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Articles & Other Documents:

[Kyl Joins Republicans Opening Up to Nuclear Treaty with Russia](#)

[Iran Tries West for Assassination of N. Scientist during Geneva Talks](#)

[Russia Ready to Adjust New START Treaty - Duma Speaker](#)

[Yellowcake Plays a Crucial Role](#)

[Obama May Give up Tax Rise to get Missiles Treaty](#)

['N.K. Overwhelmingly Superior to S. Korea in Asymmetrical Forces': Gov't Data](#)

[Wider Window into Iran's Missile Capabilities Offers a Murkier View](#)

[Turkey Reiterates NATO Missile Shield Should Not Take any Country as Threat](#)

[Iran Accuses UN Nuclear Agency of Sending Spies](#)

[Turkey Strongly Opposed to Nuclear Proliferation in Middle East](#)

[Iran Declares Nuclear 'Self-Sufficiency' Ahead of Talks](#)

[Topol Hits Target at Firing Range in Kazakhstan](#)

[Factbox: What is Uranium Enrichment?](#)

[Russian 'Spy' Tried to Access Details of Britain's Nuclear Arsenal, Say MI5](#)

['Iran to 'Filter' Out Inspectors Spying on Its Nuclear Program'](#)

[Author Describes Ike's Anti-Aircraft Nuclear Strategy](#)

[Iran, G5+1 Resume Talks in Geneva](#)

[Stop Delays; Pass 'New START'](#)

[Iran Says Talks with G5+1 Not to Include Uranium enrichment: MP](#)

[American Threats will Derail Iranian Nuclear Talks](#)

[Iran, 6 Powers Hagggle over Scope of Geneva Talks](#)

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Kyl Joins Republicans Opening Up to Nuclear Treaty with Russia

December 03, 2010

By Lisa Lerer and James Rowley

Dec. 3 (Bloomberg) -- Arizona Senator Jon Kyl became the latest Republican to show a willingness to support a new arms control treaty with Russia by the end of the year even as his party vowed to block nearly all business in the chamber.

"If we can get this tax issue done and get the spending for the government accomplished, then there might be time to do it," Kyl said on Fox News Channel's "On the Record with Greta Van Susteren" program yesterday.

Republican leaders have stalled consideration of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, vowing to block passage of all bills until Congress takes up legislation extending the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts and passes a stopgap funding bill to keep the federal government operating until appropriations measures for fiscal year 2011 are enacted.

Kyl, the chamber's No. 2 Republican, cited on Nov. 16 "complex and unresolved" issues for why the new START would be unlikely to pass in the current lame-duck session. Since then, Republicans have come forward and indicated that they would be open to support the nuclear agreement once their tax and spending priorities were addressed.

"Everything is going in a very constructive way," Senator Bob Corker, a Tennessee Republican, told reporters. "We still have the details to be worked out but they are being worked on" and "there is a real possibility as to it happening this year."

Senate approval of a resolution supporting ratification of the accord would award a significant victory to President Barack Obama, who considers the treaty the top foreign policy priority of his administration for this congressional session.

'Open To It'

"I'm open to it," Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee said in an interview. "The administration has made some important steps in the right direction" toward resolving Republican concerns, he said.

"It's a two-step process: We do taxes and then we do START," said Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The START agreement, signed by Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in April, would cut each country's deployed nuclear warheads by about a third, to a maximum of 1,550, and would allow both nations to resume on-site inspections. The previous treaty expired in December 2009.

Several Republicans indicated this week that talks were progressing.

Robert Bennett of Utah, who is retiring at the end of the year, said he wanted to see what "wrangling" over the ratification resolution produced before saying how he would vote. Still, he described himself as "generally disposed to" approving ratification of the treaty.

'Move Forward'

"I believe we can move forward with the START treaty and satisfy Senator Kyl's concerns and mine about missile defense and others," Senator John McCain of Arizona said on ABC's "Good Morning America" program.

Two-thirds of the senators present and voting are needed to approve ratification. If all 100 senators are in the chamber, nine Republicans would have to join with Democrats to reach 67 votes. Three Republicans supported the treaty in a Sept. 16 vote in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. So far, only Lugar has said he would definitely support the treaty in the full Senate.

Ratification of each of the last three arms-reduction treaties was approved with more than 90 votes.

Democrats suggested yesterday that the treaty's chances for ratification in the next month were improving. "The START treaty will be done by Christmas," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said on CBS's "Early Show."

Colin Powell's Support

Obama urged passage of the treaty after a Dec. 1 meeting with Colin Powell, former secretary of state under President George W. Bush and a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Now it's time to get this done," the president said. "It is important for us to make sure we complete the evaluation process, we finish the debate and we go ahead and finish this up before the end of the year."

In recent weeks, the White House has brought in officials from previous administrations, both Democratic and Republican, to endorse the pact. Last month, Obama met at the White House with James Baker, President George H.W. Bush's secretary of State; Henry Kissinger, secretary of state under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford; and Madeleine Albright, President Bill Clinton's secretary of state.

'Compelling Reasons'

In an opinion article in yesterday's Washington Post, Powell, Baker, Kissinger and two other Republican secretaries of state -- George P. Schultz, who served under President Ronald Reagan, and Lawrence Eagleburger, who also worked for President George H.W. Bush -- wrote there are "compelling reasons" for their party to approve ratification.

Russia plans to build up its nuclear forces if the U.S. fails to ratify the treaty, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said in an interview on CNN's "Larry King Live" two days ago.

"Russia will have to ensure her own security through different means" if its proposals are "met with negative answers only," Putin said. The U.S. and Russia must "agree on a joint effort."

Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said Democrats were eager to approve ratification.

"There's a very vocal group of senators who believe this needs to be taken up now," Kerry told reporters Nov. 30. "What we need to do is carve out space to get it done even as we do some of the other business."

With assistance from Nicholas Johnston in Washington and Flavia Krause-Jackson in Washington. Editors: Leslie Hoffecker, John Brinsley

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-12-03/kyl-joins-republicans-opening-up-to-nuclear-treaty-with-russia.html>

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Russia Ready to Adjust New START Treaty - Duma Speaker

4 December 2010

Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, is ready to make amendments to the text of the new START treaty if the move is initiated by the United States, Speaker Boris Gryzlov said on Saturday.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama signed the new treaty on April 8 in Prague to replace the START 1 agreement that expired in December 2009. It can only come into force after it is ratified by both houses of the Russian parliament and the U.S. Senate.

Russia has said it will act symmetrically with the United States regarding treaty ratification, but the treaty has met strong Republican opposition in the U.S. Senate over concerns that it may weaken U.S. anti-missile defenses.

"I hope the U.S. Congress ratifies the new START treaty, although we have already received information that they [United States] are trying to adjust and clarify the text," Gryzlov told the Rossiya TV channel. "If they do this, we will have to do the same."

"I have already ordered our international affairs committee to prepare possible adjustments to the treaty, in case such amendments are made by Congress," he added.

The Republicans won a solid majority in the U.S. congressional elections in early November, meaning President Barack Obama has until January, when the new Congressmen take up their positions, to try to push the treaty through.

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, December 4 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20101204/161623799.html>

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

The Australian – Australia

Obama May Give up Tax Rise to get Missiles Treaty

By Giles Whittell and Alexandra Fread
December 06, 2010

THE White House is poised to win passage of an historic nuclear treaty with Russia before Christmas, but at the cost of a U-turn on tax cuts forced on President Obama by newly confident Republicans in Congress.

