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RIA Novosti  
03 July 2009

## **Russia Needs New Arms Reduction Deal as much as U.S. - Diplomat**

MOSCOW, July 3 (RIA Novosti) - Russia and the U.S. will both benefit from a new strategic arms reduction agreement, a Russian deputy foreign minister said on Friday.

Some Russian analysts earlier suggested that the new document to replace the START 1 treaty, which expires in December, would be disadvantageous for Russia because the U.S. has moved way ahead of Moscow in the development of advanced weaponry.

"Summing up all the factors, we certainly need this treaty. Our position [on the issue] has not appeared out of the blue," Sergei Ryabkov said on Echo Moskvy radio prior to the visit of U.S. President Barack Obama to Russia on July 6-8.

"I do not see anything here that cannot be defended in our viewpoint or anything that could be criticized as an attempt to betray Russia's interests or to undermine our position," the diplomat said.

The START 1 treaty obliges Russia and the United States to reduce nuclear warheads to 6,000 and their delivery vehicles to 1,600 each. In 2002, a follow-up agreement on strategic offensive arms reduction was concluded in Moscow. The document, known as the Moscow Treaty, envisioned cuts to 1,700-2,200 warheads by December 2012.

Russia, which proposed a new arms reduction agreement in 2005, expects Washington to agree on a deal that would restrict not only the numbers of nuclear warheads, but also place limits on all existing kinds of delivery vehicles.

Moscow insists that discussions on a new arms reduction deal with Washington should be linked to U.S. plans for a missile shield in Central Europe.

Ryabkov earlier said that Russia and the United States have made more significant progress in the preparation of a new strategic arms reduction treaty than the sides expected.

He expressed the hope that the sides would be able "to prepare a comprehensive document outlining the verification measures and information exchange procedures, which contain provisions to ensure equal security and significant reduction of strategic offensive weapons through effective verification" by December this year.

According to a report published by the U.S. State Department in April, as of January 1 Russia had 3,909 nuclear warheads and 814 delivery vehicles, including ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) and strategic bombers.

The same report said the United States had 5,576 warheads and 1,198 delivery vehicles.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20090703/155427241.html>

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Reuters.com  
July 5, 2009

## Russia Calls on U.S. to Compromise on Missile Defense

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said in an interview published Sunday that the United States must compromise on plans for a missile defense system in Europe to get a deal on cutting back nuclear warheads.

U.S. President Barack Obama arrives in Moscow Monday to meet Medvedev and discuss ways to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) before it expires on December 5.

Russia says a deal on START is possible but has linked any agreement with Washington's plans to deploy a missile defense system in Europe that Moscow says is a threat to its national security.

"We consider these issues are interconnected," Medvedev said in an interview with Italian media that was broadcast on Russian state television Sunday.

Medvedev said Obama's administration was ready to discuss missile defense but that a compromise was needed to move forward on finding a replacement for the START treaty. Washington says it has not made a final decision on missile defense yet.

"It is sufficient to show restraint and show an ability to compromise. And then we can agree on the basis of a new deal on START and at the same time can agree on the question of how we move forward on anti-missile defense," he said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE5611DV20090705>

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London Sunday Times  
July 5, 2009

## Defence Review Puts Trident in Doubt

JONATHAN OLIVER

Gordon Brown is to announce a root and branch rethink of Britain's defence strategy within weeks, throwing the future of the Trident nuclear deterrent into doubt.

Defence sources say the new strategic review – the first to be carried out in a decade – will look at every aspect of national security.

The move heralds another policy U-turn by the prime minister as he clears the decks for the general election campaign.

Until now, Brown has insisted a future Labour government would spend up to £25 billion renewing the Trident missile system and the Vanguard submarines that carry them. However, his decision to include the nuclear deterrent in the planned defence review is an acknowledgement the project might no longer be affordable.

While the principle of Britain remaining a nuclear armed nation is unlikely to be challenged, the review will examine whether there are cheaper options than Trident. It is understood that the review, which will be announced before parliament goes into recess this month, will also look at other major projects.

It is likely to call for money to be cut from "big ticket" projects and for extra resources to be spent on armoured vehicles to help soldiers on the front line.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article6638416.ece>

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Boston Globe  
July 5, 2009

## The Long, Hard Road to Nuclear Safety

By Bryan Bender

Globe Staff

PITESTI, Romania - Two stories underground, in a concrete room with a heavy steel door, gloved technicians wearing smocks carefully measure and weigh the charcoal-gray pellets, 182 in all. They are among the most dangerous materials in the world: highly enriched uranium, the main ingredient for a nuclear bomb.

This supply alone, provided to the Institute for Nuclear Research here in 1990 by the then-Soviet Union, is enough to make a bomb with the explosive power to level a major city.

The pellets, classified as “fresh” because they have not been used as fuel in a reactor, are compact - each about the size of a shotgun shell - and do not emit much radiation in this form. This makes them a particular nightmare for officials who worry they could be readily stolen and transported by terrorists.

“You can pick it up and put it in your pocket,” says Andrew Bieniawski, assistant deputy administrator of the US National Nuclear Security Administration.

And so they will be carefully crated and escorted in the predawn hours by heavily armed military police to a waiting cargo plane that will whisk them to Russia, where they will be turned into a safer form of low enriched uranium. This painstaking and costly process marked the first step in an aggressive new effort by the Obama administration to secure vulnerable nuclear material around the world.

President Obama has said that preventing terrorists from acquiring a nuclear weapon is his top national security priority. This week, senior administration officials said, Obama will sign a joint declaration with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in Moscow setting forth a framework to complete the removal of highly enriched uranium from 15 other countries within four years.

That goal has taken on new urgency recently with intelligence assessments concluding that Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups have made obtaining nuclear material a central goal.

“Unless the world acts decisively and with great urgency, it is more likely than not that a weapon of mass destruction will be used in a terrorist attack somewhere in the world by the end of 2013,” the US Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism said in a report.

The Romania operation, which a Globe reporter and photographer were given exclusive permission to chronicle, was the first to transport by air these highly enriched uranium stocks, both the “fresh” pellets and a stockpile of highly radioactive spent fuel - pellets that have been fed through a reactor as fuel.

By removing all of its highly enriched uranium, the Romania operation is seen as a model for other countries that worry about the risks in giving up their nuclear materials.

To the Romanian officials involved, the removal will improve the country’s security, and security of the world as well.

“We feel relaxed now,” says Marin Ciocanescu, the deputy director for nuclear safety at the Institute for Nuclear Research, after watching some material being prepared for removal. “Highly enriched uranium means you have a problem.”

### **Cold War remnants**

The National Nuclear Security Administration, an arm of the US Department of Energy, estimates that research facilities around the world contain some 2,000 kilograms of highly enriched uranium - enough to make 80 nuclear bombs.

Most of the material is left over from the Cold War, when the United States and the Soviet Union provided some client states with equipment and material for research reactors. Other significant quantities were supplied by the United Kingdom and France, or in the case of South Africa were enriched domestically.

The highly enriched form of the metal - the result of a complex and costly engineering process that only a handful of nations have mastered - was needed at the time to achieve the energy or “flux” required to power reactors. With technological advances since then, however, low enriched uranium - which is ill suited for a nuclear weapon - can now accomplish the same goal.

Many of these sites, however, are not well protected and considered prime targets for theft or sabotage.

A US-financed program to remove the bomb-grade material and have it “downblended” began a decade ago under the Clinton administration. Since then, highly enriched uranium has been cleaned out of 14 countries and returned to either the United States or Russia. In addition, a series of reactors around the world have been converted from high to low enriched fuel; several more, including one at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, are slated for conversion in the coming years.

But many arms control and counter-terrorism specialists have warned for years that the gravity of the terrorist threat has not been matched by the necessary urgency to secure the most vulnerable bomb materials. Indeed, the job of securing the stockpiles is only about half complete. From Libya to Chile to Belarus, more than a dozen countries still maintain supplies of highly enriched uranium, both in the fresh and spent fuel form.

Meeting Obama’s aggressive schedule will be challenging, officials acknowledge. The Romania “cleanout,” for example, cost \$10.5 million and was five years in the making, requiring a series of sensitive agreements with the host nation, Russia, and several international bodies.

Even so, there were fears of a delay last week when Romanian officials temporarily raised objections about which government entity had proper jurisdiction to approve the transfer.

The new ability to ship all the material by air, however, could speed up the process considerably by reducing the number of countries that would have to grant permission for a shipment to cross borders.

Russia designed special equipment to fly the radioactive spent fuel out of Romania, including 5-ton casks that have undergone extensive testing to ensure they would survive a crash.

### **Delicate operation**

Housed inside drab concrete buildings with crumbling facades and neglected grounds is the now-defunct nuclear research reactor at the National Institute of Physics and Nuclear Engineering, built in 1949 in the town of Magurele on the outskirts of Romania’s capital, Bucharest, to train civilian nuclear scientists.

Visible through two manhole-size openings in the floor of the cavernous reactor room are 288 spent fuel rods of highly enriched uranium that have been cooling in a special pool for more than a decade.

