



# **USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**

# **CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL**

*Maxwell AFB, Alabama*

---

---

**Issue No. 858, 9 November 2010**

## **Articles & Other Documents:**

[New START being Tested Out](#)

[U.S. START Delay Risks Russia Ties: State Dept](#)

[Iran Cleric Slams Nuclear Media Hype](#)

[US Senator Calls for Major Iran Attack](#)

[Iran Ready to Hold Nuclear Talks in Turkey: FM](#)

[IAEA Cannot Confirm Iran's Nuclear Program is Peaceful](#)

[Egypt Accuses Israel of Continuous "Suspicious Nuclear Activities"](#)

[Iran Nuclear Cooperation Insufficient: IAEA Chief](#)

[Confidant of North Korea's Kim Jong Il Dies](#)

[No Signs of N Korea Nuclear Processing](#)

[China Stops Blocking Harsh N.Korea Report - U.N. Envoys](#)

[North's Denuclearization Top Priority in Resuming Nuke Talks: Seoul](#)

[Armenian Smugglers Tried to Sell Nuclear Material to Terrorists](#)

[Georgia Details Nuclear Smuggling](#)

[NATO Missile Defense Shield in Turkey may Threaten Iran, Russia – Experts](#)

[NATO to Keep Nuclear Weapons](#)

[Revealed: MoD Admits to 16 Nuclear Submarine Crashes](#)

[Trident Nuclear Deterrent Delay will Cost Up to £1.4bn, says Liam Fox](#)

[Nuclear Debris could Reveal Clues of Bomb's Origin](#)

[Nuclear Bang Too Big for Our Buck](#)

[Obama's Game of Nuclear Chicken with Iran](#)

[Nuclear Smuggling: The Expert View](#)

---

*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.*

Voice of Russia – Russia

## **New START being Tested Out**

By Anisimov Sergey

November 6, 2010

The new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty signed by Moscow and Washington is being tested for its worth amid the political turmoil following US President Obama's defeat in the midterm elections. Two days after the defeat, the US president expressed hope that difficulties notwithstanding the treaty would be ratified by the end of the year.

The election outcome produced the effect of a "political tsunami". Ariel Cohen from the US Heritage Foundation has this to say.

The Republican victory came as no surprise. As predicted, the Republicans won key positions in the House of Representatives and some seats in the Senate, where the Democrats still retain a slim majority. The Republicans also won gubernatorial elections in a number of key states, including Ohio and Florida. As becomes clear, many voters are dissatisfied with high unemployment, budget deficit and an overall economic situation in the country.

Despite the unpredictable political landscape in the wake of the elections, President Obama sees the ratification of the START Treaty as a foreign policy priority and expects to get it ratified by January. Ariel Cohen comments.

For the ratification to go ahead, the Senate has to muster 60 votes or a clear majority, which it does not have for now. Republican Senators have doubts concerning plans to link START to missile defense and funding for nuclear forces' overhaul. As long as there are doubts, there will be no ratification. And as the new Republican-dominated Senate gets down to work in January, the ratification process may drag on for years.

A number of Russian analysts think along the same lines, confident that the Republicans are set to say no to nearly all of Barak Obama's initiatives. Alexander Shumilin from the Institute of the US and Canada of the Russian Academy of Sciences has this to say.

The new START Treaty is likely to become a convenient bargaining chip in the hands of the Republicans, who may agree to ratification in exchange for concessions on the part of the Obama administration.

As they signed the Treaty in Prague on April 8th this year, the presidents of Russia and the US agreed to synchronize all ratification procedures. Three months later the Russian lower house's International Relations Committee recommended ratification.

Under the Treaty, either party is to cut the number of its strategic warheads by one third to 1550. This week the Duma's committee had to return to discussions again following a number of reservations from the Senate's foreign affairs committee formulated by September 16th.

The amendments stipulate no link between strategic arms reductions and US missile defense plans, thereby disregarding Russia's security interests. That means the two sides will not only have to comply with the terms of ratification but will have to come to accord on the provisions of the treaty too.

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2010/11/06/32129675.html>

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

Reuters.com

## **U.S. START Delay Risks Russia Ties: State Dept**

WASHINGTON, Monday, November 8, 2010

(Reuters) - Republican objections to the new U.S.-Russia START nuclear arms reduction treaty are "red herrings" that could thrust the two countries into a dangerous new era of uncertainty, a senior U.S. official said on Monday.

Under Secretary of State Ellen Tauscher, who led the U.S. side negotiating the new START deal, said it was important that the Senate ratify the new treaty next month or it may lose the chance to engage with Russia on a range of arms control efforts.

"We've had a lot of controversy about this that I think frankly is a lot of red herrings," Tauscher told an audience at the U.S. Institute for Peace, a Washington think-tank.

"While nuclear weapons can be considered to be political, arms reduction treaties should not be. This has taken on an air of being politicized way beyond where it should be," she said.

President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the START deal in April, committing the former Cold War foes to cut deployed nuclear weapons by about 30 percent in what was hailed as the most prominent dividend of Obama's effort to "re-set" relations with the Kremlin.

But Republicans -- who already control enough votes in the Senate to block its passage -- have voiced concerns over several provisions of the treaty and it is unclear whether they will permit ratification as Obama hopes during a "lame duck" session of Congress that begins on November 15.

A lame duck period is the time between a congressional election in November and the start of a new Congress in January. Obama's fellow Democrats sustained heavy losses in recent mid-term elections, and are expected to face stronger Republican opposition when the new lawmakers take their seats.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said last week she believed the White House has enough votes to pass the measure. But Tauscher said on Monday she would not act as a "Las Vegas bookmaker" by projecting the odds of passage.

"All the questions have been asked and answered," Tauscher said. "It's important that we get it done. Our last opportunity to do it coming forward is in the lame duck. I think that frankly, because of the way the numbers are working, it's the best opportunity to do it."

Tauscher said failure to ratify the treaty would deprive the United States of its ability to effectively monitor and verify Russia's nuclear activities.

She said delay to U.S. ratification of the treaty was already sowing doubts in Moscow which could hit a wide range of cooperation on arms control.

"Every time they see us unable to kind of get this to the floor and get a vote, they start to move back a little bit," Tauscher said.

"It's difficult for us to move on to a new arms control negotiation and series of talks if we don't have the first business done by getting the new START ratified. So we have to get that done and move forward," she said.

*Editing by Cynthia Osterman*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6A746920101108>

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

Press TV – Iran

## **Iran Cleric Slams Nuclear Media Hype**

Saturday, November 7, 2010

A senior Iranian cleric has slammed media hype of arrogant powers against nuclear program of the Islamic Republic, saying the move aims to cover up Israeli nukes.

"The propaganda is aimed at putting a cover on violations of countries like Israel which has 100-200 nuclear warheads," Fars news agency quoted a member of the Guardian Council Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi as saying on Saturday.

"The Islamic Republic seeks to use nuclear energy merely for peaceful applications. This is the reason it has signed the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty)," he added in a meeting with Singaporean Foreign Minister George Yeo.

Shahroudi went on to say that Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has announced that Iran views the use of nuclear weapons as "illegal and haraam" -- meaning forbidden and prohibited according to Islamic rules.

The cleric said the denial of the arrogant system and Israel's illegal entity were among important messages of the Islamic Revolution to the world.

"Such issues have led to the West enmity with Iran. Other issues, including nuclear energy are only a pretext," he added.

He called for the expansion of relations with Singapore in different fields, saying the two sides should make use of bilateral experience.

