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Ha'aretz Daily – Israel  
Saturday, January 9, 2010

## 'Iran Won't Back Down One Iota Despite Pressure Over Nukes'

By Haaretz Service

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Saturday said that further United Nations Security Council sanctions would not deter Iran from pursuing its controversial nuclear program, French news agency AFP reported.

Ahmadinejad vowed that Iran will not back down "one iota" despite international pressures over its nuclear program, which Tehran insists is for peaceful purposes and not for developing an atomic bomb.

"They issued several resolutions and sanctioned Iran... They think Iranians will fall on their knees over these things but they are mistaken," Ahmadinejad said in a speech quoted by AFP.

"We are not interested in conflicts [but] you are continually demanding things," he said to world powers, led by the United States, which are seeking to curb Iran's atomic ambitions.

"They should not think they can put up obstacles in Iranians' way... I assure the people...that the government will whole-heartedly defend Iran's rights and will not back down one iota," he said.

Iran is already under three sets of UN Security Council sanctions over its defiance and refusal to suspend enrichment, which lies at the heart of international fears about its nuclear program.

The process that makes nuclear fuel can also be used to make the fissile core of an atomic bomb.

World powers gave Iran until the end of 2009 to accept a UN-brokered deal to ship most of Iran's low-enriched uranium (LEU) abroad to be further refined into reactor fuel by Russia and France.

But the deadline was ignored, prompting talk of fresh sanctions against the Islamic republic.

Iran has in return insisted on its counter-proposal of a staged swap of LEU for nuclear reactor fuel.

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1141344.html>

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Times of India

## US Prepares New Sanctions Against Iran: Report

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

9 January 2010

WASHINGTON: The White House is crafting new financial sanctions targeting the Iranian entities and individuals most directly involved in the crackdown on dissidents, The Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

Citing unnamed US officials, the newspaper said US Treasury Department strategists had already been focusing on Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, which has emerged as the economic and military power behind Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

But in recent weeks, senior dissident figures from Iran, who have been speaking at major Washington think tanks, have made up a list of Revolutionary Guards-related companies they suggest targeting, the report said.

Names on the list include Iran's largest telecommunications provider, Telecommunication Company of Iran, which is majority-owned by the Guards, and the Iranian Aluminum Company, according to the paper.

In a signal of the White House's increased attention to Iran's political upheaval, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gathered over coffee at the State Department this week with four leading Iran scholars and mapped out the current dynamics, The Journal said.

One issue explored was how the United States should respond if Tehran suddenly expressed a desire to reach a compromise on the nuclear issue, the report said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/US-prepares-new-sanctions-against-Iran-Report/articleshow/5427997.cms>

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Bangkok Post - Thailand  
Saturday, January 9, 2010

## **Iran's Ahmadinejad Dismisses Nuclear Sanctions**

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Saturday that further UN Security Council sanction will not deter Iran from pursuing its controversial nuclear programme.

The hardliner also vowed that Iran will not back down "one iota" in the face of international pressures over the atomic work, which the West fears may be a cover for weapons development despite Iran's persistent denial.

"They issued several resolutions and sanctioned Iran ... They think Iranians will fall on their knees over these things but they are mistaken," Ahmadinejad said in a speech in southern Iran carried live on state television.

"We are not interested in conflicts (but) you are continually demanding things," he said to world powers, led by the United States, which are seeking to curb Iran's atomic ambitions.

"They should not think they can put up obstacles in Iranians' way ... I assure the people ... that the government will whole-heartedly defend Iran's rights and will not back down one iota," he said.

Iran is already under three sets of UN Security Council sanctions over its defiance and refusal to suspend enrichment, which lies at the heart of international fears about its nuclear programme.

The process that makes nuclear fuel can also be used to make the fissile core of an atomic bomb.

World powers gave Iran until the end of 2009 to accept a UN-brokered deal to ship most of Iran's low-enriched uranium (LEU) abroad to be further refined into reactor fuel by Russia and France

But the deadline was ignored, prompting talk of fresh sanctions against the Islamic republic.

Iran has in return insisted on its counter-proposal of a staged swap of LEU for nuclear reactor fuel.

The Iranian leadership has also drawn international condemnation over its treatment of anti-government protests triggered by Ahmadinejad's June 12 disputed re-election.

On Saturday, Ahmadinejad dismissed criticism of Iran over human rights as a "game."

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/world/164822/iran-ahmadinejad-dismisses-nuclear-sanctions>

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Sunday London Times  
January 10, 2010

## **Israeli General Brigadier-General Uzi Eilam Denies Iran Is Nuclear Threat**

By Uzi Mahnaimi in Tel Aviv

A general who was once in charge of Israel's nuclear weapons has claimed that Iran is a "very, very, very long way from building a nuclear capability".

Brigadier-General Uzi Eilam, 75, a war hero and pillar of the defence establishment, believes it will probably take Iran seven years to make nuclear weapons.

The views expressed by the former director-general of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission contradict the assessment of Israel's defence establishment and put him at odds with political leaders.

Major-General Amos Yadlin, head of military intelligence, recently told the defence committee of the Knesset that Iran will probably be able to build a single nuclear device this year.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the prime minister, has repeatedly said that Israel will not tolerate a nuclear-armed Iran. Israeli forces have been in training to attack Iranian nuclear installations and some analysts believe airstrikes could be launched this year if international sanctions fail to deter Tehran from pursuing its programme.

Eilam, who is thought to be updated by former colleagues on developments in Iran, calls his country's official view hysterical. "The intelligence community are spreading frightening voices about Iran," he said.

He suggested that the “defence establishment is sending out false alarms in order to grab a bigger budget” while some politicians have used Iran to divert attention away from problems at home.

“Those who say that Iran will obtain a bomb within a year’s time, on what basis did they say so?” he asked. “Where is the evidence?”

He has just published Eilam’s Arc, a memoir in which he reveals that he opposed the Israeli attack on Iraq’s nuclear reactor at Osirak in 1981.

According to well-placed defence sources, Israel is speeding up preparations for a possible attack on Iran’s nuclear sites. Last week its defence forces released footage that showed training to refuel F-15 jet fighters in mid-air. “This was a warning not to Iran but to the Americans that we’re serious,” said an Israeli defence source.

But Eilam argues “such an attack [against Iran] would be counter-productive”.

“One strike is not practical. In order to delay the Iranian programme for three to four years, one needs an armada of aircraft, which only a super-power can provide. Only America can do it.”

