



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL

Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Issue No. 867, 14 December 2010

Articles & Other Documents:

[WH: Obama Won't Leave DC until Nuke Deal is Done](#)

[START Pact Has Enough Votes, U.S. Aide Says](#)

[Clock Ticking, Obama Urges Senate OK of Arms Treaty](#)

[Senate Working on Ratification of U.S.-Russian Strategic Arms Treaty - White House](#)

[Manouchehr Mottaki Fired from Iran Foreign Minister Job](#)

[Intelligence Chiefs Fear Nuclear War between Israel and Tehran](#)

[Rudd Calls for Inspections of Israel's Nuclear Facility](#)

[Iran Foreign Policy 'Unchanged' by Mottaki Sacking](#)

[North Korea Stresses Commitment to Nuclear Weapons](#)

[N. Korean FM Defends Pyongyang's Decision to Bolster Nuclear Arsenal](#)

[Japan Plans more Patriot Systems to Shoot Down N. Korean Missiles](#)

[S. Korea, U.S. Launch Joint Committee to Deter N. Korea's Nuclear Threats](#)

[N Korea's Nuclear Capacity Worries Russia](#)

[S.Korea Suspects Secret Uranium Enrichment in North](#)

[US Suspects Secret Burma Nuclear Sites](#)

[Burma Not Nuclear, Says Abhisit](#)

[Test of Agni-II's Advanced Version Fails](#)

[Russian Military to Receive 1,300 Types of Weaponry by 2020](#)

[Russia, NATO May Make Soon Progress in Joint Missile Defense Progress](#)

[Bolivia Rejects Alvaro Uribe's Accusations about Nuclear Program](#)

[U.S. to Spend \\$1B Over Five Years on Conventional Strike Systems](#)

[Talks with Iran Just a Start](#)

[Iran's Nuclear Plans Give West a Tough Choice](#)

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

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

San Francisco Chronicle

WH: Obama Won't Leave DC until Nuke Deal is Done

By ERICA WERNER, Associated Press

Friday, December 10, 2010

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House officials expressed confidence Friday a nuclear treaty with Russia will be approved by the Senate before the holidays. President Barack Obama is expected to stay in town to ensure it happens.

Momentum for ratification of the New START treaty grew as Maine Republican Sens. Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe announced their support.

"I am confident that New START will provide predictability in our relationship with Russia and thus enhance global stability, and most importantly, our national security," Snowe said in her statement.

The agreement would place limits on the number of nuclear warheads each country is allowed to possess, and provide for a new inspection and verification regimen.

Obama has been pushing hard for its ratification during Congress' lame-duck session, calling it his top foreign policy priority, and supporters appear to be getting closer to the 67-vote threshold required in the Senate. Apart from Collins and Snowe, at least six other Republican senators have indicated support for the treaty, although sometimes with qualifications. The 58 senators in the Democratic caucus are all expected to lend their backing.

Some Republicans remain skeptical, including those who say there isn't enough time left on the Senate calendar to give the treaty the attention it requires. But White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Friday he was certain it would get done.

"I will say this: Congress won't leave before START is done, Gibbs told reporters at the White House. "START will get done. And START will get done with a strong, bipartisan vote."

Asked whether the president would stay in Washington as long as the Senate does, Gibbs replied: "I believe that's the case, yes." Obama is set to take his annual vacation in Hawaii with his family later this month, but the Senate could be in session past the end of next week.

Former President Bill Clinton also spoke up for the treaty Friday while making a surprise appearance in the White House briefing room to back Obama's tax cut deal.

"I think this START agreement is very important to the future of our national security," Clinton said. "It is not a radical agreement."

He said the treaty "ought to be way beyond party."

Obama signed the treaty with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev earlier this year. The White House has been pushing hard for support from current and former officials of both parties, and this week secured the backing of former President George H.W. Bush, who signed the previous start treaty with Boris Yeltsin.

The treaty would cut the limits on strategic warheads to 1,550 each for the United States and Russia from the current ceiling of 2,200.

Associated Press Writer Desmond Butler contributed to this report.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2010/12/10/national/w090820S61.DTL&type=politics>

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

The Moscow Times – Russia

START Pact Has Enough Votes, U.S. Aide Says

13 December 2010

Bloomberg

WASHINGTON — Backers of the New START nuclear arms reduction treaty said they have the votes required for U.S. Senate ratification after two more Republican lawmakers announced their backing.

Mark Helmke, a spokesman for Indiana Senator Dick Lugar, the leading Republican supporter of New START, said Friday that enough senators are prepared to vote for the pact's ratification. The treaty needs two-thirds support in the Senate to be approved.

Maine's two Republican senators, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe, said in separate statements that they support ratification.

"We've got enough Republican support to pass the treaty," Helmke said, declining to name the backers because some have not registered their support publicly. "We are hopeful that Senator

Reid sets" a vote "as soon as possible," he said, referring to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat.

Reid plans to bring up the treaty for a vote before Congress adjourns for the year, spokesman Jim Manley said. The Senate first plans to finish debates on pending legislation to extend expiring tax cuts and a measure to finance government operations.

The treaty, signed by Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama in April to replace a 1991 accord that expired in 2009, would reduce each nation's deployed nuclear warheads by about one-third to a maximum of 1,550.

Medvedev has said the State Duma would ratify the treaty immediately after the U.S. Senate.

Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl, an Arizona Republican, has delayed a ratification vote while seeking assurances that Obama would modernize the nation's remaining nuclear-weapons arsenal.

Kyl's fellow Arizonan, Senator John McCain, said in a speech in Washington on Friday that he hoped the Senate "will be able to bring this up next week, and a lot of work is being done to that effect."

"We are very close" to resolving concerns about whether the treaty curbed missile-defense systems, McCain, a Republican, said at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International

Studies.

Kyl is "doing a tremendous job working with the administration to resolve the issues associated with nuclear modernization," McCain said.

Two-thirds of senators present and voting are required to ratify a treaty, or 67 if all 100 lawmakers are in the chamber.

Democrats have 58 votes in the chamber, Republicans 42.

Ratification in the new congressional session that convenes in early January could be more difficult because the November election narrowed the Democrats' majority to 53-47.

Supporters such as Lugar argue that the treaty is needed to restore nuclear-weapons inspection of the Russian arsenal.

Snowe, a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said in a statement she is "confident" the treaty "will provide predictability in our relationship with Russia and thus enhance global stability and most importantly our national security."

Snowe said she would support the treaty if there is "sufficient" opportunity for debate and amendments to the ratification resolution. She said concerns about "our ability to verify Russian compliance" and "to develop and deploy effective missile defenses, and to modernize our nuclear weapons complex, have been satisfactorily resolved."

Collins said in a statement she will support the treaty's ratification after Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton assured her in writing that the administration was also committed to reducing Russia's estimated 3,800 tactical nuclear weapons.

Besides Collins, Snowe and Lugar, New Hampshire Republican Judd Gregg told MSNBC he favors the treaty's ratification.

Senator Robert Bennett, a Utah Republican who like Gregg is leaving the Senate, said in an interview that he was "generally disposed" to back the treaty.

Two other Republican senators, Johnny Isakson of Georgia and Bob Corker of Tennessee, voted for the ratification resolution when it was approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/start-pact-has-enough-votes-us-aide-says/426116.html>

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

National Public Radio (NPR)

Clock Ticking, Obama Urges Senate OK of Arms Treaty

By Mike Shuster
December 13, 2010

The Obama administration is increasingly optimistic that the Senate will ratify the New START treaty, possibly this week.

