



# **USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**

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**Issue No. 861, 19 November 2010**

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London Guardian – U.K.

## **Barack Obama's Hopes for a Nuclear-Free World Fading Fast**

*Two of the president's initiatives, on disarmament and relations with Russia, have been dealt a serious setback*

Julian Borger, diplomatic editor

Tuesday, 16 November 2010

Barack Obama's hopes of reshaping US foreign policy stand on the brink of failure tonight, after two of his most cherished initiatives — nuclear disarmament and better relations with Moscow — were dealt serious setbacks.

According to a leaked Nato document seen by the Guardian, a move to withdraw US tactical nuclear weapons from Europe has been omitted from the alliance's draft strategic doctrine, due to be adopted by a summit this weekend in Lisbon.

Meanwhile in Washington, a Republican leader in the Senate signalled that the nuclear arms control treaty Obama signed in April with Russian president Dmitry Medvedev is unlikely to be ratified this year. Most observers say that if the treaty – known as New Start – is delayed until next year, it will be as good as dead, as the Democratic majority in the Senate will be even thinner by then, following the party's losses in the midterm elections.

Together the setbacks mark a new low point for Obama's ambitions, set out in a landmark 2009 speech in Prague, to set the world on a path to abolition of nuclear weapons.

They also rob the president of the main concrete achievement so far in his bid to "reset" US-Russian relations. In the absence of progress in the Middle East or Iranian compromise over its nuclear ambitions, the developments threaten to eclipse Obama's legacy in foreign policy.

"All this stuff was integrated – the nuclear package and the Russian relationship," said Steven Clemons, policy analyst at the New America Foundation. "In terms of the long-term international significance it's the most important thing Obama has done, and it has just come apart."

In the latest draft of Nato's "new strategic concept", seen by the Guardian, nuclear weapons remain at the core of Nato doctrine, and an attempt to withdraw an estimated 200 American B-61 nuclear bombs from Europe, a legacy of the cold war, is not mentioned.

Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium – who all have B-61 bombs on their soil – had pushed to have the tactical weapons removed, with the encouragement of supporters of disarmament in the Obama camp including the US ambassador to Nato, Ivo Daalder.

However, in a victory for France, which led a rearguard action against diluting nuclear deterrence in Nato doctrine, the draft strategic concept states that the weapons would only be removed as a trade-off with Moscow.

"In any future reductions, our aim should be to seek Russian agreement to increase transparency on its nuclear weapons in Europe and relocate these weapons away from the territory of Nato members," the draft states. "Any further steps must take into account the disparity with the greater Russian stockpile of short-range nuclear weapons."

Advocates of disarmament still hope the door to withdrawal could be left open in another strategic review, possibly next year.

But Daryl Kimball, the head of the Arms Control Association, said the Lisbon document represented a lost opportunity for the alliance.

"Nato does not need these weapons against any of the 21st century threats we face," Kimball said. "The weapons raise the risk of nuclear terrorism, and their presence makes it harder to convince Russia to cut its own tactical arsenal."

US and Russian negotiators had been expected to discuss tactical weapons in the next round of arms control talks, but those talks will almost certainly not take place if the New Start treaty is shelved.

The White House had hoped the Senate would ratify the treaty in its lame-duck session currently underway, before newly-elected Republican senators take their seats in January.

However, the administration still needed some Republican support to get the 67 votes required for ratification. In a last-ditch move last week, it offered to spend an extra \$4 bn (£2.5 bn) on modernisation of the existing nuclear arsenal — an effort to placate the Republican whip, Jon Kyl.

However, Senator Kyl issued a statement tonight saying he still did not think the treaty could be passed in the lame-duck session, "given the combination of other work Congress must do and the complex and unresolved issues related to Start and modernisation." Some Democrats were still hoping tonight the statement could be a bluff aimed

at extracting yet more funding for America's nuclear labs. Others, however, saw it as a slammed door, and a reflection of Republican determination to make Obama a one-term president and erase his legacy.

Paul Ingram, head of the British American Security Information Council (Basic), said Obama's radical vision of "a world without nuclear weapons" laid out in his Prague speech was now fading.

"I wouldn't say it was dead. It's in emergency resuscitation," Ingram said.

"If there is hope no, it's not coming from Washington. The leadership of this is not going to come from Washington."

### **On nuclear weapons**

"So today, I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons. I'm not naive. This goal will not be reached quickly – perhaps not in my lifetime. It will take patience and persistence. But now we, too, must ignore the voices who tell us that the world cannot change. We have to insist, 'Yes, we can.'"

### **Prague, 5 April 2009**

#### **On the New Start treaty with Russia**

"The new agreement will mutually enhance the security of the parties and predictability and stability in strategic offensive forces. We are ready to move beyond Cold War mentalities and chart a fresh start in relations between our two countries."

#### **Joint statement with Dmitry Medvedev, London, 1 April 2009**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/nov/16/barack-obama-nuclear-hopes-fading>

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Mainichi Daily News – Japan

November 17, 2010

## **Obama's Prospects for Russia Nuclear Pact Fade**

WASHINGTON (AP) -- An agreement between the United States and Russia to slash their nuclear arsenals was in danger of collapse after an influential Republican senator said Tuesday it should not be voted on this year.

With a terse statement, Sen. Jon Kyl dealt a major setback to President Barack Obama's efforts to improve ties with Russia and to his broader strategy for reducing nuclear arms worldwide. The treaty, known as New START, had been seen as one of Obama's top foreign policy accomplishments.

Without the support of Kyl, the leading Republican voice on the treaty, Democrats have little hope of securing at least eight Republican votes -- the minimum they would need for ratification in the current Senate.

Kyl's position, unless reversed, would delay the vote until the newly elected Senate, with an expanded Republican minority, has been sworn in in January. Democrats would then need the support of at least 14 Republicans.

The White House has been trying to avoid that fate, knowing that ratification could slip out of reach in the face of opposition to the treaty from most Republicans and an increasingly partisan political environment in Washington.

At a minimum, that probably would set the treaty back for months, because Republicans are likely to demand new hearings in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee so that newly elected lawmakers would be briefed.

Following Tuesday's setback, Vice President Joe Biden warned that failure to approve the treaty this year would endanger national security. He pointed out that the treaty would renew U.S. authority that expired last year to inspect Russia's nuclear arsenal.

Senate Democrats were holding out hope. Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Democrat John Kerry, said he had discussed the issue with Kyl on Tuesday and believed the door was still open to a vote before the end of the year.

"Ratifying New START is not a political choice, it's a national security imperative," he said.

Kyl's statement, however, appeared to leave little room to resolve the issue quickly. He said he told Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid that he did not believe the treaty could be considered this year.

The treaty would reduce U.S. and Russian limits on strategic warheads to 1,550 for each country from the current ceiling of 2,200. It also would set up new procedures to allow both countries to inspect each other's arsenals to verify compliance.

Republicans have argued that the treaty would limit U.S. missile defense options and does not provide adequate procedures to verify that Russia is living up to its terms.

Kyl has argued that it makes no sense to reduce the number of U.S. warheads until more is done to maintain and modernize the remaining arsenal.

Last week the administration sought to satisfy Kyl's conditions for supporting the treaty with a proposal to boost funding significantly for the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. A congressional aide briefed on White House plans told The Associated Press last week that the White House was proposing to add \$4.1 billion that would go to maintaining and modernizing the arsenal and the laboratories that oversee that effort. U.S. government officials traveled to Kyl's home state of Arizona to make the proposal.

