



# **USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**

# ***CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL***

*Maxwell AFB, Alabama*

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Issue No. 731, 21 July 2009

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RIA Novosti  
17 July 2009

## **Bulava Failure Must Not Stop Tests - Russian Arms Sector Official**

MOSCOW, July 17 (RIA Novosti) - Russia should continue test launches of the new Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missile despite a series of failures, a defense industry source said on Friday.

On July 15, a Bulava SLBM self-destructed after its first stage malfunctioned when it was fired from the submerged Dmitry Donskoi strategic nuclear-powered submarine in the White Sea.

"The tests of the Bulava should be continued after a thorough investigation of the incident. These failures are unavoidable during the development of new missiles," the source in the Russian government's Military-Industrial Committee said.

He added, however, that the failure during the separation of the first stage was a serious concern because this had never previously been a problem.

The source said the Bulava program had been overly politicized and fierce competition among the companies involved in the project was negatively affecting the manufacturing and the testing process.

Six of the 11 test launches of the Bulava have ended in failure. The launches were temporarily suspended and the missile components were tested in the labs after a series of previous failures.

An investigation established that the failure in December last year occurred because one of the subcontractors supplied faulty ejection cartridges which were used in the separation of the missile's stages.

Russian security-related agencies could join the investigation into the July 15 failure because the incident may be considered an act of sabotage, a security official said on Friday.

"A faulty part could be installed in a missile due to the absence of effective quality control by the manufacturer, or directly during the assembly. Taking into account the importance of the new missile for the naval component of Russia's nuclear triad, both cases will be considered acts of sabotage," the source said.

The Russian military expects the Bulava, along with Topol-M land-based ballistic missiles, to become the core of Russia's nuclear triad.

The Bulava (SS-NX-30) SLBM carries up to 10 MIRV warheads and has a range of over 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles). The three-stage ballistic missile is designed for deployment on Borey-class Project 955 nuclear-powered submarines.

[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20090717/155547975.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20090717/155547975.html)

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RIA Novosti  
18 July 2009

## **Bulava Missile Will Without Doubt Enter Service - Russian Navy**

MOSCOW, July 18 (RIA Novosti) - Russia's new Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missile will enter service with the Navy despite a series of failed test-launches, the first deputy chief of the Navy General Staff said on Saturday.

On July 15, a Bulava SLBM self-destructed after its first stage malfunctioned when it was fired from the submerged Dmitry Donskoi strategic nuclear-powered submarine in the White Sea.

"We are committed to this missile flying," Vice Admiral Oleg Burtsev said in an interview on Ekho Moskv radio station.

Six of the 11 test launches of the Bulava have ended in failure. The launches were temporarily suspended and the missile components were tested in the labs after a series of previous failures.

Burtsev said the cause of the latest failure was not a human error, but most likely a technical problem.

"The submarine crew painstakingly accomplished all set tasks," he said.

The admiral added that the Bulava test launches from the Dmitry Donskoi will continue in the near future, and the missile will be later tested on the Yury Dolgoruky strategic submarine, the first of the new Borey class vessels.

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[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20090718/155554647.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20090718/155554647.html)

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FoxNews.com

July 17, 2009

## **Islamic Supremacist Group Holds First U.S. Conference**

Diane Macedo

A group committed to establishing an international Islamic empire and reportedly linked to Al Qaeda is stepping up its Western recruitment efforts by holding its first official conference in the U.S.

Hizb ut-Tahrir is a global Sunni network with reported ties to confessed 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Al Qaeda in Iraq's onetime leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. It has operated discreetly in the U.S. for decades.

Now, it is coming out of the shadows and openly hosting a July 19 conference entitled, "The Fall of Capitalism and the Rise of Islam," at a posh Hilton hotel in a suburb of Chicago.

Hizb ut-Tahrir insists that it does not engage in terrorism, and it is not recognized by the State Department as a known terror group.

But some terrorism experts say it may be even more dangerous than many groups that are on the terror list.

"Hizb ut-Tahrir is one of the oldest, largest indoctrinating organizations for the ideology known as jihadism," Walid Phares, director of the Future of Terrorism Project at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told FOXNews.com.

Phares said that Hizb ut-Tahrir, rather than training members to carry out terrorist acts like Al Qaeda, focuses instead on indoctrinating youths between ages of 9 and 18 to absorb the ideology that calls for the formation of an empire — or "khilafah" — that will rule according to Islamic law and condones any means to achieve it, including militant jihad.

Hizb ut-Tahrir often says that its indoctrination "prepares the infantry" that groups like Al Qaeda take into battle, Phares said.

"It's like a middle school that prepares them to be recruited by the high school, which is Al Qaeda," he said. "One would compare them to Hitler youth. ... It's an extremely dangerous organization."

Phares said Hizb ut-Tahrir has strongholds in Western countries, including Britain, France and Spain, and clearly is looking to strengthen its base in the U.S.

"The aim of this conference is to recruit within the Muslim community in America," he said. "The Middle East governments go after them, but in the U.S. they are protected, so having a base here is going to help their cells around the world."

Representatives of Hizb ut-Tahrir declined to comment when contacted by FOXNews.com.

Oren Segal, director of Islamic Affairs for the Anti-Defamation League, said the conference is cause for concern.

"While they're not, for the most part, engaging in violent activities, and they publicly say that they're against violence, there have been examples around the world where people who have spun off of this group have engaged in violent activity," Segal told FOXNews.com. "That's why they're banned in several Arab and Central Asian countries, as well as Germany and Russia."

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed is one of the group's most famous alumni, New Statesman journalist Shiv Malik reported, citing intelligence sources. In addition to plotting the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, he also is implicated in the World Trade Center bombing of 1993, the Bali nightclub bombings and the murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

Malik's report, the public policy institute the Nixon Center and the counter-extremism think tank the Quilliam Foundation agree that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was the leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq until he was killed in June 2006, was also once a member of Hizb ut-Tahrir.

They say other former members include Asif Muhammad Hanif, a British man who blew himself up outside a bar in Tel Aviv, killing four people (including himself) and wounding more than 50; and Omar Bakri Mohammed, a radical cleric currently banned from Britain who praised the 9/11 attacks, raised funds for Hezbollah and Hamas and called for attacks on the Dublin airport because U.S. troops transferred there on their way to Iraq.

Segal said Hizb ut-Tahrir is becoming more active online in the U.S. — particularly on social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace — and now it may be able to add a significant number of Americans to its ranks.

But one place the group will likely not be recruiting is a local Islamic school that backed out of hosting the conference.

The non-profit Aqsa school in Bridgeview said Hizb ut-Tahrir had deceptively portrayed the conference as a bazaar-type event where traditional food and clothing would be sold.

"They misrepresented themselves and the event. We don't want to be in the middle of something like that," the school's business manager Rana Jaber, told CBS News.

The conference's new venue doesn't seem to mind.

Hilton Oak Lawn General Manager Rick Harmon said Hizb ut-Tahrir used its own name and was open about the nature of the event, which includes lectures entitled "Capitalism is Doomed to Fail," "The Global Rise of Islam," and the "Role of Muslims in America," when it reserved the room for the conference.

"We're United States citizens and an American business — if it's legal, we're able to host it, as long as it's nothing that disrupts our other guests' privacy and security," Harmon told FOXNews.com.

According to the Khilafah Conference 2009 Web site, the group aims to do neither.

"Hizb-ut-Tahrir is convinced that change must start in the minds of people, and therefore does not accept for people, or societies, to be forced to change by means of violence and terror," it reads.

The site, which includes a promotional YouTube video, says the group "does not work in the West to change the system of government, but works to project a positive image of Islam to Western society."

But former member Ishtiaq Hussain said Hizb ut-Tahrir is repackaging itself as a moderate organization as a tactic, while in reality it is "extremist."

"They don't recognize countries like Israel, for example; they don't believe Israel should exist," Hussain, now a trainer for the Quilliam Foundation, told FOXNews.com. "Some of their leaders have denied the Holocaust, and they believe homosexuals should be thrown off the highest building. ... It's actually a very dangerous group."

Hizb ut-Tahrir itself has also published writings that seem to contradict its tenet of non-violence.

In his book, "How the Khilafah Was Destroyed," Sheikh Abdul Qadeem Zalloom, the former global leader of Hizb ut-Tahrir, says anyone who rules by a non-Islamic system should "either retract or be killed ... even if this led to several years of fighting and even if it led to the killing of millions of Muslims and to the martyrdom of millions of believers."

Hizb ut-Tahrir's official ruling on the permissibility of hijacking planes says, "If the plane belongs to a country at war with Muslims, like Israel, it is allowed to hijack it, for there is no sanctity for Israel nor for the Jews in it."

And one of the organization's more recent leaflets, published in March, calls for the declaration of "a state of war against America."

But, despite these threats and calls to action, Hizb ut-Tahrir remains off the State Department's terror watch list, and it is free to host the Khilafah Conference and any other event like it.

"In other parts of the world where they're really very active, they've drawn tens of thousands of people to some of their events," Segal said.

"It'll be interesting to see to what degree they'll be welcomed here."

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,533525,00.html>

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Times of London

July 17, 2009

## **Shadowy al-Qaeda-Linked Group Prime Suspect for Bomb Attack**

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY, ASIA EDITOR

It was supposed to be one of Indonesia's successes; it was one of the reasons why the country's President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, was re-elected so overwhelmingly this month. Seven years after the horror of the Bali bombings, and numerous smaller explosions and killings, Indonesia had put Islamic terrorism back in its box.

