

BASIC NOTES

NATO ARMS EXPORTS TO TURKEY AND GREECE INCONSISTENCIES REVEALED

JULY 1995

Within only one year -- 1994 -- NATO countries transferred to Turkey 44 combat aircraft, 171 armoured combat vehicles and 137 large artillery systems. In the same period, Greece, Turkey's competitor and NATO ally, received 996 armoured combat vehicles, 21 tanks and 224 artillery systems. The national submissions to the 1994 UN Register of Conventional Arms made available to BASIC and the Berlin Information-center for Transatlantic Security (BITS), confirm the continued arming of Turkey and Greece by their NATO allies. In the three years of the Register's operation the two countries have received thousands of major weapons systems from the US, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy (see tables).

Analysis of the figures conducted by BASIC and BITS reveals that there are significant discrepancies between the declarations made by the suppliers and those made by the recipients. For example, during the last three years a total of 577 tanks supplied to Turkey have failed to register on their import submissions. Similarly Greece has not declared 492 tanks. In total, Turkey has so far failed to declare 2,948 major defence articles, including fighter aircraft, armoured combat vehicles, artillery and attack helicopters, which have been exported by its major NATO allies. Greece has failed to declare 960 items.

Countries participating in the UN Register have not yet harmonised their methods for counting exports and imports of defence equipment, and this may explain part of the disparity. However, one would expect the discrepancies between the supplier and recipient declarations to decrease over time, but in the third year of the Register they are still increasing.

Most of the weapons transferred to the two countries are carried through by the NATO "cascade" programme. According to this, weapons previously assigned to the

European central region, intended to be destroyed under the terms of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) are given, free of charge, to poorer NATO members. Greece and Turkey being the major beneficiaries of this programme have been able to modernise their armed forces significantly.

Since the weapons transfers to the two allies began, bilateral problems have become more intense. Athens and Ankara are locked in a number of disputes including the demarcation of the territorial waters in the Aegean and Cyprus. The Turkish Parliament on 8 June 1995 passed a resolution empowering the Government to take military measures against Greece, if Athens extends its territorial waters to 12 miles.¹ In a 19 June 1995 report, UN General Secretary Boutros-Boutros Ghali expressed serious concern at what he called the excessive levels of armaments and forces in Cyprus and the rate at which they were being strengthened. "The northern part of the island, with its garrison of some 30,000 Turkish troops and some 4,500 Turkish Cypriot troops, remains one of the most highly militarized areas in the world in terms of the ratio between the numbers of military personnel and civilians", he said.² Turkey is strengthening and upgrading its forces in the northern part of the island, and Greece is sending 56 AMX-30 main battle tanks (MBT) to the southern part.³ AMX-30s were replaced by the newly acquired M-60A1, M-60A3 and Leopard MBTs provided, under cascade, by Greece's NATO allies.

This note was written by Tasos Kokkinides, Analyst at BASIC, and Otfried Nassauer, Director of BITS.

Notes

¹ "Greece and Turkey clash over territorial waters", *Open Media Research Institute*, 9 June 1995.

² "UN concerned over military build-up in Cyprus" *Reuters*, 19 June 1995.

³ "Cyprus accepts Greek offer of 56 French tanks", *Agence France Presse*, 13 July 1995.

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ARMS SUPPLIED TO GREECE AND TURKEY 1992-1994

Type of Weapon System	Exports to Turkey (according to suppliers)	Imports by Turkey (according to Turkey)	Difference	Exports to Greece (according to suppliers)	Imports by Greece (according to Greece)	Difference
Main Battle Tanks	1605	1028	-577	1410	918	-492
Armoured Combat Vehicles	1121	703	-418	1352	1027	-325
Large Artillery Systems	284	209	-75	551	483	-68
Attack Helicopters	29	32	+3	--	--	--
Combat Aircraft	124	60	-64	50	90	+40
Warships	2	5	+3	16	17	+1
Missiles/ Launchers	1852	34	-1818	229	54	-75