In America's first big legislative bargain since the Democrats' midterm defeat last month, Republican senators would agree to ratify the new Start nuclear-arms reduction treaty in return for a pledge to extend Bush-era tax cuts even for the wealthiest before they expire next year.

Hillary Clinton, who has been lobbying old Senate colleagues by phone while touring Central Asia and the Middle East, said at the weekend that she was "encouraged by the positive response we've received from a number of Republicans".

She added in an interview with Foreign Policy magazine: "I believe we have enough votes that recognise the national security importance of doing this." Sixty-seven Senate votes are needed to ratify the treaty that would slash the US and Russian long-range nuclear stockpiles by a third to 1,550 warheads each. It would also allow both to resume inspections of the other's nuclear weapons facilities for the first time since the StartII treaty expired last year.

Mr Obama and President Medvedev of Russia signed the treaty in April, but Republicans who had pledged to support it in the interests of national security are waiting for guidance from Senator John Kyl of Arizona, their chief negotiator. After weeks of procrastination that critics have condemned as opportunism, Mr Kyl appeared to slightly soften his position yesterday.

"I haven't said I'm for it or against it," he said of the treaty. "I've tried to get the Administration to focus on the issue ... I'll make my views clear a little bit down the road."

Mrs Clinton said that she expected debate on the treaty to begin in the Senate on December 13, with a vote just before the Christmas recess. Mr Kyl has asked for two weeks' debate on the treaty as drafted, and on amendments to ensure the modernisation of the US stockpile and the Pentagon's freedom to develop anti-missile defences.

The only Republican Senator to have endorsed the treaty publicly, Richard Lugar, was confident yesterday that enough of his party would join him regardless of Mr Kyl's final stance. "The votes are there," he told CNN, adding that the Republicans should not allow themselves to be cast as the "party of no".

In Moscow, where ratification could empower President Medvedev against military hawks opposed to any arms reductions, the Speaker of the Duma said that he was ready to adjust the text to match any changes demanded in Washington.

The Times

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/obama-may-give-up-tax-rise-to-get-missiles-treaty/story-e6frg6so-1225966229966>

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

New York Times
December 3, 2010

Wider Window into Iran's Missile Capabilities Offers a Murkier View

By MARK MAZZETTI and WILLIAM J. BROAD

WASHINGTON — It was one of the most provocative assertions to emerge from the WikiLeaks cache — a diplomatic cable from this past February confidently describing the sale of 19 missiles to Iran by North Korea that could give Tehran the ability to strike Western Europe and Russia.

But a review of a dozen other State Department cables made available by WikiLeaks and interviews with American government officials offer a murkier picture of Iran's missile capabilities. Despite the tone of the February cable, it shows there are disagreements among officials about the missiles, and scant evidence that they are close to being deployed.

The conflicting portraits illustrate how the batch of diplomatic documents made available by WikiLeaks can be glimpses of the American government's views, sometimes reflecting only part of the story, rather than concrete assertions of fact.

While there are a range of opinions about the details of the weapons sale and the readiness of the missiles, what most American officials appear to agree on is that at the very least North Korea sold a number of ballistic missile parts to Tehran in 2005.

The sale set off alarms in Washington, because the parts were for BM-25 missiles, a weapon with powerful engines that — if deployed by Iran — could bolster Tehran's ability to strike far beyond the Middle East, State Department cables show.

But five years later, American officials in interviews said that they had no evidence that Iran had used the parts or technology to actually construct a BM-25, let alone begin the years of flight testing necessary before it could reliably add the missile to its arsenal.

It is unclear why Iran appears to have had trouble with the BM-25. According to one American official, it is possible that Iran did not get complete "missile kits" from the North Koreans in 2005, or that Iranian scientists have had difficulty mastering the technology.

Both American officials and outside experts appear to agree, however, that Iran did use some of the BM-25 technology to launch a satellite into space last year, and that Iranian scientists probably used data from that launching for its military program.

"Just because the BM-25 program hasn't progressed as far as the Iranians hoped it would, the concern remains," said one official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because assessments about Iran's missile program are classified.

The dozen cables provide a glimpse of secret discussions between the United States and a number of foreign governments about the BM-25, described earlier this week in an article in The New York Times. Their views are colored by their relationships with Iran.

The Israelis, for instance, take a more alarmist stance than the United States because Israel regards Iran as its greatest threat. Russia, on the other hand, denies that the BM-25 even exists.

In the cables, American officials argue that North Korea developed the medium-range weapon based on a Russian design, the R-27, once used on Soviet submarines to carry nuclear warheads.

The cables describe how the North Koreans, in turn, transferred "missiles" or "missile systems" to Iran. The cables do not refer to missile parts or "kits."

But the cables, written over four years, vary in the certainty with which Americans make the claim about the technology transfer, with one cable saying Iran "has probably acquired" BM-25s and another discussing "substantial data indicating Iranian possession of a missile system."

The public release of the cables has stirred debate among experts outside the government on the existence of the BM-25 and whether, if Iran has the weapon, it poses an immediate threat to Western Europe.

Many experts say the BM-25 has undergone no flight testing either by North Korea or Iran, and they note that traditionally it takes a dozen or so tests over several years to perfect a missile and prepare it for military deployment.

On the other hand, NATO last month agreed to establish an antimissile shield and has invited Russia to take part, suggesting growing concern in Europe of an Iranian missile threat.

One of the most knowledgeable public analysts of Tehran's endeavors in rocketry is Michael Elleman, a missile engineer who contributed to a report on Iran's program issued in May by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, an arms analysis group in London.

That report was skeptical of Iran's having obtained the BM-25 from North Korea. Now, Mr. Elleman said, he is less certain.

"It is possible that the BM-25 does not exist," he said in an e-mail message. "However, it is more likely that it does, in some fashion. We just do not know, precisely, because it has never been tested."

The first cable in the WikiLeaks cache that refers to the BM-25 came from the American Embassy in Tel Aviv, sent to Washington on May 5, 2006. The cable discusses a meeting a month earlier between Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, the Connecticut independent, and Meir Dagan, director of Mossad, Israel's main spy agency.

According to the cable, Mr. Dagan talked of Iran's having a medium-range missile, the Shahab-3, that "can currently carry nuclear material, and reported that Iran is also trying to adapt the BM-25 missile, which already has a longer range, for this purpose."

American intelligence officials do not believe that Iran has yet mastered the technology to put a nuclear warhead on top of a missile.

But the most detailed discussion about the missile is contained in a cable from Feb. 24 of this year, which describes the disagreements between American and Russian officials about the missile.

The cable shows that American officials firmly believed that Iran had obtained 19 of the missiles from North Korea, and that there was direct evidence of the weapons transfer. But it goes on to indicate that the Russians dismiss that claim as a myth driven by politics.

Mark Mazzetti reported from Washington, and William J. Broad from New York.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/03/world/middleeast/03wikileaks-missile.html?_r=1

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

Times of India

Iran Accuses UN Nuclear Agency of Sending Spies

By REUTERS

December 4, 2010

TEHRAN: Iran accused the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Saturday of sending spies from foreign intelligence services to the Islamic state, underlining worsening relations between Tehran and the UN atomic watchdog.