The water also serves to block the deadly gamma rays emanating from the rods, which were so radioactive when they first came out of the reactor that they could not be handled for several years.

The institute, like others in the former Eastern bloc, fell on hard times after the end of the Cold War. For the next decade and a half the institute experienced “a kind of turmoil,” said Zamfir Victor Nicolae, director of the facility, as funding dried up and the Romanian government had no strategy for what to do with the reactor, which was finally shut down in 2002.

The US Department of Energy stepped in to provide security upgrades, including cameras and fencing. But ultimately, Romanian officials agreed the materials were too dangerous to keep.

For the international team that arrived on the site in late June, the greater challenge was not the removal of the fresh uranium pellets, but rather the transfer of the spent fuel.

Over three days technicians carefully removed the fuel rods from the pool using a metal pole, placing them in a transfer basket. The maneuver must be completed entirely underwater to minimize radiation exposure for the technicians, engineers, inspectors, and security personnel on hand, who constantly scoured the area with Geiger counters measuring for radioactivity.

Every person in the reactor room carried a dosimeter to measure any exposure to gamma radiation.

With the fuel rods secured in the special shipping drums, technicians sprayed helium into the seals. If the helium leaks, it will be a clue that the seals are weak and that radiation might escape. A mass spectrometer measures for any leaking gas.

When the loading was complete, drivers took the spent fuel rods under the cover of darkness along secret routes to the airport, where a giant Russian Antonov 224 cargo plane waited.

The convoy required six trucks to carry the 18 casks, loaded with more than a dozen fuel rods each, along with a reserve truck and a crane in case of any problems. A helicopter hovered above with infrared cameras, while scores of Romania’s Jandermeria military police, in ski masks and carrying automatic weapons, guarded the convoy and blocked streets.

“The danger is very high,” says Florin Hulea, a police spokesman, noting that if the material were released, either from an attack or an accident, much of the city could be at risk of contamination.

Through a stormy night and into the early morning, the casks were carefully loaded by crane into the belly of the plane, parked on the end of a runway at Bucharest’s main airport.

Finally, the American team breathed a sigh of relief as the paperwork was complete - all the material now officially belongs to Russia - and the plane prepared for its 6 a.m. departure.

Said Bieniawski, the senior American official on the scene: “Every kilogram removed is one less kilogram that a terrorist can use to make a nuclear weapon.”

But there was little time to tarry. Members of his team fanned out to meetings in Moscow and to negotiate removals in Libya, South Africa, Chile, Argentina, and other countries.

“The Romania operation shows that even with a cooperative partner this is a really complicated task,” said Corey Hinderstein, director of the international program at the nonprofit Nuclear Threat Initiative in Washington. “That is why the president’s goal is so important. We can’t do it on our own. This needs to be a joint effort among many states. Presidential leadership is what will be needed to meet the challenge.”

[http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2009/07/05/the\\_long\\_hard\\_road\\_to\\_nuclear\\_safety/?page=full](http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2009/07/05/the_long_hard_road_to_nuclear_safety/?page=full)

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Times of London

July 6, 2009

## **President Barack Obama’s Nuclear-free Vision began as a Student**

CATHERINE PHILP: ANALYSIS

President Obama’s trip to Moscow to hammer out nuclear arms reductions is the first concrete step towards the fulfilment of a long and passionately held vision: a nuclear-free world.

In a student magazine article written 26 years ago, at the height of the Cold War, the Columbia postgraduate weighed up how the United States and Russia might “dial down the danger humanity faces” in pursuit of total nuclear disarmament.

Mr Obama is the first US President to begin setting out a step-by-step agenda for eliminating nuclear weapons from the face of the Earth.

His stance has brought him as much condemnation as approval, with opponents denouncing him as naive and dangerous in a world where more and more rogue nations are joining the nuclear race.

But few people are aware of how far back his mulling of the issue goes, or how passionately it was held. The 1983 article in *Sundial*, Columbia University’s campus magazine, was thought lost until a classmate, Stephen Brockmann, found the issue while “rummaging through some old stuff”. He said: “I could hardly believe my eyes.”

Michael Baron, who taught the future President international relations and American policy at Columbia, recalled that Mr Obama wrote him a paper on the same subject, analysing how an American president might go about negotiating a nuclear arms reduction with the Russians — precisely the challenge that he faces today.

“His focus was the nature of strategic talks and what kind of negotiating positions might be put forward,” Dr Baron told *The New York Times*. “It was not a polemical paper — not arguing that the US should have this or that position. It was how to get from here to there and avoid misperception or conflict.”

It is unlikely that the President will be re-reading his paper on the flight to Moscow. As he acknowledges, the world today is a very different one. But Mr Obama never forgot the nuclear-free dream in the intervening years, even allying himself with reformed Cold War warriors such as Henry Kissinger to give him political cover for his cause during the presidential campaign.

His youthful musings may be out of date, Dr Baron concedes, but they were a good start for a president who is now facing his most daunting negotiations yet.

“He got an A,” Dr Baron recalled.

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us\\_and\\_americas/article6644185.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article6644185.ece)

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Los Angeles Times  
July 7, 2009

## **U.S., Russia Agree on Framework to Reduce Nuclear Arsenal**

By Christi Parsons and Megan Stack

Reporting from Moscow — President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev agreed in their first summit Monday on a framework to reduce their nations' nuclear arsenals and on steps to fight terrorism and cooperate on the war in Afghanistan.

The agreements had been expected as Obama kicked off his weeklong trip to Russia, Italy and Ghana by meeting with Medvedev. The U.S. and Russia agreed to build closer cooperation between their militaries and to work together to fight the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu.

At a news conference in the Kremlin, both leaders praised each other and heralded the summit, the first between the countries since early in President George W. Bush's administration.

"In reality, for our relations, it is very important and it is not a simple job because the backlog of problems is quite impressive," Medvedev said.

Obama agreed, complimenting his host.

"We must lead by example, and that's what we are doing here today," Obama said at the televised news conference.

Monday's heart-to-heart talks and pledges of cooperation could give way to old, intractable differences when Obama begins today by having breakfast with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

The encounter is bound to raise awkward questions: Putin is widely believed to be Russia's top authority, but he is no longer the president. Meanwhile, his longtime underling, Medvedev, is in charge but still regarded as the junior member of the duo.

In one of Monday's more diplomatic moments, Obama neatly sidestepped a question about how he saw Medvedev's relationship with Putin. "My understanding is, President Medvedev is the president and Prime Minister Putin is the prime minister," Obama said.

But still lingering is the fresh sting of Obama's recent characterization of Putin as a Cold War throwback with "one foot in the old ways," a charge he unleashed just before leaving Washington. Russians have waiting since to see how the notoriously steely premier will react.

"Definitely, Putin is not happy," Andrei Kortunov, head of the New Eurasia think tank, said Monday. "It was a pretty bold statement, and he was quite irritated." Both Obama and Medvedev appeared intent on keeping the tone upbeat and respectful Monday. After landing in Russia, Obama placed a wreath on Moscow's tomb of the unknown soldier, a politically canny show of respect for the massive World War II casualties that continue to haunt Russia.

Later, Obama stood shoulder to shoulder with Medvedev, both looking youthful and amiable as they pledged to make deep cuts to their nuclear arsenals.

"They sounded rather enthusiastic," said Viktor Kremenyuk, deputy director of USA-Canada Institute, a think tank in Moscow. "Which means they are sure they have done something big."

The White House hoped to use the Russia trip as a way to cast Obama as a tough-minded leader, not just a likable one. The United States wanted to enlist Russian support for a host of issues, including Iran and North Korea, both of which have nuclear ambitions.

Although the summit provided little drama, Obama at least will leave with some agreements in hand, including one

to establish a framework for reducing U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals.

After the two leaders met in London this spring, aides worked to hammer out details of disarmament pacts. The goal was to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expires at the end of this year.

The eventual deal could cut warheads from a maximum of more than 2,000 to as few as 1,500 for each country.

Gary Samore, the White House point man on weapons of mass destruction, has acknowledged that a major point of contention is the U.S. push for a missile defense system based in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Russian officials consider that a direct challenge to their own nuclear program. The United States views the missile shield and reductions of the arsenals as separate issues, Obama said at the news conference, while the Russians want them to be linked.

Monday's action gave something to both sides, although it left the details to be resolved later.

While the leaders danced around their disagreement, they united in an effort to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the threat posed by North Korea and Iran, which are separately pursuing nuclear programs. Obama said he wants to host a summit on nuclear security issues next year.

"The nonproliferation issue is the most important for our states," Medvedev said.

On Afghanistan, Russia agreed to allow its airspace to be used to transport supplies.

Other agreements include a new joint commission to try to account for missing service members of both countries dating to World War II and fresh cooperation on public health issues.