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EXPORTS TO TURKEY
(ACCORDING TO EXPORTERS)

Type of Weapon	USA 1992	FRG 1992	other 1992	Total 1992	USA 1993	FRG 1993	other 1993	Total 1993	USA 1994	FRG 1994	other 1994	Total 1994	Total 92-94
MBT	577	11	--	588	932	85	--	1017	--	--	--	--	1605
ACV	220	105 (i)	--	325	269	187	115	571	74	--	151 (ii)	225	1121
Artillery	75	--	--	75	72	--	--	72	6	131	--	137	284
Helicopter	6	--	--	6	22	--	--	22	1	--	--	1	29
Aircraft	29	11	--	40	25	15	--	40	25	19	--	44	124
Warships	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	1	--	1	2
Missiles/Launchers	1164	--	--	1164	680	--	--	680	8	--	--	8	1852

IMPORTS BY TURKEY
(ACCORDING TO TURKEY)

Type of Weapon	USA 1992	FRG 1992	other 1992	Total 1992	USA 1993	FRG 1993	other 1993	Total 1993	USA 1994	FRG 1994	other 1994	Total 1994	Total 92-94
MBT	416	11	--	427	454	85	--	539	62	--	--	62	1028
ACV	119	--	--	119	131	187	115	433	--	--	151	151	703
Artillery	69	--	--	69	3	--	--	3	6	131	--	137	209
Helicopter	6	--	--	6	25	--	--	25	1	--	--	1	32
Aircraft	9	11	6 (iii)	26	--	15	--	15	--	19	--	19	60
Warships	--	--	--	--	4 (iv)	1	--	5	--	--	--	--	5
Missiles/Launchers	24	--	--	24	10	--	--	10	--	--	--	--	34

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NATO ARMS EXPORTS TO TURKEY AND GREECE: INCONSISTENCIES REVEALED JULY 1995

EXPORTS TO GREECE (ACCORDING TO EXPORTERS)

Type of Weapon	USA 1992	FRG 1992	other 1992	Total 1992	USA 1993	FRG 1993	other 1993	Total 1993	USA 1994	FRG 1994	other 1994	Total 1994	Total 92-94
MBT	492	--	100	592	671	54 (v)	72	797	--	21	--	21	1410
ACV	150	3	53	206	150	--	--	150	120	701	175	996	1352
Artillery	72	--	171	243	84	--	--	84	2	222	--	224	551
Helicopter	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aircraft	16	--	12	28	--	17	--	17	--	5	--	5	50
Warships	1	8	--	9	1	3	1	5	--	1	1	2	16
Missiles/Launchers	120	--	8	128	96	--	5	101	--	--	--	--	229

IMPORTS BY GREECE (ACCORDING TO GREECE)

Type of Weapon	USA 1992	FRG 1992	other 1992	Total 1992	USA 1993	FRG 1993	other 1993	Total 1993	USA 1994	FRG 1994	other 1994	Total 1994	Total 92-94
MBT	347	--	100	447	324	54	72	450	--	21	--	21	918
ACV	150	1	--	151	--	--	--	--	--	701	175	876	1027
Artillery	78	--	171	249	12	--	--	12	--	222	--	222	483
Helicopter	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Aircraft	--	5	11	16	24	17	--	41	28	5	--	33	90
Warships	7	4	--	11	--	3	1	4	--	1	1	2	17
Missiles/Launchers	21	--	--	21	25	--	8	33	--	--	--	--	54

Sources: UN Arms Register 1992/1993 and National Submissions to the Register 1994

Notes

- i. 105 BTR-60PB were delivered as a last batch out of a total of 300. Turkey has not yet reported them.
- ii. 54 of the ACVs are imported from Russia.
- iii. The export of these 6 F-5 aircraft is not reported by the Netherlands.
- iv. Turkey reports 4 Knox-Class frigates in both years 1993 and 1994. Here they are listed for 1993 only.
- v. 22 out of the 54 tanks arrived in Greece in 1994. Greece lists them in both years. Here they are listed for 1993 only.