



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Issue No. 839, 31 August 2010

Articles & Other Documents:

[FACTBOX - Nuclear Proliferation Risks To Watch](#)

[Iran Renews Call For Nuke-Free Mideast](#)

['Iran Will Make Final Decision On Talks'](#)

[FM: Iran Needs No N. Weapons](#)

[DPRK To Use Nuclear Deterrent If Attacked: Diplomat](#)

[China Seeks Nuke Talks As Kim Visits](#)

[North Korea: Kim Jong-Il Hints At Change Of Leader](#)

[Jang Song-Thaek To Get North's No. 2 Post: Source](#)

[N. Korean Leader Calls For Nuclear Talks, Succession Of Friendly Ties: Reports](#)

[U.S. Puts New Sanctions On N. Korea](#)

[North Korean Pair Viewed As Key To Secret Arms Trade](#)

[Russian Submarine Gives British Navy A Fright](#)

[Ahmadinejad's Miscalculation](#)

[Pyongyang's New Leader For The Old Guard](#)

[Jimmy Carter In Pyongyang](#)

[Eagle's Eye: Iran's Nuclear Defiance Rattles Arabs](#)

Welcome to the CPC Outreach Journal. As part of USAF Counterproliferation Center's mission to counter weapons of mass destruction through education and research, we're providing our government and civilian community a source for timely counterproliferation information. This information includes articles, papers and other documents addressing issues pertinent to US military response options for dealing with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats and countermeasures. It's our hope this information resource will help enhance your counterproliferation issue awareness.

Established in 1998, the USAF/CPC provides education and research to present and future leaders of the Air Force, as well as to members of other branches of the armed services and Department of Defense. Our purpose is to help those agencies better prepare to counter the threat from weapons of mass destruction. Please feel free to visit our web site at <http://cpc.au.af.mil/> for in-depth information and specific points of contact. The following articles, papers or documents do not necessarily reflect official endorsement of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense, or other US government agencies. Reproduction for private use or commercial gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. All rights are reserved.

The Star – Malaysia
Friday August 27, 2010

FACTBOX - Nuclear Proliferation Risks To Watch

By Fredrik Dahl

REUTERS - Iran is sending mixed signals on its readiness to negotiate with the West about its nuclear programme, offering unconditional talks on a possible fuel swap but setting terms for any broader discussions with its foes.

The eight-year international dispute over Iran's atomic activities has the potential to set off a regional arms race and spark a conflict in the Middle East, making it arguably the most pressing nuclear proliferation issue facing major powers.

But Western and other diplomats grappling with sensitive nuclear matters also face other issues, including North Korea's nuclear arms programme and suspicions about Syria, as well as Arab anger over Israel's presumed atomic arsenal.

Here is an outline of possible nuclear-related risks and diplomatic challenges:

IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

Big powers hope the imposition since June of new U.N., U.S. and European sanctions on Tehran will persuade the Islamic Republic to enter negotiations on its nuclear work, which the West suspects is aimed at developing bombs.

Iran denies any atomic arms ambitions and dismisses the impact of sanctions. It says it is willing to resume talks on a proposal for it to send low-enriched uranium abroad and get higher-grade fuel for a medical research reactor in return.

Tehran has repeatedly defied international demands to halt all its uranium enrichment activities. Western diplomats stress that even if a deal was struck on a fuel exchange, it would not resolve wider concerns about Iran's nuclear plans.

Advancing itself towards the weapons-grade threshold, Iran began enriching uranium to a level of 20 percent fissile purity in February. Tehran said that it was forced to take this course to secure fuel for the Tehran facility making medical isotopes after failing to agree terms for a swap with three world powers.

Iran now says it would be ready to suspend this higher-grade activity if it obtains the 20 percent fuel from abroad. But it remains unclear if this could pave the way for a compromise with Western powers deeply suspicious of Iran's intentions.

Western diplomats see a possible fuel swap accord -- in talks involving the United States, Russia and France -- as a confidence-building step for wider discussions they hope will lead to Iran suspending its uranium enrichment programme.

Tehran has ruled out halting enrichment, which can be used to fuel power plants or produce material for the core of an atomic bomb if refined to the 90 percent level.

"It (a fuel swap) is a step that needs to be resolved before they can get to the core issue, which is Iran's enrichment activities," said analyst Gala Riani at IHS Global Insight.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has raised conditions for further discussions, for example saying the parties involved must first express a view on Israel's alleged nuclear arsenal.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's top authority, said in August that Tehran would not conduct talks with the United States unless sanctions and military threats were lifted.

What to watch:

- Any resumption of talks on the fuel swap plan; statements on the possibility of broader discussions
- Signs of Iran escalating enrichment activity, including any work on building new enrichment plants

ISRAELI NUCLEAR ISSUE

Arab countries backed by Iran will try to pile more pressure on Israel over its presumed nuclear arsenal at meetings of the governing board and general assembly of the Vienna-based U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) beginning on Sept. 13.

A year ago, they won narrow backing for a non-binding resolution, opposed by the United States and its allies, that called on Israel to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and put its atomic installations under IAEA inspection.

Vienna-based diplomats say these countries may table a similar text this year, despite opposition from Washington.

The 2009 resolution urged IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano to prepare a report for the next assembly meeting on how to implement the measure. One diplomat in Vienna said he expected Amano's report to be "absolutely neutral."

Israel has conditioned its joining the NPT on comprehensive Middle East peace and says Iran is the region's real proliferation risk. The Jewish state has condemned the Arab-led push as the product of countries which question its existence. Israel has never confirmed or denied having atom bombs under a policy of ambiguity to deter numerically superior adversaries.

Western countries have warned that zeroing in on Israel could inhibit broader initiatives aimed at banning weapons of mass destruction throughout the Middle East.

The United States alarmed Israel in May by backing an Egyptian initiative for a regional conference in 2012 on a Middle East free of such weaponry. The Obama administration has since pledged to keep the Jewish state from being "singled out."

What to watch:

- Will Arab states win support for new IAEA resolution?
- Israel's reaction; statements on 2012 conference

NORTH KOREA

North Korea, which left the global anti-nuclear arms pact in 2003 and expelled IAEA inspectors, said in August it is committed to denuclearising the peninsula and resuming international talks on ending its nuclear arms programme.

But analysts are sceptical about the chances of substantive negotiations any time soon.

Tensions have risen on the Korean peninsula since the March torpedoing of a South Korean navy ship, blamed by Seoul on the North. Pyongyang denies sinking the ship.

Six-way nuclear talks involving the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, Russia and China have been in limbo since 2008 when North Korea said they were finished.

South Korea and the United States have said that resuming the talks will be impossible until the ship dispute is settled.

The North conducted a nuclear test in 2009, its second since 2006. But the reclusive state has not shown it has a working nuclear bomb.

What to watch:

- Any movement towards restarting nuclear talks
- North Korea's development of uranium enrichment, potentially giving it another route to make nuclear bombs besides weapons-grade plutonium made at its Yongbyon complex

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

China has plans to build two more reactors at Pakistan's Chashma nuclear power complex, a deal that has prompted questions from India, the United States and others worried it could erode non-proliferation rules.

Beijing believes it is important to back Pakistan to counter Indian regional dominance. It is also wary of the U.S. sway in South Asia, and Washington signed a nuclear energy deal with India in 2008 that China and other countries found questionable.

China says the safeguards in place at Chashma ensure its role is entirely peaceful. Critics say that Pakistan's domestic instability and its past role spreading nuclear arms technology demand that Chashma come under firmer international scrutiny.

Pakistan and India have nuclear weapons, and both refuse to join the NPT, which would oblige them to scrap those arms.

What to watch:

- More details on China's nuclear deal with Pakistan
- Discussions on the issue within the Nuclear Suppliers Group, a secretive 46-nation body that seeks to ensure nuclear exports are not diverted to non-peaceful purposes

SYRIA

An IAEA report said in May Syria was still blocking access to a desert site where secret nuclear work may have taken place.