Both leaders said the most important accomplishment was a new spirit of working together. "The president and I agreed that the relationship between Russia and the United States has suffered from a sense of drift," Obama said. "President Medvedev and I are committed to leaving behind the suspicion and rivalry of the past."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/la-fgw-obama-russia7-2009jul07,0,2788147.story>

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Agence France-Presse (AFP)

News Hosted by Google

2 July 2009

## **US Ready for NKorean Missile: Military Commander**

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States is prepared to intercept any North Korean long-range missile as Pyongyang further tested international patience with fresh launches, a top US military commander said Thursday.

"The nation has a very, very credible ballistic-missile defense capability," General Victor "Gene" Renuart, the top US commander in North America, told The Washington Times.

"Our ground-based interceptors in Alaska and California, I'm very comfortable, give me a capability that if we really are threatened by a long-range ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile) that I've got high confidence that I could interdict that flight before it caused huge damage to any US territory."

His comments came as South Korean military officials said Pyongyang test-fired four short-range missiles Thursday, further fueling tension sparked by its nuclear standoff with the international community.

It was the first military action by the hardline communist state since the United Nations on June 12 imposed tougher sanctions for its May 25 nuclear test.

Like Renuart, President Barack Obama had assured in late June that the United States is "fully prepared" for a potential North Korean missile launch toward US territory.

Washington has said it was not excluding the possibility of a North Korean missile launch toward Hawaii on or around July 4, the US Independence Day, but the Pentagon has since expressed doubts about the scenario.



But Renuart, commander of US NORTHCOM and the missile launch-monitoring US-Canada North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), warned that "we ought to assume there might be one on the first of July and continue to be prepared and ready.

"I think we are certainly ready and capable of responding," Renuart said.

Thursday's North Korean missile launches came as a US delegation met Chinese officials in Beijing for talks on giving more teeth to UN sanctions imposed in June after the Stalinist state carried out an underground nuclear test on May 25, its second nuclear test since 2006.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hoK6NaWg3N4yPNQsKGGH\\_qbQJn4cQ](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hoK6NaWg3N4yPNQsKGGH_qbQJn4cQ)

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FoxNews.com

July 02, 2009

## **Experts Find Soviet Parts in North Korean Missile**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With concerns rising about a possible North Korean long-range missile test this weekend, two independent scientists say the regime may be using an old Soviet ballistic missile to boost a rocket capable of reaching the West Coast of the United States.

North Korea is not known to have nuclear warheads and faces years of research and testing before building such a reliable weapon.

But the scientists say that if North Korea does have such a Russian-made ballistic missile in its arsenal, it could modify the rocket into a two-stage missile that could reach Seattle, Wash., carrying a 900-kilogram warhead, or San Francisco carrying a 700-kilogram charge.

The design of a long-range missile tested by North Korea last April "represents a very significant advance in rocket technology," said Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Ted Postol and Union of Concerned Scientists' David Wright in a June 29 assessment published in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.

Using data and imagery from North Korea's April 4 launch, Postol and Wright calculated that the second stage of the North Korean rocket had the external dimensions, engine power and key features of an SS-N 6, a Soviet submarine-launched ballistic missile first deployed in 1968.

Their theory is at odds with U.S. officials' skepticism of the recent North Korean long-range missile launch, dismissed as a failure.

Missile expert and former U.N. arms inspector Mike Elleman cautioned against assuming that the similarities between the external dimensions of the North Korean second stage and the SS-N 6 mean that the two are the same technology.

But Elleman added that the coincidence is hard to explain.

Geoffrey Forden, another missile expert with MIT, sees merit in the Russian missile theory and believes North Korea may have its own production line for SS-N 6 missile components.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,529814,00.html>

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Yonhap News

4 July 2009

## **Scrutinized N. Korean Freighter Likely Carrying Rifles, Launchers:**

### **Source**

By Sam Kim

SEOUL, July 4 (Yonhap) -- The North Korean freighter that changed course after being tracked by the U.S. Navy appears to be carrying conventional small arms, including Soviet-era rifles and anti-tank launchers, a source said Saturday.

"Most of its consignments are believed to be small-scale military supplies such as AK-47 rifles and RPG-7 anti-tank rocket launchers," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the information has to do with intelligence.

AK-47s and RPG-7s are two of the most widely-traded Soviet-era weapon types that North Korea is capable of producing on its own, the source said.

The Kang Nam freighter, which had been approaching Myanmar, reversed course after being trailed by a U.S. destroyer operating under the mandate of a U.N. Security Council resolution punishing Pyongyang for its May 25 nuclear test.

The resolution bans North Korea from exporting all types of weaponry while calling U.N. member states to inspect North Korean vessels suspected of carrying banned cargo in their seas.

"The U.S. has pressured Myanmar" into backing away from its cooperation with North Korea concerning the Kang Nam, the source said, adding it is likely that the North Korean ship is returning home.

"The sanctions are starting to take a toll on the North Korean leader Kim Jong-il," the source said.

The source added no other North Korean ships are traveling the seas carrying cargo banned under the resolution, which toughened sanctions that had been imposed after North Korea conducted its first nuclear test in 2006.

"The U.S. has a list of such ships," most of which are lighter than 1,000 tons, the source said. "But no other North Korean ship is currently being trailed by the U.S. Navy."

On June 24, Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said the U.S. is "interested in, frankly, multiple ships," suggesting other North Korean ships were under scrutiny.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2009/07/04/13/0401000000AEN20090704000100315F.HTML>

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Yonhap News

4 July 2009

## **N. Korea Fires Six Ballistic Missiles in Violation of U.N. Resolutions**

By Lee Chi-dong

SEOUL, July 4 (Yonhap) -- North Korea test-launched six ballistic missiles off its eastern coast over several hours on Saturday, the latest in a series of provocative acts by the communist nation locked in a protracted stand-off with the U.S. and other global powers over its nuclear and missile programs, according to the South Korean military.

"North Korea fired two missiles toward the East Sea from the Gitdaeryong base near Wonsan, Gangwon Province, between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. today. And it fired another one into the East Sea from the same site around 10:45 a.m.," an official at the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said. "All the missiles are estimated to have a range of 400-500km."

He said the North shot three more missile from the same site at around noon, at 2:50 p.m. and at 4:10 p.m., adding the military is analyzing the exact type of the missiles and North Korea's intentions.

The authorities said the missiles are apparently ballistic ones, probably a Scud type, given the trajectory and flight distances.

But they did not rule out the possibility that what the North fired might have actually been Rodong missiles, a modification of Scud missiles, saying their flight distances may have been shortened deliberately for the tests. Rodong-type missiles have an estimated range of 1,000-1,400km and are able to reach many parts of Japan.

The North is believed to have about 1,000 ballistic missiles alone -- including nearly 700 Scud missiles of various types and 320 Rodong missiles.

Earlier this week, the North fired a salvo of four KN-01 surface-to-ship missiles from the Sinsang-ni base, South Hamgyong Province, into the East Sea, adding to tensions already running high after the North's launch of a long-

range rocket in April and its second nuclear test the following month.

Officials here noted the timing of the latest missile launch, which came on the eve of U.S. Independence Day.

"The missiles fired on July 2 were analyzed to be part of military drills, but today's missiles seem to have political purposes in that they were fired a day ahead of the U.S. Independence Day," a government official said.

North Korea test-fired a long-range Taepodong-2 missile, along with several short-and mid-range missiles, on U.S. Independence Day in 2006 and detonated another nuclear bomb this year on May 25 during the U.S. Memorial Day holiday, acts that North Korea watchers said were intended to draw more attention from Washington.

South Korea's foreign ministry lashed out at the reclusive neighbor's ballistic missile launch, calling it a clear violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban the communist nation from any activity related to a ballistic missile program.

"It is a provocative act that clearly violates U.N. Security Council resolutions 1695, 1718, and 1874 that bar North Korea's every activity related to ballistic missiles," the ministry said in a statement.

"The government expresses deep regret over North Korea's continued acts to escalate tensions in Northeast Asia in ignorance of the U.N. Security Council resolutions and urges North Korea to faithfully implement the resolutions," it added.

The authorities said, however, there is no sign of an imminent launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from either its eastern Musudan-ri base or the new Tongchang-ri base on its west coast.

In April, North Korea threatened to test-fire an ICBM in protest of the U.N. Security Council's condemnation of its long-range rocket launch, which it claimed to be aimed at sending a communications satellite into space.

Citing satellite photos, U.S. military officials said the North has not mounted an ICBM on a launch pad or injected fuel yet, a process that takes at least a week.

A British diplomat in Pyongyang also said the North is unlikely to fire an ICBM anytime soon.

"We have seen no evidence as yet to state that there will be a launch in the next couple of days of an ICBM," Peter Hughes, the British ambassador to North Korea, said in a news conference with reporters in London via video link from Pyongyang.

He pointed out, however, that "the thing about North Korea is its unpredictability. You cannot say it will never do something."

Japan also condemned the North's missile launch.

It is "a serious act of provocation against the security of neighboring countries, including Japan," Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura said in a statement.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2009/07/04/86/0401000000AEN20090704002200320F.HTML>

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Yonhap News

5 July 2009

## **N. Korean Missile Launches Aimed at Improving Accuracy: Official**

SEOUL, July 5 (Yonhap) -- North Korea's latest missile launches appear to have been aimed at improving the missiles' accuracy, a South Korean official said Sunday, noting the launches may have provided some results. "Five out of seven missiles North Korea fired yesterday landed within the same area in the East Sea, about 420 kilometers from the launch site," the official said, asking not to be identified.

