



# **USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**

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RIA Novosti

September 3, 2009

## **U.S., Russia to Hold Strategic Arms Reduction Talks in Geneva**

MOSCOW, September 3 (RIA Novosti) - A new round of talks on a nuclear arms reduction deal between Russia and the U.S. will take place in Geneva on September 21, the Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesman said on Thursday.

U.S. President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev agreed in July in Moscow on the outlines of a deal to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-1), which expires on December 5.

"It has been decided that the next round of talks will be held on September 21 in Geneva," Andrei Nesterenko said.

The September meeting will be the sixth such meeting.

Nesterenko said that during the last meeting, the participants discussed the parameters of the new treaty, formulating wording that presidents Obama and Medvedev could both agree to.

"Both parties have begun discussions of the correct text formulation of the agreement being tailored, and working groups have been formed for itemized discussions," Nesterenko said.

The spokesman said Russia was pleased with the "strategic dialogue with the new U.S. administration." He said current dialogue is aimed at "reaching positive results, and has a healthy and pragmatic approach."

Earlier on Thursday Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Russia and the U.S. were making headway on work to have a new nuclear arms reduction deal in place by the time the current treaty expires.

However, Moscow and Washington have yet to agree on reductions in arms delivery vehicles.

"There are a lot of issues that are quite complex in regard to the security of the Russian Federation and the United States, as well as issues of strategic stability," Lavrov said.

"However, we need to work in the timeframe the presidents defined and we will do everything we can to have the new document ready before the expiration of the current START treaty," he said.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20090903/156012492.html>

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Miami Herald

3 September 2009

## **Obama Facing Hurdles to Nuclear Disarmament Goals**

By DESMOND BUTLER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Five months after President Barack Obama, with great fanfare, called for a world free of nuclear weapons, a crucial step toward that goal is running into resistance.

There is little indication Obama will have the votes he needs for a cornerstone of his nonproliferation efforts: Senate ratification of a nuclear test ban treaty. If Obama can't get the treaty approved, he probably will have a hard time persuading the rest of the world to rein in nuclear weapon programs.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, an advocacy group based in Washington, said the Obama administration needs to "work faster and harder" to build support in the Senate.

The absence of progress comes as a backdrop to the special U.N. session to be chaired by Obama later this month. The summit Sept. 24 on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial session will seek broad consensus on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

Political realities have made focusing on the test ban treaty difficult. Obama's top priorities these days are passing a massive health care overhaul and overcoming violence in Afghanistan. On arms control, his administration is now focused on another goal: securing a successor to a bilateral treaty with Russia that expires in December.

The treaty with Russia would amount to a small step toward the goal of a nuclear-free world that Obama outlined in April in a sweeping speech before a crowd of 20,000 in Prague. In the same speech, he promised to focus on the test ban treaty.

"My administration will immediately and aggressively pursue U.S. ratification," he said.

The administration says it is now working behind the scenes to build congressional support for the test ban treaty.

"We are pushing very hard on all fronts," White House spokesman Mike Hammer said.

But supporters of that goal outside the administration say they have not seen evidence of urgency.

"If this pace continues, there is little chance he will achieve the goals he outlined," said Joseph Cirincione, president of the San Francisco-based Ploughshares Fund, which advocates the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Negotiated in the 1990s, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty specified 44 nuclear-capable countries that must give formal approval before it can take effect. Eight countries besides the United States have yet to ratify the treaty: China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan. In 1999, during the Clinton administration, the Senate rejected ratification overwhelmingly, with all but three Republicans voting against.

Many countries see ratification of the treaty as a test of U.S. commitment to phase out nuclear weapons.

If the Senate doesn't ratify it, Obama could have difficulty persuading countries to support other goals, such as strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, at a review conference in May. The administration also wants a treaty to prohibit further production of weapons-grade nuclear material.

The White House says it already has achieved goodwill because other countries have seen that the U.S. is committed to reducing the world's nuclear weapons.

"We have heard from many countries that President Obama's ambitious nuclear agenda and multilateral approach have created a very positive international climate and goodwill for strengthening global nonproliferation efforts and advancing arms control," Hammer said.

The administration needs 67 votes in the 100-member Senate to ratify the test ban treaty, which means it will need support from some of the 40 Republicans. No Republican has yet declared support, and key Republicans remain skeptical.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., a well-regarded arms control and nonproliferation expert, recently told The Associated Press that the administration should build its case and wait at least until the second half of 2010 to push for a vote. But some supporters say that will be too close to congressional elections in November, and they worry that after that Obama may not have the large Democratic majority he now enjoys.

Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., who opposes deep reductions in arsenals and led opposition to the 1999 vote on the test ban treaty, remains opposed. He believes a test ban would constrain the United States and undermine its technological superiority.

Kyl and other opponents also say it will be difficult to verify whether other countries are conducting secret tests and to ensure that the U.S. arsenal can be maintained and improved without testing.

The administration argues that technological advances, including the capability of computer simulation, have made testing unnecessary and have also made it easier to detect tests in other countries. It has commissioned a National

Academy of Sciences report on how to maintain the arsenal and an intelligence estimate on detecting nuclear explosions. The administration hopes the reports, expected early next year, will help win ratification.

Kyl told the AP he believes he can defeat Obama's push for the treaty.

"I think they are dead set on ratifying it," he said. "That doesn't mean it is going to happen."

The resistance comes as the administration is already deep into negotiations with Russian counterparts to finish a follow-on agreement to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expires in December. The administration hopes ratification of that treaty will give the issue momentum.

Prospects look much better for that treaty, with some Republicans already on board. Kyl said he could support it if the administration backs funding to modernize nuclear stockpiles and infrastructure.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics/AP/v-fullstory/story/1215493.html>

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RIA Novosti  
September 2, 2009

## **Russia's Top Brass Gather in Moscow to Discuss Military Reform**

MOSCOW, September 2 (RIA Novosti) - Russia's military leadership including fleet and military district commanders gathered in Moscow on Wednesday to discuss ongoing military reforms, a defense source said.

The source said the issue of bringing the Black Sea Fleet and the Caspian Flotilla under the command of the North Caucasus Military District would top the meeting's agenda.

