



# **USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**

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*nuclear (CBRN) threats and countermeasures. It's our hope this information resource will help enhance your counterproliferation issue awareness.*

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Tehran Times  
7 April 2009

## **Iran Urges Russia to Complete Bushehr Nuclear Plant Rapidly**

TEHRAN (FNA)- Iran urged Russia to speed up work to finish the remaining parts and complete construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

Iran's nuclear power plant located in the southern port city of Bushehr was pre-commissioned in February in the presence of the Head of the Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency, Sergei Kiriyenko. During the test-run, the facility was tested by virtual fuel.

""The important project of Bushehr nuclear power plant that is regarded as the symbol for the two countries' cooperation by Iranian government and nation is one of the most important issues in (the two countries') mutual cooperation,"" Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Seyed Reza Sajjadi said on Monday.

""In this regard, it is necessary that all measures and actions are taken in a bid to accelerate the small remaining issues and accomplish this project on time,"" he stressed while addressing a gathering of Russian scholars and students.

Sajjadi termed ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation ""positive and progressive"", and said, ""Continued consultation between the two countries' officials promises a bright future for (the two sides') bilateral relations.""

The Iranian diplomat pointed to Tehran-Moscow cooperation and consultations in a number of important economic and technological fields, including energy, oil, gas, satellite technology, power plant construction, airplane purchase, planning and designing, shipbuilding, expansion of rail and road transportation.

[http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index\\_view.asp?code=191635](http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index_view.asp?code=191635)

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Global Security Newswire  
April 7, 2009

## **Syria Unlikely to Resume Nuclear-Weapon Program, Expert Says**

By Chris Schneidmiller

WASHINGTON -- The Syrian facility destroyed in a 2007 Israeli air strike almost certainly housed a reactor being readied to produce nuclear-weapon material, an effort that the Middle Eastern state is not likely to resume, one expert said yesterday (see *GSN*, March 20).

"I think for the moment this program is really quite dead, not likely to be restarted," said Leonard Spector, head of the Washington office for the Monterey Institute's James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies.

Spector spoke here on the first day of a nonproliferation conference organized by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, on a panel that addressed several "nuclear crisis points" -- also including Iran, North Korea and Pakistan.

Syria, which joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1969 as a non-nuclear-weapon state, is perhaps the most recent addition to that list.

Israel has not commented publicly on its reasons for eliminating the structure at al-Kibar in September 2007, but U.S. intelligence officials would later allege it was the core of Syria's attempts to establish itself as a nuclear-weapon state (see *GSN*, April 25, 2008).

Damascus denied that claim, and in the wake of the attack razed the site and built a new structure in the same location. It has allowed only one inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which found some evidence to support the assertion that the facility was a nearly finished reactor designed with help from North Korea to produce weapon-ready plutonium (see *GSN*, Nov. 19, 2008).

"From my point of view, there really wasn't too much doubt, based on the information provided by the CIA, and some of the information ... obtained by the IAEA, that this was indeed a nuclear-weapon program that Syria was embarked on," Spector said, citing "the style of the reactor, the secrecy with which it was built, the efforts to disguise its presence, [and] now we're hearing of some type of uranium on site."

Some audience members said the matter remained unresolved. The U.N. nuclear watchdog's investigation has been hampered by the attack, which eliminated the key piece of evidence, said Ambassador Taous Feroukhi of Algeria, current chairwoman of the IAEA Board of Governors.

"The board is still divided regarding Syria because there is no evidence that there is undeclared activity in that installation that has been destroyed," she said.

Her complaints echoed those of IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei, who has said that Jerusalem and Washington should have shared their suspicions with his organization before the strike.

Even the CIA appears to have doubts, Spector said. The agency says the absence of a reactor fuel fabrication facility and a reprocessing plant at al-Kibar leaves it only "low confidence" that Syria sought a weapons capability. He argued, though, that the presence of processed uranium at the location indicates that Syria might have obtained reactor fuel from North Korea or another source, while Pyongyang has showed that a reactor can begin operations before a reprocessor comes online.

"The sequence here does not really push you away from the view that this was in fact a nuclear-weapon program," Spector said.

Panelist Ariel Levite, a nonresident senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment, noted that Damascus has blocked IAEA access to several other facilities: "They may be part of the mystery."

Syria had several reasons for wanting a nuclear-weapon program, according to Spector. By 1997, when discussions are believed to have begun with North Korea, Syria no longer enjoyed the patronage of the former Soviet Union and the political backing and access to weaponry that came with it, he said.

"The entire role of Syria in the Middle East was diminished, in part, because of this," Spector said. "There was also increasing fear of possible encirclement because of growing Israeli capabilities and the increasing presence of the United States in the region."

The "critical factor" was North Korea's willingness to assist then-Syrian leader Hafez Assad realize his ambitions for his nation, Spector said: "I think without that there could not have been a program."

Video taken inside the facility shows North Korean personnel and indicates that the plant itself appears to be modeled after the Stalinist state's plutonium-producing reactor at Yongbyon, U.S. officials have said. Washington has claimed that Pyongyang is no longer providing nuclear assistance to Damascus.

Lack of access to that expertise and the seeming elimination of the black market nuclear network once led by former top Pakistani atomic scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan is likely to prevent Syria from trying to build another reactor, Spector said.

Spector asked why the international community has not pressed the case on Syria as hard as it has other nations suspected of operating illicit nuclear programs. He then offered several possible answers to his own question.

Observers might be waiting for additional evidence, though little could be expected from the current level of access allowed by Syria, he said. Nations might also be reluctant to pressure Damascus as they try to diplomatically try to "woo" it back into the global community, Spector added.

"With the Israeli attack, the actual urgency, the danger that might have been posed by the evolution of the Syrian nuclear-weapon capability is no longer before us," he said.

Syria's nuclear program was the fourth to go undetected -- at least for some period of time -- in recent decades, Spector said, naming Iraq in the 1980s, Iran in the 1980s to 1990s and Libya early this decade as the others.

"These were failings of detection by the NPT-IAEA system," he said. "We know there are limits on what the IAEA can do, but certainly this is a very unhappy development."

The U.N. Security Council's inability to enforce nuclear rules, as shown in the cases of Iran and North Korea, "undoubtedly" played a role in Israel's decision to destroy the al-Kibar facility, according to Spector. He labeled the strike a "pure case" of the Bush administration's doctrine of preventive war to eliminate possible threats at an early stage.

"The fact that the international community has responded so cautiously to this event suggests that there may be increased tolerance for these kinds of activities in very, very specific circumstances involving a clandestine facility that appears to be oriented toward the production of nuclear weapons," Spector said.

[http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20090406\\_4627.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20090406_4627.php)

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China View  
7 April 2009

## Israel Tests Arrow Anti-missile System

JERUSALEM, April 7 (Xinhua) -- Israel on Tuesday successfully intercepted a target simulant of an Iranian missile in a test of its Arrow anti-missile system, reported local daily Ha'aretz.

During the test, the target missile, simulating an Iranian Shehab, was launched by Israel's air forces over the Mediterranean Sea, before it was intercepted, an unnamed defense official was quoted as saying.

Over a dozen tests have so far been carried out on the Arrow system, which was co-funded by Israel and the United States and designed to shield the Jewish state from possible ballistic missile attacks by Iran and Syria, reported Israel Radio, adding that 90 percent of the tests are successful.

Late last month, Israel successfully completed a series of tests on its Iron Dome anti-rocket system, which is aimed to protect its citizens from possible rocket fire from Lebanon in the north and from the Gaza Strip in the south.

The two systems are major components of the multi-layer air defense system Israel is trying to build. Defense Minister Ehud Barak said last month that Israel aims at "reaching the stage in which a clear majority of missiles do not reach their targets."

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/07/content\\_11144753.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/07/content_11144753.htm)

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New York Times  
April 8, 2009

## Indictment Says Banned Materials Sold to Iran

By JOHN ELIGON and WILLIAM J. BROAD

Prosecutors in New York have charged a Chinese businessman and his company with recently selling tons of sensitive materials to Iran, clandestine sales that prosecutors say violate United Nations bans aimed at restraining Tehran's rocket and nuclear ambitions.

According to an indictment unsealed in Manhattan on Tuesday, the Chinese company sold tungsten, high-strength steels and exotic metals to the Defense Industries Organization, an arm of the Iranian military, from 2006 to 2008, often using shell companies to hide the transactions. Both Defense Industries and the Chinese parent company, Limmt Economic and Trade Company, are banned by the Treasury Department from doing business in the United States.

The materials have many uses in long-range missiles and nuclear arms, everything from engine nozzles that can withstand fiery temperatures to centrifuges that can enrich uranium into atomic fuel. The materials can be used for weapons as well as civilian purposes.

