doing Biz in Iran, Despite NTC Pension Funds Concerns of Terrorism," *Centre for Research on Globalisation*, 5 November 2003, www.globalresearch.ca.

[Back to Top](#)

1994-1990

16 October 1994

Libya is reportedly co-funding the development of North Korea's 1,500km-range Nodong missile, and is said to have construction underway for a plant to build the missile. Libya already has Russian-built Scud-C missiles with a range of 550km.

— Tim Furniss, "Britain Seeks 'Star Wars' Defense Plan," *Sunday Times*, 16 October 1994.

18 June 1994

Former CIA director Robert Gates expresses his concern in an editorial that Libya is likely to be a recipient of any North Korean nuclear technology and weapons proliferation.

— Robert Gates, "Too Hot to Handle; Sweet Talking Won't Work with Rogue North Korea," *Gazette (Montreal)*, 18 June 1994.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



Early June 1994

Robert Walpole, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA's) Nonproliferation Center, says in Congressional testimony that North Korea has apparently discussed the sale of Nodong missiles to Libya.

— Thomas W. Lippman, "US Hopes to Break a Pattern," *Washington Post*, 14 June 1994.

19 May 1994

Britain's House of Commons Select Committee on Defence issues a report in which it said that Royal Air Force (RAF) aircraft deployed in southern Italy were already "within notional range of missile attack from potentially hostile countries" like Libya.

— Christopher Bellamy, "MPs Give Warning on 'Vulnerability' from Defence Cuts," *The Independent*, (London), 20 May 1994.

16 February 1994

British defense experts say it is possible that Libya could have a ballistic missile system in 10 years that would put Britain in range.

— Donald Macintyre, "Britain to Consider Need for Hi-Tech Anti-Missile Defence; Rifkind Gives Warning of Threat that Could be Posed by 'Unpredictable Countries'," *The Independent* (London), 16 February 1994.

1994

North Korea begins mass production of the Nodong missile, with a capacity of 30-50 missiles a year. It appears that North Korea will be looking to test the missile in Libya, Iran, or Syria.

— Kim Yong Il, "Puk Nodong 1 Ho Missile Yangsan Chaknyžnputo 30-50 Ki Saengsan," *Joongang Ilbo*, 17 May 1995, www.joins.com.

24 December 1993

The Central Intelligence Agency says Libya has the motivation to develop long-range missiles but lacks the technical capability to do so within 15 years. There is no evidence that Libya is working on such a project, and rather than develop ICBMs indigenously, Libya may try to purchase complete missile systems or essential technologies from countries with existing ICBMs.

— Thomas W. Lippman, "ICBM Threat to US is Called Slight; Iran, Iraq, North Korea Capable but Aren't Building Such Missiles, CIA Says," *Washington Post*, 24 December 1993.

19 July 1993

The United States is concerned about potential sales of North Korea's long-range Nodong 1 missile and nuclear-capable Scud-B and Scud-C missiles to Libya, Iran, and Syria. US officials and missile experts are more troubled by North Korea's export of missile technology and managerial know-how that would allow these countries to produce the missiles indigenously. Some analysts say North Korea is already selling full production plants to the three countries via Lyongaksan Import Corp., but other experts say North Korea has up to this point only aided in setting up assembly facilities. Other unnamed analysts say North Korea is helping Libya construct a Scud production line at a facility near Tripoli called the Central Repair Workshop, which may by next year begin pilot production of the Nodong 1 missile.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



— Robert S. Greenberger, "Washington Insight: North Korea's Missile Sales in Mideast, Along with Nuclear Issue, Raise Concern," *Wall Street Journal*, 19 July 1993, p. A6.

July 1993

In Congressional testimony, Central Intelligence Agency Director James Woolsey raises concerns about potential sales of North Korea's Nodong 1 missiles to countries like Libya, stating that if such a sale were to take place, Libya would be able to reach US bases and allied capitals in the Mediterranean. The Nodong is of prime concern because it can be fitted with nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in addition to conventional warheads.

— Associated Press, "US Officials Welcome Delay in North Korean Missile Sale," *Christian Science Monitor*, 27 December 1993.

24 June 1993

US officials announce that they have thwarted several attempts by Libya to obtain materials from foreign suppliers for its ballistic missile program. US and British intelligence agencies said that materials were being shipped to Libya from Russia via Ukraine and from Malaysia via Singapore. Seized materials included the 60-ton shipment of ammonium perchlorate, a chemical ingredient used to manufacture missile fuel.

— R. Jeffrey Smith, "Libyan Efforts to Get Weapons Materials Foiled, US Says," *Washington Post*, 24 June 1993.