That hope lay smouldering in the mangled interiors of the Ritz-Carlton and Marriott hotels in Jakarta, where eight people died today. It is too early to pronounce on the identity of those responsible for the bombings. But many Indonesians will have drawn their own conclusion: that Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), the shadowy South-East Asian al-Qaeda affiliate which had dropped from view in the past four years, is back.

Ninety per cent of Indonesia's 239 million citizens are Muslims, the largest Islamic population in the world. Compared to the more austere forms practised in the Middle East and Pakistan, Indonesian Islam is tolerant, inclusive and liberal – although there is certainly a minority who loathe the West and sympathise with al-Qaeda. But before the attacks on New York on September 11, 2001, the only South-East Asian Muslims known to have taken up arms in any numbers were guerrilla and bandit groups in the southern Philippines.

Jemaah Islamiyah emerged early in 2002 when the governments of Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines announced the arrest of Islamic radicals said to have been plotting bombs against US, British and Australian targets. JI, whose name means "Islamic gathering", was described as a clandestine organisation with cells across South-East Asia.

Most of its members were Indonesian, many of them former students at an Islamic boarding school in the Indonesian city of Solo. The headmaster of the school and the man described as the mastermind of the organisation was Abu Bakar Bashir, a white-bearded Muslim cleric who spoke frankly of his loathing for the West and his admiration for Osama bin-Laden.

After the Bali bombings in October 2002, counter-terrorism agencies across the region arrested suspected JI members, many of whom were detained without trial. They included Riduan Isamuddin, known as Hambali, JI's alleged "operations director" who was accused of planning the Bali bombings and other attacks. An Indonesia court acquitted Mr Bashir of bombings of Christian churches in Indonesia in 2000, but he served 20 months in prison for immigration offences.

In 2003, three men – Ali Amrozi bin Haji Nurhasyim, Ali Gufron and Imam Samudra – were sentenced to death for the Bali attacks. They never seriously contested the ruling, but their executions were repeatedly delayed, apparently because of reluctance by the Indonesian government to killing men regarded as heroes by a small, but vocal, minority of Indonesians. They were eventually executed by firing squad in November last year.

In co-operation with foreign governments, especially the US, Indonesia improved its counter-terrorism operations and since 2005, when suicide bombers killed 20 people on Bali, there have been no major acts of terrorism in Indonesia. But documents seized in a raid in 2007 suggested that, rather than having been eliminated, the organisation was biding its time.

That year the International Crisis Group, a think-tank, wrote: "JI retains a solid core that probably totals more than 900 members across Indonesia. It likely is not growing but it retains deep roots and a long-term vision of establishing an Islamic state."

JI was said to be organised into cells of religious "study circles" of half a dozen members. As a structured organisation its territory appears to have dwindled to Indonesia, and it has numerous members in Poso on the island of Sulawesi, the site of a simmering conflict between Muslims and Christians. Other areas where it is said to maintain a clandestine presence include East Kalimantan and Sabah in the Indonesian and Malaysian parts of Borneo respectively, and Mindanao in the Philippines.

JI's members are not the only Muslims in South-East Asia to be furious with western foreign policy and disaffected with their own governments. An April this year, ten men were sent to prison for organising a jihadi group in Palembang on the island of Sumatra. They were originally non-violent fundamentalists, with no connection to international terrorism, who were inspired to violence by a fugitive member of JI from Singapore. They were caught by chance; in a country as large as Indonesia, there are probably thousands like them, any of whom could have been responsible for yesterday's carnage.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article6717455.ece>

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Washington Times  
July 18, 2009

## **Jakarta Hotel Bombs Show Group Still A Threat**

By Sara A. Carter and Ashish Kumar Sen, The Washington Times

Twin hotel bombings that killed eight people in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta Friday are evidence that the country's main terrorist group, Jemaah Islamiyah, is viable and still may be benefiting from support from al Qaeda, a U.S. counterterrorism official said.

The suicide bombers who attacked the JW Marriott and the Ritz-Carlton hotels also injured more than 50 people, according to Indonesian law enforcement. At the Marriott, investigators found evidence that the bombs were assembled by terrorists posing as guests who checked in earlier and put together the devices in their rooms.

The attacks were the first of their kind since September 2004, when Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) targeted the Australian Embassy in Jakarta, killing 10 and wounding hundreds.

While U.S. officials could not say for sure that JI was responsible, "in that part of the world they rise to the top of the list of suspects," said a U.S. counterterrorism official. "They have a long history of attacking people in the region. The hotels are symbolic, and the attacks reflect their long-held hostility toward the Indonesian government, the U.S. government and its allies."

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity due to the nature of his work, said the hotels were obvious targets because they are owned by Western chains and frequented by foreigners. The Marriott was bombed by JI in 2003.

Scott Atran, an expert on Islamic terrorism who teaches at the University of Michigan, said Friday's attacks bore the hallmarks of a JI splinter group led by Malaysian-born Noordin Mohammad Top.

A former accountant, Noordin was implicated by Australian forensic experts in both the 2003 Marriott and the 2004 Australian Embassy attacks.

"The bombings today in Jakarta smell to me like Noordin Top's network," Mr. Atran said, citing the choice of the Marriott for the second time and the use of suicide bombers.

Noordin built the JI splinter group around his personal relationships.

Mr. Atran doubted there was any "formal JI involvement" by Abu Bakr Ba'asyir, JI's purported spiritual leader, and others of the old JI command.

Ba'asyir was imprisoned on charges stemming from the Bali attacks in 2002 but later was acquitted.

The counterterrorism official, meanwhile, said that authorities were "looking into" the possibility that al Qaeda helped plan the latest bombings.

No Americans were killed in Friday's incidents although several were reported to have suffered minor injuries.

President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton expressed serious concerns.

"Indonesia has been steadfast in combating violent extremism and has successfully curbed terrorist activity within its borders," Mr. Obama said. "However, these attacks make it clear that extremists remain committed to murdering innocent men, women and children of any faith in all countries.

"The American people stand by the Indonesian people in this difficult time, and the U.S. government stands ready to help the Indonesian government respond to and recover from these outrageous attacks as a friend and partner," Mr. Obama added.

U.S. and Indonesian authorities have put enormous pressure on JI in recent years, resulting in a decrease in attacks, but reports that JI has been dismantled were "a false assumption," the U.S. counterterrorism official said.

"Bottom line is: JI remains a threat, and we're chasing down every possible lead," the official added.

In October 2002, the group was responsible for a triple bombing in Bali that killed more than 200 people at nightclubs.

In Friday's attacks, the terrorists evaded metal detectors and vehicle inspection checkpoints in place since previous bombings.

The Associated Press reported that hotel X-ray machines, set up to detect bombs, did not reveal dangerous material hidden in the luggage of the bombers, who apparently brought in the various components of the bombs at different times.

JI used to have several hundred members across Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Australia. The group, allied with al Qaeda, received military training and sought to build an Islamic state.

During the 1980s, 60 Indonesian and Malaysian members of the group reportedly traveled to Afghanistan to aid anti-Soviet Mujahadeen fighters. Some attended al Qaeda training camps and developed close ties with the organization.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/jul/18/jakarta-hotel-blasts-show-group-still-a-threat/>

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Wall Street Journal

July 20, 2009

## **Jakarta Police Focus on Graduate of Islamic School**

By TOM WRIGHT

JAKARTA -- Police searching for the identities of two suicide bombers who targeted the JW Marriott and Ritz Carlton hotels in Jakarta last week are believed to be focusing on a 35-year-old alleged terrorist known as Nur Sahid who attended one of Indonesia's most famous Islamic schools in the 1990s.

On Monday, state-owned media reported that police took DNA samples from the family of Mr. Sahid in the village of Temanggung in Central Java, a province on Indonesia's biggest island. Although the police have recovered the bodies of both suicide bombers involved in the attacks, which killed nine people, they have been unable to positively identify the bodies due to the extent of their injuries from the blasts. A senior national police spokesman declined to comment while the investigation into the bombers' identity was ongoing.

Intelligence officials have already said they believe Noordin Mohammad Top, one of Southeast Asia's most-wanted terrorists, was the mastermind of the bombings, though police haven't formally identified him by name, either.

Sidney Jones, an expert on Islamic terrorist groups in Southeast Asia and an adviser to the International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based peace-building advocacy body, says Mr. Sahid graduated from the Al-Mukmin Islamic boarding school in the village of Ngruki in central Java in 1995. Many of the school's alumni went on to become members of Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asian affiliate of al Qaeda that carried out attacks against nightclubs, embassies and hotels in Indonesia between 2000 and 2005, killing almost 300 people.

Indonesian police have yet to identify the perpetrators of the blasts at two Jakarta hotels, but police said Monday the regional militant group Jemaah Islamiyah could be behind the attacks. Video courtesy of Reuters.

Ms. Jones estimates that 15 members of the class of 1995 have carried out terrorist attacks, including a previous suicide car bombing at the JW Marriott, in 2003, which killed 12 people. Mr. Sahid, she said, is "part of this very famous class."

The latest attacks have rattled many Indonesians, who had grown accustomed to several years of stability after a run of terrorist attacks earlier in the decade. On Monday, Indonesia's trade minister said she thought the suicide bombings would have a limited impact on local markets, including the stock and currency markets, and that Indonesia's economic fundamentals remain strong, with growth expected to register between 4.0% and 4.5% this year. Most analysts so far have agreed, saying they suspect the attack will be a one-off affair and that Indonesian police are more experienced in tracking down terrorists than before. Indonesian markets were closed Monday for an Islamic holiday.