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle\\_east/article6982447.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article6982447.ece)

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Press TV – Iran

## **US Drops Strongest Hint Of Iran Blitz In Months**

Sunday, 10 Jan 2010

In the strongest hint of war in months, a top figure in the US military warns of a series of 'contingency plans' in dealing with Iran's refusal to accept Western demands over its nuclear program.

Head of US Central Command David Petraeus told CNN on Sunday that in addition to crippling sanctions and international diplomacy, Washington is also considering "contingency plans" against Iran's nuclear installation.

"It would be almost literally irresponsible if CENTCOM were not to have been thinking about the various 'what ifs' and to make plans for a whole variety of different contingencies," said Petraeus in a break from the Obama administration's oft-stated claims of diplomacy with Tehran.

Washington and a number of European countries say "they have suspicions" about Iran's nuclear plans, accusing the country of attempting to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran, which is a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty unlike some of its regional neighbors, has categorically dismissed the accusations, saying it aims to generate electricity for a growing population.

Under the Bush administration, Washington routinely threatened to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities, but the military plans were largely put on hold when Barack Obama took up the oval office in 2009.

However, investigative journalist Wayne Madsen told Russia Today upon returning from military training facilities in the US that "the contingencies are being set for a potential attack by Washington on Iranian nuclear facilities."

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen has also maintained that Washington will keep a military option against Iran as a last resort. Israel has also set the end of the year as a deadline for Iran to abandon nuclear enrichment, while dropping heavy hints of a possible military strike against the country.

The US Office of Naval Intelligence has confirmed in a September assessment that if the United States or Israel decide to bomb Tehran's nuclear sites, Iran's naval modernization and maritime capabilities have reached a point where it can shut down the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 40 percent of the world's oil supplies pass.

"Given the importance of the Strait, disrupting traffic flow or even threatening to do so may be an effective tool for Iran," said the intelligence report, citing Iran's domestic accomplishments in seafaring technology.

"[World economies would suffer] a serious economic impact from a sustain closure of the Strait of Hormuz due to greatly reduced supplies of crude oil, petroleum supplies and (liquefied natural gas)," it said.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=115794&sectionid=351020104>

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Tehran Times – Iran

Sunday, January 10, 2010

## FM: Iran Waiting For West's Response To Nuclear Fuel Swap

TEHRAN (FNA) - Tehran is still waiting to hear a response from the quadruple Vienna group (IAEA, the U.S., Russia and France) to its offer for a nuclear fuel swap, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Saturday.

"We are waiting to receive a practical response from the Vienna group and then announce our views," Mottaki said in response to an FNA question on the outcomes of Iran's earlier ultimatum to the West demanding the western countries to provide a response to its offer for a nuclear fuel swap in two months.

"We sent a message which has been properly received by the other sides (the U.S., Russia and France)," Mottaki noted, adding that Iran's deadline which will end 20 days later was to the quadruple Vienna Group and not the Group 5+1 (the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany).

After Iran announced to the IAEA that it had run out of nuclear fuel for its research reactor in Tehran, the Agency proposed a deal according to which Iran would send 3.5%-enriched uranium and receive 20%-enriched uranium from potential suppliers in return, all through the UN nuclear watchdog agency.

The proposal was first introduced on October 1, when Iranian representatives and diplomats from the five permanent UN Security Council members - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States - plus Germany held high-level talks in Geneva.

But France and the United States, as potential suppliers, stalled the talks soon after the start. They offered a deal which would keep Tehran waiting for months before it can obtain the fuel, a luxury of time that Iran cannot afford as it is about to run out of 20-percent-enriched uranium.

The Iranian lawmakers rejected the deal after technical studies showed that it would only take two to three months for any country to further enrich the nuclear stockpile and turn it into metal nuclear rods for the Tehran Research Reactor, while suppliers had announced that they would not return fuel to Iran any less than seven months.

Iran then put forward its own proposal that envisages a two-staged exchange. According to Tehran's offer, the IAEA safeguards nearly one third of Iran's uranium stockpile inside the Iranian territory for the time that it takes to find a supplier.

The other side has not yet provided any official response to Iran's latest offer.

[http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index\\_view.asp?code=211812](http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index_view.asp?code=211812)

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Telegraph – U.K.

## Iran: General David Petraeus Bombing Comments Were 'Thoughtless'

*Iran dismissed as "thoughtless" the revelation by General David Petraeus that the US has contingency plans to attack its nuclear facilities.*

By Richard Spencer in Dubai

11 January 2010

Gen Petraeus, head of Central Command or Centcom of the US Armed Forces, said on Sunday that Iran could "certainly be bombed" if necessary.

"The level of effect would vary with who it is that carries it out, what ordnance they have, and what capability they can bring to bear," he said in an interview with CNN.

"It would be almost literally irresponsible if Centcom were not to have been thinking about the various 'what ifs' and to make plans for a whole variety of different contingencies."

The Iranian response on Monday was measured by comparison to some of its government statements.

"He has made thoughtless comments and it is better that any statement made in this regard take a constructive approach," said the foreign ministry spokesman, Ramin Mehman-Parast, according to state media.

The general's comments were made in the middle of an increasingly open debate about the likelihood of an attack on Iran, whether Israel or the US would carry it out, and what weapons they might employ.

President Barack Obama has continued to call for a dialogue, despite the passing of a December deadline for Iran to agree to a deal to transfer its enriched uranium supplies abroad for further refining.

He has also been unsuccessful in persuading China to back an immediate upgrading of sanctions.

Most significantly, Washington has also revealed that the key "bunker-buster" weapon that would be needed to destroy all Iran's nuclear facilities, some of which are buried underneath mountainsides and in tunnels, will not be ready until the end of this year.

The Massive Ordnance Penetrator is a 30,000-pound weapon capable of burrowing 200 feet underground before exploding, and is ten times more powerful than its predecessor.

Israel has also downplayed the chances of immediate military action. It has not been given access to the latest US "bunker-busting" technology, and its defence ministry believes neither alternative - a nuclear strike or a infiltration unit - are practical options.

Michael Oren, the Israeli ambassador to Washington, said in an interview last month that a military strike was "not a subject of discussion" at present.

Yet, whatever the Iranian foreign ministry says, Gen Petraeus is unlikely to have chosen his words carelessly.

He may be best-known for his "surge" strategy in Iraq, based on his long experience as a theorist of counter-insurgency warfare. But he is also among the most intellectual of the world's military men, with a PhD in international relations from Princeton University.

As such, he can be fully expected to be playing an important part in President Obama's wider strategy for containing Iran.

