



# **USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**

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Associated Press

12 June 2009

## **N Korean Leader's Son is 'Brilliant Comrade'**

By VIJAY JOSHI

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The youngest son of North Korea's authoritarian leader has been given the title of "Brilliant Comrade," a newspaper reported Friday, a sign the communist regime is preparing to name him as successor to the ailing Kim Jong Il.

U.S. and South Korean intelligence authorities disclosed during a meeting this week that 26-year-old Kim Jong Un is now being referred to in the secretive regime as "Yongmyong-han Dongji," which translates roughly as "Brilliant Comrade," South Korea's mass-circulation JoongAng Ilbo newspaper reported.

An unidentified intelligence official quoted by the newspaper said the title means the North will engineer a cult of personality for the younger Kim — much like it was done for his father and grandfather, Kim Il Sung, the only two leaders North Korea has seen.

The eldest Kim founded North Korea in 1948 in the aftermath of World War II when the peninsula was divided between the Soviet Union-controlled north and the U.S.-backed south.

Kim, who was referred to as the "Great Leader," died in 1994, paving the way for the first hereditary transfer of power in a communist nation. His son, Kim Jong Il, became the "Dear Leader."

The ailing 67-year-old Kim, who reportedly suffered a stroke last year, is said to be grooming "Brilliant Comrade" Jong Un, the youngest of his three sons, to succeed him. Jong Un reportedly studied at the International School in Berne, Switzerland, in the 1990s, and is said to be proficient in English.

Grandiose titles are part of a tradition to stimulate public support in a nation where the media is tightly controlled and little information about the inner workings of the government is available. The leader is given credit for most national projects. The state media carry endless flattering reports about Kim, repeatedly referring to him with his various titles of which "Dear Leader" is the most prominent.

Earlier this week, North Korea's main newspaper, Rodong Sinmun, said in an editorial that an important issue concerning the nation's fate and its revolution had been resolved.

Cheong Seong-chang of the Sejong Institute think tank outside Seoul said this was an apparent reference to a power transfer.

"It indicates that North Korea has resolved the succession issue," he said.

The developments come as a U.S. official said Thursday that North Korea may be preparing for a third nuclear test in defiance of the United Nations. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss the unreleased information, would not provide details regarding the assessment.

Analysts speculate credit for any such test would be given to Jong Un to establish his credentials before he takes over.

On Friday, the U.N. Security Council is expected to approve sanctions on the regime for conducting the previous nuclear tests on May 25. The sanctions seek to curb the North's weapons exports and financial dealings. They would also allow inspections of suspect cargo in ports and on the high seas.

North Korea describes its nuclear program — which became public after its first test in 2006 — as a deterrent against possible U.S. attacks. Washington says it has no intention of attacking and has expressed fear that North Korea is trying to sell its nuclear technology to other nations.

"North Korea needs at least two more tests to perfect its nuclear weapons system," Baek Seung-joo, an analyst at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, told The Associated Press.

"It appears the North has concluded that possessing nuclear weapons is the way for it to survive. I think a third nuclear test is fairly possible."

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iURO8fOyWVOA0ytFlaAGuC9F7R9wD98P5RA01>

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Sydney Morning Herald  
June 13, 2009

## **Cost-Benefit Analysis of Nuclear Ambition Puts N Korea in Front**

Blaine Harden in Tokyo

AS THE United Nations moves to enact a sanction on North Korea for its second nuclear test, strong evidence of the failure of a previous international squeeze has emerged.

In recent decades North Korea has earned hundreds of millions of dollars from peddling fake drugs, circulating counterfeit currency and moving missiles and missile parts to countries in East Asia and the Middle East, the Centre for Nonproliferation Studies in California has found.

Because of booming business with China, overseas trade has grown substantially since the sanctions were imposed in 2006 after the government of Kim Jong-il exploded its first nuclear device.

Trade volume rose last year to its highest level since 1990, when a less isolated North Korea was heavily subsidised by the former Soviet Union, an analysis by the Korea Trade and Investment Promotion Agency in Seoul found.

North Korean exports surged 23 per cent last year, on the previous year, and imports rose 33 per cent, the agency said. It found that China's share of overseas trade had risen from 33 per cent in 2003 to 73 per cent last year.

UN Security Council sanctions have had "no perceptible effect" on North Korea's trade with its largest partners, another study, by Marcus Noland, a North Korea expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, found.

"In retrospect, North Korea may have calculated quite correctly that direct penalties for establishing itself as a nuclear power would be modest," he wrote in a paper published at the end of last year. "If sanctions are to deter behaviour in the future, they will have to be much more enthusiastically implemented."

A draft resolution agreed on Wednesday by the United States, China and other major powers would tighten the military, financial and trade sanctions approved in 2006. It could be adopted by Friday.

Noland said the plan was clever. "The North Koreans will be down to whatever China gives them and whatever they can get from their subterranean customers in the Middle East."

**The Washington Post**

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/costbenefit-analysis-of-nuclear-ambition-puts-n-korea-in-front-20090612-c63e.html>

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London Guardian  
13 June 2009

## **North Korea Declares All-out Push for Nuclear Weapons**

Ewen MacAskill in Washington and agencies

North Korea declared it would turn its plutonium stocks into weapons material and threatened military action against the US and its allies after the UN security council imposed new sanctions to punish Pyongyang for last month's underground nuclear test.

The country's foreign ministry today acknowledged for the first time that North Korea was developing a uranium enrichment programme and said it would be "impossible" to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

In a defiant statement, it said that "the whole amount of the newly extracted plutonium [in the country] will be weaponised" and that "more than one-third of the spent fuel rods has been reprocessed to date".

The ministry said the country had successfully started a programme to enrich uranium for a light-water reactor.

The warning came a few hours after the security council unanimously passed a resolution banning all weapons exports from North Korea and the import of all but small arms.

North Korea described the sanctions as "yet another vile product of the US-led offensive of international pressure aimed at undermining ... disarming DPRK and suffocating its economy".

Unusually the resolution was unanimous, reflecting the extent of anger within the Chinese government over last month's nuclear test. Normally it is difficult for the US, Britain and France to persuade China, and to a lesser extent Russia, to take a tough line against North Korea.

The US ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice, described the resolution as "unprecedented" and said the sanctions regime had "teeth that will bite".

China strongly urged Pyongyang to promote denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. China's envoy, Zhang Yesui, said it showed the "firm opposition" of the international community to North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions.

The regime is believed to have enough plutonium for at least six nuclear bombs. It has around 8,000 spent fuel rods that if reprocessed could allow the country to harvest 6-8kg of plutonium – enough for at least one nuclear bomb, according to analysts.

The UN resolution authorises all countries to stop and search North Korean ships for weapons. The US, Britain and France wanted to make such inspections mandatory for all states, but China and Russia watered this down. The final resolution "calls on" states to carry out weapons searches.

Even so, the resolution risks standoffs between US and North Korean ships – a danger underlined by North Korea's response. "An attempted blockade of any kind by the US and its followers will be regarded as an act of war and met with a decisive military response," the regime said.

There was no attempt to expand the sanctions to exports and imports of non-military goods. This is partly because China and Russia would have been opposed, but also because of fears a collapse of the North Korean economy would result in a flood of refugees into South Korea.

Three years ago, under threat of sanctions, North Korea entered into international negotiations with the Bush administration aimed at ending its programme. But the process collapsed. The Obama administration's main aim is to get North Korea back to the negotiating table.

The sanctions could complicate attempts to free two US journalists sentenced on Monday to 12 years' hard labour for filming at the border between China and North Korea. Pleas have been made for their release on humanitarian grounds but Pyongyang may use them as a bargaining chip.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jun/13/north-korea-nuclear-weapon-plutonium>

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Washington Post  
June 13, 2009

## **N. Korea Vows to 'Weaponize' Plutonium, Start Enriching Uranium**

By Blaine Harden

TOKYO, June 13 -- North Korea declared Saturday that it could no longer "even think about giving up its nuclear weapons" following the U.N. Security Council's imposition of sanctions for its second nuclear test.

