

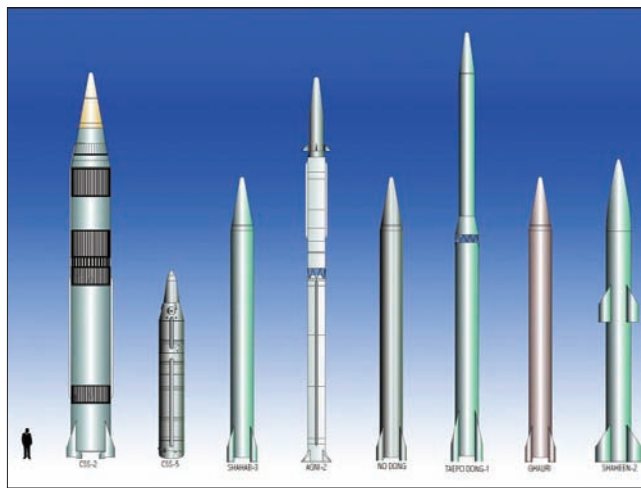
## Canarias for Peace

# Missing missile

The whereabouts of a US missile sent to Lanzarote as part of a peace monument in 1992 is again the subject of speculation following the publication of details of the initial project.

According to the *La Opinión* newspaper, questions are being asked about a decommissioned Lancet missile said to have disappeared after arriving in the Canaries to be paired up with a Russian missile donated by former Russian president Boris Yeltsin. The 11-metre Russian weapon is currently stored in a warehouse facility in Tegüise where it has lain since reaching the island after a complicated journey by road through Poland, Germany and France and then onwards by sea to the Canaries.

The operation was arranged by the then Canarian minister for tourism, Miguel Zeroo (now mayor of the Tenerife capital, Santa Cruz) under the slogan 'Canaries for Peace'. The two missiles were to be the showcase features of a giant monument to peace



One of our missiles is missing!

thought up by Lanzarote artist Cesar Manrique shortly before his death in September 1992, although Tenerife novelist Alberto Vázquez-Figueroa has also claimed credit for the brainwave, which he describes in one of his books.

According to *La Opinión*, the US authorities initially offered to donate a Patriot missile but instead sent the smaller Lancet, which Canarian Tourism bosses insisted arrived by boat in Lanzarote in a crate marked 'For Museum Use' and was also sent to the warehouse in Tegüise.

The Peace Monument proposal triggered a mixed reaction at the time, with the then Cabildo president Dimas Martín opposed to the idea, which he claimed was simply a marketing stunt by Zeroo. Local media reported in 1993 that a dispute over the location chosen for the monument was preventing progress. Since then no-one has taken an interest either in resurrecting the initiative or in the fate of the missiles, until the newspaper decided to re-examine the case and found that the Lancet was no longer there.

## LAAYOUNE

## Pro-Sahara activists refused entry

A group of supporters of the Western Sahara's bid for independence from Morocco were forced to return from the disputed region after being denied permission to disembark from the ferry that took them to Laayoune from Gran Canaria.

The 20-strong party said they were singled out by Moroccan police on arrival and were told they would have to return to the ship. "The police allowed all Moroccan passport holders to disembark but kept us back and insisted that we should stay on board for our own safety given that there was a protest march by pro-Moroccan Saharans scheduled for the same day" said the group's spokeswoman, Carmen Cabrera. The refusal is the latest incident in the long-running battle between Canarian activists and the Moroccan authorities for

access to the Western Sahara, which has seen violent clashes between Saharans and the security forces in recent weeks. Other group members said several Moroccan police officers tried to force their way onto the ferry but were warned by crew that they were trespassing on Spanish soil and would cause a diplomatic incident.



GUILLERMO GARCÍA

## TV head's pay cut

The head of the Canary Islands' regional broadcasting corporation looks set to see his wages cut following a motion approved by Parliament.

Guillermo García, who was appointed director general of RTVC despite widespread opposition due to his alleged lack of qualifications, will no longer enjoy one of the top public sector salaries given that his pay packet will almost certainly be downgraded to that of a deputy minister in the regional government, which is the official status of the DG post.

Since his appointment three years ago at the

## GERMAN DIES

## Hangliding tragedy

La Palma's hangliding community suffered an end-of-year tragedy with the death of a veteran German enthusiast in Llano Los Jables (El Paso).

Despite his age (almost 70), the German from Gießen was a regular hanglider and, according to colleagues, was highly experienced. His instructor notified police when he failed to make it back to the rendezvous point used by his party after they took off from the popular jumping spot at the Mirador de Santa Cecilia. His body was recovered by the emergency services after it was spotted by a helicopter sent out as part of the search effort.

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