Israel, widely believed to be the sole possessor of a nuclear arsenal in the Middle East with over 200 undeclared nuclear warheads, pursues the policy of "deliberate ambiguity" on its nuclear program and has rejected global demands to join the NPT or allow inspections of its controversial nuclear program.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/149856.html>

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

Press TV – Iran

## **US Senator Calls for Major Iran Attack**

Sunday, November 07, 2010

A veteran senator says the US should not be satisfied with stopping Iran's nuclear program but should also destroy its military capabilities and deliver a major blow to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

Influential Republican Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, known for his radical militaristic views and support for the Israeli regime said, "My view of military force would be not to just neutralize their nuclear program, which are probably dispersed and hardened, but to sink their navy, destroy their air force and deliver a decisive blow to the Revolutionary Guard."

Graham also sits in two major Senate committees of Armed Services and Homeland Security.

"In other words, neuter that regime," added Graham, who spoke at the Halifax International Security Forum on Saturday.

He also complained that the current US-sponsored anti-Iran sanctions are not "crippling."

In another recent speech before a conservative US think tank, the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, Graham last September had once again called for a direct US military intervention in Iran, insisting that it should not involve ground troops but should be launched by US warplanes and ships.

Iranian officials have repeatedly condemned, yet mocked the US-led sanctions and described it as a great incentive for a major Iranian push towards progress and self-sufficiency.

Meanwhile, top Iranian leaders and military commanders have repeatedly undermined US and Israeli threats of military actions against the Islamic Republic, insisting that in case the US engages in such an adventure, the repercussions will be severe and wide-ranging.

Moreover, Iran has conducted numerous sea and air military exercises in the past year, showing off the capabilities of its new anti-ship and anti-air weaponry.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/149956.html>

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

Islam Tribune – U.S.

## **Iran Ready to Hold Nuclear Talks in Turkey: FM**

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

November 7, 2010

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran said on Sunday it has informed Ankara that Tehran is ready to hold talks in Turkey with the six world powers over its controversial nuclear programme, turning to a country seen as an ally.

European Union foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton, spearheading the negotiations with Iran for the world powers, last month proposed to hold the talks in Vienna where the UN nuclear watchdog is based starting November 15.

"In the last two or three days, we informed our Turkish friends that we agree to hold negotiations in Turkey," Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told reporters, asked for a venue.

Iranian media, meanwhile, reported that Karim Bagheri, the deputy of Iran's nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, had visited Turkey on Thursday.

Jalili informed Ashton in October that his country was prepared to resume nuclear talks after November 10 at a time and place agreed by both sides, according to the state news agency IRNA.

On Sunday, an Iranian conservative newspaper, Vatan Emrouz, without quoting a source, reported that the negotiations would be held by the end of November in Turkey.

The nuclear talks between Iran and the six world powers -- Britain, China, France, Russia, Germany and the United States -- have been deadlocked since October 2009 when the two sides met in Geneva.

The world powers led by the United States suspect that Iran is masking a weapons drive under the guise of a civilian nuclear programme, a charge Tehran strongly denies.

Mottaki said the Islamic republic was "very optimistic" about the next round of talks.

"I hope we will reach an agreement soon over the date and the contents," he said. "We are very optimistic the discussions will start as soon as possible, as the overall approach of Iran is positive and constructive."

Iran has always insisted the talks be held on its package of proposals given to world powers before the October 2009 round of talks. That package talks of overall global nuclear disarmament.

But world powers insist the talks focus on Iran's nuclear programme.

The deadlock with world powers has already led to fresh UN and EU sanctions against Iran, which were followed by several other unilateral punitive measures by other nations, including the United States.

Western media reports say Washington plans to offer Iran "tough" proposals during negotiations following Tehran's refusal to abandon the uranium enrichment programme, the most controversial part of its nuclear drive.

Enriched uranium can be used to power nuclear plants as well as to make the fissile core of an atom bomb.

French daily Le Monde reported on Thursday the United States was mulling to offer to transfer 2,000 kilogrammes of Tehran's low-enriched uranium (LEU) to Russia for the Islamic republic's Bushehr nuclear power plant, built by Moscow.

The US proposal also calls for the transfer of another 1,200 kilogrammes of Tehran's LEU to Russia and France, as offered in October 2009 for the Tehran Research Reactor, a facility making medical isotopes, according to Le Monde.

The report adds Washington plans to propose shifting the 30 kilogrammes of 20-percent enriched uranium that Tehran currently has produced and intends to convert into fuel for the Tehran reactor if world powers fail to deliver.

But Mottaki said last Wednesday that any swap of nuclear fuel must be based on an agreement it signed with Brazil and neighbouring Turkey in May.

Brazil and Turkey brokered a modified agreement on a fuel exchange but the United States rejected it, arguing the deal failed to take into account additional uranium enriched since last year.

On Sunday, Mottaki also dismissed US Republican Senator Lindsey Graham's remark that Washington was facing a possible war with Iran. "Don't take the American senator's remark too seriously. He wanted to joke," he said.

On Saturday, Graham said he saw the United States going to war with Iran "not to just neutralise their nuclear programme, but to sink their navy, destroy their air force and deliver a decisive blow to the Revolutionary Guard, in other words neuter that regime."

US and its ally Israel have not ruled out a military strike to stop Iran's nuclear programme.

<http://www.islamtribune.com/2010/11/07/iran-ready-to-hold-nuclear-talks-in-turkey-fm.html>

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **IAEA Cannot Confirm Iran's Nuclear Program is Peaceful**

8 November 2010

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said the organization still does not have enough evidence to confirm that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful.

"The agency cannot still confirm that all aspects of Iran's nuclear program are peaceful," Yukiya Amano said in an address of his first annual report to the UN General Assembly on Monday.

The IAEA chief also called for "concerted efforts" to resume six-party talks on dismantling North Korea's nuclear program "at an appropriate time." Pyongyang pulled out of talks with Russia, Japan, China, the United States and South Korea last April after the United Nations condemned the communist state's missile tests.

Western powers suspect Iran of building nuclear weapons under the guise of a peaceful nuclear program, an accusation Tehran strongly denies.

The Iran Six, which comprises Russia, the United States, China, Britain, France and Germany, has been trying since 2003 to convince Iran to halt its uranium enrichment program and to alleviate concerns about its nuclear ambitions.

Talks between Tehran and the Iran Six came to a halt in 2009, after an IAEA resolution condemned the Islamic Republic over the construction of a second uranium enrichment facility.

On Sunday the Turkish Foreign Ministry confirmed Teheran's plans to resume talks with the Iran Six (the United States, Britain, China, France, Russia and Germany) on Turkish territory.

The talks are expected to be held in Istanbul on November 10 or 15, Turkish Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said.

The UN Security Council imposed a fourth round of sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program in June.

NEW YORK, November 8 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20101108/161254932.html>

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

Xinhua News – China

November 9, 2010

## **Egypt Accuses Israel of Continuous "Suspicious Nuclear Activities"**

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 8 (Xinhua) -- Egypt on Monday accused Israel of continuous "suspicious nuclear activities outside any international control," saying the Israeli action "undoubtedly increases the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East."

The statement came as Maged Abdulaziz, the Egyptian permanent representative to the United Nations, was taking the floor at the UN General Assembly to review the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"On the regional level, all States of the Middle East region have joined the Comprehensive Safeguard system -- with the exception of Israel -- which continues to conduct suspicious nuclear activities outside any international control, disregarding tens of international calls and resolutions demanding its accession to the NPT (the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) as a non-nuclear-weapon State," he said.

Israel is widely believed to be the sixth country in the world to have developed nuclear weapons and to be one of four nuclear-armed countries not recognized as a Nuclear Weapons State by the NPT, the others being India, Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Israel has refused to sign the NPT despite international pressure to do so, and has stated that signing the international treaty would be contrary to its national security interests.