U.S. intelligence reports said the Dair Alzour site, bombed to rubble by Israel in 2007, had been a North Korean-designed nuclear reactor under construction, geared to produce plutonium for atomic bombs.

Syria allowed IAEA inspectors to examine the site in 2008 but has not allowed the agency to revisit it since then.

Glyn Davies, the U.S. envoy to the IAEA, said in August it should consider pressing for a mandatory special inspection in Syria to resolve the allegations of covert atomic activity.

Special inspections give IAEA experts the authority to look anywhere at short notice in a member state, beyond declared nuclear facilities.

Any such move may anger Damascus, whose relations with Washington improved after Barack Obama came to power in 2009.

What to watch:

- Any new revelations on the nature of Syria's activities
- Possible diplomatic U.S. action at the IAEA

MYANMAR

Accounts of suspected nuclear plans surfaced last year and a Norwegian-based exile group said in June that Myanmar was trying to develop a secret nuclear programme with the intention of making an atomic bomb.

The IAEA said at the time it was looking into the report. Myanmar is a member of both the NPT and the U.N. agency.

Myanmar said it has no ambition to become a nuclear power and that reports that it was developing a nuclear programme with North Korean help were groundless.

What to watch:

- Any new allegations of secret nuclear aims or activities

Additional reporting by Sylvia Westall; Editing by Mark Heinrich

http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2010/8/27/worldupdates/2010-08-27T145113Z_01_NOOTR_RTRMDNC_0_-511082-1&sec=Worldupdates

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Press TV – Iran

Saturday, August 28, 2010

Iran Renews Call For Nuke-Free Mideast

Iranian Ambassador to Japan Abbas Araqchi has reiterated the Islamic Republic's support for the emergence of a nuclear-free Middle East.

Addressing the 22nd UN Conference on Disarmament Issues in the Japanese city of Saitama on Friday, the Iranian diplomat highlighted Iran's readiness to cooperate for its realization, IRNA reported.

"The idea of a nuclear-free Middle East was primarily put forth by Iran in 1974; there have been numerous international resolutions in support of the initiative since then," Araqchi said.

The Iranian envoy made a reference to Israel which is widely assumed to harbor nuclear weapons.

"The Zionist regime is oblivious of the global demands for its disarmament and has shown a harsh reaction to such requirements," Araqchi said.

"It is the only obstacle in the way of a nuclear-free Middle East," he added.

Araqchi further pointed out that the UN needed to take appropriate measures against Israel and any other countries that refuse to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

He made the comments on the closing day of the three-day conference before the approximately 60 participants who had attended.

The public conference was meant to raise awareness and support for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

It also assessed the outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the NPT and addressed ways to make progress in achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/140326.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Press TV – Iran

'Iran Will Make Final Decision On Talks'

Sunday, August 29, 2010

A senior Iranian lawmaker says Tehran will make the final decision about the West's call for holding negotiations with the Islamic Republic on its nuclear program.

"The West has called for holding talks with Tehran and the Iranian officials will make the decision about the issue," spokesman for the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Iran's Parliament (Majlis) Kazem Jalali said on Sunday.

He stressed that talks would definitely be constructive should be fair and purposeful and protect Iran's nuclear rights, Mehr News Agency reported.

Jalali said that after the UN Security Council imposed the fourth round of sanctions resolution against Iran in June, member states of P5+1 - Russia, China, France, Britain, the US and Germany - raised the issue of holding talks with Iran.

"They are still calling for negotiations with Iran," he added.

Jalali noted that an Iranian parliamentary delegation has invited a European delegation to visit Iran in the near future and hold talks with senior Iranian officials.

The lawmaker expressed hope the visit would portray the real image of the Islamic Republic and clear misunderstandings.

The remarks came after Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said earlier in the day Tehran has never refused nuclear talks with the West.

"Iran had earlier raised the issue of negotiations on the nuclear case within the framework of P5+1 or the Vienna group," Larijani said.

The United States and its Western allies accuse Iran of seeking nuclear weapons, pressuring Tehran into abandoning its uranium enrichment program.

Iran has rejected the allegations, arguing that as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, it is entitled to continue its enrichment program under the full supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/140464.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

FARS News Agency – Iran

August 30, 2010

FM: Iran Needs No N. Weapons

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki reiterated Tehran's opposition to the acquisition of military nuclear capability, stressing that his country does not need nuclear weapons.

"The Iranian nation does not need nuclear weapons," Mottaki said here in Tehran Sunday night, and reminded, "The weapon of logic that the Iranian nation has is more powerful than any other type of weapon."

Mottaki strongly rejected the allegations made by certain western countries against Iran that the country intends to develop a military nuclear capability, and reminded that the claims are uttered by those states which have possessed atomic arsenals for over 65 years and have even used them against the other nations, like what happened in the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima at the end of the second World War.

He blasted the double-standard policies and approach of the West in this regard, and said those countries which accuse Iran of efforts to develop a military nuclear program are now proliferating more advanced atomic warheads and have even armed their allies in the region with such weapons.

The Iranian foreign minister stressed the necessity for the implementation of global nuclear disarmament, and said, "Those who used nuclear weapons 65 years ago and never accounted for their deeds to the world were eventually made during the NPT meeting in New York four months ago that the United States possesses 5,000 nuclear warheads."

"And now people ask the *raison detre* for the existence of such a large number of atomic warheads and weapons" and cry out for their dismantlement and annihilation, he added.

Iran, an NPT-signatory, has repeatedly called for the removal of all weapons of mass destruction from across the globe.

The UN General Assembly approved a draft resolution proposed by Iran on nuclear disarmament in October amid strong opposition by the US, Britain, France, Israel and a number of western countries.

The resolution ratified in the first committee of the UN General Assembly calls on all nuclear countries to annihilate their nuclear weapons under the supervision of international bodies.

More than 100 countries, including non-nuclear members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), voted for the resolution.

The resolution also urges Israel to join the NPT and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear installations.

Also in pursuit of global nuclear disarmament, Tehran held a conference on nuclear disarmament on April 18-19 with officials from different world countries in attendance.

During the two-day conference, world officials and politicians put their heads together to address issues and concerns in connection with nuclear disarmament.

Foreign ministers, representatives and nuclear experts from 60 world countries participated in the event to discuss challenges on nuclear disarmament, countries' commitment to nuclear dismantlement and disarmament and aftermaths of inaction in the destruction of the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs).

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=8906081406>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

People's Daily – China
August 28, 2010

DPRK To Use Nuclear Deterrent If Attacked: Diplomat

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will use its nuclear arsenal if attacked by the United States and South Korea, DPRK ambassador to Cuba Kwon Sung Chol said Friday.

"If Washington and Seoul try to create a conflict on the Korean Peninsula, we will respond with a holy war on the basis of our nuclear deterrent forces," said Kwon at a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Cuba and the DPRK.

"Our government will strive for the denuclearization of the peninsula and the establishment of a lasting peace as the beginning of the reunification process of the two Koreas," the diplomat said.

Despite obstacles created by the United States and South Korea, reunification will be achieved with the support of peace-loving peoples, like Cubans, he said.

Referring to the sinking of South Korean warship Cheonan in March, Kwon said the situation required the strengthening of support and solidarity between peoples of the DPRK and Cuba.

South Korea blamed the DPRK for the sinking of Cheonan. The DPRK rejected the accusation and proposed to send an inspection group to the south to verify the evidence. However, Seoul rejected the proposal.

Kwon also thanked former Cuban leader Fidel Castro for his public warning on the incident that it could unleash a major conflict in the area.

"His articles are an encouragement to our people, who fight against the imperialism," the DPRK diplomat said.

Cuban Vice President Ricardo Cabrisas stressed the willingness of Havana and Pyongyang to boost their relations for the sake of their peoples.

Cuba and the DPRK established diplomatic relations on Aug. 29, 1960. The two nations are currently holding cultural and political events to mark the anniversary.