Intelligence minister Heydar Moslehi made the allegation two days before Iran is due to resume talks with world powers seeking to resolve a long-running row over Tehran's atomic work.

"The IAEA has been sending spies working for foreign intelligence organisations among its inspectors, and it should be held responsible," Moslehi was quoted as saying by state broadcaster IRIB.

He was referring to IAEA inspectors who visit Iran regularly to monitor its atomic activities. The IAEA had no immediate comment on the allegation.

Moslehi repeated allegations that the intelligence services of Britain, the United States and Israel were behind the murder of an Iranian nuclear scientist this week, citing confessions from those arrested by Iran over the case.

The scientist, Majid Shahriyari, was killed in a bomb attack on his car on Monday.

"This terrorist act was carried out by intelligence services such as the CIA, Mossad and the MI6," said Moslehi. "A group that wanted to carry out a terrorist act but did not succeed, was also arrested. They confessed that they were trained by these intelligence services."

Iran has accused the United Nations of complicity in the attack and said it considers those countries which had issued UN sanctions resolutions against Tehran accountable.

A separate car bomb on Monday wounded another nuclear scientist, Fereydoun Abbasi-Davani, who is subject to UN sanctions because of what Western officials said is his involvement in suspected nuclear weapons research.

"We consider responsible those who revealed the names of the Iranian nuclear scientists in the UN resolutions. They paved the way for this kind of assassination," Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told a news conference in Manama.

Ties between Iran and the IAEA have become increasingly strained under agency chief Yukiya Amano, who has taken a blunter approach towards the Iranian nuclear issue than his predecessor Mohamed ElBaradei.

Iran has accused Amano of bias and ties soured further in June when he said Tehran was hampering IAEA work by barring some of its inspectors.

Iran has agreed to meet with a representative of world powers in Geneva on Dec. 6-7 but it has made clear it will not negotiate about its "nuclear rights", code for sensitive work the West suspects is aimed at developing an atomic arsenal.

The powers -- the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany -- want Iran to curb its nuclear programme, which Tehran says is for purely peaceful purposes.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/Iran-accuses-UN-nuclear-agency-of-sending-spies/articleshow/7042710.cms>

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

Bangkok Post – Thailand
5 December 2010

Iran Declares Nuclear 'Self-Sufficiency' Ahead of Talks

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Iran said on Sunday it has produced a first batch of uranium yellowcake, the raw material for enrichment, insisting the new step "strengthens" its position in upcoming nuclear talks with world powers.

Atomic chief Ali Akbar Salehi said that having previously been obliged to import yellowcake from abroad, Iran was now "self-sufficient" in the entire nuclear fuel cycle.

"The West had counted on the possibility of us being in trouble over raw material but today we had the first batch of yellowcake from Gachin mine sent to Isfahan (conversion) facility," Salehi said on state television.

Conversion is the process by which yellowcake is turned into uranium hexafluoride for enrichment.

"We cannot cover the overall need of the Isfahan facility but we will produce a significant part of it" from the Gachin mine near the Gulf port city of Bandar Abbas, Salehi said.

"Iran has become self-sufficient in the entire fuel cycle, starting from (uranium) exploration, mining and then turning it into yellowcake and converting it to UF₆ and then turning it into fuel plates or pellets," he said.

He said Iran would formally notify the International Atomic Energy Agency of its yellowcake production but declined to disclose the amount of the first domestically produced batch.

Iran's announcement comes it prepares to hold a new round of talks with world powers on its controversial nuclear programme in Geneva on Monday.

Salehi said it meant Iran would "go to the negotiations with strength and power."

Uranium enrichment lies at the heart of Western concerns about Iran's nuclear activities as the process can produce fuel for nuclear reactors or in highly extended form the fissile core of an atom bomb.

Iran denies seeking a weapons capability but has pressed on with uranium enrichment in defiance of repeated UN Security Council ultimatums.

A succession of UN sanctions imposed since 2006 prevent Iran from acquiring technology, equipment and raw material for its nuclear programme.

Iran insists it has a right to enrichment to make fuel as a signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and has vowed to continue.

"No matter how much effort they put into their sanctions in creating all sorts of hindrance... our nuclear activities will proceed," Salehi said.

The European Union's top diplomat, Catherine Ashton, is to conduct the talks with Iran's chief negotiator Saeed Jalili on behalf of the five UN Security Council permanent members -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- plus Germany.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has repeatedly insisted that enrichment is "non-negotiable" while calling on Western governments to "stop being hostile."

Iran has also accused Western powers and Israel -- the sole if undeclared nuclear power in the Middle East -- of being behind the recent assassination of a top nuclear scientist and of seeking to sabotage its nuclear programme.

It took Iran and the six powers a month to agree on a date and venue for the talks, but the two sides have yet to agree on an agenda.

The powers want the talks to focus on Iran's enrichment programme, but Tehran wants a wider discussion including regional security issues and Israel's suspected nuclear arsenal.

On Friday, US Secretary of State Hillary urged Iran to come to Geneva "in good faith and prepared to engage constructively" on its nuclear programme.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/world/209848/iran-declares-nuclear-elf-sufficiency-ahead-of-talks>

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

Factbox: What is Uranium Enrichment?

December 6, 2010

(Reuters) - Here are details about the process of uranium enrichment as world powers began talks with Iran on Monday, hoping the meeting will lead to new negotiations over a nuclear program the West believes is for making atomic bombs.

Western powers want Iran to suspend uranium enrichment activity, which can produce fuel for nuclear power reactors or provide material for bombs if refined to a higher degree.

* WHAT IS ENRICHMENT:

-- Enrichment is a process of increasing the proportion of fissile isotope found in uranium ore (represented by the symbol 'U') to make it usable as nuclear fuel or the compressed, explosive core of nuclear weapons.

* WHY URANIUM MUST BE ENRICHED:

-- Uranium is found naturally in a variety of forms but only a particular adapted form of the mineral can be used to generate electricity or create explosives.

-- This type, called U-235 to represent its mass, is present in only about 0.7 percent of mined ore while most of the rest is U-238, which has a slightly heavier mass.

-- To generate electricity, the concentration of U-235 must be increased to between 3 and 5 percent. It must be refined to levels over 80 percent to create the core of an atom bomb.

* TECHNOLOGIES:

-- The two most popular production techniques require uranium ore, known as "yellow cake," to be converted into a gas called uranium hexafluoride (UF-6) before enrichment.

* DIFFUSION METHOD:

-- When gaseous uranium is pumped through a porous barrier, the lighter U-235 atoms traverse the pores at a quicker rate than U-238. This is like smaller grains of sand passing through a sieve quicker than the bigger ones. The process has to be repeated about 1,400 times to get U-235 at a concentration of 3 percent of the UF-6.

* CENTRIFUGE METHOD:

-- Like the diffusion process, the centrifuge method exploits the slight difference in mass between U-235 and U-238. Uranium gas is fed into a cylindrical centrifuge. It spins at supersonic speeds, causing the heavier U-238 to move toward the cylinder's outer edge while U-235 collects around the center. Enriched U-235 is removed and put through the same process many times to raise its concentration.

-- Around 1,500 centrifuges running non-stop for months would be needed to make the 20 kg (45 pounds) of highly-enriched uranium needed for one crude warhead.