Declaring that it would meet sanctions with "retaliation," the government of Kim Jong Il vowed to "weaponize" all the plutonium it could extract from used fuel rods at its partially disabled Yongbyon nuclear plant.

It also pledged to start enriching uranium to make more nuclear weapons. For the past seven years, North Korea has adamantly denied U.S. intelligence reports that it even had a uranium-enrichment program.

"It makes no difference to North Korea whether its nuclear status is recognized or not," the government said in a statement by its official news agency. "It has become an absolutely impossible option for North Korea to even think about giving up its nuclear weapons."

The 15-member Security Council unanimously passed a resolution Friday that imposes broad financial, trade and military sanctions on North Korea, while also calling on states, for the first time, to seize banned weapons and technology from the North that are found aboard ships on the high seas.

North Korea seemed Saturday to have interpreted the seizure resolution as a "blockade." But at the insistence of China and Russia, the North's traditional allies, the resolution does not authorize the use of military action to enforce any seizure that a North Korean vessel might resist, nor does it restrict shipments of food or other nonmilitary goods.

"An attempted blockade of any kind by the United States and its followers will be regarded as an act of war and met with a decisive military response," North Korea said.

The bellicose language in Saturday's statement -- which describes the Security Council action as "another ugly product of American-led international pressure" -- is similar in tone to previous North Korean responses to U.N. sanctions.

But the North's announcement that it would process enriched uranium to make more weapons was an extraordinary public admission of active involvement in a program whose existence has been denied by Pyongyang since 2002, when it was first mentioned in a U.S. intelligence report.

The Bush administration accused North Korea in 2002 of secretly continuing with nuclear weapons development in violation of a 1994 agreement. It then canceled construction of two light-water reactors in the North that were to have been used to produce electricity for the impoverished country.

Uranium enrichment, which offers a different route for making nuclear weapons than plutonium, uses centrifuges to spin hot uranium gas into weapons-grade fuel.

Insisting that it had no uranium-enrichment program, the North Korean government took an American diplomat to a missile factory in 2007, where there were aluminum tubes that some experts had said could be used in uranium enrichment. North Korea allowed the diplomat to take home some samples.

Traces of enriched uranium were unexpectedly discovered on those samples. Other traces were also found on the pages of reactor records that North Korea turned over to the United States in 2008, as part of now-aborted negotiations on denuclearizing the North.

In recent years, U.S. officials have suggested that while North Korea has tried to enrich uranium, it has not been very successful.

North Korea on Saturday said it has indeed made progress.

"Enough success has been made in developing uranium enrichment technology to provide nuclear fuel to allow the experimental procedure," the government said. "The process of uranium enrichment will be commenced."

This may have been bluster, at least in the short term.

It will take many years for North Korea to develop the uranium route to a bomb, according to Siegfried S. Hecker, a periodic visitor to North Korea's nuclear complex in Yongbyon who is a former director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory and current co-director of Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation.

Writing last month in Foreign Policy magazine, Hecker said that Pyongyang lacks uranium centrifuge materials, technology and know-how.

He warned, however, that Iran has mastered this technology and that it could help the North move forward with uranium enrichment. North Korea and Iran have shared long-range missile technology that may provide both countries with the ability to deliver a nuclear warhead.

North Korea also said Saturday that the spent fuel rods at its Yongbyon reactor are being reprocessed, with all the resulting plutonium to be used in nuclear weapons. The government said Saturday it has reprocessed more than a third of them.

Hecker said in a recent interview that there is enough plutonium in the spent rods for "one or two more" nuclear tests. He also said it would take the North about six months to restart its Yongbyon plant, and that it could then produce enough plutonium to make about one nuclear bomb a year for the next decade.

Early this year, North Korean officials said that technicians have used all the plutonium previously manufactured at Yongbyon to make nuclear weapons. Hecker said that was probably enough for between 6 and 8 bombs.

In South Korea on Saturday, several analysts said North Korea's fist-shaking response to Security Council sanctions suggests that hard-liners in the country's military are exercising increasing power in running the government.

Kim Jong Il suffered a stroke last summer and has appeared thin and frail in public appearances. He is believed to have chosen his youngest son, Jong Un, as his future successor.

It is unknown, however, how far the succession process has progressed inside the secretive communist state.

"Given Kim's ailing health, which is complicated by the problem of smooth power transfer to his son, the North Korean leader is likely to have yielded to the demands and pressure of military people who have little awareness of the outside world," said Koh Yu-whan, a professor of North Korean studies at Dongguk University in Seoul.

Special correspondent Stella Kim in Seoul contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/13/AR2009061300636.html?hpid=topnews>

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Los Angeles Times

June 13, 2009

## **U.N. Approves Sanctions Targeting North Korean Ships**

By Paul Richter

Reporting from Washington -- The Obama administration is prepared to halt North Korean ships on the high seas to carry out the newest United Nations sanctions against Pyongyang's arms trade, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. said Friday.

Susan Rice said the United States would intensify its scrutiny of North Korea's trade in banned weapons, and if U.S. commanders suspect a ship is carrying them, "we are prepared to confront that vessel."

Rice's comments to reporters at the White House came soon after the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously for new sanctions against North Korea to register its displeasure over Pyongyang's recent nuclear and missile tests.

Rice said the U.S. Navy wouldn't forcibly board such ships, but would direct them to a nearby port for inspection. North Korea has warned that it would regard such interdictions as an act of war.

The U.N. sanctions are aimed at halting most of North Korea's arms business. The measures also authorize tough financial sanctions that could sharply reduce Pyongyang's revenues from abroad, and call for a halt to foreign financial aid to the isolated nation.

It remains to be seen, however, how vigorously North Korea's key trading partners, including China, will enforce the sanctions, diplomats said.

Russia and China, North Korea's traditional protectors, joined in the vote. China's ambassador to the United Nations, Zhang Yesui, said the resolution showed the "firm opposition" of the international community to Pyongyang's recent weapons tests.

At the same time, China has opposed a requirement for U.N. members to search North Korean vessels, and the envoy urged nations to use caution in interdictions.

"We strongly urge [North Korea] to honor its commitment to denuclearization, stop any moves that may worsen the situation, and return to the six-party talks" on disarmament, Zhang said.

Rice said the new sanctions were unprecedented and acknowledged that North Korea may react strongly to them.

"It would not be a surprise if North Korea reacted to this very tough sanctions regime in a fashion that would be further provocation and further destabilizing," she said.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry said today that it would restart its uranium enrichment program and "weaponize" all the plutonium in its possession, according to the official Korean Central News Agency, the Associated Press reported.

The U.N. sanctions encourage, but do not require, member countries to interdict North Korean ships they believe to be carrying banned weapons. If the ships refuse permission to be boarded, they are to be directed to a nearby port for inspection.

If they refuse that advice, they are to be denied port services, including refueling.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-un-north-korea13-2009jun13.0.3733411.story>

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Telegraph  
13 June 2009

## North Korea in 'Early Phase of All-out Confrontation with US'

By Peter Foster in Beijing

The regime of the ailing dictator Kim Jong-il said it was now in the "early phase of all-out confrontation with the US" as it sought to raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula to dangerous new levels.

On Friday the Security Council ordered an almost-total arms embargo and a raft of strict financial sanctions against the North in punishment for its testing of a second nuclear device last month.

In a bellicose statement, Pyongyang described the sanctions as the "vile product" of US policy in the region, adding that it would also begin work enriching uranium as it sought to build up stocks of fissile material for its nuclear weapons programme.

The North is thought to have approximately 8,000 spent plutonium fuel rods which, if reprocessed, could yield 6-8kg of high-grade plutonium, or enough to make at least one more nuclear bomb.

The sanctions have also authorised UN member-states to stop and search North Korean vessels on the high seas if they suspect they are carrying banned nuclear or missile components, a measure that has drawn particular ire from Pyongyang.

North Korea replied that any attempt to blockade its ships would be regarded "as an act of war and met with a decisive military response", and promised to meet any confrontation with "all-out confrontation".

The belligerent response to the sanctions order, which explicitly rules out the use of military force, was anticipated by the US which has sought to downplay tensions, repeatedly calling for Pyongyang to return to the negotiating table.