He denied media reports that the Black Sea Fleet and the Caspian Flotilla had become part of the North Caucasus military district as of September 1.

"The final decision has not been taken yet, but several options have been considered, including the creation of strategic-operational commands," the source said.

He also said that in the light of last year's conflict with Georgia and increased militant activity in the region, the North Caucasus military district could be the first to adopt a new organizational model that would see it incorporate the Black Sea Fleet, the Caspian Flotilla and Air Force units.

Russia's military reforms are focused on the reorganization of the military command and control system from a four-tier (military district - army - division - regiment) to a more flexible and battle ready three-tier structure (military district - operational command - brigade) and are due to be completed in the next 3-4 years.

The Defense Ministry also plans to cut 130,000 Armed Forces personnel, bringing numbers down to 1 million by 2016.

Experts have warned the move could undermine the Army's capabilities, with some saying 1 million personnel were not enough to protect Russia's vast territory. Experts also claim that changes proposed under the reform lack clarity and appropriate financing.

Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov said in August that Russia would spend 470 billion rubles (\$15 billion) on arms, equipment and maintenance of its Armed Forces in 2010.

[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20090902/155996512.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20090902/155996512.html)

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RIA Novosti  
September 3, 2009

## **Russia, Norway to Talk Nuclear Security**

MOSCOW, September 3 (RIA Novosti) - Russian and Norwegian nuclear industry officials will on Thursday discuss security cooperation, including the dismantling of nuclear submarines, the Rosatom state nuclear corporation said.

The 12th meeting of a bilateral nuclear commission will be held in Svanhovd, Norway. The commission is co-chaired by deputy Rosatom CEO Yevgeny Yevstratov and Norwegian government representative Elisabeth Walaas.

Until 2003, cooperation was carried out as part of an intergovernmental agreement signed in 1998 on environmental interaction in connection with the dismantling of Russian nuclear subs decommissioned from Russia's Navy, in line with which Norway allocated \$12-15 million every year.

In 2003, a framework agreement on a nuclear environmental program in Russia was signed, which laid the legal foundation for foreign partners to implement projects to increase nuclear security in Russia's northwest. The Norwegian government said then it would allocate \$100 million for the purpose.

As part of bilateral nuclear cooperation, four nuclear subs have been dismantled by now, several security and infrastructure facilities for spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste have been rebuilt or built and a number of other plans are mullied.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20090903/156002863.html>

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Moscow Times  
September 4, 2009

## **Lavrov Hails Progress On Talks For New Arms Pact With U.S.**

By Reuters

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Thursday that Russia and the United States have made progress on reaching a new deal to cut vast Cold War arsenals of nuclear weapons.

President Barack Obama and Kremlin chief Dmitry Medvedev agreed in July on the outlines of a preliminary deal to replace the landmark 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, but negotiators are facing a host of technical issues in talks.

Lavrov said negotiators had made progress on difficult issues and would report to both presidents when they meet on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Pittsburgh later this month.

“We will have something to report by Pittsburgh,” Lavrov said.

Lavrov said he was confident that a replacement to the START I treaty would be found before it expires in December.

Finding agreement on a replacement for START I, signed by George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev just months before the close of the Cold War, is seen by both sides as a way to “reset” relations after the friction of recent years.

But many hurdles still remain before a deal can be signed, including U.S. plans to deploy elements of a missile defense shield in Europe.

“We need to resolve many, rather difficult questions involving the security of Russia and the United States,” Lavrov said.

<http://www.moscowtimes.ru/news/article/382305/>

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Xinhua News – China  
September 2, 2009

## **Five Types of Missiles to Debut on National Day**

BEIJING, Sept. 2 -- China will showcase five new types of domestically designed missiles at the Oct. 1 National Day parade, a leading missile expert from the Second Artillery Force, revealed Tuesday.

A number of advanced weapons of air and sea forces will also be on display, other sources said.

Five types of missiles, including nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles, conventional cruise missiles and medium-range and short-range conventional missiles, will be displayed for the first time at the highly anticipated

military parade, said the expert, who asked to remain anonymous and has been closely following the preparations of the strategic force of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

"These missiles are domestically designed and manufactured and have never been officially reported before," he said, adding that they belong to a second generation of missiles that have already been distributed to the military and are ready for operation.

He declined to disclose the model numbers of the missiles, citing state-secrecy reasons.

"The third generation is still under development and is unlikely to be displayed this time," he said.

Military aficionados have been expecting to see the Dongfeng 41, known as the DF-41, and the CSS-X-10, which is said to be a third-generation, solid-fuel, intercontinental ballistic missile.

While China is a late starter in the missile development, compared with the US and Russia – countries equipped with fifth-generation missiles and in the process of developing sixth-generation missiles – it has made rapid progress, the expert said.

"Our second generation can match their third and fourth generations, and the third generation under development is comparable to their fifth and sixth generations," he said.

Progress made by the Second Artillery Force in the decade since the last military parade in 1999 will be highlighted at the Oct. 1 event, with marching soldiers and vehicles carrying missiles, three for every type.

"The force has created weaponry and equipment with nuclear and conventional missiles, both solid-fuel and liquid-fuel missiles, with different launching ranges, quick emergency response and precision strikes," he said.

The Second Artillery Force is a strategic unit under the direct command and control of the Central Military Commission, and the core force of China for strategic deterrence, according to a white paper entitled "China's National Defense in 2008," issued earlier this year by the Information Office of the State Council.

One of the force's responsibilities is "conducting nuclear counterattacks," the paper said.

"The statement indicates that the force can survive a nuclear attack before carrying out a counterattack. Any country that attempts to attack China with nuclear weapons must get ready for revenge, even if it has an anti-missile system," the expert said, adding that China's nuclear missiles, though few in number, have a high strike accuracy and formidable power.

A new submarine-launched ballistic missile, Julang 2, also known as JL-2 and CSS-NX-4, is also highly anticipated by fans of military hardware to make an appearance at the parade. It is said to have a maximum range of 8,000 kilometers and be designed to be installed onboard current and next-generation Chinese nuclear-powered submarines.