During the weekend, Obama had expressed optimism about the treaty's prospects.

Kyl appeared to surprise the administration with a statement against quick passage that cited "unresolved issues related to START and modernization."

The Kyl statement came on a day of renewed friction with Russia stemming from Thailand's extradition to the United States of a Viktor Bout, a Russian accused of illegal arms sales. The move by Thai authorities followed a diplomatic tug-of-war between Washington and Moscow.

Russia has said that it will seek to ratify the treaty simultaneously with a U.S. vote.

(Mainichi Japan) November 17, 2010

<http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/international/news/20101117p2g00m0in095000c.html>

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Wall Street Journal

November 17, 2010

## **Russian Arms Pact Faces New Obstacle**

By JONATHAN WEISMAN

The Senate's No. 2 Republican said Tuesday that he opposed a vote this year on President Barack Obama's signature arms control treaty, dealing a blow to a top White House foreign policy priority and possibly to U.S.-Russian relations.

Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl of Arizona said there wasn't time to deal with his concerns over a treaty that would cut U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear weapons deployments by about one third and restore weapons inspections that were halted nearly a year ago. Treaty ratification requires 67 votes in the Senate. Mr. Kyl's decision likely pushes a vote to next year, when the Senate Democratic majority shrinks to 53 from 58.

Mr. Kyl's announcement took the White House by surprise. A White House official said that just last Friday, officials from the Defense Department, the National Nuclear Security Administration and the U.S. Strategic Command briefed the senator and offered an additional \$4.1 billion over the next five years that he had demanded to modernize the remaining nuclear arsenal.

Vice President Joe Biden, who has been leading the ratification effort, said in a statement that the administration would continue to press for a vote in the lame-duck Congress. "Failure to pass the New START Treaty this year would endanger our national security," he said, calling the treaty "a fundamental part of our relationship with Russia, which has been critical to our ability to supply our troops in Afghanistan and to impose and enforce strong sanctions on the Iranian government."

On Sunday, Mr. Obama told Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at a private meeting in Yokohama, Japan, that a ratification vote would be his top priority for the lame-duck session of the Senate, which began this week. Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a treaty supporter, said Tuesday he still wanted the vote. Weapons inspectors have been barred from each other's nuclear sites since the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, negotiated by President George H. W. Bush, expired last December.

Mr. Lugar "believes it is imperative we keep the verification process going, and he's fearful if we don't do it this session, it would throw a major road block in U.S.-Russian nonproliferation arrangements," said Mark Helmke, a Lugar spokesman.

Mr. Lugar, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D., Mass.) and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are to meet for breakfast on Wednesday to discuss their options. But without Mr. Kyl's support, 67 votes looks doubtful. Conservative Republicans are looking to Mr. Kyl, a longtime conservative voice on nuclear arms control, for direction.

Administration officials documented 29 consultations with and phone calls to Mr. Kyl on the START treaty since August 2009. Mr. Kyl is holding out for more assurances that the administration and Congress will spend tens of billions of dollars to modernize the remaining nuclear stockpile and maintain its nuclear weapons laboratories and production facilities.

"When Majority Leader Harry Reid asked me if I thought the treaty could be considered in the lame-duck session, I replied I did not think so, given the combination of other work Congress must do and the complex and unresolved issues related to START and modernization," Mr. Kyl said in a statement.

The treaty, signed with fanfare last year in Prague, would cap deployed strategic warheads at 1,550 a side, compared with 2,200 set in a nonbinding 2002 treaty, and launchers at 700 each, compared with 1,600 set by the expired START. Ratification was supposed to launch a more ambitious round of negotiations aimed at nondeployed, or mothballed, strategic warheads and smaller, battlefield nuclear weapons untouched by the treaty.

Russian lawmakers formally pulled the treaty from consideration in the Duma after the mid-term elections, citing political doubts, although they can resubmit it at any time.

Arms control advocates on both sides worry that tension over the treaty could jeopardize cooperation on Iran and Afghanistan.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, an arms control advocacy group, accused Mr. Kyl of engineering a "pay to play" scheme and demanding "nuclear earmarks." The administration has already pledged \$80 billion over the next decade for nuclear weapons modernization programs, and Mr. Kyl has demanded more.

Ryan Patmintra, a Kyl spokesman, said such concerns are far-fetched. Mr. Kyl needs assurances that those pledges will survive the upheavals on Capitol Hill, and he doesn't even know which Republican will lead the House Appropriations Committee next year, Mr. Patmintra said. If he receives those assurances and can back the treaty, aides to Mr. Kyl said, he will bring conservative Republicans along, and passage will be assured, whether there are 42 Republicans, as there are now, or 47 as of next year.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704312504575618660151287450.html?mod=WSJ\\_WSJ\\_News\\_BlogsModule](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704312504575618660151287450.html?mod=WSJ_WSJ_News_BlogsModule)

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Russia Hopes Strategic Arms Treaty with U.S. to be Ratified by Year-End**

17 November 2010

Moscow hopes that the new Russian-U.S. strategic arms reduction deal will be ratified by the end of this year, a Russian deputy foreign minister said.

The treaty, signed this April, is to be ratified simultaneously by U.S. Senate and both chambers of the Russian parliament. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Russia expects that the ratification process in the U.S. would end "positively."

"It would be an important contribution into strengthening the new spirit of partnership in our relations, and we expect that the Senate would make all the necessary decisions by the end of this year," he said.

"We are committed to simultaneous ratification process. We expect that the United States would complete this process by the end of the year. In any case, we see efforts made in this direction by the administration and a number of influential senators," the Russian diplomat added.

The prospects for the treaty's ratification in the U.S. remain unclear after the November 2 mid-term elections. The Democrats need the support of at least eight Republicans to secure the two-thirds majority required for the treaty's ratification.

The treaty, however, has met strong Republican opposition in the Senate over concerns that it may weaken U.S. anti-missile defenses. U.S. President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton earlier expressed their hopes to ratify the pact during the lame duck session.

State Department spokesman Philip Crowley told a press briefing that the pact with Russia was in the "national interest" of the United States.

"We've engaged senators for many months over the details of the treaty. We believe that we've answered all their questions. We've addressed their concerns... And we will continue our dialogue with the Senate, but it is our firm view that the START Treaty should be ratified while Congress is in session, or while the Senate is in session," he added.

The number-two Senate Republican Jon Kyl, who earlier expressed his support for the treaty, said on Tuesday he doubted the ratification process could be completed this year, due to the Senate's busy agenda and the complexity of the treaty.

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden warned on Tuesday that failure to pass the strategic arms reduction pact this year "would endanger our national security."

"Without ratification of this Treaty, we will have no Americans on the ground to inspect Russia's nuclear activities, no verification regime to track Russia's strategic nuclear arsenal, less cooperation between the two nations that account for 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons, and no verified nuclear reductions," the vice president said in a statement.

He said the pact was "a fundamental part of our relationship with Russia, which has been critical to our ability to supply our troops in Afghanistan and to impose and enforce strong sanctions on the Iranian government."

Kyl, one of his party's leaders on nuclear weapons issues, had earlier threatened to block the treaty until the administration spends more on modernizing the existing nuclear arsenal.

"President Obama has made an extraordinary commitment to ensure the modernization of our nuclear infrastructure, which had been neglected for several years before he took office," Biden said.

"We have made clear our plans to invest \$80 billion on modernization over the next decade, and, based on our consultations with Senator Kyl, we plan to request an additional \$4.1 billion for modernization over the next five years," he added.