"Of course, we can expect travel and tourism to be affected in the short term (but) Indonesia has demonstrated its resilience," the trade minister, Mari Pangestu, told Dow Jones Newswires in an interview. "We will also be resilient in overcoming this current unfortunate situation," she said.

Indonesian police say the latest bombings, which used homemade explosives and hit Western targets, show the hallmarks of Jemaah Islamiyah, whose goal is to create an Islamic caliphate in Southeast Asia.

Scores of the shadowy group's cadres have been arrested in recent years in security crackdowns. But Mr. Sahid evaded capture and remained in contact with Mr. Noordin. In recent years, Mr. Sahid is believed to have rented safe houses in Wonosobo, Central Java, for Mr. Noordin and his associates, Ms. Jones said. Police raided the houses in 2006, killing two Jemaah Islamiyah members, but were unable to locate Mr. Noordin or Mr. Sahid.

In recent months, the search for Mr. Noordin has focused on Cilacap, Central Java. Last week, just before the bombings, police raided a house belonging to Mr. Noordin's father-in-law in Cilacap, uncovering explosive material similar to an undetonated bomb found in the JW Marriott, according to senior antiterrorism officials. But again, they missed Mr. Noordin, whose whereabouts are unknown.

Ms. Jones said she did not think that Abu Bakar Bashir, a firebrand Islamic cleric who co-founded the Al-Mukmin boarding school in 1972, and has been described as the spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiyah, was involved in the latest attacks. Mr. Bashir was jailed for conspiracy after the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings that killed 202 mostly Western tourists. But he was released in 2006 and Indonesia's Supreme Court later overturned his conviction.

After his release, Mr. Bashir returned to the school and set up a new above-ground Islamic group, Jemaah Ansharut Tauhid, to focus on religious education and the imposition of Shariah law in Indonesia, a secular nation.

He no longer appears to have any active involvement with current operative terrorists, Ms. Jones said.

Few graduates of Al-Mukmin since 1995 have been involved in terrorist attacks, Ms. Jones notes. Still, Mr. Bashir's two sons teach anti-democratic sermons there, she says, and a number of the children of convicted Jemaah Islamiyah members are enrolled, making it a potential recruiting ground for hard-line Islamists.

—P.R. Venkat contributed to this article.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124810095432665303.html>

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Al Jazeera.net

20 July 2009

## **Jakarta Blasts 'had JI Hallmarks'**

Indonesian police have said a Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) splinter group carried out last week's deadly suicide attacks on two luxury hotels in Jakarta.

Major-General Nanan Sukarna, a spokesman for the national police, said on Sunday that an unexploded bomb left in a guest room at the JW Marriott was "identical" to devices used in bombings in Bali in 2002 and 2005 that left more than 250 people dead.

The bomb also resembled one discovered in a raid last week at an Islamic boarding school in Cilacap in Central Java.

"The method, the equipment used is the same as both bombs in Bali and the one found in Cilacap," Sukarna said.



"They are from the same school. We found similar materials, similar tools, a similar method. That's their job, that's the same network, they are JI."

At least nine people were killed and more than 50 injured when near simultaneous explosions tore through the Ritz-Carlton and JW Marriott hotels on Friday.

Besides the Bali attacks, JI has been blamed for several other high-profile attacks in Southeast Asia in the past decade, including another bombing against the JW Marriott in Jakarta almost exactly six years ago.

According to investigators, the bombers stayed in Room 1808 of the Marriott for two nights before the attacks and disguised themselves as guests when they walked into crowded dining and meeting areas and detonated their suitcase devices in the two hotels.

Al Jazeera's Step Vaessen, reporting from Jakarta, said police were getting a clearer picture of the intended target of the bombing, pointing to a high-level business breakfast meeting at the Marriott.

The meeting occurred every Friday at the same time and place and witnesses said the bomber headed straight for the meeting where he killed many business leaders.

Ansyaad Mbai, the Indonesian security ministry's anti-terror desk chief, said evidence pointed to Noordin Mohammed Top as the mastermind of the attack.

### **Manhunt for Noordin**

Police were hunting for Noordin, a fugitive Malaysian master bomb-maker, who was a key member of JI before he broke away after an alleged falling-out with the leadership over the targeting of civilians.

He is accused of masterminding bombings at the Marriott in 2003, the Australian embassy in 2004 and Bali restaurants in 2005 which killed more than 40 people.

Mbai said the advanced skills and planning used to pull off the blasts at the hotels, said to be the most tightly guarded buildings in Indonesia, were extremely disturbing.

"Their new skills and advanced tactics, enabling them to smuggle the explosives into the targeted site, pose a very serious threat for our country," he told the AFP news agency.

Investigators have been examining body parts and other forensic evidence in an attempt to identify the two bombers, one of whom local media and analysts say is believed to be Nur Hasbi, who has been linked to Noordin.

On Sunday, people gathered outside the Ritz-Carlton by a makeshift memorial for the victims.

Four foreigners were identified as being among the nine dead in the bomb blasts.

Stephen Smith, the Australian foreign minister, visited the site of the attacks on Sunday, as his government warned that more attacks were possible in a travel advisory that urged Australians to reconsider travelling to Indonesia.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia-pacific/2009/07/200972021829971416.html>

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

## **US, Japan Agree to Set Up Nuclear Deterrence Talks**

By Kyoko Hasegawa (AFP)

TOKYO — The United States on Saturday agreed with Japan to set up an official talks on ways to boost the nuclear deterrence it provides to protect Tokyo as tensions continue with North Korea, a senior official said.

The US delegation -- led by Kurt Campbell, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, and Wallace Gregson, assistant secretary of defence -- discussed with their Japanese counterparts the situation in North Korea and the Japan-US security alliance, they said in statements.

"Today the US and the Japanese side agreed to set up a special working group that would meet in Washington over the course of several weeks, that would be the first meeting to begin a deep discussion about the elements of nuclear deterrence," Campbell said after the meeting.

"Our goal here is to make a very strong commitment to Japan about the fact that the nuclear deterrence of the United States are extended, the nuclear umbrella remains strong and stable, and our commitment to Japan is absolutely unshakable," he said in an interview with Japanese public broadcaster NHK.

Conservative Japanese politicians have argued that Tokyo should arm itself with nuclear weapons to protect itself against Pyongyang's nuclear threat.

The idea of Japan going nuclear would "not lead to Japan's national interest or the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region," Campbell said in an interview with the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper issued in Japanese on Saturday.

He said he hoped to discuss the possibility of the collapse of the North Korean regime amid its leader Kim Jong-Il's ailing health, NHK said.

"I would just underscore that the United States, Japan, (and) other nations have to be prepared for a variety of scenarios on the Korean peninsula," he told a television footage.

"We are watching developments as they unfold in North Korea vary carefully," he said.

The issue of a so-called "nuclear umbrella" -- when a nuclear power pledges to defend an ally that is not armed with atomic weapons -- is sensitive in Japan, the only country to have suffered an atomic attack.

Washington and Tokyo have long shied from openly discussing the issue.

Japan campaigns for a world free of nuclear weapons but relies on the United States for deterrence as fears mount over North Korea's atomic programme and China's continued stockpiling.

Campbell arrived in Japan on Thursday for talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone and other high-level officials, in his first visit here after being appointed to the senior position under President Barack Obama.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iHGcOM7BNNi0VFEaaiWpAchLq9iA>

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Associated Press (AP)  
News Hosted by Google  
18 July 2009

## **US Envoy Urges New Meetings with NKorea on Nukes**

By KWANG-TAE KIM (AP)

SEOUL, South Korea — A top envoy said Saturday the U.S. remains ready for talks with North Korea, a day after Washington warned of aggressive sanctions against the North unless it returns to stalled multinational talks on ending its nuclear programs.

"Under the right circumstances, we'd be prepared to sit down with North Korea if they would abandon their nuclear ambitions," Kurt Campbell, the assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, told reporters after arriving in South Korea on Saturday.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Campbell was referring to direct bilateral meetings, which North Korea has sought, or talks within a six-nation framework that had been ongoing before North Korea abandoned the process in April.

Campbell also said there have to be "consequences" for North Korea's recent provocative actions.

Before flying to Seoul, he met with Japanese officials in Tokyo and agreed to increase efforts to encourage North Korea to return to the disarmament talks.

Campbell was to meet his South Korean counterpart later Saturday and Seoul's foreign minister and its top nuclear envoy on Monday.

The trip to the Asian allies comes as the U.S. is moving to enforce U.N. as well as its own sanctions against North Korea for its May 25 nuclear test.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Philip Crowley urged North Korea on Friday to return to the nuclear talks and begin taking irreversible steps toward denuclearization.

He also warned that the U.S. will continue pressuring North Korea into giving up its nuclear programs, saying Washington is "aggressively implementing" the U.N. sanctions.

The six-nation talks came to a halt in April when North Korea withdrew to protest a U.N. statement condemning what North Korea said was a satellite launch. The U.S., and its allies said the launch was actually a long-range missile test.

The talks — which involve the two Koreas, the U.S., Japan, China and Russia — were last held in Beijing in December.

Kim Yong Nam, North Korea's No. 2 official, said this week that his country is not ready to resume nuclear disarmament talks because the U.S. and its allies do not respect its sovereignty.

North Korea's "nuclear weapon is not for invading or threatening others but is war deterrence for defending the peace and security on the Korean peninsula," he said in a speech Wednesday at the Nonaligned Summit in Egypt, the North's official Korean Central News Agency reported Saturday.

He also said his country "is opposed to a nuclear war, nuclear arms race and nuclear proliferation."