At present, Israel maintains a policy known as "nuclear ambiguity" (also known as "nuclear opacity"). Israel has never officially admitted to having nuclear weapons, instead repeating over the years that it would not be the first country to "introduce" nuclear weapons to the Middle East, leaving ambiguous whether it means it will not create, will not disclose, or will not make first use of the weapons.

The Israeli policy "undoubtedly increases the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East in a manner hindering the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region," Abdulaziz said.

"In this regard, Egypt sees promising horizons in attaining significant progress in the field of universalizing the NPT in our region and the universalization of the application of Comprehensive Safeguards therein, through the honest implementation of the detailed Action Plan adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference in 2012, to launch regional negotiations aimed at the establishment of a zone free of nuclear as well as other weapons of mass destruction in the region," he said.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-11/09/c\\_13597131.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-11/09/c_13597131.htm)

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

Jordan Times - Jordan

November 9, 2010

## **Iran Nuclear Cooperation Insufficient: IAEA Chief**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

The head of the UN nuclear watchdog said Monday that Iran has still not given proof that its atomic program is peaceful and that he is seriously concerned about North Korea's nuclear work.

Iran again insisted to a nuclear debate at the UN General Assembly however that it is only working on civilian energy. The West has accused Iran of seeking a bomb.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya Amano told the UN assembly: "Iran has not provided the necessary cooperation to permit the agency to confirm that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities."

Iran must carry out "full implementation" of IAEA and UN Security Council resolutions which have imposed four rounds of sanctions over Iran's refusal to halt uranium enrichment.

However Iran hit back in the debate. "Claiming that 'Iran has not provided the necessary cooperation' is incorrect and misleading," said the Islamic Republic's deputy ambassador Eshagh al-Habib.

He called the UN Security Council sanction resolutions "illegal."

Iran is "determined to exercise the inalienable right to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes." The diplomat added though that Iran is ready to start new talks with the six international powers -- Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States -- on its nuclear drive from November 10.

"We are waiting to see the goodwill of the other parties and their real intention for meaningful and successful talks," he said.

The IAEA chief highlighted that the agency has had no inspectors in North Korea since April 2009 as he called the isolated Asian nation's nuclear program "a matter of serious concern."

Amano said there should be "concerted efforts" for new talks between North Korea and China, South Korea, Japan, Russia and the United States.

North Korea conducted one nuclear test in October 2006 and said it staged a second in May 2009, one month after it quit the six-nation talks. The last formal talks were in December 2008.

<http://www.jordantimes.com/?news=31692>

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

Charlotte Observer

## **Confidant of North Korea's Kim Jong Il Dies**

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

Saturday, November 06, 2010

SEOUL, South Korea Top North Korean military official Jo Myong Rok, a longtime confidant of leader Kim Jong Il who traveled to Washington in 2000 on a then-unprecedented goodwill mission, has died. He was 82.

Jo, who was vice marshal of the Korean People's Army and held the No. 2 post on the powerful National Defense Commission behind Kim, died Saturday of heart disease, the official Korean Central News Agency reported from Pyongyang.

"His death is a great loss to the party, the army and people of (North Korea) waging a dynamic struggle to win the victory of the cause of building a thriving socialist nation," the dispatch said.

Jo, a Korean War veteran, paid a rare visit to Washington in October 2000 as Kim's special envoy, meeting during that trip with then-President Bill Clinton. He also later pledged to Madeleine Albright, who was secretary of state under Clinton, that North Korea would take steps to fundamentally improve relations in the interests of peace and security.

Jo was the highest-level North Korean official to visit Washington, and his trip - followed by Albright's landmark visit to Pyongyang - was part of North Korea's efforts to keep up the momentum generated by a breakthrough summit between Kim and late South Korean President Kim Dae-jung held earlier that year.

Jo arrived at the State Department for his meeting with Albright dressed in a dark business suit. But for his talks at the White House, he changed into full military dress, complete with a high-brimmed cap - a change of outfit that suggested he wanted to project a tougher line in talks with then-national security adviser Sandy Berger.

It was later that day, at a banquet in his honor hosted by Albright, that Jo invited the secretary of state to visit Pyongyang, and, in her return toast, Albright accepted.

However, the reconciliatory mood between the wartime foes shifted dramatically after former President George W. Bush took office, taking a tougher line against North Korea. Relations have also been strained over North Korea's nuclear weapons program, and Pyongyang and Washington still do not have formal diplomatic ties.

North and South Korea remain in a state of war because their conflict in the early 1950s ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. The U.S. stations 28,500 troops in South Korea to deter against any aggression.

Jo was born into a peasant's family in Yonsa County in North Hamgyong Province, KCNA said. He served as a pilot during the war, which North Korea refers to as the "Fatherland Liberation War," and later rose to the position of chief of staff and commander of the air force of the Korean People's Army, state media said.

Jo's body will lie in state at Pyongyang's Central Hall of Workers to receive mourners before a state funeral Wednesday, KCNA said. Kim and his son and heir apparent Kim Jong Un are among members of the funeral committee, it said.

As well as the No. 2 job on the defense commission, Jo also served as a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly and a member of the politburo of the ruling Workers' Party, KCNA said.

Reports about Jo's public activities had been infrequent in recent years, sparking speculation in South Korea media about his health and a possible change in Pyongyang's power structure.

His death comes amid a succession movement in North Korea, which has been ruled by the Kim family since late President Kim Il Sung founded the nation in 1948. Son Kim Jong Il took over after his father's death in 1994. Grandson Kim Jong Un was promoted to key posts within the ruling Workers' Party in September and since last month has accompanied his father to key functions.

Kim Jong Un's name was placed second behind his father's in a list of members of the funeral committee, a sign that he has become the government's No. 2 official, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported. His name was the sixth listed in a caption for a group photo of top North Korean officials in late September, it said.

*Associated Press writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report from Melbourne, Australia.*

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/11/06/1819062/confidant-of-north-koreas-kim.html>

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

Taipei Times – Taiwan  
Sunday, November 07, 2010

## **No Signs of N Korea Nuclear Processing**

Agence France-Presse (AFP), TOKYO

There are no signs North Korea has resumed nuclear activity at the site where it previously produced weapons-grade plutonium, a former US envoy was quoted as saying yesterday after a trip to the country.

Charles Pritchard, former top negotiator with North Korea, was quoted as saying that the Yongbyon complex — where the isolated state processed plutonium for past nuclear tests — did not appear to be in operation.

“My reaction is that the reactor, the 5 megawatt reactor, remains shut down, the cooling tower is still destroyed,” Pritchard told reporters after a five-day trip to North Korea, Japan’s Kyodo news agency reported.

“So at this point, I don’t believe there is any additional reprocessing or anything going on” at the reactor, the former top US negotiator with Pyongyang said at a Beijing airport, according to Kyodo.

South Korean Defense Minister Kim Tae-Young said last month that Pyongyang was restoring facilities at the Yongbyon nuclear reactor, its source of weapons-grade plutonium in the past.

He added it was “quite possible” that Pyongyang was also enriching uranium for nuclear weapons.

The Chosun Ilbo newspaper in South Korea reported last month, citing unidentified government sources, that North was preparing for a third nuclear test. However, US and South Korean officials said there was no evidence of this.

Pyongyang had invited Pritchard, Washington’s special envoy to the North under former US president George W. Bush, to visit the country, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported last month.

Pritchard, who also served as senior director for Asian affairs for former US president Bill Clinton, now heads the Washington-based Korea Economic Institute.

Six-party talks aimed to curb the North’s nuclear ambitions have been at a standstill since the last meeting in December 2008.

In April last year, North Korea stormed out of the forum, involving the two Koreas, China, Japan, the US and Russia. A month later it conducted its second nuclear test.