US intelligence sources have said they now fully expect North Korea to test a third nuclear device and go ahead with another test-firing of its Taepodong-2 ballistic missile, for which preparations are already under way according to satellite imagery.

Susan Rice, the US ambassador to the UN, said that "based on past experience and a pattern that North Korea has of reckless and dangerous actions, it would not be a surprise if North Korea reacted to this very tough sanctions regime in a fashion that would be further provocation."

The latest round of brinkmanship from Pyongyang comes after six months in which relations have deteriorated rapidly after the Six-Party nuclear disarmament talks stalled last December over US demands for fuller verification of North Korea's decommissioning.

After being censured by the UN for conducting a ballistic missile test in April, the North reacted by testing a second nuclear device last month, which analysts said had four times the power of its first test in October 2006.

The second test was also seen as an attempt by the physically ailing Kim Jong-il to bolster his standing at home prior to the announcement that his 25-year-old son, Kim Jong-un, would be his successor.

Diplomatic engagement with Pyongyang since 2006 has been based on the idea that North Korea would give up its nuclear program in return for food and fuel aid which it desperately needs to feed its people and prop up its bankrupt regime.

However in yesterday's statement Pyongyang said it was now "an absolutely impossible option" for it to give up its nuclear weapons, adding "it makes no difference to the DPRK [North Korea] whether its nuclear status is recognised or not".

Analysts said the impact of the latest sanctions regime would depend on how far China and the US were prepared to act to enforce the new provisions, particularly stopping and searching North Korean shipping.

During two weeks of intense negotiations in New York, both Russia and China argued for a softer approach to Pyongyang, fearing that draconian measures could be counterproductive and further destabilise the regime.

Although the resolution was eventually passed unanimously, China was quick to emphasise after the vote that the cargo inspections were "very complicated and sensitive" and could not be carried out by force.

"The countries concerned have to act prudently in accordance with international and domestic laws," said Zhang Yesui, China's UN ambassador, "Under no circumstances should there be the use of force or the threat of use of force."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/northkorea/5523129/North-Korea-in-early-phase-of-all-out-confrontation-with-US.html>

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Washington Post  
June 14, 2009

## **North Korea Says It Will Start Enriching Uranium**

By Blaine Harden, Washington Post Foreign Service

TOKYO, June 13 -- North Korea adamantly denied for seven years that it had a program for making nuclear weapons from enriched uranium.

But on Saturday, a few hours after the U.N. Security Council slapped it with tough new sanctions for detonating a second nuclear device, the government of Kim Jong Il changed its tune, vowing that it would start enriching uranium to make more nuclear weapons.

Declaring that it would meet sanctions with "retaliation," North Korea also pledged to "weaponize" all the plutonium it could extract from used fuel rods at its Yongbyon nuclear plant, which was partially disabled last year as part of the North's agreement to win food, fuel and diplomatic concessions in return for a promise to end its nuclear program.

That agreement collapsed in April, when North Korea -- fuming about Security Council condemnation of its March launch of a long-range missile -- kicked U.N. weapons inspectors out of the country and began work to restart its plutonium factory. It tested a second bomb on May 25, and South Korean officials have said more missile launches and a third nuclear test are possible in the near future.

"It makes no difference to North Korea whether its nuclear status is recognized or not," the Foreign Ministry in Pyongyang said in a statement carried by the state news agency. "It has become an absolutely impossible option for North Korea to even think about giving up its nuclear weapons."

The 15-member Security Council unanimously passed a resolution Friday that imposes broad financial, trade and military sanctions on North Korea, while also calling on states, for the first time, to seize banned weapons and technology from the North that are found aboard ships on the high seas.

North Korea seemed Saturday to have interpreted the seizure resolution as a "blockade." But at the insistence of China and Russia, the North's traditional allies, the resolution does not authorize the use of military action to enforce any seizure that a North Korean vessel might resist, nor does it restrict shipments of food or other nonmilitary goods.

"An attempted blockade of any kind by the United States and its followers will be regarded as an act of war and met with a decisive military response," North Korea said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said North Korea's "continuing provocative actions are deeply regrettable."

The bellicose language in North Korea's statement -- which describes the Security Council action as "another ugly product of American-led international pressure" -- is similar in tone to previous North Korean responses to U.N. sanctions.

But the North's announcement that it would process enriched uranium to make more weapons was an extraordinary public admission of active involvement in a program whose existence has been denied by Pyongyang since 2002, when it was first mentioned in a U.S. intelligence report.

That year, the Bush administration accused North Korea of secretly continuing with nuclear weapons development in violation of a 1994 agreement. It then canceled construction of two light-water reactors in the North that were to have been used to produce electricity for the impoverished country.

But in 2007, the Bush administration began to back off its assertions that North Korea had an active program to enrich uranium. The chief U.S. intelligence officer for North Korea, Joseph R. DeTrani, told Congress at the time



that although there was "high confidence" that North Korea had acquired materials that could be used in a "production-scale" uranium program, there was only "mid-confidence" that such a program existed.

Uranium enrichment, which offers a different route for making nuclear weapons than plutonium, uses centrifuges to spin hot uranium gas into weapons-grade fuel.

Insisting that it had no uranium-enrichment program, the North Korean government took an American diplomat to a missile factory in 2007, where there were aluminum tubes that some experts had said could be used in uranium enrichment. North Korea allowed the diplomat to take home some samples.

Traces of enriched uranium were unexpectedly discovered on those samples. Other traces were found on the pages of reactor records that North Korea turned over to the United States in 2008, as part of now-aborted negotiations on denuclearizing the North.

In recent years, U.S. officials have suggested that although North Korea has tried to enrich uranium, it has not been very successful.

North Korea on Saturday said it has indeed made progress.

"Enough success has been made in developing uranium-enrichment technology to provide nuclear fuel to allow the experimental procedure," the government said. "The process of uranium enrichment will be commenced."

This may have been bluster, at least in the short term.

It will take many years for the North to develop the uranium route to a bomb, according to Siegfried S. Hecker, a periodic visitor to the Yongbyon complex who was director of Los Alamos National Laboratory and is co-director of Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation.

Writing last month in Foreign Policy magazine, Hecker said North Korea lacks uranium centrifuge materials, technology and know-how. He warned, however, that Iran has mastered this technology and could help the North move forward with uranium enrichment. North Korea and Iran have shared long-range missile technology that could enable both countries to deliver a nuclear warhead.

North Korea also said Saturday that the spent fuel rods at its Yongbyon reactor are being reprocessed, with all the resulting plutonium to be used in nuclear weapons. The government said that it has reprocessed more than a third of them.

Hecker said in a recent interview that there is enough plutonium in the spent rods for "one or two more" nuclear tests. He also said it would take the North about six months to restart its Yongbyon plant, and that it could then produce enough plutonium to make about one nuclear bomb a year for the next decade.

Early this year, North Korean officials said that technicians have used all the plutonium previously manufactured at Yongbyon to make nuclear weapons.

In South Korea on Saturday, several analysts said the North's fist-shaking response to Security Council sanctions suggests that hard-liners in the country's military are exercising increasing power in running the government.

Kim Jong Il suffered a stroke last summer and has appeared frail in public appearances. He is believed to have chosen his youngest son, Jong Un, as his successor. It is unknown, however, how far the succession process has progressed in the secretive communist state.

"Given Kim's ailing health . . . the North Korean leader is likely to have yielded to the demands and pressure of military people who have little awareness of the outside world," said Koh Yu-hwan, a professor of North Korean studies at Dongguk University in Seoul.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/13/AR2009061300636.html>

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London Guardian  
14 June 2009

## **North Korea Warns Seoul of Nuclear War Following UN Sanctions**

Associated Press in Seoul

North Korea has warned of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula while vowing to step up its atomic weapons programme in defiance of new UN sanctions.

Today's Rodong Sinmun, a state-run North Korean newspaper, claimed the US has 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea. Another state-run publication claimed that America had been deploying nuclear weapons in Japan as well.

North Korea "is completely within the range of US nuclear attack and the Korean peninsula is becoming an area where the chances of a nuclear war are the highest in the world", the Tongil Sinbo said.