23 June 1993

The United States tries to block a Moscow-based company, Pavoks, from exporting to Libya 80 tons of ammonium perchlorate, which can be used to make solid rocket fuel. US administration officials said customs documents for the shipment were designed to disguise its true destination, but Washington learned that the chemical was headed ultimately to Libya via Ukraine. Acting on information from Washington, Ukraine seized the shipment. [Note: Other reports state the amount as 60 tons — see next entry.]

— Michael R. Gordon, "US Warns Russia on Missile-Fuel Sales," *New York Times*, 23 June 1993.

7 May 1993

Libya has negotiated the purchase of Chinese M-9 and CSS-2 missiles with a range of 3,200 kilometers.

— Douglas Davis, "Syria, China Cooperating on Missile Development," *Jerusalem Post*, 7 May 1993.

25 March 1993

A report attributed to defense sources in the United Arab Emirates says that Libya is helping Iran finance the purchase of the new North Korean "Nodong 1" missile, capable of carrying an 800-kg. chemical warhead.

— Michael Rotem, "Report: Iran to Receive North Korean Missiles the Can Reach Israel," *Jerusalem Post*, 25 March 1993.

March 1993

Two German citizens deny charges that they provided Libya with rocket combustion chambers.

— William E. Burrows and Robert Windrem, *Critical Mass: The Dangerous Race for Superweapons in a Fragmenting World* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994).

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



17 February 1993

US military sources say Libya may be financing an Iranian — North Korean liquid-propellant, surface-to-surface missile project. The missile will supposedly have a range of 621 miles and be capable of carrying a 1,760lbs. conventional warhead.

— "Iran, North Korea Join to Develop Missile," *Plain Dealer*, 17 February 1993.

30 April 1992

The United States airs concerns that the potential sale of a major US defense firm to a French electronics company with ties to Tripoli will result in US military technology possibly making its way to Libya. The French company, Thomson CSF, supplied Libya with Crotales missiles during the 1980s that made up the backbone of Libya's missile defense system. The Defense Intelligence Agency later concludes that the proposed sale poses too significant of a risk that crucial military technology will be compromised.

— Steven Pearlstein, "Data Sought on Thomson Deals with Libya, Iraq; US Probes Sale of LTV Unit to French Firm," *Washington Post*, 30 April 1992; Steven Pearlstein, "Sale of LTV Missile Unit to French Firm Poses Risk, US Agency Says," *Washington Post*, 15 May 1992.

5 April 1992

Former workers at an industrial complex thought to have been abandoned three years ago have disclosed that the factory is currently mass-producing missiles that are capable of carrying chemical weapons warheads. Foreign firms working at the "Technology Center," 50 miles southwest of Tripoli, withdrew in 1989 after the United States revealed that the plant manufactured weapons.

— Nuck Rufford, Tim Rayment, David Leppard, and Ian Burrell, "Gadaffi Builds Huge Poison Gas Arsenal at Rabta Plant," *Sunday Times*, 5 April 1992.

Spring 1992

German firm Leybold AG is again caught attempting to send Libya a furnace used for the production of super-hard metal alloys of the type used in guided missiles and nuclear weapons. The furnace is seized in Rotterdam, allegedly for use in Libya's al-Fatah ballistic missile program. [Note: See 1991 entry.]

— William E. Burrows and Robert Windrem, *Critical Mass: The Dangerous Race for Superweapons in a Fragmenting World* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994).

13 March 1992

Citing intelligence sources, CNN reports that North Korea is assisting in the construction of Scud missile production facilities in Egypt, Iran, Libya, and Syria and is helping Libya build a plant for the manufacture of Scud-D missiles, an advanced missile with a range of approximately 1,200km, almost twice that of the Scud-C.

— "Arabs Get Arms Aid," *Herald Sun*, 15 March 1992; Pukhan, Arab Kukdül'e Scud Kongjang Kžnsžlchiwžn," *Joongang Ilbo*, 14 March 1992, www.joins.com.

12 March 1992

Libya is to acquire a sophisticated air defense missile system from Russia. The SA-10 missile used in the system is capable of defending against the most modern aircraft and cruise missiles, and one version has the capacity to

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



carry a nuclear warhead. The SA-10 is the equivalent of the US Patriot missile and can engage six targets simultaneously up to 100km away at a height of between 25 and 18,000 meters.

— Ian Mather, "Arms Trade; Russia Ready to Sell Missiles to Libyans," *Ottawa Citizen*, 27 March 1992.

16 February 1992

The German paper *Welt am Sonntag* reports that North Korea and Libya are to build a missile test site as part of an effort to jointly develop a new 1,000km-range intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) based on the Scud missile.

— Hwang Pyong Tae, *Hankook Ilbo* (Seoul), 17 February 1992, in "North Reportedly to Develop Missiles With Libya," JPRS-TND-92-005, 3 March 1992.

23 January 1992

Germany stops a plane headed for Libya and seizes equipment inside that could be used in a nuclear program. A Libyan agency which is known to be a procurement institute for the country's missile program was to receive the equipment, originally ordered by a Dutch firm from an American company.