The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty was signed earlier this year, and if ratified by the Senate and the Russian parliament, would bring deployed U.S. and Russian long-range nuclear weapons to 1,550 on each side. That would slash current deployment of these weapons by one-third.

The big question is whether the administration has enough Republican senators to reach the required two-thirds majority the Constitution requires to ratify treaties.

President Obama has made the ratification of the new START treaty his key foreign policy goal before the new Senate is sworn in next month.

The president's chief political adviser, David Axelrod, emphasized the treaty's importance Sunday on CBS's *Face the Nation*.

"That's a critical piece for our national security. We need to verify what's going on on the ground in Russia. It will help us enormously in terms of our cooperation on issues like Iran and North Korea. We have to get it done, we can't delay that. So I'm hopeful that we're going to get a vote on that and I think the support is there for it," he said.

Enough Momentum?

The administration needs a lot of Republican support. It takes 67 votes to ratify a treaty. The treaty has 58 votes on the Democratic and independent side.

That leaves nine Republican votes to get to 67, a heretofore impossible task on major issues.

Nevertheless, Rose Gottemoller, assistant secretary of state for arms control and one of the chief negotiators of the treaty, says "We do see that there is a momentum moving in a good direction."

Right now, only three Republican senators — Richard Lugar of Indiana, and Olympia Snow and Susan Collins of Maine — are on record supporting the treaty.

But based on various comments that other Republicans have made, there could be as many as eight more Republican votes in favor. That is more than enough, says Daryl Kimball of the Arms Control Association, to ratify New START.

"The GOP right now is truly split on New START. You can't say the GOP opposes New START. You've got Republican senators who want to do this. You've got others who don't want to do it," he says.

Conservative Republicans oppose the treaty because they do not believe it is prudent to reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenal to the levels called for in the treaty. They also say the treaty would limit the development of an effective missile-defense system.

Advocates for the treaty, like Kimball, say this is a missile-defense-friendly treaty.

"They have alleged that the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty will somehow limit U.S. missile defense options. The secretary of defense, the director of the Missile Defense Agency, have rejected that myth," he says.

Sen. John Kyl of Arizona, the Republican whip, has pressed the administration to budget more for the modernization of the current U.S. nuclear arsenal, and the White House has given him pretty much all that he has asked for.

Pressure To Get Vote Done

Nevertheless, Kyl has not embraced the treaty, and his recent comments suggest that he and a substantial faction of the Republicans do not want to see a vote before the new year.

Gottemoller, the assistant secretary of state, says delaying the ratification debate until next year will delay and likely stymie the treaty for the indefinite future, keeping the U.S. largely blind about Russia's nuclear deployments.

"It's already been a year since we had our inspectors on the ground in the Russian Federation. Once the START treaty went out of force December a year ago, they all had to leave. And we think that two years without inspectors on the ground in Russia, and without the opportunity to exchange data on our nuclear forces, will be a bad thing," she says.

Opponents of the treaty have said they will employ every procedural tool they can to prevent a vote this year on the new START treaty.

And whether the treaty does get to a vote is now also bound up with the fate of the new tax bill and whether Republicans get what they want there.

But the White House is talking about a vote on New START — possibly as early as this week — and Obama has postponed his Christmas vacation and plans to stay in Washington until there is action on the treaty.

<http://www.npr.org/2010/12/13/132031102/clock-ticking-obama-urges-senate-ok-of-arms-treaty>

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Senate Working on Ratification of U.S.-Russian Strategic Arms Treaty - White House

14 December 2010

The U.S. Senate will begin debates on the ratification of a new arms reduction treaty with Russia as soon as it finalizes debates on various tax issues, a spokesman for the White House has said.

Discussions of a new strategic arms reduction treaty with Russia were included in the agenda of the U.S. Senate's December 13 session. However, the higher chamber of the Congress debated tax documents instead.

"Our belief is, as you've seen a number of Republican senators come out, that this is a treaty that has the votes to pass the Senate and I believe will pass the Senate before Congress goes home for the holidays," press secretary Robert Gibbs told a press briefing.

Earlier reports said that Congress will hold its last session on December 17 before breaking up for Christmas.

The results of November's elections to Congress, which saw the Republicans make big gains at the expense of the Democrats, mean that President Barack Obama has until January, when the new Congressmen take up their positions, to try to push the treaty through. The Obama administration hopes to get the treaty ratified by Christmas.

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.

The agreement will come into force after simultaneous ratification by both chambers of the Russian parliament and the U.S. Senate.

WASHINGTON, December 14 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20101214/161764375.html>

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

BBC News – U.K.

Manouchehr Mottaki Fired from Iran Foreign Minister Job

December 13, 2010

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has fired Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, Iran's official Irna news agency reports.

Initial reports gave no reason for the decision.

There had been no indication Mr Mottaki, a key figure in Iran's nuclear negotiations with the West, was about to lose his job.

News reports suggest Mr Ahmadinejad has appointed the country's top nuclear official to replace Mr Mottaki.

State television reported Ali Akbar Salehi, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation and a close ally of the president, would take over in a caretaker capacity.

UN sanctions

Analysts say Mr Mottaki's dismissal may be part of a political power play between conservatives and liberals in Iran.

"I appreciate your diligence and services as the foreign minister," said Mr Ahmadinejad in a letter to Mr Mottaki, Mehr news agency reported.

Mr Mottaki had faced criticism in Iran over the international pressure on the country to halt its nuclear enrichment programme.

A fourth round of UN Security Council sanctions was imposed in June.

But recently concluded talks in Geneva ended with an agreement to hold more talks in Istanbul next month.

Iran insists it wants only atomic energy but a number of Western countries suspect it of trying to build nuclear weapons.

A well-known figure inside Iran, Mr Salehi led the early response to the attacks in Tehran two weeks ago on two prominent nuclear scientists.

Mr Salehi now gets to take his enthusiastic support of Iran's nuclear ambitions on to a wider stage, analysts say.

Mr Mottaki, who is currently in Senegal on an official visit, was appointed foreign minister in 2005.

A career diplomat, the 57-year-old speaks fluent English, Turkish and Urdu, and gained a postgraduate degree in international relations from Tehran University in 1991.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-11984931>

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

Sydney Morning Herald – Australia

Intelligence Chiefs Fear Nuclear War between Israel and Tehran

By Philip Dorling
December 13, 2010

AUSTRALIAN intelligence agencies fear that Israel might launch military strikes against Iran and that Tehran's pursuit of nuclear capabilities could draw the US and Australia into a potential nuclear war in the Middle East.

Australia's top intelligence agency has also privately undercut the hardline stance towards Tehran of the United States, Israeli and Australian governments, saying that Iran's nuclear program is intended to deter attack and that it is a mistake to regard Iran as a "rogue state".

The warnings about the dangers of nuclear conflict in the Middle East are given in a secret US embassy cable obtained by WikiLeaks and provided exclusively to the *Herald*. They reflect views obtained by US intelligence liaison officers in Canberra from across the range of Australian intelligence agencies.