Many of the raw materials are specifically banned by the United Nations for sale to Iran, and the Iranian recipient is a recognized leader of the military's efforts to make advanced arms. The diversity and quantity of the sales are seen as significant, involving thousands of tons of some of the world's most sensitive raw materials.

Iran's missile and nuclear programs are a central global worry. Tehran is speeding ahead to enrich uranium in defiance of the U.N. Security Council and recently launched a satellite in what analysts see as an important step toward a long-range missile that can hurl warheads.

President Obama is walking a middle path. He has struck a conciliatory tone toward Iran while asking the Russian president, Dmitri A. Medvedev, for help in halting Iran's efforts to unlock the atom and build long-range missiles.

The indictment charges the Chinese businessman, Li Fang Wei, a Limmt executive, and the company with fifth-degree conspiracy and falsifying business records. The Manhattan district attorney, Robert M. Morgenthau, announced an indictment at a news conference on Tuesday that accuses Mr. Li of conspiring to conceal its transactions and of entering false information on bank transactions that went through Manhattan.

In a memo written by Mr. Li in September 2007, he informed Defense Industries that he would refer to the company by the name Rwiot Steel Services in shipping paperwork. That was "not a real company name, but a false name," according to an excerpt of the memo provided by prosecutors. Mr. Li explained that he would use the fake name because it was "worried that the shipment might be blocked by U.S.A.," according to the excerpt.

Although the charges carry light sentences — up to a year in jail for fifth-degree conspiracy and a maximum of four years for falsifying business records — Mr. Morgenthau said the main purpose of the indictment was to expose Iran's nuclear-proliferation efforts.

"What we're trying to do and what we are doing is to make every effort to prosecute the company which is perhaps the largest supplier of weapons of mass destruction to the Iranian government," Mr. Morgenthau said at the news conference, "and also to let people know that the Iranians are deadly serious about acquiring materials for long-range missiles and for atom bombs.

"They're making every effort to do this through deceit. We want to have transparency in these dealings so that everybody understands what the Iranians are up to."

Defense Industries, according to its Iranian Web site, is a state-owned organization and "one of the main affiliated subsidiaries" of the defense ministry, its duties including production for and supply of Iran's armed forces. It has repeatedly been the object of United Nations sanctions.

China has long supplied Iran with nuclear goods. It was a major atomic partner from 1985 to 1997, when intense pressure from the Clinton administration curtailed the relationship. Even so, the two countries did a lot of business.

In 2003, 2004 and 2005, the Bush administration announced sanctions against Chinese companies it accused of aiding Iran's missile and weapons programs.

As for Limmt and its subsidiaries, the State Department placed sanctions on the company in 2004 and 2005, and the Treasury did so in 2006, seeking to isolate it financially. Limmt is a private company with no ties to the Chinese government, Mr. Morgenthau said.

Limmt circumvented sanctions from 2006 to 2008 by operating through its front companies, according to the indictment.

In one instance, in February 2007, a Limmt subsidiary billed a Defense Industries shell company 89,000 euros, or about \$115,700 (dollars in 2007), for 200 pieces of graphite cylinders, Mr. Morgenthau said. And in another case, Mr. Morgenthau said, in June 2008, Limmt used the letterhead of a front company to send a Defense Industries subsidiary an invoice for 1.4 million euros, or about \$1.8 million, for 24,500 kilograms of maraging steel (high-strength) rods.

Mr. Morgenthau said his investigators relied on several weapons experts to assess what the companies were doing. One of those experts, Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, a research organization in Washington, said the results of the investigation were a cause for concern.

"If exports of this magnitude are routinely going from China to Iran," Mr. Milhollin said in an interview, "then it's clear that the United States has failed in its efforts to curb this kind of proliferation."

Phone calls to the Chinese Embassy in Washington and the Chinese Consulate in New York City went unanswered, and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna declined comment.

The investigation resulting in Tuesday's announcement sprouted from a separate inquiry into the illegal channeling of Iranian money through United States banks. During the course of that investigation, some of the transactions between Defense Industries and Limmt came to light, Mr. Morgenthau said.

According to the indictment, Mr. Li used his shell companies to funnel money through several United States banks, including Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and American Express Bank. No United States banks committed any wrongdoing, Mr. Morgenthau said, because they had no way of knowing about Limmt's involvement.

Prosecutors said they were still investigating two Chinese banks and several foreign banks for their possible roles in Mr. Li's scheme.

Mr. Li was still at large in China, Mr. Morgenthau said, adding that he planned to meet with the Chinese Consulate to discuss the situation. Mr. Li and his company are based in Dalian, in the Liaoning province in northeastern China.

"We know where he is," said Adam Kaufmann, an assistant district attorney who oversaw the investigation. "We will see what the impact of this indictment and announcement will be on his operations. One of the goals is to hopefully seek the assistance of the Chinese government in making sure he is shut down."

Mr. Kaufmann said that Mr. Li also violated Chinese law by filing fraudulent shipping documents.

While Mr. Morgenthau was announcing the indictment on Tuesday, the Office of Foreign Asset Control, a division of the Treasury Department, was blacklisting eight of Limmt's aliases and six Iranian entities uncovered in the investigation. Blacklisted companies are not allowed to do business with United States entities, and any assets they have within the United States may be frozen.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/08/nyregion/08indict.html?ref=nyregion>

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Jerusalem Post

April 8, 2009

## **Biden Warns Israel Against Iran Strike**

THE JERUSALEM POST Staff

While stressing that it was an unlikely event, US Vice President Joe Biden issued a high-level admonishment to the new government, saying on Tuesday night that Israel would be "ill-advised" to carry out a military strike against Iran.

"I don't believe that Prime Minister [Binyamin] Netanyahu would do that. I think he would be ill-advised to do that," Biden said in an interview with CNN, when asked about a possible Israeli attack on Iranian nuclear sites.

"My level of concern is no different than it was a year ago," Biden concluded.

While US president Barack Obama has stressed time and again that he is committed to hold diplomatic talks with Teheran, Netanyahu has been very clear that the Iranian nuclear issue is high on Israel's agenda, and should be a top priority for the US as well.

In an interview to *The Atlantic* magazine on March 31, the prime minister noted that "the Obama presidency has two great missions: fixing the economy, and preventing Iran from gaining nuclear weapons."

Netanyahu went on to say that the Iranian nuclear challenge represents a "hinge of history" and added that "Western civilization" would have failed if Iran was allowed to develop nuclear weapons.

"You don't want a messianic apocalyptic cult controlling atomic bombs. When the wide-eyed believer gets hold of the reins of power and the weapons of mass death, then the entire world should start worrying, and that is what is happening in Iran," Netanyahu was quoted as saying of the Iranian leadership.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/JParticle/ShowFull&cid=1238562942937>

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Wall Street Journal  
APRIL 9, 2009

## **U.S. to Join Iran Nuclear Talks**

By JAY SOLOMON

WASHINGTON -- The Obama administration will take part directly in international negotiations with Iran aimed at ending Tehran's rapidly expanding nuclear program, the U.S. State Department said Wednesday.

It is the latest move marking a shift in U.S. policy toward Iran. Under former President George W. Bush, Washington limited diplomatic contacts with Iranian officials. European countries, particularly Germany, France and Britain, took the lead in the international negotiations aimed at ending Iran's nuclear activities. These countries joined with Russia and China to form a diplomatic bloc, known as the "P5+1," referring to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany.

"The U.S. remains committed to the P5+1 process. What is different is that the U.S. will join...P5+1 discussions with Iran from now on," State Department spokesman Robert Wood said. "If Iran accepts, we hope this will be the occasion to seriously engage Iran on how to break the logjam of recent years ... about its nuclear program."

Mr. Wood said the U.S. decision was conveyed to a meeting of the P5+1 in London on Wednesday. The group also said it would invite Iran to a new round of negotiations on nuclear issues in coming weeks.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in a televised speech Wednesday prior to receiving the U.S. decision that his country "welcomes a hand extended to it should it really and truly be based on honesty, justice and respect," according to the Associated Press. The remark was one of the strongest signals yet that Tehran might respond positively to Mr. Obama's calls for dialogue.

The international community has offered Iran greater economic and diplomatic engagement if Tehran agrees to freeze its enrichment of uranium, a fuel potentially used for making atomic weapons. So far, Iran's leadership has rejected the P5+1's bloc's overtures and has significantly increased its ability to produce nuclear fuel.

Obama administration outreach to Iran includes a recent message by President Barack Obama directly to the Iranian nation and plans to cooperate directly with Tehran in stabilizing Afghanistan.

A number of European diplomats have called on the U.S. to sweeten the economic incentives offered to Tehran. Obama administration officials say this is one of the issues being studied in their Iran policy review. The U.S. is also examining ways to increase financial sanctions on Iran if it doesn't agree to suspend its uranium-enrichment activities.