On the one hand, the military option is continually hinted at - but only as a longer term but decisive possibility if Iran's current leaders stretch his avowed patience too far.

On the other, Iran's regional foes are being built up, with weapons sales, including smart missiles, recently approved to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, all of whom regard Iran as more of a threat to them than to Israel.

In this "long game", Mr Obama is, apparently, not even too unhappy about the failure to implement more sanctions.

"It's no secret that China and the United States look at the utility of sanctions differently," a US state department spokesman said last week.

It has been clear for some time that Mr Obama is unwilling, so long as troops are tied up in both Iraq and Afghanistan, to take on a third rogue state that has borders with both. But current political turmoil in Iran means he is even less willing to pre-empt events by ratcheting up confrontation.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/6967026/Iran-General-David-Petraeus-bombing-comments-were-thoughtless.html>

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Malaysian Mirror – Malaysia

## **US Has Contingency Plan For Iran Nukes**

Monday, 11 January 2010

WASHINGTON - The United States has developed contingency plans to address Iran's nuclear ambitions if negotiations falter between the Islamic republic and Western nations, a top US general said Sunday.

"It would be almost literally irresponsible if CENTCOM were not to have been thinking about the various 'what ifs' and to make plans for a whole variety of different contingencies," said General David Petraeus, who heads the US Central Command that oversees the Middle East, the Gulf region and Central Asia.

Petraeus declined to comment on reports that Israel, which says Iran presents an existential threat to the Jewish state, may attack its arch-foe's nuclear facilities.

### **'Very destabilizing'**

But he told CNN the facilities "certainly can be bombed" even though they are reportedly heavily fortified. "The level of effect would vary with who it is that carries it out, what ordnance they have, and what capability they can bring to bear," he added.



Without elaborating on the contingency plans, the general said it could be some time before Washington decides whether to execute them and that diplomatic efforts would continue in the meantime.

Tehran is at loggerheads with Western nations, which charge it is developing nuclear weapons under the cover of a civilian nuclear energy program. Iran denies the charges.

The United States is leading efforts to slap a fourth round of UN sanctions on Iran after it failed to meet an end-of-year deadline to accept a deal offered by five permanent UN Security Council members -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- plus Germany.

Iran gave the West until the end of January to accept its own proposal and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Saturday that Tehran will not back down "one iota" in the face of international pressure over its atomic work.

The top US military officer meanwhile said Iran has a "strategic intent" to develop nuclear weapons but urged a new diplomatic push to stem Tehran's nuclear drive, warning that a strike on the Islamic republic would be "very destabilizing."

"I think that would be an incredibly destabilizing outcome and potentially generate a nuclear weapons race in that part of the world," Admiral Michael Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told CNN.

"I think an attack would also be, by us or by anybody else, be very destabilizing.

### **Support for Iranian**

US officials have repeatedly insisted they are keeping "all options on the table," which includes a military option, when it comes to Iran.

When it comes to Iran's alleged intent to develop nuclear weapons, Mullen stressed it was "important that leaders throughout the world do everything we can to make sure that, one, they don't consummate it and, two, we don't get to a point where an attack is imminent."

Leading US Senator Joe Lieberman, an independent who usually votes with the Democrats, said economic sanctions were not enough.

"We have to do everything we can not just to put economic sanctions on Iran because of their development of nuclear weapons but to support the people of Iran, to cry out against the human rights abuses, the terrible repression of the demonstrators and just the freedom of average citizens in Iran."

Mass protests broke out as a part of what has been dubbed the opposition "Green Movement" in June over hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's controversial re-election.

Opposition demonstrators also clashed with security forces during the Shiite mourning ceremonies of Ashura in Tehran on December 27, leading to the deaths of at least eight people and hundreds of arrests, according to police.

Republican Senator John McCain, who lost his White House bid to President Barack Obama in 2008, said the public disenchantment with Iran's hardline regime evidenced by the protests meant "this regime's days are numbered." -- *AFP*

<http://www.malaysianmirror.com/foreigndetail/10-foreign/25820>

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New York Times  
January 11, 2010

## **Clinton: Iran Sanctions Should Target Elite**

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) -- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday the Obama administration has concluded that the best way to pressure Iran to come clean on its nuclear ambitions is to impose sanctions aimed at the country's ruling elite.

"It is clear that there is a relatively small group of decision makers inside Iran," she told reporters traveling with her en route to Hawaii. "They are in both political and commercial relationships, and if we can create a sanctions track that targets those who actually make the decisions, we think that is a smarter way to do sanctions. But all that is yet to be decided upon."

Clinton's aircraft stopped at Travis Air Force Base to refuel on the first leg of a trip taking her to Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

She did not get specific about those inside Iran who might be targeted with new international sanctions, but her allusion to Iranian leaders with political and commercial ties suggested that she was referring to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, an elite group that is separate from the Iranian military and is charged with protecting the Islamic revolution that brought the clerics to power in 1979.

Clinton said the administration's thinking on approaches to more effective sanctions against Iran has been developed after consultations with a wide range of other countries.

"We've been very actively involved in soliciting ideas from a broad range of other countries, looking at what will work, what won't work, what would have the biggest impact on perhaps changing the strategic calculation inside Iran of the current leadership," she said.

She said the U.S. remains interested in engaging with Iran, even as it considers ways to pressure Tehran through sanctions.

Asked by a reporter what she made of recent hints from Iran that it might be open to new solutions on the nuclear matter, Clinton said, "We get a constant flow of feelers from the Iranians on approaches that they might consider. Other countries are reaching out to them all the time, asking if they will look at one or another proposal."

Clinton said no final decisions on sanctions have been made. Iran has balked at coming to an agreement on curtailing a nuclear program that the U.S. and other nations fear is aimed at building atomic weapons. Iran insists the program is strictly for peaceful purposes.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/01/11/us/politics/AP-US-Clinton-Iran.html>

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Khaleej Times – U.A.E.

## **Iran Blames U.S., Israel In Killing Of Scientist**

(Reuters)

12 January 2010

TEHRAN - A remote-controlled bomb killed a Tehran University nuclear scientist on Tuesday, state media reported, in an attack which Iran blamed on its two arch enemies, the United States and Israel.

The blast which killed professor Massoud Ali-Mohammadi occurred at a time of heightened tension in the Islamic Republic, seven months after a disputed presidential election plunged the major oil producer into turmoil.

It also coincided with a sensitive time in Iran's row with the West over its nuclear ambitions, with major powers expected to meet in New York on Saturday to discuss possible new sanctions on Tehran over its refusal to halt its atomic work.