The North has recently said it is willing in principle to return to the long-stalled nuclear disarmament talks. However, Seoul and Washington say it must first improve cross-border ties and show a commitment to disarmament.



The Star – Malaysia  
Tuesday, November 9, 2010

## **China Stops Blocking Harsh N.Korea Report - U.N. Envoys**

By Louis Charbonneau

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - After months in limbo due to Chinese objections, a U.N. report suggesting North Korea may have supplied Syria, Iran and Myanmar with banned nuclear technology is heading to the Security Council.

The latest report by the so-called Panel of Experts on Pyongyang's compliance with U.N. sanctions was delivered to the Security Council's North Korea sanctions committee in May.

Normally such a report would be reviewed and passed to the council for consideration of possible action. But the report on North Korea did not move for nearly six months due to Chinese objections and its fate was unclear until Friday, council diplomats told Reuters on Monday.

The North Korea report should be published on the sanction committee's website as early as Tuesday, they said.

The attempt to prevent the report's transfer to the Security Council and release to the public, envoys said, was emblematic of China's increasingly self-confident approach to international diplomacy as it seeks to protect states like North Korea and Sudan to which it has close ties.

Reuters reported in May that the report said there was reason to suspect North Korea -- under U.N. sanctions for testing nuclear devices in 2006 and 2009 -- has become a proliferator of banned technology.

The 75-page document, obtained by Reuters, said the panel was concerned about reports of "continuing DPRK (North Korea) involvement in nuclear and ballistic missile related activities in certain countries including Iran, Syria and Myanmar."

Last week, China chose to keep silent when the sanctions committee asked its members -- the 15 nations on the Security Council -- if they had any objections to the report. That allowed it to formally move to the council.

"China has suddenly decided to allow this very damning report to go to the Security Council," one diplomat said on condition of anonymity. "I think Syria and Myanmar were happy the Chinese were blocking it. Now China has other priorities."

But China is unlikely to allow the report to be used for further sanctions against Pyongyang, envoys said.

### **CHINESE FURY**

China's other priorities, diplomats said, include blocking a similar report by another U.N. panel of experts on compliance with an arms embargo for Sudan's conflict-torn western Darfur region. That report, unlike the one on North Korea, directly implicates China by raising concerns that Chinese firms may have been violating the Darfur arms embargo.

The Sudan report has infuriated China, which for weeks has prevented the Sudan sanctions committee from passing it to the Security Council to consider the panel's recommendations.

Sanctions committees work on the basis of consensus, which means each member has a virtual veto.

In its report, the Sudan expert panel said Chinese bullets were found at the site of attacks against U.N.-African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, although it did not suggest the government was in any way responsible.

It is unclear when and if the Sudan report will be published.

Diplomats said they had feared China was trying to put the brakes on activities of all Security Council sanctions committees overseeing compliance with U.N. measures imposed on states China is friendly with, like Sudan and Iran.

"Maybe China has decided not to block all sanctions reports and they've got to have some give and take," a diplomat said.

While China has allowed the council to impose sanctions on Iran and North Korea, it has refused to expand the 2005 arms embargo in Sudan and joined Russia in vetoing a 2008 attempt by Britain and the United States to sanction Zimbabwe's leaders.

It has also blocked all attempts to sanction Myanmar, a country the United States and Britain have suggested deserves to be sanctioned for human rights abuses.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Myanmar's first election in 20 years on Sunday was "insufficiently inclusive, participatory and transparent."

*Editing by John O'Callaghan*

[http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2010/11/9/worldupdates/2010-11-09T120312Z\\_01\\_NOOTR\\_RTRMDNC\\_0\\_-527661-1&sec=Worldupdates](http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2010/11/9/worldupdates/2010-11-09T120312Z_01_NOOTR_RTRMDNC_0_-527661-1&sec=Worldupdates)

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

Yonhap News – South Korea  
November 9, 2010

## **North's Denuclearization Top Priority in Resuming Nuke Talks: Seoul**

SEOUL, Nov. 9 (Yonhap) -- South Korea regards North Korea's commitment to denuclearization to be more important than a formal apology for its fatal torpedo attack on a Seoul warship in March when it comes to prerequisites for the resumption of the six-way nuclear talks, a top presidential aide said Tuesday.

"With regard to the six-way talks, whether North Korea has the will to denuclearize is the more important condition than the Cheonan issue," the Cheong Wa Dae official told reporters on condition of anonymity.

His remarks were seen as a clear sign of a shift in Seoul's negative stance toward restarting the long-stalled negotiations based in Beijing before the South's communist neighbor comes clean on the sinking of the 1,200-ton warship Cheonan, which killed 46 sailors. Pyongyang has denied responsibility, although a South Korea-led international probe found it was behind the incident.

The official, however, stressed that Seoul's position on the nuclear talks does not mean it does not care about the Cheonan issue anymore.

"Even if we do not set the Cheonan issue as a direct condition (for the resumption of the talks), it can be one of the important barometers to judge North Korea's sincerity," he said. "For now, the Cheonan issue is the most important factor in inter-Korean relations."

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2010/11/09/33/0401000000AEN20101109004100315F.HTML>

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

London Daily Telegraph

## **Armenian Smugglers Tried to Sell Nuclear Material to Terrorists**

*The former Soviet republic of Armenia has emerged as a potential flashpoint for nuclear smuggling after it was revealed that two Armenian nationals tried to sell highly enriched uranium to people they thought were terrorists in March.*

By Andrew Osborn in Moscow  
7 November 2010

The revelation, which emerged from a secret trial being held in neighbouring **Georgia**, suggested that nuclear smugglers are still very active along the borders of the former Soviet Union.

Mikheil Saakashvili, the president of Georgia, announced in April that his country, a staunch US ally, had uncovered and foiled a plot to sell highly enriched uranium (HEU) to an Islamist extremist group.

But the details of the operation were not known until Sunday when it was disclosed that two **Armenian** nationals, a businessman called Sumbat Tonoyan and a physicist called Hrant Ohanyan, were implicated in the smuggling case. Both men have pleaded guilty.

Prosecutors said they had smuggled 18 grams of HEU by train from the capital of Armenia, Yerevan, to the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi, in a lead-lined cigarette box. Such a quantity was nowhere near enough to make a nuclear bomb but was meant as a "taster sample" with more HEU available if the buyer was satisfied.

The smugglers thought they were dealing with an Islamist extremist group.

In fact, they were set up by the Georgian secret service.

The trial, which is being held in camera, has underlined how little about the illicit trade in nuclear smuggling is known.

It is unclear how much stolen nuclear material is already in circulation and how much may have already been purchased by extremist groups.

The HEU intercepted was 89.4 per cent enriched and therefore usable in a nuclear warhead.

There is some evidence that the consignment, together with two others before it, was sourced from a nuclear fuel plant in Novosibirsk in Siberia, Russia.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/armenia/8116106/Armenian-smugglers-trying-to-sell-nuclear-material-to-terrorists.html>

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

Atlanta Journal-Constitution

## Georgia Details Nuclear Smuggling

By DESMOND BUTLER, the Associated Press

Monday, November 8, 2010

WASHINGTON — Early one morning in March, two Armenians slipped aboard a train in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, unaware they were being watched. They removed a pack of Marlboro Reds hidden in a maintenance box between two cars. Inside the pack, Georgian authorities say, was nuclear bomb grade uranium, encased in lead.

Before long, Georgian officials seized the uranium and arrested the men, breaking up a ring they say was willing to sell material for nuclear weapons to any bidder. International officials see the operation as one victory in the effort to prevent nuclear weapons from falling into terrorists' hands.

The seizure was reported in April, but few details were disclosed. The Associated Press now has obtained more information from Georgian officials about an operation involving international smugglers and undercover agents. Some elements were confirmed by U.N. and U.S. officials.

