



# **USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**

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Tehran Times – Iran  
Wednesday, October 27, 2010

## **Iran Plans to Build 3 More Reactors at Bushehr Nuclear Site**

Tehran Times Political Desk

BUSHEHR – As engineers began loading fuel into the core of the Bushehr nuclear reactor on Tuesday the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) announced that it plans to build two to three more nuclear reactors at the Bushehr nuclear site.

“This facility has the capacity to house two to three other reactors,” AEOI director Ali Akbar Salehi told reporters at the site of the Bushehr nuclear plant.

Salehi said work on the construction of new reactors will start should the conditions are favorable.

Asked why the loading has been postponed several times, Salehi, a trained nuclear expert, said delays are natural because some malfunctions usually occur during the testing out machines or equipment.

Asked when the power plant can generate electricity, he said it will take at least 60 days so that the plant can generate electricity.

The plant, which is located near the port of Bushehr on the coast of the Persian Gulf, will produce 1000 megawatts of electricity once all the fuel rods are loaded into the core of the reactor.

Salehi also said the raw materials of radio isotopes will be shipped from Russia to Iran within two weeks and after their quality is approved, a contract will be signed between the two countries.

-- Fuel exchange

Salehi also said he is in contact with Russian officials for resuming talks about a nuclear fuel exchange as IAEA director Yukiya Amano is visiting Moscow.

-- Safety standards

The nuclear chief also assured the Persian Gulf neighboring countries that the Bushehr nuclear plant is among the world's reactors with the highest safety standards.

He added the International Atomic Energy Agency is involved in upgrading the safety of the plant.

In terms of safety the plant has been tested three times, he explained.

He went on to say that the Persian Gulf countries can ask the IAEA any questions about the safety of the Bushehr plant.

[http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index\\_view.asp?code=229332](http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index_view.asp?code=229332)

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London Daily Telegraph – U.K.

## **Sir John Sawers: MI6 Chief Says Intelligence is Key to Curbing Iran's Nuclear Power**

*Intelligence operations are vital to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons, the head of MI6 Sir John Sawers has claimed.*

By Laura Roberts  
28 October 2010

He said that diplomacy was not enough and said that intelligence activities were responsible for Iran's admission last year of a second enrichment plant, which in turn led to tougher diplomatic pressure.

"Stopping nuclear proliferation cannot be addressed purely by conventional diplomacy," he said. "We need intelligence-led operations to make it more difficult for countries like Iran to develop nuclear weapons," he said.

Sir John's comments come as six world powers seek to resume talks with Iran over its nuclear programme, which Tehran insists is for civilian purposes but which Western powers suspect is intended to develop atomic weapons.

The UN Security Council voted for fresh sanctions against Iran in June, the fourth set since December 2006 over its nuclear programme.

He told the Society of Editors in London: "The revelations around Iran's secret enrichment site at Qom were an intelligence success. They led to diplomatic pressure on Iran intensifying, with tougher UN and EU sanctions, which are beginning to bite.

"The Iranian regime must think hard about where its best interests lie."

He added: "The risks of failure in this area are grim.... And the longer international efforts delay Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons technology, the more time we create for a political solution to be found."

Iran notified the UN nuclear watchdog in September last year that it was building a second enrichment plant near the central city of Qom, after Washington accused it of covertly evading its responsibilities under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Sir John warned that the threats posed by al-Qaeda terrorist elements were not just from border areas in Afghanistan and Pakistan but also in Yemen, Somalia and North Africa which could also not be ignored.

"Al-Qaeda have ambitious goals," he said. "Weakening the power of the West. Toppling moderate Islamic regimes. Seizing the Holy Places of Islam to give them moral authority. Taking control of the Arab World's oil reserves. They're unlikely to achieve these goals, but they remain set on trying, and are ready to use extreme violence."

His speech was the first public address by a head of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), as MI6 is officially known, and marked his first year in the role.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/8092419/Sir-John-Sawers-MI6-chief-says-intelligence-is-key-to-curbing-Irans-nuclear-power.html>

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France24.com

## **US Drawing Up New, Tougher Nuclear Deal for Iran: Report**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

October 28, 2010

AFP - The United States and its European allies are preparing a new, tougher deal over Iran's nuclear program, in a first test of the weight of broader economic sanctions, The New York Times reported.

The offer would have Iran ship out more than 4,400 pounds (1,995 kilograms) of low-enriched uranium, more than two thirds the amount rejected by Tehran under a tentative deal struck in Vienna a year ago, senior officials told the daily.

The increase reflects Iran's growing production of uranium over the past year and US concerns that Iran has less than one nuclear bomb's worth of uranium on hand, according to the officials quoted in an article posted on the newspaper's website and published in Thursday's print edition.

"This will be a first sounding about whether the Iranians still think they can tough it out or are ready to negotiate," a senior American official told the newspaper.

"We have to convince them that life will get worse, not better, if they don't begin to move."

Another senior US official said the United States and its European partners were "very close to having an agreement" to present to Iran.

But the Islamic republic has yet to respond to a request by EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who represents world powers in the nuclear dialogue with Iran, to meet in Vienna in mid-November.

The Times said many US officials suspect the new initiative under development is likely to fail, but would fulfill US President Barack Obama's promise to keep negotiating even while the pressure of sanctions increases.

Iran has signaled it is ready to discuss a possible exchange of atomic fuel at the upcoming talks for a Tehran-based research reactor after consultations broke down last year between the Islamic republic and the Vienna group comprising France, Russia, the United States and the UN atomic watchdog.

Under an initial proposal brokered by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran would send more than 2,600 pounds (1,200 kilograms) of its low-enriched uranium to Russia and France for conversion into the fuel rods required for the Tehran reactor.

In May, Iran responded by its own counter-proposal brokered by Turkey and Brazil, which was cold-shouldered by the West before the United Nations Security Council slapped a fresh round of sanctions on Tehran less than a month later. Several countries imposed further unilateral sanctions.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20101028-us-drawing-new-tougher-nuclear-deal-iran-report>

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FARS News Agency – Iran  
October 29, 2010

## **Iran Welcomes G5+1 Return to N. Talks**

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) welcomed willingness of the Group 5+1 (the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany) to resume talks over Tehran's nuclear program.

"In a reply letter by the Head of the Office of Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council on Friday, October 29, 2010, the willingness of 5+1 to return to the talks with Iran has been welcomed," SNSC said in a statement issued on Friday.

"In this letter, resumption of talks on the basis of Dr. Jalili's letter to Lady Ashton dated July 6, 2010, from the 10th of November 2010 on, in a place and on a date convenient to both sides has been reiterated," the statement added.

Following Jalili's July 6 letter, EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton proposed three-day talks with Iran in mid-November in the Austrian capital of Vienna, expressing hope that Tehran would "respond positively" to the offer.

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili had informed Ashton of Iran's readiness for the resumption of talks with the world powers, but meantime stressed that the western states should first provide proper and clear responses to Iran's questions before any new round of talks between the two sides.

Iran's prerequisites for talks mentioned in the form of three questions in Jalili's letter to Ashton were first declared by Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad earlier this year.

During an address to a large congregation of the Iranian people in the Northwestern city of Ardebil last weekend, Ahmadinejad repeated his demand and said that the very set of questions are still in place and should be answered before any resumption of talks between Iran and the West.

"Of course, we have set conditions for the talks and they (the six major powers) should announce their stance about the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), their goals of negotiation and the atomic bombs of the Zionist regime (of Israel)," Ahmadinejad said.

"They also should declare their compliance with (the rules of) logic and law during the negotiations," the Iranian president added.

"If they keep mum about our questions, in our view this would mean that they do not abide by the IAEA regulations, recognize and accept possession of atomic bombs by the Zionist regime, do not comply with the law in negotiations and are not after friendship with the Iranian nation."

The president stressed that the Iranian nation would never yield to the pressures imposed by the West.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=8908070487>

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BBC News – U.K.  
29 October 2010

## **Iran Nuclear Talks: Threats, Rhetoric, Shadow-Boxing**

By Jon Leyne, BBC Tehran correspondent

After a break of more than a year, Iran and the West are edging closer to a new round of nuclear talks.

Iran has formally announced it is willing to engage in talks sometime after 10 November.