Li Jie, a naval expert, didn't exclude the possibility of Julang-2's appearance on Oct. 1. Li told the Global Times that the navy would showcase some types of ship-to-ship missile, ship-to-air missile and multiple rocket launchers at the parade.

"Maybe two to three of them will be unveiled for the first time," Li said. "The new weapons will help enhance the navy's combat capability in any future sea war."

Dai Xu, an air force colonel and military strategist, told the Global Times that a large part of the weaponry and equipment of the air force would be showcased at the parade, including third-generation warplanes, land-to-air missiles and sophisticated radar equipment.

"The backbone warplanes of the major military powers in the world are third generation. The qualities of some of our warplanes are at a level that is advanced in terms of the rest of the world," Dai said.

Li Daguang, a senior military expert at the PLA University of National Defense, emphasized that the military parade is not for saber rattling but aims to promote national pride, confidence and awareness of national defense.

"Some countries, observing China's parade with colored glasses, show off their weapons around the world on the battlefield instead," Li said.

Li Jie argued that the parade can reflect the current situation and tendency of China's military weaponry, as well as a way of showing China's military openness and transparency, and how it is aligned with international military standards.

According to the arrangement, President Hu Jintao will offer a keynote address at the huge celebration at Tian'anmen Square on Oct. 1, followed by the military parade and a mass pageant involving 200,000 people, 60 floats and a fireworks display.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-09/02/content\\_11982723.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-09/02/content_11982723.htm)

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RIA Novosti  
September 2, 2009

## **China to Showcase New Missiles During October 1 Parade**

BEIJING, September 2 (RIA Novosti) - China will display five new types of domestically produced missiles at a National Day military parade on October 1, local media said on Wednesday citing military sources.

The Global Times newspaper said the five new missiles include the CSS-X-10 (DF-41) intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and the CSS-NX-4 (JL-2) submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), as well as conventional cruise missiles and medium-range and short-range conventional missiles.

"These missiles are domestically designed and manufactured and have never been officially reported before," the paper quoted an anonymous military source as saying.

According to open sources, the CSS-X-10 is the latest land-based solid-fuel ballistic missile to be deployed by China and represents the peak of Chinese missile technology.

It is believed to be similar to the Russian SS-27 Topol-M missile, and is capable of striking the United States. The missile will likely become the core of China's nuclear strike force.

The CSS-NX-4 is a two-stage solid-fuel SLBM, which has a range of 8,000 km (5,000 miles) and can carry either single or multiple warheads.

The missile has been developed to be deployed on China's current and new-generation strategic submarines.

China has made notable progress in the development of its nuclear deterrent since the last military parade on Tiananmen Square in 1999.

The source said that China had developed nuclear and conventional missiles, both solid-fuel and liquid-fuel missiles, with different ranges, quick emergency response and precision strikes.

"Any country that attempts to attack China with nuclear weapons must prepare for retaliation, even if it has an anti-missile system," the source told the Global Times.

The People's Republic of China celebrates its 60th anniversary on October 1. President Hu Jintao will give a keynote address on Tiananmen Square, followed by the military parade - only the third in five decades - and mass festivities.

[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20090902/155995665.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20090902/155995665.html)

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Reuters  
September 2, 2009

## **Iran Nuclear "Threat" Hyped: IAEA's ElBaradei**

VIENNA (Reuters) - Iran is not going to produce a nuclear weapon any time soon and the threat posed by its atomic program has been exaggerated, the U.N. nuclear watchdog chief said in a published interview.

The West suspects Iran wants to develop a nuclear weapons capability under the guise of a declared civilian atomic energy program. Tehran rejects the charge, saying its uranium enrichment program is a peaceful way to generate electricity.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said there was no concrete evidence that Tehran has an ongoing nuclear weapons program.

"But somehow, many people are talking about how Iran's nuclear program is the greatest threat to the world. In many ways, I think the threat has been hyped," he told the specialist Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

EIBaradei said there was concern about Iran's future nuclear intentions and that the Islamic Republic needs to be more transparent with the Vienna-based U.N. nuclear watchdog.

"But the idea that we'll wake up tomorrow and Iran will have a nuclear weapon is an idea that isn't supported by the facts as we have seen them so far," said EIBaradei, 67, who will step down in November after 12 years in office.

The interview was conducted in July but released late on Tuesday.

Last week, an IAEA report lent some weight to Western intelligence reports that Iran had studied ways to make atom bombs although the agency has repeatedly said it does not have concrete proof of a weapons agenda.

Iran has refused to provide documentation, access to sites or to nuclear officials for interviews which the IAEA has requested to reach conclusions about the intelligence materials.

In the interview, EIBaradei said there was an urgent need to follow up on U.S. President Barack Obama's proposal for a dialogue between Washington and Tehran, but that resorting to harsher sanctions against Iran if it does not engage would achieve little.

EIBaradei said he had gleaned from experiences dealing with North Korea and Iraq that dialogue was a more effective tool than sanctions. He was not talking about a specific country.

"Another lesson is to use sanctions only as a last resort and to avoid sanctions that hurt innocent civilians. As we saw in Iraq, sanctions only denied vulnerable, innocent civilians food and medicine," he said.

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator was quoted as saying on Tuesday that Tehran has prepared an "updated nuclear proposal" and is ready to talk to world powers. The West has said it is still waiting for details.

Germany is to host high-level talks on Iran's nuclear program on Wednesday with the United States, China, France, Britain and Russia. Western powers are expected to push China and Russia to back a fourth round of U.N. sanctions which could target Iran's vital energy sector.

(Reporting by Sylvia Westall; Editing by Mark Heinrich and Jon Hemming)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE5811V120090902>

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Washington Post  
September 2, 2009

## **Iran Ready For Talks, Says Nuclear Negotiator**

By Thomas Erdbrink, Washington Post Foreign Service

TEHRAN, Sept. 1 – Iran's top nuclear negotiator said Tuesday that the country is ready to reopen talks with world powers increasingly concerned about Iranian intentions, according to the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency.

The announcement by Iranian negotiator Saeed Jalili came a day before a meeting in Germany of representatives from six nations, including the United States, that are seeking to develop a strategy for addressing Iran's nuclear ambitions.