He reiterated that the treaty has "bipartisan support" and was endorsed by prominent former officials from both parties, including six former Secretaries of State, five former defense secretaries and three former national security advisors.

"The time to act is now and we will continue to seek its approval by the Senate before the end of the year," Biden said.

MOSCOW, November 17 (RIA Novosti)

[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20101117/161370790.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20101117/161370790.html)

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Boston Globe

## **Obama Enlists Big Names to Push for Nuclear Treaty**

By Jim Abrams - Associated Press

Thursday, November 18, 2010

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Obama, pressing for quick Senate ratification of a U.S.-Russia nuclear arms-reduction treaty, summoned a number of former secretaries of defense and state, Republicans and Democrats, to the White House to rally support for the imperiled agreement.

The White House said Mr. Obama wanted to discuss at the gathering why it is in the national interest for the Senate to approve the treaty this year, a move that a key Senate Republican says would be premature.

Those invited to the Roosevelt Room meeting Thursday include Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, Sen. Richard G. Lugar and former Sen. Sam Nunn, plus former secretaries of state Madeleine Albright, James Baker and Henry Kissinger.



Former defense secretaries William Cohen and William Perry and former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft also are included. Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. will preside, and Mr. Obama was to drop in on the meeting.

The White House is mounting an all-out push for ratification of the treaty, which Mr. Obama has made a top foreign policy priority. Press secretary Robert Gibbs said Wednesday he believes the New START deal will come up and pass during the lame-duck Congress, now in progress.

The agreement would shrink the U.S. and Russian arsenals of strategic warheads and revive on-the-ground inspections that ceased when a previous treaty expired nearly a year ago.

Sen. Jon Kyl, a leading Republican voice on the issue, dealt the pact a major setback Tuesday by coming out against a vote this year. Mr. Kyl, who's been seeking more money and focus on maintaining and modernizing the remaining arsenal, said more time was needed before moving forward.

When pressed on the issue Wednesday, Mr. Kyl told reporters, "We're talking in good faith."

The treaty has support from some moderate Republicans, but Kyl's opposition makes approval a tough climb since many in the GOP were looking to his assent before giving their backing. Sixty-seven votes are needed for approval, so Democrats need at least eight Republican votes for ratification in the current Senate.

Once the newly elected Senate is seated in January, Democrats will need the support of at least 14 Republicans.

"The president will continue to push this and believes the Senate should act on it before they go home," Gibbs told reporters at the White House.

"I think we'll have enough votes to pass it" even without Kyl's support, Gibbs said, calling it crucial to the nuclear inspection regime and international relations.

"I don't think it's going to get pushed into next year," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Nevada Democrat, issued a statement Wednesday supporting quick action on the treaty, saying he was "puzzled" by Kyl's stance.

But the administration's hopes suffered another hit when Republican Sen. George Voinovich, an Ohio moderate who is retiring this year, expressed his reservations about the treaty.

"America's grand strategy approach towards Russia must be realistic, it must be agile, and as I have said it must take into account the interests of our NATO allies," Mr. Voinovich said in a statement. "I am deeply concerned the New START Treaty may once again undermine the confidence of our friends and allies in Central and Eastern Europe."

A clearly frustrated Mr. Lugar, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a treaty supporter, suggested the administration press ahead with a vote despite the opposition of Mr. Kyl and others. Mr. Lugar, a leading voice on nuclear issues, said if the White House and Democrats wait until next year and the new Congress, the process would have to start anew with hearings, committee votes and a greater risk that the treaty won't be ratified.

"This is a situation of some national security peril," Mr. Lugar told reporters.

Mr. Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the pact in Prague in April. Mr. Obama met with Mr. Medvedev last weekend on the sidelines of an economic meeting in Japan and emphasized his commitment to advancing the treaty during the lame-duck session.

The treaty would reduce U.S. and Russian strategic warheads to 1,550 for each country from the current ceiling of 2,200. It also would set up new procedures to allow both countries to inspect each other's arsenals to verify compliance.

Mr. Kerry said there were no substantive disagreements on the treaty itself and that a major objection of Mr. Kyl's should have been removed when the administration pledged an additional \$4.1 billion for weapons modernization programs.

Earlier Wednesday, Mrs. Clinton beseeched the Senate to vote this year.

"This is not an issue that can afford to be postponed," the secretary said after the meeting.

Republicans have argued that the treaty would limit U.S. missile defense options and does not provide adequate procedures to verify that Russia is living up to its terms.

[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2010/11/18/obama\\_enlists\\_big\\_names\\_to\\_push\\_for\\_nuclear\\_treaty/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2010/11/18/obama_enlists_big_names_to_push_for_nuclear_treaty/)

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Washington Post

## **Analysis: Arms Pact Has No Clear Path to Approval**

By DESMOND BUTLER, the Associated Press

Thursday, November 18, 2010

WASHINGTON -- The White House is promising it will have the Senate votes to approve a major arms control treaty with Russia this year, one of President Barack Obama's top priorities. There is little evidence that is the case.

Democrats either will have to get a pivotal Republican senator, Jon Kyl of Arizona, to change his mind about the New START treaty after he said he does not think there can be a vote this year, or they will have to find eight other Republicans to support them. So far, they have only one, Indiana's Richard Lugar, who has made nonproliferation the defining issue of his long political career.

That means Obama needs seven Republicans who will agree that it is better for a vote to take place now than in the new year, when their party will have more power in the Senate. Those senators would have to defy their party's leaders and hand Obama a major political victory at a time when America's political winds are blowing overwhelmingly in the Republicans' favor.

There is no indication that will happen. In fact, the one Republican besides Lugar to support the treaty in an earlier committee vote, Bob Corker of Tennessee, is now supporting a delay.

Obama sees the treaty as an opening for improved relations with Russia and has argued that it is essential for U.S. national security. The treaty would reduce U.S. and Russian limits on strategic warheads and would set up new procedures to allow both countries to inspect each other's arsenals to verify compliance. U.S. inspectors left Russia after a previous treaty expired last year.

Republicans have called the new verifications procedures inadequate and argued that the treaty would limit U.S. missile defense options. Most Republican senators probably would vote against the treaty. Others have said they would follow Kyl's lead.

Kyl has argued that it does not make sense to reduce U.S. warheads until more is done to maintain and modernize the remaining arsenal. To answer Kyl's concerns, the Obama administration last week delivered a proposal to significantly boost funding for the U.S. nuclear weapons complex.

Then Kyl shocked the administration on Tuesday by announcing that he had told Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., that he did not think the treaty could be brought up for a vote this year.

Supporters say the statement was not definitive, and they have not given up hope. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, spoke to Kyl on Wednesday and the White House is sending information that Kyl had requested.

Obama also was using his bully pulpit to press the case. On Thursday, he planned to stop by a meeting on the treaty hosted by Vice President Joe Biden. Also invited were senior lawmakers and Republican statesmen who back the treaty, including former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft.

While conceding that persuading Kyl to reverse his position is their best bet, White House officials and Lugar are asserting they could win enough Republican votes with or without Kyl's backing.

"I think we'll have enough votes to pass it" even without Kyl's support, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Wednesday.

The challenge of that approach was underscored when retiring Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, a moderate the White House probably would need for a successful vote, said Wednesday he had problems with the treaty unrelated to those raised by Kyl.

Democrats would have to win over Republicans quickly in the short legislative session remaining this year. It will be crowded with other priorities, including essential action on taxes and money to keep the government operating.

