SECRET

PASS: (U) IIR

COUNTRY: (U) CHINA (CH); IRAN (IR); BURMA (BM).

SUBJECT: IIR CHINESE COMBAT AIRCRAFT

SALES AND DEVELOPMENT OF AERIAL REFUELING

CAPABILITY (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT

FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT

CLASSIFIED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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SUMMARY: CHINESE COMBAT AIRCRAFT TRANSFERS TO IRAN AND BURMA AS WELL AS CHINESE ATTEMPTS TO DEVELOP AERIAL REFUELING CAPABILITY DISCUSSED. POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN IRANIAN SALES AND AERIAL REFUELING.

TEXT: RECENTLY DISCUSSED CHINESE COMBAT AIRCRAFT TRANSFERS TO IRAN AND BURMA AS WELL AS CHINESE ATTEMPTS TO DEVELOP AERIAL REFUELING CAPABILITY. CLEARLY INDICATED THAT INFORMATION PROVIDED CAME FROM

2. THE CONTRACT WITH IRAN FOR TRANSFER OF F-7 AIRCRAFT TOTALS USD 2 BILLION AND INCLUDES 100 AIRCRAFT, 20 TO 30 OF WHICH ARE FT-7'S. DELIVERY OF THE FT-7'S HAS BEGUN IN RECENT WEEKS AND WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY IRANIAN AIR FORCE 747 AIRCRAFT IN GROUPS OF SIX AIRCRAFT AT A TIME.


3. CONCERNING REPORTED TRANSFERS OF FT-7 AIRCRAFT TO BURMA. THAT CATIC IS NOT BROKERING THE SALE AND THAT THEREFORE, THE AIRCRAFT FOR BURMA ARE USED PLAAF AIR FORCE (PLAOF) F-7'S UNDOUBTEDLY SOLD AT VERY LOW PRICES. FURTHER BELIEVES THAT THE DEAL WITH BURMA MAY INCLUDE A "SQUADRON" OF F-6 AIRCRAFT AS WELL AS A "SQUADRON" OF FT-7'S.

4. FINALLY, HAVE TOLD HIM THAT CHINA NOW HAS FOUR F-6 AIRCRAFT MODIFIED WITH AERIAL REFUELING CAPABILITY CURRENTLY BASED AT CANGZHOU AIR BASE, NEAR TIANJIN. CANGZHOU IS A PRIMARY FACILITY FOR CONDUCTING OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION OF NEW EQUIPMENT. IN ANSWER TO FURTHER QUERY AS TO WHETHER CHINA HAS ALSO ACQUIRED OR DEVELOPED AN AERIAL REFUELING TANKER AIRCRAFT, REPLIED "NOT YET, WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR ONE."

COMMENTS: "SYT"
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