"The AIC's [Australian intelligence community's] leading concerns with respect to Iran's nuclear ambitions centre on understanding the time frame of a possible weapons capability, and working with the United States to prevent Israel from independently launching unco-ordinated military strikes against Iran," the US embassy in Canberra reported to Washington in March last year.

"They are immediately concerned that Iran's pursuit of nuclear capabilities would lead to a conventional war - or even nuclear exchange - in the Middle East involving the United States that would draw Australia into a conflict."

Australian concerns about a unilateral Israeli military strike against Iran are also recorded in another US embassy cable, sent to Washington in December 2008, reporting on discussions between the then chief of Australia's top intelligence agency, the Office of National Assessments (ONA), Peter Varghese, and the head of the US State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), the assistant secretary of state, Randall Fort.

The embassy's report of the meeting, which included senior officers and analysts from both intelligence agencies, says that "ONA seniors and analysts were particularly interested in A/S Fort and INR's assessments on Israeli 'red lines' on Iran's nuclear program and the likelihood of an Israeli strike against Iranian nuclear facilities".

A cable sent in July 2008 further records that the former prime minister Kevin Rudd was "deeply worried" that the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's intransigence concerning Tehran's nuclear program meant that the window for a diplomatic solution was closing and that "Israel may feel forced to use 'non-diplomatic' means".

Last week Mr Rudd called on Israel, which has a large undeclared nuclear arsenal, to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty as part of a broader effort to head off the development of an Iranian nuclear weapons capability and to establish the Middle East as a nuclear weapon-free zone.

The US embassy's report in March last year told Washington the Australian government was "more broadly concerned about the potential for renewed nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, driving south-east Asian states to abandon the [nuclear non-proliferation treaty] and pursue their own nuclear capabilities, which could introduce a direct threat to the Australian homeland".

Australian intelligence views on Iran were solicited by US officials in response to a request from Washington to ascertain reactions to the possibility that the US might seek to engage Tehran in dialogue on security.

The cables confirm the presence in Canberra of representatives of all US national intelligence agencies - the CIA, National Security Agency, National Reconnaissance Office, National Geospatial Agency, Defence Intelligence Agency and the FBI.

US intelligence liaison officers engaged all their Australian counterpart agencies on the Iran question - including ONA, the office of the National Security Adviser, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Secret Intelligence Service, the Defence Intelligence Organisation, the Defence Signals Directorate, the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation, the Defence Science and Technology Organisation, and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.

In its July 2009 report to Washington, the embassy noted that the Australian intelligence community "has increased its collection and analytic efforts on Iran over the past decade, demonstrating Australia's strategic commitment to engage substantively as a significant US partner on Iran".

US diplomats expressed "high confidence" that the Australian government would have no objections to US efforts to engage Iran, noting that while Australian troops remained stationed in Afghanistan "the Australians will look to increased US engagement with Iran to improve upon creating a realistic framework for an accelerated reduction and eventual cessation of Iranian support to the Taliban, al-Qaeda and related groups, and Hezbollah. Simultaneously, Australia will look for increased US-Iranian engagement to lead to a more stable governance environment for Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and the Levant".

The cable on the December 2008 intelligence exchange on Iran reported Mr Varghese's view that possible conflict between Israel and Iran "clearly represented the greatest challenge to [Middle East] stability - and ONA was focusing most of its attention on Tehran because of it".

ONA analysts expressed the view that the Iranian government appeared determined to acquire nuclear weapons, though this would probably be driven by the desire to deter Israel and the US than an intention to strike against other Middle East states.

"ONA viewed Tehran's nuclear program within the paradigm of 'the laws of deterrence', noting that Iran's ability to produce a weapon may be 'enough' to meet its security objectives," the US embassy reported to Washington.

"Nevertheless, Australian intelligence viewed Tehran's pursuit of full self-sufficiency in the nuclear fuel cycle, long-standing covert weapons program, and continued work on delivery systems as strong indicators that Tehran's preferred end state included a nuclear arsenal."

ONA analysts told their US counterparts that they were not alone in this assessment, asserting "while China and Russia remain opposed to it, they view Iran's acquisition of nuclear weapons as inevitable".

But ONA urged a balanced view of Tehran as a sophisticated diplomatic player rather than a "rogue state" liable to behave impulsively or irrationally. Mr Varghese said ONA was telling the Australian government: "It's a mistake to think of Iran as a 'rogue state'."

The embassy cable reported: "ONA analysts assessed that Tehran 'knows' about its lack of certain capabilities, but plays 'beyond its hand' very skilfully. ONA analysts commented that Iran's Persian culture was a key factor in understanding its strategic behaviour, commenting that a 'mixture of hubris and paranoia' pervades Iranian attitudes that in turn shape Tehran's threat perceptions and policies.

"ONA judged that Iran's activities in Iraq - both overt and covert - represented an extreme manifestation of Iranian strategic calculus, designed to 'outflank' the US in the region."

However, the Australian intelligence analysts "asserted that 20 years of hostility [towards the US] and associated rhetoric aside, regime attitudes 'have fairly shallow roots', and the most effective means by which Tehran could ensure its national security would be a strategic relationship with the US via some 'grand bargain'."

<http://www.smh.com.au/technology/technology-news/intelligence-chiefs-fear-nuclear-war-between-israel-and-tehran-20101212-18u2a.html>

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

The Australian – Australia

Rudd Calls for Inspections of Israel's Nuclear Facility

By John Lyons, *The Australian*

December 14, 2010

FOREIGN Minister Kevin Rudd has arrived in Israel with a blunt message: allow international inspectors into your nuclear facility.

He has also called on Israel to stop building in Jewish settlements in both the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

In an interview with *The Australian* before he arrived in Israel last night, Mr Rudd staked out strong positions on both issues.

While many countries are calling on Israel to halt settlement growth, it is Mr Rudd's strong stance on Israel's nuclear facility that is bound to be most controversial in Israel.

Israel refuses to confirm that it even has nuclear weapons, but foreign intelligence analysts familiar with the program believe Israel has just over 200 nuclear warheads at its facility in Dimona in southern Israel. Israeli officials have confirmed to *The Australian* that Israel has nuclear weapons but will not place a figure on them.

Mr Rudd told *The Australian*: "Our view has been consistent for a long period of time, and that is that all states in the region should adhere to the NPT, and that includes Israel."

But it is what he added next by referring to International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors that has caught Israeli officials by surprise: "And therefore their nuclear facility should be subject to IAEA inspection."

He was speaking before reports that a WikiLeaks cable suggested Australia, along with the US, could be drawn into a nuclear war in the Middle East if Israel were to attack Iran in an attempt to disable its nuclear program.

Israeli officials were not surprised by Mr Rudd's call for Israel to sign the NPT but were taken aback by his call for IAEA inspections. One high-ranking Israeli official said: "I don't remember any Australian minister saying (Israel's) facilities should be put under inspection."

Another Israeli official, who spoke on the condition he not be named, said: "It is very surprising; first of all, as we are not signatories to the NPT we are not bound by its obligations; and, secondly, the NPT has proven to be ineffective. Its signatories include Iran, Syria, Libya and Iraq, which should speak for itself.

"Unlike Iran, we haven't cheated on any of our obligations."

Mr Rudd said that, given the security challenges Israel has faced from the 1950s to the second intifada, Australia could understand why Israel had become increasingly anxious about its security needs, particularly given the challenges from Iran.