A number of U.S. officials say they're skeptical Iran is interested in serious negotiations. But they say U.S. overtures could help it build international consensus on more coercive actions against Iran should the negotiations fall apart.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123921129210501783.html>

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Daily Guardian  
April 2009

## **Iran Moves Step Closer to Realising Nuclear Ambitions**

[Julian Borger](#) in Washington

Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, today declared progress on two fronts in his country's nuclear programme, both of which were said by western experts to bring Iran closer to a bomb.

Ahmadinejad, speaking in the central city of Isfahan, said Iranian scientists had mastered the fabrication of fuel pellets from natural uranium, and had tested two new types of centrifuge used to enrich uranium, "with a capacity a few times higher than the existing centrifuges". The pellets are intended for use at a heavy water reactor under construction at Arak, which Iran says is being built to make isotopes for medical use.

The centrifuges would accelerate the enrichment of uranium, which is officially intended for a nuclear power reactor that is yet to be built.

Western governments say the Arak reactor will be used for making plutonium, and that the centrifuges are ultimately intended for weapons-grade uranium.

Both plutonium and highly enriched uranium can be used to make a nuclear bomb.

The Iranian president's announcement, made at the formal opening of a fuel fabrication plant in Isfahan to mark Iran's official "nuclear technology day", raises the stakes in future negotiations over Iran's refusal to abide by UN security council resolutions demanding the suspension of uranium enrichment.

Yesterday senior officials from the US, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China instructed the EU foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, to make contact with his counterpart in Tehran. They urged Iran to take advantage of the Obama administration's readiness to hold direct talks.

In his speech, Ahmadinejad said Iran had "always been for talks", on condition that negotiations had "to be based on justice and respecting rights".

The remarks echo a formula frequently used by the Iranian leadership that make progress in negotiations conditional on basic changes in US foreign policy.

Arrangements are now being discussed between Brussels and Tehran to set up a new round of face-to-face talks on proposals by the six-nation contact group to provide economic and technical aid to Iran if it suspends uranium.

However, there is little optimism of such talks having a better chance of success than the last abortive round in Geneva in July. Karim Sadjadpour, an Iran analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said that Ahmadinejad had been careful not to rule out talks ahead of presidential elections in June.

However, Sadjadpour added: "Unlike in Washington, where a decision has been taken to pursue dialogue, an internal consensus has not been reached in Iran. There is a powerful minority that believes any opening to the US could undermine the regime."

Since last July's failed talks in Geneva, the Iranian nuclear programme has made significant strides. The International Atomic Energy Agency reported in February that Iran had manufactured a tonne of low enriched uranium – enough, according to some estimates, to make a bomb if enriched further to weapons-grade purity.

If the advanced centrifuges mentioned by Ahmadinejad were perfected and put into operation in large numbers, it would significantly speed up the process of enrichment, and reduce the amount of time Iran would need to make a bomb.

The possible alternative route to a nuclear weapon, using plutonium, is a less immediate concern to the west. The Arak reactor is not expected to become operational for at least three years, but IAEA inspectors are not being allowed access, and a dome has been built over the reactor so progress can no longer be assessed from satellite photographs.

It has become a growing worry for nuclear proliferation experts.

"Arak is of a size and style that can produce high-quality plutonium that can be used for nuclear weapons," Leonard Spector, of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, said. "India used a reactor like this for its first nuclear weapon. Every new development that brings this closer to fruition is something to be very concerned about."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/apr/09/iran-nuclear-plant-opens>

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Global Security Newswire  
April 7, 2009

## **Pentagon Looks to Slash Missile Defense Agency Funding**

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said yesterday that his proposed budget for the next fiscal year would cut funding at the Missile Defense Agency by \$1.4 billion and eliminate one program (see *GSN*, April 6).



The reduction is part of a larger budget restructuring intended to demonstrate the Pentagon's commitment to military personnel, buttress its ability to manage today's wars and conflicts likely to arise in coming years, and reform the procurement, acquisition and contracting processes, Gates said during a press conference.

"My decisions have been almost exclusively influenced by factors other than simply finding a way to balance the books or fit under the top line, as is normally the case with most budget exercises," he said. "Instead these recommendations are the product of a holistic assessment of capabilities, requirements, risks and needs for the purpose of shifting this department in a different strategic direction."

The Defense Department does not plan to deploy additional silo-based missile interceptors at Fort Greely, Alaska and will kill the Multiple Kill Vehicle program -- intended to place more than one weapon on a booster -- "because of its significant technical challenges and the need to take a fresh look at the requirement," Gates said.

The Pentagon also would scrap plans for a second Boeing 747 equipped with Airborne Laser technology, which would be used to destroy missiles in the boost phase of flight.

"The ABL program has significant affordability and technology problems, and the program's proposed operational role is highly questionable," Gates said.

However, the Pentagon is seeking an additional \$700 million for theater missile defense programs -- the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system and the Standard Missile 3. It also wants another \$200 million to equip six more warships with ballistic missile defense systems.

"We will continue to robustly fund continued research and development to improve the capability we already have to defend against long-range rogue missile threats, a threat North Korea's missile launch this past weekend reminds us is real," Gates said (see *GSN*, April 6).

The Pentagon also in the next fiscal year plans to begin work on replacing its Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, but will not move forward with development of a new Air Force bomber "until we have a better understanding of the need, the requirement and the technology," Gates said.

"We will examine all of our strategic requirements during the Quadrennial Defense Review, the Nuclear Posture Review, and in light of post-START arms control negotiations," he said (see *GSN*, April 1).

Fiscal 2010 begins Oct. 1 (U.S. Defense Department release, April 6).

Gates' proposal to cut missile defense programs quickly raised objections from lawmakers who must give approval to the \$534 billion budget plan, the *Washington Times* reported.

"These proposals would amount to almost a 15 percent cut in the [Missile Defense Agency] budget and a major reduction in our missile defense portfolio -- actions that we fear could undermine our emerging missile defense capabilities to protect the United States against a growing threat," according to a letter from Senate Homeland Security Committee Chairman Joseph Lieberman (ID-Conn.) and five other senators from both parties.

"North Korea's launch of a long-range ballistic missile should be a clarion wake-up call to the whole world that this is not the time to diminish our missile-defense budget, as proposed by the Obama administration," according to Representative Trent Franks (R-Ariz.).

However, Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) expressed support for the reductions.

"I strongly support Secretary Gates' decision to restructure a number of major defense programs," he said. "It has long been necessary to shift spending away from weapon systems plagued by scheduling and cost overruns to ones that strike the correct balance between the needs of our deployed forces and the requirements for meeting the emerging threats of tomorrow" (Sara Carter, *Washington Times*, April 7).

[http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20090407\\_3135.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20090407_3135.php)

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Boston Globe  
7 April 2009

## **Biden Put In Charge of Nuclear Non-proliferation**

By Farah Stockman  
Globe Staff

WASHINGTON -- Vice President Joseph Biden has been put in charge of the administration's nuclear nonproliferation agenda, including President Obama's goal of securing vulnerable nuclear material around the world over the next four years, and efforts to convince Congress to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which would ban new nuclear explosions.

"As a measure of the president's continuing commitment to this vital nonproliferation agenda, he has asked for Vice President Joe Biden's help to lead the administration's nonproliferation efforts," Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg told a packed luncheon of diplomats and nonproliferation experts Monday at a conference sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington-based think tank.

Speaking a day after Obama gave a major speech in Prague that committed the United States to working towards a nuclear-weapons-free world, Steinberg sketched out additional details about how the Obama administration intends to tackle this ambitious -- some say impossible -- goal.

Steinberg said Biden will shepherd the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty through Congress and push other countries to follow the US example by ratifying it. The administration would also work to remove obstacles that have blocked negotiations for more than a decade on a treaty that would prevent the further production of bomb-making fuel. He said the administration would also work to make more rigorous, intrusive UN inspections of nuclear facilities mandatory.

He also said that the Obama administration intended to beef up Bush administration efforts to stop nuclear terrorism, such as the Proliferation Security Initiative, a largely ad hoc team of countries that interdicted ships believed to be smuggling dual-use nuclear materials. The administration would also work with Russia to negotiate a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty by the time the current agreement expires in December, he said.

Steinberg suggested that current efforts to secure vulnerable nuclear material in the former Soviet Union will be expanded to cover the entire world.

"More needs to be done on an urgent basis" to lock down nuclear materials around the world that terrorists might be able to get their hands on, he said. "The job must be completed."

Steinberg suggested that the State Department's arms control bureaucracy might increase, while the multi-billion dollar budgets of Los Alamos National Laboratory and other nuclear labs could shrink.