A spokesman at the US military command in Seoul dismissed the claims as "baseless", saying Washington had no nuclear bombs in South Korea. US tactical nuclear weapons were removed from the country in 1991 following the cold war.

Yesterday, Pyongyang threatened war on any country that dared to stop its ships under the new sanctions approved by the UN security council on Friday.

Pyongyang's sabre-rattling presents a growing diplomatic headache for Barack Obama as he prepares for talks on Tuesday with his South Korean counterpart on the North's missile and nuclear programmes.

President Lee Myung-bak told security ministers at an unscheduled meeting today to "resolutely and squarely" cope with the North's latest threat, his office said. He leaves for the US tomorrow morning.

South Korea's unification ministry today demanded that the North stop stoking tension, abandon its nuclear weapons and returned to dialogue with the South.

It is unclear whether North Korea's statements are simply rhetoric. But they are a setback for international attempts to rein in the country's nuclear ambitions following its second nuclear test on 25 May.

In yesterday's statement, Pyongyang said it has been enriching uranium to provide fuel for its light-water reactor. It was the first public acknowledgment that the North is running such a programme in addition to its known plutonium one.

Today, Seoul's Yonhap news agency reported that South Korea and the US have mobilised spy satellites, reconnaissance aircraft and human intelligence networks to obtain evidence of the programme.

North Korea says its nuclear programme is a deterrent against the US, which it routinely accuses of plotting to topple its regime. Washington, which has 28,500 US troops stationed in South Korea, has repeatedly said it has no such intention.

The latest UN sanctions are aimed at depriving Pyongyang of the financing necessary for its nuclear programme. The UN also authorised searches of North Korean ships suspected of transporting illicit ballistic missile and nuclear materials. The new sanctions

The UN penalties provided the necessary tools to help check North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons, said the US secretary of state, Hillary Clinton yesterday.

They show that "North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons and the capacity to deliver those weapons through missiles is not going to be accepted by the neighbours as well as the greater international community", she said.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jun/14/north-korea-un-nuclear-war>

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London Daily Telegraph  
14 June 2009

## **North Korea Claims US could Provoke Nuclear War**

By Malcolm Moore in Shanghai

A commentary in the North's state-run Rodong Sinmun newspaper claimed the US had 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea ready to strike.

Meanwhile, the Tongbil Sinbo newspaper said that North Korea is "completely within the range of US nuclear attack and the Korean peninsula is becoming an area where the chances of nuclear war are the highest in the world."

Over the weekend, North Korea angrily responded to fresh United Nations sanctions by threatening to build as many nuclear weapons as possible.

Until now, it said, it had only reprocessed one-third of its spent fuel rods into weapons-grade plutonium. Analysts believe the rogue state could end up with enough plutonium to make eight to nine bombs.

The rogue state also claimed to have a uranium-enrichment programme, the first time it has admitted to one. The claim is alarming, said Professor Yang Moo-Jin, of Seoul's University of North Korean Studies.

"The North has abundant natural uranium of good quality, which, if combined with technology and facilities, would result in a great nuclear arsenal," he said.

The new UN sanctions include the mandatory inspection of any ship suspected of carrying drugs, weapons or counterfeit money, the main sources of income for the impoverished country.

The resolution, which does not authorise the use of force against North Korea, also contains targeted financial curbs and demands that the state halt any further missile or nuclear tests. Recent US, Russian and South Korean intelligence has picked up signs of activity at the Musudan launch pad in the north of the country and it is believed that North Korea could launch another long-range ballistic missile in the coming days.

However, North Korea responded with threats that any attempt to search one of its ships would be considered "an act of war" and would be "met with a decisive military response".

Meanwhile, Kim Jong-il has paid a morale-boosting visit to the troops, according to the North Korean state news agency.

Kim told soldiers of the 7th Infantry Division that he was greatly satisfied that the army "had been prepared to perform its combat duty in any circumstance".

According to the North Korean state media, Kim "highly praised" the soldiers for their "militant training spirit" and told them that "Training is also a battle!".

Hillary Clinton, the US secretary of State, said the declaration of defiance by North Korea was "deeply regrettable". The North Koreans, she said, "have now been denounced by everyone. They have become further isolated. And it is not in the interests of the people of North Korea for that isolation to continue."

Kim Yong-kyu, a spokesman for the US army in Seoul, said the US has no nuclear bombs in South Korea and called the accusation "baseless".

Lee Myung-bak, the South Korean president, is due in Washington on Tuesday for talks with Barack Obama.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/northkorea/5532319/North-Korea-claims-US-could-provoke-nuclear-war.html>

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New York Times

June 14, 2009

## **North Korea Vows To Produce Nuclear Weapons**

By Martin Fackler

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea responded Saturday to new United Nations sanctions on Friday by defiantly vowing to press forward with the production of nuclear weapons and take "resolute military actions" against international efforts to isolate it.

In a statement on the North's official Korean Central News Agency, an unidentified spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry was quoted as saying that his nation would continue its nuclear program to defend itself against what he called a hostile United States policy. He was quoted as saying that his nation would "weaponize" its existing plutonium stockpiles and begin a program to enrich uranium, which can also be used to make atomic warheads.

The statement, which was light on the vitriol that often colors such missives, was released hours after the United Nations Security Council voted to punish the North for its May 25 nuclear test and its missile tests. The Council

tightened sanctions, including an arms embargo and a provision that encourages high-seas searches of North Korean ships.

“We’ll take firm military action if the United States and its allies try to isolate us,” the spokesman said, according to the KCNA, the news service.

The spokesman said that his nation had “reprocessed more than one-third of our spent nuclear fuel rods.”

Since the 1990s, United Nations inspectors have tried to keep track of the spent fuel rods at the Yongbyon nuclear complex; the rods can be reprocessed into weapons-grade plutonium.

American intelligence officials say they believe that North Korea may have one or two nuclear weapons and has produced enough bomb-grade plutonium already for several more.

The United States has also warned in the past that the North may be trying to turn its abundant supplies of natural uranium into material for weapons, but intelligence experts say they believe that such a program is years behind the country’s plutonium-based efforts. The North made similar vows about a uranium-based program in April, after a rocket test that started the latest confrontation between North Korea and the West.

Although the sanctions passed Friday tightened restrictions, the United States had hoped for more stringent penalties and for mandatory ship inspections. The Obama administration pushed for those inspections because of fears that the impoverished North would try to sell its weapons or nuclear material.

North Korea has grown increasingly isolated as it has pressed forward with a nuclear program that many analysts say they now believe is aimed at producing an independent nuclear deterrent rather than being used as a bargaining chip with the West for much needed aid.

The long-range missile test in April was part of what many analysts call an effort to produce a delivery system capable of reaching the United States. There have been signs in recent weeks that the North may be preparing for yet another missile test.

“It has become an absolutely impossible option for the D.P.R.K. to even think about giving up its nuclear weapons,” Saturday’s statement said, using the initials of the North’s official name, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/14/world/asia/14korea.html>

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Daily Record – Scotland  
June 15, 2009

## **North Korea Warns of Nuclear War**

NORTH Korea yesterday warned their region was coming close to nuclear war.

As the Pyongyang regime vowed to step up their atomic bomb programme, they claimed the US had deployed 1000 nuclear weapons in neighbouring South Korea.

A state-run newspaper said: "North Korea is completely within the range of US nuclear attack and the Korean Peninsula is becoming an area where the chances of a nuclear war are the highest in the world."

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il's open defiance of UN sanctions poses a diplomatic problem for president Barack Obama, who will hold talks with South Korean leader Lee Myung-back tomorrow.

North Korea's foreign ministry have threatened war on any country that stops their ships on the high seas under the new sanctions.

The measures were imposed as punishment for the North's latest nuclear test, which provoked street protests in South Korea.

Last night, a US military spokesman in South Korea rejected the claims that nuclear bombs had been sited in South Korea and Japan.

South Korea's unification ministry issued a statement demanding the North stop stoking tension, abandon their nuclear weapons and return to dialogue with the South.

North Korea is believed to have enough plutonium for half a dozen atomic bombs.

The regime say their nuclear programme is designed to deter US plans to topple them. But Washington denies any such intention.