Perhaps their best hope is that Kyl is holding out for some yet unspoken concession. But he has given no indication that his intransigence is brinkmanship.

When pressed on the issue Wednesday, Kyl would only say, "We're talking in good faith."

*EDITOR'S NOTE - Desmond Butler covers foreign affairs for The Associated Press.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/18/AR2010111800495.html>



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USA Today  
The OVAL  
November 18, 2010

## **Obama Presses Senate Republicans on Russian Arms Treaty**

Posted by David Jackson

President Obama pressed Senate Republicans today to produce the votes needed to ratify an arms reduction deal with Russia, calling the proposed treaty "a national security imperative."

"I'm confident we should be able to get the votes," Obama said at a White House meeting with backers of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

Alluding to some Republican criticisms, Obama said the proposal includes safeguards to verify that both countries are cutting their numbers of weapons, as well as better security for Russian nuclear materials left over from the Cold War. Obama also called the proposed treaty a "cornerstone" of an improved U.S. relationship with Russia.

Obama dropped by a meeting chaired by Vice President Joe Biden, who is heading up the administration's effort to win Senate ratification of the treaty. Seeking a vote from the lame-duck Senate before the end of the year, Obama said, "I've asked Vice President Biden to focus on this issue day and night until it gets done."

The president and vice president have pointed out that the current START treaty has expired, including its inspection systems. Biden said this week that if the new START treaty is defeated, "we will have no Americans on the ground to inspect Russia's nuclear activities" and "no verification regime to track Russia's strategic nuclear arsenal."

Obama touted the support of prominent Republicans who attended the meeting, including former Secretaries of State James Baker and Henry Kissinger, and former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft. The president cited support of officials from the Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush presidencies.

"This is not about politics," Obama said. "This is about national security."

The White House meeting also featured members of Obama's national security team, including Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The president spoke out on START a day after another key Republican vote -- retiring Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio -- expressed reservations about the treaty, citing Russian threats to some of its Eastern European neighbors.

Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., a key vote for the White House, had said earlier this week there are "unresolved issues," including modernization of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Kyl also said he is continuing to negotiate with the White House on these issues in good faith.

Citing Kyl's concerns, Obama said he will request an additional \$4.1 billion over five years to modernize the U.S. nuclear infrastructure, on top of \$80 billion already committed for the next decade.

Obama added: "Keep in mind that every President since Ronald Reagan has presented a arms treaty with Russia and been able to get ratification."

In terms of politics, the White House may have an easier time ratifying START this year than next year because the politics.

Right now, the Senate Democratic caucus has 59 members, meaning Obama needs only eight Republican votes for ratification.

Next year, there will be six new Senate Republicans, meaning the White House will have to attract 14 GOP votes for the New START.

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/theoval/post/2010/11/obama-presses-senate-republicans-on-russian-arms-treaty/1?loc=interstitialskip>

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Knoxville News Sentinel Blog  
Atomic City Underground  
By Frank Munger

## **Corker on New START: 'Commitment to Modernization Must Be Firmly in Place'**

November 19, 2010

There are big numbers swirling around about how many billions of dollars the Obama administration is willing to add to planned modernization of the nuclear weapons complex and other commitments to secure enough Republican support for ratification of the New START Treaty in the U.S. Senate. The outcome is still up for grabs, or so it seems based on news reports.

Sen. Bob Corker, the Tennessee Republican from Chattanooga, is a key player on these issues, aligning with Sen. Jon Kyl and others in demanding more improvements in the nation's nuclear defense infrastructure and maintenance of the arsenal. I asked Sen. Corker's staff for an update on the senator's position on modernization and New START and whether he could support a ratification vote in the lame-duck session.

Here's a statement from Corker:

*"My basic premise is: if we are going to reduce our warheads to 1,550, we need to ensure these warheads are fully operational. My staff had a good meeting with the administration last Friday, and we are reviewing the administration's latest proposal to sustain and modernize our nuclear arsenal and complex. The commitment to modernization must be firmly in place before I would vote for the treaty in the full Senate. In terms of timing, I question whether it is astute or even practical for the administration to rush passage of the START treaty during this lame duck session. There is limited time on the calendar, and the majority has identified other priorities that must be addressed, leaving little to no time to appropriately consider and debate amendments."*

Interest is high in Oak Ridge, of course, because of the Uranium Processing Facility, the multi-billion-dollar production complex that would replace the aged 9212 uranium complex that has been characterized as deteriorated and bordering on unsafe to operate.

More on these issues later, including an update on possible funding for UPF, which could end up costing even more than Corker's earlier estimate of \$4-5 billion.

[http://blogs.knoxnews.com/munger/2010/11/corker\\_on\\_new\\_start\\_commitment.html](http://blogs.knoxnews.com/munger/2010/11/corker_on_new_start_commitment.html)

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Russia to Wait on Arms Deal if Congress Delays Ratification**

19 November 2010

Russia will not hurry to ratify a key nuclear arms reduction deal with the U.S. if Congress delays its approval of the treaty, the speaker of Russia's upper house of parliament said on Friday.

"If a delay occurs in the U.S. Congress on the ratification of the arms deal, then we'll wait," Federation Council speaker Sergei Mironov said, adding that Russia and the United States had agreed on the simultaneous ratification of the landmark pact.

The results of November's elections to Congress, which saw the Republicans make big gains at the expense of the Democrats, may jeopardize ratification as the Republicans have repeatedly attempted to block President Barack Obama's initiatives.

Obama will have to struggle to enlist the Republicans to ratify the deal in the current lame-duck Congress. Otherwise the vote may be delayed until January 3, when the six newly elected Republican Senators officially take office.

Failure to ratify the deal would likely spell the end to the much-heralded "reset" in ties between Russia and the U.S.

But Mironov said he hoped that common sense would win the day and the deal would be ratified.

Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the arms reduction treaty on April 8 in Prague to replace the START 1 agreement that expired in December 2009.

The new Russian-U.S. pact obligates both nations to cap their fielded strategic nuclear weapons to 1,550 warheads, while the number of deployed and non-deployed delivery vehicles must not exceed 800 on either side.

MOSCOW, November 19 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20101119/161408621.html>

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Straits Times – Singapore  
November 16, 2010

## **Military Action Won't Stop Program**

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

WASHINGTON - US SECRETARY of Defense Robert Gates said on Tuesday that military action would not stop Iran's nuclear program and instead would only make it 'deeper and more covert.'

Mr Gates told a conference that military action would offer only a 'short-term solution' to the thorny issue of Iran's nuclear program.

Military action against the Iranian government, which has refused global calls to rein in its suspect nuclear enrichment program, would 'bring together a divided nation, it will make them absolutely committed to obtaining nuclear weapons,' the US defense chief said.

Under that scenario, Iran's secret nuclear efforts 'would just go deeper and more covert,' said Mr Gates. He said he believed diplomacy and economic pressure were the best way to try to persuade Teheran - which already has been slapped with a series of UN and international sanctions - to abandon its nuclear project.

'The only long-term solution to avoiding an Iranian nuclear weapons capability is for the Iranians to decide it's not in their interest,' Mr Gates said. 'Everything else is a short-term solution - is a two-to-three year solution.'

He said there were signs that the latest economic sanctions had hit Iran hard and created tensions between the country's supreme leader and the president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

[http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/World/Story/STIStory\\_604003.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/World/Story/STIStory_604003.html)

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Voice of America

## **Top US, Israeli Military Leaders Meet Amid Iran Controversy**

17 November 2010

By Al Pessin, Pentagon

The top U.S. and Israeli military officers met Wednesday amid some disagreement among senior leaders of the two countries on how best to pressure Iran to abandon its alleged nuclear weapons program. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, hosted his Israeli counterpart, General Gabi Ashkenazi at the Pentagon.