He said the second part of Australia's policy on nuclear weapons in the Middle East, as it involved Iran, was equally clear. "That as signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty already, to wit Iran have to give effect to their obligations, and they are not. They are in flagrant violation, a point I reiterated in discussions only a few days ago with the Iranian Foreign Minister."

On settlements, which have been at the centre of the collapse of direct peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians, Mr Rudd said: "The position of the Australian government has long been clear. We do not support new settlement construction and the reason is that it undermines the prospects of the successful prosecution of peace negotiations."

Mr Rudd said the Australian government fully understood Israel's security concerns from Gaza, but that settlements were "a different matter".

He expressed concern after comments by Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, that if the peace talks achieved nothing he might dissolve the Palestinian Authority and hand over day-to-day running of the West Bank to Israel. "There is a second reality also, which is what security challenges Israel would face if the peace process entirely collapses, if the Palestinian Authority totally disengages or if Abu Mazen were to give effect to what he publicly implied in his recent statements about folding the authority, or if the moderate Arab states would begin to adopt a different posture against a protracted and non-successful peace negotiating process."

Mr Rudd warned that there may be serious consequences if the peace process collapsed.

"All of us, if we are any students of the history of the last decade or so, have a grasp of what can go wrong, and what can go wrong big time if the Palestinian people don't have a stake in a negotiated outcome," he said.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/rudd-calls-for-inspections-of-israels-nuclear-facility/story-e6frg6nf-1225970522340>

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

BBC News – U.K.
14 December 2010

Iran Foreign Policy 'Unchanged' by Mottaki Sacking

There will be no change to Iran's foreign policy after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad fired the country's foreign minister and replaced him with the atomic chief, officials say.

Manouchehr Mottaki was sacked on Monday while on an official visit to Senegal. No reason was given for the dismissal.

A foreign ministry spokesman says the sacking will have little impact, as policy is "decided at higher levels".

Some Iranian MPs and the media have criticised the unexpected move.

Analysts say it may reflect a power struggle within Iran's ruling conservatives, as Mr Mottaki was seen as a close ally of conservative opponents of President Ahmadinejad in parliament.

'Clear insult'

The head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, Ali Akbar Salehi, has been appointed to take over the foreign ministry.

"With the change, we will not see any alteration of Iran's basic policies," including nuclear talks with world powers, spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast told reporters in his weekly news briefing at Iran's foreign ministry.

Mr Mehmanparast declined to explain why the dismissal took place while the minister was in the middle of an overseas visit, but said Mr Mottaki was due back in Iran later on Tuesday.

Several Tehran newspapers expressed shock and surprise at the abrupt dismissal.

The hardline daily, Kayhan, which is close to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, called it a "clear insult" to the veteran diplomat, who had been foreign minister since 2005.

The paper suggested that the firing was the result of a dispute between Mr Ahmadinejad and Mr Mottaki over "parallel diplomacy", which flared up in summer after the president tried to name his own aides as special envoys to work alongside the foreign service.

Mr Ahmadinejad only backed down after Ayatollah Khamenei intervened.

Nuclear talks

Lawmakers, who will have to approve any new ministerial appointment, also criticised the move and the way it was carried out.

"Of course, I do not approve of the manner Mr Mottaki was dismissed, because he was on duty in Senegal when his dismissal order was issued," Esmail Kowsari, a senior member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission was quoted as saying by Fars news agency.

The commission would review the appointment of Mr Salehi as the interim foreign minister, he added.

Mr Salehi, 61, was appointed Iran's atomic energy chief in July 2009. He has been a driving force behind the country's nuclear programme.

But neither Mr Salehi nor his predecessor are on the Iranian negotiating team that is in talks with world powers on Iran's controversial programme, which the West suspects is aimed at acquiring nuclear weapons. Tehran insists it is for civilian energy purposes.

Further talks are scheduled for next month in Iran's neighbour, Turkey, between Iran and the group of P5+1 - the UK, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-11990619>

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

Vancouver Sun – Canada

North Korea Stresses Commitment to Nuclear Weapons

By Maria Antonova, Agence France-Presse (AFP)
December 10, 2010

MOSCOW - North Korea vowed Friday to push ahead with its "army first" policy and rely on nuclear weapons to defend itself from the joint forces of South Korea and the United States.

But the bellicose language of Foreign Minister Pak Ui Chun was immediately followed by the announcement that he would travel to Russia next week in an apparent bid to negotiate a peaceful end to the nuclear crisis.

The reclusive state's minister told Russia's Interfax news agency that he would pay a rare visit to Moscow on December 12-15 to discuss "bilateral relations and key international problems."

But he stressed in comments from Pyongyang that his country would respond to any pressure with force, and that it would rely on nuclear weapons for deterrence.

North Korea is "assured of the rectitude of our choice of the songun (army first) policy, and in strengthening a defence that relies on nuclear forces for deterrence," said Pak.

His comments came amid a flurry of behind-the-scenes diplomatic activity aimed at calming tensions that escalated further with the Stalinist state's November 23 shelling of a South Korean island in the Yellow Sea.

China — which has failed to condemn the attack despite strong U.S. pressure — sent senior foreign affairs official Dai Bingguo to Pyongyang to meet leader Kim Jong-Il.

Chinese news reports said the two sides had reached a "consensus" on the peninsula but provided no further details.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg is also scheduled to visit Beijing next week in a bid to press the Chinese to take stronger action.

Unlike Beijing, Moscow has lost much of its influence on Pyongyang since the Soviet era.

As a consequence, it has also been far more critical of the Stalinist state, with which it does not even have a functioning rail link.

Moscow has repeatedly urged North Korea to rejoin the six-party peace process with South Korea, China, the United States, Japan and Russia, refusing to back Pyongyang's demand for direct negotiations with Washington.

And Moscow repeated that message on Friday in a sign of what is to come in the Pak-Lavrov talks.

"We need to think about creating conditions to restart talks between the six parties," Grigory Logvinov, said Russia's deputy pointman on North Korea, told Interfax.

"The atmosphere in the region is in a heated state," Logvinov said in comments released moments after Pak's threat.

"The main thing is to take steps to release the tension. All sides must avoid taking any actions that can escalate the situation," the Russian diplomat added.

North Korea's Pak said Pyongyang was always ready to negotiate.

"Even in the atmosphere of the escalated situation, we have expressed support of resuming the six-party negotiation process," he said.

Some analysts suggested that North Korea was turning to its former Communist provider as an act of desperation and because it was running out of other options.

"The visit of the North Korean minister to Moscow is a symbolic event. Russia is not the main actor in settling the Korean conflict, but no one else is able to do anything," said Fyodor Lukyanov, editor of Russia in Global Affairs.

"North Korea does not perceive Russia as part of the hostile West, nor does it fear it like China. Russian diplomacy has the chance to play a positive role, relieve tension, quell passions, so that the sides stop looking at each other through their gun sights."

Russia last played a major role in the crisis in 2001, when Kim Jong-Il famously took a train across the country from Kremlin talks with then-president Vladimir Putin.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/North+Korea+stresses+commitment+nuclear+weapons/3958278/story.html>

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

Yonhap News – South Korea
December 11, 2010

N. Korean FM Defends Pyongyang's Decision to Bolster Nuclear Arsenal

MOSCOW, Dec. 11 (Yonhap) -- The current tensions on the Korean Peninsula prove that North Korea made the right decision to bolster its nuclear arsenal, Pyongyang's top diplomat said, accusing South Korea and the U.S. of seeking confrontation with the communist nation.