-- According to the International Atomic Energy Agency's last report in November, Iran temporarily halted low-level enrichment work at Natanz in mid-November, without giving a reason, but the number of centrifuge sets -- cascades -- in operation had still increased in the last few months.

-- According to the report Iran started producing small batches of 20 percent enriched uranium with 164 centrifuges at Natanz in February, fuelling Western fears that Iran aims to develop nuclear bombs.

-- In August, the IAEA said Iran had begun using a second cascade of centrifuge machines to make the work more efficient. Sources: Reuters/ Uranium Information Center www.uic.com/ Nuclear Policy Research Institute www.nuclearpolicy.org.

Writing by David Cutler, London Editorial Reference Unit

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6B51Y820101206>

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

Tehran Times – Iran
Monday, December 6, 2010

‘Iran to ‘Filter’ Out Inspectors Spying on Its Nuclear Program’

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN – Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Chairman Alaeddin Boroujerdi has said that the inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Organization will go through a more rigorous process of selection before being granted admission to Iran’s nuclear facilities in order to prevent spying.

“The inspections of our country’s nuclear facilities by the IAEA (inspectors) will continue, (but) to prevent issues such as spying, the inspectors should go through tougher filters,” Boroujerdi told the ISNA news agency on Sunday in response to the recent intelligence reports that there have been some spies among the IAEA inspectors who have visited Iran.

“The inspectors have breached the law for several times. This is an important issue... so from now on we will be more careful about the selection of inspectors,” he said.

Intelligence Minister Heydar Moslehi said on Saturday that some IAEA inspectors assigned to monitor Iran’s nuclear facilities are the agents of the Western countries’ intelligence services.

“The International Atomic Energy Agency should explain why it sends some spies of the Western intelligence services to Iran as experts,” Moslehi said.

Iran has frequently expressed displeasure at the leakage of its nuclear information through the IAEA inspectors and has demanded that the IAEA meet its commitment to protect the member countries’ nuclear information.

http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index_view.asp?code=231621

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

FARS News Agency – Iran
Monday, 6 December 2010

Iran, G5+1 Resume Talks in Geneva

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iran and the Group 5+1 (the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany) resumed talks in Geneva, Switzerland on Monday as Tehran reiterated its stance that it would not negotiate its basic rights.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Saeed Jalili, who is also Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, SNSC Undersecretary for Foreign Policy and International Security Affairs Ali Baqeri, SNSC Undersecretary for media affairs Abulfazl Zohrehvand, Advisor to the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) for Legal Affairs Hamid Reza Asgari and Deputy Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ali Ahani represent Iran in the talks with the six world powers.

US Undersecretary of State William Burns and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov represent Washington and Moscow respectively.

European Union (EU) Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton is also present in the talks representing the entire 5+1 Group.

Reports from Geneva said that SNSC Undersecretary for International Affairs and Foreign Policy Ali Baqeri had last night met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, who heads the Russian delegation in the talks between the Group 5+1 and Iran in Geneva.

Reports said that Ryabkov had demanded a meeting with Jalili, but the Iranian chief negotiator had refused to attend the meeting and sent his deputy to meet with the Russia negotiator.

Reports also said that Ryabkov had earlier met with other G5+1 members and thus represented the Group during the last night talks with Baqeri.

At the meeting with Ryabkov, Baqeri had underlined that the letter sent by Jalili to Ashton on June 6 would be the basis and agenda of the new round of talks between the two sides.

"From Iran's point of view, the June 6 letter of Dr. Jalili to Catherine Ashton is the base of these negotiations and this basis will not change," Baqeri said.

In an statement released two days before the resumption of talks, Jalili called on world powers to put aside their previous wrong strategy and double standards if they seek the continuation of talks.

"As we (Iran) did not negotiate our people's rights during the first and second rounds of talks in Geneva, we once again underline that the Iranian nation's rights must be preserved and are not negotiable," Jalili said in his statement.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is now more prepared than ever in terms of regional, political, and economic capacities and is ready to enter talks with solidarity, strength and logic," he noted.

"We have questions and suggestions which were clearly mentioned in our letter dated July 6," Iranian chief nuclear negotiator noted.

Tehran's prerequisites for talks mentioned in the form of three questions in Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili's November letter to Ashton were first declared by Iran's President Ahmadinejad earlier this year.

During an address to a large congregation of the Iranian people in the Northwestern city of Ardebil last month, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that his earlier questions of the world powers are still in place and should be answered before any resumption of talks between Iran and the West.

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

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

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

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

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=8909151026>

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

People's Daily – China

Iran Says Talks with G5+1 Not to Include Uranium enrichment: MP

December 06, 2010

The top Iranian lawmaker Alaeddin Boroujerdi said Monday that the multifaceted talks between Iran and the world powers will not include Tehran's nuclear program, the local satellite Press TV reported.

"If the West insists on issues which are unreal, such as the cessation of uranium enrichment in Iran, it will get nowhere and the negotiations will produce no good results," Boroujerdi was quoted as saying.

He urged the five UN Security Council permanent members plus Germany (G5+1) to turn the path of confrontation into one of interaction based on the realities, the report said.

Talks on the Iranian nuclear issue resumed on Monday, as Iran declared itself to be self-sufficient in nuclear fuel supply and voiced harsh criticism of attempts to assassinate its nuclear scientists.

The two-day closed-door meeting is being attended by Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, and European Union EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton on behalf of G5+1.

Source: Xinhua

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/90854/7222591.html>

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

San Francisco Chronicle

Iran, 6 Powers Hagggle over Scope of Geneva Talks

By GEORGE JAHN, Associated Press

Monday, December 6, 2010

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) -- Iran and six world powers haggled Monday over the terms of negotiations that the West hopes will limit Iranian nuclear activities that could be used to make atomic weapons.

As the meeting in Geneva — their first in a year — broke for lunch, there were signs that both sides were at least willing to listen, even though they may remain far apart on how deeply the talks should tackle concerns about Iranian nuclear activities.

Several officials from the six powers at the meeting — the U.S., Russia, Britain, France, Germany and the European Union — said the Iranian delegation had reacted calmly when told the group was still seeking a commitment from Tehran to stop uranium enrichment, which can make both fuel for reactors and the fissile core of nuclear arms.

Iran has insisted previously that the topic of enrichment was not up for negotiation.

Tehran says it does not want atomic arms, but as it builds up its capacity to make such weapons, neither Israel nor the U.S. have ruled out military action if Tehran fails to heed U.N. Security Council demands to freeze key nuclear programs.

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton "thoroughly condemned" the assassination last week of a prominent Iranian nuclear scientist and the wounding of another, said one official, after chief Iranian negotiator Saed Jalili said the attacks had burdened the atmosphere of the talks.

Ashton also met Jalili in the foyer of the conference center before the talks began. As the doors closed to reporters Monday morning, the two had joined the other delegations sitting around a light brown oval table, with flags of their nations behind them.

Although other non-nuclear issues had also been mentioned, Ashton and others focused on the need to concentrate on Iran's nuclear program, said the official who — like another who agreed to discuss what went on inside the meeting — did so on condition of anonymity.

A series of bilateral meetings were planned after lunch, which featured duck with olives, char fillet with sage, rice pilaf and deserts. Those meetings could include a one-on-one between Jalili and U.S. Undersecretary of State William Burns, who heads the U.S. delegation, said the officials.

