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Israel to buy second squadron of stealth F-35 jets

The U.S. and Israel have tentatively agreed to a deal that would send Israel a second squadron of F-35 fighter jets from the U.S. manufacturer Lockheed Martin, costing upward of \$3 billion, roughly one-fifth of Israel's annual defense budget. The transaction, which is still subject to Israeli government approval, was sealed during meetings in Washington last week between Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, Israeli news website Walla reported Tuesday. At its heart, the agreement reflects Israel's belief in the need to deal with powerful enemies far afield, such as Iran, and in the enduring importance of aerial supremacy, even as most of Israel's wars are fought against militants and terrorists armed with rockets and rocket-propelled grenades, tunnels and mortars, YouTube channels and Twitter accounts.