Foreign Minister Pak Ui-chun made the remark in an interview with Russia's Interfax news agency Friday ahead of his planned trip to Moscow, set for Dec. 12-15. Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency said in a brief dispatch that Pak departed Saturday for the Eastern European nation.

The visit comes amid a flurry of diplomacy to deal with high tensions over North Korea's artillery attack on South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island, which killed four people, including two civilians.

"Recently the situation on the Korean Peninsula has been in quite a dangerous stage, while inter-Korean relations are worse than ever," Pak said in the interview. "The main reason behind this escalation is the United States' hostile policy in relation to the DPRK and the policy of confrontation with the North being pursued by the current ruling forces of South Korea."

DPRK is the acronym for the North's official name, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Unless Seoul and Washington drop "their hostile and confrontational policy" toward the North, Pak said, it will be impossible to reduce tensions on the divided peninsula.

"We once again saw the rightness of our choice in favor of the Songun policy and the comprehensive strengthening of our self-defense potential based on nuclear deterrence forces," he said. Songun refers to North Korean leader Kim Jong-il's "military-first" policy of putting priority on building stronger armed forces.

Despite the high tensions, the North supports resuming the six-party nuclear talks, Pak said, accusing Washington of opposing dialogue and ignoring its proposal of a peace treaty.

South Korea and the U.S. say that the North should first improve relations with Seoul and demonstrate its denuclearization commitment through action so as to create the right atmosphere for resuming the nuclear talks involving the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the U.S.

The nuclear talks have been stalled since the last session in December 2008.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2010/12/11/8/0401000000AEN20101211001600315F.HTML>

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Japan Plans more Patriot Systems to Shoot Down N. Korean Missiles

11 December 2010

Japan will deploy a larger network of land-based U.S. Patriot PAC-3 systems to ensure effective defenses against North Korean ballistic missiles, a draft defense document says.

The White Paper on national defense, an annual revision of the country's basic defense program, is expected to be adopted by the end of 2010 to reflect the recent crisis on the Korean peninsula.

Patriot missiles were previously deployed only at three air bases in Japan but in the near future additional systems will be placed on all major Japanese islands, the draft document says.

North Korea became one of Tokyo's biggest security worries after it test-fired a long-range ballistic missile over Japan in 1998, prompting Tokyo to begin researching missile defense.

Japan's determination to boost its missile defenses was strengthened after Pyongyang conducted a series of ballistic missile tests in July 2006, and an underground nuclear test explosion three months later.

Japanese military is particularly concerned about [N. Korean medium-range ballistic missiles](#) with the flight range of 1,300 kilometers.

Japan is one of the 12 nations that have selected the combat-proven Patriot system as a key component of their air and missile defense program.

TOKYO, December 11 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20101211/161728662.html

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

Yonhap News – South Korea

December 13, 2010

S. Korea, U.S. Launch Joint Committee to Deter N. Korea's Nuclear Threats

SEOUL, Dec. 13 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States have formed a joint committee to make decisions about the alliance's nuclear policy, stepping up their commitment to deterring threats from North Korea's nuclear programs and other weapons of mass destruction, officials here said Monday.

The Extended Deterrence Policy Committee was officially set up at a meeting of the Security Policy Initiative (SPI) forum in Seoul earlier in the day between senior defense officials from the two nations, the South's defense ministry said in a statement.

"The Extended Deterrence Policy Committee was launched as the two sides signed terms of reference to systemize it," said a senior ministry official.

"Institutionalizing the committee is meaningful for the alliance because it paves the way for the two governments to draw up countermeasures against North Korea's nuclear threats and weapons of mass destruction," the official said on the condition of anonymity.

South Korea and the U.S. agreed to hold the first meeting of the committee in February or March of next year in Washington, headed by Deputy Defense Minister Chang Kwang-il and his U.S. counterpart, Michael Schiffer, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Asia and Pacific security affairs. South Korea and the U.S. agreed to form the committee at their annual defense ministers' meeting in October.

Extended deterrence means the U.S. can provide tactical and strategic nuclear weapons, conventional strike and missile defense capabilities to defend South Korea in case of an attack from North Korea. It is the first time for the U.S. to create such a committee with a non-NATO ally.

During the SPI talks, the allies also reaffirmed their commitment to respond firmly should North Korea strike the South again, after its Nov. 23 artillery on the South's border island of Yeonpyeong.

The SPI talks, the 27th of their kind, come as tensions run high on the Korean Peninsula following the North's island attack that killed four people.

The bombardment also injured 18 people and destroyed dozens of homes, marking the first attack by the North on a civilian area on the South's soil since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

South Korea and the U.S. have held SPI talks regularly since 2005 to discuss a wide range of military and defense issues. The U.S. has about 28,500 troops in South Korea to help defend its ally against North Korea.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2010/12/13/1/0301000000AEN20101213007700315F.HTML>

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

Sydney Morning Herald – Australia

N Korea's Nuclear Capacity Worries Russia

December 14, 2010

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says he is deeply worried by North Korea's capacity to enrich uranium, which can be used to make nuclear weapons.

During a meeting with his North Korean counterpart Pak Ui-Chun, "Lavrov expressed his deep concern about information about the industrial uranium enrichment capability at Yongbyon", the foreign ministry said in a statement on Monday.

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

Lavrov "called on North Korea to comply with UN Security Council resolutions 1718 and 1874," the statement said.

Resolution 1874, which was adopted unanimously by the Security Council on June 12, 2009, imposes economic and trade sanctions on North Korea for failing to comply with resolution 1718 over its nuclear program.

Moscow also called for a resumption of six-party talks on the program.

"The Russian side noted that it was indispensable to relaunch the process of six-party talks on the North Korea issue," said Lavrov.

Russia is one of the six countries involved in the stalled talks alongside the two Koreas, China, Japan and the United States.

China proposed in late November to hold a new meeting but the idea has been cold-shouldered by Washington, Seoul and Tokyo.

Moscow, along with Beijing, has had warm relations with communist North Korea since the days of the old Soviet Union and has sought to ease tensions after North Korea's artillery attack on a South Korean island on November 23.

The North's bombardment of the border island triggered a regional crisis and highlighted divisions between China, the North's sole major ally and key food and fuel source, and the United States on ways to restrain the hardline regime.

Talks between Lavrov and his North Korean opposite number are due to continue until Wednesday.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/n-koreas-nuclear-capacity-worries-russia-20101214-18vn4.html>

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

France 24.com – France

S.Korea Suspects Secret Uranium Enrichment in North

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

14 December 2010

South Korea's foreign minister voiced suspicion on Tuesday that North Korea may have secret uranium enrichment facilities, in addition to the one it disclosed last month.

The North revealed an apparently operational uranium enrichment plant at its Yongbyon atomic complex to visiting US experts on November 12, shortly before it sparked a security crisis with an artillery attack on a South Korean island.

Pyongyang says its new operation is intended to fuel a nuclear power plant but senior US and other officials fear it could easily be reconfigured to produce weapons-grade uranium to augment the country's plutonium stockpile.

Diplomats are touring the region to discuss a response both to the attack and the potential new nuclear threat.