Last week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for a "credible military threat" from the international community to convince Iran's leaders to abandon their nuclear program. But U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates disagreed, saying in a separate appearance that international sanctions are having more impact than had been expected, and should be given more time to work.

On Tuesday at the Pentagon, Netanyahu's military chief, General Ashkenazi, agreed that the sanctions are having an impact, but questioned whether that will be enough.

"The real question here [is whether] it's sufficient enough to persuade the Iranians to change the course of action in terms of the nuclear program," said Ashkenazi. "And that has to be determined. And we still have some time to watch it and see what will be the final outcome."

General Ashkenazi would not say how long he thinks the international community can wait before threatening or taking military action.

The top U.S. military officer, Admiral Mullen, said the military option has never been abandoned, but he echoed Secretary Gates' view that the sanctions are having a significant impact and should be given more time.

"I've certainly seen a body of evidence that indicates that the sanctions are taking their toll, much more rapidly than some had anticipated, more deeply," said Mullen. "They're very broadly supported. These aren't just U.S. sanctions, they're UN sanctions."

Admiral Mullen said he has no doubt Iran is trying to develop a nuclear weapon, and said that would be a "disaster for the region," and an "incredibly destabilizing" development.

Iranian leaders consistently deny charges they are trying to develop a nuclear weapon.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/middle-east/Top-US-Israeli-Military-Leaders-Meet-Amid-Iran-Controversy-108775594.html>

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Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) News Agency – Iran

## **Iran Has No Use for Nukes: President**

November 18, 2010

IRI President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has dismissed Western allegations over the country's nuclear program, reiterating that Tehran is not after nuclear bombs.

“The Iranian nation does not need a nuclear bomb to defend itself as Iran's nuclear bomb is its bravery and national honor,” said President Ahmadinejad in an address to Iranians residing in Azerbaijan on Wednesday.

“Nuclear bombs belong to those countries that are backward in a historical sense, and the Iranian nation has no use for it,” he added.

IRI President reiterated that at one point Iran was told during talks on its nuclear program that we won't allow you to even have a single research reactor, ”but today there are 6,000 centrifuges performing nuclear enrichment in the country.”

Referring to numerous resolutions issued against Iran, he emphasized that the response of our nation was “to access pinnacles of growth and progress one by one.”

The Iranian chief executive underlined that issuing resolutions cannot impede the progress of the Iranian nation on the path it has taken.

<http://english.iribnews.ir/NewsBody.aspx?ID=11216#>

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New York Times

November 18, 2010

## **Worm Was Perfect for Sabotaging Centrifuges**

By WILLIAM J. BROAD and DAVID E. SANGER

Experts dissecting the computer worm suspected of being aimed at Iran's nuclear program have determined that it was precisely calibrated in a way that could send nuclear centrifuges wildly out of control.

Their conclusion, while not definitive, begins to clear some of the fog around the Stuxnet worm, a malicious program detected earlier this year on computers, primarily in Iran but also India, Indonesia and other countries.

The paternity of the worm is still in dispute, but in recent weeks officials from Israel have broken into wide smiles when asked whether Israel was behind the attack, or knew who was. American officials have suggested it originated abroad.

The new forensic work narrows the range of targets and deciphers the worm's plan of attack. Computer analysts say Stuxnet does its damage by making quick changes in the rotational speed of motors, shifting them rapidly up and down.

Changing the speed “sabotages the normal operation of the industrial control process,” Eric Chien, a researcher at the computer security company Symantec, wrote in a blog post.

Those fluctuations, nuclear analysts said in response to the report, are a recipe for disaster among the thousands of centrifuges spinning in Iran to enrich uranium, which can fuel reactors or bombs. Rapid changes can cause them to blow apart. Reports issued by international inspectors reveal that Iran has experienced many problems keeping its centrifuges running, with hundreds removed from active service since summer 2009.

“We don't see direct confirmation” that the attack was meant to slow Iran's nuclear work, David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security, a private group in Washington that tracks nuclear proliferation, said in an interview Thursday. “But it sure is a plausible interpretation of the available facts.”

Intelligence officials have said they believe that a series of covert programs are responsible for at least some of that decline. So when Iran reported earlier this year that it was battling the Stuxnet worm, many experts immediately suspected that it was a state-sponsored cyberattack.

Until last week, analysts had said only that Stuxnet was designed to infect certain kinds of Siemens equipment used in a wide variety of industrial sites around the world.

But a study released Friday by Mr. Chien, Nicolas Falliere and Liam O. Murchu at Symantec, concluded that the program's real target was to take over frequency converters, a type of power supply that changes its output frequency to control the speed of a motor.

The worm's code was found to attack converters made by two companies, Fararo Paya in Iran and Vacon in Finland. A separate study conducted by the Department of Homeland Security confirmed that finding, a senior government official said in an interview on Thursday.

Then, on Wednesday, Mr. Albright and a colleague, Andrea Stricker, released a report saying that when the worm ramped up the frequency of the electrical current supplying the centrifuges, they would spin faster and faster. The worm eventually makes the current hit 1,410 Hertz, or cycles per second — just enough, they reported, to send the centrifuges flying apart.

In a spooky flourish, Mr. Albright said in the interview, the worm ends the attack with a command to restore the current to the perfect operating frequency for the centrifuges — which, by that time, would presumably be destroyed.

“It's striking how close it is to the standard value,” he said.

The computer analysis, his Wednesday report concluded, “makes a legitimate case that Stuxnet could indeed disrupt or destroy” Iranian centrifuge plants.

The latest evidence does not prove Iran was the target, and there have been no confirmed reports of industrial damage linked to Stuxnet. Converters are used to control a number of different machines, including lathes, saws and turbines, and they can be found in gas pipelines and chemical plants. But converters are also essential for nuclear centrifuges.

On Wednesday, the chief of the Department of Homeland Security's cybersecurity center in Virginia, Sean McGurk, told a Senate committee that the worm was a “game changer” because of the skill with which it was composed and the care with which it was geared toward attacking specific types of equipment.

Meanwhile, the search for other clues in the Stuxnet program continues — and so do the theories about its origins.

Ralph Langner, a German expert in industrial control systems who has examined the program and who was the first to suggest that the Stuxnet worm may have been aimed at Iran, noted in late September that a file inside the code was named “Myrtus.” That could be read as an allusion to Esther, and he and others speculated it was a reference to the Book of Esther, the Old Testament tale in which the Jews pre-empt a Persian plot to destroy them.

Writing on his Web site last week, Mr. Langner noted that a number of the data modules inside the program contained the date “Sept. 24, 2001,” clearly long before the program was written. He wrote that he believed the date was a message from the authors of the program, but did not know what it might mean.

Last month, researchers at Symantec also speculated that a string of numbers found in the program — 19790509 — while seeming random, might actually be significant. They speculated that it might refer to May 9, 1979, the day that Jewish-Iranian businessman Habib Elghanian was executed in Iran after being convicted of spying for Israel.

Interpreting what the clues might mean is a fascinating exercise for computer experts and conspiracy theorists, but it could also be a way to mislead investigators.

Indeed, according to one investigator, the creation date of the data modules might instead suggest that the original attack code in Stuxnet was written long before the program was actually distributed.