— "Libyan Goods are Seized by Germany," *The Herald* (Glasgow), 23 January 1992.

1992

The United Nations places sanctions on Libya for its involvement in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland on December 21, 1988. The subsequent seven-year sanctions regime is believed to have severely limited Libya's ability to acquire and develop the requisite technology, materials, equipment, and expertise that are vital to the development of medium-range and intercontinental missiles.

— "Ballistic Missile Capabilities in the Middle East," *Proliferation News and Resources, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 26 April 2002, www.ceip.org.

December 1991

Qadhafi reportedly offers \$1 billion to obtain a Russian Yankee-1 class submarine capable of launching cruise missiles, and expresses interest in obtaining the SSN-6 submarine capable of firing long-range missiles.

— Adel Darwish, "Gaddafi Tried to Sink Cash in Red Fleet," *The Independent* (London), 18 February 1992.

21 September 1991

The Egyptian government-controlled newspaper *Al-Ahram* reports that Libya has signed a contract for the purchase of an unspecified number of Scud missiles from North Korea.

— KBS-1 Radio Network (Seoul), 21 September 1991, in JPRS-TND-91-016, 29 October 1991, "Pukhan, Iran E Scud Missile 1 Baekki Konggūp Egypt Shinmun," *Joongang Ilbo*, 23 September 1991, www.joins.com.

3 September 1991

Libya is receiving help from German firms to build a factory capable of manufacturing surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 620 miles. In July, German customs officers seized equipment aboard a Libyan cargo ship that German experts believe was destined to be used to build the missiles.

— "Libyan Missiles," *The Independent* (London), 3 September 1991.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



2 June 1991

A South Korean military source says North Korea and Libya have concluded a contract on the development of a "new model Scud missile" that will have a range of about 1,000km. The terms of the contract reportedly stipulate that Libya will provide financing for the missile's development, and if successful, North Korea will export missiles to Libya and provide technical assistance for its manufacture at a later date. [Note: This refers to the Nodong missile.] — Pukhan, Sajžng 1 Chžn Kilometer Missile Kaebal Ch'aksu ~ Libya Sž Chakŭm Chegong *Joongang Ilbo*, 3 June 1991, www.joins.com; Yonhap News Agency (Seoul), 3 June 1991, in "DPRK Reportedly to Build New Scud Missile," JPRS-TND-91-009, 24 June 1991; "Pukhan, Sajžng Ch'žn km Missile Kaebal Ch'aksu/Scud Shinhyžng," *Chosun Ilbo*, 3 June 1991, in KINDS, www.kinds.or.kr.

Late May 1991

White House officials say negotiations are underway between Libya and North Korea for Tripoli's purchase of a new intermediate range (620 miles or 1,000km) ballistic missile system. The system has not been flight tested successfully but officials said the missile, which is not expected to be ready for export until 1994, will be capable of carrying conventional or chemical warheads. Each missile system is expected to cost \$7 million and it is not known how many Libya intends to purchase.

— Bill Gertz, "Libya May Buy N. Korean Missiles," *Washington Times*, 4 June 1991; Yonhap News Agency (Seoul), 3 June 1991, in "DPRK Reportedly to Build New Scud Missile," JPRS-TND-91-009, 24 June 1991; Pukhan, Pukhan, Libya'wa Missile P'anmaehyžpsang Sanžniggžri 1 KM Chunggžri," *Joongang Ilbo*, 5 June 1991, www.joins.com.

27 May 1991

Arms experts find an old cache of 134 Soviet SA-3 missiles at the Red Sea port of Berbera in northern Somalia. The missiles are stacked in the open near a runway and sheds nearby contain launchers, solid fuel motors, and maintenance equipment. There is "a suspicion of Libyan involvement."

— Richard Dowden, "Mystery of Soviet Arms Find in Somalia," *The Independent* (London), 27 May 1991.

6 April 1991

According to diplomatic and shipping sources, North Korea is supplying Scud-C missiles to Libya that are capable of carrying conventional and chemical warheads.

— Adel Darwish, "North Korea 'Selling Scuds'," *The Independent* (London), 6 April 1991.

7 February 1991

Libya, North Korea, and Syria have reportedly made an arms deal involving the sale of ballistic missiles to Syria. According to intelligence sources, Libya is allegedly financing Syria's purchase of several dozen Scud-C, intermediate range missiles from North Korea that are capable of carrying a 1,100-lb. warhead.

— Charles Fenyvesi, "Washington Whispers," *US News & World Report*, 21 January 1991; Michael Evans, "Scud Deal Caution," *The Times*, 7 February 1991; John Fricker, publisher, *Milavnews*, vol. 30, no. 353, March 1991.