The new UN sanctions are aimed at depriving the North of the financing used to build its rogue nuclear programme.

US secretary of state Hillary Clinton said the sanctions show "North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons and the capacity to deliver those weapons through missiles is not going to be accepted by the neighbours as well as the international community".

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/2009/06/15/north-korea-warns-of-nuclear-war-86908-21441792/>

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Washington Post

June 15, 2009

## **S. Korea Expected to Seek Reaffirmation of U.S. Nuclear Protection**

By Blaine Harden

SEOUL, June 15 -- As state media in North Korea continued to warn of possible nuclear war, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak flew to Washington for talks with President Obama at which Lee is expected to seek a written promise of continued U.S. nuclear protection.

The United States has maintained a nuclear umbrella over South Korea since the Korean War and it periodically reaffirms that protection, although not at the level of a White House statement.

When Lee meets with Obama on Tuesday, North Korea will be at the top of the agenda and Lee will try to secure a written commitment that the United States will provide extended nuclear deterrence, unnamed officials in the presidential office here have told the South Korean press.

North Korea tested its second nuclear bomb last month, triggering worldwide condemnation and cranking up anxiety in Seoul. When the U.N. Security Council imposed new sanctions on the North for that test, the government of Kim Jong Il quickly responded in the fist-shaking manner that has characterized its behavior for most of this year.

It declared Saturday that it would never give up nuclear weapons and would start making more of them, using plutonium and enriched uranium. Until Saturday, North Korea had denied that it even had a program for making weapons with enriched uranium.

Shortly after the North detonated its first nuclear device in 2006, then-Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld assured his South Korean counterpart of the continuation of the U.S. nuclear umbrella. But it appears that South Korea now wants the promise in writing from a U.S. president.

A North Korean newspaper taunted Lee on Monday for "begging" for American protection.

The Rodong Sinmun, the main newspaper of the North Korean Workers' Party, also accused Lee's government of an "atrocious scheme to wage a second Korean war with nuclear weapons on the back of its U.S. boss."

U.S. nuclear weapons were pulled out of South Korea in 1991. But the nuclear umbrella is maintained by U.S. Navy submarines in the Pacific that are armed with ballistic missiles and by nuclear weapons based in the United States.

The Obama administration has said repeatedly that it wants to try to resume negotiations with North Korea, but it has also said that it would help protect South Korea in case of aggression from Pyongyang. There are 28,500 U.S. troops in South Korea.

Lee and Obama, in what will be their second meeting, will also discuss a free trade agreement between their two countries.

It was signed in 1997, but has not been ratified by the Senate, primarily because of concerns about imports of South Korean cars into the United States and strict limits in South Korea on imports of U.S. beef.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/15/AR2009061500944.html>

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China View  
15 June 2009

## **Russian Media: DPRK Reduces Activity at Nuclear Facilities**

MOSCOW, June 15 (Xinhua) -- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has reduced activity at its nuclear facilities, Russian media reported on Monday.

"Data currently available, including satellite surveillance data, indicate that the intensity of movement in the area of the nuclear facilities has declined in the last few days," the RIA Novosti news agency quoted an unnamed source with the Russian General Staff as saying.

"This means the North Koreans have either completed preparations for another underground test or opted for a pause," the source said.

One the same day, the Itar-Tass news agency quoted an unnamed source from the Russian Foreign Ministry as saying that the DPRK has not informed Russia of its intentions to stage missile or nuclear tests so far.

"We would wish very much that all the threats of Pyongyang should not be realized ... there have been no notifications from the DPRK (of the intentions to stage nuclear or missile tests) yet," the source said.

Pyongyang vowed on Saturday to carry on with its uranium enrichment and nuclear weapons production programs in response to the U.N. Resolution 1874 that was unanimously approved by the U.N. Security Council a day earlier.

The U.N. resolution imposed tougher sanctions on the DPRK, including a tighter arms embargo and new financial restrictions, and urged the country to immediately return to the six-party talks.

The new resolution came after the DPRK announced a successful nuclear test on May 25, the second since 2006.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-06/15/content\\_11546536.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-06/15/content_11546536.htm)

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New York Times  
June 13, 2009

## **Privacy May Be A Victim In Cyberdefense Plan**

By Thom Shanker and David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON — A plan to create a new Pentagon cybercommand is raising significant privacy and diplomatic concerns, as the Obama administration moves ahead on efforts to protect the nation from cyberattack and to prepare for possible offensive operations against adversaries' computer networks.

President Obama has said that the new cyberdefense strategy he unveiled last month will provide protections for personal privacy and civil liberties. But senior Pentagon and military officials say that Mr. Obama's assurances may be challenging to guarantee in practice, particularly in trying to monitor the thousands of daily attacks on security systems in the United States that have set off a race to develop better cyberweapons.

Much of the new military command's work is expected to be carried out by the National Security Agency, whose role in intercepting the domestic end of international calls and e-mail messages after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, under secret orders issued by the Bush administration, has already generated intense controversy.

There is simply no way, the officials say, to effectively conduct computer operations without entering networks inside the United States, where the military is prohibited from operating, or traveling electronic paths through countries that are not themselves American targets.

The cybersecurity effort, Mr. Obama said at the White House last month, "will not — I repeat, will not — include monitoring private sector networks or Internet traffic."

But foreign adversaries often mount their attacks through computer network hubs inside the United States, and military officials and outside experts say that threat confronts the Pentagon and the administration with difficult questions.

Military officials say there may be a need to intercept and examine some e-mail messages sent from other countries to guard against computer viruses or potential terrorist action. Advocates say the process could ultimately be

accepted as the digital equivalent of customs inspections, in which passengers arriving from overseas consent to have their luggage opened for security, tax and health reasons.

“The government is in a quandary,” said Maren Leed, a defense expert at the bipartisan Center for Strategic and International Studies who was a Pentagon special assistant on cyberoperations from 2005 to 2008.

Ms. Leed said a broad debate was needed “about what constitutes an intrusion that violates privacy and, at the other extreme, what is an intrusion that may be acceptable in the face of an act of war.”

In a recent speech, Gen. James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a chief architect of the new cyberstrategy, acknowledged that a major unresolved issue was how the military — which would include the National Security Agency, where much of the cyberwar expertise resides — could legally set up an early warning system.

Unlike a missile attack, which would show up on the Pentagon’s screens long before reaching American territory, a cyberattack may be visible only after it has been launched in the United States.

“How do you understand sovereignty in the cyberdomain?” General Cartwright asked. “It doesn’t tend to pay a lot of attention to geographic boundaries.”

For example, the daily attacks on the Pentagon’s own computer systems, or probes sent from Russia, China and Eastern Europe seeking chinks in the computer systems of corporations and financial institutions, are rarely seen before their effect is felt inside the United States.

Some administration officials have begun to discuss whether laws or regulations must be changed to allow law enforcement, the military or intelligence agencies greater access to networks or Internet providers when significant evidence of a national security threat was found.

Ms. Leed said that while the Defense Department and related intelligence agencies were the only organizations that had the ability to protect against such cyberattacks, “they are not the best suited, from a civil liberties perspective, to take on that responsibility.”

Under plans being completed at the Pentagon, the new cybercommand will be run by a four-star general, much the way Gen. David H. Petraeus runs the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq from Central Command in Tampa, Fla. But the expectation is that whoever is in charge of the new command will also direct the National Security Agency, an effort to solve the turf war between the spy agency and the military over who is in charge of conducting offensive operations.

While the N.S.A.’s job is chiefly one of detection and monitoring, the agency also possesses what Michael D. McConnell, the former director of national intelligence, called “the critical skill set” to respond quickly to cyberattacks. Yet the Defense Department views cyberspace as its domain as well, a new battleground after land, sea, air and space.

The complications are not limited to privacy concerns. The Pentagon is increasingly worried about the diplomatic ramifications of being forced to use the computer networks of many other nations while carrying out digital missions — the computer equivalent of the Vietnam War’s spilling over the Cambodian border in the 1960s. To battle Russian hackers, for example, it might be necessary to act through the virtual cyberterritory of Britain or Germany or any country where the attack was routed.