The 1,200-ton Cheonan with 104 crew members onboard sank near the maritime border with the DPRK on March 26 after an unexplained explosion. Only 58 sailors survived.

Source: Xinhua

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90851/7120835.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

China Post – Taiwan

China Seeks Nuke Talks As Kim Visits

Sunday, August 29, 2010

By Brett Cole, Reuters

SEOUL - China is lobbying neighbours to sign up to a road map for renewed nuclear disarmament talks with North Korea, whose leader Kim Jong-il is apparently visiting China amid conciliatory words and threats of atomic "holy war."

The details of Beijing's plan for restarting stalled six-party nuclear talks came from a South Korean diplomatic source, who spoke on Saturday after discussion in Seoul with Wu Dawei, China's top envoy in the talks.

But the source, as well as a Japanese official speaking in Beijing, stressed that big obstacles remained in the way of new talks, even if the secretive Kim's reported trip to China yields another vow of North Korea's willingness to sit down and discuss a dormant deal to scrap its nuclear weapons in return for aid.

"We don't want to restart six-party talks for the sake of talks," the South Korean diplomatic source said.

"North Korea should change its attitude and show seriousness in denuclearising."

China's regional lobbying, and courting of the reclusive Kim, highlight the pressures that North Korea - isolated, poor and with a brace of primitive nuclear bombs - has brought to bear on northeast Asia, home to the world's second and third biggest economies and a big U.S. military presence.

There have been no conclusive sightings in China of the 68-year-old Kim, who has appeared frail and gaunt since reportedly suffering a stroke in 2008. But motorcades of black cars and extensive security in Changchun, a northeast Chinese city, indicate he may be there, after entering China on Thursday.

The two neighbors do not disclose much information about Kim's travels, and only do so after he has left for home.

Diplomat's Warning

On Friday, a North Korean diplomat brandished the possibility of nuclear war with South Korea and the United States.

"If Washington and Seoul try to create conflict on the Korean peninsula we respond with a holy war on the basis of our nuclear deterrent forces", North Korea's ambassador to Cuba, Kwon Sung-chol, said in Havana, according to a report from there by China's official Xinhua news agency.

North Korea staged nuclear test blasts in 2006 and 2009, drawing international condemnations and U.N. sanctions backed by China, the biggest economic and diplomatic backer of Pyongyang.

China's envoy, Wu Dawei, proposed a three-stage process to restart the multilateral talks aimed at coaxing Pyongyang to give up its nuclear weapons in return for aid and other assurances, the South Korean diplomatic source told Reuters. In meetings in Seoul, Wu said North Korea and the United States should first hold bilateral talks that could open the way to the broader, six-party negotiations, the source said.

Those six countries - the United States, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Russia and China - would then hold a preparatory meeting to lay the way for fresh full-fledged negotiations.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter returned home from Pyongyang on Friday with an American who had been sentenced to eight years of hard labour for illegally entering North Korea.

The North's state media said number two leader Kim Yong-nam had told Carter that Pyongyang wanted the nuclear talks resumed.

China has sought to defuse confrontation by hosting six-party nuclear disarmament talks since August 2003.

In April 2009, North Korea said it was quitting the talks and reversing "disablement" steps intended to cripple its chief reactor complex, unhappy with implementation of an initial disarmament agreement reached in 2007.

North Korea has been retreating from its earlier public renunciation of the talks, but there are no firm plans for their resumption.

South Korea and Washington say resuming the talks will be impossible until Pyongyang also faces up to their conclusion that it was behind the sinking of a South Korean navy ship, the Cheonan, in March.

South Korea lost 46 sailors when the Cheonan sank. Seoul said an inquiry found there was no doubt North Korea torpedoed the ship, but Pyongyang denied it was responsible.

"North Korea needs to restart the disablement of its nuclear reactors and we want to see some seriousness as to how North Korea is treating the sinking of the Cheonan," said the South Korean source.

A Japanese government official, speaking in Beijing, echoed South Korean concerns.

"We don't think that the timing is right yet" to restart six-party talks, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He said China's envoy, Wu, would also travel to Tokyo and possibly the United States.

"The North Koreans have to first demonstrate their seriousness. There'll have to be some more diplomatic activity first," said the Japanese official.

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/asia/korea/2010/08/29/270561/China-seeks.htm>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

London Telegraph – U.K.

North Korea: Kim Jong-Il Hints At Change Of Leader

North Korea has given the clearest hint yet that Kim Jong-il, its 'Dear Leader', will be succeeded by his third and youngest son.

By Malcolm Moore, Shanghai
30 August 2010

The official North Korean news agency confirmed that the elder Kim had spent the weekend in China meeting Hu Jintao, the Chinese president.

In what may be an oblique reference to the succession process, the KCNA news agency also quoted Kim Jong-il, 68, telling a banquet that: "steadily developing the friendship [between North Korea and China] through the generations is an important issue in defending peace and security".

He added that because North Korea finds itself in a difficult political situation, it was an "important historical mission" to hand the baton over to the "rising generation".

The speech is the first hint by Kim Jong-il that he is preparing to hand over power to his 27-year-old Swiss-educated son, and an indication that China may have approved the appointment.

The elder Kim, who also voiced his willingness for North Korea to return to de-nuclearisation, needs China's backing for any transition of power. "Kim would have reassured China that he is committed to de-nuclearisation in exchange for a clear backing by his ally [Hu Jintao] for his successor," said Yang Moo Jin, a professor at the University of North Korean studies in Seoul.

Analysts are now looking to a meeting of the ruling Workers' Party next month for confirmation of Kim Jong-un's ascent.

The younger Kim was widely rumoured to have accompanied his father on the trip, however he was not mentioned by KCNA and a diplomatic source in Beijing told the Yonhap news agency that Kim Jong-un's name was not on the official list of entourage for the meeting with the Chinese president on Friday in Changchun.

The elder Kim's visit to China was clouded in secrecy until his train re-crossed the border into North Korea. At that point, Chinese television began to broadcast images of Kim looking slightly worn and limping slightly.

Kim suffered a stroke in August 2008 and since then has speeded up plans for a power transfer in the hardline communist state.

To underline the importance of the only dynasty to rule a hardline Communist state, Kim Jong-il also visited a school in Jilin where his own father studied in 1927 and was "overcome with deep emotion".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/northkorea/7971763/North-Korea-Kim-Jong-il-hints-at-change-of-leader.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Joong Ang Daily – South Korea

Jang Song-Thaek To Get North's No. 2 Post: Source

Sept. meeting will also give generals important posts

August 31, 2010

By Jeong Yong-soo, Ser Myo-ja

As part of North Korea's effort to establish a third-generation power succession, Jang Song-thaek, brother-in-law of the communist regime's leader Kim Jong-il, will be appointed to the second most powerful post in the ruling Workers' Party, intelligence sources said yesterday.

Signs that Kim is preparing to name his youngest son, Jong-un, as his successor have been increasingly evident as the Workers' Party gets closer to holding a delegates conference in early September. The last time such a meeting was held was 44 years ago.

Jang, the first vice director of the Workers' Party with responsibility for the police, judiciary and other areas of internal security, is the husband of the North Korean leader's younger sister. Jang is also known to have played the role of guardian to heir-apparent Jong-un.

"The party's delegates conference is believed to be taking place on Sept. 6," an intelligence source told the JoongAng Ilbo. "We have secured information that Jang will be named the secretary of organization during that meeting. He will also be elected as a member of the party's decision-making body, or politburo."

The secretary of organization for the Workers' Party is one of the key posts in North Korea, and Kim Jong-il has occupied the position since September 1973.

"Jang will become the second most powerful man in the North," said the official. "If the appointment is realized, Jang will manage state affairs and assist Kim Jong-un's power succession."

The source said North Korea is in desperate need to have a successor in place because of Kim's poor health.

"But Kim Jong-un is young and he lacks achievements to back his rise as the next leader," the official said. "That's why Jang will be appointed to the key post to control the party and hand it over to Jong-un when the time comes."