"Iran has prepared to present its revised package of proposals . . . and is ready to hold talks with world powers . . . in order to ease common concerns in the international arena," state television quoted Jalili as telling reporters.

Iranian officials did not comment on whether the timing of the proposal is connected to the Sept. 15 deadline set by the White House for Iran to respond to an offer to reopen talks on the nuclear issue.

U.S. officials say Iran has responded to previous offers only with vague generalities that did not provide a basis for negotiations, and President Obama has suggested that if Iran does not make a serious counteroffer by the end of this year, it could face renewed sanctions. U.S. officials said Tuesday that they would reserve judgment until they receive an official communication from Iran.

"We're prepared to respond to some kind of meaningful response," said Ian Kelly, a spokesman for the State Department. "We're not going to respond to something that's made through the media."



Hassan Qashqavi, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said sanctions would not be effective. "Using the worthless and ineffectual tool of sanctions will not have any effect on Iran's lawful pursuit of its legal rights," he said, emphasizing that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful and is meant to generate energy. U.S. officials have said that they think Iran is seeking to weaponize its nuclear program.

Iran continues to enrich uranium, though the rate has slowed in recent months, the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a report issued last week. The enrichment is a violation of four rounds of U.N. sanctions.

Also in Iran on Tuesday, members of parliament demonstrated strong support for President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's nominee for defense minister, Ahmad Vahidi, who is wanted by Argentina on suspicion of a role in the bombing of a Jewish community center in 1994. The attack killed 85 people.

The parliament is expected to vote on Ahmadinejad's cabinet picks as early as Wednesday.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/01/AR2009090100998.html>

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Times of London  
September 3, 2009

## **Iran's Offer of Nuclear Talks Hinders Security Council Talks on Sanctions**

Roger Boyes in Berlin

Western diplomats struggled yesterday to secure an agreement on imposing tougher sanctions on Iran in an attempt to end its nuclear programme.

The meeting of the five United Nations permanent Security Council members and Germany was complicated by a last-minute offer of talks from Saeed Jalili, the top nuclear negotiator in Iran.

Because no details of the offer were available, the delegates assumed that Mr Jalili planned to use his proposal to slow the progress of moves to impose sanctions. Russia and China used the prospect of a peace offering from Tehran, however vague, as an argument against punitive measures.

One of the diplomats said: "The point is to duck, dive, tease and confuse until they are more or less resistant to the kind of sanctions that we have been considering."

One plan, currently before the US Congress, is to ban exports of refined petroleum products and tighten control over Iran's activities in the financial and insurance markets. A ban on petrol would hit Iran since it imports about 40 per cent of its needs. Petrol shortages have, in the past, led to domestic protests.

But China is already helping Iran to build new oil refineries in the hope of doubling domestic capacity by 2012. By that time Iran will be immune to threats of cutting off petrol imports. It also intends to remove subsidies on domestic petrol, making it more expensive and throttling consumption.

China thus has no commercial interest in sharpening the sanctions weapon. The Russians too are sceptical. Before the permanent members' session, Moscow talked down the prospect of swift progress.

"I believe nothing new should be expected as the six nations differ over which way they should follow to tackle Iran's nuclear programme," said Vladimir Sazhin, of the Russian Institute of Oriental Studies.

Moscow's view is that Iran is softening its position somewhat and the Security Council five should wait and see how the power structures change in the light of the June 12 presidential election and subsequent unrest.

"Iran has allowed access to the previously classified nuclear facilities in Natanz," Mr Sazhin said.

France and Germany called this week for harder-edged sanctions. Their concern is that if the West is not seen to be pushing Iran harder, Israel may consider a military strike. Critics of President Obama, such as John Bolton, the former US envoy to the United Nations, argue that sanctions are doomed to fail even if they could be linked directly to stopping Iranian nuclear plans.

"Adopting tougher economic sanctions is simply another detour away from hard decisions on whether to accept a nuclear Iran or support using force to prevent it," he wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* this week.

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New York Times  
September 3, 2009

## Merkel Signals Support for Tougher Iran Sanctions

By JUDY DEMPSEY

BERLIN — As foreign powers weigh further efforts to rein in Iran's nuclear program, the German chancellor, Angela Merkel, is sounding markedly more determined about imposing tougher sanctions on the government in Tehran.

The shift — a potentially fraught move given the strength of Germany's business dealings with Iran and the interest in preserving them during a recession — came about, diplomats and analysts say, after the Iranian authorities cracked down on protesters who charge that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stole the presidential election in Iran in June. Mrs. Merkel, who grew up in Communist East Germany, was the first foreign leader to demand a new vote and to condemn the violence, speaking out well ahead of others, including President Barack Obama.

Iran — with its nuclear program and its domestic political turmoil — looms large on the global diplomatic agenda as leaders gear up for the United Nations General Assembly later this month. On Wednesday, senior diplomats from the United States, Europe, Russia and China met in Frankfurt to weigh the next step in years of fruitless efforts to curb what Iran insists is a civilian nuclear effort.

Twice in the past week, Mrs. Merkel has called for a much tougher stance if the Islamic Republic does not comply with international agreements and halt its uranium enrichment program.

Her more assertive position emerged last week during talks with the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and again on Monday, when she discussed the issue with President Nicolas Sarkozy of France. Facing reporters with Mr. Netanyahu, she talked of stiffer sanctions against Iran “in the energy, financial and other important sectors.”

She declined to elaborate after her talks with Mr. Sarkozy, but stressed: “We must try to set these sanctions on the widest possible basis.”

Mr. Sarkozy, long a forceful voice on the Iranian nuclear program, said that “initiatives must be taken during the month of September which take account of Iran's will or otherwise to cooperate.” With Mrs. Merkel at his side, he added: “Germany and France will be united in calling for a strengthening of sanctions.”

Regardless of how difficult it may be to get Russia and China on board with sanctions that would strike at the energy sector, the heart of Iran's economy, diplomats and analysts said Mrs. Merkel seems determined to pursue this more robust line.

They trace the turning point to after the Iranian election on June 12, when hundreds of thousands of protesters took to the streets. A week later, a harsh crackdown was unfolding. Mrs. Merkel, who often emphasized freedom and human values when she first took office four years ago, was quick to react.