Such bombing attacks are rare in the Iranian capital. In October, a suicide bomber killed dozens of people in Iran's southeast, including senior Revolutionary Guards officers.

State broadcaster IRIB described Ali-Mohammadi as a "committed and revolutionary" professor, suggesting he backed the government of hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The semi-official Fars News Agency quoted one of his students as saying he had worked with the elite Revolutionary Guards until 2003. It quoted a pro-government militia, Basij, as saying he had also been at two Guards-affiliated universities.

But an opposition website, Jaras, said he was an opposition supporter whose name was among hundreds of other academics who issued a statement in favour of moderate candidate Mirhossein Mousavi during the campaign for last June's election.

Officials blamed Israel and the United States for the bombing. "Signs of the triangle of wickedness by the Zionist regime (Israel), America and their hired agents, are visible in the terrorist act," the Foreign Ministry said.

"Such terrorist acts and the apparent elimination of the country's nuclear scientists will definitely not obstruct scientific and technological processes," it added.

Booby-trapped motorbike



Western capitals suspect that Iran's nuclear programme is aimed at developing bombs. Tehran denies this, saying it only seeks to generate electricity.

A spokesman for Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, Ali Shirzadian, said Ali-Mohammadi was not working for the organisation, Fars reported. Tehran University's website showed his recent research papers were on the nature of "dark energy", a highly theoretical area of cosmology.

Mark Fitzpatrick, chief proliferation analyst at London's International Institute for Strategic Studies, said Israel had in the past killed people working on nuclear programmes it perceives as hostile.

But he said it was unlikely Tuesday's attack was "part of an Israeli or American strategy to deprive Iran of the brains of the (nuclear) enrichment process. There are by now too many scientists and engineers with the requisite expertise."

The bombing follows the disappearance in June of Shahram Amiri, a university researcher working for the Atomic Energy Organisation, during a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Amiri vanished three months before Iran disclosed the existence of its second uranium enrichment site, near the city of Qom. In December Tehran accused Saudi Arabia of handing Amiri over to the United States.

Fars quoted a foreign-based group, the Iran Monarchy Association, as claiming responsibility for Tuesday's bombing. It did not say how it obtained the statement.

Iranian universities have been the scene of rival protests by opposition campaigners and government supporters since the June poll, which the reformist opposition says was rigged to secure Ahmadinejad's re-election.

Student activists form the backbone of the reform movement.

English-language Press TV said Ali-Mohammadi, a 50-year old lecturer of neutron physics, was killed on Tuesday morning in a northern part of the capital by a booby-trapped motorcycle as he was leaving his home.

It showed footage of broken glass and other debris at the scene, with what appeared to be the dead man in a body bag taken away on a stretcher. Another media report said windows were shattered within a distance of 50 metres from the blast.

"Everyone I know is blaming the United States and Israel for this crime," said Tehran University professor Mohammad Marandi.

Iran has been convulsed by its most serious domestic unrest since the Islamic revolution in 1979, as protests by opposition supporters against the election result have turned violent. Authorities deny opposition allegations that voting was rigged.

Eight people were killed in clashes between security forces and opposition supporters on Ashura, the day of ritual Shi'ite Muslim mourning that fell on Dec. 27.

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticleNew.asp?col=&section=middleeast&xfile=data/middleeast/2010/January/middleeast\\_January255.xml](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticleNew.asp?col=&section=middleeast&xfile=data/middleeast/2010/January/middleeast_January255.xml)

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Yonhap News – South Korea  
10 January 2010

## **N. Korea's 2nd Nuclear Test Site Pinpointed In New Study**

By Sam Kim

SEOUL, Jan. 10 (Yonhap) -- Two U.S.-based scientists said Sunday they've located the site of North Korea's second nuclear test last year more precisely than ever before, pinpointing it just 2 kilometers off the place where the first test was conducted in 2006.

Lianxing Wen, a geophysics professor at the State University of New York in Stony Brook, and his graduate student, Hui Long, located the epicenter of the second nuclear test on May 5 last year with a margin of error of only 140 meters, compared with 3.8 kilometers achieved by the U.S. Geological Survey.

"We locate the 2009 test at 723 meters north and 2,235 meters west of the 2006 test," the scientists said in the study, which was published in the January-February edition of Seismological Research Letters of the Seismological Society of America.

Identifying the coordinates of the 2009 test site as 41°17'38.14"N latitude and 129°4'54.21"E longitude, the scientists said their findings should help Asian monitors to pinpoint the location of another nuclear test should North Korea ever decide to go ahead with one.

"The location of any future nuclear test around this particular test site will be pinpointed in real time, with a similar precision," Wen said in a separate email interview. "With its exact location known, the wave propagation effects due to location geology can be accurately accounted for, leading to a more accurate determination of yield."

North Korea conducted its first underground nuclear test in Oct. 9, 2006 in Punggye-ri in its northeastern county of Kilju, according to U.S. and South Korean officials.

Wen and Long said they analyzed the seismic waves from the first nuclear test to understand the geological complexities of the earth in the region, and used the data to reduce the uncertainty involved in determining the ground zero of the second test.

"The strategy is not to try to fully understand the complexities of the jungle (earth), but to take advantage of the forensic evidence of the jungle complexities that are imprinted in the recordings" of the first nuclear test, the scientists said in a separate introduction to their thesis.

The waveforms from the first test were obtained from nine seismic stations based in Japan, South Korea and China, the study said.

North Korea conducted its second nuclear test amid a deadlock in international talks aimed at stripping it of its nuclear ambitions, raising tensions and inviting harsh U.N. sanctions.

"High-precision location would reveal, in real time and at great accuracy, an increasingly complete view of the geographic network of a nation's nuclear test infrastructure," the paper said.

"Logistically and economically, it is convenient to use the same facilities to do multiple tests. Environmentally, it would confine nuclear wastes in a particular site," Wen said in the email.

North Korea has in recent months toned down its belligerent rhetoric and hinted that it is willing to return to multinational talks over its nuclear weapons programs. South Korean defense officials say the communist country continues to operate nuclear-related facilities, including underground bunkers, in Kilju.

Both Wen and Long are Chinese citizens.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2010/01/10/91/0401000000AEN20100110000700315F.HTML>

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Time

Monday, January 11, 2010

## **N. Korea Wants Peace Talks, End To Sanctions**

By Associated Press / HYUNG-JIN KIM

(SEOUL, South Korea) — North Korea proposed concluding a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War this year, saying Monday that improved ties with the United States and an end to sanctions are conditions for resuming international negotiations aimed at ridding it of nuclear weapons.