For all its apparent success, the investigation highlighted the difficulty of stopping nuclear smuggling in the Caucasus. The region has porous borders, widespread corruption and unknown quantities of unsecured materials left over from the Soviet period.

Though this seizure involved, as in previous cases, a small amount of nuclear material, international nuclear safety officials are not reassured. A terrorist organization could accumulate material from numerous small acquisitions over time. And if small amounts can be smuggled and sold, larger batches could follow similar routes.

It also remains unclear whether the small amount of uranium in the cigarette pack was a sample of a larger stash yet to be found.

"The dangerous thing is that there might be more material out there somewhere," said Archil Pavlenishvili, chief of Georgia's nuclear smuggling unit in the interior ministry. "This proves that if a criminal or an extremist is wealthy enough, it is possible to obtain material."

Pavlenishvili, who led the team that carried out the operation, provided rare details of the nuclear smuggling underground in an interview with the AP. The case appears to demonstrate that an established network of nuclear smugglers is finding more sophisticated ways to evade international controls.

According to the account he and other Georgian officials gave:

The investigation began with a tip from an informant. The man, an ex-smuggler from a village near the Black Sea coast city of Batumi, was once involved in selling fake radiological materials. He told Georgian authorities he had infiltrated a network of smugglers and had learned of an Armenian man trying to sell "serious" nuclear material.

The Armenian, investigators learned, was Sumbat Tonoyan. Once a dairy factory owner, he had lost a fortune gambling and turned to smuggling. Authorities had photos of him taken at border crossings on trips to Turkey.

An undercover agent contacted Tonoyan about the nuclear material, saying only he was from "a significant organization." In a meeting in Tbilisi, Tonoyan wanted more information but was told: "It is not your business. I am not asking you your name, please don't ask mine. If you want to do business, let's do business."

Tonoyan first demanded more than \$8 million for 120 grams of uranium — a fraction of the amount needed for a bomb. He did not specify the enrichment level. Uranium has to be highly enriched to be used in a nuclear weapon.

In a second meeting, he came down to about \$1.5 million in U.S. bills. Pavlenishvili says smugglers usually settle below \$10,000 a gram for bomb grade material. The mere existence of a typical black-market price is a worrisome sign of the supply and demand in the illicit trading of nuclear materials.

Tonoyan suggested he had even more uranium to sell. The buyer was told to expect him in Tbilisi in early March.

Georgian police were skeptical. They have conducted dozens of operations involving smugglers promising nuclear-grade uranium or plutonium. In almost all cases, the criminals turned up with fake material.

Still, they responded after being alerted early on March 11 that Tonoyan and a companion had crossed the border in a taxi. The companion was later identified as Hrant Ohanian, a retired nuclear physicist from a science institute in Armenia.

Georgian police tailed the taxi. The men got out near a hotel and began casing the deserted street. They appeared concerned they were being watched.

The men then met the train from Yerevan, the Armenian capital, and picked up the cigarette pack containing the uranium. During interrogations, the men would explain they had boarded the train in Yerevan, stashed the uranium and got off before the border crossing.

Authorities had not anticipated the uranium would cross the border separately from the smugglers. So the uranium moved unaccompanied and unsecured for hours until the men picked it up at the station.

Tonoyan switched the meeting place to the hotel he had cased. He met the undercover buyer in a room. When the men pulled out the sample, a radiation detection device hidden on the undercover agent went off. He said a code word. Agents listening in burst in with a commando team.

The uranium was only 18 grams, less than an ounce. But it had been highly enriched, to almost 90 percent, high enough for use in a nuclear weapon. It did not pose a radiological risk to anyone who came upon it in transit.

Georgian officials say Ohanian and Tonoyan have pleaded guilty after a closed hearing and agreed to cooperate with police. They face at least 10 years in prison. Neither they nor their lawyers were made available to the AP.

Radiation detectors on the Georgia-Armenia border under a U.S. program apparently failed to pick up the uranium hidden in the cigarette pack. Pavlenishvili said Ohanian correctly predicted the lead casing would conceal the uranium from the detectors. A larger quantity might have been detected.

Georgian and international investigators are trying to determine the origins of the uranium.

They have clues.

In Ohanian's pocket, police discovered records of a bank transfer to Garik Dadaian, an Armenian arrested in 2003 for smuggling 180 grams (6.35 ounces) of similar material to Georgia. Dadaian was released by the previous Georgian government. He later was prosecuted in the case in Armenia and sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison. Pavlenishvili said he was released within months of his sentencing.

The two men identified Dadaian as the source of the seized uranium and said he had hinted there might be more for a second sale. Georgian officials say Dadaian is in Armenian custody and hasn't been cooperating with the investigation. The AP could not immediately confirm this with Armenian authorities. Georgian officials say Armenian authorities have offered help in the investigation.

In an investigation of the 2003 case, Russian authorities provided information that Dadaian had traveled to Georgia from Novosibirsk, Russia, where there is a nuclear fuel manufacturing plant. Several disappearances of material from that plant have been documented.

Georgian officials say they are trying to determine whether the uranium came from the same batch seized in 2003. They say they have sent the material and its packaging to the U.S. for further forensic analysis and have reported the case to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Agency spokesman Ayhan Evrensel confirmed his agency is working with Georgia on the case. A spokesman for the U.S. National Nuclear Safety Administration, Damien LaVera, declined to discuss his agency's role in the investigation.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/apnewsbreak-georgia-details-nuclear-729549.html>

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

# **NATO Missile Defense Shield in Turkey may Threaten Iran, Russia - Experts**

6 November 2010

Possible deployment of the elements of the NATO missile defense shield in Turkey is targeted against Iran and may pose a threat to Russia's security, Russian experts said on Saturday.

Earlier on Saturday Turkish media said Ankara would agree to deploy a missile-defense system on its territory if its three conditions were accepted.

First, the Turkish authorities insist on building NATO, but not the U.S. missile defense system. Second, the anti-missile shield should be deployed in the all alliance's states-members. And third, Turkey would not allow NATO to turn it into the alliance's frontline state as it was during the Cold War.

"Turkey wants to be equally respected both in the West and in the East...Turkey wants to entrench itself as a key empire of the entire continent," Sergei Demidenko of the Institute of Strategic Studies and Analysis said.

"Geographically Turkey is the closest to Iran, while politically it is one of Iran's enemies," another Russian leading political expert, the head of the Institute of Political Studies, Sergei Markov said. "It is Iran's enemy because Turkey is the ally of the United States...but first of all they both [Turkey and Iran] compete for the leadership in the Islamic world."

The President of the Academy on Geopolitical Affairs, Leonid Ivashov said the ongoing deployment of the anti-missile defense shield in Europe is aimed to "neutralize Russia's nuclear missile potential."

"We do not have other powers, except of the nuclear missile potential, to protect even the single parts of our territories," Ivashov said.

Meanwhile, the Turkish Foreign Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, while commenting on Turkey's plans to deploy anti-missile shield said that NATO should exclude any formula that confronts Turkey with a group of countries in its threat definitions and planning.

"We do not want a Cold War zone or psychology around us," Davutoglu added.

Turkey's decision over missile defense system on its soil will be announced at the upcoming NATO summit in Lisbon due to be held on November 18-19.

MOSCOW, November 6 (RIA Novosti)

[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20101106/161232299.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20101106/161232299.html)

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

SpaceWar.com

## **NATO to Keep Nuclear Weapons**

By Staff Writers

Halifax, Canada (AFP)

November 6, 2010

NATO leaders are unlikely to agree to reduce the defense organization's tactical nuclear stockpiles when they meet later this month, defense officials said Saturday.