1991

German firm Leybold AG attempts to send Libya a furnace used for the production of super-hard metal alloys of the type used in guided missiles and nuclear weapons. Leybold tells German customs agents who seized the

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



shipment that the furnace is for Libyan domestic aluminum smelting, but an internal memorandum circulated among Leybold's management reveals that the furnace was to be camouflaged and sent to *Maktab el Buhut Attacknia*, a front for Libya's ballistic missile research facility in Tripoli.

— William E. Burrows and Robert Windrem, *Critical Mass: The Dangerous Race for Superweapons in a Fragmenting World* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994).

15 August 1990

Spanish citizen Juan Martin Peche-Koesters and Claus Fuhler of Germany are charged with attempting to sell 400 US antitank missiles to Libya. They were later acquitted on all charges for lack of sufficient evidence.

— "Two Accused of Plot to Export Anti-Tank Missiles to Libya," *St. Petersburg Times*, 15 August 1990; Paul Clancy, "2 Arrested in Iraqi Arms Deal," *USA Today*, 16 August 1990; "Weapons Charges Dropped," *Washington Post*, 22 December 1990.

10 July 1990

Libya supplies Jordan with SA-8 ("Gecko") missiles, which have a range of approximately seven miles.

— Michael Evans, "Libya Gives Missiles to Jordan," *The Times*, 10 July 1990.

18 June 1990

Mu'ammarr Qadhdhafi says development of the atomic bomb and "rockets to reach space" are top Libyan priorities.

—Reuters, "Libyan Leader Urges Speed on Nation's Atom Bomb," *Toronto Star*, 18 June 1990.

4 May 1990

An official from the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency reports that China had tested its new M-9 intermediate-range missile and was in discussions with Libya for a potential sale.

— Reuters, World News Briefly, *Herald*, 4 May 1990.

15 March 1990

The *Toronto Star* reports that the Rabta chemical plant, supposedly the site of chemical weapons manufacturing, is guarded by newly installed batteries of French-made surface-to-air Crotale anti-aircraft missiles.

— "'Poison Gas' Plant in Libya Hit by Fire," *Toronto Star*, 15 March 1990.

[Back to Top](#)

1989-1980

12 December 1989

According to the *Jerusalem Post*, Libya is financing Syria's purchase of 140 Chinese M-9 missiles, which have a range of approximately 600 miles, and will keep 60 of the missiles as payment. China had originally denied that such a sale was going to take place. [Note: See 23 February 1989 entry.]

— Kenneth Kaplan, "Syria, China Sign Missile Deal," *Jerusalem Post*, 12 December 1989.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



11 October 1989

West Germany's government could not confirm or apparently deny that 100 West German engineers were helping Libya develop missile capabilities as part of a project called Ittiscalat.

— "Bonn Won't Confirm Report of Aid to Libya," *Boston Globe*, 11 October 1989.

8 October 1989

West German technicians are helping Libya develop a conventional- and chemical weapons-capable ballistic missile with a range of 300 to 450 miles under a project codenamed Ittiscalat.

— "Libya Said Planning Long-Range Missile," *St. Petersburg Times*, 8 October 1989.

6 October 1989

The United States objects to the planned sale of missile engine technology by the French government to Brazil, saying the technology for the liquid fuel motor could end up in Libyan hands.

— "France Defies US on Technology Deal," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 6 October 1989.

23 February 1989

China officially denies the potential sale to Libya of any chemical weapons-capable missiles. [Note: See 12 December 1989 entry.]

— William Safire, "Those Chinese Missiles," *New York Times*, 23 February 1989.

Early January 1989

Libya invites foreign journalists to visit the Rabta facility to disprove suspicions that it is a chemical weapons complex. During the visit, a reporter from Britain's *Guardian* newspaper sees two missile batteries of apparently French-built Crotales guarding the facility. A *Times* reporter says that the United States suspects the area is protected by Soviet missiles.

— David Hirst, "Libya Keeps Foreign Journalists in the Dark," *The Guardian* (London), 9 January 1989; Nicholas Beeston, "Libya Expels Newsmen After Visit Backfires," *The Times* (London), 9 January 1989.

Late July 1988

The US Senate passes a resolution calling on China to halt the sale of ballistic missiles to Libya, among others.

— "China Attacks Senate," *Washington Post*, 1 August 1988.

3 July 1988

A Libyan agreement with a Brazilian firm for the research and development of two missiles with ranges of 375 miles and 625 miles appears to have collapsed. Libya has turned to China after failing to acquire Soviet SS-21s and is trying to buy "East Wind" 3A missiles (CSS-2) with a range of 1,600.

— Marie Colvin, "Gadaffi Bids for Missiles," *The Times* (London), 3 July 1988.