In Tokyo, Campbell and Japanese officials agreed to strengthen the U.S. defense of Japan against any nuclear attack by North Korea — Japan's top security concern.

"I would just underscore that the United States, Japan and other nations have to be prepared for a variety of scenarios on the Korean peninsula," Campbell said, without elaborating. "We are watching developments as they unfold in North Korea very carefully."

The U.S. also is seeking to take steps to ensure that North Korea is less able to spread nuclear technology and weapons elsewhere in the world, Crowley said.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iURO8fOyWVOA0ytFlaAGuC9F7R9wD99GQO400>

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

## **Japan, US Discuss Nuclear Deterrence**

TOKYO — Japan and the United States on Saturday agreed to continue talks on ways to boost the nuclear deterrence Washington provides to Tokyo as tensions continue with North Korea, officials said.

The US delegation -- led by Kurt Campbell, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, and Wallace Gregson, assistant secretary of defence -- discussed with their Japanese counterparts the situation in North Korea and the Japan-US security alliance, they said in statements.

"We agreed to consult closely on the Japan-US security alliance including the nuclear deterrence under the '2 plus 2' framework," the Japanese foreign ministry said in a statement, referring to the bilateral talks comprising both countries' foreign and defence ministries.

"We are in a period right now of intense consultation among the allies" over the North Korean nuclear programme, Campbell told reporters after the meeting.

The issue of a so-called "nuclear umbrella" -- when a nuclear power pledges to defend an ally that is not armed with atomic weapons -- is sensitive in Japan, the only country to have suffered an atomic attack.

Washington and Tokyo have long shied from officially discussing the issue, even though a Japanese official said the issue had been occasionally discussed in closed-door bilateral talks.

Japan campaigns for a world free of nuclear weapons but relies on the United States for deterrence as fears mount over North Korea's atomic programme and China's continued stockpiling.

Campbell arrived in Japan on Thursday for talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone and other high-level officials that focused on North Korea's nuclear and missile tests as well as the maintenance of the Japan-US security alliance.

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Yonhap News  
19 July 2009

## **S. Korean Defense Chief Reaffirms Denuclearization of Korean Peninsula**

SEOUL, July 19 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's defense minister on Sunday countered a claim by some conservatives here that the country should have nuclear weapons to deter nuclear-armed North Korea.

"The government has constantly pushed for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula since joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1975 and will continue to do so," Lee Sang-hee said in an interview with state-owned broadcaster KTV. "The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula should be maintained."

Some right-leaning politicians and other conservatives have called for Seoul to obtain "nuclear sovereignty" especially since the communist neighbor conducted a second nuclear test on May 25. Analysts said the underground experiment yielded a far more powerful explosion than the previous one in October 2006, indicating the North's nuclear weapons technology has improved significantly.

Pyongyang has made clear that it has no intention of abandoning its nuclear weapons.

The defense minister also called for a cautious approach towards demands for the redeployment of the U.S. military's tactical nuclear weapons.

Washington withdrew its tactical nuclear weapons from the peninsula in 1991.

"Some people say that nuclear weapons should be redeployed on the Korean Peninsula but we should think carefully about it," Lee said.

He pointed out that South Korea can thwart the North's nuclear provocations with the help of an "extended nuclear umbrella" provided by the U.S.

In his summit with President Lee Myung-bak in Washington last month, U.S. President Barack Obama reaffirmed in writing his country's commitment to providing an "extended nuclear umbrella" for South Korea in response to increasing nuclear threats from the North. It was the first time for the allies' leaders to make the commitment, though U.S. defense ministers have promised since 1978 to offer necessary nuclear deterrence capabilities to South Korea.

"One thing is certain," the defense chief said, "and that is that South Korea and the U.S. have the joint defense capability to deter North Korea and are in a position to win any war against it through our joint operation system."

He acknowledged that the North has 300 to 400 long-rang artillery missiles that are able to hit targets in Seoul and nearby Gyeonggi Province, adding that all of them are buried in underground tunnels, but said the weapons would be rendered useless if the entrances to the tunnels are destroyed.

He also said that South Korea's K-9 self-propelled howitzer and multiple launch rocket launchers are aimed at North Korea's main military facilities, adding that "Pyongyang is only 150km away."

The remark alluded to the North's often repeated threat that "Seoul is only 50km away and it will be turned into ashes immediately in case of a war."

With regard to the timing of the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) of South Korean troops from Washington, Lee said it should be implemented as scheduled on April 17, 2012.

South Korea handed over its military command to the U.S. shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950. It regained peaceful OPCON in 1994.

Conservatives argue it is premature for South Korea to regain wartime OPCON.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2009/07/19/26/0301000000AEN20090719000200315F.HTML>

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Korea Herald  
20 July 2009

## **U.S. Envoy Calls for Patience on North Korea**

From news reports

A senior U.S. envoy called Saturday for patience in getting North Korea to abandon its nuclear programs, a day after Washington warned of aggressive sanctions unless the North returns to stalled disarmament talks.

Kurt Campbell, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, said there have to be "consequences" for North Korea's provocations, but also offered to hold talks with the North within the six-nation process if it returns to the negotiating table and takes irreversible steps to disable its nuclear program.

"At this juncture, the most important quality that the United States, South Korea, Japan, China and Russia can demonstrate is patience," he told reporters after meeting with his South Korean counterpart Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Yong-joon here.

He said the path North Korea has taken is unsustainable and it is likely to ultimately choose to re-engage with other nations.

Campbell flew into Seoul from Tokyo earlier Saturday for his first trip to South Korea since assuming the post last month.

The U.S. official is to hold a series of meetings with Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan, Unification Minister Hyun In-taek and other top South Korean officials today before heading to Thailand later in the day.

His trip comes as the United States is moving to enforce U.N. as well as its own sanctions against North Korea for its May 25 nuclear test followed by a barrage of missile tests in July.

In the latest measure against the North, a U.N. Security Council committee imposed a travel ban on five North Korean officials and asset freezes on five more entities for their involvement in missile and nuclear weapons development.

"We believe there have to be consequences," Campbell said, citing the U.S. efforts to implement the U.N. resolution. "We're looking at a full range of particular steps designed to put pressure on North Korea."

He said sanctions are already proving to be effective, noting the recent turnback of a North Korean cargo ship, Kang Nam 1, is an example.

The ship was suspected of carrying illegal weapons to be exported to probably Myanmar. After its voyage was closely monitored by the U.S. navy for weeks, the ship reversed its course and returned to North Korea. The U.N. Security Council Resolution 1874, adopted after the North's nuclear test on May 25, authorizes member countries to take measures to stop the North's arms trade by air, land and sea.

Campbell said it sent a message to North Korea and "caused some pain to the leadership."

North Korea withdrew from the six-nation talks in April to protest a U.N. statement condemning a rocket launch. North Korea insisted it sent a satellite into orbit, while the United States and its allies said it was actually a long-range missile test.

North Korea's No. 2 leader, Kim Yong-nam, said last week that his country is not ready to resume the talks -- which involve the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, China and Russia -- because the United States and its allies do not respect its sovereignty.

North Korea's "nuclear weapon is not for invading or threatening others but is war deterrence for defending the peace and security on the Korean peninsula," he said in a speech Wednesday at the Nonaligned Summit in Egypt, the North's official Korean Central News Agency belatedly reported Saturday.

Campbell said it is North Korea that should change its course as it has chosen "lies, greater tensions, greater hardship for its people, more isolation and a lack of engagement in the international economy."

He pointed out that U.S. officials have made clear that, "If North Korea is prepared to take serious and irreversible steps the United States, South Korea, Japan, China and others will be able to put together a comprehensive package that would be attractive to North Korea. But in this respect, North Korea really has to take some of the first steps."

On a proposed five-way meeting without North Korea, Campbell said it is unlikely to be held in the near future.

"I think the U.S. and South Korea have explored the option of a five-party meeting at some point. Preparations need to be taken for such a meeting. I'm not sure we'll be ready to do it in Phuket," he said. Some said that the ASEAN Regional Forum to be held in the Thai resort island this week may set the stage for such a five-way event. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her counterparts from South Korea, Japan, China and Russia are scheduled to attend the ARF.

"But the U.S. and South Korea are busy coordinating our respective positions and ensure that all the members have an opportunity to interact, if not in a collective setting, then bilaterally in Thailand," he added.

South Korea supports such a five-way gathering for discussions on how to bring the North to the disarmament talks but China, which chairs the negotiations, takes a lukewarm stance apparently due to concerns that it will make the North Koreans feel more isolated and have a negative impact on the six-party format.

[http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html\\_dir/2009/07/20/200907200034.asp](http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/07/20/200907200034.asp)

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Agence France-Presse  
News Hosted by Google  
19 July 2009

## **SKorea Reaffirms It Seeks No Atomic Weapons**

SEOUL — South Korea's defence chief Lee Sang-Hee reaffirmed his country would not seek to deploy atomic weapons again on its soil despite North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

Defence Minister Lee said South Korea's alliance with the United States, which includes the Washington-backed "nuclear umbrella" for Seoul, would be able to thwart any potential atomic attack from North Korea.

Under the "umbrella" arrangement a nuclear power pledges to defend an ally that is not armed with atomic weapons.

Since Pyongyang's second nuclear test in May, some South Korean conservatives have urged Seoul to seek its own atomic arsenal for self-defence, calls that Lee rejected again on Sunday.

"Since joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1975, the government has constantly pushed for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and will continue to do so," Lee told state-run television KTV.

