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the daily emerald *zzzzzzzz*

## Air Force flying team charts tour for South American 'good will' display

By MICHAEL GETLER  
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labeled as a public affairs effort, office argued successfully, unrelated to recruiting, however, that cancellation of the

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WASHINGTON — Air Force officials said last week that a month-long "good will" tour by the Thunderbirds precision flying team through Latin and South America will cost about \$700,000.

Aside from the four F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers that the Thunderbird team uses to put on its display of high-speed precision flying, four other F-4s, five four-engine KC-135 jet refueling tankers and two four-engine C-130 transport planes are accompanying the 81-man operation.

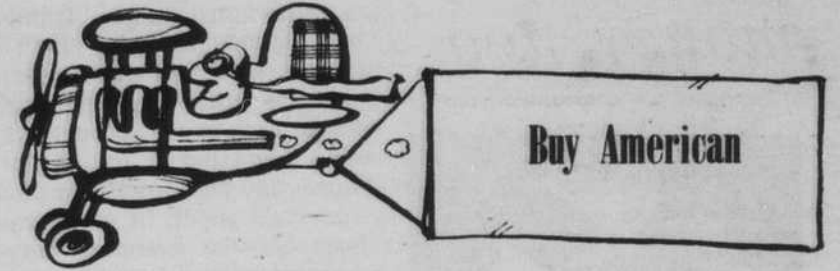
The aerial acrobats were scheduled to put on air shows in eleven countries. But Pentagon officials said they have put a "hold" on a show scheduled for Sept. 25 in Santiago, Chile, because of the overthrow of the government there. Air Force officials said they "seriously doubt" that the Santiago show would be held.

Chile and Brazil are the two largest countries on the tour and both are prospective buyers for new American military hardware, including the smaller and less expensive F-5E fighter. Earlier this year, the Nixon administration lifted a previous embargo on sales of the F-5E to five Latin countries including Chile and Brazil.

Officially, the Thunderbird's trip is not to sell hardware but to promote good will in the area and to demonstrate U.S. technical know-how. But the main purpose and justification for the Thunderbirds — as well as the Navy's Blue Angels Flight team — is to attract recruits in this country to a career in the military.

Because of the high costs of the Latin trip (each F-4 also burns approximately 2,000 gallons of jet fuel per hour) and the recent cancellation of the Blue Angel's performances for the rest of this year due to several accidents, there was considerable "discussion" in the Pentagon about the wisdom of sending the Thunderbirds on the Latin tour.

There was also some feeling that the Thunderbirds should have taken over some of the Blue Angels' performances in this country, and also some concern that the trip abroad would be



In July, a General Accounting Office report noted that the \$5 million-plus annual cost for operating these teams is not included in the Pentagon's \$24.8 million public affairs expenditure.

previously scheduled visit would injure relationships and that the good will to be derived in South America from the crowd-pleasing performances was worth the investment.

Pentagon officials concede, however, that the subject of overseas ventures for these teams in the future will get new scrutiny.

Officials from the state department and the Pentagon's International Security Affairs

### French and Pacific nuclear tests; maritime danger zone relaxed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS — The French Government today announced the end of French nuclear tests in the Pacific.

The announcement that this year's series of nuclear tests in the Mururoa Atoll area, which started last July, had come to an end was published in this morning's issue of the Journal Officiel.

The announcement did not mention the tests specifically. It merely said: "The suspension of maritime navigation in the French Polynesia security zone will cease to have effect as from September 15 000 (CQ) hour Universal Time (midnight GMT Friday)."

The 1973 series of tests began on July 21. The five tests in the series were of low yield and took place on July 21 and 28 and August 19, 25 and 28.

France has held a total of 52 tests since the first, which took place in the Sahara on Feb. 13, 1960. Of the 52, 17 were held in the Sahara and the last 35 in the Polynesian area.

A decree signed by President Georges Pompidou in the July 8 Journal Officiel set up a 60-nautical-mile "safety zone" around Mururoa Atoll. This was the first time since testing began in the Pacific that such a decree was published. The French Government claimed the decree made official their right to stop air and sea traffic in an area outside a country's territorial waters. During earlier test series, the government simply notified seamen and pilots of a "danger zone" to be avoided.

This year's tests were of a mini-bomb—probably the triggering device for France's thermonuclear bomb which is to be operational by 1976.

Army Forces Minister Robert Galley gave no information on the tests, however. All news of the blasts and their approximate yield came from the Australian and New Zealand Governments.

On the diplomatic level, the 1973 test series was the most controversial yet in the Pacific. There was considerable adverse reaction of both domestic and world opinion.

The French government issued a "white paper" on June 28 to argue for "the perfecting of a nuclear weapon necessary to its security and independence through a very limited number of nuclear tests at its Pacific test center." The paper contained many technical, scientific and legal addenda, which emphasized particularly the minimized risk of atomic fallout due to the use of carrier-balloons in the tests.

Several protest boats sailed in the test zone during the summer, and some—The Greenpeace, for example—were boarded or taken in tow by the French Navy.

There was no information as to whether future blasts in the Pacific would be triggered in underground sites.

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