“Germany is on the side of the Iranian people, who want to exercise their rights of freedom of expression and free assembly,” she said, standing alone in her Chancellery on a Sunday evening, June 21. “One could eliminate doubt, very well I believe, by simply repeating the count transparently and if needed also with international observers. And then trust could grow.”

“What happened in Iran after the presidential elections influenced Mrs. Merkel's attitude towards the leadership,” said Michael Lange, Middle East analyst at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, a conservative research organization affiliated to Mrs. Merkel's governing Christian Democrats. “She saw what it was doing to protesters.”

“We did notice a change of tone when we were in Berlin last week,” said Mark Regev, an Israeli government spokesman, reached by telephone. “The countries negotiating with Iran may now have fewer illusions. Germany and the other countries know that time is now of the essence. Diplomacy must be backed up.”

Mrs. Merkel has followed the Iran dossier closely, partly because she recognizes the nuclear threat, but also because she has close ties to Israel. The denial of the Holocaust by Mr. Ahmadinejad and his threats against Israel have reinforced her interest.

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, as well as Germany and the E.U., acting in a group known in diplomatic parlance as E3+3, have been negotiating with Iran for several years without any breakthrough.

Diplomats said Wednesday that they expected little of substance to emerge from the Frankfurt meeting, in part because Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, announced Tuesday that Iran "has prepared a new nuclear proposal and is ready to resume talks on its nuclear program."

Neither the U.S. State Department, the E.U. nor Germany has received any details. "We have not received any proposal," said Ian Kelly, State Department spokesman. Javier Solana, the E.U.'s foreign policy chief, speaking during a trip to Egypt, said "I have not received it so I cannot judge it." Diplomats said this was an attempt by Iran to stave off talk of tougher sanctions.

Outside powers also wait to see if Iran will respond to the Obama administration's offer of talks, without preconditions, on the nuclear program and other issues. The deadline on that offer is Sept. 15.

The United States has had no diplomatic relations with Iran since 1979, when radical Iranian supporters of the ayatollahs who had swept the Shah from power earlier that year seized the American Embassy in Tehran and held dozens of diplomats hostage for 14 months.

Mr. Obama's offer was fully supported by the E3+3. The group later offered economic aid and technical assistance to Iran if it suspended uranium enrichment. It also made a "freeze for freeze" proposal whereby the international community would stop extending sanctions if Iran stopped expanding its enrichment facility in Natanz.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/03/world/europe/03iht-germany.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/03/world/europe/03iht-germany.html?_r=1)

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Bloomberg.com  
September 3, 2009

## **Iran Won't Bow to Deadline Demand for Nuclear Talks**

By Henry Meyer

Sept. 3 (Bloomberg) -- Iran said it won't bow to international pressure to meet an end-of-September deadline for holding talks on its nuclear program.

The U.S., China, Russia, France and the U.K., the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, and Germany, met near Frankfurt yesterday to discuss the offer for direct talks with Iran.

"The Iranian nation favors interaction and dialogue but will not surrender to pressure," state-run Press TV cited Hassan Qashqavi, the foreign ministry spokesman, as saying. He was replying to a question on how Iran will respond to the September deadline, Press TV said.

The U.S. and its European allies suspect Iran is developing atomic weapons. They say they will seek international backing for stiffer sanctions on Iran should the Persian Gulf nation rebuff negotiations aimed at curbing its nuclear ambitions.

Iran's top negotiator, Saeed Jalili, said today his country will present updated proposals for talks next week, Agence France-Presse reported. Iran continues to enrich uranium in violation of United Nations sanctions, the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a report last month. The Vienna-based UN nuclear watchdog also said it can't exclude the possibility that there is a military purpose to Iran's nuclear program.

### **Won't Sway Iran**

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the threat of sanctions won't sway Iran. "No one can impose sanctions on Iran anymore," he said at a press conference in Tehran today, as quoted by the state-run Mehr news agency.

It remains unlikely that Iran is willing to make the necessary compromises on at least limiting its enrichment of uranium, said Cliff Kupchan, a senior analyst at Eurasia Group in New York.

The new Iranian proposal will probably focus on Iran's role in the international order rather than offering concrete ways to resolve the nuclear dispute, according to Samuel Ciszuk, a Middle East energy analyst for London-based business intelligence company IHS Global Insight.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said July 27 that the U.S. will seek support for “a much tougher position” should Iran reject the deadline. Any new sanctions wouldn’t be incremental, he said on a visit to the Jordanian capital, Amman.

Iran, holder of the world’s second-largest oil and gas reserves, has insufficient refining capacity and imports 40 percent of its gasoline needs. U.S. lawmakers have called for the U.S. to block Iran’s imports of refined oil products.

“Sanctions are just a rusty sword which has no major effect,” Press TV quoted Qashqavi as saying.

### **Pressing Iran**

The U.S., France, the U.K. and Germany have been pressing Iran to suspend uranium enrichment in return for help in developing civilian nuclear power and other economic incentives. Highly enriched uranium can be used to manufacture nuclear warheads or to fuel nuclear power plants. The UN Security Council has voted through three rounds of sanctions in an attempt to penalize Iran.

Russia in a statement issued on behalf of the six world powers after yesterday’s meeting in Germany urged Iran to respond to the offer of talks.

“We all strongly urged Iran to give diplomacy a chance to succeed,” said the statement, posted on the Russian Foreign Ministry’s Web site today. “Iran should understand the urgent need to restore trust in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program through its full cooperation with the international community.”

Opposition by Russia and China to wide-ranging sanctions against Iran has limited the range of punitive measures against the Islamic republic so far. Both countries wield vetoes as permanent members of the Security Council.

Iran denies it seeks nuclear weapons and says the atomic program is needed to produce power and for research.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601082&sid=agHJKJMAkBVY>

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Yonhap News  
2 September 2009

## **Bosworth Due in Seoul on N. Korean Denuclearization: State Dept.**

By Hwang Doo-hyong

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. point man on North Korea, Ambassador Stephen Bosworth, will fly to Seoul Friday as part of a three-nation Asian tour to discuss ways to persuade North Korea to return to the six-party talks on ending its nuclear ambitions, the State Department said.