[http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2009/04/biden\\_put\\_in\\_ch.html](http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2009/04/biden_put_in_ch.html)

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Sydney Morning Herald  
April 8, 2009

## **US Shifts Focus and Spending in Defence**

Elisabeth Bumiller in Washington

THE US Defence Secretary, Robert Gates, has announced the most sweeping changes in decades in spending priorities for the Pentagon, with deep cuts in many traditional weapon systems but billions of dollars for others.

Mr Gates has taken aim at several conventional warfare programs in favour of technologies more useful to the "asymmetric" wars against smaller forces in which US forces have become embroiled.

The decisions are expected to set off vigorous lobbying over priorities in the Defence Department's \$US500 billion (\$700 billion) in annual spending. They represent the first broad rethinking of military strategy under the Obama Administration, which plans to shift more money to counter-terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan and spend less on preparations for hypothetical conventional warfare against nations such as China and Russia.

Mr Gates announced cuts in missile defence programs, the army's future combat systems and navy shipbuilding operations. He will axe controversial programs to build a new presidential helicopter and a new communications satellite system, delay the development of a new bomber and order only four more advanced F-22 fighter jets.

He said plans to increase the size of the army and the US Marine Corps, while halting cuts in air force and navy personnel, would cost an extra \$US11 billion.

An extra \$US2 billion will be allocated for intelligence and surveillance equipment, including new Predator and Reaper drones, the remote-controlled vehicles used in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The changes would mean fewer big ships and a cut in the number of army brigades, but with the same number of troops - so the combat forces were not hollowed out - and bolstering the army's helicopter forces, Mr Gates said. Spending on missile defence programs would be scaled back by \$US1.4 billion.

Mr Gates proposed increasing spending to defend against relatively limited attacks by smaller powers with shorter-range missiles, adding interceptors aboard ships but not on land in Alaska.

More broadly, Mr Gates said he hoped to impose a new culture on the Pentagon - making the system more flexible and responsive to the needs of the troops in the way it chose and bought weapons. "The perennial procurement and contracting cycle, going back many decades, of adding layer and layer of cost and complexity onto fewer and fewer platforms that take longer and longer to build, must come to an end," he said. "There have been enough studies, enough hand-wringing, enough rhetoric. Now is the time for action."

Mr Gates drew praise from Senator John McCain, the Senate armed services committee's top Republican, who said in a statement during a trip to Asia that the Pentagon's new outlook was "a major step in the right direction".

But another Republican on the panel, Senator James Inhofe, denounced the Gates blueprint. Speaking from Afghanistan, he said legislators who were worried about US forces in harm's way must try to prevent the changes Mr Gates proposed.

"I can't believe what we heard today," he said in a video on his internet site. "We have our men and women in uniform in harm's way, and we hear an announcement we're cutting, and I would say gutting, our military."

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/us-shifts-focus-and-spending-in-defence-20090407-9zm3.html?page=-1>

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RIA Novosti  
08 April 2009

## **Russia Makes Year's First Uranium Shipment to U.S.**

MOSCOW (RIA Novosti) - Russia's Technabexport shipped on April 7 the first batch of low-enriched uranium to the United States in 2009 under a bilateral agreement, nuclear-power corporation Atomenergoprom said on Wednesday.

Technabexport, a Russian company that exports goods and services produced by the nuclear power sector, is integrated into Atomenergoprom.

"This shipment has initiated the schedule of deliveries in 2009, which will be carried out at a new price approved by the governments of both countries," Atomenergoprom said in a statement.

Russia and the United States are cooperating in the nuclear sphere on the HEU-LEU project. The HEU-LEU contract, also known as the Megatons to Megawatts agreement, was signed in February 1993 and expires in 2013.

It aims to convert 500 metric tons of high-enriched uranium (HEU), the equivalent of approximately 20,000 nuclear warheads, from dismantled Russian nuclear weapons into low-enriched uranium (LEU), which is then converted into nuclear fuel for use in U.S. commercial reactors.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090408/120978894.html>

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RIA Novosti  
08 April 2009

## **Russia to Begin Building New Strategic Submarine in 2009**

SEVERODVINSK (RIA Novosti) - The Sevmash shipyard in northern Russia said on Wednesday it would start construction of a fourth Borey class nuclear-powered strategic submarine this year.

"Russia's Defense Ministry has ordered the shipyard to start construction of the fourth Borey class submarine this year," a Sevmash official told RIA Novosti, adding that work could begin either in July or December

The first Borey class submarine, the Yury Dolgoruky, will start sea trials in June.

The vessel is 170 meters (580 feet) long, has a hull diameter of 13 meters (42 feet), a crew of 107, including 55 officers, a maximum depth of 450 meters (about 1,500 feet) and a submerged speed of about 29 knots. It can carry up to 16 ballistic missiles and torpedoes.

Two other Borey-class nuclear submarines, the Alexander Nevsky and the Vladimir Monomakh, are currently under construction at the Sevmash shipyard and are expected to be completed in 2009 and 2011. Russia is planning to build eight of these submarines by 2015.

All Borey class submarines will be equipped with new Bulava-M (SS-NX-30) intercontinental ballistic missiles, which carry up to 10 nuclear warheads and have a range of 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles).

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090408/120988939.html>

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RIA Novosti  
09 April 2009

## **Russia Plans to Deliver Advanced Air Defense Missiles to Belarus**

BALASHIKHA (Moscow Region) (RIA Novosti) - Russia will supply advanced S-400 air defense systems to Belarus under a recent agreement to create an integrated air defense network, a senior Air Force official said on Thursday.

"One of the provisions of the agreement is to upgrade the network. It must be equipped with the most advanced weaponry," first deputy Air Force commander Lt. Gen. Vadim Volkovitsky said.

The S-400 Triumf (SA-21 Growler) is designed to intercept and destroy airborne targets at a distance of up to 400 kilometers (250 miles), twice the range of the U.S. MIM-104 Patriot, and 2 1/2 times that of the S-300PMU-2.

The system is also believed to be able to destroy stealth aircraft, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles, and is effective at ranges up to 3,500 kilometers (2,200 miles) and speeds up to 4.8 kilometers (3 miles) per second.

The general did not specify the schedule for the deliveries, but said the ongoing talks on the issue would certainly bring positive results.

"We are still discussing the dates for delivery of the S-400 systems, but I am certain that it will happen as part of our efforts to develop an integrated air defense network," Volkovitsky said.

Moscow and Minsk signed an agreement in February on the joint protection of the Russia-Belarus Union State's airspace and the creation of an integrated regional air defense network.

It will comprise five Air Force units, 10 anti-aircraft units, five technical service and support units and one electronic warfare unit, and will be placed under the command of a Russian or Belarusian Air Force or Air Defense Force senior commander.

Belarus has several Russian-made S-300 air defense battalions on combat duty, and has long been negotiating the purchase of advanced S-400 systems from Russia, which should be available in 2010.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090409/121038766.html>

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RIA Novosti  
09 April 2009

## **Lavrov Rejects Link Between Iran Dispute and U.S. Missile Shield**

MOSCOW (RIA Novosti) - Russia's foreign minister said on Thursday that there is no link between the international dispute over Iran's nuclear program, and Russia-U.S. differences on Washington's missile defense plans for Europe.

"Iran is a separate problem. This problem is first and foremost a problem of ensuring that the non-proliferation regime is not being violated," Sergei Lavrov said in a live interview with RIA Novosti, the Voice of Russia radio and the Russia Today TV channel.

Media last month cited unnamed senior officials in Washington saying that President Barack Obama could drop the plans to place a missile shield in Central Europe if Russia helps to persuade Iran to halt uranium enrichment activities. Both Washington and Moscow have officially denied the possibility of such a deal.

Washington's plans to place a radar in the Czech Republic and interceptors in Poland, strongly opposed by Russia, have been a major source of tension in the countries' relations. President Obama recently said the plans would remain in place as long as Iran persists with its nuclear ambitions.

Lavrov said Iran must prove that its nuclear program is intended only for electric power generation.

"Iran must convince all of us of the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program."

However, he said that so far "there is no evidence that the program has military goals. Although several countries and the IAEA [the UN nuclear watchdog] have questions that Iran needs to clarify."

The U.S. and other Western powers suspect Iran of seeking to build nuclear warheads under the cover of a civilian nuclear program.

The country is under three sets of relatively mild sanctions over its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment, needed both in weapons production and nuclear power generation. Russia and China have resisted harsher punishment for the country, using their vetoes at the Security Council.

Lavrov welcomed the decision reached in London on Wednesday by the six countries negotiating the Iranian nuclear problem to carry on talks with Iran, as well as Obama's pledge of greater engagement in the negotiations than his predecessor.

"The fact that the Obama administration was ready from the outset to sit at the table and discuss all issues that I have mentioned - this is a very positive development, and I hope that it will allow us to more effectively achieve a swift political and diplomatic regulation of the Iranian nuclear situation," he said.

