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## **Brazil Negotiating To Purchase Foreign-made Missiles**

*by John Neagle*

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According to a report published Feb. 15 by the Folha de Sao Paulo, the Brazilian air force is engaged in secret negotiations to purchase Israeli-made Pythons and other foreign-made missiles. The Folha said that four proposals are under review to equip Brazil's fighter bomber with the missiles. The state-owned aeronautical company, Embraer, is currently developing the bomber in joint project with Italian firms Aeritalia and Aermacchi. The Folha reported that the air force would like to obtain US-made Sidewinder AIM-9L missiles. However, Washington has prohibited the sale of this missile to Third World nations. Negotiations are underway for the US-made Sidewinder P-4, and the French-manufactured Magic missile. Folha reported that during a recent visit by President Jose Sarney to China, Peking offered to sell its own air-to-air missiles. Next, a Brazilian military delegation recently visited the Israeli Rafael plant the manufactures the Python. The newspaper said that the delegation was impressed with the "sophistication of the firm" but not the missile's price tag: \$200,000 each. The Folha noted that Embraer president Ozilio Silva "was never enthusiastic about military cooperation with the Israelis, because it might hurt Brazilian aircraft and weapons exports to Middle East countries Brazil's principal arms buyers." (Basic data from AFP, 02/16/89)

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