"This means the accuracy of North Korean missiles is improving," the official added.

North Korea is said to have about 1,000 ballistic missiles deployed, but the missiles' poor accuracy, measured by circular error probable (CEP), has not allowed precision targeting, at least until now, according to the official.

CEP is the radius of a circle around the target in which 50 percent of warheads aimed at that target will land.

The types of North Korean missiles launched Saturday were earlier said to have a CEP of 1 to 2 kilometers, according to officials at Seoul's defense ministry.

All seven missiles launched Saturday flew about 400 to 500 kilometers, but Seoul earlier said the missiles appeared to be either Scud or Rodong types, which have an estimated range of 1,000 to 1,500 kilometers.

The official said the North appears to have deliberately shortened the flight distance of the missiles to test their accuracy.

"Two of the seven missiles fired had an unusually high velocity that makes us believe they could have been Rodong missiles that had their flight distance shortened," the official said.

The official said it could take several days before the government can confirm the exact type and capability of the missiles.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2009/07/05/8/0401000000AEN20090705001600315F.HTML>

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London Sunday Times

July 5, 2009

## **Saudis Give Nod to Israeli Raid on Iran**

UZI MAHNAIMI IN TEL AVIV AND SARAH BAXTER

The head of Mossad, Israel's overseas intelligence service, has assured Benjamin Netanyahu, its prime minister, that Saudi Arabia would turn a blind eye to Israeli jets flying over the kingdom during any future raid on Iran's nuclear sites.

Earlier this year Meir Dagan, Mossad's director since 2002, held secret talks with Saudi officials to discuss the possibility.

The Israeli press has already carried unconfirmed reports that high-ranking officials, including Ehud Olmert, the former prime minister, held meetings with Saudi colleagues. The reports were denied by Saudi officials.

"The Saudis have tacitly agreed to the Israeli air force flying through their airspace on a mission which is supposed to be in the common interests of both Israel and Saudi Arabia," a diplomatic source said last week.

Although the countries have no formal diplomatic relations, an Israeli defence source confirmed that Mossad maintained "working relations" with the Saudis.

John Bolton, the former US ambassador to the United Nations who recently visited the Gulf, said it was "entirely logical" for the Israelis to use Saudi airspace.

Bolton, who has talked to several Arab leaders, added: "None of them would say anything about it publicly but they would certainly acquiesce in an overflight if the Israelis didn't trumpet it as a big success."

Arab states would condemn a raid when they spoke at the UN but would be privately relieved to see the threat of an Iranian bomb removed, he said.

Referring to the Israeli attack on an alleged Syrian nuclear facility in 2007, Bolton added: "To this day, the Israelis haven't admitted the specifics but there's one less nuclear facility in Syria . . ."

Recent developments have underscored concerns among moderate Sunni Arab states about the stability of the repressive Shi'ite regime in Tehran and have increased fears that it may emerge as a belligerent nuclear power.

"The Saudis are very concerned about an Iranian nuclear bomb, even more than the Israelis," said a former head of research in Israeli intelligence.

The Israeli air force has been training for a possible attack on Iran's nuclear site at Natanz in the centre of the country and other locations for four years.

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle\\_east/article6638568.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article6638568.ece)

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New York Times

July 5, 2009

# Biden Suggests U.S. Not Standing in Israel's Way on Iran

By BRIAN KNOWLTON

WASHINGTON — Plunging squarely into one of the most sensitive issues in the Middle East, Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. suggested on Sunday that the United States would not stand in the way of Israeli military action aimed at the Iranian nuclear program.

The United States, Mr. Biden said in an interview broadcast on ABC's "This Week," "cannot dictate to another sovereign nation what they can and cannot do."

"Israel can determine for itself — it's a sovereign nation — what's in their interest and what they decide to do relative to Iran and anyone else," he said, in an interview taped in Baghdad at the end of a visit there.

The remarks went beyond at least the spirit of any public utterances by President Barack Obama, who has said that diplomatic efforts to halt Iran's nuclear program should be given to the end of the year. But the president has also said that he is "not reconciled" to the possibility of Iran possessing a nuclear weapon — a goal Tehran denies.

Mr. Biden's comments came at a particularly sensitive time, amid the continuing tumult over the disputed Iranian elections, and seemed to risk handing a besieged President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad a new tool with which to fan nationalist sentiments in Iran.

What was not immediately clear was whether Mr. Biden, who has a long-standing reputation for speaking volubly — and sometimes going too far in the heat of the moment — was sending an officially sanctioned message.

The Obama administration has said, and Mr. Biden reaffirmed this, that it remains open to negotiations with Tehran, even after the bitterly contested election that returned Mr. Ahmadinejad to the presidency.

"If the Iranians respond to the offer of engagement, we will engage," Mr. Biden said. "The offer's on the table."

But separately, Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned of the costs of any military strike against Iran.

"It could be very destabilizing, and it is the unintended consequences of that which aren't predictable," he said on "Fox News Sunday."

Still, he added, "I think it's very important, as we deal with Iran, that we don't take any options, including military options, off the table."

Earlier in his interview with ABC, Mr. Biden had seemed sensitive to the risk of handing Mr. Ahmadinejad and the supreme Iranian leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, a propaganda edge by criticizing the elections too forcefully and allowing them to claim that "the reason why there was unrest is outside influence."

He called Mr. Obama's original condemnations, which some criticized as overly cautious, "absolutely pitch-perfect."

If Mr. Biden's comments on Israel and Iran were perhaps off the cuff, he did not back away from them when given a chance to do so.

George Stephanopoulos, the program's host, asked: "But just to be clear here, if the Israelis decide Iran is an existential threat, they have to take out the nuclear program, militarily the United States will not stand in the way?"

And Mr. Biden replied: "Look, we cannot dictate to another sovereign nation what they can and cannot do when they make a determination — if they make a determination — that they're existentially threatened and their survival is threatened by another country."

The Israeli government has said that it hopes to see the Iranian nuclear program halted through diplomacy, but it has not ruled out a military strike. Talk of such a strike flared episodically during the Bush presidency.

Such a strike is considered highly problematic, both for the unpredictable shock waves it would send coursing through the region and because of the technical difficulty of destroying nuclear facilities that are scattered around Iran, some of them deep underground.

Still, the disputed Iranian election result has raised concerns in Israel. Officials there say that the victory by Mr. Ahmadinejad, who has called for the destruction of Israel, underscored the Iranian threat and bolstered the argument for tough action.

In May, Mr. Obama told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel during a meeting at the White House that “we’re not going to have talks forever” with Iran; in the absence of cooperation from Tehran, he said, the administration would not rule out “a range of steps.”

But the two sides have seemed in discord about what those steps might be.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/06/us/politics/06biden.html?ref=world>

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Daily Gulf News – Bahrain

July 06, 2009

## **ISRAEL 'FREE TO ATTACK IRAN'**

WASHINGTON: US Vice-President Joe Biden has signalled that the Obama administration would not stand in the way if Israel chose to attack Iran's nuclear facilities.

"Israel can determine for itself - it's a sovereign nation - what's in their interest and what they decide to do relative to Iran and anyone else," Biden told ABC's This Week in an interview broadcast yesterday.

"Whether we agree or not. They're entitled to do that. Any sovereign nation is entitled to do that. But there is no pressure from any nation that's going to alter our behaviour as to how to proceed," Biden said.

He also said the US offer to negotiate with Tehran on its nuclear programme still stands.

Biden's comments came as chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen warned that a US military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities would be "very destabilising", and any attack could have serious "unintended consequences".

"That said, I think it's very important as we deal with Iran that we don't take any options, including military options, off the table," he added.

Meanwhile, Israel said it has no plans to station submarines in Eilat, playing down speculation the Red Sea port could become a forward base for naval attacks on Iran.

An Israeli Dolphin-class submarine took part in a drill off Eilat last week, after sailing from the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal - the first such voyage for the secret craft.