The North's call came as President Barack Obama's special envoy for human rights in North Korea said earlier in the day during a visit to Seoul that any normalization of relations depends on an improvement in what he called the North's "appalling" human rights situation.

The North's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the resumption of the six-nation nuclear talks depends on building confidence between Pyongyang and Washington and called for a peace treaty, which it has long demanded.

Before nuclear talks can get back on track, North Korea and the United States must improve their relationship by beginning talks aimed at signing a peace treaty to formally end the Korean War, the lack of which it called a "root cause of the hostile relations," the ministry said in a statement.

The 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, thus leaving the peninsula technically at war. North Korea, the U.S.-led United Nations Command and China are signatories to the cease-fire, while South Korea has never signed the accord.

The statement called for a peace treaty to be concluded this year, which it emphasized marks the 60th anniversary since the outbreak of the Korean War.

North Korea pulled out of the six-party nuclear talks with the U.S., China, South Korea, Russia and Japan last year after international criticism of a long-range rocket launch that drew U.N. sanctions. It later conducted its second underground nuclear test.

"This appears to be an overture by the North Koreans to try and, in their own way, break through the logjam that we have seen for more than a year now in the talks," said Peter Beck, an expert on North Korea currently conducting research at Stanford University.

The proposal comes after a landmark visit to North last month by Stephen Bosworth, President Barack Obama's special envoy for the country. Bosworth said after his trip that the North agreed on the necessity of returning to the talks, though the country has not said when it would rejoin them.

Bosworth also said he conveyed a message from Obama calling for the "complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula" and underlining Washington's willingness to help bring the isolated country back into the international fold. He said discussion of a peace treaty could take place within the six-party talks framework.

North Korea said after the meeting that the two sides discussed a wide range of issues including denuclearization, forging a peace treaty, improving bilateral relations and economic and energy assistance.

The six-party talks began in 2003, and in 2005 and 2007 there were agreements on a disarmament pact which calls for North Korea to end its nuclear programs in exchange for economic aid, security assurances and diplomatic recognition.

North Korea also suggested that the withdrawal of sanctions could lead to a speedy resumption of the talks.

"The removal of the barrier of such discrimination and distrust as sanctions may soon lead to the opening of the six-party talks," the North's statement said.

Robert King, Obama's special envoy for human rights in North Korea, harshly criticized the communist country Monday and said that the situation is preventing a normalization of relations.

"It's one of the worst places in terms of lack of human rights," King told reporters after meeting South Korea's foreign minister. "The situation is appalling."

He added, "Improved relations between the United States and North Korea will have to involve greater respect for human rights by North Korea."

North Korea has long been regarded as having one of the world's worst human rights records. The country holds some 154,000 political prisoners in six large camps across the country, according to South Korean government estimates.

Pyongyang denies the existence of prison camps and often reacts strongly to foreign criticism regarding human rights.

Separately, Vitit Muntarbhorn, the United Nations' special investigator on human rights in North Korea, kicked off a six-day visit to South Korea to meet government officials, civic activists and North Korean defectors.

*Associated Press Writer Kelly Olsen contributed to this report.*

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1952837,00.html>

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New York Times

January 11, 2010

## **China Says Missile Defense System Test Successful**

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING (AP) -- China announced that its military intercepted a missile in mid-flight Monday in a test of new technology that comes amid heightened tensions over Taiwan and increased willingness by the Asian giant to show off its advanced military capabilities.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported late Monday that "ground-based midcourse missile interception technology" was tested within Chinese territory.

"The test has achieved the expected objective," the three-sentence report said. "The test is defensive in nature and is not targeted at any country."

Monday's report follows repeated complaints in recent days by Beijing over the sale by the U.S. of weaponry to Taiwan, including PAC-3 air defense missiles. These sales are driven by threats from China to use force to bring the island under its control, backed up by an estimated 1,300 Chinese ballistic missiles positioned along the Taiwan Strait.

Communist-ruled China split with Taiwan amid civil war in 1949 and continues to regard the self-governing democracy as part of its territory. Beijing has warned of a disruption in ties with Washington if the sale goes ahead, but has not said what specific actions it would take.

China's military is in the middle of a major technology upgrade, spurred on by double-digit annual percentage increases in defense spending. Missile technology is considered one of the People's Liberation Army's particular strengths, allowing it to narrow the gap with the U.S. and other militaries that wield stronger conventional forces.

Xinhua did not further identify the system tested, although China is believed to be pursuing a number of programs developed from anti-aircraft systems aimed at shooting down stealth aircraft and downing or disabling cruise missiles and precision-guided weapons.

Such programs are shrouded in secrecy, but military analysts say China appears to have augmented its air defenses with homemade technologies adapted from Russian and other foreign weaponry. China purchased a large number of Russian surface-to-air missiles during the 1990s and has since pressed ahead with its own HQ-9 interceptor, along with a more advanced missile system with an extended range.

Foreign media reports in 2006 said Beijing had tested a surface-to-air missile in the country's remote northwest with capabilities similar to the American Patriot interceptor system. According to South Korea's Dong-A Ilbo newspaper, the test involved the detection and downing of both a reconnaissance drone and an incoming ballistic missile by an interceptor, adding that it appeared to mark the official launch of China's indigenous interceptor unit.

"There is an obvious concern in Beijing that they need an effective anti-ballistic missile defense in some form," said Hans Kristensen, an expert on the Chinese military with the Federation of American Scientists.

Staging a successful test "shows that their technology is maturing," Kristensen said.

The 2009 Pentagon report on China's military says the air force received eight battalions of upgraded Russian SA-20 PMU-2 surface-to-air missiles since 2006, with another eight on order. The missiles have a range of 125 miles (200 kilometers) and reportedly provide limited ballistic and cruise missile defense capabilities.

Such interceptor missiles are believed to be deployed near major cities and strategic sites such as the massive Three Gorges Dam, but they could also be used to protect China's own ballistic missile batteries that would themselves become targets in any regional conflict.

Such interceptors would be of relatively little use against U.S. cruise missiles, although they could be effective against ballistic missiles deployed by Russia or India, China's massive neighbor to the south with which it has a growing military rivalry and lingering territorial disputes.

Monday's report continues a growing trend of greater transparency over China's new military technologies typified by last year's striking Oct. 1 military parade marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the communist state. Large numbers of missiles were displayed in the show, including ICBMs, together with tanks, amphibious craft and latest-generation jet fighters.