Britain, Germany, China, Russia, France and the United States asked the EU foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, to invite Iran's leadership to meet with the Iran Six to try to find a diplomatic solution to the dispute.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090409/121025921.html>

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Yonhap News  
April 8, 2009

## **N. Korean Rocket Generates More Questions than Progress**

By Sam Kim

SEOUL (Yonhap) -- The latest rocket flaunted by North Korea represents a certain measure of technical progress from an earlier version that also purportedly lobbed a satellite in orbit, experts here said Wednesday, but it also raised further questions about its purpose.

North Korea this week released footage of its "Unha-2" rocket blasting off from a launch pad on its east coast, claiming it successfully carried a communications satellite into space.

South Korea and the U.S. -- which consider the launch a test of a ballistic missile capable of hitting Alaska -- disputed the claim, saying the rocket ultimately plummeted into the ocean along with the payload.

Despite the apparent failure, the footage of the blast-off provides a rare resource by which to gauge North Korea's rocket technology, South Korean scientists said, agreeing that the April 5 launch shows Pyongyang has been advancing its research.

"The lift-off looks solid, clearly better than before," said Lee Chang-jin, a rocket scientist at Seoul's Konkuk University. "It also turns and moves smoothly toward its intended destination."

North Korea fired in 1998 what it claimed was its first rocket carrying a satellite into space. Washington detected nothing new in orbit, but Pyongyang still claims it is receiving signals from its "Kwangmyongsong-1" satellite.

Seol Woo-suk, an engine specialist at the state-run Korea Aerospace Research Institute, agreed with Lee that the lift-off of the latest rocket appeared steady, adding he believes four engines were used.

"They seemed to be bound into one, working properly as the rocket soared," he said, analyzing the footage, which also showed a control room with several displays under high ceilings.

"The North Koreans apparently tried to set up a room with devices similar to ones that developed countries have," he said. "But overall, it looks rudimentary."

No display panel to track the rocket was apparent, he said, while other equipment appeared to possess only a "limited" capacity.

"It's almost leisurely inside," said Park Jung-joo, who heads South Korea's rocket development at the same institute, describing the atmosphere in the control room.

The footage initially shows what appears to be a three-stage rocket mounted next to a gantry and a crane, which indicates that the assembly of each was conducted at the launch pad.

South Korea and the United States say the first stage landed in the East Sea while the remaining two crashed in the Pacific Ocean. They have yet to clarify whether the last two stages successfully separated before crashing.

"We cannot rule out the possibility that this was, after all, a two-stage rocket," Park said.

Iran, an alleged collaborator with North Korea in missile development, succeeded in orbiting a satellite by using a two-stage rocket on Feb. 2, just weeks before Pyongyang announced its own launch plan.

The rocket in 1998, better known as the Taepodong-1 missile, had three stages, but the combustion of the final stage fizzled shortly after breaking off, U.S. and South Korean officials believe.

The rocket launched on Sunday, considered a Taepodong-2 missile by outside observers, flew 2,700-3,200 kilometers according to media estimates, while its previous version flew at least 1,500 kilometers.

Park said the signals Pyongyang cited this week to claim the presence of its "Kwangmyongsong-2 satellite" in orbit were fabricated quite well to make the launch sound successful, but they also attest to a lack of effort.

"These are low-frequency signals, similar to ones heard in 1998," he said. "It indicates North Korea has not been too passionate about its satellite technology over the past two decades."

Developed countries generally use high-frequency signals.

Park even questioned North Korea's claim that the latest rocket carried a satellite.

"The top of the rocket looks too slim and linear to contain one," he said. "I wouldn't be surprised if the rocket in the footage turned out to be a ballistic missile. It's almost identical, the way it looks, blasts and flies."

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2009/04/08/33/0401000000AEN20090408004100315F.HTML>

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Washington Post

April 9, 2009

## **Extremist Web Sites Are Using U.S. Hosts**

By Joby Warrick and Candace Rondeaux

Washington Post Staff Writers

On March 25, a Taliban Web site claiming to be the voice of the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" boasted of a deadly new attack on coalition forces in that country. Four soldiers were killed in an ambush, the site claimed, and the "mujahideen took the weapons and ammunition as booty."

Most remarkable about the message was how it was delivered. The words were the Taliban's, but they were flashed around the globe by an American-owned firm located in a leafy corner of downtown Houston.

The Texas company, a Web-hosting outfit called ThePlanet, says it simply rented cyberspace to the group and had no clue about its Taliban connections. For more than a year, the militant group used the site to rally its followers and keep a running tally of suicide bombings, rocket attacks and raids against U.S. and allied troops. The cost of the service: roughly \$70 a month, payable by credit card.

The Taliban's account was pulled last week when a blogger noticed the connection and called attention to it. But the odd pairing of violently anti-American extremists and U.S. technology companies continues elsewhere and appears to be growing. Intelligence officials and private experts cite dozens of instances in which Islamist militants sought out U.S. Internet firms -- known for their reliable service and easy terms that allow virtual anonymity -- and used them to incite attacks on Americans.

"The relatively cheap expense and high quality of U.S. servers seems to attract jihadists," said Rita Katz, co-founder of the Site Intelligence Group, a private company that monitors the communications of Muslim extremist groups. Even al-Qaeda has sometimes paid American companies to serve as conduits for its hate-filled messages, said Katz, who has tracked such activity since 2003.

Militants' use of U.S. Web hosts has sparked occasional spats between the United States and its allies, as well as endless debates over whether it is better to shut down the Web sites when they're discovered or to let them continue to operate. By allowing them to remain online, intelligence analysts can sometimes discover clues about the leadership and structure of terrorist groups, some analysts say.

"You can learn a lot from the enemy by watching them chat online," said Martin Libicki, a senior policy analyst at the Rand Corp., a nonprofit research organization. Libicki said the bloggers rarely spill secrets, and most are "probably using this more for public affairs rather than recruitment."

"Public affairs," in many cases, means blatantly anti-Western invective and propaganda.

For instance, the Afghan group that rented Web space from ThePlanet offered daily updates on skirmishes between Taliban fighters and U.S. "invaders" and Afghan "puppet army" troops. The Web site, <http://www.alemarah1.com>, frequently claimed that the group's forces had killed coalition troops and even destroyed warplanes and tanks -- accounts that bear little resemblance to coalition field reports on those dates.

Another Taliban Web site, <http://Toorabora.com>, continues to operate, using the services of Free Web Town, a user-friendly template service run by Atlanta-based Tulix Systems. The group's site features regular updates about purported attacks on U.S.-led coalition forces and occasional interviews with Taliban leaders and commanders in English and the regional languages of Dari and Pashto.

The site is associated with a Taliban group known as the Tora Bora Front, a hard-line faction operating in the remote mountainous region between northeastern Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan where fighting this year has been especially heavy.

Representatives of Tulix and ThePlanet say their policies prohibit the airing of violent or hateful messages by ordinary Americans, and certainly by terrorists. Both companies say they act quickly to shut down any site that breaks the rules.

The user-friendly American services are especially popular with groups like the Tora Bora Front. "It kind of makes it an ideal target for people who want to use it for nefarious reasons because not only is it easy to access and easy to use, it's easy to lie about your identity," said Thomas Burling, Tulix's chief financial officer.

Burling said the company has "routinely" been contacted by various federal agencies tracking the use of the Free Web Town sites, but he declined to go into further detail or identify the agencies.

Under federal eavesdropping laws passed last year, U.S. intelligence officials can legally monitor communications between foreign groups without a warrant, even if the transit lines pass through the United States.

The firms acknowledge that it is not always easy to spot militants' activity. Tulix boasts more than 1 million clients, while ThePlanet is the country's biggest supplier of Web-hosting services, with nearly 16 million accounts. Yvonne Donaldson, spokeswoman for ThePlanet, said the firm cannot afford to monitor every site and instead reacts to complaints, as it did in the case of [alemarrah1.com](http://alemarrah1.com). "If the complaint is credible, we notify the authorities," she said.

In some cases, the complaints come from governments. Pakistan has been venting to U.S. officials about militants' use of North American Internet services since last fall, when an investigation of the Mumbai terrorist rampage, which involved Pakistanis, revealed that the attackers had communicated using Internet phone calls routed through another server based in Houston.

American and Pakistani officials say the issue has raised tensions within diplomatic and intelligence circles in both countries and has reignited a high-level internal debate over the legality and efficacy of shutting off or restricting access to such services.

A senior Pakistani official said repeated requests to Washington to shut down controversial sites have gone unheeded -- and American authorities' seeming reluctance has become "an irritant." The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is not cleared to discuss the issue, said Pakistani intelligence experts are convinced that Washington prefers to keep the sites running for intelligence purposes.

"They're very reluctant or very slow to deal with this. We're saying at least if you monitor them, then share with us the information so we can take them out," the official said.