<http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/NewsDetails.aspx?storyid=254887>

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Daily Times – Pakistan

July 06, 2009

## **‘Saudis Give Nod to Israeli Raid on Iran’**

LAHORE: The head of Israel’s intelligence service, Mossad, has assured Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Riyadh would turn a blind eye to Israeli jets flying over the kingdom during any future raid on Iran. Meir Dagan, the director of Mossad since 2002, held secret talks with Saudi officials to discuss the possibility early this year, a report in The Sunday Times said. The Israeli air force has been training for a possible attack on Iran’s nuclear site at Natanz in the centre of the country, and other locations for four years, the paper reported. The Israeli press has already published unconfirmed reports of high-ranking Israeli officials, including former prime minister Ehud Olmert, meeting Saudi counterparts on the issue. Riyadh has denied such reports. “The Saudis have tacitly agreed to the Israeli air force flying through their airspace on a mission which is supposed to be in the common interests of both Israel and Saudi Arabia,” an Israeli diplomatic source said last week, the paper said. Tel Aviv and Riyadh do not have formal diplomatic relations, but Mossad maintains “working relations” with the Saudis. A former US ambassador to the United Nations said it was “entirely logical” for the Israelis to use Saudi airspace. John Bolton, who has talked to several Arab leaders, said Arab states would condemn a raid publicly, but would be privately relieved to see the threat of an Iranian bomb removed.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009%5C07%5C06%5Cstory\\_6-7-2009\\_pg1\\_10](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2009%5C07%5C06%5Cstory_6-7-2009_pg1_10)

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Agence France-Presse (AFP)  
News Hosted by Google  
6 July 2009

## US Denies Giving Israel 'Green Light' to Attack Iran

By Lachlan Carmichael

WASHINGTON (AFP) — US President Barack Obama's administration denied Monday that it is giving Israel the green light to attack Iran or that it is reconsidering plans to engage diplomatically with the Islamic Republic.

Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani, formerly the country's top nuclear negotiator, warned Tehran would hold Washington responsible for any such strike after Vice President Joe Biden said Washington would not dictate how Israel deals with Iran's nuclear ambitions.

But State Department spokesman Ian Kelly poured cold water on suggestions that Biden could be seen as giving the Jewish state a green light to attack Iran, which it views as an existential threat.

"I certainly would not want to give a green light to any kind of military action," Kelly told reporters.

But he echoed Biden's point that Washington considered Israel a "sovereign country" with a right to make its own military decisions.

"We're not going to dictate its actions," Kelly added. "We're also committed to Israel's security. And we share Israel's deep concerns about Iran's nuclear program."

He also refuted any idea that Biden was signaling a move by the Obama administration to drop its policy of diplomatic engagement with Iran.

"I wouldn't read into it any more than what you see," Kelly said.

In an interview with ABC television broadcast Sunday, Biden said: "Israel can determine for itself -- it's a sovereign nation -- what's in their interest and what they decide to do relative to Iran and anyone else.

"We cannot dictate to another sovereign nation what they can and cannot do when they make a determination, if they make a determination, that they're existentially threatened," he added.

But Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned in a separate interview Sunday of the dangers posed by any military strike against Iran, despite saying military options should not be ruled out.

Obama has said he wants to see progress on his diplomatic outreach to Iran by year's end, while not excluding a "range of steps," including tougher sanctions, if Tehran continued its nuclear drive.

Hawkish Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not ruled out a possible military strike against Iran.

Larijani warned that Iran "will consider the Americans responsible in any adventure launched by" Israel, a country he said that nobody can imagine acting "without getting the green light" from Washington.

Speaking on a visit to Qatar, Larijani warned that Iran's response to an attack would be "decisive and painful."

Biden's comments, said Trita Parsi, who heads the National Iranian American Council, were "not helpful to those who are trying to find peaceful change in Iran."

But Parsi said it would be wrong to interpret them as heralding a policy shift, even if the administration's plans for engagement now face a "rough ride."

Suzanne Maloney, a former State Department specialist on Iran, said Biden's remarks are not new and did not signal a policy shift, even if the Iranians read more into them.

"Particularly for this administration, an Israeli strike on Iran would have devastating consequences for all its foreign policy initiatives," she said, citing its efforts to broker Arab-Israeli peace and stabilize Iraq and Lebanon.

But she feared the Obama administration may find the Iranians are not in the right "mindset" to engage in talks if they get "so caught up in this narrative of an externally-sponsored velvet revolution."

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gYrzkd4ZfajynPQjq\\_LtbubCNS0A](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gYrzkd4ZfajynPQjq_LtbubCNS0A)

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Times of India

## **Pak N-weapons face threat from insiders: Former CIA official**

4 July 2009

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's atomic weapons face the threat from insiders in the nuclear establishment colluding with outsiders, as authorities there have "a dismal track record" in thwarting such dangers, a former top American intelligence official has warned.

"The greatest threat of a loose nuke scenario stems from insiders in the nuclear establishment working with outsiders, people seeking a bomb or material to make a bomb", said Rolf Mowatt-Larssen, who served as a CIA officer for 23 years.

"Nowhere in the world is this threat greater than in Pakistan. Pakistani authorities have a dismal track record in thwarting insider threats," Mowatt-Larssen said in the July/August issue of Arms Control Today, published by the Arms Control Association.

He underlined that the network run by the father of the Pakistani bomb, Abdul Qadeer Khan, channeled sensitive nuclear technologies to Iran, Libya, and North Korea for years under the noses of the establishment before it was taken down in 2003, to the best of our knowledge.

The Umma-Tameer-e-Nau (UTN), founded by Pakistani nuclear scientists with close ties to al-Qaida and the Taliban, was headed by Sultan Bashiruddin Mahmood, who had been in charge of Pakistan's Khushab reactor.

"It is stunning to consider that two of the founding fathers of Pakistan's weapons programme embarked independently on clandestine efforts to organize networks to sell their country's most precious secrets for profit," Mowatt-Larssen stressed.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/Pakistan/Pak-N-weapons-face-threat-from-insiders-Former-CIA-official/articleshow/4737126.cms>

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New York Times

July 5, 2009

## **Attack in Pakistani Garrison City Raises Anxiety about Safety of Nuclear Labs and Staff**

By SALMAN MASOOD

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A suicide attack Thursday on a bus in Rawalpindi was the first that singled out workers of Pakistan's prized nuclear labs, military analysts and prominent national newspapers said, raising new questions about the government's ability to withstand increasingly bold assaults by the Taliban against the country's military complex.

The attack comes as Pakistan's army is fighting the Taliban on several fronts and is about to begin an even more ambitious campaign in the insurgents' heartland in Waziristan.

Government officials have said that the attack hit a bus carrying workers from a nonnuclear military plant, but military analysts said they believed that was an effort to avoid the embarrassment of admitting that a vehicle connected with the nuclear program had been hit.

The Taliban and Al Qaeda have announced that their goal is to topple the government and gain control of its nuclear arsenal. Singling out nuclear workers, even though they were miles outside the weapons lab, military analysts say, carries heavy symbolism in a nation that believes its ultimate strength lies in its nuclear capability. It also suggested a worrisome level of sophistication.



“It showed that their intelligence is current,” said Talat Masood, a retired general and a military analyst. “It was a deliberate strike. They are trying to give a hint that they can strike the personnel who are working for the nuclear facilities.”

The attack killed the suicide bomber, who rammed the bus with his motorcycle, and wounded 30 workers, the Rawalpindi police said. Military analysts said the workers were from the Kahuta Research Laboratories, where weapons-grade uranium is produced. No high-level official or scientist was on board.

The lab was once run by Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan’s nuclear program and one of the most successful nuclear proliferators in history.

The United States has spent almost \$100 million in training Pakistani security personnel how to make the country’s nuclear warheads safe and how to store them separately from the missiles and trigger devices. But in the last year, officials in Washington have expressed growing alarm about the nation’s nuclear laboratories.

Immediately after the attack, the police said the bus, which was idling at a busy intersection when it was struck, was carrying workers returning home from the nuclear lab. But since then, government officials have said that the bus belonged to a military engineering lab in Taxila.

An official at the complex, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, denied that. And, in another indication that the wounded were employees of the nuclear program, officials at the scene had said some of them would be treated at a hospital run by the nuclear labs.

On Saturday, The Nation — a conservative English-language daily newspaper — expressed fears about the government’s ability to handle its increasing security challenges.

“The militants have now started attacking the very basis of the country’s conventional as well as nuclear defense,” the newspaper’s editorial stated. “The fact that the employees of one of the major nuclear facilities are not provided proper security is a serious comment on the working of our law enforcement apparatus.”

Police officials speaking soon after the attack said it did not necessarily suggest a serious security breach because a bus moving through congested city streets made an easy target.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/05/world/asia/05pstan.html?ref=world>

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Times of India

5 Jul 2009

## 'Insiders Biggest Threat to Pak Nukes'

NEW DELHI : Pakistan’s nuclear assets face threats from three quarters, the most important being the growing extremism in the country, increasing “the odds of insiders in the nuclear establishment collaborating with outsiders to access weapons, materials, or facilities”, says a new report in ‘Arms Control Today’.

The second is that the “rapid expansion of Pakistan’s nuclear weapons programme will introduce new vulnerabilities into the security system. Finally, growing instability within the country could lead to unanticipated challenges to nuclear command and control procedures, resulting in a ‘loose nuke’ scenario, a takeover of a facility by outsiders, or, in the worst case, a coup leading to Taliban control over the arsenal.”

Despite repeated reassurances from the Pakistan top brass that its nuclear weapons are safe, Rolf Mowatt-Larssen, former CIA official and head of counter-intelligence at the department of energy of US government, says in a sobering article, “All signs indicate that the professional and disciplined Pakistani military establishment that maintains control over the nuclear arsenal understands the dangers of a breakdown in nuclear security.”