The EU envoy Lady Ashton, who will lead any talks, has suggested 15 November.

However, Tehran is unlikely to accept that date, as it is the day before the festival of Eid Al Adha, one of the most important in the Muslim calendar.

Returning to the negotiating table has been a long slow process, even after both sides declared their willingness to resume talks.

Western officials have said that Iran has been slow to respond to its messages, even while publicly declaring its desire to join new talks.

## **Negotiating positions**

There is a suspicion that Iran is playing for time, while it continues to build up its stocks of enriched uranium.

That would enable Iran to come closer to the ability to build a bomb, although Tehran denies that is the intention.

At the very least, the Iranian government may believe it strengthens their negotiating position.

For their part, Western officials also seem to believe time is on their side, hoping that ever tighter sanctions are increasing the cost to Iran of its nuclear programme.

Even when talks do finally resume, and that may not be until December, no-one is holding out any great prospect of success.

## **Penalty for delay**

The New York Times reported from Washington earlier this week that the Western negotiating group is close to agreeing a tough new set of proposals to put to Tehran.

Under the new offer, Iran would once again be invited to export a large part of its enriched uranium, in return for a new batch of fuel for the Tehran research reactor, which manufactures medical isotopes.

But this time the west would be calling on Iran to export a much larger quantity - 4,400lb of low enriched uranium.

The West would also demand that Iran ceases enriching uranium at the higher level of 20%, which Iran says is part of its own attempt to supply the Tehran reactor.

Since the West is already demanding the end of all uranium enrichment by Tehran, that particular condition is in danger of sending a mixed signal.

But the overall message to Iran is clear: Delay from Tehran only increases the price of a deal.

As the White House spokesman Robert Gibbs explained on Thursday: "We have to convince them that life will get worse, not better, if they don't begin to move."

## **Demand or rhetoric?**

From the Iranian side there have also been plenty of mixed messages.

In recent months, President Ahmadinejad and other officials have called on the negotiating group to issue a statement about Israel's nuclear deterrent.

If that is a firm demand, it would be a deal-breaker. But the western belief is that this is more likely just rhetoric designed for domestic consumption.

Iran has continued to give no indication that it is prepared to compromise on any fundamental aspect of its programme.

Officials repeat their willingness to carry out a fuel swap. But after the initial deal was agreed in Geneva last year, it proved elusive.

The belief in the West was that Mr Ahmadinejad was not able to deliver in the face of opposition from hardliners, not least, the supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei.

So any new round of talks could be set up to fail - a round of shadow-boxing.

Even if that is the case, both sides may feel they can benefit.

Iran can spin the process out, delaying any new sanctions and increasing its nuclear capability.

Washington may feel that it has to go through the motions, as a way of consolidating international support for its position as it attempts to tighten the noose on the Tehran government.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-11653749>

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Jerusalem Post – Israel

## **Security and Defense: The Day After**

*When Israel thinks of a nuclear Iran, it's not just concerned about change in balance of power; it's more concerned about nuclear terrorism.*

By YAAKOV KATZ  
October 29, 2010

In February 2009, a professor named Abdallah Nafisi gave a lecture in Kuwait and discussed how the tunnels that are used by smugglers under the Mexican-American border could be used in a potential terror attack against the US.

“Four pounds of anthrax carried in a suitcase this big,” he said, creating a small-looking suitcase with his hands, “carried by a fighter through tunnels from Mexico into the US, is guaranteed to kill 330,000 Americans within a single hour if it is properly spread in population centers there.”

According to Nafisi this scenario is possible and as a result there is no longer any need for attacks like 9/11 which, he said, would be “small change” in comparison to the attack he envisions.

“There is no need for airplanes, conspiracies, timings and so on. Just one person with courage to carry four pounds of anthrax will go to the White House lawn and will spread this confetti all over... it will turn into a real celebration,” he said at the conference, which was aired on Al- Jazeera television.

While it would have been easy to dismiss Nafisi as just another crazy anti- American radical, his scenario was carefully studied and deemed viable. Many security officials even took his remarks seriously. One of them was Ronald K. Knoble, secretary-general of Interpol, who that month mentioned the speech in a letter he issued in commemoration of the first World Trade Center bombing which took place 16 years earlier.

“If we add to these global security gaps the devastation that could follow a nuclear or biological terrorist attack within the next five years... then we must conclude that now is no time for complacency,” Knoble wrote.

Nafisi’s comments were also not ignored in Washington , where a team of experts, led by Bob Graham, a former senator from Florida, had just submitted a report it had been asked to write by president George W. Bush on the threat of nonconventional terrorism to the world and the US in particular.

The scenario laid out by Nafisi was analyzed and found to be realistic, even though the body count was a bit exaggerated and would, according to one of the experts on biological terrorism who worked for the committee, be far fewer, likely in the tens of thousands.

The report by the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism startled the administration as well as Congress with its primary warning that a nuclear or biological terrorist attack was likely. “Unless the world community acts decisively and with great urgency, it is more likely than not that a weapon of mass destruction will be used in a terrorist attack somewhere in the world by the end of 2013,” the commission concluded.

The tunnels under the US’s border with Mexico is just one way for that to happen.

THAT IS WHY when Israel thinks of a nuclear Iran, it is not just concerned about change in the balance of power in the region and the constant threat it will have to get used to living under – particularly due to the possibility, no matter how slim, that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad will use his country’s newly-acquired bomb to do what he has called for and wipe it off the map.

It is more concerned, according to senior defense officials, with the threat of nuclear terrorism – the possibility that Iran will give a crude device, or dirty bomb, to one of its proxies. This way it will be able to maintain some level of deniability.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak made this clear in 2008 when he said that he did not “belong to those who think that if Iran has a nuclear weapon, it will hurry to drop it on a neighbor.” Rather, he said, the primary danger is that “a nuclear weapon will reach a terrorist group which will not hesitate to use it immediately. It will send it in a container with a GPS to a leading port in the US, Europe or Israel.”

According to Israeli assessments, if Iran achieves a nuclear weapon, its proxies will feel emboldened and empowered. It will basically make Hizbullah, Hamas and others, feel braver to be more daring in their own acts of aggression.

THIS ISSUE has been taboo for many years within the government and defense establishment.

The reason is quite simple – if Israel starts to think about the day after Iran goes nuclear, it would appear that it is coming to terms with a nuclear Iran, which it is not. On the contrary, Israel is still pressuring the US, the UN and the European Union to step up their sanctions regimes, which if toughened, it believes, are capable of getting Teheran to rethink its current course of action.

But this does not mean that no one is thinking about the day after. On Monday, *The Jerusalem Post* revealed that the Foreign Ministry has established a team of experts to work on contingency plans for what will happen the day after Iran goes nuclear.

Despite its establishment, a government official stressed that while the government might be preparing various contingency plans for the day it “wakes up and there is a nuclear Iran,” this does not mean it has come to terms with this eventuality.

The Foreign Ministry is not the first to analyze such issues. In 2007, a small team of senior analysts with the National Security Council drafted a secret memorandum about “the day after” Iran obtains atomic weapons. The memo did not go into too much detail about what course of action should be taken if this happened, but its mere existence was an indication that not everyone in Israel believed in preemption.

A few years later, a prestigious think tank convened a group of former senior IDF officers and diplomats to participate in a day of war games that broke new ground by assuming the existence of an Iranian bomb. Discomfort with the scenario prompted the Defense Ministry to cancel its participation.

The scenario played out involved an Iran which had already obtained a nuclear capability. Shortly after the announcement that Iran had gone nuclear, Hizbullah launched long-range missiles at Tel Aviv, striking the Defense Ministry and causing casualties and large-scale destruction. The next stage was that Israel and the US had obtained intelligence indicating Iran had transferred technology to Hizbullah which could be used to create a crude nuclear device.

Possibly of more concern for Israel is the nuclear arms race a nuclearized Iran will set off, turning the Middle East from an already volatile region to something of a nightmare. If Iran succeeds in defying the world and developing the bomb, then the Nonproliferation Treaty could completely collapse, paving the way for additional countries to develop nuclear weapons.

Countries like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Jordan have already announced plans to engage in nuclear research, of course for energy purposes at this stage.