The leaders are to meet in Lisbon on November 19-20 to map out the future of the 61-year-old alliance. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will also attend the talks expected to touch on missile defense.

The nuclear arsenal across Europe remains a source of friction with Russia and within NATO -- with Germany, Poland and Sweden calling for a greater NATO commitment to nuclear disarmament resisted by France and the United States.

But a revised mission statement is not likely to address US nuclear weapons in Europe originally meant to deter a Russian invasion, according to defense officials.

"As long as the world is nuclear, the (NATO) alliance has to keep nuclear weapons," Stephane Abrial, Supreme Allied Commander for NATO transformation told a security conference in Halifax, Canada.

Canadian Defense Minister Peter MacKay earlier told the daily Globe and Mail: "I think it's unlikely you're going to see the non-proliferation movement gain momentum unless there's a willingness on both sides."

US Undersecretary of Defense Michele Flournoy, meanwhile, noted that a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) negotiated earlier this year restricts Russia and the United States to a maximum of 1,550 deployed warheads each, a cut of about 30 percent from a limit set in 2002.

"Nonstrategic nuclear weapons need to be a focus of future negotiations," she said, but added: "That's a long-term prospect. Historically, those weapons have been off the table in negotiations. We want to put them on the table as a key topic of discussion with Russia beyond the new START treaty."

"We need to start with transparency, more full accounting of what the Russians have in the vicinity of Europe, for example. We need to try to get to an agreement on pulling those weapons back from the NATO border and the Russian border."

In April, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appeared to rule out early withdrawal of an estimated 240 US nuclear weapons stored in NATO nations Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey -- weapons that would be carried by bomber aircraft.

[http://www.spacewar.com/reports/NATO\\_to\\_keep\\_nuclear\\_weapons\\_999.html](http://www.spacewar.com/reports/NATO_to_keep_nuclear_weapons_999.html)

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

Herald Scotland – U.K.

## **Revealed: MoD Admits to 16 Nuclear Submarine Crashes**

EXCLUSIVE: Rob Edwards, Environment Editor

7 November 2010

**The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has been accused of a “catalogue of blunders” after admitting there have been 16 crashes involving British nuclear-powered submarines since 1988.**

More than half of the accidents were in seas around Scotland. According to critics, the repeated errors that caused the accidents suggest that the MoD has failed to learn from past mistakes. A serious incident in the future could cause radioactivity to leak and put public health at risk, they warn.

The Royal Navy's newest nuclear submarine, HMS Astute, is being repaired at the Faslane naval base on the Clyde after it ran aground for 10 hours near the Skye Bridge on October 22. It emerged last week that one of the boat's fins was damaged in a collision with a tug trying to rescue it.

The list of accidents came in a parliamentary answer to the Scottish Nationalist defence spokesman, Angus Robertson MP. In addition to HMS Astute last month, it included eight other accidents in Scottish waters.

Two were around Skye, one near Lewis, and one in the Firth of Clyde. Another occurred in the North Channel off the south-west coast and two in unspecified places “west of Scotland”.

The worst incident was on November 22, 1990, when HMS Trenchant snagged the net of the Antares fishing vessel in Bute Sound, north of Arran. The boat sank with the loss of four lives, and an official inquiry blamed mistakes by submarine commanders.

The list also revealed a previously unreported accident in April 2009 somewhere in the Eastern Mediterranean. “HMS Torbay grounded in soft sand and mud to avoid a merchant vessel which was sailing erratically,” an MoD spokeswoman told the Sunday Herald.

The craft had not been damaged, she said. “The incident was investigated and no further action was taken.”

Other incidents took place off the coast of Northern Ireland, in the north Norwegian Sea, in the Arctic, in the Red Sea, in the Atlantic, and off Australia. In all, Britain's nuclear submarines have run aground 11 times, collided with two other boats and an iceberg, and snagged the nets of two fishing vessels.

“The incident involving HMS Astute was clearly not a one-off, and the MoD must explain why previous groundings have not been made public,” said Mr Robertson.

“One collision is one too many – especially when it involves a submarine with a nuclear reactor. This catalogue of blunders makes the MoD look even more shambolic, and leaves the credibility of the nuclear deterrent in tatters.”

An independent expert on nuclear submarine safety, John Large, argued that the number of accidents is increasing, and the possible hazards growing. He called on the Royal Navy to review its navigational training.

“Collisions and groundings not only put the submarine hull at risk of damage but also put the weapons, both nuclear and conventional, and the nuclear reactor in jeopardy,” he said.

“If any of these elements were damaged the consequences to submariners and the public at large could be severe.” The 120 or so crew on board are “wholly insufficient” to deal with a major leak of radioactivity, he claimed.

The MoD defended its record, saying: “When incidents do occur, they are taken very seriously. Each is thoroughly investigated and lessons are learnt.”

But John Ainslie, coordinator of the Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, pointed out that detailed reports on submarine accidents are destroyed after 10 years. “This may explain why they repeat the same mistakes,” he said.

“It is time the Royal Navy stopped treating the coast of Scotland as a playground for nuclear submarines.”

**October 2010** HMS Astute grounded off the Isle of Skye

**April 2009** HMS Torbay grounded in the Eastern Mediterranean

**February 2009** HMS Vanguard collided with the French submarine Le Triomphant in the Atlantic

**May 2008** HMS Superb grounded in the Red Sea

**May 2003** HMS Tireless struck an iceberg while on Arctic Patrol

**November 2002** HMS Trafalgar grounded on Fladda-Chuain, north of Skye

**November 2000** HMS Triumph grounded west of Scotland

November 2000 HMS Victorious grounded on Skelmorlie Bank in the Firth of Clyde

**July 1997** HMS Trenchant grounded off the coast of Australia

**July 1996** HMS Repulse grounded in the North Channel off south-west Scotland

**July 1996** HMS Trafalgar grounded off the Isle of Skye

**March 1991** HMS Valiant grounded in the North Norwegian Sea

**November 1990** HMS Trenchant snagged the fishing vessel Antares off Arran

**October 1989** HMS Spartan grounded west of Scotland

**November 1989** HMS Sceptre snagged the fishing vessel Scotia near Lewis

**July 1988** HMS Conqueror collided with the yacht Dalriada off the coast of Northern Ireland

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/transport-environment/revealed-mod-admits-to-16-nuclear-submarine-crashes-1.1066455>

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

London Guardian – U.K.

## **Trident Nuclear Deterrent Delay will Cost Up to £1.4bn, says Liam Fox**

*David Cameron accused of playing with politics by the Labour party and incurring extra spending to appease Liberal Democrats*

By Nicholas Watt, chief political correspondent  
Monday, 8 November 2010

A four-year delay to the replacement of Britain's Trident nuclear deterrent will cost up to £1.4bn, prompting claims tonight that David Cameron is incurring extra spending to appease the Liberal Democrats.

Labour accused the prime minister of playing politics with Britain's national security after the defence secretary Liam Fox announced that the government's decision to prolong the life of the current Trident deterrent by four years would cost an extra £1.2-£1.4bn.

Cameron announced in last month's strategic defence and security review that the current generation of four Vanguard submarines, which carry the Trident nuclear deterrent, would continue in service until 2028. This means the new deterrent would come into force four years later than the planned date of 2024.

The decision allowed the prime minister to stabilise relations in the coalition by delaying the irreversible "main gate" decision on Trident, when binding contracts are signed, until a year after the 2015 general election. Lib Dem ministers, who are opposed to a like-for-like replacement for Trident, say the delay will allow them to fight the next election on an anti-Trident platform while remaining in office.

The government, which said in its defence review last month that the Trident delay would require "sufficient investment", today put a price on maintaining the Vanguard submarines for an extra four years. The oldest of the four submarines, which was due to be taken out of service in 2024, will now be taken out of service in 2028.