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki sounded a note of optimism as the talks began, telling reporters in Athens that "the countries that are participating today in the talks on the nuclear program have the room to follow a policy to resolve the issue."

On Sunday, Iran announced it had delivered its first domestically mined raw uranium to a processing facility, claiming it was now self-sufficient over the whole enrichment process.

Ali Akbar Salehi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and the country's vice president, said Iran had for the first time delivered domestically mined raw uranium to a processing facility — allowing it to bypass U.N. sanctions prohibiting import of the material.

Salehi said the delivery proved that the mysterious bombings which targeted the Iranian scientists would not slow the country's progress.

Iran acquired a considerable stock of yellowcake uranium powder, from South Africa in the 1970s under the former U.S.-backed shah's original nuclear program, as well as unspecified quantities of yellowcake obtained from China long before the U.N. sanctions.

Western nations said last year that Iran was running out of raw uranium and asserted that Tehran did not have sufficient domestic ore to run the large-scale civilian program it said it was assembling.

"Given that Iran's own supply of uranium is not enough for a peaceful nuclear energy program, this calls into further question Iran's intentions and raises additional concerns at a time when Iran needs to address the concerns of the international community," said Mike Hammer, spokesman of the U.S. National Security Council.

But Salehi denied that local stocks were lacking and said Iran was now self-sufficient over the entire nuclear fuel cycle — from extracting uranium ore to enriching it and producing nuclear fuel.

Since Iran's clandestine enrichment program was discovered eight years ago, Iran has resisted both rewards — offers of technical and economic cooperation — and four sets of increasingly harsh U.N. sanctions meant to force it to freeze its enrichment program.

Nations have a right to enrich domestically and Iran insists it is doing so only to make fuel for an envisaged network of reactors and not to make fissile warhead material. But international concerns are strong because Tehran developed its enrichment program clandestinely and because it refuses to cooperate with an IAEA probe meant to follow up on suspicions that it experimented with components of a nuclear weapons program — something Iran denies.

Israel has threatened to attack Iran, even though Israel is believed to have stockpiled more than 200 nuclear weapons and it is not a member of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Western officials have urged Tehran to address international concerns about its nuclear activities.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said it was up to Iran to restore trust about its nuclear intentions, urging it to come to Geneva prepared to "firmly, conclusively reject the pursuit of nuclear weapons."

But for Iran, the main issues are peace, prosperity — and nuclear topics only in the context of global disarmament.

"Iran has not and will not allow anybody in the talks to withdraw one iota of the rights of the Iranian nation," President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said before the talks.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2010/12/06/international/i033633S31.DTL&type=politics>

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

FARS News Agency – Iran
Monday, 6 December 2010

Iran Tries West for Assassination of N. Scientist during Geneva Talks

TEHRAN (FNA)- Iran's chief negotiator Saeed Jalili ended the first round of talks with the world powers in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday after trying the West and the 5+1 Group for the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Dr. Majid Shahriari in the entire session.

Dr. Majid Shahriari, a university lecturer and prominent nuclear scientist, and Iranian university professors Fereidoon Abbasi Davani were assassinated in separate terrorist bomb attacks here in Tehran last Monday. Dr. Shahriari was killed, while the second scientists escaped the attack.

During the meeting in Geneva, Jalili blasted the West's silence about the recent terrorist moves against the Iranian elites, and said, "Resorting to terrorist moves to prevent Iran from acquiring science is a combination of fascist and medieval spirits, which undoubtedly deserves condemnation, but this (condemnation) has not yet been done (by the West)."

He described the Iranian nation as the greatest victim of terrorism, and noted, "Iran has so far lost 13,000 citizens in terrorist attacks conducted by MKO (anti-Iran terrorist group, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization) that is supported by the West. The same trend is repeating again."

Jalili told EU foreign police chief Catherine Ashton that the recent assassination of the two nuclear scientists was a different case compared with the previous cases "since the name of one of the slain scientists was cited in the UN Security Council resolution and the other one was among Iran's renowned nuclear scientists".

Jalili further pointed to the remarks made by Head of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service John Sawers about Iran's nuclear program and Israel's acknowledgment that the terrorist attacks were aimed at undermining Iran's nuclear program, and asked, "Why has the world kept mum about the terrorist action and the straightforward confession of a number of countries about their involvement in this act."

"Why hasn't the (Group) 5+1 condemned it," he asked.

Another Iranian university professor and nuclear scientist, Massoud Ali Mohammadi, was also assassinated in a terrorist bomb attack in Tehran in January.

Iran says Resolution 1747 adopted by the UNSC in March 2007 against the Islamic Republic cited Abbasi's name as a "nuclear scientist," thus suggesting that perpetrators behind the assassination could be traced through those who included the professor's name in the resolution.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=8909151599>

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

Wall Street Journal
December 6, 2010

Yellowcake Plays a Crucial Role

By JAY SOLOMON

GENEVA—The production of yellowcake, a coarse powder, is the first step in a complex process that converts uranium ore into either the fuel for a nuclear-power reactor or the uranium metal used in an atomic weapon.

Mining companies seek to extract high grades of ore, with levels of 20% uranium, for processing into yellowcake. The material is then converted into a gas that is fed into centrifuges and spun at supersonic speeds into various levels of fissile material.

Uranium enriched to 3%-5% can fuel a nuclear-power reactor, while enrichment to 90% can create the fissile reaction of an atomic weapon.

Iran has two uranium mines, one in Saghand, central Iran, and one in the town of Gachin, near the Persian Gulf. Iranian officials Sunday said the ore was processed into yellowcake near the port city of Bandar Abbas and then transported to Isfahan, where the material will be converted into uranium hexafluoride, a compound easily converted into a gas.

Nuclear experts believe Saghand's uranium ore is largely too low grade for use in making the yellowcake used in a nuclear program. Gachin has better-quality ore, but is believed to be capable of producing only 21 tons of ore per year. Iran's Arak heavy-water reactor is estimated to need the equivalent of 500 tons of ore to operate in producing nuclear power.

Iran imported 600 tons of yellowcake from South Africa during the 1970s under the leadership of the late Shah Reza Pahlavi. Iran is believed to have used as much two-thirds of this original stockpile for conversion into low-enriched uranium at the Natanz nuclear-fuel plant in central Iran.

Nuclear experts don't believe Iran's yellowcake reserves are nearly enough to fuel a nuclear-power program, but they are seen capable of creating a small arsenal of atomic weapons. Experts note the Gachin mine isn't under United Nations safeguards, meaning the material could be potentially used for military purposes.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704493004576001964161991224.html>

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

Yonhap News – South Korea
December 5, 2010

'N.K. Overwhelmingly Superior to S. Korea in Asymmetrical Forces': Gov't Data

SEOUL, Dec. 5 (Yonhap) -- North Korea has an overwhelming edge over South Korea in terms of asymmetrical forces with more than 200,000 special warfare troops, according to South Korean government estimates released in recent days.

Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin said during his confirmation hearing on Friday that the North's asymmetrical forces such as strategical weapons, submarines and special warfare forces were increasingly becoming a "serious threat" to the South Korean military.

"An additional attack by the North using its asymmetrical strengths is the most serious threat as of now," Kim said.