He added that South Korean intelligence authorities believe Jang is arranging the upcoming delegates conference.

Another intelligence source said Kim Jong-un will likely have a grand political debut at the conference, but won't immediately become a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo, the highest organ of the party.

In addition to Kim Jong-il and Jang, three other members of the country's power elite are expected to become members of the Standing Committee of the Politburo, the source said - Kim Yong-nam, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly and the nominal head of state, Kim Yong-chun, minister of the People's Armed Forces, and Choi Yong-rim, Cabinet Premier.

"Kim Jong-un will be elected as one of the 150 central committee members of the Workers' Party, but it will take more time for him to enter the party's core," the source said. "The central committee members are naturally the senior officials of the party, so he will likely head a department inside the party."

Traditionally, central committee members are ministers of the North's cabinet and senior military generals with more than three stars, as well as heads of key party departments such as the organization department and the propaganda department.

Kim Jong-un will likely become the head of the organization and guidance department, sources said, as his father did when he was making his rise.

In July 1973, Kim Jong-il was named the head of the organization and guidance department of the Workers' Party and then became the secretary of organization and propaganda in September of that year. In February 1974, he officially became the successor to his father.

If he doesn't follow his father's path, Jong-un could be named head of the military department of the party, which controls the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, sources said, pointing out that the post recently became vacant. The Chosun Central Television reported last week that Kim Song-gyu, who was the head of the party's military department, died of lung cancer on Aug. 24.

Other important decisions will also be made at the September conference, sources said. The event will be the third of its kind, and North Korea observers said the communist regime saw important turning points when the previous conferences took place in 1956 and 1966.

Kim Il Sung formally purged his opponents during the first meeting and he became general secretary of the Workers' Party during the second.

In addition to Kim Jong-un's political debut, a massive generational change will likely be endorsed at the upcoming conference, observers said. The Workers' Party has had no national convention since December 1993 and the upcoming conference will likely be used to fill up vacancies created by deaths of aged political heavyweights, observers said.

Of the 13 members of the politburo, only four, including Kim Jong-il and Kim Yong-nam, are alive. The other surviving members are in their 80s, and are less active in politics.

Senior military officials are likely to make their ways into the politburo and other key posts of the party, observers said.

The North's Workers' Party also had 11 secretaries to implement policies decided by the politburo, but only five (including Kim Jong-il) are alive today. Of the five, two reportedly have health problems, and North Korea observers said a generational change will also take place in the lineup of the Workers' Party secretariat.

<http://joongangdaily.joins.com/article/view.asp?aid=2925370>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Yonhap News – South Korea
30 August 2010

N. Korean Leader Calls For Nuclear Talks, Succession Of Friendly Ties: Reports

SEOUL, Aug. 30 (Yonhap) -- North Korean leader Kim Jong-il has called for reopening international nuclear talks while stressing the importance of the "rising generation" taking over the "baton of the traditional friendship" with China, according to the official news agencies of the two countries Monday.

The dispatches represented the first confirmation by Pyongyang and Beijing that the reclusive leader made a visit to the neighboring ally. It has been customary for the two countries not to announce details of Kim's trips until he returns home, apparently due to security concerns.

"With the international situation remaining complicated, it is our important historical mission to hand over to the rising generation the baton of the traditional friendship passed over by the revolutionary forerunners of the two countries as a precious asset so as to carry it forward through generations," Kim said at a banquet with Chinese President Hu Jintao, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

By the "rising generation," Kim is believed to be referring to his plan to hand power over to his youngest son, Jong-un, which would mark the second-ever hereditary transfer of power in communism. Kim himself took over the family dynasty after his father and late national founder Kim Il-sung died in 1994.

Analysts have said that the succession issue must have been a focus of Kim's latest trip as the itinerary included a pilgrimage to sites considered holy in North Korea for the anti-Japanese activity of Kim Il-sung, who is still revered as eternal president amid a strong cult of personality.

China's Xinhua news agency said that Kim hoped for an early resumption of six-nation talks on the country's nuclear programs at a summit with the Chinese president Friday. It also quoted Kim that North Korea's stance on adhering to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula had remained unchanged, and the country "is not willing to see tensions on the peninsula."

But KCNA made no mention of the nuclear talks in its dispatches on the outcome of Kim's Aug. 26-30 trip, only saying that the two sides had a "frank and sincere exchange of views" on international and regional issues, and "reached a full consensus of views."

The nuclear talks have been stalled since the last session in late 2008 due to Pyongyang's boycott. The prospects of reopening the forum have been further overshadowed by North Korea's deadly sinking of a South Korean warship in March.

It was Kim's second trip to China in about three months, an unusual move by the reclusive leader who rarely travels abroad. Kim's last visit to the neighboring country, Pyongyang's last-remaining ally, in May included talks with the Chinese president.

Media reports have speculated that Kim's heir-apparent, Jong-un, accompanied his father on the trip. But there was no mention by Xinhua or the KCNA of the secrecy-shrouded son who is believed to be in his 20s.

The trip also came just weeks before North Korea's ruling Workers' Party holds a rare leadership convention early next month where Kim's son is expected to be given a key party post.

Kim is said to have accelerated the succession process after he suffered a stroke in 2008.

"Steadily developing the friendship through generations is an important issue in defending peace and security in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world," Kim said at the banquet with Hu. "It is an unswerving policy of our party and government to further develop through generations and centuries Korea-China friendship, which has overcome all sorts of hardship through history."

His latest trip also came as a surprise because he left Pyongyang while former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was in the North to secure the release of a jailed American citizen. By refusing to meet Carter and instead heading to China, Kim appears to have sought to show the strength of Pyongyang-Beijing ties and send a clear message that his regime will not bow to U.S. pressure, analysts said.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2010/08/30/35/0401000000AEN20100830009500315F.HTML>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Washington Post

U.S. Puts New Sanctions On N. Korea

By Mary Beth Sheridan, Washington Post Staff Writer

Tuesday, August 31, 2010

Page - A10

The White House announced Monday it is hitting North Korea with sanctions aimed at providers of weapons, luxury goods and various illicit financial services that benefit the elite in the closed communist country.

The administration had previously said it would strengthen sanctions on Pyongyang in response to the March sinking of a South Korean warship, an attack that U.S. officials have blamed on North Korea.

But the announcement came just days after former president Jimmy Carter visited North Korea and won the release of an American activist, raising speculation about a possible thaw between Washington and Pyongyang.

The new sanctions sent a different signal.

They "are early evidence the administration is not about to drop pressure and choose a path of engagement alone with North Korea," said Michael Green, who was a senior Asian affairs official in the George W. Bush administration.

"In many respects, what's happening is the Obama administration is going back to the hard-line Bush approach to North Korea that Democrats had criticized," said Green, now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The executive order signed by President Obama on Monday targets people and companies involved with selling arms to North Korea, providing it with luxury goods, and assisting the country's authorities with money laundering, counterfeiting and narcotics trafficking.

The entities named included Office 39 of the Korean Workers' Party, which helps top North Korean officials through "illicit economic activities and managing the leadership's slush funds," according to a fact sheet from the Treasury Department.

The other entities named are involved in North Korea's conventional arms trade, it said. They are the Reconnaissance General Bureau and Green Pine Associated Corp.

Stuart Levey, a senior Treasury official, told reporters that other entities could be named later under the sanctions.

"The effect of this is potentially global in application," if foreign firms are found to be helping North Korea in illicit activities, he said.

The sanctions would freeze any of those targets' U.S. assets, and make it illegal for American companies to do business with such firms.

The United Nations has already banned trade in conventional arms and luxury goods to North Korea, but the executive order signed by Obama strengthens the penalties involved, officials said. A senior State Department arms-control official, Robert Einhorn, told reporters that the administration still hoped to resume negotiations with North Korea on dismantling its nuclear-arms program.

North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-Il, said during a recent visit to China that he hoped to soon resume the six-party negotiations that broke off in April 2009, according to official media there.