U.S. intelligence officials acknowledge the dispute but note the futility of trying to turn off Web sites completely. Domain names can be easily changed, they say, and sites are so easy to relocate that a new site usually opens within weeks after the old one is shut down.

Or sometimes even sooner. The Taliban's alemarrah1 site, which disappeared from its old location Friday, appeared again on Tuesday under a slightly altered name. In a matter of days, it was sending messages worldwide and routing them once again through ThePlanet's servers, based in the same leafy corner of downtown Houston.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/08/AR2009040804378.html?wprss=rss\\_technology](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/04/08/AR2009040804378.html?wprss=rss_technology)

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Times of London  
April 9, 2009

## **Police Chief, Bob Quick, Resigns from the Met over Terror Blunder**

Philippe Naughton, Michael Evans, Defence Editor, and Russell Jenkins

Scotland Yard's counter-terrorism chief resigned from the force today after an elementary blunder which almost blew a huge police operation against a suspected al-Qaeda cell in the UK.

Assistant Commissioner Bob Quick said that he "deeply regretted" having jeopardised co-ordinated raids in the North West which were planned for the early hours of this morning but had to be brought forward and carried out in broad daylight yesterday afternoon.

Twelve people were arrested, including 10 Pakistani nationals on student visas and one Briton, at eight addresses across Manchester and Merseyside after a long covert surveillance operation involving both police and MI5.

Mr Quick's error was momentary but potentially disastrous. As he arrived at 10 Downing Street yesterday to brief Gordon Brown on the raids he was carrying under his arm a document marked "Secret" which detailed the broad lines of the operation.

The document, in a transparent plastic folder, was only visible for about a second as Mr Quick climbed down from his vehicle. But that was more than enough time for the powerful telephoto lenses behind the press barricades across the road.

The document revealed how many terrorist suspects were to be arrested and in which cities across the North West. It revealed that armed members of the Greater Manchester Police would force entry into a number of homes and included the operation's secret codename.

As soon as the photograph was published, Scotland Yard and MI5 moved to quash its publication via a rare D-notice slapped on media organisations. The picture had already been sent to newspapers and magazines abroad, however, where the D-notice system carries no weight, and it was clear that the operation had been put at risk.

In his resignation statement this morning, Mr Quick said: "Last evening I contacted the Metropolitan Police Authority to inform them of my intention to offer my resignation.

"I have today offered my resignation in the knowledge that my action could have compromised a major counter-terrorism operation. I deeply regret the disruption caused to colleagues undertaking the operation and remain grateful for the way in which they adapted quickly and professionally to a revised timescale."

A Metropolitan Police spokesman confirmed that Mr Quick had resigned not just from his job but from the force, which he joined in 1978 after studying at Exeter and Cambridge universities.



He will be replaced by Assistant Commissioner John Yates, who has no direct counter-terrorist experience but is considered one of Scotland Yard's strongest operational leaders. Mr Yates led the Met's cash-for-honours investigation in the last years of Tony Blair's premiership.

Senior sources believe that the alleged terror ring planned to attack the Birdcage nightclub in Manchester city centre or the Trafford Centre shopping complex. The nightclub, which hosts cabaret and dancing showgirls, attracts thousands of people each week.

Detectives believe that the venue, near The Printworks entertainment complex, was being targeted as a "symbol of Western decadence". The Trafford Centre in Manchester attracts 140,000 shoppers each weekend.

Mr Quick's resignation was announced on BBC Radio 4's Today programme by Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, ahead of a carefully planned statement by Mr Quick and Sir Paul Stephenson, co-ordinated with the Home Office.

Mr Johnson, who is chairman of the MPA, said that he had accepted Mr Quick's resignation "with great reluctance and sadness".

He said "As I understand matters, obviously there were consultations overnight and I think in the end Bob Quick decided it was the best thing to do. It is a matter of sadness and he has had a very, very distinguished career in counter-terrorism.

"I want to stress there was absolutely no kind of witchhunt or effort to get him out but I think that what people felt was this was extremely unfortunate, an operation that was very, very sensitive and important to counter-terrorism, for rounding up terrorists had been potentially compromised and there was a real difficulty there."

Jacqui Smith, the Home Secretary, said that Mr Quick felt his position was "untenable" following the publication of the photographs and thanked him for his work.

"I want to offer by sincere appreciation for all the outstanding work he has done in this role which has helped keep this country safe." It is understood the Home Secretary met Mr Quick and Sir Paul Stephenson, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, last night to discuss the matter.

Mr Quick's position was already weakened after an unseemly row last year with leading Conservatives, including Mr Johnson. The officer was forced to apologise for an outburst in which he accused senior Tories of leaking a story about his wife's business interests.

That followed controversy over his role in the decision to arrest a Tory frontbencher, Damian Green, during an inquiry into Home Office leaks. A Home Office source said Ms Smith "clearly had a view" on whether Mr Quick could continue in post, given that the raids had had to be brought forward.

The former London mayor Ken Livingstone was critical of what he said was the decision to "force out" Mr Quick over a "ridiculous error".

"I think al-Qaeda will be celebrating, we will have had three senior officers in charge of counter-terrorism in the space of about a year," Mr Livingstone told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

Referring to the death of a man at last week's G20 protests in the City, he added: "I think a lot of people find it odd that we have not had the suspension of the police officer who was clearly seen assaulting Mr (Ian) Tomlinson, an act of violence, but here a ... distinguished officer with a whole career of public service is forced out on a relatively minor error and by a political establishment who are mired in scandals of the abuse of expenses to the tunes of tens of thousands of pounds."

Afzal Khan, the Pakistan-born former lord mayor of Manchester and councillor for Cheetham were the raids in Manchester took place, added: "I think it's sad, really. We have lost a very capable and senior officer for a momentary lapse.

"It is difficult with all this modern technology. I think primarily it is probably a case of his mind was focusing on going into No 10 giving the Prime Minister a briefing and he was caught out by long lenses. He will probably think, with hindsight, what a stupid thing to do."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article6064547.ece>

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Times of India  
9 April 2009

## US Wants "Serious Response" from Pak on ISI Terror Links

Chidanand Rajghatta, TNN

WASHINGTON: The United States expects a "serious response" from Pakistan about its spy agency ISI's ties with terrorist groups, a key American official has said, amid unrelenting pressure from Washington on Islamabad to forgo its pursuit of "strategic depth" and use of terrorism as a state policy.

Bruce Riedel, President Obama's principal adviser on South Asia, became the latest US official to speak bluntly about Pakistan's ties with terrorism in an interview to the German magazine Der Spiegel, following up on the riot act read out to Islamabad in this regard by the civilian-military tag team of Richard Holbrooke and Mike Mullen earlier this week.

Despite Islamabad's denials and histrionics during the Holbrooke-Mullen visit when confronted about the ISI's terrorist ties, Riedel did not back down from answering a loaded question by the magazine on the subject. This is how the exchange went:

**Spiegel:** Currently, there are many reports about how closely the Pakistani secret service ISI is intertwined with terror groups. Does the ISI actually supply the Taliban with ammunition, trucks and recruits?

**Riedel:** These are serious issues. We are raising them with the Pakistanis. The head of the ISI was here in February. We have put these issues on the table and we expect to see a serious response. In our engagement with Pakistan, I think our watchword must be an old one: trust but verify.

Implicit in the answer was a confirmation about the ISI's terrorist ties. Asked further what the ISI expects to gain from their influence on these groups, Riedel explained that over the course of the last three decades, "the ISI used these relations to have leverage against India and influence in Afghanistan."

Riedel's exposition on the Pakistan-terrorism nexus came amid growing tensions between Washington and Islamabad that is being candidly acknowledged by US officials.

"We have been working with Pakistan as best we can to support them in their efforts to fight extremists...we're going to continue to do so. Will there be differences of opinion from time to time on how we move forward? Yes. But this is normal in this type of relationship, particularly when you're dealing with very difficult, thorny issues," State Department spokesman Robert Wood said on Wednesday, when asked about the tensions.

The Pakistani establishment went into a rage during the visit to Islamabad earlier this week by Af-Pak Special Representative Richard Holbrooke and US Joint Chiefs of Staff Mike Mullen, after its whining about India did not find any traction. Newspaper editorials bemoaned Washington's lack of empathy and commentators lamented its lack of confidence in Pakistan.

Islamabad's main complaint – and excuse for keeping its terrorism option open -- was India's growing influence in Afghanistan which Pakistan found threatening, and lack of progress on resolving the Kashmir issue, which Pakistan attributes to Indian intransigence.

In addition, Pakistani leaders also complained about the drone attacks and the conditions and benchmarks attached to US aid. They wanted drones and helicopters to take on the extremists themselves and foreign assistance on the scale of the Marshall Plan with no strings attached.

