

## Russian Delegation in Lebanon ahead of MiG-29's Arrival, UAE's Puma Early in January

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Russian delegation to arrive in Beirut to inspect military airports

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A Russian military delegation arrives in Beirut Tuesday to inspect air bases at Lebanon's three airports in Beirut, Riq and Qleiat and access their appropriateness to receive and run MiG-29s being donated by Russia.

Al-Markazia news agency, which carried the report, said the delegation will also inspect Lebanese army logistic brigades and units as well as a number of institutions and military academies.

The delegation, which will stay till Nov. 26, is scheduled to meet senior Lebanese military officers.

The report said the first batch, comprising two of 10 MiG-29 aircrafts, would arrive in Beirut soon.

In a related development, press reports said the first batch of Puma helicopters donated by the United Arab Emirates to the Lebanese army is likely to arrive at the beginning of the New Year.

Beirut, 17 Nov 09, 10:52

<http://www.naharnet.com/domino/tn/NewsDesk.nsf/getstory?openform&8CB748CF369B2F0BC225767100301BA6>

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Original Article here: <http://www.almarkazia.net/Justice.aspx?ArticleID=14375>  
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Russian delegation to arrive in Beirut to inspect military airports  
Europe News  
Nov 17, 2009, 10:18 GMT

Beirut - A Russian military delegation is expected soon in Lebanon to inspect three military airports before Moscow sends ten MIG-29s jet fighters in military assistance, a Lebanese army source said Tuesday.

According to the source the three airports to be inspected are located in Beirut and in eastern Lebanon.

The source declined to provide further details on the Russian visit, but said the delegation would inspect 'Lebanese army logistic brigades and units as well as a number of institutions and military academies.'

According to media reports the delegation was to arrive Tuesday night and would stay until November 26.

Earlier this year, Moscow announced it would supply Lebanon with 10 MIG-29 fighter jets.

The jets would be provided under a Moscow-Beirut agreement on military technical assistance to enhance Lebanon's air force capabilities.

Lebanon's air force has currently five fixed-wing fighters in service, four of which are British-made Hawker Hunters which were produced in the 1950s and 1960s.

Read more: [http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/europe/news/article\\_1513848.php/Russian-delegation-to-arrive-in-Beirut-to-inspect-military-airports?#ixzz0X7LGuvUr](http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/europe/news/article_1513848.php/Russian-delegation-to-arrive-in-Beirut-to-inspect-military-airports?#ixzz0X7LGuvUr)  
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Russia-Lebanon deal on MiG-29 to enter final phase soon  
www.chinaview.cn 2009-11-17 03:44:14

BEIRUT, Nov. 16 (Xinhua) -- Russia's plan to supply Lebanon with 10 MiG-29 fighter jets will enter its final phase soon, the Beirut-based Al-Markazia news agency reported on Monday.

The news agency reported that a Russian military group of experts will be visiting Lebanon in the next few days, on a mission that consists of exploring the capabilities of Lebanese airports to maintain the MiGs.

Days later, Lebanese military envoys will pay a visit to Mosco win order to put the final touches on the deal, the report said.

Lebanese President Michel Suleiman had planned to visit Russia last September, but the trip was canceled due to the busy schedule of his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev.

The deal was announced in December 2008 by Lebanese Defense Minister Elias Michel Murr during a visit to Moscow.

The fighters would be provided free to Lebanon under an agreement on military-technical assistance, and the jets would come from Russia's existing stock, the head of Russia's defense cooperation service Mikhail Dmitryevn said during Murr's visit.

Since then, the deal has sparked an internal debate about the necessity of obtaining these aircraft in a small country like Lebanon, which has a national army and an armed militia Hezbollah, which owns thousands of short and mid-range rockets.

Lebanon's air force now have three airbases, which accommodate only five fixed-wing fighters in service, four of which are Hawker Hunters, a kind of jet fighters Britain produced in the 1950's and 1960's. Another one is a turboprop-driven light attack aircraft, the U.S.-made OV-10 Bronco.

Israeli warplanes violate Lebanon's air space on a daily basis, however, with the outdated fighters whose number can be negligible, Lebanon's air force can not challenge with their Israeli counterparts equipped with F-15s and F-16s.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-11/17/content\\_12471218.htm?](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-11/17/content_12471218.htm?)

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Russia's plan to supply Lebanon with 10 MiG-29 fighter jets to enter its final phase soon  
iloubnan.info - November 17, 2009

BEIRUT - According to the Chinese agency Xinhua, Russia's plan to supply Lebanon with 10 MiG-29 fighter jets will enter its final phase soon.

The news agency reported that a Russian military group of experts will be visiting Lebanon in the next few days, on a mission that consists of exploring the capabilities of Lebanese airports to maintain the MiGs.

Days later, Lebanese military envoys will pay a visit to Moscow in order to put the final touches on the deal, the report said.

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