24 June 1988

Unnamed diplomats say Libya and Syria have been negotiating with China to buy the M-9 (CSS-6) missile. Libya already has the Soviet-built Frog-7, SS-21 ("Scarab") and SS-1 Scud surface-to-surface missiles. The M-9 exceeds

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



current Libyan capabilities (the SS-1 has a range of only 150 miles) with an estimated range of 375 miles.

— Ihsan A. Hijazi, "Arab Lands Said to be Turning to China for Arms," *New York Times*, 24 June 1988.

4 February 1988

Brazilian military sources in *Jane's Defense Weekly* report that Libya has offered to invest \$2 billion in developing Brazilian tactical missiles, in return for an option to acquire some.

— "Libya-Brazil Arms Deal," *Financial Times*, 4 February 1988.

31 January 1988

US officials protest a potential Libyan deal with Brazil in which Libya could acquire missiles with a range of 625 miles — increasing current Libyan missile capabilities by 500 miles.

— John Barham, "Brazil Ignored US Protest over Arms for Libya," *The Times* (London), 31 January 1988.

27 January 1988

A Libyan military delegation arrives in Brazil to begin negotiating an arms deal estimated at \$2 billion that includes buying Brazilian technology to build ballistic missiles at a factory in Libya originally built by the West German firm OTRAG. Part of the deal is also to include short-range surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles. Libya is also believed to have offered \$2 billion over five years to Orbita Sistemas Espaciais, a company partly owned by the Brazilian government, to finance development of a new generation of medium-range ballistic missiles.

— "Brazil Warned By US on Arms Sales to Gadaffi," *Financial Times*, 27 January 1988.

25 January 1988

Rumors circulate of a possible oil-for-arms deal in which Libya would supply oil to Brazil in exchange for missiles and tanks.

— Marlise Simons, "Gulf War Spurs Brazil Arms Makers," *New York Times*, 25 December 1988.

22 January 1988

Irish police say the IRA may have smuggled as many as 12 surface-to-air missiles from Libya into Ireland.

— "Missiles 'Smuggled'," *Financial Times*, 22 January 1988.

31 December 1987

A London newspaper reports that Libya has agreed to give some of its advanced Scud-B missiles to Iran in exchange for Iranian chemical arms.

— Associated Press, "Iran Denies It's Building Chemical Weapons," *Toronto Star*, 31 December 1987.

7 November 1987

France intercepts an arms shipment from Libya to the Irish Republican Army that includes 20 Soviet-made SA-7 Grail surface-to-air missiles.

— David B. Ottaway, "US Lauds French Move against Libya; 150-Tom Arms Shipment Intercepted en Route to Irish Rebels," *Washington Post*, 7 November 1987.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



11 September 1987

US officials say Libya and Syria have been providing Iran with long-range surface-to-surface missiles.

— David B. Ottaway, "In a Rare Joint Effort, Superpowers Press Libya; Gadhafi Cautioned on Arms Deal with Iran," *Washington Post*, 11 September 1987.

9 June 1987

Libya gives Uganda short-range antiaircraft missiles, the latest of several arms shipments according to unnamed diplomatic sources.

— S. O'Connor, "Libya Arms Go to Uganda," *Telegraph*, 9 June 1987.

3 May 1987

US officials express concern about Libyan efforts to buy a 300-mile-range missile from West German firms.

— George C. Wilson and Molly Moore, "Libya Turns to China for Weapons," *Washington Post*, 3 May 1987.

22 March 1987

Qadhafi pledges to join the Warsaw Pact and deploy Soviet nuclear missiles along Libya's coast if the United States attacks Libyan territory again.

— Reuters, "Libya Can Get Soviet Missiles to Fight US Gadhafi Warns," *Toronto Star*, 23 March 1987.

22 December 1986

The German-Libyan missiles developed under Project Ittissalat could travel over 310 miles, double the range of the Scud and Frog missiles the Soviet Union has supplied to Libya.

— Anna Tomforde, "Inquiry on Rockets for Tripoli; West German Arms Supplies to Libya," *The Guardian* (London), 22 December 1986.

22 December 1986

Germany's *Stern* magazine reports that West German electronics experts and engineers have secretly helped build and flight-test missiles for Libya under the code name "Project Ittissalat." Electronic equipment and missile parts were sent to Libya labeled as "technical goods," and the missiles were assembled and tested at a secret site in the Tibesti desert. *Stern* reports that the Libyan contact is Salah Farkash, brother-in-law of Colonel Qadhafi and representative of the state-controlled Technical Industrial Corporation of Tripoli.

— John England, "Germans 'Helping Gadaffi'," *The Times* (London), 22 December 1986.

September 1986

A smuggled shipment of Libyan arms to the IRA, including 10 SA-7 ("Grail") antiaircraft missiles, arrives in Ireland aboard the vessel *Villa*.