But despite this, Larssen argues, the greatest threat to the nuclear assets in Pakistan “stems from insiders in the nuclear establishment working with outsiders.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/Pakistan/Insiders-biggest-threat-to-Pak-nukes/articleshow/4739166.cms>

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Montgomery Advertiser

July 4, 2009

# Chemical Weapons Incinerator Now in Final Phase

By Jay Reeves  
The Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM -- The Army's \$1 billion chemical weapons incinerator in Alabama started its final phase of work by taking apart dozens of old mortars filled with mustard agent, officials said Friday.

Explosive charges were removed from more than 60 of the shells, which will be drained later, said incinerator spokesman Mike Abrams.

Workers will burn the liquid chemical once they have stored enough of it in tanks to operate an incinerator used to destroy liquids, he said, and they will incinerate the metal parts in a separate burner.

"By design, it will be a couple of days before all of the systems ... are engaged and we see steady throughput," he said.

In all, more than 200,000 mortars and artillery shells and a few 1-ton containers of mustard agent must be destroyed, according to Abrams. They hold a total of 988 tons of the chemical.

The last of thousands of weapons filled with the dangerous chemical should be emptied, chopped up and burned by early 2012, when workers will then begin decontaminating and decommissioning the complex, located about 50 miles east of Birmingham.

The incinerator previously destroyed all the nerve weapons stored at the Anniston Army Depot, leaving only the mustard-filled weapons.

First used as a weapon in World War I, mustard causes painful blisters and burns on contact with the skin but is rarely fatal. It's not nearly as dangerous as two deadly nerve agents that were handled at the incinerator, VX and sarin.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that fewer than 5 percent of people who were exposed to mustard agent during World War I died if they got medical care.

The last of more than 360,000 weapons filled with nerve agents and stored in dirt-covered bunkers at the Anniston depot were destroyed in December. Work to destroy the mustard-filled weapons began late Thursday.

"Initial operations will be slow and deliberate as crews from all four shifts learn the nuances of processing mustard munitions," said incinerator site manager Tim Garrett.

Tons of chemical weapons have been stored at the Anniston installation for decades. Incineration work began in 2003 as part of the Army's \$34 billion program to destroy all its chemical weapons dating from the Cold War.

Anniston is home to the nation's only chemical weapons destruction plant located near a populated area, and the military provided safety gear to many of the 35,000 people who live within nine miles of the incinerator before work began. No major accidents have occurred.

Nationally, the Army said about 63 percent of the nation's stockpile of 31,500 tons of chemical weapons have been destroyed at seven sites in the last 19 years under an international treaty.

<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20090704/NEWS02/907040315/Chemical+weapons+incinerator+now+in+final+phase>

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Times of India  
4 Jul 2009

## Is Lashkar the New Al-Qaida?

NEW DELHI: The evidence is tumbling out of the closet: Pakistan's creation Lashkar-e-Taiba is not merely allied to al-Qaida but can now be described as the new al-Qaida. With the UN Security Council listing LeT leaders Arif Qasmani, Mohammad Yahya Mujahid and Abu Mohammed Ameen al-Peshawari as terrorists allied to al-Qaida, yet another veil is being ripped off Pakistan's terror claims.

The three, banned under a UN Security Council resolution adopted on June 29, are not mere footsoldiers of the Lashkar. In fact, the resolution brings out their importance for LeT and al-Qaida.

It says, "Arif Qasmani has worked with LeT to facilitate terrorist attacks, to include the July 2006 train bombing in Mumbai, India, and the February 2007, Samjhauta Express bombing in Panipat, India. Qasmani utilized money that he received from Dawood Ibrahim to facilitate the July 2006 train bombing in Mumbai, India."

The resolution added, "Mohammed Yahya Mujahid is head of LeT's media department. In that capacity, Mujahid has issued statements to the press on behalf of LeT on numerous occasions. Fazeel-a-Tul Shaykh Abu Mohammed Ameen al-Peshawari, leader of the Ganj Madrassah in Peshawar, Pakistan, was providing assistance to the al-Qaida network."

The dangerous part in all of this is that while the US and Pakistani armies are targeting the Taliban, the ISI continues to shelter the Lashkar, a greater threat to India and the world.

It is openly acknowledged in counter-terrorism circles that the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai were masterminded by the ISI and executed with commando precision by the LeT. Increasingly, the LeT is emerging as more than a mere Pakistani terror outfit. It's now revealed to have strong connections with al-Qaida and globally on par with it.

LeT's primary target continues to be India, with the aim of weakening it and establishing a caliphate here. It is for this mission that LeT receives the bulk of its funding from the ISI and is so close to the Pakistan army that some of its retired officers are the chief combat trainers for the LeT, which has, in turn, been training Taliban-Qaida fighters.

Over the years, al-Qaida has found great use for the extensive network of LeT — its charitable arm, JuD, is an effective front for its terror activities. Several years ago, ISI brought the LeT and Dawood's organized crime network together — thus bringing about a marriage of interests.

Recently, Bruce Riedel, former CIA officer who is in charge of Obama's Af-Pak strategy review, was quoted as saying, "I think we have to regard the LeT as much a threat to us as any other part of the al-Qaida system."

While LeT and al-Qaida are yet to launch joint operations, there is ample evidence of the two entities marching together on the jihad highway. Security expert B Raman says al-Qaida is finding Arab recruitment for jihad more difficult, and has come to rely on LeT's extensive network of Pakistan diaspora jihadis, who are being trained and sent off on missions or as sleeper cells.

In 2006, national security adviser M K Narayanan described LeT as part of the "al-Qaida compact", and "as big and omnipotent" as the former. "The Lashkar today has emerged as a very major force. It has connectivity with west Asia, Europe... It is as big as and omnipotent as al-Qaida in every sense of the term," he said.

After the Mumbai attacks, David Kilcullen, US counter-insurgency expert, told a panel that counter-terror officials in Europe had found CDs of al-Qaida's recent urban warfare tactics that matched those used in Mumbai.

A significant number of Qaida leaders like Abu Zubaydah have been found from LeT safe-houses, while reports say over six Guantanamo bay detainees were LeT operatives or trained in LeT camps. Top intelligence officials in India say that their information shows LeT and al-Qaida share "cadres, ammunition and funds."

According to the South Asia Terrorism portal, LeT has an extensive network that runs across Pakistan and India with branches in Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Bangladesh and South East Asia. It gets donations from Pakistanis in Gulf, UK, Islamic NGOs and Pakistani businessmen. But main source of funds is ISI and Saudi Arabia. It maintains ties to groups in Philippines, Middle East and Chechnya, been part of the Bosnian campaign against Serbs, set up sleeper cells in Australia and US and been active in Iraq. It even has a unit in Germany.

Farhana Ali, terrorism analyst with RAND Corporation, said in a post-Mumbai discussion, "The internationalisation of LeT has made it a potent force, capable with its capabilities but also in its membership. In this way LeT is far greater in power than al-Qaida."

Selig Harrison, author of 'Pakistan: State of the Union', points to a more dangerous threat from the LeT. "Disarming LeT should be the top US priority in Pakistan because it would greatly reduce the possibility of a coup by Islamist sympathisers in the armed forces. The closet Islamists in the Army and the powerful ISI are not likely to risk a coup in Islamabad unless they can count on armed support from Lashkar-e-Taiba and its allies to help them consolidate their grip on the countryside."

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/World/Pakistan/Is-Lashkar-the-new-al-Qaida/articleshow/4735818.cms>

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Sunday London Telegraph  
5 July 2009

## Pirates 'Smuggling Al-Qaeda Fighters' into Somalia

By Colin Freeman

The Taliban-style Shabab group, which has already siezed control of much of the lawless nation, has enlisted the pirates' services to smuggle in al-Qaeda fighters from across the Middle East, according to Somali government ministers. They claim that up to 1,000 have arrived in recent months, swelling the ranks of the Shabab in its bid to topple the fragile US-backed administration in Mogadishu.

The warning was issued by Somali's first deputy prime minister, Professor Abdulrahman Adan Ibrahim, during a visit to London last week. He is lobbying for Britain and other Western countries to give more financial help to stamp out the piracy problem along the country's vast 2,000 mile coastline.

"The Shabab are requesting the pirates to bring people in for them," Prof Ibrahim told *The Sunday Telegraph*. "Somalia's borders with neighbouring countries are now tightly policed, so the only corridor for them is via the sea. The pirates smuggle them, and if anybody stops them, they just say they are passing fishermen."

Prof Ibrahim's visit came as Mogadishu witnessed some of its fiercest fighting in recent months, with around 20 people killed in clashes between government forces and the Shabab, which already controls parts of the capital. Residents spoke of corpses lying in the streets, including those of young children killed in the crossfire. Some were buried without being identified. "The streets were horrific," said Ali Muse, an ambulance service official. "We've transported 20 dead bodies and 55 injured in the latest fighting."