The congressional commission led by Graham raised concern that some of these countries – possibly Saudi Arabia – might go as far as to immediately buy a nuclear weapon on the black market and skip over the development process and technological obstacles. The idea would be to immediately create a balance of power with Iran.

“Failure to stop Iran and North Korea could result in a cascade of proliferation,” Graham wrote early this year, “which would dramatically increase the likelihood of the use of weapons of mass destruction.”

<http://www.jpost.com/Features/FrontLines/Article.aspx?id=193184>

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Yonhap News South Korea  
October 28, 2010

## **Gen. Sharp Urges N. Korea to Stop Nuke Weapons, Missile Development**

By Hwang Doo-hyong

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 (Yonhap) -- The commander of the U.S. military in South Korea urged North Korea Wednesday to abide by United Nations Security Council resolutions banning the reclusive communist state from developing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

"We call upon North Korea to abide by what the United Nations resolutions laid out," Gen. Walter Sharp, commander of U.S. forces in Korea, told reporters after attending a forum here at the Washington Convention Center. "Stop all nuclear development and stop ballistic missile development. We watch very closely what they do on a day-to-day basis. We are watching North Korea very, very carefully, and all actions that they do."

Sharp was responding to reports that North Korea has been preparing for another nuclear test at a site where two nuclear bombs were detonated, one in 2006 and another last year.

South Korean officials have said the movements of people and equipment at the site are not abnormal, and should be seen as part of maintenance activities.

State Department spokesman Philip Crowley last week warned North Korea about conducting another nuclear test.

"It needs to cease its provocative actions," Crowley said. "I can think of nothing more provocative than the possibility of another nuclear test or another series of missile firings."

Talk of another nuclear test comes as ailing North Korean leader Kim Jong-il's youngest son and heir, Jong-un, seeks support from the military amid a unprecedented third-generation power transition in a communist state.

The 27-year-old heir is believed to be behind the torpedoing of the South Korean warship Cheonan, which killed 36 sailors in the Yellow Sea in March.

Kim Jong-un last month was given the rank of four-star general and named vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of the ruling Workers' Party.

Seoul and Washington want the North to apologize for the Cheonan's sinking and show a commitment to denuclearization before returning to the stalled six-party nuclear talks. Pyongyang denies responsibility for the Cheonan's sinking.

North Korea has boycotted the talks since early last year due to U.N. sanctions for its nuclear and missile tests, but recently expressed willingness to return to the table -- possibly to divert attention from the Cheonan.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Hanoi later this week on the sidelines of the East Asian Summit to discuss the resumption of the six-party talks and other issues.

Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, expressed optimism that the nuclear talks will resume soon.

"The United States would like for six-power talks to commence again," Lugar told a forum at the Council on Foreign Relations. "I saw one of our diplomats last week who gave me a cheerful, optimistic thought that there might be some talks soon. But I'm not certain that I understand the basis for that optimism."

North Korea in recent weeks has made some conciliatory gestures. The regime invited scores of foreign journalists to broadcast a massive military parade and other events attended by leader Kim Jong-il and Jong-un. It also proposed a military dialogue with South Korea and talks on a new round of family reunions for those separated by the division of the Korean Peninsula.

The conservative Lee administration early this week sent 5,000 tons of food to North Korea, the first aid since his inauguration in early 2008.

Lee's liberal predecessors provided about 400,000 tons of food and fertilizer each to North Korea every year, but he suspended the shipments and conditioned the resumption on the North's commitment to nuclear dismantlement.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2010/10/28/69/0301000000AEN20101028001300315F.HTML>

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Times of India – India

## **North Korea Gets Lowest Grade on 'Nuclear Report Card'**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

October 28, 2010

WASHINGTON: North Korea got a failing grade, with Iran and Syria not far behind, in the first nuclear arms control report card released by the independent, US-based Arms Control Association (ACA).

"North Korea, which has violated nearly every non-proliferation and disarmament standard over the past two years, warrants an overall grade of 'F'," ACA executive director Daryl Kimball told reporters on Wednesday.

North Korea failed all but three of the 10 equally-weighted categories used to calculate the overall grade.

Pyongyang received a passing grade in three areas: reducing nuclear weapons alert levels, meeting multilateral nuclear security commitments, and honoring commitments to prevent nuclear terrorism and the trafficking of nuclear material.

But the grade it received in each of these three areas was a "D" -- just one step up from failing.

Iran and Syria, which don't have nuclear arms but which are being investigated by international bodies for suspected nuclear weapons activities, failed to meet nuclear safeguard standards set by the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which oversees all nuclear activities and facilities, including peaceful ones.

They also fell short on basic nuclear export controls, each earning a grade of "D."

Eight nuclear countries were also graded in the report, but none received a top mark of "A."

Britain, France and the United States got Bs, China and Russia got B-minuses; India got a C-plus, and Israel and Pakistan got C-minuses.



"India, Israel and Pakistan, the only three states never to have signed the non-proliferation treaty, earn grades in the "C" range, due largely to their policies on nuclear testing, their continued production of fissile material and the gradual increase of their nuclear forces," Kimball said.

The countries were graded on how committed they are to banning nuclear testing; their commitment to ending fissile material production for weapons; whether they have reduced nuclear alert levels, and the size of their nuclear arsenals; and whether they have pledged to not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/North-Korea-gets-lowest-grade-on-nuclear-report-card-/articleshow/6825788.cms>

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China Daily – China

## **Six-Party Talks Depend on US Position: DPRK Media**

Xinhua

October 28, 2010

Leading media of Democratic People's Republic Korea (DPRK) said the destiny of six-party talks and the future of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula depends on the position of the U.S.

Rodong Sinmun of the DPRK said in an article that although the concerned countries hope the six-party talks can be resumed as early as possible to create advantageous environment for the peace and stability of north-east Asia and the world, the ambition of the U.S to preempt a nuclear attack on the DPRK put hurdle to the settlement of nuclear issue on the peninsula.

Constructing permanent peace system and denuclearizing the peninsula is the firm position of the DPRK, the article said. It is necessary to eliminate the nuclear threat from outside to denuclearize the peninsula, and the DPRK having access to nuclear deterrent is good for the stability and peace of the area.

The article urged the U.S. to drop its ambition to preempt a nuclear attack on the DPRK and face the resumption of the six-party talks sincerely.

According to the report of DPRK's official news agency KCNA on Oct. 16, a spokesman for the foreign ministry of the DPRK said the DPRK is ready for the resumption of the six-party talks but decided not to go hasty, adding that the country would make ceaseless patient efforts "now that the U.S. and some other participating countries are not ready for them."

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2010-10/28/content\\_11470678.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2010-10/28/content_11470678.htm)

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Yonhap News – South Korea

October 29, 2010

## **S. Korea, China, Japan in No Hurry for N. Korea Nuke Talks**

By Lee Chi-dong

HANOI, Oct. 29 (Yonhap) -- The leaders of South Korea, China and Japan agreed on Friday not to push for the hasty resumption of six-way talks on North Korea's nuclear program with the belief that producing substantial results is more important than the timing of the often-troubled negotiations, South Korea's presidential office said.

The agreement came at a meeting of South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Japanese Prime Minister Kan Naoto in Hanoi on the sidelines of their annual talks with Southeast Asian nations, according to Lee's office, Cheong Wa Dae.

The leaders agreed to "hold talks that can hammer out progress although it (the process) takes time, rather than talks for the sake of talks," Cheong Wa Dae spokeswoman Kim Hee-jung told reporters.

But they reaffirmed a resolve to seek the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through the six-way talks, also involving North Korea, the United States and Russia, she added.

The agreement may be a sign of change in Beijing's stance on the nuclear talks. China, the chair of the talks and the closest ally of the North, has been pressing relevant nations to return to the table at an early date and try to narrow differences. Pyongyang has also expressed its willingness to rejoin the aid-for-denuclearization talks that have been stalled for two years, even though it has attached a condition that Washington first lift sanctions on Pyongyang.

In the trilateral summit, meanwhile, the Japanese prime minister stressed the need for a stable supply of rare earth materials used in batteries for hybrid cars, mobile phones and other electronics products, according to the spokeswoman.

China has a virtual monopoly on the rare elements, and Japan is a main importer of them. China has reportedly curbed the export of the material to Japan in a retaliatory measure against Tokyo's detention last month of a Chinese fishing boat captain near their disputed islands called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese. The incident has strained Beijing-Tokyo ties.