But the sanctions announcement would complicate the relaunch of talks, said Selig S. Harrison, a Korea expert at the Center for International Policy.

"This is exactly the wrong time to be making that process more difficult," he said. "What we have learned in the last 50 years is that North Korea's response to pressure is to retaliate, not to succumb."

The talks, which also include South Korea, the United States, China, Japan and Russia, were halted when the North walked out. It carried out its second nuclear-weapons test the following month.

The Obama administration also announced Monday that it had added five more North Korean entities and three individuals to a list of those sanctioned under a previous executive order aimed at people supporting the country's nuclear program.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/30/AR2010083005007.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Wall Street Journal
August 31, 2010

North Korean Pair Viewed As Key To Secret Arms Trade

By JAY SOLOMON

SEOUL—A North Korean arms chief and Pyongyang's former ambassador to the United Nation's nuclear agency have emerged as key figures in an intensifying international effort to curb North Korea's weapons-trading activities.

The global dealings of the two men, Chun Byung-ho and Yun Ho-jin, whom North Korea analysts believe to be related through marriage, date back to the 1980s. They have played leading roles in North Korea's development and testing of atomic weapons, according to current and former U.S. officials, Asian intelligence analysts and U.N. nonproliferation staffers.

More troubling to officials, Messrs. Chun and Yun also oversee Pyongyang's vast arms-trading network, which appears to be spreading. They have shipped components for long-range missiles, nuclear reactors and conventional arms to countries including Iran, Syria and Myanmar.

On Monday, the Obama administration announced economic sanctions against various individuals and entities involved in Pyongyang's nuclear work and in alleged illicit trading activities. The Treasury Department named Mr. Yun and the North Korean body headed by Mr. Chun—the Second Economic Committee of Pyongyang's ruling Korean Workers' Party. The sanctions freeze any U.S. assets of those named and bar Americans from conducting business with them. Treasury also warned that foreign firms doing business with them risked sanctions.

The Second Economic Committee oversees a little-known foreign trade office with the Orwellian name of Office 99. The proceeds from the Office's arms sales go directly to North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il and Pyongyang's senior leadership, according to these officials and recent North Korean defectors.

"It is broadly believed that the Second Economic Committee...plays the largest and most prominent role in nuclear, other WMD and missile-related development programs, as well as arranging and conducting arms-related exports" for North Korea, says a report issued in May by the U.N. committee tasked with enforcing international sanctions on Pyongyang.

The U.S. and U.N. recently have intensified efforts to combat the Second Economic Committee and Office 99, alarmed by Pyongyang's two nuclear-weapons tests and its alleged role in sinking a South Korean naval vessel in March. Last year, the U.N. formally sanctioned Mr. Yun and his arms company, Namchongang Trading Co.

North Korean arms shipments moving through Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa and the South China Sea have been seized or turned back by the U.S. and its allies over the past few years. A Japanese court convicted a Tokyo-based trading company in November of procuring military technologies for Pyongyang with the intent of shipping them to Myanmar.

Still, Messrs. Chun and Yun's decades of experience in the weapons trade pose a challenge to an international community keen to disrupt Pyongyang's proliferation activities, say U.S. and Asian officials. "There is no reason to assume that Chun and Yun won't sell nuclear weapons," says David Asher, a former Bush administration official who has tracked Pyongyang's arms trade for a decade. "There needs to be an active effort to disrupt their WMD networks and drive them out of business now, before it's too late."

The two men have established a network of front companies in Asia, Europe and the Middle East and have partnered with Southeast Asian, Japanese and Taiwanese criminal syndicates to move cash and contraband, say U.S. officials. And Mr. Yun has used the political cover provided by Pyongyang's closest ally, China, to openly conduct business in cities such as Beijing and Shenyang, drawing official rebukes from Washington.

North Korean diplomats at Pyongyang's U.N. mission in New York did not respond to requests for comment. Messrs. Chun and Yun couldn't be reached.

Current and former U.S. officials say North Korea's operations resemble in both scale and tactics those of Pakistan's Abdul Qadeer Khan—one of the most notorious arms dealers in recent years. U.S. officials fear that isolated North Korea, desperate for hard currency, could accelerate its arms exports in a bid to prop up Kim Jong Il's finances.

Mr. Chun, now 84 years old, and his Second Economic Committee emerged as major global arms exporters in the 1980s, as North Korea shipped as much as \$3 billion worth of rockets, pistols and submarines to Tehran during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, say recent defectors and North Korea analysts.

Pyongyang assisted some communist and socialist countries militarily during the 1960s and 1970s, and provided fighter pilots to aid Egypt and Syria in their wars against Israel. But North Korea found a largely captive market in Iran, which faced a U.S.-led weapons embargo as the West threw its support behind Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein.

One senior North Korean defector who worked in Pyongyang's munitions industries says he was dispatched to Iran by the Second Economic Committee in 1987 with the task of constructing missile batteries on the Iranian island of Kish to help Tehran better control the movement of ships through the Straits of Hormuz.

His main interlocutor was Iran's elite military unit, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The former hydro-mechanic says camaraderie developed between his 100-man team and the Guard, despite their different backgrounds.

Mr. Chun's control over the Second Economic Committee was tied to his close relationship with Pyongyang's ruling Kim family, say defectors and North Korea experts. The Russian-trained bureaucrat served as a member of North Korean founder Kim Il Sung's bodyguard unit. He rose up the ranks of the Korean Workers' Party with the political support of Kim Jong Il, eventually securing a position on Pyongyang's most powerful political body, the National Defense Commission.

North Korea's high-level defector, Hwang Jang-yop, has identified Mr. Chun as the broker of a key barter trade in the 1990s with Pakistan that significantly advanced Pyongyang's nuclear infrastructure. The agreement resulted in North Korea shipping parts for long-range missiles to Islamabad in exchange for A.Q. Khan sending centrifuge equipment used in producing nuclear fuel.

As Mr. Chun pushed forward North Korea's nuclear program from Pyongyang, Mr. Yun, believed to be the husband of Mr. Chun's second daughter, emerged as a key player in procuring technologies for the Second Economic Committee from Europe, according to U.S., U.N. and European officials.

Mr. Yun, 66, arrived in Vienna in 1985 as Pyongyang's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency. The English and German speaker led negotiations with the U.N. agency aimed at forging a nuclear-inspection agreement with North Korea, and he helped oversee a 1992 tour of his nation's Yongbyon nuclear facility for Hans Blix, the IAEA's then-managing director.

"Yun was dedicated to turning things around. I truly believe that," says Willi Theis, who worked closely with Mr. Yun as the head of the IAEA's safeguards unit overseeing North Korea. Mr. Theis is now retired.

Still, concerns grew inside the IAEA about Mr. Yun's activities, as relations between Pyongyang and the international community deteriorated, according to IAEA officials.

In 1993, North Korea broke off talks with the IAEA over the agency's demands for an inspection of the country's nuclear operations, and the U.S. charged Pyongyang with secretly stockpiling plutonium for atomic weapons. The next year, the Clinton administration threatened to bomb the Yongbyon facility if North Korea didn't explain where the plutonium had gone. Mr. Yun grew embittered with the diplomatic process and mistrustful of the U.S. and its allies, according to IAEA staff and journalists who met with him.

Mr. Theis says he spent hours discussing the process with Mr. Yun and pressed the Agency to remain engaged with Pyongyang. The West German-born nuclear inspector says he grew suspicious of Mr. Yun's many trips to other European cities and his contacts with local companies. Mr. Yun even hinted to Mr. Theis that he might have no choice but to directly support North Korea's nuclear-weapons programs if relations with the IAEA collapsed.

"He came to the conclusion that dealing with the international community was totally disappointing," said Mr. Theis in a phone interview from Austria. "Mr. Yun had definitely learned how to establish contacts with all types of people [while in Vienna]—not just from the IAEA, but managers of companies."

Mr. Theis's concerns about Mr. Yun would be borne out in 2003, when a German businessman, Hans Werner Truppel, was arrested and eventually convicted by a Stuttgart court of selling 22 metric tons of aluminum tubes to Mr. Yun.