Chosun Ilbo newspaper, quoting a South Korean intelligence source, said Seoul and Washington believe there may be three or four other locations where the North is conducting uranium enrichment.

"It is a report based on intelligence information and I would just like to say we have been following the issue for some time," Foreign Minister Kim Sung-Hwan told a briefing.

US scientist Siegfried Hecker, one of those to see the Yongbyon plant, said it was most likely designed to make fuel for a civilian reactor and not bombs.

"However, it is highly likely that a parallel covert facility capable of HEU (highly enriched uranium) production exists elsewhere in the country," he wrote in Foreign Affairs magazine.

Kim said: "I can't speak definitely, but I personally think that there is a fair point in Dr Hecker's assumption."

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, at a meeting Monday with his visiting North Korean counterpart Pak Ui-Chun, expressed "deep concern" about the new uranium capability, Moscow's foreign ministry said.

South Korea is still in shock after the North's November 23 bombardment of Yeonpyeong island near the disputed Yellow Sea border, which killed four people including two civilians.

It was the first attack on a civilian area in the South since the 1950-53 war.

Army chief General Hwang Eui-Don resigned Tuesday over a controversial property investment, in a further blow to the military's morale. It has been widely criticised for a perceived feeble response to the North's attack.

Hwang stepped down following media reports that he had profited unfairly from the property deal, a claim he denies.

But he judged it inappropriate to stay in his post at a time when he must lead reform of the army, a defence ministry spokesman told AFP.

Lavrov urged North Korea to comply with UN Security Council resolutions banning its nuclear activities and called for a resumption of six-party talks aimed at negotiating an end to the North's nuclear programmes.

Russia is involved in the stalled talks alongside the two Koreas, China, Japan and the United States.

China, the North's sole major ally, has called for a new meeting of six-party envoys to resolve the latest crisis.

But the United States, Japan and South Korea say a return to negotiations at this point could be seen as rewarding the North's aggression.

They want China, which has failed publicly to condemn its ally for the island attack, to take a tougher line. US Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg is to visit Beijing this week to press for stronger action.

As part of a flurry of regional diplomacy, South Korea's chief nuclear envoy Wi Sung-Lac left Tuesday for talks with his Russian counterpart Alexei Borodavkin on the shelling and the uranium programme.

And New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson will visit North Korea from December 16 to 20, on what is billed as a private trip, to try to calm tensions.

Minister Kim restated calls for the North to show seriousness about disarmament before six-party talks resume and said discussions should cover the uranium enrichment issue.

"We hope China will play a bigger role with a firm voice" to curb the North, he said.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20101214-skorea-suspects-secret-uranium-enrichment-north>

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

Bangkok Post – Thailand

US Suspects Secret Burma Nuclear Sites

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

12 December 2010

Washington has suspected for years that Burma has a secret nuclear programme supported by North Korea, with witnesses reporting suspicious activity as far back as 2004, leaked memos show.

One cable from the US embassy in Rangoon, dated August of that year and released Thursday by the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks, quoted an unidentified source as saying he saw about 300 North Koreans working at an underground site.

"The North Koreans, aided by Burmese workers, are constructing a concrete-reinforced underground facility that is '500ft from the top of the cave to the top of the hill above'," according to the cable.

"The North Koreans are said to be assembling missiles of unknown origin," it said, adding that the report alone should not be taken as definitive proof or evidence of sizeable North Korean military involvement with the Burma regime.

Another memo, also dated 2004, quoted a foreign businessman as saying that he had seen a reinforced steel bar, larger than for just a factory project, being unloaded from a barge in the same area in west-central Magway Division.

The cable said the source had volunteered to an US Embassy Officer that he had heard rumours that a nuclear reactor was being built near the town of Minbu.

It said that while there was no direct evidence of cooperation between Burma's generals and Pyongyang, there were increasing reports of alleged sightings of North Korean "technicians" inside the Southeast Asian nation.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warned in July 2009 about possible nuclear links between Burma and North Korea, and earlier this year she said a ship from Pyongyang had delivered military equipment to Burma.

In June 2009, a North Korean cargo ship, the Kang Nam 1, suspected of carrying military equipment, was tracked by a US Navy destroyer as it headed to Burma.

Burma's junta -- which recently held a widely criticised election seen as prolonging military rule -- has dismissed reports of its nuclear intentions and brushed aside Western concerns about possible cooperation with North Korea.

A UN report released last month alleged North Korea is supplying banned nuclear and ballistic equipment to Burma as well as Iran and Syria.

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

The DVB documentary gathered thousands of photos and defector testimony, some regarding Burma's network of secret underground bunkers and tunnels, which were allegedly built with the help of North Korean expertise.

Robert Kelley, a former director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) who inspected the files smuggled out of Burma by Sai Thein Win, said in October evidence indicated "a clandestine nuclear programme" was under way.

"This is not a well-developed programme. I don't think it's going very well," he said at the time.

"But if another country steps in and has all of the knowledge, the materials, and maybe the key to some of the things that are plaguing them, including bad management, this programme could really speed up."

Kelley said North Korea was "certainly the country I have in mind".

According to another cable from 2009, a well-placed source in the Burma government said General Thura Shwe Mann had visited North Korea in 2008.

But the source backtracked later insisting the talks were only exploratory.

The leaked memos also suggest that key backer China was fed up with the "foot-dragging" of Burma's military junta on reform and feared the ruling generals could no longer protect its interests in the country.

"The Chinese can no longer rely on the generals to protect their interests here, and recognise the need to broker some solution that keeps the peace," according to a US cable dated January 2008.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/210682/us-suspects-secret-burma-nuclear-sites-cables>

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

Bangkok Post - Thailand

Burma Not Nuclear, Says Abhisit

December 12, 2010

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has dismissed claims in a leaked US cable that Burma is building a nuclear programme with help from North Korea.

Mr Abhisit said yesterday there was no evidence to support the accusation that Burma possesses or is producing a nuclear weapon.

He said none of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations members has any intention to possess nuclear weapons.

"I can remember that Burma confirmed in an Asean-US summit that it wanted to see Asean as a nuclear-free region," Mr Abhisit said.

Still, he said Thailand had been monitoring movements in neighbouring countries for the sake of national security.

A cable from the US embassy in Rangoon, released on Thursday by the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks, quoted a Burmese officer as saying he had witnessed North Korean technicians helping build a nuclear facility.

One foreign businessman told the embassy he had seen reinforced steel bars, larger than for a factory project, being shipped on a barge.

Dockworkers also told of seeing suspicious cargo. A cable dating from August 2004 revealed information from a Burmese officer in an engineering unit who said surface-to-air missiles were being built at a site in Minbu town in west-central Burma.

He said about 300 North Koreans were working at the site, although the US cable noted this was improbably high, The Guardian newspaper in Britain reported.

Burma has dismissed reports of its nuclear intentions and brushed aside Western concerns about its possible cooperation with North Korea.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/210882/burma-not-nuclear-says-abhisit>

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

Times of India - India

Test of Agni-II's Advanced Version Fails

Tamil News Network (TNN)

December 11, 2010

NEW DELHI: In another jolt to India's strategic missile programme, the test-firing of an advanced version of Agni-II failed on Friday with the nuclear-capable weapon system veering off course and plunging into the sea off the Orissa coast.