"Some people say that nuclear weapons should be redeployed on the Korean Peninsula but we should think carefully about it."

Seoul and Washington say US nuclear weapons were all withdrawn from South Korean soil in 1991, one year before the two Koreas agreed to keep the peninsula free of nuclear weapons.

But Pyongyang has since broken the 1992 accord, conducting two underground atomic bomb tests in 2006 and on May 25 this year.

The North's provocation resulted in a series of UN condemnations and sanctions. South Korea and the United States agreed in June to bolster security steps, including a written US "nuclear umbrella" pledge.

Lee said Sunday he was confident that US-South Korean allied troops were capable of defeating North Korea in the event of war.

"The US-promised extended deterrence, including the nuclear umbrella for South Korea, aims... to force North Korea to give up its nuclear development and not to dream such a futile dream," Lee said.

Lee also said Seoul would be able to incapacitate Pyongyang's long-range artillery near the border by bombing the North's tunneled bases with self-propelled howitzers, rocket launchers and air power.

The North has threatened to reduce Seoul, just 50 kilometres (31 miles) away from the border, to "a sea of flames" or "ashes" with artillery.

"North Korea says Seoul is just 50 kilometres away, but Pyongyang is also merely 150 kilometres away. There is no difference in terms of strike impacts," Lee said.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gY2KbO80esj\\_w5RYu-pnXwXeUaQ](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gY2KbO80esj_w5RYu-pnXwXeUaQ)

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Washington Post  
July 21, 2009

## Is Myanmar Going Nuclear?

By DENIS D. GRAY  
The Associated Press

BANGKOK -- The recent aborted voyage of a North Korean ship, photographs of massive tunnels and a top secret meeting have raised alarm bells that one of the world's poorest nations may be aspiring to join the nuclear club - with help from its friends in Pyongyang. No one expects military-run Myanmar, also known as Burma, to obtain an atomic bomb anytime soon, but experts have the Southeast Asian nation on their radar screen.

"There's suspicion that something is going on, and increasingly that cooperation with North Korea may have a nuclear undercurrent. We are very much looking into it," says David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security, a Washington, D.C. think tank.

The issue is expected to be discussed, at least on the sidelines, at this week's ASEAN Regional Forum, a major security conference hosted by Thailand. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, along with representatives from North Korea and Myanmar, will attend.

Alert signals sounded recently when a North Korean freighter, the *Kang Nam I*, headed toward Myanmar with undisclosed cargo. Shadowed by the U.S. Navy, it reversed course and returned home earlier this month.

It is still not clear what was aboard. U.S. and South Korean officials suspected artillery and other non-nuclear arms, but one South Korean intelligence expert, citing satellite imagery, says the ship's mission appeared to be related to a Myanmar nuclear program and also carried Scud-type missiles.

The expert, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said North Korea is helping Myanmar set up uranium- and nuclear-related facilities, echoing similar reports that have long circulated in Myanmar's exile community and media.

Meanwhile, Japanese police arrested a North Korean and two Japanese nationals last month for allegedly trying to export a magnetic measuring device to Myanmar that could be used to develop missiles.

And a recent report from Washington-based Radio Free Asia and Myanmar exile media said senior Myanmar military officers made a top secret visit late last year to North Korea, where an agreement was concluded for greatly expanding cooperation to modernize Myanmar's military muscle, including the construction of underground installations. The military pact report has yet to be confirmed.

In June, photographs, video and reports showed as many as 800 tunnels, some of them vast, dug in Myanmar with North Korean assistance under an operation code-named "Tortoise Shells." The photos were reportedly taken between 2003 and 2006.

Thailand-based author Bertil Lintner is convinced of the authenticity of the photos, which he was the first to obtain. However, the purpose of the tunnel networks, many near the remote capital of Naypyitaw, remains a question mark.

"There is no doubt that the Burmese generals would like to have a bomb so that they could challenge the Americans and the rest of the world," says Lintner, who has written books on both Myanmar and North Korea. "But they must be decades away from acquiring anything that would even remotely resemble an atomic bomb."

David Mathieson of the New York-based Human Rights Watch, who monitors developments in Myanmar, says that while there's no firm evidence the generals are pursuing a nuclear weapons capability, "a swirl of circumstantial trends indicates something in the nuclear field is going on that definitely warrants closer scrutiny by the international community."

Albright says some of the suspicion stems from North Korea's nuclear cooperation with Syria, which now possesses a reactor. Syria had first approached the Russians, just as Myanmar did earlier, but both countries were rejected, so the Syrians turned to Pyongyang - a step Myanmar may also be taking.

Since the early 2000s, dissidents and defectors from Myanmar have talked of a "nuclear battalion," an atomic "Ayelar Project" working out of a disguised flour mill and two Pakistani scientists who fled to Myanmar following the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attack providing assistance. They gave no detailed evidence.

Now a spokesman for the self-styled Myanmar government-in-exile, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, says that according to sources working with the dissident movement inside the Myanmar army, there are two heavily guarded buildings under construction "to hold nuclear reactors" in central Myanmar.

Villagers in the area have been displaced, said spokesman Zinn Lin.

Andrew Selth of Australia's Griffith University, who has monitored Myanmar's possible nuclear moves for a decade, says none of these reports has been substantiated and calls the issue an "information black hole."

He also says Western governments are cautious in their assessments, remembering the intelligence blunders regarding suspected weapons of mass destruction in Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

A U.S. State Department official, speaking on customary rules of anonymity, said he would not comment on intelligence-related matters such as nuclear proliferation.

"I don't want that to be seen as confirmation one way or the other. Obviously, any time that a country does business with North Korea we're going to watch to see what that is," the official said.

Alarm bells about Myanmar's aspirations have rung before. In 2007, Russia signed an agreement to establish a nuclear studies center in Myanmar, build a 10-megawatt nuclear research reactor for peaceful purposes and train several hundred technicians in its operation.

However, Russia's atomic agency Rosatom told The Associated Press recently that "there has been no movement whatsoever on this agreement with Burma ever since."

Even earlier, before the military seized power, Myanmar sought to develop nuclear energy, sending physicists to the United States and Britain for studies in the 1950s. The military government established a Department of Atomic Energy in 2001 under U Thaung, a known proponent of nuclear technology who currently heads the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Myanmar is a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and under a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, it is obligated to let the U.N. watchdog know at least six months in advance of operating a nuclear facility, agency spokesman Ayhan Evrensel said.

Evrensel said the Vienna-based IAEA has asked Myanmar to sign a so-called "additional protocol" that would allow agency experts to carry out unannounced inspections and lead to a broader flow of information about Myanmar's nuclear activities.

The regime has remained silent on whatever its plans may be. A Myanmar government spokesman did not respond to an e-mail asking about Russian and North Korean involvement in nuclear development.

In a rare comment from inside Myanmar, Chan Tun, former ambassador to North Korea turned democracy activist, told the Thailand-based Irrawaddy magazine, "To put it plainly: Burma wants to get the technology to develop a nuclear bomb.

"However, I have to say that it is childish of the Burmese generals to dream about acquiring nuclear technology since they can't even provide regular electricity in Burma," the Myanmar exile publication quoted him last month as saying.

Some experts think the generals may be bluffing.

"I would think that it's quite possible Yangon would like to scare other countries or may feel that talking about developing nuclear technologies will give them more bargaining clout," said Cristina-Astrid Hansell at the California-based James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. "This is not unreasonable, given the payoffs North Korea has gotten for its nuclear program."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/21/AR2009072100050.html>

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China View  
19 July 2009

**IAEA Inspection in Iran Proceeding Smoothly: Ambassador**



TEHRAN, July 19 (Xinhua) -- Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Ali Asghar Soltanieh, said IAEA inspection in Iran is continuing without any obstacles, the official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday.

"IAEA activities in Iran, in the presence of inspectors and controlling systems, proceed without any delay or problems," Soltanieh told IRNA in Vienna on Saturday.

Rejecting a report by Associated Press that Iran has created obstacles for IAEA inspections in Iran, he underlined that regular inspections, especially in Natanz, are in progress, IRNA said.

The West suspects that Iran's nuclear program is intended for nuclear weapons. But Iran claimed that it is for peaceful purposes only.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/19/content\\_11733932.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-07/19/content_11733932.htm)

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Global Security Newswire  
July 20, 2009

## **Iran Needs Six Months for Nuclear-Weapon Test, Diplomats Say**

Iran's uranium enrichment program could generate nuclear-weapon material quickly enough for the Middle Eastern nation to test bomb within six months, diplomats told the Associated Press last week (see *GSN*, July 17).

No hints have emerged that Iran would attempt an all-out push to build a nuclear weapon, a gambit that would require banning U.N. inspectors from the Natanz uranium enrichment site and alerting the international community. Tehran has insisted its uranium enrichment effort is strictly aimed at producing low-enriched uranium for use in nuclear power reactors.

"We are talking here not of intent but capability," said one diplomat who is accredited with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The nation as of June was operating roughly 5,000 uranium enrichment centrifuges.

Tehran is not likely yet to show that it wants nuclear weapons, as it is believed to need several years to produce a sure-fire system to deliver a warhead, according to AP.

The six-month time line is "in line with our estimates," said David Albright, head of the Institute for Science and International Security. He said there was also a "50-50" chance that Tehran is operating a hidden uranium enrichment site.

Iran has continued resisting IAEA efforts to introduce heightened monitoring measures at Natanz, the diplomats added. The upgrades were intended to help agency officials track expanding operations at the site (see *GSN*, June 11; George Jahn, Associated Press *I/Yahoo!News*, July 17).