Chinese Premier Wen replied that his country will "continue to provide rare earth materials to the international community," the spokeswoman said.

Wen also said China will make more efforts to develop alternatives to the scarce natural resources, she added.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2010/10/29/13/0401000000AEN20101029010100315F.HTML>

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Stars and Stripes

## Japan Carries Out Successful Missile-Defense Test

By Charles Reed

October 29, 2010

TOKYO — A Japanese destroyer thwarted a simulated missile attack against Japan on Thursday – practice for the real-world threat posed by North Korea.

From its position off the coast of Hawaii, the JS Kirishima intercepted the target missile 100 miles over the Pacific Ocean, according to the Missile Defense Agency.

The test illustrated the effectiveness of the U.S.-Japan missile defense system, established in the wake of North Korea's 1998 Taepodong-1 ballistic missile test. Launched from the U.S. Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands in Kauai, the target missile was not designed to mimic the flight path of a North Korean attack but rather a "general threat," said MDA spokesman Ralph Scott.

The exercise proved Japan's ability not only to shoot down a medium-range missile using the SM-3 Block IA missile – the sea-based component of U.S.-Japan missile shield – but also to detect and track such a warhead.

The USS Lake Erie and USS Russell – outfitted with similar Aegis missile defense systems – also participated in the exercise. Those ships detected, tracked and conducted a simulated intercept against the same target the Kirishima took down, according to the MDA.

It was a "significant milestone in the growing cooperation between Japan and the U.S. in the area of missile defense," an MDA news release said.

The Kirishima test was the fourth and final assessment of the missile defense upgrades made to four Aegis destroyers in Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force's fleet, Scott said. Two of the other three tests since 2007 with the Japanese destroyers were successful. However, the SM-3 fired by the JS Chokai during a test in 2008 failed to intercept the target. The Japanese Ministry of Defense said Friday that the 2008 failure was due to "trouble" with the kinetic warhead, and said the rest of the system functioned normally.

The United States and Japan are jointly developing the radar and interceptor systems for the missile defense program with plans to further integrate their operating platforms and their respective military forces that run it. The Japanese Air Defense Command, in fact, is being relocated to U.S. Forces Japan headquarters at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo.

The countries are now working to build a faster, more accurate, longer-range version of the SM-3, with the U.S. committing \$1.6 billion to its development over the next six years, MDA spokesman Richard Lehner said Friday.

The recent test could help deter Pyongyang from ramping up its missile testing to offset perceived weaknesses associated with an impending change in leadership there, experts said. It also exemplifies America's reach in Asia as China's rising military power continues to raise tensions in the region.

"It demonstrates to China that North Korea's actions and behavior are pushing the U.S. closer to its allies and bringing capabilities to the region that China wish weren't there," said Abraham Denmark, a fellow at the Center for a New American Security and a former Asia policy adviser with the Obama administration.

However, the program is squarely focused on North Korea, he said.

“It shows North Korea that the U.S. will help defend Japan and that the alliance has the technology to defend against their attack,” he said.

The latest missile defense test was “just as politically significant as it is technologically significant” for the U.S.-Japan security alliance, proving it “remains strong and is growing more robust,” Denmark said.

*Reporter Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report.*

<http://www.stripes.com/news/japan-carries-out-successful-missile-defense-test-1.123513>

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Straits Times – Singapore

October 27, 2010

## **Nuke Plan may Speed Up if...**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

BANGKOK - MYANMAR is carrying out a secret atomic weapons programme that could 'really speed up' if the army-ruled country is aided by North Korea, according to a top nuclear scientist.

The comments follow a June documentary by the Norwegian-based news group Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) that said Myanmar was trying to develop nuclear weapons, citing a senior army defector and years of 'top secret material'.

Mr Robert Kelley, a former director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), inspected the files smuggled out of Myanmar by Sai Thein Win and said the evidence indicated 'a clandestine nuclear programme' was underway. 'This is not a well-developed programme. I don't think it's going very well,' he told the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand late on Tuesday.

'But if another country steps in and has all of the knowledge, the materials, and maybe the key to some of the things that are plaguing them, including bad management, this programme could really speed up.' Mr Kelley said North Korea was 'certainly the country I have in mind'.

Myanmar, which is holding its first elections in two decades on Nov 7, has dismissed the reports of its nuclear intentions and brushed aside Western concerns about possible cooperation with North Korea.

The DVB documentary gathered thousands of photos and defector testimony, some regarding Myanmar's network of secret underground bunkers and tunnels, which were allegedly built with the help of North Korean expertise. The United States has expressed concern about military ties between the two pariah states, and said it was assessing the nuclear allegations against Myanmar, which would be 'tremendously destabilising' to the region.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/SEAsia/Story/STIStory\\_595877.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/SEAsia/Story/STIStory_595877.html)

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Middle East Media Research Institute – Washington, D.C.

October 29, 2010

## **Head of Pakistan's Nuclear Program: Pakistan Has the Right to Use Nuclear Weapons Should the Need Arise**

*In a recent interview with investigative journalist Sameh 'Abdallah of the Egyptian government daily Al-Ahram, Lieutenant-General (Ret.) Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, the director-general since 1988 of Pakistan's Strategic Planning Division – the military body responsible for the production, security, and storage of Pakistan's nuclear weapons – said that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is aimed chiefly at India, since, he claimed, Pakistan had no other enemies. He stressed that Pakistan has the right to use these weapons if the need arises, and to defend its sovereignty and its nuclear arsenal against attempts to dismantle or harm them. He added that Pakistan is entitled to share its knowledge and experience in the nuclear field with other countries, such as Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, under the supervision of the IAEA, thus preventing Pakistan's isolation.*

*Following are excerpts from the interview: [1]*

### **We Have the Right to Use Nuclear Weapons Should the Need Arise**

**Q:** "According to your strategic plan, under what conditions or in what circumstances might you use nuclear arms...?"

A: "We do not talk about how we would use nuclear arms or under what circumstances; we always refer, first and foremost, to [our basic] right to use them should the need arise."

Q: "And who [is authorized] to take a decision to launch a nuclear attack?"

A: "The National Command Authority, comprising nine members and headed by the prime minister, is the only body authorized to take a decision to use nuclear arms. The Strategic Planning Division, of which I am head, is responsible for implementing the decision. We serve as the secretariat of the National Command Authority, as it were."

Q: "Who exactly are the members of the [National Command] Authority?"

A: "[It] includes four federal ministers; the chief of staff, who mediates between the army, navy, and air force; the heads of these three branches of the military; and the prime minister, who heads [the Authority], as I mentioned."

Q: "Numerous reports indicate that Pakistan would not have obtained nuclear arms had it not been for the great Pakistani scientist 'Abdul Qadeer Khan. Exactly what role did he play in this domain?"

A: "Pakistan launched the process to attain nuclear arms in response to the first nuclear [test] carried out by India in 1974. But the actual work in the field of nuclear arms production began when Pakistani nuclear scientist 'Abdul Qadeer Khan, who was then working in the Netherlands, was [enlisted by then-]Prime Minister Zulfikar 'Ali Bhutto, who gave him free rein to work independently... At that time, 'Abdul Qadeer Khan proposed to use new technology that was not yet widespread, based on using high grade uranium rather than plutonium, which was then the more common [method]."

Q: "What was the budget for 'Abdul Qadeer Khan's project and how long did it take?"

A: "With a tight budget, Khan succeeded in enriching uranium to 93% within seven years, which is the percentage needed for nuclear arms production. In May 1988, India conducted five nuclear tests. Pakistan responded two weeks later with six tests of its own, conducted within two days, all of which were successful, while [the success of] at least three of India's nuclear tests has been questioned."

Q: "What exactly are the Strategic Planning Division's fields of responsibility in the nuclear domain?"

A: "The Strategic Planning Division is responsible for all nuclear activity in Pakistan, including nuclear activity for peaceful purposes and missile production."

Q: "What is its current budget?"

A: "The budget is fixed in proportion to the allocations for conventional arms."

### **Impossible for Nuclear Weapons to Fall into the Hands of Terrorists**

Q: "Are you also responsible for securing the nuclear arms?"