The North is believed to have about 200,000 special warfare troops while South Korea has only 20,000, according to a recent report by the ministry to the National Assembly.

The North is also believed to have some 150 missiles, about 2,500 to 5,000 tons of chemical weapons agents and the capability of producing five to eight nuclear weapons with 30 to 40 kilograms of plutonium in storage. The South, however, has only 50 missiles and no nuclear or chemical weapons.

Due to its overwhelming inferiority, the South Korean military is depending on its combined forces with the United States to cope with the North's asymmetrical threats, the ministry said.

It also said the military has raised its alert status on cyber warfare readiness, called "Infocon," a notch from fifth to the fourth level, facing growing cyber threats from the North following its artillery attack on a South Korean border island on Nov. 23.

Tension has increased since the shelling of Yeonpyeong Island near the tense border on the Yellow Sea killed two marines and two civilians.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2010/12/05/26/0301000000AEN20101205000200315F.HTML>

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

People's Daily – China

Turkey Reiterates NATO Missile Shield Should Not Take any Country as Threat

December 04, 2010

Turkish National Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul Friday reiterated Turkey's opposition to regarding any specific country as a threat to the NATO missile defense system, local media reported.

The missile shield should be based on a long-term vision of contributing to regional peace and stability and fostering a common perception of security, Gonul was quoted by the semi-official Anatolia news agency as telling an international security conference in southern Turkish city of Antalya.

"In this context, it has been wise not to mention any specific country of today as potential threat or target," he said.

Referring to any country as a threat within the missile defense system would have been counter-productive and would have had negative consequences for regional peace and stability, said Gonul.

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen has proposed to expand NATO's existing missile defense system, which currently only covers deployed troops, to protect citizens of all member states by linking up anti-missile systems of member states.

As a NATO member since 1952, Turkey has demanded the missile shield be launched within the framework of "deterrent" concept and opposed naming of any particular country in NATO papers as a threat against the allies.

During the NATO summit held in Lisbon, Portugal earlier this month, NATO leaders did not explicitly mention any country as potential threat in NATO paper.

Disappointed by the move, French President Nicolas Sarkozy claimed at the summit that Iran would be the main threat of the "rogue attack" that NATO's planned missile shield is designed to foil.

Turkey has been implementing a "zero problem" policy with its neighbors since the Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power in 2002. Turkish leaders have reiterated that Ankara does not want to face any problem with its neighbor Iran and does not want to take part in a project targeting Iran.

Turkey is committed to the vision of a world free from nuclear weapons and supports every effort towards this end, Gonul said Friday.

Source: Xinhua

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/90854/7220906.html>

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

Gulf News – U.A.E.

Turkey Strongly Opposed to Nuclear Proliferation in Middle East

Turkey's foreign affairs minister said that his country was opposed to nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and Gulf region.

By Habib Toumi, Bureau Chief

December 5, 2010

Manama: Turkey's foreign affairs minister said that his country was opposed to nuclear proliferation in the Middle East and Gulf region.

"We do not want to see nuclear proliferation in our region and we do not want to see any nuclear weaponry power in our region," Ahmet Davutoglu told the Manama Dialogue security conference. "Therefore, a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East is the essential backbone of our policy."

Problems and disagreements, like in the case of the Iranian nuclear programme, should be solved through diplomacy, he said.

"More diplomacy, more transparency, more international effort, more contributions from the Iranian side and from the international community is needed for a solution. Therefore, we are very happy that next week the nuclear talks will restart between P5+1 and Iran. We work very hard to contribute to this process and we will continue to support it," he said.

Davutoglu insisted that the nuclear issue was not only a regional issue.

"The nuclear issue is a global issue. If we do not have a fair approach to this nuclear issue based on international law, it is difficult to solve it," he said.

Turkey will keep its consistent policy on Iran's nuclear programme.

"From the first day, we declared three principles regarding this issue. One is all nations have the right to obtain peaceful nuclear technology and energy, based on the principles of the NPT and the IAEA. Technology does not belong to only one country or group of countries; it is not like natural gas: 'This is my land and this natural gas is from this land, so it belongs to me.' You can say this for gas and oil, but you cannot say this for technology. All

human beings contributed to technology and therefore all the nations have the right to obtain what technology we have today. But it must be peaceful nuclear technology," he said.

The second principle is that Turkey is against nuclear weapons, wherever they are.

"Nuclear weapons create a real risk for the survival of humanity. Therefore, there should be a nuclear regime, as President Obama and other leaders declared last year, where nuclear weapons will not be in this world," he said.

"The last dimension is the cultural dimension in the sense of the relationship between regional and global peace. As I said, our region is the backbone of world civilisation and we should not allow a clash of civilisations in our region. If there is cultural peace in our region, there will be cultural peace in the world. This region can contribute a lot to the cultural, political and economic future of humanity," Davutoglu told the conference.

<http://gulfnews.com/news/world/other-world/turkey-strongly-opposed-to-nuclear-proliferation-in-middle-east-1.723233>

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Topol Hits Target at Firing Range in Kazakhstan

5 December 2010

The intercontinental ballistic missile RS 12M Topol, launched on Sunday evening from the landfill Kapustin Yar in the Russia's Astrakhan region, successfully hit the target at the test site in Kazakhstan, Russian Defense Ministry press-secretary said on the Russia's Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) Col. Vadim Koval said.

"The training-warhead part of the missiles hit a conditional target accurately at the landfill of Sary-Shagan in Kazakhstan," the spokesman said.

This was the second launch of this type of the missile this year. The first one was held on October 28 from the Plesetsk Space Centre in northern Russia.

The SMF will be rearmed with multiple-warhead RS-24 missiles instead of the RS-12M Topol-M (SS-27 Sickle) mobile intercontinental ballistic missile systems, SMF Commander Lt. Gen. Sergei Karakayev said on Tuesday.

RS-24 is believed to have up to six independent warheads, and is thus more likely to be able to penetrate anti-missile defense systems than the single warhead Topol-M.

The SMF said in August that the Topol-M and RS-24 missiles would be the mainstay of the ground-based component of Russia's nuclear triad and would account for no less than 80% of the SMF's arsenal by 2016.

As of June 2010, the SMF operated at least 50 silo-based and 18 road-mobile Topol-M missile systems. The RS-24 was commissioned in 2010 after successful testing.

The RS-12M Topol is a single-warhead intercontinental ballistic missile, approximately the same size and shape as the U.S. Minuteman ICBM. The first Topol missiles entered service in 1985.

The missile has a maximum range of 10,000 km (6,125 miles) and can carry a nuclear warhead with a yield of 550 kilotons.

Next year the SMF will hold 10 intercontinental ballistic missile launches, twice as many as in 2010, Karakayev said.

MOSCOW, December 5 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20101205/161640678.html

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

London Daily Telegraph – U.K.

Russian 'Spy' Tried to Access Details of Britain's Nuclear Arsenal, Say MI5

MI5 has been investigating a House of Commons researcher at the centre of a Russian spy scandal for more than six months, it is understood.

By Duncan Gardham, Security Correspondent, and Martin Beckford

05 December 2010

Katia Zatuliveter, who works for an MP on the sensitive Defence Select Committee, has been arrested and served with a deportation order on the grounds of national security.

She is accused of using her position to try and gain sensitive material from the Government, after questions were tabled from the office of her employer, Mike Hancock MP, requesting an inventory of Britain's nuclear arsenal and the location of its international submarine bases.