China's anti-ship cruise and ballistic missiles -- capable of striking U.S. Navy aircraft carrier battle groups and bases in the Pacific -- have drawn the most attention from analysts in recent months.

Military displays and announcements of successful tests help build public pride in the military's rising capabilities and bolster support for rising defense spending that increased by almost 15 percent last year to \$71 billion. The figure is thought by many analysts to represent only a portion of total defense spending, although it still amounts to only a fraction of the U.S. military budget.

Meanwhile, showing off such capabilities also helps put adversaries on notice, Kristensen said.

"It's the new Chinese way to signal that they are now able to do these things," he said.

[http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/01/11/world/AP-AS-China-Missile-Defense.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/01/11/world/AP-AS-China-Missile-Defense.html?_r=1)

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New York Times  
January 13, 2010

## **S. Korea And U.S. Dismiss N. Korea's Peace Talks Proposal**

By CHOE SANG-HUN

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea and the United States said Tuesday that they would discuss a peace treaty with North Korea only after the North returned to six-nation disarmament talks and began dismantling its nuclear weapons program.

Seoul and Washington also rejected the North's demand that United Nations sanctions be lifted before it returns to the talks.

"We're not going to pay North Korea for coming back to the six-party-process," P. J. Crowley, a State Department spokesman, said in Washington.

On Monday, the North Korean Foreign Ministry proposed "immediate" talks with the United States to negotiate a peace treaty that would formally end the 1950-3 Korean War, which ended in a truce, leaving the Korean Peninsula technically in a state of war.

The North said treaty talks could be held separately or be included in the six-nation talks, which include the two Koreas, the United States, China, Russia and Japan. The talks have been in limbo since last spring, when North Korea withdrew to protest sanctions that were imposed after it tested its second nuclear device and some ballistic missiles.

"We can discuss a peace treaty only after the six-party talks are reopened and there is progress in the denuclearization of North Korea," Defense Minister Kim Tae-young of South Korea said at a news conference Tuesday. "North Korea has a history of offering peace gestures with one hand while committing provocations with the other."

Washington also said the North must first return to the talks and take "affirmative steps towards denuclearization."

"Once they're back within the process, once we have confidence that they're meeting their obligations, then a wide range of other possible discussions open up," Mr. Crowley said.

The stance reflects the allies' suspicions that North Korea is trying to deflect the focus of the talks, which have so far focused on ending the North's nuclear weapons program. North Korea says that asking it to give up its nuclear capabilities before it feels safe under a formal peace treaty is "like a gangster trying to disarm us at gunpoint."

Mutual mistrust has made "sequence" — the diplomatic question of who does what first — a central point of contention during years of negotiations between North Korea and the United States.

Also Tuesday, the North Korean ambassador to China, Choe Jin-su, called together a small group of reporters to reiterate Pyongyang's latest statement.

Mr. Choe said the signing of a peace treaty would help promote "denuclearization at a rapid tempo," the Japanese news agency Kyodo reported. "Here I would like to stress 'at a rapid tempo.'"

The Korean War began 60 years ago with a North Korean invasion of the South. The United States led United Nations forces in defense of the South and China fought for North Korea. An American general representing the U.N. Command signed a ceasefire pact with the Chinese and North Korean militaries, but South Korea did not.

The North had previously tried to keep the South out of peace talks, saying it fought the war with the Americans and not with a "South Korean puppet."

On Tuesday, Mr. Choe, the North Korean diplomat, said he did not know whether South Korea wanted to be part of peace talks "because they didn't even sign the truce."

Mr. Kim, the South Korean defense minister, retorted: "Of course, South Korea should be included."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/13/world/asia/13korea.html>

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Ha'aretz Daily – Israel  
Sunday, January 10, 2010

# Would Limiting Israel's Nuclear Arsenal Help Block Iran's Atomic Aims?

By Amir Oren, Haaretz Correspondent

In the war on international jihad, both organized and individual, the American security establishment suffered three heavy blows in the course of a few weeks. Twelve soldiers were murdered at the Fort Hood base by Muslim psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, there was the attempted suicide bombing of Northwest-Delta Flight 253 to Detroit, and seven CIA operatives were killed by a double agent run by Jordanian intelligence. In each of the three incidents the attacks' planners penetrated an American target - military bases and an airline.

This series of failures showed on United States President Barack Obama's face midweek, as he tried to evince determination but revealed impotent frustration. Staff from the State Department's history unit were not among the many top-level administration people invited to the discussion at the White House. This is a pity, because they would have drawn the attention of Obama and his people to documents from the period of presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford that were published just last month after being declassified. These documents show the extent to which terror takes one shape and then another, becomes dormant - but doesn't sleep deeply - and then reawakens with redoubled fury.

In a Central Intelligence Agency document from 1976 examining the danger of terror organizations gaining control of nuclear weapons, the likelihood of this scenario was assessed as low. With one reservation: If anyone in the world of terror is capable of doing this, it would be Palestinian organizations from Black September or some other incarnation of Fatah to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Palestinian organizations had a dangerous combination of will, ability and connections with similar organizations in East Asia (such as the Japanese Red Army, which dispatched Kozo Okamoto to kill at Lod Airport) and especially in Europe. The CIA's working assumption was that terrorists would try to obtain nuclear weapons from one of the hundreds of storage sites in Europe or from a convoy moving between sites; they might succeed in gaining control of a bomb or warhead and threaten a nuclear explosion or initiate bargaining.

Nearly 35 years later the main players may be different - Al-Qaida, Hezbollah and Hamas instead of the organizations headed by Yasser Arafat, Ali Hassan Salameh, George Habash and Ahmad Jibril - but the danger has only increased. Rogue states like Iran and North Korea have ascended the nuclear ladder, nuclear Pakistan could fall apart and Abdul Qadeer Khan's network has sold nuclear secrets to anyone who can pay.

It is no longer possible to dismiss as negligible the possibility that a fanatical organization will get nuclear arms, materials or know-how from one of its patrons, take advantage of a gap in security and carry out a mass suicide attack. This could happen on a plane, a ship anchored in an American port with a missile launched from the sea, or a truck racing in from Mexico to the American side of the border in California or Arizona. It could also happen if an American who has converted to Islam or is the son of immigrants (like Maj. Hasan) does what Timothy McVeigh did with different motives when he blew up the Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995, but this with a nuclear weapon.

To deal with nuclear terror it will be necessary to deal with states that sponsor it. To do so, it will be necessary to update the proliferation regime worldwide. Israel will also have to be included in this. Though this is an apocalyptic vision, there is scope for immediate action.