From all accounts, the US team made no commitment on any of the Pakistani wish-list. Instead, they were told to abandon their policy of using terrorist groups, a tactic which had begun to consume Pakistan itself besides endangering the world, if they wanted to earn foreign aid and goodwill.

"More and more Pakistanis now recognize that they have created a Frankenstein that threatens the Pakistani state itself. We now need to help them bring this monster under control," said Riedel.

Riedel also maintained that al-Qaida is trying to destabilize Pakistan and paralyze the government to the point that it becomes a failed state.

"Pakistan has nuclear weapons. Therefore it is in the interest of the international community that the Taliban not reach their goal. In many ways, Pakistan is the harder part of this problem," he added.

The US official also squarely placed both the al-Qaida and Taliban leadership squarely in Pakistan, a charge that Islamabad is now denying with less and less frequency and conviction.

"After all, the sanctuary for al-Qaida is in Pakistan. The leadership of the Taliban, Mullah Omar, is in Pakistan. That is the more critical territory for them," Riedel said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/US/US-wants-serious-response-from-Pak-on-ISI-terror-links/articleshow/4381728.cms>

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Washington Times

April 9, 2009

## **Early Rifts In Taliban Alliance Signal Threat To Terrorist Leader**

By Raza Khan, The Washington Times

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- A 2-month-old alliance of Pakistani Taliban factions is beginning to fray and could undermine Baitullah Mehsud, a Taliban leader who has claimed responsibility for recent terrorist attacks far from Pakistan's tribal regions and even threatened the United States.

A militant commander in the Haji Nazeer group - one of three groups in the alliance - told The Washington Times that the main lieutenant in the group has expressed opposition to the accord.

A second Nazeer commander also is objecting, said a Pakistani official in South Waziristan, a rugged tribal area on the border with Afghanistan. He spoke on the condition of anonymity to protect himself from retribution.

The rifts are being reported as the Obama administration plans major increases in aid to Pakistan and the Taliban continues to make inroads in some parts of the country.

Scores of Taliban militants clashed with local forces in the Buner district 60 miles northwest of Islamabad, the capital, on Monday. Ten people, including at least seven Taliban members, died, local officials said.

A Taliban council in the Bajaur tribal region bordering Afghanistan on Tuesday announced that it was issuing "arrest warrants" for officials who had invited women to government offices. The Taliban had warned women to stay in their houses.

Pakistani security forces last month claimed to have defeated the Taliban in Bajaur and even to have rejected the militants' offer of a truce.

Still, the reported rifts provide the Pakistani government with a rare piece of good news and suggest there is an opportunity to win over more adherents within the tribal areas that have sheltered al Qaeda as well as Afghan and Pakistani Taliban leaders for years.

A Pakistani official told The Times that "Baitullah is definitely under pressure" and suggested that the Islamabad government was working to deepen the rifts. He asked not to be named because of the sensitive nature of government operations.

The United States has put a bounty of \$5 million on Mehsud and repeatedly attacked his camps with drones. Mehsud's Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for recent attacks against police cadets in Lahore and Islamabad and threatened last week to burn down the White House.

In February, the TTP united with the Nazeer group of South Waziristan and a group in North Waziristan led by Commander Hafiz Gul Bahadur. The alliance, known as the Shura Ittehadul Mujahedeen (SIM), has set as its goal fighting U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan as well as combating Pakistani security forces.

However, both the Nazeer and Bahadur groups previously sided with the Pakistani government and fought the TTP in 2007, objecting to Mehsud's sheltering of foreign fighters from Uzbekistan who had killed scores of Waziri tribal militants and noncombatants.

The militant commander said that Mehsud forces provided sanctuary to Uzbek fighters and killed Nazeer loyalists. Commander Tehsil, the Nazeer leader who is now objecting to the Taliban alliance, is a distant relative of one of the victims, the militant commander said.

A second Nazeer commander, Malang, also is objecting to the alliance, said a Pakistani official in Wana, the capital of South Waziristan.

Gulistan Wazir, an Islamabad-based analyst of tribal areas, told The Times that there are clear signs of rifts within the alliance.

"These differences were bound to crop up after the coming together of militant heads with significantly opposite attitudes," he said. "Baitullah is a ruthless commander while Nazeer has a repute of a benign man in his native area."

Imran Khan, a terrorism researcher at University of Peshawar, said the divisions could benefit the United States.

"Opposition to Baitullah Mehsud from rival militants is significant from the American point of view as it is a well-known fact that the terror chief has had very strong ties to al Qaeda," Mr. Khan said. "As far as I know, the people of Waziristan at this point in time are not in favor of U.S. drone attacks on al Qaeda and Taliban hide-outs, but simultaneously, they are not against such attacks. There is a misperception that local residents support Taliban; to be precise, they don't. People look unfavorably at all shades of militants but they have been unable to throw away their stranglehold. Now with rifts among Taliban, I think people would welcome the development."

Mehsud also faces opposition from members of his own tribe who have been forced to flee native territory and are distributing pamphlets in South Waziristan and adjoining North West Frontier Province calling Mehsud an infidel and asking local tribesmen to rise against him.

According to the pamphlet, "Baitullah Mehsud is not involved in jihad because Islam does not permit suicide attacks, which his group has been making. Our doors are open to all those who have suffered injustice at the hands of Baitullah. We also warn people against keeping contacts with Baitullah or facilitating him in prolonging his rule."

Mehsud's supporters have distributed their own pamphlets in response, accusing those behind the anti-Mehsud pamphlets of being puppets of the Pakistani government.

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/apr/09/early-rifts-in-taliban-alliance-signal-threat-to-t/>

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Times of London

April 10, 2009

## **Scramble to Find the Easter Bomb Factory**

Sean O'Neill, Andrew Norfolk, Russell Jenkins and Michael Evans

A desperate search was under way last night for the terrorist bomb factory from which a suspected al-Qaeda cell planned to launch a devastating attack in Manchester.

Hours after Britain's most senior counter-terrorism officer resigned in disgrace, police operations were concentrating on a rundown block of flats east of Liverpool city centre.

The block was cordoned off and large quantities of material were seized for examination. People were evacuated from the area around the flats, which had been rented out by a private landlord to foreign students.

A dozen men are being questioned after raids that had to be rushed forward after Assistant Commissioner Bob Quick, the country's most senior anti-terrorism officer, inadvertently disclosed details of the police plans.

Mr Quick resigned as head of Special Operations at Scotland Yard yesterday morning, admitting that his bungle "could have compromised a major counter-terrorism operation".

His resignation created a sense of crisis in Scotland Yard, where commanders are battling to contain the fallout from the death of Ian Tomlinson during the G20 protests last week.

Ten of the 12 men arrested on Wednesday were Pakistani nationals who entered Britain on student visas.

All were from the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, the heartland of al-Qaeda and mujahidin activity. They appear to have exploited a visa regime described by a minister last week as "the major loophole in Britain's border controls".

Security sources are alarmed that terrorists may have exploited weaknesses in the vetting of student visa applicants to plant sleeper cells here.

Gordon Brown said that the police and intelligence services had thwarted "a very big plot". He added that he would be raising his concerns with President Zardari of Pakistan.

The alleged Manchester plot represents a significant shift in tactics by terror groups based in Pakistan who view Britain as a prime target.

Between 2002 and 2006 their emphasis was on training young Britons. But if these plot allegations are proven, they suggest that planners are now exporting operatives here.

This week's suspects had been under covert surveillance for a month and preparations for the swoop were already advanced before Mr Quick allowed crucial documents to be photographed as he went to brief the Prime Minister.

The suspects were allegedly seen filming in central Manchester and intelligence services had intercepted "chatter" suggesting that an attack could occur as early as this weekend.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article6070133.ece>

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CNN.com

7 April 2009

## **Official: Millions Spent Defending Pentagon Computers from Attack**

By Adam Levine

CNN Pentagon Supervising Producer

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- The U.S. military has spent at least \$100 million defending its computer network from and responding to cyberattacks, according to a top official responsible for network security.

The money was spent over the last six months responding to incidents that affected the Pentagon's networks, according to Brig. Gen. John Davis of the U.S. Strategic Command, which is responsible for military cybersecurity.

The money also went toward training and investment in tools and technologies needed because of infiltrations and viruses, he said.

Davis said he was asked by the head of Strategic Command, Gen. Kevin Chilton, to track the costs in an effort to analyze the price of reacting to incidents that threaten the military's cybersecurity.

"We are finding ourselves in an ever-increasing, sophisticated environment where our networks at [the Department of Defense] are increasingly in a contested environment," Davis said.

He spoke by phone from the USStratcom Cyberspace Symposium, a two-day event in Omaha, Nebraska, for defense officials, as well as technology industry members.