Spokesman Ian Kelly said that Bosworth, special representative for North Korea policy, left Wednesday for Beijing "to continue consultations with our partners and allies. His goal is to explore how best to convince North Korea that it must live up to its obligations under the September 2005 Joint Statement and take irreversible steps toward complete denuclearization."

After Beijing, Kelly said, Bosworth will travel to Seoul and Tokyo before coming back home Tuesday.

Accompanying Bosworth is Sung Kim, special envoy for the six-party talks, who in Seoul will meet with a Russian counterpart, Kelly said, adding, "They (the Russians) suggested that they meet in Seoul."

Reports said that Bosworth might also travel to Pyongyang, but Kelly dismissed that notion.

"Bosworth has no plans to travel to Pyongyang or to meet with North Korean officials," he said.

The spokesman, meanwhile, said that Bosworth "will discuss the role of bilateral talks with North Korea within the context of the six-party process."

North Korea has reportedly extended an invitation to Bosworth for bilateral talks on its nuclear weapons programs, but the U.S. insists on having two-way talks only within the six-nation framework.

The multilateral talks, involving the two Koreas, the U.S., China, Japan and Russia, have been stalled as a result of international sanctions slapped on North Korea after its nuclear and missile tests in recent months.

Reports said that the invitation was extended to Bosworth when former U.S. President Bill Clinton visited Pyongyang to win the release of two American journalists in early August.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il met with Clinton for more than three hours and called for the resumption of a bilateral dialogue.

The Asia trip comes during a thaw in North Korea's relations with the U.S. and South Korea.

North Korea also released recently a South Korean worker at the joint industrial park in North's border city of Kaesong and four South Korean fishermen whose boat strayed into the North.

The reclusive regime has also allowed the resumption of reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, as well as inter-Korean tour projects and work at the Kaesong industrial complex.

Those projects foundered last year soon after the inauguration of the hardline Lee Myung-bak government, which ended aid and economic cooperation, demanding Pyongyang's commitment to nuclear dismantlement.

North Korea also sent a high-level delegation to South Korea to mourn the death of former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, with whom North Korean leader Kim Jong-il held the first inter-Korean summit in 2000.

Lee received the North Korean delegation in the first high-level contact between the two Koreas since his taking office in February last year, although the sides fell short of agreeing on a summit, due apparently to the North's refusal to discuss its nuclear programs.

North Korea has said the issue of nuclear programs is one to be discussed with the U.S. and avoided the subject at the inter-Korean summits with Lee's liberal predecessors, Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun, focusing instead on food and energy aid and economic cooperation.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2009/09/03/39/0301000000AEN20090903000300315F.HTML>

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Yonhap News  
2 September 2009

## **Obama Calls Hatoyama on Closer Cooperation on N. Korea's Denuclearization: White House**

By Hwang Doo-hyong

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2 (Yonhap) -- U.S. President Barack Obama Wednesday expressed hope for closer cooperation with the soon-to-be-launched Japanese government on North Korea's denuclearization, economic recovery and other bilateral and global issues, the White House said.

Obama made the remarks while speaking to Yukio Hatoyama, president of Democratic Party of Japan, on the phone earlier in the day to congratulate him on the landslide victory in Sunday's elections, spokesman Robert Gibbs said in a statement.

"President Obama stated his strong wish to work with Mr. Hatoyama and the Japanese government on behalf of the people of both nations to strengthen global economic recovery, combat climate change, ensure the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, defeat al Qaeda and its extremist allies in Afghanistan, and build peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region," Gibbs said.

Japan's major opposition Democratic Party (DP) won 308 seats in the 480-seat Lower House in Sunday's elections to put an end to the one-party rule by the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has dominated the Japanese politics since 1955.

The landslide victory by the liberal DP came amid growing voter dissatisfaction with the protracted economic slump.

Some analysts worry the liberal DP government, seeking less dependence on the U.S. and a possible cutback in the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan, may undermine the decades-old alliance with the U.S.

Gibbs said that Obama and Hatoyama "stressed the importance of a strong U.S.-Japan Alliance and their desire to build an even more effective partnership."

Unlike Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso and his conservative predecessors, who focused on a strong alliance with the U.S. amid criticism of subservience, Hatoyama, soon to be elected to the next prime minister, has sought

better relationship with South Korea, China and even North Korea, calling for an East Asian Community modeled after the European Union.

The DP has also sought better ties with North Korea compared with the hardline LDP, which has refused to talk to North Korea on its nuclear programs and normalization of ties unless Pyongyang addresses the issue of kidnapped Japanese citizens.

North Korea returned five abductees after the visit to Pyongyang by then-Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in 2002 and claimed the others are dead. Japan refused to believe the North, calling on it to investigate further the fate of several others.

Apart from the kidnapping issue, the six-party talks are deadlocked over international sanctions on North Korea for its nuclear and missile tests in recent months.

North Korea wants bilateral talks with the U.S. in lieu of the multilateral dialogue, which it said is already dead, while Washington insists on Pyongyang returning to the multinational talks.

Stephen Bosworth, U.S. special representative for North Korea policy, earlier in the day began a trip to Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo to discuss resumption of the nuclear talks.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2009/09/03/52/0301000000AEN20090903000400315F.HTML>

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Yonhap News  
2 September 2009

## **U.S. has no Intention to Build Close Ties with N. Korea: Ex-official**

By Kim Hyun

SEOUL, Sept. 2 (Yonhap) -- North Korea is seeking a "strategic partnership" with the United States but the idea will never be accepted by Washington as such close ties would undermine its regional interests, a former U.S. official said.

David Straub, who accompanied U.S. ex-President Bill Clinton on his trip to Pyongyang last month, said North Korea holds too little economic or political value for the U.S. to risk its relations with China or alliances with South Korea and Japan.

"If the DPRK (North Korea) officials are sincere, they are profoundly mistaken in their understanding of American interests and attitudes toward the Korean Peninsula," Straub, director of the State Department's Korea desk from 2002 to 2004 and currently a Stanford University professor, said in a contribution to a scholarly publication, "Korea Focus."

"U.S. administrations have never considered, and will never consider, establishing a strategic relationship with the DPRK. North Korea's closed economic and social system means the country has virtually nothing of value to offer the United States," he said.