The North Korean and his company, Namchongang Trading, used offices in Beijing and Shenyang, China, to place orders for the equipment, which is critical to building centrifuges needed to enrich uranium, according to a German Customs Bureau report. U.S. officials briefed on the case were alarmed that Mr. Yun conducted some of his business through the offices of Shenyang Aircraft Industry Co., a Chinese state-owned firm.

In the ensuing months, the State Department aired its concerns about Mr. Yun's activities to China's government, according to former U.S. officials. But Beijing took no action.

China's ministries of foreign affairs and commerce didn't respond to requests for comment. Shenyang Aircraft says it had no recollection of any dealings with Mr. Yun.

Messrs. Chun and Yun have sought to accelerate North Korea's weapons sales and procurement in recent years and allegedly have played important roles in strengthening Pyongyang's military ties to countries such as Syria and Myanmar, say current and former U.S. officials.

North Korea analysts believe most of these transactions have been conducted through Office 99, which they describe as an international sales office and slush fund for Kim Jong Il.

"Anything that has to do with the imports and exports of weapons flows through Office 99," says Oh Kongdan, a North Korea expert at Virginia's Institute of Defense Analyses, a Pentagon-funded think tank. "It's a royal patronage system."

U.S. officials say that since the late 1990s they detected through intelligence channels intensifying military cooperation between North Korea and Syria, focused on everything from the development of chemical weapons to missiles.

In September 2007, Israeli jets bombed a facility in eastern Syria that U.S. officials say was a nearly operational replica of North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear reactor. As many as 10 North Koreans died in the Israeli attack, according to U.S. officials. Mr. Yun and Namchongang Trading are believed to have played a central role in brokering development of the facility.

"That particular company was all over the nuclear trade. There's no question about it," says John Bolton, who served as the Bush administration's top non-proliferation official. Both Syria and North Korea have denied cooperating on developing nuclear technologies.

Over the past two years, U.S. and U.N. officials have also voiced concerns about North Korea's deepening military ties with Myanmar, the Southeast Asian country formerly known as Burma.

North Korea engineers have helped Myanmar build a maze of fortified bunkers to house senior government officials and military installations, according to Burmese defectors and commercial satellite photos. Current and former U.S. officials say Washington has intervened to block the transfer of Scud missiles to Myanmar from Pyongyang.

In June, Japan's Ministry of Economy and Trade banned Tokyo-based Toko Boeki Trading Co. and device maker Riken Denshi from conducting international trade after three of their affiliated executives, one of them an ethnic Korean, were arrested trying to send machine tools on an export-control list to Myanmar using a dummy company in Malaysia. The equipment could be used to develop either ballistic missiles or centrifuges for a uranium-enrichment program, according to weapons experts. And the U.N. in its May report said it was examining "suspicious" ties between Mr. Yun's Namchongang Trading and Myanmar, possibly linked to these activities in Japan.

The Obama administration, in response, has announced a stepped-up campaign to block North Korea's ability to raise funds through the arms trade. In addition to the new sanctions, the Pentagon has said it will intensify the interdiction of ships and planes believed to be carrying North Korean arms.

Still, Mr. Theis and other North Korea experts believe that it is only through dialogue that the West will be able to curb the North's proliferation threat. Mr. Theis says he is recently lobbied the IAEA to allow him to return to Pyongyang to hold meetings with Mr. Yun. So far, he says, the IAEA hasn't agreed.

—Yoree Koh in Tokyo contributed to this article.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704741904575409940288714852.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

What The Russian Papers Say

30 August 2010

Rossiiskaya Gazeta

Russian Submarine Gives British Navy A Fright

A Russian nuclear-powered submarine was spying on the British strategic submarine Vanguard carrying Trident intercontinental missiles, a British broadsheet newspaper reported.

The report says the Russian submarine tried to record the unique engine sounds of the British Navy's underwater missile carrier. If that had happened, Britain's strategic deterrence would have been at risk. Fortunately for the deterrent force, the Trafalgar nuclear-powered submarine was dispatched to intercept the Russian Akula and chased the Russian spy away from the British coast, scuttling the perfidious Russian mission.

The incident reportedly took place six months ago, but was not disclosed until now. And there is another interesting detail. British media have reported a record number of acoustic contacts made with Russian submarines in the North Atlantic since 1987.

What is happening in reality? The Main Headquarters of the Russian Navy said it is just regular combat training. And the fact that Russian nuclear submarines have been sailing in the open oceans only shows that submariners are resuming their normal professional drills. Many Russian boats had been moored at their berths for too long.

Project 971 nuclear submarines known as Shchuka-B under the Soviet classification system belong to third-generation submarines and are a steel copy of titanium Project 945 "barracudas" - the best multi-purpose nuclear submarines at the end of the 20th century. They are designed to chase hostile submarines of all types, as well as aircraft carrier groups. A distinctive feature of these boats is that they are capable of detecting the traces of a surface or an underwater ship in the ocean several days after its passage through the particular spot. This was reported in the open press in the early 1990s. In addition, the boats run very quietly. That was perhaps the reason why NATO called Project 971 submarines the Akula, or sea shark.

The appearance of such a boat off Scotland, if it really happened, is in no way connected with reconnaissance, in the opinion of Russian submariners. Rather the boat was practicing a hunt for a strategic submarine. Though risky, it is a common business.

To conduct reconnaissance, Russia has long built special submarines, which are practically impossible to spot. As regards the "unique sounds" of combat submarines, they have long been recorded both by Russia and NATO.

The incident in no way points to a confrontation or a worsening of relations between NATO and Russia.

RIA Novosti is not responsible for the content of outside sources.

MOSCOW, August 30 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/papers/20100830/160397935.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Jerusalem Post – Israel

OPINION

By Jerusalem Post Editorial

Ahmadinejad's Miscalculation

Israel is temperate, humane and pragmatic.

August 28, 2010

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad purports to know: Israel, he reiterated for the umpteenth time last week, is "too weak" to strike militarily at Iran, and "lacks the courage" to intervene decisively to thwart Teheran's steady progress toward the nuclear bomb.

The Iranian president is mistaken. Neither weak nor lacking in courage, Israel is, rather, temperate, humane and pragmatic. It is also, above all, resolute on the matter of its survival.

In 1981 it struck, reluctantly, at Iraq's reactor at Osirak because it determined that Saddam Hussein, if allowed to achieve the means, was capable of getting out of bed one morning and deciding, in defiance of any rational analysis of costs and benefits, to launch a nuclear attack on Israel. In 2007, it hit Syria's nascent reactor, again without hubris, clinically preempting a dire threat from a ruthless enemy.

Israel has thus far chosen not to militarily challenge the mullahs' march to the bomb – chosen, that is, not to follow its proven doctrine of preventing enemies from attaining the means to achieve its demise – because, quite simply, it has not felt the imperative to do so.

Leaders and the public alike here have been horrified by years of apparent international indifference to the escalating threat posed to the free world by the Iranian program.

Iran, after all, has made no secret of its determination to remake the world order in its fundamentalist, religiously skewed, brutal, misogynistic image. A nuclear weapons capability would help nicely. Ahmadinejad himself will soon be setting off on his scandalously permitted annual journey to the UN General Assembly, there to advise the great powers, led by the United States, to repent or be damned.

Of late, the US and Europe have led a slightly more robust campaign of economic sanction, and Israel, with one eye on the Iranian nuclear clock, has quietly seethed at the wastage of time while publicly applauding efforts at pressure that it fears may be too little, too late. But, to date, Israel has not felt that the moment of truth had arrived.

The last few days, however, have seen a flurry of reports suggesting that Israel has either now made up its mind that it will have to strike at Iran, or that it is on the point of reaching such a decision. Jeffrey Goldberg, writing in *The Atlantic* recently and basing himself on what he said were interviews with some 40 current and past Israeli decision-makers, asserted “a better than 50 percent chance that Israel will launch a strike by next July.”