The Agni-II-plus missile, designed to have strike range of around 2,500 km, did achieve lift-off from a road mobile launcher at the Integrated Test Range in Wheeler Island around 10 am but deviated from its planned trajectory within 30 seconds.

"The experimental launch of Agni-II-P experienced a trajectory deviation immediately after the lift-off, leading to the failure of the mission. Detailed analysis is in progress (to ascertain the reason behind the failure)," said a defence ministry official.

"Many new technologies like composite rocket motor, indigenous ring laser gyro-based navigation system and road mobile launch were being tested in this mission. Many of these new technologies have been proved," he added.

The fact, however, remains the Agni family of missiles, which constitute the land leg of India's quest for a fully-operational nuclear-weapon triad, have been dogged by repeated glitches over the years.

The Agni-II missile, in particular, suffered two failures in a row last year. DRDO scientists, on their part, blamed manufacturing problems, rather than any design and development flaws, for the failures.

Be that as it may, the only ballistic missiles which can be said to be "100% operational" at present are the short-range Prithvi missile (150-350 km) and, to a certain extent, the 700-km range Agni-I.

The 3,500-km Agni-III, which will give India the strategic capability to hit targets deep inside China, will become fully operational only by 2012 at the earliest.

India's most ambitious strategic missile Agni-V, in turn, will be ready for its first test in early-2011. With a proposed range of 5,000 km, Agni-V will have near ICBM capabilities (strike range in excess of 5,500 km) and is intended to give India's "dissuasive deterrence posture" against China some much-needed muscle.

Interestingly, Agni-V will be a canister-launch missile system to ensure it can be swiftly moved closer to the border with China to bring the entire country within its strike envelope.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Test-of-Agni-IIs-advanced-version-fails/articleshow/7078367.cms>

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Russian Military to Receive 1,300 Types of Weaponry by 2020

13 December 2010

The Russian Armed Forces will receive over 1,300 types of weaponry in line with a draft arms procurement program until 2020, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Monday.

"We will need to set up new or expand the existing production lines to manufacture 220 of the new types of weaponry," Putin told a meeting on the program, which is expected to be adopted by the yearend.

More than 20 trillion rubles (\$640.7 billion) will be earmarked for weapons procurement, three times more than is allocated in the existing 2007-2015 program, he added.

The new program stipulates the upgrade of up to 11 percent of military equipment annually and will allow Russia to increase the share of modern weaponry to 70 percent by 2020.

Putin said that 4.7 trillion rubles (\$150.7 billion), or almost a quarter of the total budget, would be allocated to the modernization of the Russian Navy.

"We now have more money and there are possibilities to expedite the construction [of submarines]," Putin said after visiting the Alexander Nevsky nuclear submarine, which is under construction at the Sevmash shipyard in the town of Severodvinsk in northern Russia.

Alexander Nevsky is the second of the Borey class nuclear submarines being built at Sevmash.

The Yury Dolgoruky sub has completed sea trials and could be adopted by the Navy in 2011, while the Vladimir Monomakh, and Svyatitel Nikolai (St. Nicholas) are in different stages of completion.

Russia is planning to build eight of these subs by 2015 and equip them with Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

SEVERODVINSK, December 13 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20101213/161759690.html

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

People's Daily – China

Russia, NATO May Make Soon Progress in Joint Missile Defense Progress

December 14, 2010

Russia and NATO were possible to make progress in creating the joint missile defense shield in Europe within a month, Director of the NATO Information Center in Moscow Robert Pszczel said on Monday.

Pszczel spoke highly of the bilateral pragmatic cooperation between Russia and NATO, but not gave the timetable about the joint project.

Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov said in the meeting with Pszczel that Russia is ready to share responsibility in creating the joint missile defense and to become a full member of this system.

However, he reiterated Russia needs to know its role in this joint system.

In addition, Pszczel also said in the meeting that Georgia is not prepared to enter NATO, as it has not fulfilled the NATO admission requirements.

Although NATO agreed in 2008 Bucharest summit to Georgia's accession, the possibility depended on the Georgia's compliance with the NATO requirements, Pszczel said.

Currently, Georgia and NATO are continuing to discuss the accession, he said, adding that NATO is ready to discuss the admission of new members, as its open door policy has never been changed.

After the Bucharest summit, NATO delayed Georgia and Ukraine's admission to the organization due to Russia's tough stance.

Source: Xinhua

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/90853/7230253.html>

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

Radio Havana Cuba - Cuba

December 10, 2010

Bolivia Rejects Alvaro Uribe's Accusations about Nuclear Program

Cancun, December 10 (RHC) -- The Bolivian government rejected accusations by former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe that Bolivia and Venezuela were in a nuclear arms race.

Quoted by local news sources on Thursday, Bolivian Defense Minister Ruben Saavedra said: "Uribe's words are ridiculous and out of context."

Saavedra said that "Bolivia does not have the time nor the money to be in a nuclear arms race," adding that Uribe's remarks aim to affect the image of Bolivia and Venezuela.

The Bolivian minister lamented that former presidents like Uribe are trying to harm Bolivia with declarations that are not only out of place, but also far from the truth.

While rejecting Uribe's statements, Minister Saavedra also said that the former president "uses his imagination too much, and we do not know what objective he has in mind, for saying such lies."

Earlier this week, Alvaro Uribe warned about the danger of the nuclear weapons programs in Venezuela and Bolivia, saying that neither Bolivia nor Venezuela "need energy resources," which means that they "are in a nuclear arms race."

http://www.radiohc.cu/ingles/a_noticiasdelmundo/10/diciembre/10/mundo21.htm

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

Global Security Newswire

U.S. to Spend \$1B Over Five Years on Conventional Strike Systems

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

The Obama administration expects to spend more than \$1 billion in the next half decade to study and develop potential non-nuclear "prompt global strike" systems, the U.S. State Department said yesterday (see *GSN*, Sept. 22).

The global strike technology is intended to offer an alternative to using long-range nuclear-tipped missiles to eliminate major imminent threats, such as a North Korean missile being prepared for launch. However, some observers have expressed concern that, under certain conditions, a conventional-armed ballistic missile might be mistaken for a strategic weapon, leading another nuclear power to launch a devastating response.

The Defense Department is assessing conventional prompt global strike capabilities as part of a review of its "long-range strike options," according to a State Department fact sheet released yesterday. The findings will be "reflected" in the Pentagon's budget request for fiscal 2012.

In the 2010 fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, spending emphasized the preparation and exhibition of systems for a land-based global strike capability in the United States, according to the fact sheet. The administration is also looking at systems that would be carried on submarines.

Ongoing projects include the:

-- Hypersonic Technology Vehicle-2 Technology Experiments, which would receive \$308 million in Pentagon funding from fiscal 2003 to fiscal 2011 for development and two flight tests;

-- Conventional Strike Missile, which would receive \$477 million from fiscal 2008 through fiscal 2013 to allow the Air Force "to complete the operational demonstration," the fact sheet says; and

-- Advanced Hypersonic Weapon Technology Experiment, which would receive \$180 million from fiscal 2006 through this fiscal year to enable the Army to conduct a flight test.

A new U.S.-Russian nuclear arms control deal, now awaiting ratification by legislatures in both nations, "allows the United States to deploy CPGS systems, and does not in any way limit or constrain research, development, testing, and evaluation of such concepts and systems, which offer the prospect of striking any target in the world in less than an hour," according to the State Department (see *GSN*, Dec. 13).