Clinton had hours of talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il during his Aug. 4 visit, which led to the release of two detained American journalists. U.S. officials later described the meeting as "respectful" and "cordial" but details of their conversation were not disclosed.

Straub said North Korea has long proposed that the two countries end decades-long hostile relations, arguing a close relationship would help the U.S. maintain a power balance in Northeast Asia, particularly against China. He did not specify, however, whether the "strategic partnership" offer was presented to Clinton during his meeting with the North Korean leader.

"North Korea is not an India or a Pakistan," Straub said, "Even U.S. toying with the idea would infuriate Beijing and work to the detriment of U.S. global and regional interests."

North Korea is currently under U.N. financial and other sanctions over its long-range rocket and nuclear tests.

In a dramatic change of attitude toward South Korea and the U.S. this month, North Korea released the American journalists, restored inter-Korean business ventures and sent a delegation to Seoul to pay respects to late former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung.



The Barack Obama administration is "willing to try to accommodate North Korean concerns" in an effort to resolve the nuclear dispute, but it "will not guarantee DPRK regime survival against internal threats, and the United States will not take steps that might undermine its own alliance relationships with the Republic of Korea and Japan," Straub said.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2009/09/02/18/0401000000AEN20090902008600315F.HTML>

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Yonhap News  
4 September 2009

## **N. Korea says It has Reached Final Phase of Uranium Enrichment**

By Hwang Doo-hyong and Lee Chi-dong

SEOUL, Sept. 4 (Yonhap) -- North Korea said Friday it has entered the final stage of uranium enrichment and is manufacturing more plutonium bombs in response to the U.N.'s tight sanctions against Pyongyang.

In an apparent two-track strategy, the North also said it stands ready for "both dialogue and sanctions."

"Experimental uranium enrichment has successfully been conducted to enter into completion phase," Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said. "Reprocessing of spent fuel rods is at its final phase and extracted plutonium is being weaponized."

The KCNA was detailing the contents of a letter by Pyongyang's top U.N. envoy to the head of the U.N. Security Council, which imposed a set of tough sanctions on the communist state following its missile and nuclear tests in spring through the adoption of Resolution 1874.

U.N. Ambassador Sin Son-ho said in the letter that his country would have not carried out its second nuclear test in May if the 15-member council had "kept silent" over Pyongyang's long-range rocket launch the month prior, as it did over South Korea's attempted satellite launch in August.

If the U.N. council continues the sanctions drive, the North will be "left with no choice but to take yet stronger self-defensive countermeasures as it had already warned," the KCNA quoted the letter as saying.

Sin was not available for comment but another official at the North's U.N. mission in New York told Yonhap News Agency that, "It is true we sent the letter. All of what the KCNA reported is true."

South Korea's top nuclear envoy, Wi Sung-lac, said North Korea's threats hamper efforts to resume the six-way talks on its nuclear program.

"It is not helpful," Wi said. "I will talk with Special Representative Stephen Bosworth on how to cope with the situation."

Bosworth, Washington's special representative for North Korea policy, is due to fly into Seoul on Friday afternoon from Beijing as part of his regional tour aimed at kick-starting the moribund denuclearization process.

Wi said the North's letter might not be directly related to Bosworth's trip but that the KCNA media report could be intended to grab his attention.

The North reportedly extended an invitation to Bosworth to visit Pyongyang for bilateral talks, but the Obama administration rejected it, saying the North should first return to the six-way talks and calling the release of detained American and South Korean citizens "marginal steps."

The State Department made clear that Bosworth has no plans to travel to the North during his ongoing regional visit.

Signaling its desire for direct talks with the U.S., the KCNA said, "The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is closely related with the U.S. (as) well."

"We have never objected to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and of the world itself. What we objected to is the structure of the six-way talks which had been used to violate outrageously the DPRK's sovereignty and its right to peaceful development," it added. DPRK is the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The North fired a rocket in April in what many saw as a ballistic missile test, but claimed it was part of a space program. Shortly after the U.N. condemnation of the action, Pyongyang declared its exit from the six-party talks, which also include South Korea, the U.S., China, Russia and Japan.

In June, the North said it had begun uranium enrichment and would weaponize all the plutonium it extracted from the country's main nuclear facilities in Yongbyon.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2009/09/04/43/0301000000AEN20090904001100315F.HTML>

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Washington Post  
September 4, 2009

## **North Korea: Uranium Program Near Completion**

By Blaine Harden  
Washington Post Foreign Service

SEOUL, Sept. 4 -- North Korea announced early Friday that it is in the "final stage" of enriching uranium, a process that, if completed, would give it a second means of making a nuclear bomb.

In rejection of U.N. efforts to sanction its nuclear weapons program, the North's official Korean Central News Agency declared, "We've successfully done the experiment for enrichment of uranium and it has entered the final stage."

North Korea has twice tested nuclear devices that use plutonium, which is manufactured by a chemical process in a nuclear reactor. The last test, in late May, triggered international outrage and tough new U.N. sanctions.

As part of those sanctions, a North Korean arms shipment was seized last month off the United Arab Emirates. North Korea said Friday that it "will neither accept nor be binded" by the sanctions.

Enriched uranium offers a different way to make bombs. It uses centrifuges to spin hot uranium gas into weapons-grade fuel. North Korea announced in June -- after nearly seven years of denial -- that it had a program for making nuclear weapons from enriched uranium.

Outside experts have said that it would probably take the North several years to develop the uranium route to a bomb because the country lacks centrifuge materials, technology and know-how.

Iran, however, has mastered much of this technology and could help North Korea move forward, according to Siegfried S. Hecker, a periodic visitor to North Korea's plutonium complex at Yongbyon who was director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

North Korea and Iran have shared long-range missile technology that could enable both countries to deliver a nuclear warhead.

In its announcement Friday, the North also said that spent fuel rods from Yongbyon are being reprocessed and turned into weapons-grade plutonium. The reactor was partially disabled last year as part of a denuclearization deal with the United States and four other countries that the North subsequently canceled.

The United States and South Korea reacted negatively, with Washington's special envoy on North Korea saying any activities in the area of nuclear development are "of concern to us."

