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Updates

UN Inspectors: Syria Completed Destruction of Chemical Weapons

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) announced that Syria has destroyed all of its chemical weapon facilities.

According to the OPCW, the Assad regime destroyed 30/10/2013

Failed Suicide Bombing in Tunisia

A suicide bomber blew himself up today (Wednesday) in a Tunisian resort south of Tunis. No casualties were reported in the attack, and police forces have arrested another person suspected of

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New US-Israel Crisis Involving Defense Exports to China

The head of the DECA at the IMOD is expected to resign after the U.S. expressed its anger over the deal

[Amir Rapaport](#) 21/12/2013
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Another crisis in US-Israel relations involving the selling of advanced technologies by Israel to China: the Head of the Defense Export Control Agency (DECA) at IMOD, Meir Shalit, is expected to announce his resignation this week owing to the transfer of an advanced technological device to a European company, which then transferred it to China.

Shalit has returned this weekend from a trip to the USA, where he officially explained to the Americans how the aforesaid Israeli export ended up in China. According to findings in Israel, the

technology was sold to a European company who transferred it to China.

Both the USA and Israel fear that the advanced technology in question has been leaked by China to Iran. The new affair, revealed here for the first time, is not connected to last week's revelations, based on documents leaked by a former employee of the NSA, according to which the USA had eavesdropped on senior Israeli officials.

However, this is not the first time that USA-Israeli relations are marred in connection with the transfer of advanced technologies to China. In the late 1990s, the Americans became enraged at Israel owing to a transaction sanctioned by the Director General of the Israel Ministry of Defense at the time, Major-General (res.) Ilan Biran, involving the selling of the Falcon surveillance aircraft to China. Israel was forced to cancel the transaction and even pay damages to the Chinese in the amount of about US\$ 300 million.

Halfway through the previous decade, another entanglement occurred after Israel had provided China with advanced equipment for UAVs, which it had sold the Chinese years before. This time, pursuant to the American wrath, the Director General of IMOD, Major-General (res.) Amos Yaron, was forced to step down. Additionally, the Americans demanded the setup of a mechanism for supervising and controlling Israeli defense exports, fearing that Israeli and American technologies might be transferred by Israel to elements considered hostile by the USA.

Pursuant to the US demand, a new legislation was passed by the Knesset, based on which IMOD established the Defense Export Control Agency (DECA) and new regulations were put into effect. Since then, export permits for advanced technological systems developed in Israel are granted only according to said regulations. But even after the establishment of DECA, several incidents of tension in US-Israeli relations were recorded owing to US suspicions that Israel "was going too far" with the technologies it was releasing for export.

The first Head of DECA, Eli Pinko, ended his term in office about three years ago, and Meir Shalit was appointed in his place. It should be noted that in May 2012, the Israel State Comptroller issued a severe report regarding the defense export supervision and control mechanisms that exist within IMOD, claiming that in several cases, exports to such countries as China had been authorized contrary to the position of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Chinese issue is regarded as particularly sensitive, as despite the severe restrictions imposed on defense exports to China, Israel, generally, is keenly interested in strengthening the political connections and trade relations with China, in view of the fact that the Chinese

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economy is growing at a breathtaking rate.

At the recent "Conference of the Involved" produced by the daily newspaper Maariv, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated last week that Israel is initiating a new route for transferring Chinese goods through the Red Sea and the Gulf of Eilat, and from Eilat by a new railway to the port of Ashdod – and then on to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea.

This new route should provide a substitute for the Suez Canal, should the Canal be blocked for political reasons, and Netanyahu said he has discussed this matter with the Chinese recently. But vision is one thing and reality is another: the Americans are demanding that no advanced technology whatsoever be transferred to China, even in the case of original Israeli technologies.

So, at the very heart of the new affair, the Americans have become enraged recently after discovering that DECA had sanctioned the selling of an advanced technological device (a miniature cooling system by Ricor Cryogenic & Vacuum Systems, used for miniaturized electro-optical equipment and even for missile mechanisms), which ended up in Chinese hands. Israel is committed to adhering to US dictates on the Chinese issue in view of the strategic relations between Israel and the USA, and also because the USA, for its part, regularly provides Israel with advanced technologies of its own along with defense aid on the scope of about US\$ 3 billion per year.

Pursuant to the new affair, which has been discussed by the highest echelons of the defense authorities of both countries, Meir Shalit decided to travel to the U.S. in order to explain the situation, and, as stated, after his return to Israel last weekend, he is expected to resign soon.

The IMOD hasn't commented yet on the story.

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Egypt: Terrorists Attacked

Terrorists killed and wounded after an attack by Egyptian Apache helicopters in the northern region of the peninsula



Ya'alon Discusses Assistance

New aid agreement starting in 2017 is being formulated



Top I Vision Wins Large Contract in Africa

The company will provide airborne intelligence systems to an African country at a scope of more than 10 million NIS

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