Goldberg went so far as to claim that the Pentagon has already ordered US commanders in this region not to shoot down Iran-bound Israeli aircraft they may encounter in their airspace.

The selection of Yoav Galant to succeed Gabi Ashkenazi as chief of the General Staff has also been widely ascribed, at least in part, to the relevance of Galant's ostensibly bold and confident persona in the Iranian context.

“Considering that the coming year is expected to be a year of decisions,” our own military correspondent Yaakov Katz wrote on Tuesday, “Defense Minister Ehud Barak felt that he needed someone who would be able to make the decision to use the IDF if the government were to decide to give the green light for such an operation.”

Iran is not an easy read for intelligence analysts. Would it strike at Israel if it got the bomb? Would it seek to avoid an Israeli response by supplying the capacity to a nonstate actor, that would strike in its stead? Or would it “merely” use a nuclear capability to remake the regional balance of power to Israel's drastic detriment? There are no simple answers to these questions. And at the same time, the consequences of Israeli military intervention in Iran are close to unthinkable. For a start, in contrast to Saddam, Iran could both rebuild and retaliate.

Nevertheless, Ahmadinejad is showing an acutely dangerous potential for miscalculation. And since this newspaper's coverage (which featured at Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah's rambling Beirut press conference earlier this month) is doubtless brought to his attention, let us make this clear: If Israel were to determine that sanctions had failed, that Iran was about to acquire the capacity to carry out its declared goal of Israel's demise, and that only Israeli military intervention could prevent a second Holocaust, our leaders would have no choice, however reluctantly, but to act.

We did not gather the majority of the Jewish nation here, in a sovereign entity that was revived tragically too late to save our millions from the Nazis, in order to sit helplessly by as a new genocidal enemy closed in on our destruction.

<http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Editorials/Article.aspx?id=186291>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Wall Street Journal

OPINION

August 29, 2010

Pyongyang's New Leader For The Old Guard

North Korea's elites prepare for a new regime they hope will look a lot like the current one.

By ANDREI LANKOV

Kim Jong Il's apparent trip to China last week has excited more speculation over succession planning for the ailing North Korean dictator. That trip was widely interpreted as a way to introduce Kim's youngest son, Kim Jong Eun, to the leadership of Pyongyang's most important ally. But that is not necessarily the most important step in this process. Far more interesting may be the move afoot *within* Pyongyang to establish the younger Kim as the unquestioned next in line.

A few weeks ago the North Korean authorities announced that in September the ruling Korean Workers Party will hold a conference—essentially, a simplified version of the Party Congress. Such conferences are few and far between. The last Party conference took place in 1966 and the last Party congress met in 1980. These serve solely as rubber stamps for decisions that have already been made, whether on policies or appointments to key posts. In a Leninist state, Party gatherings are chiefly venues where such decisions are announced with the greatest possible pomp.

An extraordinary gathering generally is convened only to announce an extraordinary decision—after all, the last Party Congress was convened in 1980 to announce the anointment of Kim Jong Il as heir-apparent to his father. Few doubt that this time this decision will be about the succession. The world will probably "learn" that Korea has been lucky to acquire another genius of leadership who, of course, was born into the ruling Kim family.

This will be a high-stakes moment for the regime. A change of leader is bound to produce expectations of other changes. Indeed some major news outlets already speculate that Swiss-educated Kim Jong Eun might initiate some Chinese-style reforms. He is young, merely 27 or 28 years old, and has spent much of his time outside the country—all factors that could suggest a greater willingness to reform. But do not hold your breath. The young man appears to be favored by many within the regime precisely because he is the least likely person to change anything—in the short term, at least.

His apparent weaknesses are his greatest selling point so far as other leaders within the regime are concerned. As a candidate he perfectly fits the old guard, those people who now run the country together with Kim Jong Il. If Kim Jong Il is going to die soon, his youngest son, being weak, embarrassingly young and lacking a power base of his own, is almost certain to become a puppet. Whatever he secretly thinks about his country's future, for the first few years of his reign he will have no choice but to obediently sign the policy papers drafted by the same people who have prepared such papers for his father.

Indeed, there are signs as the succession process unfolds that those currently in the upper echelons of the regime are taking steps to protect their positions. A car crash recently killed Ri Che Kang, Kim Jong Il's deputy for Party affairs (North Korea has almost no traffic, but a surprising number of high-level officials die in car accidents). If this was an assassination, it could have been a result of jockeying for positions within the elite.

In a more clear-cut sign of power positioning, a North Korean rubber-stamping parliament held an unusual emergency session where Chang Song Taek, Kim Jong Il's brother-in-law, was promoted to become the deputy chairman of the National Defense Commission, essentially making him a vice-president.

The contours of a new power system are emerging. The old guard, probably presided over by Mr. Chang, will supervise a young and obedient prince. What that old guard wants is simply more of the same. They believe that North Korea, facing a rich and powerful South, cannot survive Chinese-style reform. The existence of the "dirty rich neighbor" whose population speaks the same language makes North Korea's situation very different from that of China. In the peculiar case of North Korea, an attempted reform is likely to lead not to China-style economic boom but to an East German-style collapse. The top elite also understand that in such a case they will lose everything, including, perhaps, their freedom. Hence their strong drive to keep things unchanged.

This does not mean that these efforts to preserve the status quo will succeed. Internecine hatreds and rivalries might surface, with power struggles destabilizing the regime from the top down. The young dictator might become annoyed with the old guard, or vice versa. The probability of dramatic events happening in Pyongyang is certainly increasing.

The major goal of the North Korean elite now is to drive this probability down. The new power structure is being designed to keep things unchanged, and on balance it is likely, but by no means certain, to work. Alas, for the outside world it means more years of nuclear brinksmanship, and for the North Korean people more years of abject poverty.

Mr. Lankov is a professor at Kookmin University in Seoul and a contributor to InLiberty.ru, an Atlas Economic Research Foundation project.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703669004575458723997180374.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Jimmy Carter In Pyongyang

Back to the same old North Korean games.

Page – A14

The first time Jimmy Carter travelled to North Korea, in 1994 to negotiate a nuclear deal, we wrote that "every demarche from Pyongyang will be entertained by other governments in light of the fear that North Korea wields a nuclear threat." Fast forward 16 years to the second Carter visit, and we may be at the beginning of another such cycle.

Mr. Carter and Obama Administration officials were quick to call last week's trip to rescue 31-year-old Aijalon Gomes, a prisoner of the North Korean regime since January, a "private" humanitarian visit. The U.S. had legitimate concerns about his health, given the North's infamous prisons.

But Mr. Carter wouldn't have been able to travel to North Korea without official permission, and he stuck around for an extra day in the hopes of seeing Kim Jong Il, who was travelling in China with his third son, his presumed heir. Kim snubbed Mr. Carter, yet his number two told the former President the North wants to resume the six-party talks. China's nuclear envoy carried the same message to Seoul, and U.S. doves like former State Department official Joel Wit echoed that call in the New York Times.

This sudden outbreak of diplomatic fervor isn't a coincidence; the North and its allies are good at preaching the virtues of negotiation when Pyongyang is at its most vulnerable. The Clinton Administration was preparing sanctions on the North when Mr. Carter negotiated what became the 1994 Agreed Framework. In that deal, the U.S. gave the North financing for two light-water nuclear reactors, security guarantees and energy. In return, Pyongyang continued its nuclear weapons program.

In 2006, when Bush Administration financial sanctions started to bite, North Korea tested a nuclear device, and the U.S. again caved, agreeing to return the dirty money in exchange for more talks. In return, Pyongyang continued its nuclear weapons program. See a pattern here?

Returning to the six-party talks now would again reward bad behavior. Unlike the U.S., the North has shown no willingness to keep its promises. Since talks stalled the North has conducted another nuclear test; launched missiles near Japan; sunk a South Korean naval vessel, killing 46 sailors; seized political prisoners; expropriated South Korean assets and threatened a nuclear attack.