MI5 has been concerned for some time that Miss Zatuliveter, 25, whose father is a well-connected Russian businessman, has had access to confidential documents supplied to the committee.

She had already studied for a master degree at the University of Bradford and was initially cleared to work at the House of Commons but suspicions soon grew within the security services that she was attempting to pass on secret information.

The deportation order is thought to be the culmination of a long investigation into her background and connections that has looked into both her family and social contacts.

It is unclear whether suspicions of links to the Russian SVR – the modern equivalent of the KGB – arose during her trips abroad or in Britain but it is understood that MI5 has spent some time trying to identify her handler in order to amass sufficient evidence to bring a case against her.

Sources told *The Daily Telegraph* that MI5 had already launched the investigation when Miss Zatuliveter was stopped at Gatwick airport in August on the way back from celebrating her birthday in Croatia with friends.

The Security Service has been concerned about Russian intelligence case officers arriving in Britain under “non-official” cover, using business or academic visits as a pretext for spying or recruiting others to spy.

More than 170,000 Russians visit Britain every year and around 2,000 are enrolled in universities.

Levels of activity are now said to be back to Cold War levels with up to 35 diplomats based in Britain who are working for the Russian intelligence agencies the SVR and the GRU, its military equivalent.

Jonathan Evans, the director general of MI5, has said the Russians “continue to devote considerable time and energy trying to steal our sensitive technology on civilian and military projects and trying to obtain political and economic intelligence at our expense.”

Now demands are being made to tighten up the vetting of Parliamentary staff, while Mr Hancock is facing questions over his decision to employ Miss Zatuliveter.

His constituency town is home to the Royal Navy while she once wrote a think-tank article that criticised Nato and defended Russian military action.

Among the Parliamentary questions recently put down by Mr Hancock, who also sits on the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Russia, was one asking the Defence Secretary to publish “a full historical inventory of the UK's nuclear arsenal”, another asking for “an update on the quantities of (a) plutonium, (b) enriched uranium and (c) other special nuclear materials that are outside international safeguards” and a series about the future of the Trident submarines.

Yvette Cooper, the shadow foreign secretary, said: “Depending on what happens in this individual case, if there do turn out to be problems and breaches of security here, then obviously the wider security in Parliament would need to be looked at, and I am sure the Speaker would take that very seriously.”

When the Defence Select Committee meets later this week, Mr Hancock is likely to be asked to withdraw from its activities - which include scrutinizing the Government's military policy - until the case of his aide has been resolved.

Dai Havard, the Labour vice-chairman of the committee, said: “It raises a whole suspicion. He's now got a problem of trying to demonstrate that whole activity isn't going to taint him, and perhaps one of the best ways is for him to step aside for a while until it's resolved.

“I think inevitably we'll have to ask him what's going on there.”

The committee occasionally receives classified briefings behind closed doors and is given and secret papers, but these are locked in a safe and only accessible to members.

“The committee is not damaged by it in the sense that we know the most sensitive information we deal with would have been protected her physically, she would not have been able to see it and he would not have been able to take it to her,” said Mr Havard.

Patrick Mercer, the Tory MP for Newark, said: “I know Mike and have been a colleague of his on the Defence Select Committee. I think it might be wise for him to move a little bit cautiously over the next few months if he doesn't want questions to be raised over what his motives are for these questions.

“I think the chairman of the committee will no doubt give some very trenchant advice to Mike in light of these anomalies.”

Yuri Felshtinsky, a Russian espionage expert, said: “I would consider this to be by definition a security risk. Not because there is no trust, but because any agency responsible for security would consider this to be a risk.

“The basic rule is that a Russian citizen probably should not be an assistant to a member of the British Parliament.”

However Mr Hancock, who is presently on bail over an alleged indecent assault against a female constituent, defended his employee, saying: “I have no reason to believe she did any thing but act honourably during the time she was working for me.

“She is determined to fight her corner and she genuinely believes, and I back her 100 per cent, that she has nothing to hide and has done nothing wrong. If she has, the (security) services are right. But they need to prove their point now.”

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/russia/8182577/Russian-spy-tried-to-access-details-of-Britains-nuclear-arsenal-say-MI5.html>

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

Abilene Recorder-Chronicle

Author Describes Ike’s Anti-Aircraft Nuclear Strategy

By DAVE BERGMEIER, Editor

Saturday, December 4, 2010

President Dwight D. Eisenhower embraced the use of nuclear anti-aircraft weapon systems during the height of the Cold War, according to author Christopher Bright who has written a book on the subject.

Bright has penned “Continental Defense in the Eisenhower Era: Nuclear Anti-aircraft Arms and the Cold War” and gave an overview of the book during a presentation Thursday night in the Visitors Center of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum.

“Eisenhower was a visionary,” Bright said, in visiting briefly before his presentation. “He had a good sense of understanding strategic issues and the challenge the nation faced.”

Bright thought while Ike may not have made every decision right, there was no doubt that Ike had the best motives. Bright said all presidents face challenges on the world stage with the capability of nuclear and atomic weapons.

Eisenhower was the right leader at the right time, Bright said, and his management style fit the times.

He showed those skills during World War II at the war department and as Supreme Allied Commander. First as a military leader and as a president, Eisenhower had the ability to select good subordinates.

During Bright’s presentation, the author noted that Ike advocated a public relations campaign that Americans could embrace such a concept. And that campaign was necessary. When Ike took over as president in 1953 there were approximately 841 nuclear weapons and eight years later there were 18,648.

Air defense was about 20 percent of the United States nuclear arsenal in 1961 when Ike left office. Although the U.S. retired those systems in 1986, their exact number remains unknown, he said. Bright hoped that someday those numbers will be released.

The president relied heavily on the Killian Commission to develop his strategy. One of the decisions Eisenhower supported from the Killian Commission was the development of the U-2 spy plane, which would cause the president a major world headache as his second term was about to end the Soviets shot down Gary Powers’ plane in 1960.

As Eisenhower took office, he was concerned about the threat of Soviet Union jet bombers carrying nuclear weapons, Bright said. The president felt the United States was inadequate for such a threat.

Cruising altitudes of planes that could carry such weapons could climb to 45,000 feet. In World War II the altitude height was about 31,000 feet, Bright said. Because they could fly at higher levels, enemy planes were harder to track.

Eisenhower’s strategy included spreading anti-nuclear systems throughout the U.S. The wide-spread system also had to be handled delicately because it decentralized decisions in case of an attack, Bright said. Fortunately it never occurred. There were several of those systems in air bases in the Kansas City, Mo. and Salina area during World War II. In the 1950s, Salina still had Schilling Air Force Base.

In 1956, Eisenhower wrote that he was going to do whatever it would take to protect the American people, Bright said. The public relations' effort worked, Bright said.

"It was all part of the U.S. government's effort to tout those weapons," Bright said.

At one point the U.S. was going to do a test over the Gulf of Mexico, but Ike stopped it at the last minute based on a warning from secretary of state John Foster Dulles who had concerns over how it might impact diplomatic relations with Mexico and pre-Castro Cuba.

The deployment of nuclear weapons as a defense strategy was viewed as a positive by the public, Bright said.

Ike made little reference publicly about first-strike capabilities.