General Cartwright said military planners were trying to write rules of engagement for scenarios in which a cyberattack was launched from a neutral country that might have no idea what was going on. But, with time of the essence, it may not be possible, the scenarios show, to ask other nations to act against an attack that is flowing through their computers in milliseconds.

“If I pass through your country, do I have to talk to the ambassador?” General Cartwright said. “It is very difficult. Those are the questions that are now really starting to emerge vis-à-vis cyber.”

Frida Berrigan, a longtime peace activist who is a senior program associate at the New America Foundation’s arms and security initiative, expressed concerns about whether the Obama administration would be able to balance its promise to respect privacy in cyberspace even as it appeared to be militarizing cybersecurity.

“Obama was very deliberate in saying that the U.S. military and the U.S. government would not be looking at our e-mail and not tracking what we do online,” Ms. Berrigan said. “This is not to say there is not a cyberthreat out there or that cyberterrorism is not a significant concern. We should be vigilant and creative. But once again we see the Pentagon being put at the heart of it and at front lines of offering a solution.”

Ms. Berrigan said that just as the counterinsurgency wars in Iraq and Afghanistan had proved that "there is no front line anymore, and no demilitarized zone anymore, then if the Pentagon and the military services see cyberspace as a battlefield domain, then the lines protecting privacy and our civil liberties get blurred very, very quickly."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/13/us/politics/13cyber.html>

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Washington Post

June 13, 2009

## **Pentagon Cyber Unit Prompts Questions**

By Ellen Nakashima

The Pentagon's development of a "cyber-command" is prompting questions about its role in the larger national strategy to protect government and private-sector computer networks and whether privacy can be protected. And the command is fueling debate over the proper rules to govern a new kind of warfare in which unannounced adversaries using bits of computer code can launch transnational attacks.

Defense officials are creating the command to defend military networks and develop offensive cyber-weapons, based on a strategy that brings together the military's cyber-warriors and the National Security Agency, the organization responsible for electronic espionage.

The launching of the command, which could be announced as early as next week, reflects the Pentagon's determination to respond urgently to the growing sophistication of other nations' abilities to penetrate the military's global data networks and obtain or alter sensitive information.

"NSA is the only place in the U.S. government that has the capabilities we need for defense of the private networks," said James A. Lewis, a senior fellow and cybersecurity expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "We need to find a way to use those capabilities without putting civil liberties at risk."

The cyber-command will focus strictly on military networks, administration officials have said. But senior intelligence officials have also urged that the NSA use its abilities to help the Department of Homeland Security defend America's critical computer systems -- those operated by the civilian government and by the private sector.

"DHS lead[s]," said Lt. Gen. Keith B. Alexander, the head of the NSA and the official who is expected to lead the cyber-command, in an April speech to industry. "We support. Technical support. I see that as our role. And I think that's where you need us."

Some national security experts fear that the Pentagon's push to develop its cyber-warfare ability may clash with the administration's efforts to forge partnerships with the private sector and with governments and businesses abroad, who might be wary of the Defense Department's intentions.

"This whole notion of being global means we have to work collaboratively with other countries," said Suzanne Spaulding, a former CIA assistant general counsel. "They'll be suspicious and uncomfortable if they're dealing with NSA and perhaps more so with DOD. If DOD goes to them and says, 'Let's collaborate on defensive tools. Tell us what you've developed,' they'll be justifiably concerned that what DOD is really doing is perfecting its offensive capability.' "

Some intelligence officials worry that the cyber-command will put new burdens on the NSA, detracting from the agency's role of gathering electronic intelligence for national strategic purposes, such as determining Russia's intention in building its military.

But the effort is necessary, senior Pentagon officials say..

Cyberspace, said Gen. Kevin P. Chilton, commander of the U.S. Strategic Command, is as much a "domain" as is air, land or sea, in which the abilities to defend and attack must work in tandem. "You always . . . want to bring those two elements together so that the left hand knows what the right hand is doing."

In the cyber domain, he said in a meeting with reporters last month, the NSA has "unique" capability, through electronic intelligence gathering and analysis, to inform the military of threats and of an adversary's intent, and to "prepare for attack, and attack."



Every day, unseen operators, using automated software, are conducting millions of scans or probes of the military's Global Information Grid, which handles 56 terabytes of data a day -- the equivalent of 5 1/2 Libraries of Congress -- and is used by millions of military and civilian personnel.

Most of the intrusions have had espionage as their goal, raising fears that the stolen information would aid an adversary in planning an attack against the United States, Chilton said. More important, he said, he worries about the potential for a crippling manipulation of information. "So I put out an order on my computer that says I want all my forces to go left, and when they receive it, it says, 'Go right.' . . . I'd want to defend against that."

And of course, experts say, the United States would like to be able to do the same to an adversary.

An April report by the National Research Council highlighted the need for a national policy on cyber-attack.

If a foreign country flew a reconnaissance plane over the United States and took pictures, for instance, the United States would reserve the right to shoot it down in U.S. airspace, experts said. But if that same country sent malicious code into a military network, what should the response be?

"That question is under active debate at the highest levels of government," said Herbert S. Lin, who directed the National Research Council study.

Some intelligence officials believe that a sustained network penetration that results in theft of operational documents shows "hostile intent" and may justify an aggressive response, Lin said.

But taking down a power plant that serves a number of hospitals that treat civilians may not be a "proportional" response, said Harvey Rishikof, a national security law professor at the National War College.

"In the cyberworld, we're trying to move to a new regime," he said. "What are the rules of the road that dictate when you can use cyber-weapons in an offensive manner?"

Research director Alice Crites contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/06/12/AR2009061204373.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

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New York Times

June 12, 2009

## **Some In Qaeda Leave Pakistan for Somalia And Yemen**

By Eric Schmitt and David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON — American officials say they are seeing the first evidence that dozens of fighters with Al Qaeda, and a small handful of the terrorist group's leaders, are moving to Somalia and Yemen from their principal haven in Pakistan's tribal areas. In communications that are being watched carefully at the Pentagon, the White House and the Central Intelligence Agency, the terrorist groups in all three locations are now communicating more frequently, and apparently trying to coordinate their actions, the officials said.

Some aides to President Obama attribute the moves to pressure from intensified drone attacks against Qaeda operatives in Pakistan, after years of unsuccessful American efforts to dislodge the terrorist group from their haven there.

But there are other possible explanations. Chief among them is the growth of the jihadist campaigns in both Somalia and Yemen, which may now have some of the same appeal for militants that Iraq did after the American military invasion there in 2003.

Somalia is now a failed state that bears some resemblance to Afghanistan before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, while Yemen's weak government is ineffectually trying to combat the militants, American officials say.

The shift of fighters is still small, perhaps a few dozen, and there is no evidence that the top leaders — Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri — are considering a move from their refuge in the Pakistani tribal areas, according to more than half a dozen senior administration, military and counterterrorism officials interviewed in recent days.

Most officials would not comment on the record about the details of what they are seeing, because of the sensitivity of the intelligence information they are gathering.

Leon E. Panetta, the C.I.A. director, said in remarks here on Thursday that the United States must prevent Al Qaeda from creating a new sanctuary in Yemen or Somalia.

The steady trickle of fighters from Pakistan could worsen the chaos in Somalia, where an Islamic militant group, the Shabab, has attracted hundreds of foreign jihadists in its quest to topple the weak moderate Islamist government in Mogadishu. It could also swell the ranks of a growing menace in Yemen, where militants now control large areas of the country outside the capital.

“I am very worried about growing safe havens in both Somalia and Yemen, specifically because we have seen Al Qaeda leadership, some leaders, start to flow to Yemen,” Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in remarks at the Brookings Institution here on May 18.

For the United States, the movement creates opportunities as well as risks. With the Obama administration focusing its fight against the Taliban and Al Qaeda on the havens in Afghanistan and Pakistan, a shift of fighters and some leaders to new locations could complicate American efforts to strike a lasting blow.

But in the tribal areas of Pakistan, Qaeda and Taliban forces have drawn for protection on Pashtun tribes with whom they have deep familial and tribal ties. A move away from those areas could expose Qaeda leaders to betrayal, while communications among militants in Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen have created a new opportunity for American intelligence to zero in on insurgents who gave up many electronic communication devices shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks to avoid detection.