This is a sign of vulnerability, not strength. On the economic front, a botched currency reform last year created hyperinflation and resulted in rare public protests. Floods this month have devastated agriculture. On the political front, Kim is reportedly getting ready to transfer power to his son at next month's rare party conference, even though Kim Jong Eun is seen as young, inexperienced and possibly unable to control the military.

All of this raises questions about what diplomacy might achieve. The six-party talks benefit the North by giving Pyongyang global legitimacy and a sanctions reprieve, and they benefit China by giving Beijing free diplomatic leverage in a process in which it is the North's main enabler. Do the U.S. and its allies really want another Agreed Framework?

Rather than entertain fantasies about the North's intentions, the better strategy is to keep the sanctions pressure on with the goal of hastening the regime's demise and, as South Korea is already doing, preparing for the collapse.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703669004575458422510924854.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Eagle's Eye: Iran's Nuclear Defiance Rattles Arabs

August 31, 2010

The fuelling of its first nuclear reactor by Iran with Russian help, which could facilitate production of enriched uranium, has shaken neighbouring Arab states who are losing faith in America's willingness to prevent nuclearisation of the region. For most of them Tehran crashing upon the world stage with a nuclear weapon in the foreseeable future presents a doomsday scenario. Though Iran vehemently denies harbouring nuclear weapon ambitions and insists its uranium enrichment programme is meant for medical purposes, there are few who take the

clerical regime at its word. Mocking the West, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has declared that the Bushehr reactor was a symbol of Iranian resistance and determination and, as a further show of defiance, launched the first domestically-built drone bomber capable of carrying cruise missiles up to a range of 1,000 km calling it an "ambassador of death" to keep the enemy paralysed in its bases.

Iran's show of defiance of UN sanctions is bolstered by the support it receives from Russia and China. The Bushehr reactor is a joint venture of Iran and Russia, will be fully fuelled and operated by Russian engineers for at least two years and Moscow will take back the spent fuel to prevent its misuse, meaning further enrichment to bomb-grade material. To help Iran beat the sanctions, Russia and China have supplied it refined petroleum products, weapons and other goods and entered into lucrative contracts in the energy and other fields. They thus effectively challenged America's power and influence in West Asia and provided a shield of sorts against moves to knock out Tehran's uranium enrichment facilities. Even though US Arab allies feel greatly concerned, its inaction to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapon state seems to have demoralised them.

A Shi'ite nuclear bomb would be an unacceptable proposition for its Sunni neighbours because their security would be endangered. Iran's relentless pursuit of uranium enrichment -- for the present upto 20 percent purity -- and its refusal to take IAEA inspectors on board as regards all such facilities, has fuelled fears that its programme masks a weapon drive. While collaborating in the Bushehr atomic power plant, Moscow has pointed out that all its operations will be conducted under IAEA supervision and hence diversion of spent fuel for military purposes was not possible. The US State Department spokesman has poured cold water on the hopes of Iran's shaky neighbours by recognising that Bushehr was designed to produce civilian nuclear power. Apparently, with Congressional elections due in November, President Obama is in no mood to launch another Middle East adventure and thinks of a negotiated solution of the enrichment problem. The hardliners, who are not prepared to trust Iran, argue that Bushehr is a sideshow in the nuclear standoff and should not detract attention from the real issue of enrichment.

The anti-Iran mood in a large section of the US establishment, together with the intense exertions of the non-proliferation lobby within the US bureaucracy has hardened attitudes. Iran acquiring nuclear weapons through the clandestine route of power reactors has increased the threat perception of the Arab states in general and the Gulf in particular. These states fear that a Shi'ite Iran armed with nuclear weapons will be better equipped to destabilise the region. Some of these states have sizeable Shi'ite populations which they fear could become breeding grounds for their internal destabilisation. The fear stalking the US and the West generally is that after acquiring nuclear weapons, Iran would emerge as the major power in the region with the strength of its armed forces and its oil reserves, making it impossible to contain it. It could also increase its hostility to Israel, whose right to exist is not recognised by Tehran even now.

With such a strong rival to Israel emerging and the Gulf states finding themselves militarily vulnerable and open to destabilisation, core western interests in the region could be compromised and the balance of power would decisively shift against the west. With a nuclear deterrent in possession, at whatever point of time that happens, Iran would be in a position to impede vital western interests in a number of ways.

The pressure on the US and the West to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons is now likely to grow stronger, with Tehran having taken the first major step towards acquiring nuclear fuel. Iran could cheat by stopping the nuclear reactor midway to extract plutonium, which also is used for making atomic weapons, despite the IAEA inspectors and Russian assurances.

Most of the Gulf states being oil-exporters, Iran's capability to stop the flow of oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz presents a nightmarish scenario for them. In their view, a nuclear Iran would be well positioned to cause instability in some of its neighbouring oil-rich states. Saudi Arabia, which has the world's largest oil reserves, felt greatly concerned by the revelation of Pakistan's clandestine help to Iran with the supply of centrifuges for uranium enrichment and other equipment and know how related to nuclear weaponisation. Riyadh has always regarded Tehran as a potential threat to its security and has fully backed US efforts to prevent Tehran from enriching uranium and acquiring the raw material for a nuclear bomb, the design of which also formed part of the notorious A. Q. Khan network transfers.

Iran insists that it needs 20 per cent enriched uranium for medical purposes though metals other than uranium are most frequently used in radiation treatment machines. The head of Iran's Atomic Energy establishment Ali Akbar Salehi has revealed that his country has already accumulated 17 kg of uranium enriched to 20 per cent, without revealing the source. He also claimed that Iran had the capacity to enrich uranium "to any percentage", and this was a legal right for the country. His statement removes all doubts about Iran's capability as highly enriched uranium refined to a level above 90 per cent can be used for making atomic weapons. Such enrichment is possible with the help of the latest centrifuges which it has installed without let or hindrance in defiance of the sanctions and through clandestine routes.

The neighbouring Arab States argue that Iran finds it easier to pursue its weapons goal under sanctions because it is answerable to none for doing so. All its activities in that direction are not open to inspection. North Korea became a nuclear weapon state in this manner and continues its weapon programme unhindered, obviously under China's protection. The mediatory efforts by Turkey and Brazil to bring Iran on board have not succeeded. Although they agreed to take away low-enriched uranium from Iran and supply it stuff of 20 per cent purity, not a gramme of uranium has so far been transferred.

Apart from direct help from Russia and China, Iran is beating sanctions in a variety of ways. These include repeatedly renaming ships to evade port authorities' scrutiny and by bribing middlemen to route illicit shipments in round about ways to disguise their destination. Iran has also set up its own shell companies from the Caribbean to the Isle of Man. The UAE authorities recently closed some 40 Iranian companies suspected of channeling embargoed goods to Iran from across the world, but hundreds are known to be still in business.

Russia is going ahead with cooperation in the energy sector and with supplies of S-300 air defence missiles, in addition to massive hardware it has already given through commercial deals. Washington's frustration also stems from the fact that Russia and China have effectively neutralised the effect of UN sanctions by supplying Iran with its needs and pursuing economic, defence and commercial interests with it. Russia and Iran together hold 20 per cent of the global oil reserves and 42 per cent of natural gas. Russia's Gazprom has offered technical support and indicated willingness to finance a planned gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan and India.

Although New Delhi has followed the UN sanctions it believes in a negotiated settlement of Iran's uranium enrichment issue. But, it has reservations about the unilateral US and EU sanctions which would hit its economic interests also. Indian oil imports from Iran are to the tune of 18 million tonnes annually and investment in the energy sector is about \$ 100 million, which is slated to grow.

Future US strategy in the face of Iran's persistent defiance is still nuclear, but it seems unlikely that Washington and Tel Aviv will exercise the military option to knock out Iran's enrichment facilities. The Arab states are getting worried and are disinclined to accept what seems like fiat accompli.

MK Dhar, NPA

<http://www.centralchronicle.com/viewnews.asp?articleID=46079>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)