Iran's ambassador to the U.N. nuclear watchdog dismissed claims that his nation was curbing agency access to nuclear facilities, Voice of America reported yesterday.

Iran is "allowing normal inspections of its Natanz nuclear facility, without any obstacles," Ali Asghar Soltanieh told state media (Edward Yeranian, Voice of America, July 19).

Iran and Western nations must establish a trusting relationship in order to resolve the nuclear standoff, Tehran's newly appointed nuclear chief said Saturday.

"We hope that, contrary to the hostilities in the past six years, more efforts are taken to gain mutual trust ... so that a case, open during the last six years, would be closed," Reuters quoted Ali Akbar Salehi as saying in his first public remarks since he was named head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization last week.

"We will enter the scene with a fresh perspective. ... The Atomic Energy Organization will respect its international commitments as much as it will defend Iran's nuclear rights," Salehi said. "Because the world's stability depends on Iran's stability, all sides should try to end this issue in the best way possible."

Salehi is viewed by experts as a restrained official interested in resolving the nuclear dispute through diplomatic means, but he did not allude to the possibility of Iran suspending its disputed nuclear activities under a potential settlement (Zahra Hosseini, Reuters, July 18).

"Legal and technical discussions about Iran's nuclear case have finished ... and there is no room left to keep this case open," Salehi said, according to Agence France-Presse (Agence France-Presse/Spacewar.com, July 18).

The arrest of an Iranian-Canadian citizen for allegedly attempting to ship sensitive centrifuge equipment to his home nation suggests that Tehran still depends on international markets to obtain key enrichment technologies, the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security said in a report last week (see *GSN*, April 20).

Mahmoud Yadegari's purchase of two pressure transducers from a U.S. firm indicates that Iran is seeking to illicitly obtain U.S. nuclear materials by routing them through multiple third-party nations (Institute for Science and International Security release, July 14).

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged Iran to halt its disputed nuclear work, the *Jerusalem Post* reported.

"The Iranian leadership should become reasonable and make their nuclear program transparent and stop it," Merkel said (*Jerusalem Post*, July 19).

[http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20090720\\_4287.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20090720_4287.php)

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Indian Express  
18 July 2009

## **Indo-US N-Deal Won't Be Hostage to India Signing CTBT: Hillary**

The Indo-US civil nuclear deal will not be held 'hostage' to India signing the CTBT (Comprehensive (Nuclear) Test Ban Treaty), US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made it clear.

"No. not at all," Clinton said in an interview to a TV channel when asked if the deal would be held hostage to India signing the treaty.

"I worked very hard for the Indo-US civil nuclear deal. I am very committed to its full implementation," she affirmed.

However, she said that during her discussions with Indian leadership in New Delhi starting tomorrow she would explore how India could help the US to ensure that nuclear material and knowledge is kept out of rogue states and non-state actors, Clinton said.

She said she would also like to find out "what is the appropriate non-proliferation programme for the future. India has the capacity to determine where it wants to go in this particular area."

Ruling out any role for the US as a 'broker' between India and Pakistan in resolving the Kashmir issue, she said "the decision has to be between India and Pakistan and it must take into account the feeling of people of Kashmir."

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/indous-ndea-wont-be-hostage-to-india-signing-ctbt-hillary/491124/>

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The Hindu  
20 July 2009

## **Indigenous Nuclear Submarine to be Launched on July 26**

J. Balaji & Sandeep Dikshit

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will launch India's first indigenous nuclear-powered submarine at Vishakapatnam for trial on July 26.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy conveyed this to journalists here after meeting Dr. Singh to discuss various issues pertaining to the State. Top defence and Navy officials will participate in the programme. Dr. Reddy said Dr. Singh might visit the State again to go to Tirupati next month, to participate in various programmes, including laying the foundation for the joint project between NTPC Limited and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited for manufacturing power equipment at Srikalahasti in Chittoor district.

**ATV project**

The top-secret 'Advanced Technology Vessel' (ATV) project will re-induct India into the exclusive club of five countries that operate nuclear submarines, called silent killers for their extensive ability to remain under water because of nuclear-powered engines unlike the diesel electric versions that have to come up to recharge their batteries and thus stand a greater chance of being spotted.

India briefly used a nuclear submarine leased by Russia from 1988 to 1991. Since then it has been trying to build one of its own. It has signed an agreement for the transfer of a couple of nuclear-powered Russian Akula class submarines, one of which is likely to be inducted by the Indian Navy this year itself. The sea trials are just the beginning of a difficult testing process for the ATV and are likely to last two years till it is cleared for operational duty. Conceived in the 70s, the project became operational in the mid-80s and while its existence was public knowledge, the government was in consistent denial about it.

At Navy Day press conferences year after year, the Navy Chiefs denied knowledge about the project. However, recently Defence Minister A.K. Antony said the project was in its final stages.

According to reports, the submarine might be named INS Arihant (destroyer of enemies). The nuclear submarine will give India a credible three-leg nuclear deterrent. India has ground based missiles and aircraft that can deliver nuclear warheads but needed a nuclear submarine that can slip under water and emerge to strike at a time and place of its choosing.

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/07/20/stories/2009072051300300.htm>

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RIA Novosti  
17 July 2009

## **Bulava Missile Self-Destructs Due to Malfunction**

MOSCOW. (RIA Novosti military commentator Ilya Kramnik) - The latest test launch of the new Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missile has failed. The missile self-destructed after its first stage malfunctioned when it was fired on July 15 from the submerged Dmitry Donskoi strategic nuclear-powered submarine in the White Sea.

In all, seven of the 11 test launches of the Bulava have ended in failure.

Russian Navy chief Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov ordered the creation of the Bulava SLBM in 1998 after three failed tests of the experimental Bark solid-fuel, sea-launched ballistic missile of the Makeyev design bureau. The order was placed with the Moscow Institute of Thermal Technology, which promised to create a cheaper and smaller system comparable to another project by the Institute, the Topol-M ground-based ballistic missile.

Of the 11 test launches of one mockup and ten live missiles, only three test launches of live missiles succeeded. Therefore, the missile will not yet be put on combat duty.

The Bulava has a record low safety ratio, approximately 30%, which is even lower than the ratio of the D-19 launch system with the R-39 SLBM - nine failures out of 17 test launches. After the bugs had been removed from the D-19 system, it showed reliable safety - 11 successful launches out of 13.

Russia has an alternative to the Bulava missile, the RSM-54 Sineva (NATO codename: SS-N-23 Skiff), a third-generation, liquid-fuel ICBM that entered service with the Russian Navy in July 2007. It was created at the Makeyev design bureau and can carry four to 10 nuclear warheads, depending on the modification.

Currently, the Sineva missile has been supplied to three Project 667 submarines - K-114 Tula, K-117 Bryansk, and the recently modernized K-18 Karelia.

The Sineva has a longer range than the Bulava - 8,000 km, or 4,972 miles - and a larger payload. But the Bulava has a number of advantages, such as a much smaller takeoff trajectory, which complicates its interception by air defense systems, a smaller weight and dimensions, and solid-fuel engines. The latter simplifies its maintenance and use.

However, all these are only theoretical advantages compared to the Sineva, which has recently had two successful test launches, on July 13 and 14.

There are quite a few examples in Russian history when seemingly promising projects were curtailed after unsuccessful trials. One of the best-known examples is the N-1 booster designed to deliver 40-50 ton manned spacecraft into space, to orbit and then land on the Moon.

The stubbornness with which the military continue the test launches of the Bulava makes one think that it is not engineers, scientists and the military, but auditors who should analyze the reasons for its failure.

They should not look for "subversives" among workers and engineers, who are working hard to create the country's military systems for a meager monthly pay of 10,000-20,000 rubles (\$631). Instead, they should call to account the highly paid directors of defense enterprises, who watched impassively as years of hard work and tens of billions of budgetary rubles were squandered.

In the Soviet period, when the government closely monitored research and technical projects using methods that have since been denounced as inhumane and unjustified, plant directors and heads of design bureaus were sometimes victimized for lesser failures.

Somehow, it seems improbable that anyone will be as much as fired for the failure of the Bulava.

The Bulava (SS-NX-30) missile carries up to 10 MIRV warheads and has a range of over 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles). The three-stage ballistic missile is designed for deployment on Borei-class Project 955 nuclear-powered submarines.

<http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20090717/155551228.html>

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Pakistan Tribune

OPINION

17 July 2009

## **India Plans to Attack Pak Nuclear Installations Using Mehsud**

By Farzana Shah

It is learnt through reliable sources that Indian and Israeli special services units in collaboration with TTP (Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan) –a terrorist organisation– are preparing an attack on one of Pakistan's strategic installation in order to achieve multiple goals. Well trained TTP members, around 750, will take part in this attack. Participation of Indian and Israeli units will be confined to supervision of attack and handling post attack scenario.

India has reportedly released funds to TTP for this sole attack which will create a delicate situation for Pakistani military establishment in the world. There is also information that Indians have already planned provision of some "dirty bomb" (radioactive material) to terrorists of TTP fighting against Pakistani military for this attack.

Pakistan army already has been stretched in FATA as a result of carefully devised strategy of drone attacks by CIA which creates hatred for the army and sympathy of locals for TTP chieftain Baitullah Mehsud. It has become evident from the last three drone attacks in South Waziristan that one of them was carried out on a funeral of a TTP leader who was killed in an earlier attack on the same day.

The question here is; does CIA really want to eliminate Baitullah Mehsud and his terrorist outfit TTP?