A: "Of course."

Q: "In that case, how do you regard the numerous reports from the West addressing the possibility of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists from the various groups active within Pakistan?"

A: "Those are inaccurate claims. The experts in the field know that this is impossible."

Q: "If that is so, how do you secure the nuclear arsenal?"

A: "The nuclear facilities' security [array] includes some 10,500 hand-picked soldiers, who are responsible for all the security procedures connected with these facilities. These security procedures include intelligence operations to prevent infiltration by members of terrorist groups, as well as the protection of more than 2,000 scientists who work in the nuclear field... The Strategic Planning Division works with all of Pakistan's intelligence apparatuses, both civilian and military, in order to protect and ensure the security of the nuclear facilities. We strictly prevent the leaking of nuclear technology to external [forces]. To be precise, we ensure that [what happened] with 'Abdul Qadeer Khan will not recur."

Q: "How many [nuclear] facilities are you securing?"

A: "Many, including the zones where uranium is located and mined, [where] raw material is extracted and refined, [where] yellowcake is produced, and [where] uranium is then turned into gas before undergoing repeated processes whereby it is enriched to [a level of] between 3% up to 90%. Then there are the facilities involved in the production and storage of nuclear weapons and missiles, and finally, [facilities for] nuclear waste treatment."

### **No Attempts Have Been Made to Attack Pakistani Nuclear Facilities**

Q: "Have there been no attempts to attack these nuclear facilities in recent years?"

A: "No. There has been no attempt to attack any nuclear facility. Incidentally, it is difficult to steal a 60-foot missile or to take over a mobile missile conveyance and launch platform, which requires years of training to operate."

Q: "But what about bombs or warheads? Aren't they easier to steal?"

A: "The bombs are heavy too, and a crane is needed to move them. In addition, nuclear weapons are activated by a complex electronic system. Each nuclear weapon can only be activated when a unique code is entered, and this code is different for every unit."

Q: "How many nuclear weapons does Pakistan possess, and where are they kept?"

A: "We are not divulging [that information]... for security reasons."

Q: "Do you not discuss these matters with the American officials who are concerned about the security of your nuclear weapons?"

A: "We do not discuss this with anyone, nor do we inform any country about the location or scope of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal."

Q: "Can you tell us, at least, about the nature of the place where the weapons are stored?"

A: "They are stored in places that can withstand any possible attack, including a nuclear attack."

### **Pakistan's Nuclear Program Is Aimed at India**

Q: "Is Pakistan's nuclear program aimed only at India, or at other countries [as well]?"

A: "Our nuclear program is aimed first and foremost at India. We have no other sources of threat."

Q: "Some Pakistani analysts say that the U.S. has plans to dismantle your country's nuclear weapons. Do you agree with this [analysis]?"

A: "The international community has never been happy about Pakistan having nuclear capabilities, and we have witnessed numerous attempts to negatively impact [our] nuclear program, for instance by imposing international sanctions and through nondisclosure of technological know-how. I am not aware of any attempts by foreign countries [to dismantle] Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, but I am certain that Pakistan is entirely capable of defending its sovereignty and its nuclear arms."

Q: "What are Dr. 'Abdul Qadeer Khan current whereabouts?"

A: (Looking at his watch and laughing): "He is currently at the dentist's, having complained of a toothache."

Q: "Is he required to inform you of everything he does?"

A: "According to a court ruling, he must inform us half an hour before leaving his house, except when he travels to Karachi to visit relatives, in which case he must inform us a full day before. In all instances, he is watched over by security personnel, in accordance with court rulings."

Q: "What were Dr. Khan's infractions?"

A: "I do not wish to speak of Dr. 'Abdul Qadeer's past. That is a closed case."

### **Pakistan Is Entitled to Nuclear Cooperation with Other Countries**

Q: "Will Pakistan agree to nuclear cooperation with other countries?"

A: "Pakistan has experience in the nuclear field, particularly in the domain of nuclear fuel production for peaceful purposes. It is our right to provide these services to other countries, such as Egypt and the [United Arab] Emirates, under IAEA supervision. We will not accept any attempts to isolate Pakistan, as Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani emphasized at the April 2010 [Nuclear] Security Summit in Washington."

Endnote:

[1] *Al-Ahram* (Egypt), October 12, 2010.

<http://www.memri.org/report/en/0/0/0/0/4714.htm>

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People's Daily – China

## **Russia Test Launches Three Missiles**

October 28, 2010

Three intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) have been test launched on Thursday, one from the northern Plesetsk launching site, and two from strategic submarines, news agencies reported.

Russian strategic forces launched a Topol ICBM at 01:59 p.m. Moscow time (0759 GMT) in normal mode from Plesetsk launching site in northern Russia.

The Topol RS-12M's warhead successfully hit a target in the fareastern Kamchatka peninsula some 20 minutes later.

The missile that was launched was manufactured in 1987 and had been on combat duty at the Teikovo missile unit in the Ivanovo region until August 2007. The launch was designed to confirm the missile's performance after extending its service life.

The Topol-M missile, with a range of about 11,000 km, was said to be immune to any current and future U.S. missile shield defense.

The service life of Topol RS-12M has been extended to 23 years.

Meanwhile Russia's Pacific Fleet on the same day test fired an RSM-50 ICBM from the strategic nuclear submarine K-433 St. George the Victorious, which was at a submerged position in the Sea of Okhotsk, to the Chizha testing ground in northern region of Arkhangelsk.

Russia's Northern Fleet also test launched under the water an ICBM Sineva from the K-117 Bryansk strategic nuclear submarine in the Bering sea, and successfully hit the target at Kura range in the fareastern Kamchatka peninsula the same day.

The launch was aimed to test the reliability of Russian Navy's sea-based nuclear forces was made at 02:30 p.m. Moscow time (1030 GMT).

Russia was scheduled to conduct another test launch for the troubled Bulava missile on Friday.

*Source: Xinhua*

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/90853/7180885.html>

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London Daily Telegraph – U.K.

## **Secret Centre of Soviet Nuclear Weapons Programme is now helping China**

*The secret centre of the Soviet nuclear weapons programme is to make nuclear fuel for China, under a deal signed during a visit to Paris of Nursultan Nazarbayev, the Kazakh President.*

By Richard Orange in Almaty

28 October 2010

The Ulba Metallurgical Plant in Kazakhstan, once known only as "2A" and unmarked on maps, was where the Soviet Union developed and built much of its nuclear arsenal, and has retained a high level of expertise in handling uranium and rare earth metals.

Under the deal signed on Wednesday between Areva, France's nuclear company, and Kazatomprom, the world's largest producer of uranium, Ulba will be the site of a new fuel fabrication joint venture – the first for the French company outside Europe and North America.

The joint venture, 51 per cent owned by Kazakhstan and 49 per cent by Areva, will begin to export 400 tons of fuel a year when it starts operating in 2014.

China's rapid economic growth and hunger for energy has made it the world's fastest growing nuclear market, with more than 23 new reactors under construction, a further ten in the pipeline, and plans to quadruple nuclear capacity by 2020.

Kazakhstan's remote steppes and large reserves of uranium made it the natural centre for the Soviet nuclear programme, and more than 450 nuclear bombs were detonated at its test site near the town of Semipalatinsk, devastating an area the size of Wales.

President Nazarbayev relinquished the country's nuclear arsenal after gaining independence, and the country has since pushed to become a leader in the civilian nuclear industry. Kazakhstan last year overtook Canada to become the world's largest exporter of uranium, and the country is considering hosting a world nuclear fuel bank.

Japan's Sumitomo has also set up a joint venture with Kazatomprom at Ulba, which will harness the plant's expertise in purifying and working with rare earth metals like beryllium, niobium, and tantalum.

"The Cold War had some advantages," said an official at Kazatomprom who is supervising the rare earth metals project, and who preferred not to be named. "Ulba had the best research and development in the Soviet era. The people there are still experts, they haven't stopped. Today we can use some of the technologies they developed for civilian eco-friendly applications."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/kazakhstan/8092533/Secret-centre-of-Soviet-nuclear-weapons-programme-is-now-helping-China.html>

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Washington Post

## **Reports: Russia's Bulava Test-Fire a Success**

By DAVID NOWAK, Associated Press

Friday, October 29, 2010

MOSCOW -- The Russian Navy on Friday successfully test fired its Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile, the weapon the government hopes will be the future of its nuclear arsenal, Russian news agencies reported.