A senior Obama administration official attributed some of the movement to “the enormous heat we’ve been putting on the leadership and the mid-ranks” with Predator strikes, launched from both Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mr. Obama’s strategy so far has been to intensify many of the strikes begun under the Bush administration.

“There are indications that some Al Qaeda terrorists are starting to see the tribal areas of Pakistan as a tough place to be,” said an American counterterrorism official. “It is likely that a small number have left the region as a result. Among these individuals, some have probably ended up in Somalia and Yemen, among other places. The Al Qaeda terrorists who are leaving the tribal areas of Pakistan are predominantly foot soldiers.”

Measuring the numbers of these movements is almost as difficult as assessing the motivations of those who are on their way out of the tribal areas.

But American officials say there is evidence of a shift. One senior American military official who follows Africa closely said that more than 100 foreign fighters had trained in terrorism camps in Somalia alone in the past few years. Another senior military officer said that Qaeda operatives and confederates in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia had stepped up communications with one another.

“What really has us worried is that they’re communicating with each other much more — Al Qaeda in Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen,” the senior military officer said. “They’re asking, ‘What do you need? Financing? Fighters?’ ”

Mr. Obama’s strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan placed the defeat of Al Qaeda as the No. 1 objective, largely to make sure that the group could not plot new attacks against the United States.

Thus, the movement of the fighters, and the disruption that causes, has been interpreted by some of the president’s top advisers as a sign of success.

But the emergence of new havens, from which Al Qaeda and its affiliates could plot new attacks, raises difficult questions for the United States on how to combat the growing threat, and creates the possibility that increased missile strikes are in the offing in Yemen and Somalia.

“Those are issues that I think the international community is going to have to address because Al Qaeda is not going away,” Admiral Mullen told a Senate committee on May 21.

The C.I.A. says its drone attacks in Pakistan have disrupted Al Qaeda’s operations and damaged the group’s senior ranks. American officials say that strikes have killed 11 of the top 20 Qaeda leaders in the past year.

“Al Qaeda has been hit by drones and it has generated a lot of insecurity among them,” said Talat Masood, a retired Pakistani general and military analyst in Islamabad.

“Many among them are uneasy and it is possible that they are leaving for Somalia and other jihadi battle fronts,” he said. “The hard core, however, will like to stay on.”

Without singling out any countries, Adm. Eric T. Olson, the head of the Special Operations Command, spoke in general terms last week about how the increased Pakistani military operations in the Swat Valley and early indications of a new Pakistani offensive in South Waziristan had put militants on the run.

“As the Pakistanis are applying pressure,” Admiral Olson told a House panel, “it will shift some of the sanctuaries to other places.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/12/world/12terror.html>

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China View  
12 June 2009

## **CIA Believes bin Laden Still in Pakistan**

WASHINGTON, June 11 (Xinhua) -- The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Leon Panetta said on Thursday that Osama bin Laden, the head of al-Qaida terrorist network, remains in Pakistan and his capture is still the CIA's priority.

"I guess one of our hopes is that as Pakistani military moves in, combined with our operations, we may have a better chance to get at him," said Panetta at the Capitol Hill.

He noted that al-Qaida "remains the most serious security threat" to the United States and it continues to plot against America.

Panetta said that his agency has increased the number of officers and recruited locals in Pakistan in bid for more information leading to the capture of bin Laden.

"We have a number of people who are on the ground in Pakistan who are helping us provide targets and who are helping us provide the information that we really need to go after al-Qaida," he said.

However, the CIA chief did not rule out possibility that the al-Qaida leader could look for safe havens elsewhere, such as Yemen and Somalia.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-06/12/content\\_11528960.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-06/12/content_11528960.htm)

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Washington Times  
June 12, 2009

## **CIA: Pakistan Assault May Help Nab Bin Laden**

By Associated Press

The CIA believes Osama bin Laden is still in Pakistan, and the spy agency is hoping to close in on him as that country's military cracks down on the northwestern tribal area where he is thought to be hiding.

CIA Director Leon E. Panetta told reporters after a speech on Capitol Hill on Thursday that finding bin Laden remains one of the CIA's top priorities.

"I guess one of our hopes is that as Pakistani military moves in, combined with our operations, we may have a better chance to get at him," Mr. Panetta said.

The CIA has increased the number of officers and has recruited agents, or locals who provide information, in Pakistan, Mr. Panetta said.

"We have a number of people who are on the ground in Pakistan who are helping us provide targets and who are helping us provide the information that we really need to go after al Qaeda," he said.

Mr. Panetta also hinted that the Obama administration is crafting a new approach to confront North Korea's and Iran's nuclear programs.

"The approach that we take to deal with North Korean nuclear development will send a very important signal to Iran in how we deal with them," Mr. Panetta said after a speech to the National Italian American Foundation. He declined to provide details.

Mr. Panetta said the Pakistani offensive in the Swat Valley is making very good progress compared to Pakistan's past efforts to crack down on extremists. The Pakistan military says it has killed more than 1,300 militants during the offensive and reclaimed most of the region.

Past offensives against Islamist militants often faltered, with the government choosing to strike peace agreements with the extremists. A peace deal in Swat collapsed in April after the Taliban advanced from there into nearby Buner, just 60 miles from the capital, Islamabad.

Mr. Panetta said the CIA is mindful that as it makes progress in Pakistan, al Qaeda leaders could transfer their sights to safe havens elsewhere, such as Yemen and Somalia, which have large, ungoverned territories.

Meanwhile, a Web site linked to al Qaeda cited a leader of the group in Afghanistan as saying that militants are short of food, weapons and other supplies needed to fight foreign forces there, Reuters news agency reported from Istanbul.

"In Afghanistan, we have a severe supply deficit. The main reason for the weakness in operations is insufficient supplies. Many mujahedeen sit and wait and cannot fight for lack of supplies," Mustafa Abu al-Yazid said on a Web site used by top al Qaeda leaders and other militants to post statements.

"If a mujahid (holy fighter) does not have the money to get weapons, food, drink and the materials for jihad, he cannot fight jihad," al-Yazid said. "Fear Allah and be ambitious in waging jihad through [donating] goods."

Al-Yazid called on Turks to provide money and supplies for al Qaeda forces in Afghanistan, appealing to their common Muslim identity, and called for Turks to pray for the militants.

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2009/jun/12/cia-pakistan-assault-may-help-nab-bin-laden/>

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Jamaica Observer  
June 12, 2009

## **MALIAN MILITARY OFFICER KILLED BY SUSPECTED AL-QAEDA MILITANTS**

AFP

BAMAKO, Mali (AFP) - Suspected al-Qaeda members have killed a senior Malian military officer at his home in Timbuktu, members of his family and security officials said yesterday.

At least one suspect was arrested yesterday in connection with the killing of Lieutenant-Colonel Lamana Ould Bou, a security source told AFP.

"We just arrested one, if not more, of the suspects in the killing of Lieutenant-Colonel Lamana Ould Bou," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "It was indeed al-Qaeda that did the job."

Ould Bou was an intelligence officer who had played a key part in the arrest of several members of al-Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) when they crossed Mali's territory, according to family and security sources.

Another security source said that the lieutenant-colonel had been wanted by the Islamic extremists for his role in the arrests.

A family member said four men parked their car in front of Ould Bou's home Wednesday night and two of them entered his home.

"The lieutenant-colonel was sitting in the living room and one of the armed men told the other, 'It's him, it's him,' and pointed. That's how they shot the lieutenant-colonel with three bullets," the family member said.

If it is confirmed that the attack was carried out by al-Qaeda it would be the first time that the network's north African branch killed a high-ranking Malian officer.

"That's symbolic. The Islamists have understood that Mali is firmly committed to the struggle against al-Qaeda. They killed an important figure who knew them well and whom they knew well," said a foreign diplomat in Bamako.

The government recently announced a "pitiless struggle" against AQIM after it executed British hostage Edwin Dyer on May 31.

Dyer was among a group of four tourists who were kidnapped in January by AQIM, which also seized two Canadian diplomats. Four of the six were freed in April, but Swiss tourist Werner Greiner is still in captivity.