Circumstantial evidences and confession of Baitullah's ex-aides (Haji Turkistan and slain Qari Zainuddin) had confirmed that TTP is much more than what appears in the world media (i.e an anti-USA force in reality is a pro-US and anti-Pakistan entity).

Now this latest intelligence about a possible attack on one of Pakistan's strategic military sites in which TTP will play a role of foot soldiers has proved beyond any doubt that TTP is foreign funded proxy force operating inside Pakistan to fulfill agenda of Pakistan's enemies (read India and Israel led by US).

CIA and its agents in international media are building a case against Pakistani nuclear weapons advocating the notion that these might fall into wrong hands. According to media reports Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has already said that Pakistani installations are partially under attack from militants.

How this ominous plan will be executed is still not clear but according to reliable sources malicious activities around some of these installations have been noticed. On further investigation by Pakistani intelligence it was revealed that plan of much worse repercussions is under way.

Planning phase of this attack is carried out in Afghanistan where Indians and Israelis are training Afghan forces and intelligence.

During recent operation in Malakand and FATA bodies of dead Afghan nationalists (Most probably trained by same Indian and Israeli instructors) were recovered. It will therefore be no surprise if same Afghan elements also take part in this attack on Pakistan 's nuclear facilities.

The contemplated attack also puts a big question mark on CIA's sincerity and credibility since without its active involvement the said plan cannot take off. It may be recalled that the ISI provided information about Baitullah's whereabouts, at least twice in May 2008, but CIA never attacked his hideouts. Now when Pakistan army has decided to take him out at its own, CIA has suddenly discovered that he is the biggest enemy of US.

Untimely drone strikes have raised many questions about CIA's intentions in WoT.

- 1- Is CIA really trying to kill Baitullah for good?
- 2- If the answer is in affirmative then why now when Pakistan army is there on ground and PAF is carrying out aerial assault much more accurately than CIA's drones?
- 3- Why CIA didn't act earlier when information was passed to it by Pakistan ?
- 4- Why CIA/US never provided necessary gear to Pakistani forces to trace Baitullah or at least jam his communication system?
- 5- Why CIA attacked North Waziristan when Pakistan army's operation in South Waziristan is underway and thereby opened a second front?

Answers to these questions lead only to one conclusion. CIA is protecting TTP to enable India and Israel to accomplish their task.

The high intensity of Pakistani operation backed by PAF in FATA has sent a clear signal to the masterminds who have conceptualised the attack on nuclear instalation that they are running short of time. The CIA instead of helping Pakistan to focus its major attention towards the chief foe Baitullah seemed to be helping RAW and Mossad to buy more time. While Pak army is trying to keep North Waziristan peaceful for the time being in spite of the deadly attack on one of the military convoy, CIA has provoked Hafiz Gul Bahadur, chief of Uthmanzai Wazir tribe by carrying out a drone attack. Gul Bahadur is already very annoyed over repeated drone attacks and suspects that Pak government and army have a role in it.

It is suspected that CIA is playing a double game by carrying out token drone attacks against strongholds of Baitullah and at the same time is not sparing Gul Bahadur. The idea is to activate all the fronts simultaneously and make the position of army precarious.

All this proves that role of CIA is no different than that of RAW and Mossad. The trio have common objectives against Pakistan's nuclear program which is seen as an obstacle in the way of accomplishment of US grand designs in the region. The purpose of intended attack on any Pakistani nuclear site, even partially successful or botched, will give legitimacy to their propaganda campaign that:

Pakistan 's nuclear weapons are unsafe and can fall into "wrong hands". hence the need to roll it back or to be taken over by IAEA teams to ensure its "security".

Pakistani military is too inept to protect its own buildings and installations.

National confidence and local support for Pakistani military that had shot up after its highly successful operations in Malakand Division will be considerably reduced.

The situation will be further complicated if Pakistan , after such an attack, try to defend its nuclear program through taking a rigid stand.

This will provide an opportunity to international media and anti-Pakistan establishments to approach UN and get Pakistan declared as a vulnerable state incapable of protecting its strategic assets physically.

It will provide an opportunity to further defame and isolate Pakistan on the plea that it is not ready to work with "international community" to "secure" its vulnerable nuclear program.

It would allow USA to obtain UN sanction for imposing measures on Pakistan to safeguard its nuclear instalations through nuclear inspectors of IAEA as was the case of Iraqi military sites in 1990s.

This will also give a license to international inspectors (CIA operators always in their ranks) to access every building inside Pakistan on pretext of a possible vulnerable nuclear site.

Pakistan could be subjected to harsh sanctions in case it resists any UN declaration against its nukes. Pakistan had already gone through similar sanctions in 1990s when there was a virtual ban in international market on selling weapons to Pakistan.

Currently Pakistan is in process of getting its entire military upgraded under a comprehensive program to be complete by 2019. If sanctions hit Pakistan now, then most of this upgrading will face a halt as a result of ban put on sale of sophisticated weapon systems to Pakistan. India on the other hand would be free from any such restriction and thus would be in an ideal situation to tilt strategic balance heavily in its favour.

Another dimension to this possible attack is its impact on Pak-China relations in future. Currently Chinese are working on a number of projects along with Pakistani engineers.

If Pakistan fails to protect Chinese technicians on its own soil and in case of any harm or deaths of Chinese in this kind of an attack, it will force China to think seriously about its cooperation with Pakistan.

Indo-Israeli collaboration to destroy Pak nuclear program dates back to early 1980's. However, each time the duo conspired to execute the surgical strike, Pakistan reacted promptly. The response was so severe that the aggressors had to abandon their plans. This time Indian plan is much more disturbing as foot-soldiers and logistical support will be provided from within Pakistan so this plan has much more probability of success than what Indians tried in 1980's.

Stage is set and time is running short for both sides. Some "so-called" local commander of Al-Qaeda in "Afghanistan" have already threatened that Pakistani nuclear weapon will be used against US. They are convincing the world that any attack by Al-Qaeda against US can take place either in Afghanistan or in US or even worse inside Pakistan. The idea is to prove that Pakistani nuclear weapons are the most dangerous thing on the planet. (Like Iraqi WMDs were once).

Apart from raising security measure on all nuclear installations, Pakistan must also convey a very strong message through all possible channels that any such attempt against Pakistan's nuclear program will have an opposite and much more intense reaction against India and Afghanistan and situation can easily turn out of control and a full blown war can erupt in the region.

Pakistan's foreign office must become much more clearer and vocal about what Pakistan will do if its nuclear program comes under any attack. Pakistan has already stated its policy in clear terms that in case of any attack on its nuclear installations, whether external or internal, the onus will be on India alone and Pakistan would respond accordingly. Pakistan has earmarked targets inside India to cater for such a eventuality.

It is time Pakistan must prepare a dossier to present to international media and establishments about Indian involvement in Pakistan's North West creating unrest and supporting insurgencies. For the sake of its future generations Pakistan will have to play very carefully but with a vigor and honor and if Pak-US relations are hindering this in future we must have a second thought about these so-called strategic relations.

<http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.php?id=217113>

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Gulf News - Dubai

OPINION

July 20, 2009

## **Tension over Nuclear Issue**

By Mohammad Akef Jamal, Special to Gulf News

Iran's nuclear programme is back in the limelight. The programme was recently highlighted on three occasions. US Vice-President Joseph Biden apparently signalled that the Obama Administration would not stand in the way if Israel chose to attack Iran's nuclear facilities.

This statement seemed to give Israel the green light for military action to eliminate Iran's nuclear threat.

Interviewed by ABC later, Biden appeared to depart from his previous comment.

Asked about the possibility of an Israeli attack against Iran's nuclear facilities, Biden replied, "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."

This emphasis on Israel's sovereign decision is the US Administration's way to underline its innocence, in case US interests are affected by any Israeli move.

US President Barack Obama denied allegations that the US had given Israel the green light to strike Iran.

Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said a military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities could have grave consequences and would be "very destabilising".

The failure to reach an agreement between the US and Israel over the Iranian nuclear dossier, and the advanced level of Israeli preparations has forced the US to concentrate on Israel's stand on Iran.

Israel considers the Iranian nuclear programme a strategic threat to its existence. It also believes its security has to stem from its own vision and backed by its procedures. Hence, Israel will not remain under the US umbrella while suspecting its policies.

Tehran was also quick to respond to Biden's statements, through Dr Ali Larijani, speaker of the Islamic Shura Council, who warned that Iran "will consider the Americans responsible" for any Israeli adventure.

Israel on the other hand kept silent as it strengthened its tactical position by sending a submarine to the Red Sea, indicating that it is ready to mobilise. The move also signalled that Israel's air defences and marine forces can easily reach Iran's shores.

In choosing to send its advanced Dolphin submarine, carrying nuclear warheads, Israel emphasised its preparedness to deploy nuclear warheads.

The US raised the issue of Iran's nuclear programme at a summit with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Obama offered to scrap its European missile shield in Europe if Russia persuaded Tehran to give up its nuclear programme. The US stand was that the shield was unnecessary if the Iranian nuclear programme is neutralised.

Russia, however, does not believe Iran will change its nuclear programme for peaceful purposes into a military one. Moscow was always keen on distancing itself from Iran's internal affairs and did not interfere in the latest events after the Iranian elections.

Russia took a further step in enhancing its relations with Iran when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad attended the Shanghai Organisation for Cooperation Summit as an observer.

The third occasion when Iran's nuclear programme was on media focus was at the G8 summit in L'Aquila, Italy, when Obama warned Iran that the world will not wait indefinitely for it to end its nuclear defiance. He set a September deadline for Tehran to comply.