— "Smuggled Arsenal Lies under the Fields," *The Times* (London), 20 October 1998; "The Weapons that Were Intercepted," *The Irish Times*, 27 June 2000.

24 November 1986

Britain's *Sunday Telegraph* reports that Libya has acquired nerve-gas warheads from the Soviet Union for its

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



Soviet-built Scud-B missiles and has passed some on to Syria and Iran.

— Associated Press, "Soviets Sold Nerve Gas to Libya Paper Says," *Toronto Star*, 24 November 1986.

13 June 1986

US officials report that Libya's SA-5 missile site at Sirte, bombed by the US Navy during the Gulf of Sidra operations, is back in service with all 12 launchers ready to fire. The second missile site at Binghazi is partially operational.

— George C. Wilson, "Libya Upgrades Air Defenses With New Missile Site on Gulf; Gadhafi Has Yet to Rally His Tarnished Military," *Washington Post*, 13 June 1986.

April 1986

Libya sends at least two surface-to-air missiles to the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

— "The Weapons that were Intercepted," *The Irish Times*, 27 June 2000.

April 1986

Libya accelerates efforts to make a second SA-5 anti-aircraft site operational by mid-April and reportedly has missiles already at the site in Binghazi.

— George C. Wilson, "Libya Hastens to Arm Second Missile Site, US Says; Coastal Anti-aircraft Emplacement at Benghazi May Be Ready by Mid-Month," *Washington Post*, 4 April 1986.

27 February 1986

Italian airman Giuseppe Franchi, a noncommissioned officer in the Italian Air Force who worked at the command center of a NATO nuclear missile base, is arrested on espionage charges that he sold secret documents and disclosed classified information to Libyan agents.

— "Italian Airman Held in Spying on NATO," *New York Times*, 27 February 1986.

30 January 1986

US administration officials report that SA-5 anti-aircraft missiles at the Libyan coastal city of Sirte have become operational. US reconnaissance satellites spotted additional SA-5 missile sites at Tripoli and Binghazi, but reported that there are no launchers or missiles in place.

— George C. Wilson, "Qaddafi Threatening US Planes; Libyan Has Some New Missiles Ready for Use," *Washington Post*, 30 January 1986.

26 January 1986

To assert claims of Libyan sovereignty, Libyan leader Mu'ammār Qadhafi sails out to the Gulf of Sidra in a patrol boat laden with four French-made Matra surface-to-surface missiles.

— Associated Press-Reuters, "Khadafy Sails on Armed Boat to Confront US 6th Fleet," *Toronto Star*, 26 January 1986.

12 January 1986

The official Kuwaiti News Agency quoted an unnamed diplomat as saying Libya used Soviet-supplied surface-to-air missiles to shoot down a US Navy FA-18 fighter. A US Defense Department spokesman said the plane disappeared

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



during a routine training mission.

— Associate Press-Reuters, "Khadafy Asks Reagan to Visit Him in Libya," *Toronto Star*, 12 January 1986.

8 January 1986

US officials believe the Soviet-made SA-5 anti-aircraft missiles being deployed in Libya are likely to be operational this month, and that another shipment of SA-5s may be in progress. Twelve SA-5 missile launchers are being erected at a base on the Gulf of Sidra. Of the three Soviet versions of the SA-5 Gammon, Libya has received the second variant.

— Fred Hiatt, "Libyans Hurrying Deployment of Missiles, US Officials Say; Anti-aircraft Weapons Likely to be Operational This Month," *Washington Post*, 8 January 1986.

1 January 1986

Egyptian government-owned newspaper *Al-Ahram* says Libya has completed construction of seven bases for Soviet-supplied anti-aircraft missiles. It also reported that 2,000 Soviet experts arrived in Libya to operate the SA-5 missile bases.

— AP, "Libya Said to Install Missiles," *New York Times*, 1 January 1986.

January 1986

Due to its continuing sponsorship of terrorism, the United States imposes sanctions on Libya, which includes a total ban on direct import and export trade and commercial contracts.

21 December 1985

Reagan administration officials confirm rumors that Libya is installing Soviet-made SA-5 ("Gammon") long-range anti-aircraft missiles in at least two locations, a move that enables Libya to target US Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft and P3 submarine hunters flying over the Gulf of Sidra, an area Libya considers its territorial waters.

— Bob Woodward and Lou Cannon, "Moscow Rebuffs Protest Over Libyan Missiles; US Weighed Military Response to Qaddafi," *Washington Post*, 21 December 1985.

27 March 1985

Jane's Defence Weekly reports that Scud missiles have been supplied to Libya, Syria, and North Korea, although the origin of the Scuds remains unclear.

— "Iraqi Jets Attack Ship in Gulf, Kill 9 in Raid on Tehran," *Los Angeles Times*, 27 March 1985; Derek Wood, "Iran Uses Scud Missile Against Iraq," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 30 March 1985.