The launch was conducted from a submarine in the White Sea, near the border with Finland. The missile reportedly hit a target on the Kamchatka Peninsula, some 6,000 kilometers (3,400 miles) to the east. It marks the second successful firing in a month, further boosting the nation's weapons program that had become accustomed to embarrassing failures.

The costly Bulava development program had suffered seven failures in 13 attempts prior to Friday's firing.

Russian officials billed Bulava as a new-generation weapon, capable of dodging any potential missile defenses, thanks to its quick start and an ability to perform unusual maneuvers in flight.

But the program has consumed a large chunk of the military budget without much success. Only five of the previous 12 launches of the missile since 2004 were officially pronounced successful, and some military analysts said that even some of those were actually flawed in one way or another.

Officials have insisted the Bulava's concept is fine and have blamed the failed launches on manufacturing flaws resulting from post-Soviet industrial degradation. They have said it is difficult to control the quality of all the parts supplied by hundreds of subcontractors involved in the program.

As the tests drag on, the Russian navy has already commissioned the first of a new series of nuclear-powered submarines to be armed with the new missile.

Russian agencies reported that vessel would be the next platform to test the Bulava.

Several other such submarines are under construction, and officials have said they could not be adapted to carry another type of missile if the Bulava program fails.

On Thursday three other ICBMs from the country's Soviet-built arsenal were fired to check performance after years in storage.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/29/AR2010102900897.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Bulava Missile Test Failures Caused by Assembly Problems**

29 October 29, 2010

The second successful test launch in a row of a Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missile has proved that poor assembly technology is likely to be the reason for the previous failed tests, a source from the state commission overhauling production of the missile said.

A test warhead from a Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missile successfully hit its target on the Kura test range in Russia's Far East Kamchatka region, the Russian Defense Ministry said on Friday.

This was the 14th test launch of the Bulava missile. Seven of the previous test launches failed for various technical reasons.

Three examples of the troubled Bulava missile were built in order to establish the reasons for the failures of previous Bulava test launches, and a state commission has overhauled the whole production system of the missile.

"Therefore, we can make a preliminary conclusion that the test launches failed because of the [missile's] assembly technology," the source said, adding that final conclusion will be made after one more test launch which is set for the year end.

"Immediately after the Dmitry Donskoy submarine [which conducted the last test launch] returns to its base, the commission will examine the data from the 14th launch and will schedule the date of the next, 15th launch," the source said.

"This will be the last test launch in 2010."

The Russian military expects the Bulava, along with Topol-M land-based ballistic missiles, to become the core of Russia's nuclear triad.

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 ballistic missile is designed for deployment on Borey-class nuclear submarines.

The ballistic missile will enter service when it is 98-99% reliable, Deputy Defense Minister Vladimir Popovkin said on October 26.

MOSCOW, October 29 (RIA Novosti)

[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20101029/161127864.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20101029/161127864.html)

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ReutersUK.com

## **UK Spy Boss Defends Secrecy, Nukes Key Threat**

By William Maclean, Security Correspondent

LONDON, Thursday, October 28, 2010

(Reuters) - Britain's top spy, in the first public speech by a serving UK espionage chief, said on Thursday terrorists might hit the West again "at huge human cost" but nuclear proliferation by states was a more far-reaching danger.

Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) chief John Sawers, in an address to the Society of Editors media group hosted at Thomson Reuters London offices, said the risks of failure in tackling proliferation by countries like Iran "are grim."

"Terrorism is difficult enough, and despite our collective efforts, an attack may well get through. The human cost would be huge. But our country, our democratic system, will not be brought down by a typical terrorist attack," he said.

"The dangers of proliferation of nuclear weapons and chemical and biological weapons are more far-reaching. It can alter the whole balance of power in a region," said Sawers, whose century-old service is popularly known as MI6.

Sawers defended MI6's secrecy and its ties to counterparts in Muslim nations accused of poor rights records, a theme that has resurfaced in the West after the whistle-blowing Wikileaks website published secret U.S. files it said showed how coalition forces turned a blind eye to torture by Iraqi security forces.

"We are the secret frontline of our national security," he said. "Secrecy is not a dirty word. Secrecy is not there as a cover up. Secrecy plays a crucial part in keeping Britain safe."

"We have to deal with the world as it is ... We can't do our job if we work only with friendly democracies. Dangerous threats usually come from dangerous people in dangerous places."

He added that intelligence failings on Iraq before the 2003 invasion showed "politicians and officials alike" how important it was that sources of information were rigorously evaluated.

Improving intelligence performance has been a focus for the West since the September 11, 2001, attacks and the 2003 Iraq invasion, events involving profound faults in preparedness.

Former U.S. President George W. Bush launched the Iraq invasion citing a threat of weapons of mass destruction from Saddam Hussein's government. No such weapons were ever found.

On Iran, Sawers said conventional diplomacy was not an adequate means of countering its nuclear ambitions: "We need intelligence-led operations to make it more difficult for countries like Iran to develop nuclear weapons."

"STAFF RISK THEIR LIVES"

Sawers, a career diplomat, had previously been the ambassador to the United Nations, the Foreign Office's political director, and also worked as an envoy in Baghdad and as foreign affairs adviser to former Prime Minister Tony Blair.

His speech is a move to more public accountability and openness at SIS, a big cultural shift for a service that 20 years ago was so secret the government would not publicly avow its existence, even if it still enjoys more anonymity than its close U.S. ally, the Central Intelligence Agency.

The pressure on intelligence officials to be more transparent has many roots -- pressure from lawmakers to prevent abuses and improve performance, public concern over surveillance by authorities, and a need by the intelligence community to make their work known so as to widen the avenues of recruitment.



On terrorism, Sawers said al Qaeda was unlikely to achieve its goals of weakening Western power and toppling moderate Arab governments. But the threat of "Islamic terrorism" was unlikely to fade away soon and reading reports of what militants were plotting was the most draining part of his job.

"Working to tackle terrorism overseas is complex, often dangerous. Our agents and sometimes our staff risk their lives."

In a passage likely to gain attention in the Middle East, Sawers said that over time the emergence of more open and responsive government in the Islamic world would "help" counter terrorism but insisting on a sudden move in that direction might make things worse.

"TORTURE IS ABHORRENT"

"If we demand an abrupt move to the pluralism that we in the West enjoy ... the terrorists would end up with new opportunities," he said, without elaborating.

The former Bush administration often argued that terrorist organizations and their alleged state sponsors were the main opponents of democracy in the Arab world.

But Arab civil society and human rights groups say that governments friendly toward the United States are some of the most determined obstacles to democracy, repressing peaceful Islamist groups which seek power through democratic elections.

Sawers said that if SIS knew or believed its action would lead to torture taking place, it would avoid that action, even though that allowed "terrorist activity" to go ahead.

"Torture is illegal and abhorrent under any circumstances, and we have nothing whatsoever to do with it," he said.

The opening up of Britain's intelligence community gathered pace in 2006 when the then-head of the MI5 domestic security service, Eliza Manningham-Buller, appeared in public to make a speech to academics and journalists at a university campus.

*Additional reporting by Keith Weir and Michael Holden, Editing by Jon Boyle*

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE69R0JS20101028>

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Colombia Reports – Colombia

## **Uribe Warns of Venezuela Nuclear Threat**

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

By MANUELA KUEHR

Former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe Velez on Tuesday said that Venezuela's "nuclear development" poses a serious threat to the region's security, reports W Radio.

Speaking after receiving an award from Spain's International Observatory of Victims of Terrorism, Uribe said that Venezuela's "arms race" is very dangerous both for the security of its own citizens and Venezuela's neighbors.

Uribe added that the Venezuelan government has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but has not signed its additional protocols.

Earlier in October Russia and Venezuela announced a deal under which Russia will help the South American country to build its first nuclear power station. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a long-time antagonist of Uribe, claims that his country only seeks to diversify energy sources.

Uribe was presented with the award by John Frank Pinchao Blanco, a police officer who was kidnapped by the FARC in 1998 and held captive until his escape in 2007. The former president dedicated his award to members of the Colombian police and armed forces currently fighting terrorism in Colombia.