According to Tom Parker, a computer security specialist at Securicon LLC, a security consulting firm based in Washington, the Stuxnet payload appeared to have been written by a team of highly skilled programmers, while the “dropper” program that delivered the program reflected an amateur level of expertise. He said the fact that Stuxnet was detected and had spread widely in a number of countries was an indicator that it was a failed operation.

“The end target is going to be able to know they were the target, and the attacker won't be able to use this technique again,” he said.

*John Markoff contributed reporting.*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/19/world/middleeast/19stuxnet.html?\\_r=1&src=me&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/19/world/middleeast/19stuxnet.html?_r=1&src=me&pagewanted=all)

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## North Korea May Conduct New Nuke Test Explosion

18 November 2010

North Korea is likely to prepare a new underground nuclear test explosion, the Russian Trud daily said on Thursday citing Japanese Kyodo news agency.

In 2009, Pyongyang conducted its second underground nuclear test explosion and test-launched at least six short-range surface-to-air and anti-ship missiles in defiance of previous UN resolutions.

The satellite images taken by DigitalGlobe Inc., a U.S. company majoring in geographical imagery, show some activity at the site in North Hamgyong Province where Pyongyang conducted its second nuclear test, Trud said.

A U.S. military expert told the news agency that at least six vehicles and objects resembling equipment appeared on the test ground.

The satellite photos also captured a pile of soil allegedly appearing after digging a tunnel for the underground nuclear test.

Commenting on possible seismic consequences from an explosion, the deputy head of the Russian Academy of Sciences Schmidt Institute of Physics of the Earth, Evgeny Rogozhin, said that "on the one hand, there is no great threats for the Earth's seismic activity since the power of the explosion cannot cause a severe earthquake, but on the other hand, the explosion can trigger a quake if there is a swelling epicenter nearby."

Pyongyang is already under a number of UN sanctions over its first nuclear test carried out in 2006.

MOSCOW, November 18 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20101118/161387885.html>

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Yonhap News – South Korea

November 18, 2010

## U.S. Urges N. Korea to Refrain from Making Further Provocations: Pentagon

By Hwang Doo-hyong

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (Yonhap) -- The United States Thursday urged North Korea to refrain from conducting additional nuclear tests or bolstering nuclear facilities.

"If it's true that they are pursuing any one of these things, it obviously is of concern to us, and we would call on the North not to take any additional provocative or destabilizing actions and rather to engage constructively with its neighbors, particularly the South, and ultimately in diplomacy so that we can get to what all of our goal is, which is a denuclearized peninsula that is lasting and verifiable and so forth," Geoff Morrell, Pentagon spokesman, told reporters.

Morrell was responding to the reports that North Korea is building a 100-megawatt light-water nuclear reactor for completion by 2012 for power generation and that Pyongyang is preparing for another nuclear test. North Korea detonated nuclear devices twice, one each in 2006 and 2009.

"We watch the North very closely," the spokesman said. "We monitor developments there closely. We are trying, as we always do, to decipher real intent in this otherwise very secretive country."

The six-party talks on ending the North's nuclear weapons programs have been stalled over North Korea's missile and nuclear test early last year and most recently the sinking of a South Korean warship in March blamed on Pyongyang.

Seoul and Washington want Pyongyang to apologize for the Cheonan's sinking and show commitment for nuclear dismantlement before the resumption of the multilateral nuclear talks.

The North denies any involvement in the sinking of the ship that killed 46 sailors in the Yellow Sea in March.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2010/11/19/52/0301000000AEN20101119000400315F.HTML>

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Boston Globe



# Satellite Appears to Show NKorea Nuke Building

By Kwang-Tae Kim, Associated Press

November 19, 2010

SEOUL, South Korea—New satellite images show construction under way at North Korea's main atomic complex, apparent proof that Pyongyang is making good on its pledge to build a nuclear power reactor, according to a private American security institute.

North Korea vowed in March to build a light-water reactor using its own nuclear fuel, and two American experts who recently visited the North have reportedly said that construction has begun.

Light-water reactors are ostensibly for civilian energy purposes, but the power plant would give the North a reason to enrich uranium. At low levels, uranium can be used in power reactors, but at higher levels it can be used in nuclear bombs. While light-water reactors are considered less prone to misuse than heavy-water reactors, once the process of uranium enrichment is mastered, it is relatively easy to enrich further to weapons-grade levels.

North Korea is pursuing an arsenal of atomic weapons, so all its nuclear projects are of intense interest to its neighbors and to the United States. It carried out nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009, drawing international condemnation and U.N. sanctions.

The Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security on Thursday released commercial satellite images from Nov. 4 that show a rectangular structure being built, with at least two cranes visible at the complex. It estimated North Korea was constructing a 25 to 30 megawatt light-water reactor.

The institute based its estimate on information from the recent trip to Yongbyon by Siegfried Hecker, former director of the U.S. Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory, and Jack Pritchard, a former U.S. envoy for negotiations with North Korea.

It said Hecker told the institute "that the new construction seen in the satellite imagery is indeed the construction of the experimental light-water reactor."

The institute said the amount of low-enriched uranium needed for a 25 to 30 megawatt reactor could vary "depending on the design of the reactor and whether it will be optimized for electricity production or weapon-grade plutonium production."

South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Kim Young-sun said the construction has yet to be verified and that Seoul was monitoring developments at the site and talking with other countries. Kim said any move to build a light-water reactor would violate U.N. resolutions on North Korea aimed at reining in its nuclear programs.

The new satellite imagery comes as North Korea presses for the resumption of international nuclear disarmament talks it quit last year. South Korea and the United States have said North Korea must show its sincerity before those talks can continue.

Washington promised the energy-starved North two light-water reactors under a 1994 deal meant to freeze North Korea's plutonium program. The deal, however, collapsed in 2002 when the United States accused North Korea of running a secret uranium enrichment program -- a process that would give it a second way to build nuclear bombs in addition to the plutonium program.

After seven years of adamant denials, North Korea said last year that it was in the final stages of uranium enrichment.

The Choson Sinbo, a pro-North Korean newspaper in Japan, reported Thursday that Pyongyang was building a light-water reactor as part of its plan to revive its economy ahead of 2012, the 100th anniversary of the birth of the country's founder, Kim Il Sung, father of current leader Kim Jong Il.

[http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2010/11/19/satellite\\_appears\\_to\\_show\\_nkorea\\_nuke\\_building/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2010/11/19/satellite_appears_to_show_nkorea_nuke_building/)

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Hindustan Times – India

## New N.Korea Reactor could make Plutonium for Bombs: Expert

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Seoul, November 19, 2010

A new nuclear reactor being built by North Korea at its Yongbyon complex could be used to produce weapons-grade plutonium, a leading US research institute says. The Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS)

Thursday released satellite images showing construction of an experimental light water reactor (LWR) at the complex.

The images taken by satellite imagery firm DigitalGlobe support observations by two US experts who recently visited Yongbyon and were told about work on the new reactor.

Yongbyon for decades has been at the heart of the North's drive for nuclear weapons, with a now-ageing gas graphite reactor producing enough plutonium for possibly six to eight bombs.

That reactor was shut down as part of a six-nation disarmament accord, although the North vowed to restart it after quitting the six-party talks. The new LWR reactor is being built near the site of a cooling tower, which the North blew up in 2008 in front of international TV crews to dramatise its commitment to denuclearisation.

While making weapons-grade plutonium is harder to do from large-scale LWRs, ISIS said this would be possible using the small 25-30 megawatt reactor now being built.