Ike's policies remained in place for 25 years after he left office, but it would be tested particularly during the Cuban Missile Crisis as his successor John F. Kennedy dealt with Soviet Union maneuvers that were going on in Cuba, which is close to Florida, Bright said. He believed that Ike's strategy was to allow local commanders to have the decision on whether to deploy, but it must be a part of a broader policy to combat a threat to America. That could lead to ambiguity over time, Bright said, but it did work.

Bright is an independent scholar of 20th century American diplomatic and political history. His book was published this year by Palgrave Macmillan and is based on his dissertation at the George Washington University, where Bright received his doctorate in 2006.

His research at the Eisenhower Presidential Library drew upon formerly classified documents.

One prominent question was how did the Soviets deal with America's effort. Bright said that Soviets pursued a policy of developing an intercontinental defense system with less reliance on bombers.

Jim Leyerzapf, a retired archivist, who grew up near Pittsburgh, said he could not recall reading newspaper articles as a child about the pro-anti nuclear strategy Bright outlined. Bright said at times it may not have been so widely publicized, but the final result was one that hit the mark.

TV's Lassie, Hollywood insiders, a Massachusetts industrialist, a beauty pageant contestant, and others, including officials who worried these weapons might harm local television reception, played roles in promoting the arms to Americans, Bright said during his presentation.

He also answered other questions, pertaining to his findings.

http://www.abilene-rc.com/view/full_story/10523781/article-Author-describes-Ike%E2%80%99s-anti-aircraft-nuclear-strategy?instance=latest_articles

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

Boston Globe
OPINION/Editorial

Stop Delays; Pass 'New START'

December 4, 2010

ON ITS merits, the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty signed last spring by Russia and the United States ought to have been ratified by the Senate months ago. Its modest but sound strategic warhead reductions and robust verification system would make Americans safer, while bolstering the case for nuclear non-proliferation around the world. Former officials such as Henry Kissinger, James Baker, Colin Powell, and William Perry as well as Defense Secretary Robert Gates and the Joint Chiefs of Staff have all said the treaty serves the national interest.

Sad to say, however, the ratification process appears caught up in partisan gamesmanship. Republicans have been hinting they will not vote for "New START" in the current lame-duck session of Congress unless they get their way on several other issues, including "don't ask, don't tell" and the Dream Act for illegal immigration. But the arms treaty has nothing to do with those issues, and all of them should be decided on their own terms.

A failure to ratify the treaty during the lame-duck session would open up a possibility that the next Senate might allow it to wither on the vine. Leading Republicans insist that Congress hasn't adequately vetted the treaty, but that couldn't be further from the truth. As John Kerry, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, noted in an interview, this is the Congress that has held 18 hearings on the treaty and had over 900 of its questions answered by the Obama administration.

The administration should continue to give skeptical senators every possible reassurance about modernization of the nation's nuclear deterrent, future missile defense plans, or any other reasonable security concerns. But now is the

time, and this is the Congress, to rise above party politicking and ratify a nuclear-arms treaty that meets some of the nation's clearest security needs.

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/editorials/articles/2010/12/04/stop_delays_pass_new_start/

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

Financial Times – U.K.

OPINION

American Threats will Derail Iranian Nuclear Talks

By Sadegh Kharazi

December 6, 2010

After almost one and a half years, on Monday Iranian diplomats and their “5+1” counterparts returned to Geneva to resume talks over a number of issues, including Iran’s nuclear programme. The mood music in the run-up to these discussions has been negative, with American and European negotiators playing down the chance of a breakthrough. But in fact the odds on progress are good, if the US and its allies approach the talks positively, and without threats or pre-conditions.

The backdrop to the resumption of talks saw rumours that the “5+1” powers – the US, Russia, Britain, China, France and Germany – were preparing to offer Iran a deal. The details of this have not been made public, but reports suggested that it would demand Iran do three things: first, ship a large amount of low-enriched uranium out of the country; second, halt the processing of more highly enriched uranium; and finally go back to negotiating table on the future of its nuclear programme.

Iran has not yet reacted to this potential offer. Previously Iran’s top nuclear negotiator asked for clarifications on how any future talks would work – for instance on whether Israel’s nuclear programme would be on the table, or whether other countries could take part, beyond the “5+1” group currently meeting in Geneva. But beyond this, Iran is ready to talk.

Indeed, Iran feels that a fair process of negotiation can help it achieve its objective in these talks, namely the ability to exercise the rights to use nuclear material that it ought to have already under the current non-proliferation treaty. Furthermore, Iran believes that the international community can be re-assured about the nature and intent of its nuclear programme if open discussions take place between both sides. In short, there is a genuine chance of a good outcome.

However, certain guidelines must be followed if the process is to work. Both sides know each others’ positions, so there is little point introducing pre-conditions before talks begin. A process in which one side sets pre-talks conditions, and then the other is forced to respond in kind, threatens to derail the process before it begins. Neither side will lose if they show flexibility, and agree an open agenda.

More fundamentally the US and its allies must reconsider their old “carrot-and-stick” approach. Despite its existing unilateral sanctions, the US has of late been pushing other countries to sever their economic ties with Tehran. Now new additional sanctions are threatened in the event of the current talks not bearing fruit, including another set of sanctions at the UN. This is unhelpful. Tehran supports the current talks, but reference, directly or indirectly, to more punitive measures will be taken as a sign of enmity against the Iranian people. Even hinting at these new sticks will damage trust and undermine the talks before they begin.

The same is true on some of the specifics of negotiations. Iran, for instance, needs a more enriched form of uranium for its research nuclear reactor. It ought to be able to buy this material under the current treaty. The world powers, however, have refused to sell, for fear that it will be used to make nuclear weapons. Instead, they are likely to demand that Iran ships at least 2000kg of less-enriched uranium abroad, and only then provide the material it needs.

This makes little sense. The negotiators know Iran previously rejected a tentative deal, reached in Vienna in 2009, to send only 1200kg abroad. Meanwhile the US and others rejected a different deal, in May 2010, between Iran, Brazil and Turkey to ship the same amount, before rushing to the UN to demand more sanctions.

For its part, Iran is prepared to go for some sort of a swap deal. However, the world powers know that 2000 kilograms would produce much more enriched uranium than Iran actually needs, leading to the obvious conclusion that this figure is simply being used as a bargaining chip to remove as much uranium from Iran as possible. Here the US and its allies must realise they cannot just call for the removal of more uranium without offering anything in return.

In the course of the talks, both sides can develop a mutually acceptable compromise on this and other issues. This should include the circumstances under which sanctions would begin to be removed if Iran agrees a deal, a priority

for Tehran. But it remains unhelpful to specify in advance what the parameters of any part of this final deal might be.

In all of this, Iran wants a sense that it is respected as a part of the negotiations. Success is possible, if space is provided to develop a deal suitable to both sides, while providing security guarantees and recognising Iran's legitimate role and interests in its own region. But the threat of fresh sanctions, unveiled with the shaking of a fist, will damage the slender chances for peace, and threaten negative consequences for the whole region. It is therefore of utmost importance for the two sides to lower their rhetoric, as the talks continue. Neither side will win if this round of discussions fails again. But both will certainly lose if it never get off the ground in the first place.

The writer is a former Iranian diplomat who twice served as deputy foreign minister, and also as ambassador to France and the United Nations

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