Paris Suspends Arms Deliveries To Both Sides in the Middle East
By HENRY TANNER Special to The New York Times
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PARIS, June 5—France today suspended deliveries of military equipment and spare parts to the Middle East. French diplomats were understood to be urging the United States, to do the same.

The suspension measure applied equally to Israel and the Arab countries. But in fact it amounted to an arms embargo against Israel, which alone among the countries involved is largely dependent on French arms.

The Israeli air force is equipped almost exclusively with French aircraft, notably Mirage M-C and super Mystére interceptors and Mystére IV-A and Ouragan fighter-bombers.

Israel's tanks are American. Egypt has Soviet planes and tanks. Lebanon is the only Arab country that has French equipment — about a dozen planes.

The suspension of arms deliveries was believed to be President de Gaulle's personal decision. The President postponed an offical visit he was to have made to Poland beginning Wednesday.

He laid down French policy in the face of the Arab-Israeli war at a meeting with Premier Georges Pompidou and Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville this morning.

Seek Common Position

French diplomatic action continued to be aimed principally at establishing a common position among the Big Four—the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

Official sources said that the French Government would support an appeal by the United Nations Security Council to the belligerents to stop the war. They added that France would like the appeal to be couched in the strongest possible language.

The Big Four must coordinate their policies not only in the Security Council but also in "contacts" outside the council, the French sources said.

They added that the four nations were capable of exerting "tremendous pressure" on the belligerents by withholding arms deliveries to both sides. This should be one of the first issues to be talked about by the representatives of the four countries, the sources said.

The arms embargo, though not formally announced by the Government, was privately confirmed by officals. The Israeli Embassy said late in the evening that it had received no communication on the embargo.

The declaration of neutrality issued by the United States State Department was welcomed by French officals here.

These officials declared themselves encouraged by the fact that all the major world powers appeared to be in favor of a quick cease-fire. "Even the Soviet reaction has been moderate," one official said.

The French Government no longer expects a formal four-power meeting. The French had proposed such a meeting a week ago, but they scaled down their proposal to mere "consultation" when they were told by Moscow that the Russians were not willing to meet formally with the Americans because of the Vietnam war.

Many Demonstrate for Israel

President de Gaulle, whose popularity in the Arab world has been soaring as a result of his refusal to commit himself on Israel's side, wants to keep his lines of communication open with all parties in the conflict.

Many Parisians seemed to be intensely pro-Israel. This attitude was in contrast to their Government's pointed aloofness.

Thousands of Frenchmen demonstrated for Israel and hundreds signed up to serve as volunteers. Hundreds of persons gathered outside the Israeli Embassy, occasionally singing the French and Israeli anthems and shouting slogans, but most of the time just listening to transistor radios.

At least two parades formed spontaneously and wound for hours about the city, waving Israeli and French flags.

Today's position of the Gaullist Government was far different from French policies and actions during the last Arab-Israeli war in 1956 when French forces landed in Egypt.

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