Until now, no clear evidence has emerged of co-operation between the Shabab and the pirates, despite widespread fears that some of the pirates' multi-million dollar ransom payments might be channeled to them. Last November, the guerilla movement declared buccaneering to be "un-Islamic", and threatened to attack a pirate gang that hijacked the Sirius Star, the \$100 million Saudi oil tanker that was the pirates' biggest catch last year. Some believe, though, that this was simply a posture to ensure that pirate gangs paid the Shabab bribes to turn a blind eye, a theory backed by Prof Ibrahim.

"We are not saying that the Shabab is actually sending out their own people to do pirate operations," he said. "But we think they share some mutual interests with the pirates. The pirate gangs are bribing the Shabab not to attack them, and the Shabab are getting the pirates to bring in fighters."

Prof Ibrahim is now attempting to persuade the British government and others to provide funding to train a new, 1,000 strong version of the defunct Somali navy. The navy's commander-in-chief, Farah Ahmed Omar, has no boats at present, and has not put to sea in 23 years. But the government argues that building up a local force - backed by land units - will be a more effective long-term solution against the pirates than the international naval fleet offshore.

The picture painted by Prof Ibrahim of terrorists hitching rides in pirate skiffs across the Gulf of Aden is not universally accepted. Somali politicians have been accused of exaggerating the threat from al-Qaeda in the past, knowing that it wins the attention of Western governments in a way that clan feuding does not.

Roger Middleton, the world expert on piracy at London's Chatham House thinktank, said: "There are lots of people engaged in all kinds of gun running, people smuggling and other illicit activities in the Gulf of Aden. It is therefore not clear why the Shabab would specifically need pirate help to smuggle al-Qaeda fighters in."

However, many people do view Somalia as a potential new al-Qaeda bolthole. Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned recently that President Barack Obama's operations to squeeze the movement in both Afghanistan and Pakistan could see its fighters relocate to the Horn of Africa region. Already there are believed to be at least 500 fighters holed up in remote mountainous regions of Yemen, where they have been blamed for a spate of recent kidnappings and carbombings. Yemen lies just 200 miles across the Gulf of Aden from Somalia and is well within reach of pirate crews, who generally have little trouble evading foreign anti-piracy patrols.

"I am very worried about growing safe havens in both Somalia and Yemen, specifically because we have seen al-Qaeda leadership start to flow to Yemen," Adml Mullen told the US Brookings Institution in mid-May.

Last month, Mr Obama authorised nearly \$10 million worth of arms and military training to help the Somali government quash the Shabab. Critics fear the US-donated weapons may end up falling into insurgent hands.

While most US estimates put the number of foreign fighters in Somalia at around 400, Prof Ibrahim said Somali government estimates put the figure at around 1,000. "We have seen people from Afghanistan, Pakistan and some other African countries like Kenya and the Comoros Islands," he said.

The Shabab was initially allied with the Islamic Courts Union, a relatively moderate Islamic movement which won some popularity in Mogadishu three years ago when it briefly imposed a degree of law and order on a city that plagued for years by warlords. It was seen as more effective than the Western-backed Transitional Federal Government, whose members had not even been able to sit in the capital because of security fears.

But when Ethiopian troops ousted the Islamic Courts Union in early 2007 and re-installed the TFG, the Shabab began a fierce insurgency, which has since returned the capital and much of the rest of the country to a warzone.

In Shabab-controlled regions, brutal interpretations of Sharia law are in place. In the southern town of Kismayo last autumn, a 13-year-old girl was stoned to death on trumped-up charges of adultery. And in Mogadishu last week, four men convicted of stealing mobile phones and guns were punished by having a hand and foot cut off each. A traditional curved sword was used to carry out the sentence in front of hundreds of onlookers.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/piracy/5743328/Pirates-smuggling-al-Qaeda-fighters-into-Somalia.html>

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China View  
6 July 2009

## **Mali Army Fights Again with Al-Qaeda Elements**

BAMAKO, July 5 (Xinhua) -- Fighting broke out again between the Mali army and the elements of Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb region since they first engaged each other last month, the military told Xinhua on Sunday.

The clash erupted between Friday night and Saturday in Mali's northern Tombouctou region. "There were no victims on the side of the army," the military said in reference to the exchange of fire with the terrorist group known as AQMI.

The army launched an attack on the AQMI group on June 17, killing 26 of its combatants, after the government vowed to take military actions against the Al-Qaeda branch in the region.

Bamako moved against the AQMI elements following the assassination of a security officer on June 10, who was killed at his residence in the same Tombouctou region by armed men suspected of links to the organization.

The elements are roaming in several countries in the sub-region in small groups, according to Capt. Ali Diakite, a spokesman for the military in the northern region of Gao.

He said in the past two weeks the troops were in ground operations against all terrorist cells including AQMI. "We have also arrested several suspects of the killing of a Mali army officer by AQMI," he added.

While some analysts fear Mali is not well equipped to confront Al Qaeda, France, Algeria, Canada and the United States have expressed support for Mali in an overall fight against the terrorist group in the region.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/06/content\\_11658872.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/06/content_11658872.htm)

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Bloomberg.com  
2 July 2009

## **Japan's Amano Wins IAEA Ballot to Succeed ElBaradei**

By Jonathan Tirone

July 2 (Bloomberg) -- Yukiya Amano, a Japanese diplomat and long-time proponent of nuclear disarmament, won the election to become the new Director General of the United Nations atomic agency, succeeding Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mohamed ElBaradei

Amano, 63, won in the last round of voting today at the International Atomic Energy Agency headquarters in Vienna. The Japanese diplomat was elected after one country on the IAEA's 35-member board of governors

abstained in the secret ballot, giving him the two-thirds majority needed to win, said Taous Feroukh, the agency's Algerian chairwoman.

"Yukiya Amano was, from day one, the preferred choice of the United States and Europe," Andreas Persbo, a senior researcher at the London-based Verification Research, Training and Information Center, said in an e-mail. "He is generally seen as a competent diplomat and good administrator."

Amano is the first Asian elected to lead the IAEA, the body charged with preventing nuclear weapons proliferation and promoting peaceful atomic energy use. Japan is the second- biggest contributor to the IAEA budget.

"I am very pleased for this support," Amano said in a statement to the media. "I will do my utmost to enhance the welfare of human beings, ensure sustainable development through the peaceful use of nuclear energy" and "prevent the threat of nuclear weapons."

Amano, who had previously failed to win majority support in three meetings of the IAEA board, said he'd seek to build alliances with developing and industrialized countries before the agency's annual general conference in September. The IAEA's 144 members must approve the election.

Amano, a lawyer who graduated from Tokyo University, joined Japan's Foreign Ministry in 1972. He has negotiated nuclear safeguards agreements and atomic bomb test-ban treaties.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601101&sid=ag.2bo4KK30w#>

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Reuters.com

July 2, 2009

## **FACTBOX: Who is New Head of IAEA, Yukiya Amano?**

(Reuters) - Japanese diplomat Yukiya Amano won the election to be director-general of the United Nations nuclear watchdog, the IAEA, on Thursday.

Here are some details about Yukiya Amano:

### AMANO ON THE IAEA:

\* Amano said he would stick to the IAEA's technical mandate of inspections to forestall proliferation and fostering the safe use of nuclear energy for economic development and medicine. He said he would also improve communication between the IAEA inspectorate and the governors, and manage the agency better.

\* Amano is close to the U.S. position on Iran, which is under IAEA investigation over Western suspicions that its declared civilian nuclear energy program is a facade for work on atomic bombs, something Iran denies.

\* Amano said in a February 2009 interview that Iran should be treated with respect through fruitful dialogue. He praised U.S. President Barack Obama's readiness to sit down and talk to Iran over its nuclear ambitions, after years of unproductive isolation policy by predecessor George W. Bush.

### ROAD TO THE TOP:

\* He took part in arms control talks that produced the 1995 extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the 1996 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the verification protocol for the 2001 Biological Weapons Convention.

\* Amano served as chairman of the IAEA's policy-making governing body in 2005-06 when the agency and its head, Mohamed ElBaradei, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Amano accepted the prize on behalf of the agency.

### LIFE DETAILS:

\* Amano, born in 1947, has specialized in multilateral disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation posts and negotiations over 36 years in Japan's foreign service, with postings in Washington, Brussels, Geneva and Vientiane.

\* He graduated from the faculty of law at the University of Tokyo and in 1972 joined the Japanese Foreign Ministry. In 1988 he became director for research coordination and senior research fellow at Japan's Institute of International Affairs.

\* He is regarded as a reserved technocrat who would de-politicize the IAEA helm after 12 years of the outspoken ElBaradei.

(Reporting by Mark Heinrich; Additional writing and editing by David Cutler, London Editorial Reference Unit)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE5614L820090702>

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Reuters.com  
July 3, 2009

## **No Sign Iran Seeks Nuclear Arms: New IAEA Head**

By Sylvia Westall

VIENNA (Reuters) - The incoming head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog said on Friday he did not see any hard evidence Iran was trying to gain the ability to develop nuclear arms.

"I don't see any evidence in IAEA official documents about this," Yukiya Amano told Reuters in his first direct comment on Iran's atomic program since his election, when asked whether he believed Tehran was seeking nuclear weapons capability.