The former president also commented that the proposed legalization of marijuana in California is a threat to regional security.

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/12607-uribe-warns-of-venezuelas-nuclear-threat.html>

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London Daily Telegraph – U.K

## **50 of US Nuclear Stockpile Goes Offline**

*A computer glitch resulted in 50 US nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles, going offline for 45 minutes over the weekend, according to the Pentagon.*

27 October 2010

The problem was apparently a hardware malfunction, said the official, an Air Force officer with knowledge of the event.

The Air Force Global Strike Command has 450 Minutemen III ICBMs in bases located in North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.

Of these, there was a "communication disruption" in which the Air Force lost communication with 50 ICBMs located at FE Warren Air Force base in Wyoming.

On Tuesday investigators discovered that similar incidents had happened at other sites more than a decade ago, so they are focusing on the hardware.

"It looks to be a mechanical problem with a particular part," the officer said.

"As soon as it happened there was a security check of every missile site" by video camera and in person, "and there was no apparent damage to any equipment."

"We have no indication of any malicious or intentional activity that would have caused this – it looks to be mechanical," the officer said.

The other squadrons with 50 missiles each at Warren were unaffected, as were the 300 ICBMs at the Montana and North Dakota bases, the officer said.

Aside from the 450 land-based nuclear missiles, the US military can also deliver nuclear missiles from aeroplanes or launch them from submarines.

Barack Obama, the president, was briefed about the event early Tuesday – after Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen and Robert Gates, the Defence Secretary, according to reports.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/8089668/50-of-US-nuclear-stockpile-goes-offline.html>

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The Inquirer

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

## **Air Force: Teams Working to Isolate ICBM Glitch**

By MEAD GRUVER, Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. - Work has begun to try to replicate an electronics glitch and determine what disrupted communication between 50 nuclear missiles and a launch control center at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, a U.S. Air Force official said Wednesday.

Teams from F.E. Warren and Hill Air Force Base in Utah think they've isolated the faulty part where the problem occurred, said Lt. Col. John Thomas, spokesman for the U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command.

"It could be the part, it could be the way that it was installed, it could be the way that it was queried," Thomas said.

The incident early Saturday affected 50 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles based out of Cheyenne. The equipment failure lasted less than an hour and the Air Force said it never lost the ability to launch the missiles.

The suspected problem part is small enough to hold in your hand, Thomas said.

"That's where our primary weight of effort is. But we are also not ruling anything out and we are looking at anything that may have contributed to it," he said.

Meanwhile, the Air Force has implemented procedures so it can address the problem more rapidly should it occur again before a permanent fix can be made, he said.

Air Force officials said there was no sign of foul play.

F.E. Warren oversees 150 ICBMs in silos scattered around the prairie. ICBMs at bases in Montana and North Dakota weren't affected.

The communications failure is the latest in a series of nuclear mishaps that have plagued the Air Force in recent years.

In 2008, the Pentagon disclosed the mistaken shipment to Taiwan of four electrical fuses for warheads. The fuses originated at F.E. Warren but the mix-up apparently happened after the parts were shipped to Utah.

In 2007, a B-52 bomber was mistakenly armed with six nuclear-tipped cruise missiles and flown from Minot Air Force Base, N.D., to Barksdale Air Force Base, La. The pilot and crew were unaware at the time that they were carrying nuclear weapons.

An internal report asserted that slippage in the Air Force's nuclear standards was a problem that has been identified but not effectively addressed for more than a decade. Those findings led to Defense Secretary Robert Gates' decision to fire Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne and Gen. Michael Moseley, the Air Force chief of staff.

[http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation/20101027\\_ap\\_aforceteamsworkingtoisolateicbmgltch.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation/20101027_ap_aforceteamsworkingtoisolateicbmgltch.html)

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Breitbart.com

## **US Stresses Will to Cooperate with Russia on Missile Shield**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

BERLIN (AFP) – The United States wants to cooperate with Russia on setting up an European missile defence shield, a senior US official said Wednesday ahead of next month's NATO summit in Lisbon.

"It's absolutely clear we want to do this cooperatively with Russia," assistant US Secretary of State for European and Eurasian affairs Philip Gordon told reporters Wednesday during a visit to Berlin.

"Russia faces the same potential threat as Europe," he said, adding that NATO's proposed policy did not aim to undermine Russia's own defence strategy.

Missile defence will be one of the key topics at the NATO summit which will be attended by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

NATO and the United States want to set up a missile shield to protect Europe against what they perceive is a growing threat of short and medium-range missiles launched from the Middle East, and more particularly from Iran.

The United States has "proposed resuming theatre missile defence exercises with Russia" as a way of boosting cooperation with Moscow on the subject, he said.

But "there are lots of different options on the table once Russia signals interest in participating," he added.

Asked about Medvedev's proposed new European security treaty, an idea first mooted last November, Gordon said that while the United States remained open to talks on the issue, "we don't believe a treaty is either necessary or practical".

Attempting to negotiate such a new treaty between some 50 countries would not be "the most practical use of our time," he said, adding "let's try to avoid theological questions and get on with practical projects".

Russian Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov told this week's edition of the German magazine Der Spiegel that Moscow was open to talks on the planned European missile shield but wanted an equal say in its development.

"The most important thing for us is firstly to define what are the real threats to Europe, and secondly to see Russia put on an equal footing as a participant," Serdyukov said.

"It is only in this way that an anti-missile defence system can be put in place which satisfies everyone."

Previous US plans to deploy an anti-missile system in former Soviet satellite states in eastern Europe angered the Kremlin.

[http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=CNG.9a5f4680a5e1a496e50b5779f8c3ad59.01&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=CNG.9a5f4680a5e1a496e50b5779f8c3ad59.01&show_article=1)

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Irrawaddy Magazine - Thailand

OPINION

## **Burma's Nuclear Adventure—The Real Threat**

By ROBERT KELLEY

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

For several years reports have been emerging from Burma about its nuclear ambitions, supported by claims of varying provenance about equipment purchases and overt attempts to buy nuclear technology from Russia.

Now a brave military officer, who defected from the secretive state, has provided photographs of specialized machine shops building chemical equipment that is almost certainly designed for processing uranium chemical compounds to enrich uranium.

The only reason for Burma to be taking this secretive path is to embark on a weapons program. There is no other logical fit for the pieces.

The good news is that the technology is far too complex for Burma to master easily. The photos and information provided by the defector show a dysfunctional program. It has made terrible technology choices and the quality of the workmanship we can observe is primitive.

If Burma stays on this course there is a good possibility the program will never succeed, although we must remember, however, that the photographs and descriptions available for examination come from a single source.

It is possible there are other areas where the program is better managed and more advanced. Nonetheless from what we can see, there is no immediate threat to Burma's neighbors.

Yet should another country step in to assist Burma with knowledge, equipment and nuclear materials this could rapidly change. Pakistani nuclear scientists reportedly fled to Burma in 2001, and North Korea, closely allied with the Burmese regime, provides it with conventional weaponry. North Korea has detonated two nuclear devices of its own. It is suspected of sharing this technology.

And that's the bad news: there is every reason to be alarmed by reports that a state, regardless of its technical limits, may be toying with the development of nuclear weapons. The dye has long been cast: nuclear arms merchants and their suppliers are a chilling aspect of nuclear proliferation. The nuclear weapons dreams of despots cannot be readily dismissed. What they may themselves be unable to produce they can purchase.

At risk in this high stakes game is not only the security of the would-be nuclear proliferator's neighbors but the international non-proliferation regime.

I have been serving the goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) for 20 years. We have always come from behind in trying to stop proliferators. We succeeded just in time in Iraq when we discovered a clandestine program in 1991. We arrived too late in North Korea, even though there were unmistakable signs that proliferation was occurring. Pakistan, which did not sign the NPT, openly produced nuclear weapons while we stood by helplessly, exploded test devices, and then contrived to re-export its nuclear knowledge to an unknown number of persons and states that had signed the NPT.

In the non-proliferation community, we have argued for more and better tools to detect potential proliferators. Now we have used some of those tools to identify one, but the response from many quarters is that it is too soon, too difficult and too hard, to investigate and stop Burma.