The developments portend grave events. A clash with Iran seems inevitable and closer than previously thought. The US has failed to convince Russia to change its soft stand towards Iran.

It has also failed to contain Israel and secure its affiliation to the US strategy towards Iran. The US also failed to convince Iran that it is not behind Israel's aggressive posture.

The US diplomatic strategy towards Iran is also in trouble. Talks with Iran have become difficult after the political stance of the US and its European allies over Iran's poll outcome.

Iran is adamant about its nuclear programme.

So are we closer today to witnessing the application of threats that will shake the entire region? Or is there a chance for peaceful manoeuvres?

The latest events have shown the weakness of the US Administration and contradictions within its leadership. Biden's statements may well encourage all Iranians, including those who oppose Ahmadinejad, to unite around the Iranian nuclear programme, which is not what Obama wants.

<http://www.gulfnews.com/opinion/columns/region/10332889.html>

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# Iran's Crisis has Nuclear Fallout

By Meir Javedanfar

The controversy surrounding the recent elections in Iran has greatly damaged the legitimacy of Ayatollah Khamenei's administration. Gone are the days when even those opposed to the current regime grudgingly admitted that unlike other pro-US regimes such as Saudi Arabia, in Iran, the public do have some say over who occupies the presidential office. This loss of legitimacy is likely to affect the way many Iranians judge government policies on important issues; an important one being the nuclear programme.

The recent resignation of Gholamreza Aghazadeh, the head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, is an important sign of the implications of the recent political fallout on the nuclear programme. The loss of legitimacy has been brought about by a number of reasons.

During his first term, Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's call that "nuclear energy is our inalienable right" did have support from the public, including some reformists, because his first election was less controversial and thus more legitimate in the eyes of the public. Furthermore, with George Bush in office and his support for regime change in Iran, many Iranians saw the west as one-sided and against their interests. The nuclear programme was still seen as an Iranian nationalistic project; one that belonged to all people of Iran, whose interests were being represented by the government. This is despite the fact that, in some cases, this was done in a controversial manner.

After the recent post-election backlash and the damage caused to the government's legitimacy, it is possible that more Iranians will see the nuclear programme as a tool used by Ahmadinejad and Khamenei to serve their own interests, rather than that of the people of Iran.

Such feelings are likely to be reinforced by Barack Obama's outreach to Iran and the Islamic world. After the recent brutal crackdowns in Iran which America was carefully not to intervene in, it is now much more difficult for Khamenei and Ahmadinejad to successfully convince the Iranian public that the west is to be blamed for deteriorating relations. If anything, to some Iranians, the bigger threat to Iran could be seen as from within, rather than without.

This loss of legitimacy is likely to have several consequences. If talks with Iran fail and sanctions are imposed, it will be more difficult for Iran's leadership to rally the public around the flag. After the recent crackdowns, more people in Iran are likely to see their government's unwillingness to offer compromise over the nuclear programme as a ploy by Khamenei and Ahmadinejad to isolate Iran, to make it easier for them to rule the country with an iron fist.

It is true that majority of Iranians are fiercely nationalistic and want their country to have access to nuclear technology for civilian and even military purposes. This includes people who work for the nuclear programme. However it is extremely unlikely that all are Ahmadinejad supporters. After the recent events, some employees at Iran's nuclear industry could ask "do we want to become a nuclear power under an oppressive government, or wait for a democratic one?" It is possible that the number of those preferring the second option could increase. This could then mean that their level of co-operation could decrease. It could also mean that more bright Iranian students may be dissuaded from joining the country's nuclear programme and move to the west instead for better economic opportunities. The worst outcome is if some Iranian nuclear technicians and experts become tempted to work for foreign intelligence agencies as means of getting back at Iran's leadership.

The biggest winner in such a case could be intelligence agencies of more "neutral" countries such as the Netherlands or Sweden. This is because compared to US, British or Russian intelligence agencies, in terms of Iran's history, such countries carry less baggage. Therefore, this could be an easier decision for a potential spy who wants to pass on information, but not to countries who in the past have done Iran wrong.

Increased success in recruiting more spies could be one of the most damaging consequences. Compared to the people of Iran, foreign intelligence agencies, even those belonging to more neutral countries, have less to lose and more motivation to damage Iran's nuclear programme. These days, credible information on the programme is a very profitable commodity, both politically and financially. Therefore if Sweden got hold of important information, it is likely that the CIA or MI6 could make it an offer it could not refuse.

For now, the best the US and the west could do is to continue to show their interest in talks with Iran. Whether Tehran accepts to talk about the nuclear programme is another matter. So far, on two separate occasions, Ahmadinejad has stated that it will not be on the agenda.



To Ahmadinejad, and probably Khamenei, after recent events, stronger sanctions could be more preferable. Even war. These are overt external threats. They would provide the regime with a justification for the use of its armed forces to suppress internal and external threats.

However, the west's "soft power" is seen as a bigger threat. A velvet revolution is more difficult to suppress, as killing unarmed civilians en masse because they want a western idea (ie democracy) could backfire, both at home and abroad.

To Iran's current leadership, the sound of Israeli war planes over Natanz would be interpreted as an imminent threat to its nuclear programme. However the sound of US Air Force One approaching Tehran's Imam Khomeini airport for a state visit would be interpreted as a threat to the regime's very existence. To Khamenei and Ahmadinejad, it is more viable to deter the latter than the former.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/jul/19/iran-nuclear-programme>

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London Guardian  
COMMENT IS FREE  
19 July 2009

## **Taking Control of Nuclear**

By Mohamed ElBaradei

Barack Obama has injected fresh momentum into efforts – stalled for a decade – to bring about nuclear disarmament. He has committed himself to the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and acknowledges the link between nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament by the nuclear-weapon states.

Obama has pledged to revitalise the 1970 nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), which aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The non-proliferation regime, of which the NPT is the cornerstone, is in disarray. The main problems are easily identified.

First, the five main nuclear-weapon states have not taken seriously their NPT obligation to work for nuclear disarmament. Instead, they have insisted that nuclear weapons are essential for their security and continued to modernise their nuclear arsenals. This naturally robs them of the moral authority to persuade others not to acquire nuclear weapons, which continue to be perceived as a source of power and influence, and an insurance policy against attack.

Second, as we have seen in the case of North Korea, there is nothing to stop countries that sign the treaty from simply walking out after declaring that "extraordinary events" have jeopardised their supreme interests.

Third, the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is supposed to police the non-proliferation system, is shamefully underfunded. When it comes to determining whether or not a country is conducting a covert nuclear weapons program, IAEA inspectors often have their hands tied, either because they lack the legal authority to gain access to all the locations they consider necessary, or because the IAEA's analytical laboratories are outdated, or because the agency does not have adequate access to satellite imagery.

Fourth, export controls have failed to prevent the spread of sensitive nuclear technology, not least due to the sophisticated efforts of clandestine networks like the one run by Pakistani nuclear scientist AQ Khan. Nine countries already have nuclear weapons, and it would be naive to presume that others, particularly in regions of conflict, will not try to get hold of them.

In addition, a number of countries with nuclear energy programmes have the capability, if they choose, to manufacture nuclear weapons within a matter of months if their security perceptions change, because they have mastered the critical technology – uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing. If more countries take this path, it could prove to be the Achilles' heel of non-proliferation.

Fifth, the international community, spearheaded by the United Nations security council, has more often than not been paralysed in the face of challenges to international security and ineffectual in responding to suspected cases of nuclear proliferation.

These issues will not be resolved overnight. But there is much that can be done relatively quickly. The United States and Russia have started negotiations on deep cuts in their nuclear arsenals, which together account for 95% of the world's 27,000 warheads. Other key steps include bringing into force the comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty;

negotiating a verifiable treaty to end production of fissile material for use in weapons; radically improving the physical security of nuclear and radioactive materials, which is vital to prevent them from falling into the hands of terrorists; and strengthening the IAEA.

Last month, I proposed a key measure to strengthen non-proliferation to the IAEA's board of governors – establishing an IAEA bank of low-enriched uranium (LEU) to guarantee supplies to countries that need nuclear fuel for their power reactors. LEU cannot be used to make weapons. Some such mechanism will be essential in the coming decades as more and more countries introduce nuclear energy.

My proposal is to create a physical stockpile of LEU at the disposal of the IAEA as a last-resort reserve for countries with nuclear power programmes that face a supply disruption for non-commercial reasons. This would give countries confidence that they can count on reliable supplies of fuel to run their nuclear power plants, and therefore do not need to develop their own uranium-enrichment or plutonium-reprocessing capability. This could help to avoid a repeat of Iran's experiences after its 1979 revolution, when contracts for fuel and technology for its planned nuclear power program were not honoured. Thirty years later, some of the consequences are still being felt.

The LEU would be available to countries in need on the basis of non-political and non-discriminatory criteria. It would be accessible at market prices to all states in compliance with their nuclear safeguards obligations. No state would be required to give up the right to develop its own fuel cycle. The money needed to launch an LEU bank is in place, thanks primarily to a non-governmental organisation – the Nuclear Threat Initiative – and initial funding from Warren Buffett. But this can only be a first step. It should be followed by an agreement that all new enrichment and reprocessing activities will be placed exclusively under multinational control, and that all existing such facilities will be converted from national to multinational control.

This is a bold idea, but bold ideas are needed now more than ever. The opportunity to put the nuclear fuel cycle under multinational control was missed 60 years ago because of the cold war. The spread of nuclear technology and the growing risk of nuclear terrorism make it imperative that we get it right this time.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2009/jul/19/nuclear-technology-fuel-cycle>

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