In April Obama will host an international nuclear security summit. It is not clear who will represent Israel there. If the representative is at the very highest level, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who also chairs the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, and not the commission's director general, he will have to defend Israel's position and not merely recycle the demands concerning Iran.

In May, shortly after Obama's summit, a committee will meet - as it does every five years - to review the state of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty regime. Israel is not a signatory to this treaty and is therefore not subject to the regime, but there is significance for Israel in the conjunction of the nuclear meetings and what happens in advance of them.

Last month the report "Eliminating Nuclear Threats: A Practical Agenda for Global Policymakers" was published by the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. Heading the commission were former Australian foreign minister Gareth Evans and former Japanese foreign minister Yoriko Kawaguchi. Also on the committee were 13 statesmen and experts, among them former American defense secretary William Perry, retired German chief of staff General Klaus Naumann (a good friend of Israel who served as head of the North



Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Committee) and Turki Al Faisal, who headed Saudi intelligence for a quarter of a century. This group of people is privy to many secrets and have access to all the latest information.

The launch of the commission's report was marked during a flight by Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to Japan. About two weeks previously, Rudd, his deputy prime minister Julia Gillard and figures from the entire political spectrum met with a delegation of Knesset members, academics and journalists who visited Sidney and Melbourne as guests of the Australia-Israel Leadership Forum headed by Albert Dadon. The abundant friendship for Israel was true and profound, crossing parties and circles.

If in Israel it is often noted that in the 1948 war an entire percent of the population was lost - 6,000 out of 600,000 - in Australia the fatality rate during World War I was even higher: 55,000 soldiers out of a population of less than five million, and an army of about half a million who served the British Empire. There they also remember well World War II and the fear of defeat after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the British failure in Singapore and the Japanese stronghold in Indonesia.

From the conquest of Be'er Sheva under Gen. Edmund Allenby to commando operations in western Iraq, Australians have played a positive role in Israel's history. Terror is perceived as a common enemy, with no illusions that bringing succor to feelings of injustice and discrimination will save Australian tourists from an attack on a nightclub in Bali.

The measures taken against terrorism in Australia are more sober and less panicky than the measures taken against biological or agricultural pollution that might enter the country and contaminate flocks or grazing land. Alas for the traveler in whose pocket an inspector finds a snack or an apple. Every tourist is suspected of being a successor to Tiger Woods, lest he has in his possession golf shoes or clubs that have touched infected foreign lawns.

This background of uninhibited Australian affection, which has grown even stronger during outgoing Ambassador James Larsen's tour of duty in Tel Aviv, negates a priori any possibility of depicting the Evans-Kawaguchi report as hostile toward Israel. It is proportional, fair and does not attack Israel or aspire to the unattainable. It only proposes withdrawing the exemption extended in practice to Israel over the past four decades.

The report treats it as fact that Israel is a country in possession of nuclear weapons outside the Non-Proliferation Treaty with an estimated 60 to 200 weapons, some of which are positioned. It mentions a very common assumption that Israel has ceased to produce fissile material but will not explicitly relinquish this route before there is a significant improvement in its security environment. The report recommends applying pressure on Israel - as well as India and Pakistan - to do so.

Evans, Kawaguchi and their partners are aiming at a practical solution. They write: "Recognizing the reality that the three nuclear-armed states now outside the NPT - India, Pakistan and Israel - are not likely to become members any time soon, every effort should be made to achieve their participation in parallel instruments and arrangements which apply equivalent non-proliferation and disarmament obligations."

The most creative idea in the report is this establishment of a parallel structure, the meaning of which is recognition of the atom's settlement blocs - a next-generation NPT.

This is only the beginning. The acknowledged nuclear powers that are members of the NPT have committed to a gradual reduction of their weapons arsenal as a stimulus to all the rest not to nuclearize, and as a justification of the effort to block Iran and North Korea. A similar commitment would apply to Israel, India and Pakistan. The supreme aim is presented in two stages: minimizing the world stockpile by 2025 and bringing it down to zero some time thereafter.

The Evans-Kawaguchi report acknowledges the dangers facing Israel in the Middle East and proposes a reasonable formula for resolving the nuclear concerns, from Tehran to terror. Among its authors were an Indian and a Pakistani, though not an Israeli, and its formulators and patrons are friendly. It could be signed by Israelis who believe it is still too early to give up the nuclear insurance policy entirely. Others, who cling tightly to the existing arrangement, will be chilled by the report and its spirit, as well as Obama's. This is not a terrible problem. They should put on a sweater.

<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1141452.html>

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Global Security Newswire

# U.N. Chief Sees "Window of Opportunity" On Nuclear Disarmament

Monday, January 11, 2010

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon vowed Friday to throw his full weight behind nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation initiatives following a Security Council summit last September that addressed the issues (see *GSN*, Dec. 9, 2009).

"Today, there is a new window of opportunity in disarmament and nonproliferation," Ban said. "Last year, we saw several encouraging developments. This year, we have much on which to build -- and a heavy agenda going forward."

Participants in last year's summit adopted a resolution aimed at discouraging withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, promoting entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and creating additional nuclear weapon-free zones, among other measures (see *GSN*, Sept, 24, 2009).

"In the coming year, I will continue to build support for my action plan for nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. I will promote the universality of the relevant treaties and conventions," Ban said.

"Building on the historic Security Council summit last September, I will encourage the council to provide political support for the full implementation of treaty obligations and the strengthening of the treaty organs," the U.N. chief added. "I pledge to continue to do everything in my power to advance the goal of a world free of weapons of mass destruction."

Ban spoke during a meeting at the United Nations with the leaders of three leading nonproliferation organizations -- the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization.

"I highly appreciate your valuable work to achieve our common objectives, and I look forward to your perspectives: the major challenges, existing gaps and how to bridge them, ideas on how we can foster greater understanding, cooperation and joint work," he said.

Ban plans this month to attend the international Conference on Disarmament, which is expected to address issues including negotiation of a fissile material cutoff treaty (see *GSN*, Aug. 13, 2009). The conference in 2009 appeared set to break a 12-year deadlock in negotiations, only to see Pakistan throw up roadblocks to the agenda.

The U.N. chief is also set to participate in the Global Zero Summit in Paris next month (see *GSN*, June 30, 2009), as well as U.S. President Barack Obama's nuclear security summit in April (see *GSN*, Oct. 28, 2009). He expressed hope that the meetings would "help generate momentum" for the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference scheduled for May (see *GSN*, Jan. 8; U.N. release, Jan. 8).