20 March 1985

Diplomats speculate that Libya may have supplied Iran with a limited number of long-range Soviet-built Scud missiles that Tehran used to attack Baghdad. Iran was not thought to have possessed long-range missiles capable of reaching Iraq's capital.

— Roger Matthews, "Baghdad Hit by Further Big Blast," *Financial Times*, 20 March 1985.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



17 September 1984

The *New York Times* reports that Libya provided SA-6 Gainful anti-aircraft missiles to the Polisario Front, leftist guerillas fighting for the independence of the Western Sahara.

— Edward Schumacher, "Morocco Foresees Victory in Sahara," *New York Times*, 17 September 1984.

1984

German chemical firm Imhausen-Chemie AG signs an agreement with Mu'ammarr Qadhafi to deliver a "pharmaceutical plant," later known as Rabta, which is actually the site of chemical weapons manufacturing, including missile production. The facility has two parts, one section to produce chemical agents, and the other called the "Metal Works" that had one plant to produce artillery shells, one plant for bomb making, and one plant for rocket and missile warhead production. The Metal Works was designed and built by Japan for \$3 billion. C. Itoh was the Japanese trading organization that arranged construction for that part of the Rabta facility, and Japan Steel Works was the general contractor.

— William E. Burrows and Robert Windrem, *Critical Mass: The Dangerous Race for Superweapons in a Fragmenting World* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994).

12 August 1983

Libya may have acquired US-made Redeye anti-aircraft missiles in the takeover of Chad's northern oasis of Faya-Largeau. The missiles were part of a \$25 million aid package from the United States.

— Alan Cowell, "Key Town in Chad Reported to Fall to Libyan Assault," *New York Times*, 12 August 1983.

5 June 1982

One British intelligence report says that Libya delivered Marte anti-ship air-to-surface missiles to Argentina, and a second report says the missiles are Israeli-made Gabriel sea-skimming ones.

— Diplomatic Correspondent, "Libya 'Sends Missiles to Argentina'," *Financial Times*, 5 June 1982.

7 May 1982

US military analysts believe Libya is a likely supplier of the French-made surface-to-surface Exocet missiles Argentina is using against British ships in the Falkland Islands.

— Richard Halloran, "Argentines Said to Seek More of French Missiles," *New York Times*, 7 May 1982.

21 March 1982

US Customs agents arrest seven US citizens who had planned to smuggle missiles to Libya.

— AP, "US Reports Plot to Smuggle Helicopters to Libya," *New York Times*, 21 March 1982.

12 March 1982

France delivers the first of 10 missile-firing patrol boats to Libya as part of a \$600 million deal made in 1977.

— Reuters, "The First of 10 Missile Boats Delivered by France to Libya," *New York Times*, 16 March 1982.

Late October 1981

OTRAG begins the process of complete withdrawal of personnel from its missile launching base at Jarmah, 430 miles south of Tripoli. OTRAG and intelligence officials report that the company's founder, aerospace engineer Lutz

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



T. Kayser, is still in Libya collaborating on missile development. US intelligence reports revealed that Libyan military officials had been in charge of much of OTRAG's operations and intelligence officials said that a significant part of the budget of the Libyan Ministry of Atomic Energy was devoted to OTRAG-related activities.

— Judith Miller, "West German Rocket Company Pulls Out of Libya," *New York Times*, 27 December 1981.

12 September 1981

According to US space and intelligence analysts, West German company OTRAG is building installations at Sebha, a site in central Libya, as part of Libya's overall effort to develop an indigenous production capability in missile parts and related technology.

— Judith Miller, "US Uneasy Over Military Potential of Commercially Produced Rockets," *New York Times*, 12 September 1981.

14 August 1981

A Libyan diplomat in Beirut reports that Lebanon has accepted, "in principle," an offer from Libya for an air defense system, including missiles, to defend against Israeli aircraft.

— John Kifner, "Beirut to Accept Air Defense Plan," *New York Times*, 14 August 1981.

29 May 1981

Unidentified sources say that in April Libya delivered SA-9 Gaskin missiles to the pro-Libyan Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command.

— Jonathan C. Randall, "Israel Bombs Missile Site Near Beirut; Israeli Places Hit Near Beirut, Reportedly Destroy SAM Site; PLO's SAMs Reportedly From Libya," *Washington Post*, 29 May 1981.

11 May 1981

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin declares that one of Syria's nine anti-aircraft missile batteries just across the border is a Soviet-built SA-9 ("Gaskin") battery delivered from Libya.

— David K. Shipler, "Begin Says Syrians Have Increased Missiles in Lebanon and on Border," *New York Times*, 12 May 1981.

12 March 1981

Official Moroccan sources report that the Libyan government signed a contract with OTRAG to buy nuclear-capable medium-range missiles. The technical director of OTRAG denies that such a contract exists.