Liam Fox, the defence secretary, told MPs: "There will be additional costs to maintaining the Vanguard class through to 2028. We expect that to be around £1.2 to £1.4bn extra to maintain those submarines for longer."

Fox said it was impossible to say whether the delay would end up adding to the overall costs of replacing Trident because these will not be agreed until after the "main gate" decision in 2016. "As no cost will actually be set out until after 'main gate' it is impossible to make that assumption," Fox said of Labour claims that the delay would end up costing more.

John Woodcock, the Labour MP for Barrow where Britain's nuclear submarines are built, said the extra £1.4bn was the price of keeping Lib Dems on board. "David Cameron has tried to claim that delaying Trident saves money, but his defence secretary has lifted the lid on how much playing politics with Britain's national security will cost the taxpayer," he said after the Commons exchanges.

Tory MPs made clear their unease about the Trident delay. Julian Lewis, the former shadow defence minister, said to Fox: "Does he not recognise that the appalling decision to postpone signing the 'main gate' contracts leads us to a situation where if, heaven forbid, there is another hung parliament the Liberal Democrats, who are really unilateralist, would be able to blackmail both parties to cancel the deterrent entirely?"

Fox, who is a wary supporter of the coalition, said he hoped the Tories would be able to govern without the Lib Dems after the next election. "I shall be fighting the general election to see a majority Conservative government returned."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/nov/08/trident-nuclear-deterrent-delay-cost>

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

BBC News – U.K.

8 November 2010

## **Nuclear Debris could Reveal Clues of Bomb's Origin**

By Katia Moskvitch Science reporter, BBC News

**Forensic analysis of the debris left after a nuclear explosion could yield crucial evidence about the composition and the origin of the bomb, say scientists.**

A US team examined Trinitite, the glassy ground debris from the first-ever nuclear test that the US Army conducted in 1945 in New Mexico.

They used advanced analytical techniques to reveal details about the materials used to construct the bomb.

The study appears in the journal PNAS.

The first atomic bomb exploded in the early hours of 16 July, 1945, in the desert near Alamogordo Air Base. Code-named "Trinity", the detonation was just a test conducted far away from any settlements.

Just weeks later, in the final stages of World War II, two atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Between 90,000-166,000 people died in Hiroshima and some 60,000-80,000 in Nagasaki. About half of the deaths happened on the day of the bombing.

### **Tracing the responsible**

Now, many consider the threat of a nuclear attack by terrorists to be very real. Such an attack could potentially wipe out whole cities.

But if someone does ever undertake such an attack, could the culprits behind the bomb ever be found?

The current study's lead author Albert Fahey, of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (Nist) in Gaithersburg, US, seems to think so.

"Prior to this, pretty much everyone assumed that everything would be vaporised, it would all be homogeneous and we would have no idea whatsoever where this thing came from," he told BBC News.

"Turns out that's not true."



The researcher explained that his team used nuclear forensic analysis to study a little piece of trinitite that he obtained from a material collector over the internet.

The scientists were surprised to find that their "microanalysis" techniques identified the secondary materials used to build the device that went off at Trinity site.

This information, in turn, can be used to trace the bomb's origin, he said.

"Prior to this study, people didn't realise that other components of the bomb could be discerned from looking at ground debris and seeing what's associated [with it]," said Dr Fahey.

"But there are some distinctive signatures that were in the bomb other than fission products and plutonium, and that gives you hope that you can get some additional information out of it - like where it was made."

### **Other materials**

The researchers write in the paper that contrary to the nuclear material that would be likely to come from wherever a person could get it, "whether it was submitted by a state that's sympathetic or they got it on the black market", other materials would likely be of local origin.

"The materials that go to make the rest of the bomb, to produce the critical mass, [would be] obtained from local sources," said Dr Fahey.

"Perhaps if it's a gun-type device, an artillery barrel, maybe it was put in a shipping container so maybe there were bricks around it.

"And they'll have records associated with them. For example, if someone were to use a lead tamper, then the isotopic composition of the lead would pinpoint or at least narrow down the number of lead mines it could come from."

Richard Lindstrom, also of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and a co-author of the study, told BBC News that the study was a crucial first step to help identify those behind any future nuclear terrorist attack.

"The interest that the team are trying to stir up is that here is this ancient material from 1945 that contains a tremendous amount of information that maybe we should go back and try to understand a little bit better - just in case we ever should try to infer the composition and source of a nuclear explosion from the debris of a terrorist event.

"Just from this random sample of trinitite we can draw a surprising number of conclusions about the device."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11714316>

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

London Guardian – U.K.

OPINION

## **Nuclear Bang Too Big for Our Buck**

*If France and the UK can share warheads and a sea rota, why have seven nuclear subs between us?*

By Peter Preston

Sunday, 7 November 2010

Hollywood's favourite end of the world is a mushroom cloud. The sum of all movie box office fears is still a very big bang. Which seems pretty odd when you watch Barack Obama weekending in India. He ought to be talking about the subcontinent's rival bombs, trying to bring calm amid fear and frenzy. After all, this is the Nobel peace prize winner who pledged himself "to seek ... a world without nuclear weapons". But somehow imports and exports have seized centre screen.

Do we have to wait, hope and whistle a plaintive tune until North Korea stows away its missiles and Iran stops playing deadly games? Or are we merely killing time? Ask questions like these and immediately you're dealing with the old cold war balances of deterrence (aka mutually assured destruction). Obama – for all his new rhetoric – comes from that old world too. "As long as these weapons exist, we will maintain a safe, secure and effective arsenal to deter any adversary." But whom does he need more than 9,000 warheads to deter?

So, at a stride, we're down among the minnows of global destruction, the also-rans of the arms race (European league). What price the UK's 255 warheads – about to be whittled down as price exacts coalition pain? And what price, more pertinently, France's *force de frappe*, those four Triumphant class submarines with M45 missiles on board – not to mention the new M51 (range up to 10,000km)? While David Cameron and Nick Clegg are delaying any upgrade decision: because a) it's damned expensive; and b) they disagree about it, the French have got on with an upgrade – and are well placed to deter anyone they see who gives them the shivers.

But who could that someone be? Both president and prime minister agree: "We do not see situations arising in which the vital interests of either France or the United Kingdom could be threatened without the vital interests of the other also being threatened. We have decided to pursue and deepen nuclear co-operation between our two countries."

What? You didn't notice that vital step in last week's military embraces between Nicolas Sarkozy and Cameron, the I-can-land-on-your-aircraft-carrier-if-I-lend-you-mine routine? You wouldn't: the PM in question was John Major circa 1995; the president, Jacques Chirac. And at once we're into a whole new range of cost savings and paranoia diminutions.

The French (as Robert Green, who once commanded a Polaris sub, says in his analysis Security Without Nuclear Deterrence) built their nukes because they fell out with the US post-Suez. For a while they helped anyone who would pay – say Israel – to follow suit. Then they rode back on such generosity. But there's no strategy to their nuclear policy. They have the bomb because they think it is better – purpose undefined, enemy undefined, use undefined. And, as we see from the first stumblings of a resumed debate here, that's the British situation as well.

So, if we can't create a world without nuclear weapons, perhaps we can save ourselves a little cash. If France and the UK can build warheads together and work up a seagoing rota, why do we need seven nuclear subs between us? Why not settle at two a side? Or even one each? For the moment you get into deciding what our nukes are for is the moment the sum of all fears turns to hollow laughter. Are we deterring Tehran, Pyongyang, Islamabad? Or Moscow? Or none of the above, in reality.