"Intercontinental ballistic missiles with a traditional trajectory would be accountable under the treaty; however, the treaty's limits would accommodate any plans the United States might pursue during the life of this treaty to deploy conventional warheads on ballistic missiles," the fact sheet states. "Further, the United States made clear during the New START negotiations that we would not consider non-nuclear, long-range systems, which do not otherwise meet the definitions of the New START treaty (such as boost-glide systems that do not fly a ballistic trajectory), to be accountable under the treaty" (U.S. State Department release, Dec. 13).

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20101214_5988.php

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

Japan Times – Japan

OPINION/Editorial

Sunday, December 12, 2010

Talks with Iran Just a Start

The five U.N. Security Council members — the United States, China, Britain, France and Russia — and Germany held meetings with Iran in Geneva on Dec. 6 and 7 over the latter's nuclear program — the first such meetings since October 2009 and since the UNSC imposed the fourth set of sanctions against Iran in June 2010. The six powers and Iran failed to make any substantive progress. They only agreed to meet again in Istanbul in late January.

The six powers have been calling on Iran to stop its uranium enrichment activities. But Iran says it will not stop the activities, insisting that they are for peaceful purposes, such as power generation and medical use. On Dec. 5, before the meetings, Iran announced that it had succeeded in domestically making yellowcake, the raw material for enriched uranium.

The international community does not want to see Iran increase its storage of enriched uranium. But according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran has manufactured 3.1 tons of low-enriched uranium with a concentration of less than 5 percent, doubling the amount stored in the past year. It is said that if this were enriched to weapons-grade level, it would be enough to build two or three nuclear weapons.

If Iran developed nuclear weapons, it would greatly destabilize the Middle East. U.S. diplomatic cables made public by WikiLeaks show that Saudi Arabia and Egypt told the U.S. that if Iran develops nuclear weapons, they may do the same. Moreover, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia repeatedly urged the U.S. to attack Iran to destroy its nuclear program.

In an effort to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, the U.S. has acknowledged that Iran has the right to a peaceful nuclear program and accepted the operation of Iran's first nuclear power plant built with Russian assistance. Russia, for its part, has almost totally stopped its military assistance to Iran. In July, the U.S. and the European Union adopted their own sanctions against Iran. At the very least, Iran should make its nuclear program completely transparent. Doing so would help it avoid international isolation.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/ed20101212a1.html>

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

The Australian – Australia
OPINION

Iran's Nuclear Plans Give West a Tough Choice

By Peter Khalil, Michael Danby and Carl Ungerer, *The Australian*
December 14, 2010

THE time to stop the mullahs is now.

THE WikiLeaks revelation that the Australian intelligence community has explicitly warned that Iran should not be seen "merely" as a rogue state, but as a rational actor should not be used to alter the fact that Iran remains a menace to regional and international security.

While Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad may score more headline-spinning conspiracy theories out of the WikiLeaks drama, he is a sideshow, a willing and fanatic puppet of the Iranian regime. The real power and the puppet masters in Iran are the clerics, led by Ayatollah Khamenei and his Guardian Council.

Iran's threat to regional and global security is a result of the now clear strategy of these unelected Khamenei theocrats - regional dominance through military aggression and nuclear weapons. No-one is fooled by Iran's recent nuclear gamesmanship. Endless "negotiations" to try to ensure the Iranians comply with their declared peaceful nuclear energy program result in exasperation with Iranian intransigence.

The international community (including the Russians and Chinese - although they will not say it too loudly) share an inescapable view that Iran is pursuing an offensive nuclear weapons program.

Estimates vary, but the best guess of the Western intelligence community is that Iran already has enough enriched uranium to produce a bomb. Extensive UN sanctions, and further unilateral sanctions such as those passed by the Australian parliament, temporarily restrain Tehran's drive for a nuclear weapon.

But sanctions are never enough. The critical question as we approach the endgame is: what would be the effect on regional and global security if Iran had a nuclear weapon?

Some suspect the crazy mullahs might press the red button for a launch on Tel Aviv as soon as the weapon came off the assembly line. The Israeli national security leadership is adamant that Iran with a weapon poses a threat to Israel's existence. Despite integrated Israeli defences, including theatre missile defences, laser weapons and advanced radar and satellite technology, they say they cannot take the risk of Iran developing a nuclear weapon, even if there is only a 1 per cent chance that Tehran would use it against Israel.

Although this existential threat to Israel is understandable - and a strong reason why a military airstrike against Iranian nuclear facilities (either by the US or Israel) is under serious consideration - we argue that even if Tehran did not use the weapon there are a number of other implications of a nuclear-armed Iran.

First, Iran would be able to enhance its strategic leverage in the region. Already Iran, through the manipulation of its proxies in Hezbollah and Hamas and its close relationship with Syria, has moved towards a growing regional hegemony - nuclear weapons would complete the journey to dominance in the Middle East. Does anyone seriously believe Hamas and Hezbollah would not step up their belligerence with an Iranian nuclear state backing them?

Second, global security would be undermined by an Iran that could threaten the shipping lanes in the Straits of Hormuz, where about 15 million barrels of oil tanker traffic distributes fuel to Asia every day. The obvious consequence would be an oil price hike, which incidentally would be to Iran's benefit as well.

And it is not only the West that is seeking to resist Iranian dominance in the region. The Sunni Arab states tremble at the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran.

Viewed rationally, Iran's strategic and political interests do not lie in using nuclear weapons against Israel, because this would invite massive retaliation and guarantee the end of the Iranian theocracy. Tehran's interests lie in exploiting the increased strategic leverage that its nuclear status would bring in order to expand its reach and religious influence across the region.

By introducing additional sanctions on Iran's banking, insurance and transport sectors, Australia is joining with the international community to do everything it can to find a diplomatic solution to this crisis. And Russia should be given credit for cancelling the sale of sophisticated air defence systems that might have made Iranian nuclear facilities impregnable.

But if diplomacy fails, containment will not work. A nuclear Iran could not be contained even if it did not use its weapons, because nothing the West or the Arab states could do would threaten its position or force it to check its activities.

The only credible alternative is to use military force. As Iraq discovered in the 1980s, and the Syrians more recently, secret nuclear weapons programs and facilities are vulnerable to precision airstrikes.

The price of a military airstrike on Iran would be a heavy one - Iran would undoubtedly use its proxies in Lebanon, Gaza and Iraq to hit back at Western targets. It would sponsor terrorism across the globe and might attempt to hit oil tankers in the Straits of Hormuz. And there is no guarantee airstrikes would destroy all aspects of the nuclear program.

So the calculation that the US and its allies must now make is clear - are we willing to accept the short-term pain and consequences of military action if it helps prevent Iran from stepping over the line and acquiring a nuclear weapon, or can we live with the longer-term strategic challenges of a nuclear-armed, regionally dominant, militarily aggressive and emboldened Iran?

It is fast approaching the time when that choice must be made.

Peter Khalil is an adjunct associate professor at the Centre for International Security Studies at the University of Sydney and a consultant with Hawker Britton. Michael Danby is a federal MP and was chairman of the foreign affairs sub-committee. Carl Ungerer is director of the national security program at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/irans-nuclear-plans-give-west-a-tough-choice/story-e6frg6zo-1225970475487>

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