Current International Atomic Energy Agency head Mohamed ElBaradei said last month it was his "gut feeling" Iran was seeking the ability to produce nuclear arms, if it desired, as an "insurance policy" against perceived threats.

"I'm not going to be a "soft" Director-General or a "tough" Director-General," Amano told Reuters, when asked how he would approach Iran and Syria, both subject to stalled IAEA probes.

Amano, a veteran Japanese diplomat, won over the agency's member states on Friday, including developing countries which had tried to thwart his bid for the politically-sensitive post.

Amano is regarded as a reserved technocrat who would de-politicize the IAEA helm after 12 years of direction by ElBaradei, an outspoken Nobel Peace laureate. He retires in November.

Diplomats say the IAEA cannot afford weak leadership or a governing body polarized between nuclear "have" and "have not" nations at a time of danger to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Amano was only narrowly elected as Director-General on Thursday, but the win was sealed by acclamation at a closed-door meeting of the IAEA's 146 members on Friday.

### **INDEPENDENCE**

"The Director-General of the agency is an independent person. I will continue to be independent from any group, any region," Amano told reporters after the meeting.

Amano got the strongest backing from Western states keen for the IAEA to toughen steps against the spread of nuclear arms. But his rise has worried developing nations who see the non-proliferation maxim being used as an excuse to deny them a fair share of nuclear know-how.

Iran has exploited such tensions, winning sympathy in the developing world, by arguing that to stop uranium enrichment as major world powers demand would violate its sovereignty, stunt its energy development and perpetuate inequality.

The enrichment process can be configured to produce fuel either for nuclear power plants or weapons. Iran insists its programme is only aimed at producing nuclear power.

To produce a nuclear weapon Iran would have to adjust its enrichment plant to yield bomb-ready nuclear fuel and miniaturize the material to fit into a warhead -- steps that could take from six months to a year or more, analysts say. It would also have to kick out IAEA inspectors and leave the NPT.

Amano told reporters he would do his utmost to implement IAEA safeguard agreements in Iran and Syria. He also said there was hope for future agency work in North Korea, which told IAEA inspectors to leave in April and which has since carried out a nuclear test. It fired four short-range missiles on Thursday.

"I expect sincerely that (six-party diplomatic) talks will resume because only dialogue is the way for a solution," Amano said. "Upon the decision of...talks, I expect that the IAEA will be able to play an important role in the verification of nuclear issues in North Korea."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSL312024420090703?sp=true>

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Pakistan Observer

OPINION

July 6, 2009

## **Pak Nuke Programme Under Assault**

Asif Haroon Raja

Pakistan's nuclear program which has been built indigenously without acquiring foreign assistance has come under constant assault. Hardly a day passes when some weird and cockeyed story is not published in western print media or a statement not made by senior US officials. Purpose of the malicious campaign is to smear and bring into disrepute Pakistan by deliberately spreading disinformation campaign about the security of our nuclear assets. The theme revolves around weak safety and apprehensions are expressed that nuclear weapons could be stolen by the extremists. Doubts are created that some compromises have been or being made.

A scandalous report was published in US media alleging that Pakistan had already agreed to hand over its enriched uranium to the US. A rumor is in circulation that when Zardari went to USA with a begging bowl, so-called Friends of Pakistan Forum (FPF) was created and an offer of \$100 billion was made in return for our nuclear program. Shirin Mazari has referred to her conversation with Seymour Hersh (The News dated 20 May). He informed her that compromises by our political leadership on nuclear program had already been made. This rumor was given air when Zardari announced that Pakistan will put an end to further manufacturing of nuclear weapons and assured India that Pakistan will not exercise the option of 'first strike'. Drastic reduction in budget for SPD, which seriously impacted our nuclear and missile R&D programs and curtailed missile tests, has given grist to the rumor mill.

One of the motives of onslaught against our nuclear programme is to compel Pakistan to seek foreign assistance for its safety, thus allowing interested groups to intrude into prohibited areas and ascertain missing links they are desperately looking for. French offer is an attempt in that direction. US effort to find a berth in NCA for its official as an observer failed. The US supplied security vehicles for safe carriage of weapons, but these are not in use. Drumming up Taliban threat that they were on the verge of capturing Islamabad and nuclear weapons was part of the design to make the leadership panicky and compel it to shift stored weapons to alternative safer locations. This exercise if undertaken would allow the spy satellites of USA as well as the Indo-Israeli satellite to photograph new sites for eventual destruction through surgical strikes.

CIA Director has stated that the US doesn't know about the location of all Pakistani nukes. The day CIA learns of 60-100 nuclear warheads, game for Pakistan will be up. It is this uncanny fear of untraced weapons that is keeping USA and India backed by Israel in check since even a single unaccounted weapon could prove costly. The US well knows that Pakistan has excellent command and control system and possibility of theft is impossible. The detractors are not worried about safety of our nuclear weapons; what cause them anxiety are the untraced locations of weapons, now quietly shifted to new underground sites. Concerted efforts are underway to trace out whereabouts of weapons so that the prepared plans to hijack them in one go can be mounted by US Special Forces. Obama has said that he could consider all options to secure nuclear weapons if the country gets less stable. France's special envoy to Pakistan painted a grim picture in early May of Pakistan collapsing under pressure from Islamists who could one day seize control of its nuclear weapons. He talked of rampant Talibanisation of areas close to Islamabad. It was probably this fear that Sarkozy offered cooperation to make our nuclear program safe which Zardari and his team misconstrued it as cooperation in civilian nuclear technology.

It is now being alleged that Pakistan is expanding its nuclear program and reference has been made towards a plant being built near DG Khan for commercial purposes to generate energy. Detractors fear that Pakistan may make use of plutonium deposits found in DG Khan and follow the plutonium path for development of tactical nuclear weapons and thus offset advantage gained by India. The News dated 25 May published an account of Brig retired Imtiaz. He disclosed that strenuous efforts were made by CIA from 1978 onwards to disable our nuclear program in its crib. By stroke of luck he found out about a gang of Pakistani scientists and engineers working in Kahuta and other nuclear plants working on the payroll of CIA to sabotage our nuclear sites. They were caught and sentenced and their foreign handlers deported. It indicates the frenzy of USA to denuclearize Pakistan through covert means at a time



when Islamabad used to repeatedly assert that its nuclear program was not nuclear tipped but meant for peaceful purposes only. It has not given up and is still working with full zeal to achieve its mission. If the CIA had succeeded in cultivating so many well-paid and pampered scientists in 1978, what is the guarantee that it has not made a breakthrough now particularly after it was allowed unlimited freedom of action to operate in Pakistan after 2001 and still no restrictions have been imposed on it. Another disclosure has been made by Advisor to PM that Petroleum and Natural Resources Ministry has certain elements bought over by USA who are bent upon scuttling Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project.

It was a pleasant change to see Foreign Office spokesman shedding away usual apologetic stance and giving a measured and terse reply to one-sided barrage of propaganda. Barbed questions were well answered. He scoffed at the sponsored themes against Pakistan terming it a failing and a fragile state and that its nuclear weapons would fall in wrong hands. Instead of indulging in unproductive lengthy explanations about Pakistan 's nuclear program which is an eyesore for USA , India and Israel , he astutely said that it was not possible for Pakistan to remain unaware of increasing conventional asymmetries and unrelenting arms acquisition by India . He also pointed out preferential treatment accorded to certain countries (Indo-US nexus), which disturbed regional military equilibrium and forced Pakistan to adopt necessary safeguards as it deemed fit. He rounded up his resume by reminding India to resolve longstanding Kashmir issue and to abide by the provisions of 1960 Indus Water Treaty.

CJSC Gen Tariq Majid delivered a hard hitting riposte to dispel misperceptions spread by vested groups about security of nuclear weapons. He made it clear that no foreign individual, entity or state had been provided or shall ever be provided access to our sensitive information and insinuations in this regard are mischievous and should be contemptuously dismissed. He assured that security apparatus put in place prepares and practices contingencies to meet all such eventualities.. His assurance that strategic assets are jealously guarded and any attempt to undermine our core capability will be strongly resisted and defeated is comforting and has acted as a tonic for the Pakistanis.

Our leaders have all along adopted an apologetic stance and a policy of appeasement to allay their fears. No amount of our explanations has brought any change despite the fact that SPD has developed and operationalised a very effective nuclear weapons security regime which is multilayer, has stringent access controls, foolproof custodial controls and failsafe security arrangements. It is high time that we put an end to giving defensive explanations. Their hackneyed and nauseating mantras should be pooh-poohed. We should just say that apprehensions are misconceived, frivolous and absurd warranting no further comments.

The ones worried about Pakistan nuclear program should worry about their own nukes which are vulnerable to domestic threat and a far greater hazard for world peace and security. This has now been amply verified from recent bungling in US nuclear safety system and kidnapping of a senior Indian scientist along with sensitive documents and his murder and Indian record of nuclear proliferation to Iran , Iraq and Libya .

<http://pakobserver.net/200907/06/Articles01.asp>

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