[http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/html/20090611T220000-0500\\_153282\\_OBS\\_MALIAN\\_MILITARY\\_OFFICER\\_KILLED\\_BY\\_SUSPECTED\\_AL\\_QAEDA\\_MILITANTS.asp](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/html/20090611T220000-0500_153282_OBS_MALIAN_MILITARY_OFFICER_KILLED_BY_SUSPECTED_AL_QAEDA_MILITANTS.asp)

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Reuters India  
June 12, 2009

## **ANALYSIS - Qaeda Struggling with Slump in Donations**

By William Maclean

LONDON (Reuters) - A recession-driven income slide? Or a brand in terminal decline? Whatever the origin of its money worries, al Qaeda's latest appeal for funds reveals a group struggling with a fall in donations for its attacks on the West.

In an audio message posted in militant web forums on Wednesday, the group's leader in Afghanistan Mustafa Abu al-Yazid said militants were short of food, weapons and other supplies needed to fight foreign forces there.

The complaint, the latest appeal by Qaeda leaders in the past 18 months, echoes a June 3 request from Osama bin Laden for supporters' "charity and support" for the militant network's operations in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

So little is known about current al Qaeda operations that analysts can only speculate about the reasons for the troubles in its fund-raising, which provided an estimated annual budget of \$30 million at the time of the 2001 attacks on U.S. targets.

But most agree it is a combination of tighter curbs on charities in the Arab world, a drop in lucrative al Qaeda kidnapping and extortion campaigns in Iraq and the wallet-thinning effect of recession on donors and sympathisers.

### **CASH SHORTAGES**

Some speculate it also shows a drop in ideological support.

"Money's in short supply. It's a real issue," said Sajjan Gohel of the Asia-Pacific Foundation security think-tank.

Cash shortages are nothing new for al Qaeda, but this is its first in a deep global recession, and some suspect a period of penny-pinching may see the group rely more on local affiliates better able to tap funds in their own communities and economies.

Like-minded militants in Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen appear to have little difficulty in soliciting or extorting donations both at home and in the West and the Gulf, experts say.

"Al-Qaeda leaders, unlike their Taliban hosts who are heavily involved in the lucrative drug trade, do not currently have significant financial resources," wrote Richard Barrett, coordinator of the U.N.'s al Qaeda-Taliban monitoring team.

He said al Qaeda was now routinely telling followers that donating was a perfectly acceptable alternative to fighting.

While the direct operational costs of al Qaeda attacks usually run only to the tens of thousands of dollars, other activities such as training, recruitment, travel and communications impose substantially greater burdens.

"Even the group's leadership in the Afghan-Pakistani border area must pay for food, living quarters, accommodations for families of fallen comrades, and security, both in terms of hiring guards and in buying the silence of their neighbours," Barrett wrote in a March article for the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

The decline of al Qaeda in Iraq appears to have been a serious blow because it had sometimes provided funds for the group's leadership in the Pakistan/Afghanistan border region.

"Iraq was very important for them. The fact that they are doing less kidnapping, extortion and smuggling in Iraq means less money in circulation," said Paul Cruickshank, a Fellow at New York University's Center on Law and Security.

In a 2005 letter attributed by the United States to al Qaeda second in command Ayman al-Zawahri, the group's leaders sought \$100,000 from Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, then al Qaeda head in Iraq.

Al Qaeda has denied the letter's authenticity but the intelligence community consensus is that it was genuine.

Without substantial funds, al Qaeda's clout is muted.

#### MILITANTS PAY TRAINING FEES

Robert Grenier, managing director of the Kroll corporate security company, said he suspected al Qaeda was still able to provide training, expertise and religious teaching to any "home-grown" cells in the West that sought such support.

"But if al Qaeda central is not in a position to provide financial support as well, that makes their support much less potent and effective than it otherwise might be," he said.

The group has long garnered lesser amounts from aspiring militants who travel to northwest Pakistan to train.

In a study of al Qaeda recruitment, Cruickshank reported that a group of European recruits in 2008 were required to pay their Arab trainers 400 euros (\$563) a head, plus 900 euros for equipment and weapons, for a two-week paramilitary course.

They also had to pay 2,000 euros each to smugglers for transportation to the remote mountain refuge.

But the flow of donations from some charities and individuals in the oil-rich Gulf have traditionally been regarded as the largest single source of al Qaeda funding.

European Union anti-terrorism chief Gilles de Kerchove told Reuters in May that more needed to be done to combat money laundering that could benefit militants.

But Mustafa Alani, an analyst at Dubai's Gulf Research Centre, said big improvements had been made. He said: "People now think twice. They think about legal liability."

He and other observers said an apparent decline in popular support for al Qaeda among Arabs because of its brutal tactics in Iraq may also be having an effect on donations.

Grenier said he suspected the shift in opinion was taking place not just among the broader community but also among some individual financiers of al Qaeda who constituted a "very informal and highly personalised" source of funds.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-40289120090612?sp=true>

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London Daily Telegraph  
15 June 2009

## **British Hostage Feared Murdered by al-Qaeda in Yemen**

By Duncan Gardham, Security Correspondent

Officials in Yemen said the bodies of the foreign hostages, including three children and at least three women, were found murdered in the north of the country. They had been seized last Friday.

Some reports said the bodies were found by the son of a tribal leader in el-Nashour, east of the volatile Saada mountainous area.

The bodies of three German women were said to have been "mutilated".

The Foreign Office said it was "urgently investigating" the reports.

The interior ministry in the capital, Sana'a, said the foreigners, who were not identified by name, were kidnapped while on a picnic north of the capital.

Yemeni authorities said the group included a British engineer and his South Korean wife, a teacher, along with a German doctor, his wife and their three children, as well as two other German nationals, thought to be nurses.

They were all working in a hospital in Saada, the state news agency said, where it is thought they belonged to an international relief group that has been involved with the hospital for 35 years.

Local sources said the group was a Christian Baptist organisation that also has a medical team in the hospital at Jebbla, south of Sana'a.

South Korea's foreign ministry identified their national by her family name, Eom, 34, an aid worker, who had joined members of the relief group for a walk on Thursday evening.

Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, struggles with a revolt in the north, a secessionist movement in the south and intensified al-Qaeda militancy, which have unsettled Western governments and neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

Foreigners are often kidnapped in Yemen for tribesmen to use as bargaining chips with the government over local disputes. More than 200 foreigners have been abducted over the past 15 years.

All have previously been freed unharmed, except for three Britons and an Australian seized by Islamist militants in December 1998 who were killed when security forces stormed the kidnappers' hideout.

One official said el-Nashour is known as a hideout for al-Qaeda militants and a tribal leader in the area blamed the group for the murders.

Osama bin Laden's family is from Yemen and the country was the scene of the October 2000 suicide bombing of the USS Cole that killed 17 American sailors.

On Sunday, Yemen arrested a man described as al-Qaeda's top financier in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, the Saudi national Hassan Hussein Alwan.

Since 2004, Saada has been at the centre of a Zaidi rebellion led by Shia members of the Houthi clan.

Thousands of people have been killed in the area, which lies close to border with Saudi Arabia but the rebels negotiated a fragile cease-fire with the government last year.

The Yemeni government had accused a rebel group led by Abdel Malik al-Houthi of the kidnappings but the group issued a statement saying it was not involved in the abductions of any foreigners.

A rebel spokesman dismissed the accusation as "baseless," and said the kidnapping took place in an area controlled by security forces in the town of Saada.

Houthi rebels were also blamed for the kidnapping of 28 foreign medical staff from a hospital in Amran, north of the capital Sanaa last Thursday.

The medics, most of whom were Yemenis but also included Egyptians, Indians and Filipinos, were working at a Saudi-backed hospital in the northern Saada region.

They were released on Friday following tribal mediation, according to reports.

"These staged kidnappings that we hear about these days are mere farces that would not fool anyone," said a statement issued by the Houthi media office.

A British tourist, Edwin Dyer, 60, was executed in Mali, West Africa, by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb two weeks ago after negotiations with the group broke down.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/yemen/5542087/British-hostage-feared-murdered-by-al-Qaeda-in-Yemen.html>

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