— Associated Press, "Libya Reported to Sign Contract to Buy Missiles," *New York Times*, 13 March 1981.

10 March 1981

West German rocket company OTRAG asserts that it successfully launched a suborbital rocket from a new test site in Libya. The company said the rocket could carry a 220- to 880-pound payload and could reach heights of 50 to 144 miles above the Earth.

— John Vinocur, "Enigmatic West German Rocket Concern Finds a Home in Libyan Desert," *New York Times*, 11 March 1981.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



2 March 1981

The French government confirms that it is halting delivery of 10 missile-carrying patrol boats ordered by Libya in 1977.

— Reuters, "Paris Withholds Boats for Libya," *New York Times*, 3 March 1981.

16 October 1980

Libya is reportedly housing 3,000 antitank missiles that could be sent to Iran to defend against Iraq.

— Drew Middleton, "Allies of US Fear War May Drag in Other Arabs," *New York Times*, 16 October 1980.

March 1980

Libya and the West German company Orbital Transport und Raketen Aktiengesellschaft (Orbital Transport and Rocket Corporation, "OTRAG") conclude a deal that allows the company to move its booster rocket development program to Libya, after being expelled from Zaire, in exchange for providing Libya with the infrastructure and technology necessary for ballistic missile system production and development, and a missile system itself. A missile development center is built 750 kilometers (km) south of Tripoli near the town of Gawat.

— Joseph Bermudez, "Libya Missile Overview and Capabilities", www.nti.org.

1980s

Libya is believed to have acquired 80 to 100 mobile Scud missile launchers from 1980 to 1989.

— Nicholas Rufford, "Libyans Smuggled Scuds through UK," *Sunday Times*, 9 January 2000.

[Back to Top](#)

1979-1969

1 December 1977

US intelligence sources say the Soviet Union is trying to sell Frog and Scud missiles, as well as MIG-23 fighters armed with modern missiles, to Third World countries in the Middle East. US and NATO analysts believe Libya is a likely customer.

— Information Bank Abstracts, *New York Times*, 1 December 1977.

5 October 1977

Reports in the Egyptian press accuse Libya of transporting surface-to-air missiles to Ethiopia and allege that Libya's port of Benghazi has been closed to normal commercial traffic for a week to allow for the unloading of new Soviet arms shipments.

— Thomas W. Lippman, "Egyptians Claim Libya is Shipping Soviet Weapons to Help Ethiopians," *Washington Post*, 6 October 1977.

3 September 1977

Soviet-built air-to-air missiles are presented at a rally celebrating the 8th anniversary of Qadhafi's overthrow of

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



the monarchy.

— Information Bank Abstracts, *New York Times*, 3 September 1977.

5 April 1976

Intelligence sources say Libya will receive 50 batteries of surface-to-air missiles as part of a \$2 billion deal made with the Soviet Union in 1975.

— Information Bank Abstracts, *New York Times*, 5 April 1976.

24 May 1975

Communist-bloc sources report that the Soviet Union has agreed to sell \$800 million worth of military equipment, including missiles, to Libya.

— Information Bank Abstracts, *New York Times*, 24 May 1975.

21 February 1975

An unidentified source reports that Russians are instructing Libyans on how to use the SA-2 ("Guideline"), SA-3 ("Goa"), and SA-6 Gainful anti-aircraft- and anti-tank missiles that they sold to Libya.

— Information Bank Abstracts, *New York Times*, 21 February 1975.

3 September 1974

Libya's Soviet-built SA-6 ("Gainful") missiles make their first public appearance at a military parade marking the 5th anniversary of Mu'ammarr Qadhafi's seizure of power.

— Information Bank Abstracts, *New York Times*, 4 September 1974.

12 May 1973

French armed forces magazine reports that France sold Libya SS-12 missiles that can be mounted on three missile launchers that were built in Great Britain for the Libyan navy.

The magazine also reports that Libya is slated to buy a British-built escort ship armed with British surface-to-air Seacat missiles.

— Information Bank Abstracts, *New York Times*, 13 May 1973.

March 1972

Libya and the Soviet Union reportedly conclude an arms deal that includes the sale of advanced Soviet ground-to-ground missiles that are to be transferred later to Egypt.

— Information Bank Abstracts, *New York Times*, 7 March 1972.

30 December 1969

British Aircraft Corporation voids an estimated \$288 million in contracts for air defense equipment including missiles and radar, after Libya fails to make payments.

— Information Bank Abstracts, *New York Times*, 30 December 1969.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



1969

Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi leads a military coup, proclaims the Libyan Arab Republic, and embarks on a strategic arms relationship with the Soviet Union.

[Back to Top](#)

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



This material is produced independently for NTI by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of and has not been independently verified by NTI or its directors, officers, employees, or agents. Copyright © 2011 by MIIS.