Caring, sharing and planning about defence involves specific purpose. We need helicopters and troop carriers because they're useful. But what's the use of subs? No use at all. Maybe one shared boat targeting London and Paris on alternate Fridays is the best we can do. A Hollywood blockbuster played purely for comedy.

*Peter Preston is a columnist for the Guardian and the Observer. He was previously editor of the Guardian for 20 years, from 1975 to 1995, and has written two books, Bess (1999) and The 51st State (1998)*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/nov/07/uk-france-seven-nuclear-subs>

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

Washington Post  
OPINION

## **Obama's Game of Nuclear Chicken with Iran**

By David Ignatius

Sunday, November 7, 2010

While American eyes were focused on the midterm elections, a bitter conflict has continued between the United States and Iran for influence in the Middle East.

The flash points have been Iraq and Lebanon, where the Iranians have been pushing through their proxies for what amounts to political control. The United States and its allies have been resisting - sometimes feebly but enough to slow the Iranian advance. In both Baghdad and Beirut, the proxy warfare may escalate in coming weeks.

The Obama administration hopes that this jousting with Iran is a prelude to serious talks on limits to Tehran's nuclear program. In the administration's view, the Iranians have been squeezed by U.N. sanctions - and are fighting back in Iraq and Lebanon partly to show they still have leverage.

The White House has repeatedly signaled to Iran that it wants a peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue. The signals back from Tehran have been ambiguous, as usual, but the Iranians have said they are ready to meet this month for more talks with Washington and its key allies, perhaps in Vienna.

The tantalizing hints that Iran wants negotiations have included outreach to American contacts by Esfandiar Rahim-Mashaie, a key political adviser to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. A second Ahmadinejad adviser attended a U.S.-organized meeting in Rome on Oct. 18 about stabilizing Afghanistan. Through various intermediaries, the United States has indicated that it would accept phased negotiations that began with a Turkish compromise for fueling the Tehran Research Reactor and then moved to Iran's overall nuclear program.

The game of nuclear chicken has been going on for nearly a decade, and for all the jockeying over the next round of talks, there's little hard evidence yet that the Iranians are serious about reaching a deal. Meanwhile, their drive for political power in Baghdad and Beirut continues.

The U.S. resistance to Tehran has been a kind of rope-a-dope strategy, with U.S. allies absorbing Iranian blows while Washington dickers for compromise - and, metaphorically, waits for Iran to punch itself out. The U.S. hope, in

the words of former ambassador Ryan Crocker, is that "Iranian influence is self-limiting. The harder they push, the more resistance they get."

In Iraq, more than seven months have passed since the March parliamentary elections without formation of a new government. Iran has put its weight behind Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's bid to stay in power and is said to have created a special task force in Baghdad to pressure Iraqi factions. Iran is said to have cut off covert subsidies to Shiite parties that refused to back Maliki.

The United States, strangely, has also tacitly supported Maliki's quest. But Washington has insisted that the Iraqiya Party, headed by former prime minister Ayad Allawi and backed by Iraq's Sunni community, must be included in a coalition government. Supporting the U.S. demand is Massoud Barzani, the Kurdish leader who is kingmaker in these negotiations.

Some Iraqis fear that Tehran is planning a campaign of reprisals. Last week, a source sent me a purported Iraqi intelligence report claiming that "Iranian intelligence officers (plan) a two-stage operation involving assassinating [former] members of the Baath Party and former and current officers in the army and intelligence agency."

The proxy war in Lebanon is just as fierce. Hezbollah, the Shiite militia created by Iran, is fulminating against an international tribunal that is reportedly preparing to indict Hezbollah members next month for the 2005 murder of former prime minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Washington has organized a coalition, including Russia, to support the tribunal's work. If indictments are issued, Hezbollah may move to topple the Lebanese government - creating a new showdown. How the United States and Israel would respond isn't clear, but their options would be limited.

Last week, an angry Ahmadinejad accused Russia of selling out to "Satan" by supporting sanctions and canceling a planned sale to Iran of ground-to-air missiles.

The Obama administration hopes that an isolated Iran will eventually seek a compromise on the nuclear issue. But as Karim Sadjadpour argues in Foreign Policy, this regime with a "victimization complex" needs America as an enemy, perhaps more than ever. It makes sense for the United States to explore every reasonable area of compromise, but the proxy wars in Iraq and Lebanon show that Iran wants to bargain from strength, too.

After the election furor, President Obama must turn to this test - and discover whether Iran wants negotiations to reach a deal, or to kill time.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/05/AR2010110505227.html>

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

London Guardian – U.K.

ANALYSIS

## **Nuclear Smuggling: The Expert View**

*Insider thieves are the new nuclear threat. Protect the materials and prevent the terrorism*

By Matthew Bunn

Sunday, 7 November 2010

The dark netherworlds of nuclear smuggling still pose a terrible danger to us all. Terrorists are seeking nuclear weapons and the materials to make them. Unfortunately, it doesn't take a Manhattan Project to make a crude nuclear bomb – numerous government studies have warned that a sophisticated terrorist group might pull it off, if they could get enough nuclear material. And with bits of highly enriched uranium (HEU) continuing to show up in the hands of hustlers and smugglers, the obvious question is: of which iceberg are we seeing the tip?

Fortunately, controlling the essential ingredients of nuclear weapons – plutonium and HEU, neither of which occur in nature – offers a choke point on the pathway to the bomb. If we can keep terrorists from getting these materials, we can prevent nuclear terrorism.

Already, years of co-operative efforts under the US Nunn-Lugar programme and related efforts have dramatically improved security for nuclear weapons and materials at scores of sites. Potential nuclear bomb material has been removed from dozens more, cutting out the risk of nuclear theft at those sites. These successes represent, in a real sense, bombs that will never go off.

In Washington in April, leaders from 47 countries agreed to secure all vulnerable nuclear stockpiles in four years. Now the time has come to flesh out the specifics and move from words to deeds.

The world needs to forge agreement that all nuclear warheads, plutonium, and HEU must have at least a common baseline of nuclear security measures in place – for example, protection against a couple of small teams of well-

armed, well-trained outsiders, or a well-placed insider thief. Countries where terrorists and thieves can pose more substantial threats need still higher levels of security.

New measures to protect against insider thieves – who have perpetrated nearly every known nuclear material theft to date – must be put in place. Every country that has these materials needs an urgent review of each site where they exist, to assess whether the continuing use of these materials at that site is worth the costs and risks, and whether security there can provide effective protection.

Over time, the world should phase out the civilian use of HEU, which is still used to fuel more than 100 research reactors around the world, many with minimal security measures in place. Overcoming complacency is the key to success.

Many policymakers and nuclear managers around the world wrongly dismiss the danger, arguing that since they have never had an incident at their facility there is no need to upgrade security, and that in any case terrorists could not possibly make a nuclear bomb. They are wrong. Al-Qaida's nuclear bomb programme was in earnest, and progressed as far as carrying out explosive tests in the desert in Afghanistan before the 9/11 attacks. Nuclear security measures around the world are demonstrably insufficient to cope with the capabilities and tactics terrorists and thieves have already used in non-nuclear attacks.

We need a broad range of steps to counter this deadly complacency, from detailed briefings on the real threat to "red team" exercises, in which well-trained teams test security at nuclear sites.

Another nuclear security summit is slated for 2012 in Seoul. The world needs intensive diplomacy and action on the ground between now and then, so that the leaders there will be able to say that the steps already taken and the further steps agreed to at that summit will be enough to keep the essential ingredients of nuclear bombs out of terrorist hands.

*Matthew Bunn is an associate professor at the Harvard Kennedy School and a former adviser in the White House science office. He is the author of *Securing the Bomb 2010: Securing All Nuclear Material in Four Years**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/nov/07/nuclear-terrorism-expert-view>

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