

# Iran and Romania reveal new weapons

by Eric Beech  
in Ankara

At the International Defence, Electronics, and Avionics (IDEA '89) exhibition in Ankara, the Romanians displayed four missiles manufactured under Soviet licences. The Romanians claim to produce 90 per cent of the missiles' components, including the motors.

State marketing organisation Rom Tehnica would not rule out the possibility of export sales, but stressed that the inert missiles were primarily to show Romanian industrial expertise. The missiles displayed were Romanian-built examples of the Soviet infrared-homing AA-2 Atoll and AA-7 Apex, and radar-guided AA-3 Anab, air-to-air missiles. Anab arms the MiG-19, Atoll the MiG-21, and Apex the MiG-23.

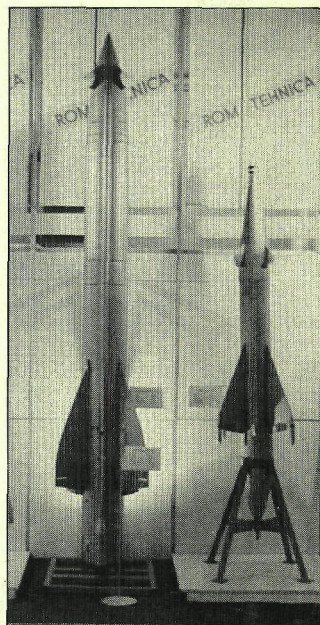
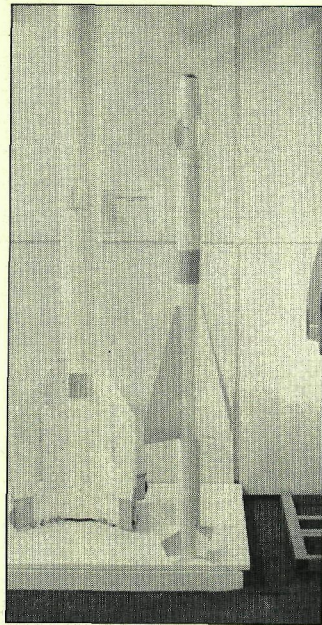
Also displayed was a licence-built example of the radio-command AS-7 Kerry air-to-surface missile which is known to arm the Sukhoi Su-17 Fitter. All are older missiles.

A model of Romania's first flight simulator, the SIAR-99, designed to train pilots on the IAR-99 jet trainer, was also displayed. The simulator has six degrees of freedom. The Romanians plan to build a civil simulator soon.

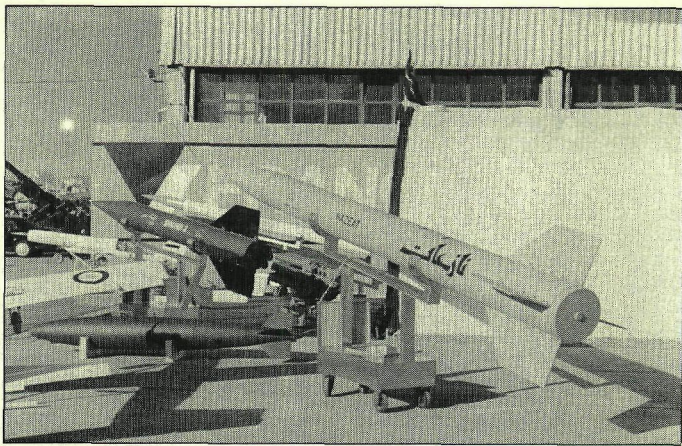
The Iranians displayed a diverse range of artillery rockets and two different remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs). Two versions of the Shahin 2 rocket were on display, each apparently having a range of 20km, a warhead weight of 180kg, and a thrust of 220kN.

Two longer-range artillery rockets were shown. The Oghab was described as having a range of 45km, a motor delivering 75kN, and a warhead weight of 70kg. The Nazeat was claimed to have a 150kg warhead, a thrust of 110kN, and a maximum range of 90km.

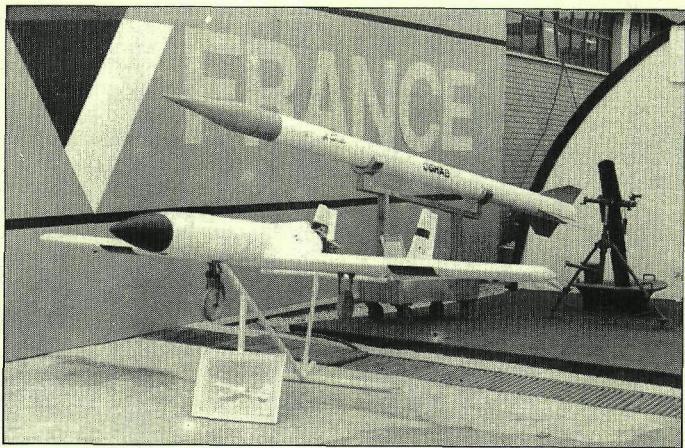
The two propeller-driven RPVs did not appear to carry any payloads. One, named Shahin, had a twin-boom pusher configuration.



Romania's A911 air-to-air missile is an infrared-homing version of the Soviet radar-guided AA-7 Apex. The Soviet infrared-homing AA-2 Atoll (behind) is built under licence as the A91 while the radar guided AA-3 Anab (right) is produced as the A90. Also displayed was the A921 radio-command air-to-surface missile (Soviet AS-7 Kerry)



Displayed among Iran's unguided rockets were two propeller-driven remotely piloted vehicles, one (above) with twin-boom pusher layout



# Missiles available illegally

by Alan Malcher

British-built Blowpipe, Javelin, and Rapier surface-to-air missiles, as well as US Stinger and Soviet SA-7 weapons, have all been offered for sale illegally over the past two years by international arms dealers.

The missiles are included in a disturbing list of sophisticated military equipment which has been available on the black market, *Flight* understands. The list includes seven C-130 Hercules transports, plus spares, one Canberra bomber, three A-4 Skyhawk fighter-bombers, two Puma helicopters, four Strike-master armed trainers, and three MiG-21 fighters.

Weapons for sale include both Stinger and improved Stinger POST man-portable surface-to-air missiles, and European-built Milan anti-tank missiles (minimum quantity 100). The list of arms available even includes 50 new Leopard main battle tanks.

With all these items, an end-user certificate was offered for an additional 2 per cent of purchase price.

The list reflects a swing by arms dealers away from handling Soviet- and Chinese-manufactured weapons to offering equipment made in the West.

Rumours that Stinger missiles were available illegally first surfaced in 1987, when reports suggested that a large consignment from the US Central Intelligence Agency, destined for the Afghan mujahideen via Pakistan, failed to reach its destination.

The rumours were confirmed in 1988, when Stingers were recovered from an Iranian gunboat crippled in a clash with the US Navy in the Persian Gulf. Illegal-arms dealers were inundated with requests for Stingers, *Flight* understands, with would-be purchasers willing to pay up to 11 times the manufacturer's price.

Unable to supply Stingers, dealers offered alternatives, including British Blowpipe, Javelin, and Rapier surface-to-air missiles, and Soviet SA-7s.

By February this year, however, several dealers were cautiously offering the elusive Stinger missile.