[http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20100111\\_8701.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100111_8701.php)

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New York Times

January 12, 2010

## Russia And US To Resume Arms Control Talks

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW (AP) -- Moscow will restart talks with Washington on a new arms control treaty this month, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Tuesday.

"We hope it will happen somewhere in the second half of January," Lavrov said in televised remarks.

The new deal will succeed the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, which expired on Dec. 5. The two countries had hoped to reach a deal before the end of the year, but problems persist.

In late December, Moscow said it wanted Washington to share detailed data about the sea- and land-based systems the U.S. plans. The systems would replace the plans to place interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar in the Czech republic.

Russia treated the plans as a threat, and President Barack Obama scrapped them last year.

Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev agreed in July to cut the number of nuclear warheads each country has to between 1,500 and 1,675 under a new treaty.

Moscow and Washington both want to reach a new accord quickly to give credibility to their efforts to persuade Iran and North Korea to abandon their nuclear programs.

[http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/01/12/world/AP-EU-Russia-US-Arms-Treaty.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/01/12/world/AP-EU-Russia-US-Arms-Treaty.html?_r=1)

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Ria Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Design Flaw Caused Latest Test Failure Of Bulava Missile - Source**

12 January 2010

Investigators have established that the latest test failure of the troubled Bulava ballistic missile was caused by a design flaw, rather than a faulty component, a Russian defense industry source said Tuesday.

"An investigation commission established in December that a design flaw in the device which controls the separation of the third stage had caused the latest failure of the Bulava missile," the source said.

It is the first time the Russian industry officials admit that there are problems with the original design of the submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), which Russia hopes will be a key element of its nuclear forces.

The latest launch of the missile from the Dmitry Donskoy nuclear submarine in the White Sea ended in failure in early December 2009. Only five of 12 Bulava launches have been officially reported as being successful.

Earlier official statements cited a number of reasons for the failures of Bulava tests, including faulty components, attempts to replace specific materials with cheaper substitutes and obsolete manufacturing equipment.

The further development of the Bulava has been questioned by some lawmakers and defense industry experts, who have suggested that all efforts should be focused on the existing Sineva SLBM.

But the military has insisted there is no alternative to the Bulava and said the tests of the missile would continue until it is ready to enter service with the Russian Navy.

Another defense industry source said on Tuesday that Russia could increase the number of Bulava tests in 2010 starting in May-June, and "drastically change the approach to testing procedures."

The Bulava (SS-NX-30) SLBM carries up to 10 MIRV warheads and has a range of over 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles). The three-stage liquid and solid-propellant ballistic missile is designed for deployment on Borey class nuclear-powered submarines.

MOSCOW, January 12 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20100112/157520043.html>

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Wall Street Journal

OPINION

January 10, 2010

## **Let's Take Bureaucracy Out Of Intelligence**

*Groupthink products like National Intelligence Estimates make us vulnerable.*

By JOHN BOLTON

Although the U.S. intelligence community (IC) has been stung by failures relating to the Christmas terrorist attack, these failures are symptomatic of far larger problems. In analyzing the ongoing Iranian and North Korean nuclear weapons programs, both the IC and policy makers are guilty of politicizing intelligence, exactly the behavior harshly criticized during the Bush administration.

Now, however, the politicization threat dwells inside the IC, especially in the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) bureaucracy. Policy officials move in and out of intelligence jobs as if those jobs were interchangeable, carrying all their existing policy biases. Even worse, intelligence officers increasingly disdain to hide their philosophical proclivities, which have colored their intelligence analysis in years past. And, like generals refighting the last war to correct their mistakes, the IC is reacting against charges it overstated the threat of Iraqi weapons of

mass destruction by understating the threat of Iranian and North Korean weapons programs. So much for the wall of separation between policy and intelligence.

Ill-concealed policy preferences dominated the now-discredited 2007 National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) on Iran's nuclear weapons program. So eager were the NIE's drafters to forestall the use of force against Iran that they distorted the intelligence, ignored contrary evidence, and overstated their conclusions.

We are still paying the price for this bureaucratic insurrection, as information emerges about Iran's extensive efforts to conceal its nuclear program. Recent reports, for example, show that Qom is far from Iran's only hardened underground enrichment facility. So much is unknown about Iran's progress that the administration's confident estimates about the time available to engage in fruitless negotiations work in Tehran's favor.

Similarly, A.Q. Khan, proliferation's pre-eminent entrepreneur, reportedly believes that Pyongyang's clandestine uranium-enrichment began earlier and made more progress than many previously acknowledged. This and other new information, as recently explained by South Korea's foreign minister, runs counter to the biases of officials who have tried to minimize the risk from Pyongyang to justify six-party talks. Instead, it suggests that the North's repeated pledges to end its nuclear weapons program have been utterly worthless.

The Christmas terrorist attack demonstrates that we need more effective communication and analysis within the IC. Achieving this goal does not require more centralization of authority, more hierarchy, and more uniformity of opinion. The IC's problem stems from a culture of anonymous conformity. Greater centralization will only reinforce existing bureaucratic obstacles to providing decision makers with a full range of intelligence analysis.

The problem is often not the intelligence we collect, but assessing its implications. Solving that problem requires not the mind-deadening exercise of achieving bureaucratic consensus, but creating a culture that rewards insight and decisiveness. To create that culture we should abolish the DNI office and NIEs.

Eliminating the DNI should be accompanied by reversing decades of inadequate National Security Council supervision of the intelligence function. The council is an awesome instrument for presidential control over the IC, but only if the national security adviser and others exercise direction and control. Sloughing off responsibility to the bureaucracy embodying the problem is a failure of presidential leadership, and unfortunately gives us exactly the IC we deserve.

Contemporary NIEs (and other IC products) reflect the bureaucracy's lowest-common-denominator tendencies and should be abolished. Each intelligence agency should be able to place its analysis of data into a competitive marketplace of classified ideas—this will help determine which is the superior product.

Finally, the real debatable issue is often not intelligence or analysis, but the inescapably political judgment of how much risk to our national security we are willing to tolerate. Today, the Obama administration's level of risk tolerance for potential terrorists and proliferators is far too high. Changing that doesn't just mean fixing the IC. It means fixing the White House.

*Mr. Bolton, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, is the author of "Surrender Is Not an Option: Defending America at the United Nations and Abroad" (Simon & Schuster, 2007).*

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704500104574650381937137314.html>

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