But when is the right time? When it is too late? What tools will the world use then? Sanctions? Bombs? These are key questions. Intelligence analysis has done its job: it's identified the parts of a potential smoking gun. Now is the time to act.

Burma has been caught earlier and more completely than any other would-be proliferator. It's against such risks that the NPT and its system of safeguards was established. Its complement, the Bangkok Treaty, establishing a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone encompassing Asean states, is a further buttress against proliferation.

If we fail to act in a timely manner to respond to this poorly executed but obvious threat, we render meaningless the NPT and the tenets of the Bangkok Treaty. It is time to invoke Articles 12 and 13 of the Treaty that allow the group to begin an investigation of these assertions and force Burma to come clean. Citizens of this populous region may not feel threatened today or next year, but they will never know when they can feel safe without resolution of this issue.

*Robert Kelley is a recently retired director of the IAEA in nuclear non-proliferation efforts. This article appears on Thailand's English-language newspaper The Nation on October 26.*

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# Japan's Nuclear Doublespeak

By Shireen M Mazari

October 27, 2010

Non-proliferation has over time become increasingly discriminatory and a vehicle for the powerful to pressurise states they consider “unreliable”, and the fact that these targeted states happen to be primarily Muslim states, with the sole exception of North Korea, reflects a further bias within the developed world. In fact, the accommodating manner in which the US has treated North Korea's open defiance of the NPT in contrast to the treatment meted out to Iran which has stayed within its NPT obligations and continuously reiterated its abhorrence of nuclear weapons, only bolsters the perception that Muslim states are being targeted by the US and its allies on multiple fronts, especially post-9/11. The Indo-US nuclear deal, and the repercussions of it within the IAEA and Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG), has brought all these contradictions and dualities out into the open.

However, what has been a rude shock for many has been the growing duplicity of Japan on nuclear-related issues. Post-1945 Japan has ostensibly maintained a strong anti-nuclear posture given how it is the only country to have actually suffered nuclear attacks – courtesy the United States. Yet, over a period of time Japan is moving out of the shadows of its professed anti-militarist position as it develops a vibrant arms industry, partners the US in Missile Defence and maintains one of the largest peaceful nuclear programmes in the world. As if that was not enough to worry neighbours like China and the Koreans, who still recall the bitter legacy of Japanese militarism, Japan has also begun adopting a dual approach on the nuclear issue with an unstinting opposition to Pakistan's nuclear programme, but the beginnings of an accommodation to the far more extensive Indian nuclear programme. Most recently, this has been reflected in the outcome of the meeting between the Japanese and Indian premiers in Tokyo which not only resulted in a trade pact, but also the promise of Japanese export to India of its state-of-the-art nuclear technology.

India, of course, as a result of its nuclear deal with the US has become a vast market for nuclear exports and countries like France and the UK are casting aside their superfluous non-proliferation concerns in order to gain access to this market – with the US clearing the NSG and IAEA hurdles. For the Japanese, the road is less smooth because there is still a strong anti-nuclear weapons lobby within Japan. Yet the Japanese Premier, Naoto Kan, is undeterred and stated that India and Japan had “agreed to speed up negotiations for civil nuclear energy cooperation while seeking India's understanding of our country's sentiment as a nuclear-bombed nation.” So, unlike the demands on Pakistan by the Japanese to sign the NPT and CTBT, no such demand is being made on India – only an apologetic appeal for Indian understanding as to why the Japanese will take a little more time to give India sensitive nuclear technology.

If one digs further one will realise that Japan has long harboured nuclear ambitions and its nuclear programme has been developed in such a way that it is barely a “screwdriver's turn” away from possessing nuclear weapons. So far, it has suited Japan to have a “nuclear ready” status without actually taking the last and final step in that direction. That is why, at a Pugwash Conference in Beijing a few years earlier, one heard the North and South Korean participants decry Japanese plans to build the controversial Rokkasho reprocessing plant, which has now become operational and is the first industrial-scale reprocessing plant in a non-nuclear weapon state (NNWS). As a matter of fact, Japan possesses massive amounts of excess plutonium because it also has a large fast-breeder programme, which allows stockpiles of fissile material to be built up. In December 1995, Japan was reported to have 4.7 tons of plutonium – enough for 700 nuclear warheads.

Japan also has an indigenous nuclear enrichment plant – something the Indians are still seeking to perfect – which can also provide enriched uranium for nuclear weapons production. Japan has also developed the M-V three-stage solid fuel rocket, similar in design to the US LGM-118A Peacekeeper ICBM, which could serve as a ready delivery vehicle. In addition, Japan has been involved in developing the latest fighter aircraft with the US also. So, it has all the nuts and bolts in place if it chooses to go nuclear. Already, there is a growing move to do away totally with the constitutional restrictions on Japan developing a full-scale military.

Unfortunately, like the US, Japan's record on nuclear safety is not too good. Nuclear safety issues have been more acute in Japan which has had a series of nuclear accidents. The following incidents relating to nuclear safety issues in Japan once again highlights the fact that so far globally it is the more developed industrial states that seem to have had more extensive safety problems in terms of their nuclear installations. According to the record on the Greenpeace website, between 1975-1995, the following nuclear accidents took place in Japan:

- \* 1975: Release of radioactivity from Japan's Mihama nuclear power plant.
- \* 1979: Two workers suffer radioactive contamination at Japan's Tokaimura nuclear complex.
- \* 1986: 12 people receive “slight” plutonium contamination, while inspecting a store room at the Tokaimura nuclear complex.
- \* 1991: Rupture of steam generator pipe causes release of radioactivity at Mihama nuclear power plant.
- \* 1991: Reactor shut-down due to break of control system at Japan's Sendai nuclear power plant.

- \* 1991: Release of radioactivity from Japan's Fukui nuclear power plant.
- \* 1993: High pressure steam accident kills one worker and injures two others at Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant.
- \* 1995: Fire due to leakage of sodium coolant from the Monju fast breeder reactor. The Japanese nuclear industry attempted to cover up the full extent of the accident and the reactor was shut-down.

Also, on September 30, 1999, an accident at a uranium-processing facility in Tokaimura, 70 miles northeast of Tokyo, occurred. The accident was triggered when three workers used too much uranium to make fuel and set off an uncontrolled atomic reaction. A total of 439 people, including nearby residents, were believed to have been exposed to radiation. (<http://www.atomicarchive.com/Reports/Japan/index.shtml>) Again, days after an earthquake, on July 24, 2000, the Tokyo Electric Power Company found 29 gallons of radioactive water leaking from a nuclear reactor at the Fukushima No 1 plant in northern Japan (USA Today, July 17, 2007).

The story repeated itself on September 17, 2003, when officials at the Chubu Electric Power's Hamaoka plant in central Japan discovered that about 1.6 gallons of radioactive water had leaked from one of the reactors. In November 2001, the same reactor was shut down after two radioactive leaks occurred within three days. Even more disturbing was the fatal accident that took place at the Mihama plant on August 29, 2004, killing at least four people. There was no leak of radioactivity, but as the Greenpeace website pointed out, it was the deadliest accident in a catalogue of nuclear scandals in Japan. Seven workers were also injured due to the steam leak, possibly caused by a lack of cooling water in the reactor. These safety problems have continued to haunt Japan's nuclear facilities and in July 2007, Japan had to suspend operations at the nuclear plant near Kashiwazaki, after a radiation leak and other damage from a deadly earthquake raised new concerns about the safety of the nation's accident-plagued nuclear industry (The New York Times, July 18, 2007).

Despite being a signatory to the NPT, because Japan continues to expand its civil nuclear base, issues of safety will be a source of concern within its immediate Asian neighbourhood. Moreover, in the context of the threat of nuclear terror from non-state actors, Japan can be extremely vulnerable because it was in Japan that chemical weapons terrorist attacks took place in 1994 and 1995 by a group calling itself Aum Shinrikyo, presently on the US terrorist groups' list.

With such a record, is it not time for Japan to stop its hypocrisy on the nuclear issue and treat Pakistan and India on an equal footing in terms of nuclear assistance? There is no credibility either in Japan's non-proliferation posturing or its concerns over nuclear safety vis-à-vis Pakistan – especially with its nuclear cooperation talks with India.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Opinions/Columns/27-Oct-2010/Japans-nuclear-doublespeak>

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