"If North Korea wanted to produce weapon-grade plutonium, it could do so by under-irradiating the LEU (low enriched uranium) fuel," ISIS founder and president David Albright told AFP by email. "It would need to enrich more LEU to do so, but it could do so if it wanted." ISIS, in a report, estimated that the new LWR would need several tonnes of low enriched uranium in the core and about one tonne of LEU in addition per year to keep the reactor running.

"These values could vary depending on the design of the reactor and whether it will be optimised for electricity production or weapon-grade plutonium production for weapons," the report said.

The research institute estimated that the North would need a pilot-scale uranium enrichment plant with about 1,000 centrifuges to produce the required amount of LEU per year. North Korea said in September last year that it had reached the final stage of enriching uranium - a second way of making nuclear bombs on top of its plutonium-based programme.

Separate satellite images released recently show work under way at the site where the North staged its second atomic weapons test in May 2009. South Korea said it was closely monitoring developments but had no evidence yet that another test was being planned.

The North quit the six-party talks a month before its second nuclear test. In recent months it has expressed conditional willingness to return to the forum, grouping the two Koreas, dialogue host China, the United States, Russia and Japan.

But US President Barack Obama warned last week in Seoul that the North must show "seriousness of purpose" on scrapping its atomic programmes before the talks can resume.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/New-N-Korea-reactor-could-make-plutonium-for-bombs-expert/Article1-628242.aspx>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Russia-NATO Missile Shield Possible "In Mid-Term Perspective" - Kremlin**

19 November 2010

A joint Russia-NATO missile shield may be created in mid-term perspective, Kremlin aide Sergei Prikhodko said ahead of the Russia-NATO summit.

Russia-NATO council will convene on Saturday in Lisbon. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev is due to take part in the top-level gathering for the first time since the August 2008 war between Russia and Georgia, which soured Russia's relations with the alliance.

"I think that [the idea of joint missile defense] is real... The process is quite simple. We are ready to integrate," Prikhodko said.

"The issue is purely practical, and its implementation, according to experts... may be carried out not even in long-term, but in short-term perspective, given that [the sides] have political will," he said.

He added that Russia had political will to go ahead with the project.

Russian Air Force Commander Alexander Zelin said on Tuesday the Air Force was ready to work on missile defense systems with NATO. The Air Force is looking into the possibility of using military transport aircraft in the interests of NATO, he added.

The Kremlin insists that the readiness to cooperate on missile defense issues should be laid down in a written document.

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen earlier said the alliance hoped to work with Russia on a variety of issues, including the European missile defense.

Moscow hopes that the summit in Lisbon will finally put an end to the post-Cold War period and will set guidelines toward a strategic partnership between Russia and NATO.

MOSCOW, November 19 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20101119/161401517.html>

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Bloomberg

## **NATO to Back European Anti-Missile Shield, Seek to Sway Medvedev on Merits**

By James G. Neuger

November 19, 2010

NATO was poised to start work on an anti-missile shield to guard against attacks by “rogue” states, seeking a linkup with Russia to build a broader defense umbrella.

Allied officials said the 10-year, 200 million-euro (\$275 million) cost of the shield, a Bush administration proposal modified by President Barack Obama, makes it a bargain at a time of shrinking defense budgets.

“By reaching out and inviting Russia to cooperate with us, I believe we also have a real chance to build a security roof for the entire Euro-Atlantic area,” North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said before a summit of alliance leaders in Lisbon today.

NATO is trying to turn the European anti-missile system, which provoked Russian hostility when George W. Bush first proposed it, into a fulcrum for cooperation with the Kremlin as part of the U.S.-driven “reset” of East-West relations.

Alliance spokesman James Appathurai told reporters he is “quite confident” that the alliance’s 28 government chiefs will today endorse the project, which would build on a smaller- scale system being developed to protect troops in the field.

Bush’s proposal foresaw permanent anti-missile bases in Poland and the Czech Republic, two nations dominated by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Russia viewed the Bush plan as a threat to its strategic arsenal.

[Link to Russia](#)

Obama’s plan does away with fixed bases, relying on mobile and sea-based radars and interceptors that the U.S. says would be easier to tie in with Russian systems.

In a commentary published in today’s International Herald Tribune, Obama said the system will provide “a role for all allies, protection for all allies, and an opportunity for cooperation with Russia.”

NATO leaders will try to persuade Russian President Dmitry Medvedev of the merits of the system when he joins them at the end of the summit tomorrow.

Russia is warming to the NATO initiative. Plans by the two sides to conduct a joint assessment of security threats are likely to pave the way to missile-defense collaboration, said Dmitry Rogozin, Russian ambassador to NATO.

“If we can reach the common ground then we can go further and discuss how to block these common threats,” Rogozin said in a Nov. 15 phone interview from Brussels. “Then cooperation on an anti-missile defense system is possible.”

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-19/nato-to-back-european-anti-missile-shield-seek-to-sway-medvedev-on-merits.html>

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Houston Chronicle

## **Kan., DHS Ready for Biodefense Lab to Progress**

By JOHN MILBURN, Associated Press

November 16, 2010

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas officials said Tuesday that they hope ongoing construction and design of a new biodefense lab will not be derailed by politics.

A report released Monday by the National Research Council raised several questions about plans to build the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan.

Kansas officials say Tuesday that the research mission for NBAF is too important for it to become a political fight in Congress.

"This research mission is too important for politics, and we know there is strong, bipartisan support for it," said Tom Thornton, president and CEO of the Kansas Biosciences Authority.

Congress ordered the review before releasing additional funds for construction of the \$451 million complex. The land is owned by the Kansas Board of Regents, who have been negotiating with the DHS to transfer the parcel next to the Kansas State University campus.

Thornton said the Kansas bid to land the project won over other states was based on its merits, not politics, including the expertise in animal science at Kansas State. The new lab will be built near Kansas State's Biosecurity Research Institute on the north end of campus near the football stadium.

The report emphasized safety concerns, including the risk that animal pathogens could be released close to urban populations and a large cattle supply. Using figures cited by the DHS in its site specific risk assessment, the review group calculated the risk of a release of a pathogen such as foot-and-mouth disease as 70 percent over the 50-year life of the project.

Democratic Gov. Mark Parkinson said the completion of the review with the design little more than one-third complete would ensure safety concerns were addressed, knowing critics will be looking for potential flaws.

"There's no doubt in my mind that report will be used by folks who are opposed to the project to keep it from being built," Parkinson said.

Rep. Bart Stupak, a Michigan Democrat, said the report validated concerns raised by his House oversight subcommittee in May 2008 that the research should remain at the aging laboratory at Plum Island, N.Y. He said the review indicated that the DHS hadn't fully evaluated the risks of conducting research on the pathogens when it made its decision.

"The Department of Homeland Security's findings on NBAF need to be re-examined," Stupak said. "But with time on the legislative calendar running out, this issue may have to be addressed by the next Congress."

But keeping the research center on Plum Island, which is off of the eastern tip of New York's Long Island, would have its own problems, not least of which the cost of upgrading the facility.

In 2007, the Government Accountability Office told Congress that upgrading the Plum Island facility would cost up to 40 percent more than building a new site elsewhere. The GAO also voiced concern about carrying on such sensitive research in the densely populated area surrounding New York City, citing the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

DHS Undersecretary Tara O'Toole said Tuesday that the agency would work with Congress the research council and other federal agencies to incorporate all safety and security concerns into the NBAF design, calling the review "an important first step."