Davis would not give specific examples of cyberattacks, but he said the military's technology team deals with a wide variety of incidents every day.

"It ranges in scope from the less serious -- the bored teenager -- all the way up to nation-state capabilities," Davis said.

"We do know that there are nation states that are investing in capabilities to operate in cyberspace. We have to expect that," he said. "We have to be able to defend our networks."

Davis would not name specific countries, but one country the United States is concerned about is China, according to the Pentagon's 2009 report to Congress on that country's military.

China "has established information warfare units to develop viruses to attack enemy computer systems and networks, and tactics and measures to protect friendly computer systems and networks," according to a 2009 report called the Military Power of the People's Republic of China.

In 2008, computer systems around the world, including the U.S. government's, were the target of intrusion that seemed to have originated in China, the report said.

"Although these intrusions focused on exfiltrating information, the accesses and skills required for these intrusions are similar to those necessary to conduct computer network attacks," the report said.

The money spent on reacting to incidents could be better spent to have the intelligence capabilities so the system could be better defended, Davis said.

"Rather than spending money reacting, it would be wiser to build capabilities in a proactive manner to protect systems in the first place," he said. "It would be wiser to spend it up front to keep less sophisticated threats off our radar so we can focus on real attacks."

Davis said the military needs to realize that the Internet is not just a service but a critical part of the Defense Department's operations that needs to be reliably secure.

"We rely on our networks for war fighting functions. To have a loss of trust would be traumatic," Davis said.

The military has had some self-inflicted problems from basic security problems, like viruses on personal drives and "phishing" incidents, that hampered its security, Davis said. Last year, external drives were banned from being used on the military network.

As part of his Monday announcement about changes to the Pentagon budgets, Defense Secretary Robert Gates highlighted the need to increase the number of personnel involved in cybersecurity.

Gates announced that the Department of Defense would triple the number of "cyber-experts" to 250 over the next two years.

But that's not enough, said Davis.

"It's got to be more," he said. "But it is a sign of progress."

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/04/07/military.computers/>

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Wall Street Journal  
8 April 2009

## **Electricity Grid in U.S. Penetrated By Spies**

By SIOBHAN GORMAN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Cyberspies have penetrated the U.S. electrical grid and left behind software programs that could be used to disrupt the system, according to current and former national-security officials.

The spies came from China, Russia and other countries, these officials said, and were believed to be on a mission to navigate the U.S. electrical system and its controls. The intruders haven't sought to damage the power grid or other key infrastructure, but officials warned they could try during a crisis or war.

"The Chinese have attempted to map our infrastructure, such as the electrical grid," said a senior intelligence official. "So have the Russians."

The espionage appeared pervasive across the U.S. and doesn't target a particular company or region, said a former Department of Homeland Security official. "There are intrusions, and they are growing," the former official said, referring to electrical systems. "There were a lot last year."

Many of the intrusions were detected not by the companies in charge of the infrastructure but by U.S. intelligence agencies, officials said. Intelligence officials worry about cyber attackers taking control of electrical facilities, a nuclear power plant or financial networks via the Internet.

Authorities investigating the intrusions have found software tools left behind that could be used to destroy infrastructure components, the senior intelligence official said. He added, "If we go to war with them, they will try to turn them on."

Officials said water, sewage and other infrastructure systems also were at risk.

"Over the past several years, we have seen cyberattacks against critical infrastructures abroad, and many of our own infrastructures are as vulnerable as their foreign counterparts," Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair recently told lawmakers. "A number of nations, including Russia and China, can disrupt elements of the U.S. information infrastructure."

Officials cautioned that the motivation of the cyberspies wasn't well understood, and they don't see an immediate danger. China, for example, has little incentive to disrupt the U.S. economy because it relies on American consumers and holds U.S. government debt.

But protecting the electrical grid and other infrastructure is a key part of the Obama administration's cybersecurity review, which is to be completed next week. Under the Bush administration, Congress approved \$17 billion in secret funds to protect government networks, according to people familiar with the budget. The Obama administration is weighing whether to expand the program to address vulnerabilities in private computer networks, which would cost billions of dollars more. A senior Pentagon official said Tuesday the Pentagon has spent \$100 million in the past six months repairing cyber damage.

WSJ's Intelligence Reporter Siobhan Gorman says that Intelligence officials have found cyber spies lurking in the U.S. electrical infrastructure.

Overseas examples show the potential havoc. In 2000, a disgruntled employee rigged a computerized control system at a water-treatment plant in Australia, releasing more than 200,000 gallons of sewage into parks, rivers and the grounds of a Hyatt hotel.

Last year, a senior Central Intelligence Agency official, Tom Donahue, told a meeting of utility company representatives in New Orleans that a cyberattack had taken out power equipment in multiple regions outside the U.S. The outage was followed with extortion demands, he said.

The U.S. electrical grid comprises three separate electric networks, covering the East, the West and Texas. Each includes many thousands of miles of transmission lines, power plants and substations. The flow of power is controlled by local utilities or regional transmission organizations. The growing reliance of utilities on Internet-based communication has increased the vulnerability of control systems to spies and hackers, according to government reports.

The sophistication of the U.S. intrusions -- which extend beyond electric to other key infrastructure systems -- suggests that China and Russia are mainly responsible, according to intelligence officials and cybersecurity specialists. While terrorist groups could develop the ability to penetrate U.S. infrastructure, they don't appear to have yet mounted attacks, these officials say.

It is nearly impossible to know whether or not an attack is government-sponsored because of the difficulty in tracking true identities in cyberspace. U.S. officials said investigators have followed electronic trails of stolen data to China and Russia.

Russian and Chinese officials have denied any wrongdoing. "These are pure speculations," said Yevgeniy Khorishko, a spokesman at the Russian Embassy. "Russia has nothing to do with the cyberattacks on the U.S. infrastructure, or on any infrastructure in any other country in the world."

A spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, Wang Baodong, said the Chinese government "resolutely oppose[s] any crime, including hacking, that destroys the Internet or computer network" and has laws barring the practice. China was ready to cooperate with other countries to counter such attacks, he said, and added that "some people overseas with Cold War mentality are indulged in fabricating the sheer lies of the so-called cyberspies in China."

Utilities are reluctant to speak about the dangers. "Much of what we've done, we can't talk about," said Ray Dotter, a spokesman at PJM Interconnection LLC, which coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in 13 states and the District of Columbia. He said the organization has beefed up its security, in conformance with federal standards.

In January 2008, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved new protection measures that required improvements in the security of computer servers and better plans for handling attacks.

Last week, Senate Democrats introduced a proposal that would require all critical infrastructure companies to meet new cybersecurity standards and grant the president emergency powers over control of the grid systems and other infrastructure.

Specialists at the U.S. Cyber Consequences Unit, a nonprofit research institute, said attack programs search for openings in a network, much as a thief tests locks on doors. Once inside, these programs and their human controllers can acquire the same access and powers as a systems administrator.

### **NERC Letter**

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation on Tuesday warned its members that not all of them appear to be adhering to cybersecurity requirements.

The White House review of cybersecurity programs is studying ways to shield the electrical grid from such attacks, said James Lewis, who directed a study for the Center for Strategic and International Studies and has met with White House reviewers.

The reliability of the grid is ultimately the responsibility of the North American Electric Reliability Corp., an independent standards-setting organization overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The NERC set standards last year requiring companies to designate "critical cyber assets." Companies, for example, must check the backgrounds of employees and install firewalls to separate administrative networks from those that control electricity flow. The group will begin auditing compliance in July.

—Rebecca Smith contributed to this article.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123914805204099085.html>

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China View  
April 8, 2009

## **U.S. Military Seeks More Funds Against Cyberattacks**

WASHINGTON, April 7 (Xinhua) -- U.S. military leaders said Tuesday that their government needs to invest more money to boost the Pentagon's ability to fend off cyber attacks rather than repairing the damages afterwards.

"It would be nice to spend that money protectively ... rather than fixing things after the fact," said John Davis, deputy head of the U.S. Strategic Command, told a cyber-space conference in Omaha, Nebraska, according to U.S. wire and TV reports.

Kevin Chilton, who heads the Strategic Command, said the Pentagon spent more than 100 million U.S. dollars in past six months in dealing with cyber attacks and other computer network problems.

The command is in charge of protecting the Pentagon's information apparatus and conducting cyber operations.

Chilton said the Pentagon's cyber systems are under growing attacks of various motivations, ranging from vandalism to espionage.

The Pentagon said its computer network is scanned or probed by outsiders millions of times each day.

Last year a cyber attack led to breakdown of 1,500 computers of the U.S. military.

A broad government-wide review on cyber-security is to be completed soon.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said Monday that he plans to increase the number of cyber-security experts government departments can train to 250 a year by 2011 from the current 80.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/08/content\\_11145809.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-04/08/content_11145809.htm)

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