"The country must have a modern research facility where we can create the means of preventing and if necessary treating such diseases," she said.

Alfonso Torres, a member of the Cornell University and expert in biocontainment laboratories, said the risks identified by the DHS assessment can be mitigated with proper design, construction and training to handle the pathogens.

"There is no scientific reason to have these types of facilities on an offshore location," Torres said.

Democrat Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, the chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, said the council's findings would be considered as construction begins, saying "it is impossible to predict a biological hazard breach of a facility that has not even been built yet."

The five Republicans and one Democrat in the Kansas delegation issued a joint statement urging the process to continue.

"We are pleased that it confirms the importance of building a new NBAF to protect our nation," they wrote, adding that they had concerns that the finding didn't consider mitigation and safety plans the DHS is developing.

Kansas Board of Regents President and CEO Andy Tompkins said the review was "part of the process" and didn't anticipate further delays in the land transfer or scheduled start of construction next year. The facility is expected to be certified and operational by 2018.

But Adrienne Esposito, the executive director of the New York-based Citizens Campaign for the Environment, said the review's concerns about tornadoes and the rapid detection of released pathogens painted a "truly frightening picture."

"The gaps suggest a dangerously casual attitude about relocating this facility that cannot and should not be tolerated," she said.

*Associated Press writer Frank Eltman in Garden City, N.Y., contributed to this report.*

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/7297832.html>

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Ha'artz Daily – Israel

OPINION

November 18, 2010

## **Here's Why Israel Must Not Attack Iran Now**

*In any attack plan of any country there is a risk that the pilots, and particularly the leaders above them, will become enthralled by the plan, without considering all the implications.*

By Amos Harel

Dr. Olli Heinonen, former deputy secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, presented a relatively optimistic forecast regarding the Iranian nuclear danger when speaking with Haaretz last month. Iran's centrifuges, he told Yossi Melman, are not working well; some of them are defective. Only about 3,000 are working properly, and Iran will need many more to enrich uranium to a level that will allow it to manufacture a nuclear weapon.

Intentionally or not, Heinonen provided a significant argument against an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear sites in the near future. Heinonen is talking about a critical period of more than a year, during which diplomatic efforts can still see the program halted. A host of international media reports about computer worms and mysterious explosions of Iranian nuclear sites and missiles, responsibility for which has been attributed to various intelligence agencies in the West, could attest to even more time available before a violent clash becomes inevitable.

The scenario presented by Jeffrey Goldberg in *The Atlantic*, depicting in detail a possible Israeli attack, naturally made waves worldwide and in Israel. But along with the limited progress of the Iranian nuclear program, other considerations must be taken into account. The main one involves the implications of an Israeli military move. The immediate outcome of such a move would be a missile war with Iran and its proxies in the region, Hezbollah and Hamas, into which Syria might be swept.

A plan that might seem impressive on a screen before the seven senior cabinet members who meet might deliver much less than promised in practice. The danger is that Israel will obtain only a short-term delay of the Iranian bomb, but will get involved in a prolonged war.

Another important consideration involves the response of the United States. Relations between U.S. President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are terrible. Just awful. Obama is angry at Netanyahu because the latter did not accede in time to his pressure and agree to another construction freeze (a gesture he might agree to now), and because of the actions of Netanyahu's supporters in Washington that helped Obama's opponents in Congress.

After the mid-term elections, the time will come to settle the score. It seems that Netanyahu's hard-line supporters forget Israel's great dependence on the United States.

What is true in ordinary times is even more true in wartime. Israel needs the Americans: for an "air corridor" for an attack, for surveillance and missile defense, for diplomatic support and an airlift of weapons and spare parts.

It is not surprising that the administration last week rejected Netanyahu's demand that the Americans highlight the military option against Iran. Obama's predecessor George W. Bush wrote in his memoir that he turned down Prime

Minister Ehud Olmert's request that the United States and not Israel attack the Syrian nuclear facility in 2007. At this time it is hard to imagine that a hypothetical Israeli notice of a planned attack on Iran would get even a yellow light from Obama.

The security establishment has probably invested a fortune and a huge number of man-hours over the Iranian threat. The army must plan for the worst-case scenario, lest it come about. The extensive coverage worldwide of the preparations for a possible attack help deter Iran. In any attack plan of any country there is a risk that the pilots, and particularly the leaders above them, will become enthralled by the plan, without considering all the implications. A wise man once described the overemphasis on the Iranian issue as "idolatry."

The Netanyahu government is at a diplomatic dead end; partly by its own fault and partly by the fault of its neighbors. Syria did not meet Israel's expectation that a diplomatic agreement would include a break between it and Iran and that Damascus would cease stirring the pot in Lebanon. The Palestinian Authority leadership now has more sympathy and understanding than does the Israeli government in the capitals of Europe and the United States. That is trouble that Israel must find a way to get out of, but not by pressing the accelerator toward Iran.

<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/opinion/here-s-why-israel-must-not-attack-iran-now-1.325312>

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Shreveport Times  
OPINION

## **Barksdale on the Nuclear Front Line**

November 19, 2010

Sometimes we forget that Shreveport-Bossier City sits at the nexus of international treaties and national defense. And, yes, that also can involve politics.

Take this week's Washington dustup over President Obama's efforts to get a lame-duck Congress to push through a nuclear arms reduction treaty. At the same time, hundreds of key Air Force personnel were at the Shreveport Convention Center being reminded that implementation of the New START treaty — if ratified by the U.S. Senate — would involve decisions made at Barksdale Air Force Base under the umbrella of the year-old Global Strike Command.

Overall, the new treaty with Russia would resume inspections and cut the number of long-range warheads in each country from 2,200 to 1,550. The Air Force would continue to control two-thirds of the U.S. nuclear deterrent, Air Force Undersecretary Erin Conaton said at the first Global Strike Command Technology and Innovation Symposium. New START would set a limit of 420 single-warhead intercontinental missiles and up to 60 deployed heavy bombers.

Conaton also chimed in on a key political talking point in efforts to woo reluctant GOP senators by noting that \$100 billion will be invested over the next decade in "strategic delivery systems." Almost half of that amount would go to Air Force programs, including B-52 upgrades. Money also would be spent on command and control and communications, critical issues regarding Global Strike Command.

Global Strike is the first major Air Force command to be established in more than 27 years. It was created to consolidate the Air Force's nuclear arsenal after a series of embarrassing incidents involving weapons handling. The most significant was the mistaken loading of six nuclear-tipped missiles onto a B-52 flown from Minot Air Force base, N.D., to Barksdale in 2007. Perhaps stating the obvious, Conaton said the nuclear mission "demands a level of attention to detail and vigilance beyond every other mission" in the Defense Department.

President Obama was stern Thursday in proclaiming the U.S.-Russia nuclear arms treaty "a national security imperative." His arsenal includes the support of the U.S. military leadership and a bipartisan assemblage of six former secretaries of state and five former Defense secretaries. "This is not a Democratic concept. This is not a Republican concept. This is a concept of American national security that has been promoted by Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and now my administration. We've taken the time to do this right." Republican opposition seems to be a continuation of pre-Nov. 2 strategy of resistance and less about the realities of the treaty.

However it shakes out, Barksdale will remain front and center in the nuclear deterrent arena. And that's no job for the squeamish. Quoting an observation from an Air Force warrior outside Global Strike, Conaton said of the nuclear mission, "You have to get it right, 100 percent perfect, every single day."

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20101119/OPINION03/11190350/Barksdale-on-the-nuclear-front-line>

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