"These are issues we are dealing with as they arise and we maintain the need for cooperation and dialogue and complete denuclearization" of the Korean peninsula, Stephen Bosworth told reporters in Beijing during an Asia trip to discuss how to bring North Korea back to disarmament talks.

In Seoul, the South Korean foreign ministry said the North's behavior is "not tolerable."

"The government will deal sternly and consistently with North Korea's threats and provocations," foreign ministry spokesman Moon Tae-young said in a statement.

The North is thought to have enough plutonium to make six to eight bombs. In an interview this year, Hecker, co-director of Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation, said there is enough plutonium in the spent rods for "one or two more" nuclear tests.



The statement from Pyongyang on Friday was part of a letter that the North Korean permanent representative has sent to the United Nations. It responds to questions from the U.N. sanctions committee about the North Korean arms shipment seized near the United Arab Emirates. The committee also asked Iran about the shipment.

In the first seizure of a North Korean weapons shipment since the May nuclear test, the United Arab Emirates inspected and held the Bahamas-flagged ship in early August. Diplomats have told news agencies that it contained rocket-propelled grenades and other arms.

"We don't feel the need to respond to the questions from the so-called sanctions committee," the North's state news agency quoted the letter as saying.

North Korea said Friday that it would not have tested a second nuclear device if the United Nations had not condemned its long-range missile launch in April.

Pyongyang said that it remains committed to removing nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula but that it will not participate in six-party talks, which include the United States, China, Russia, Japan and South Korea.

Those talks, Pyongyang said, are "used for violating [and] abusing North Korea's sovereign right and peaceful right to development."

North Korea is seeking bilateral talks with the United States, which the Obama administration has often said it is open to, but only after a resumption of the six-party talks.

In recent weeks, North Korea has appeared to be trying to calm tensions in Northeast Asia. It released several foreign nationals it had been holding, including two U.S. journalists. It also allowed the resumption of family visits between North and South Korea, reopened a border crossing and sent a delegation to attend the funeral of former South Korean president Kim Dae-jung.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/04/AR2009090401083.html?hpid=moreheadlines>

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Times of India  
4 SEPTEMBER 2009

## **UN Inspectors Never Visited N Korea Uranium Sites: IAEA**

VIENNA: UN nuclear inspectors were never given access to North Korean installations where the communist regime claims to have enriched uranium, the International Atomic Energy Agency said on Friday.

IAEA spokesman Marc Vidricaire said the UN atomic watchdog verified nuclear activities at the Yongbyon reactor where plutonium was produced from November 1994 to December 2002, and again from July 2007 to April 2009.

"At that site, agency officials were limited to five facilities that did not include any uranium enrichment activities, and the officials were never provided access to any other sites," Vidricaire said in a statement.

Pyongyang for years denied US allegations of a secret enriched uranium bomb-making programme, in addition to the admitted plutonium-based operation which fuelled two nuclear tests.

But on June 13, a day after the UN punished Pyongyang's latest test with tighter sanctions, the North vowed to start an enriched uranium programme and to extract more plutonium from spent fuel rods at its Yongbyon reactor.

The regime announced today that it had reached the final stage of enriching uranium, a second way of making nuclear bombs.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/world/europe/UN-inspectors-never-visited-NKorea-uranium-sites-IAEA/articleshow/4972618.cms>

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Times of London  
September 4, 2009

# North Korea 'Enriching Uranium for Second Arsenal of Nuclear Weapons'

Richard Lloyd Parry, Asia Editor

North Korea has announced that it is producing radioactive fuel for a second arsenal of nuclear weapons, in a new provocation to the international community.

The statement comes in a letter sent to the United Nations in which North Korea states that it is successfully enriching uranium, in addition to its existing programme of plutonium warheads. The message emphasises that North Korea is willing to negotiate an end to its nuclear programme, but it angrily criticises the sanctions imposed by the UN and promises “hardline countermeasures” if they continue.

“We have already made clear countermeasures against the sanctions,” said a report on the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). “Extracted plutonium is being weaponised. Experimental uranium enrichment has successfully been conducted and entered into the completion phase.”

If North Korea is indeed close to enriching uranium, then it represents a worrying trend, but not an immediate menace. In May, the North carried out its second underground nuclear test with a warhead made of plutonium reprocessed from the Yongbyon nuclear reactor. It is believed to have assembled between half a dozen and a dozen warheads from the same source, but a working uranium programme would allow it to increase its production significantly.

North Korea mines its own uranium and it obtained the necessary centrifuge technology from the scientist and founder of Pakistan’s nuclear programme, Abdul Qadeer Khan. Uranium facilities are smaller in scale and therefore easier to conceal from spy satellites than a large plutonium reactor, particularly in a mountainous country like North Korea. But they are harder to miniaturise to the extent that they can easily be mounted on a missile — the only feasible delivery system North Korea has for a nuclear attack.

President Obama’s envoy on North Korea, Stephen Bosworth, who is visiting Beijing for talks on the North Korean nuclear problem, said that the news was “a concern” to his Administration.

“It is not tolerable,” said Moon Tae Young, a South Korean government spokesman. “It is a matter of deep regret that North Korea has shown an attitude that runs contrary to the UN Security Council Resolutions. The Government will deal sternly and consistently with North Korea’s threats and provocations.”

The North Korean letter confirms the general downward trend of Pyongyang’s relations with the outside world since the end of last year. In the past few months, Pyongyang has torn up military agreements with South Korea, test-fired a long-range rocket and numerous short and medium-range missiles, and carried out its nuclear test.

Rather than being tactical attempts to put pressure on the United States to engage with it in face-to-face talks, they have looked more like a concerted strategy of increasing its military strength in anticipation of confrontation with its enemies.

Then last month began a series of seemingly positive signals from Pyongyang, including the release of two detained US journalists and the reopening of border crossings with the South. But any hopes that the period of confrontation is at an end are dashed by this week’s letter.

It claims that North Korea’s sanctions have been defensive responses to the imposition of sanctions, and repeats the claim that the ballistic rocket launched in April was not a weapon, but a satellite launch vehicle, similar to the one fired from South Korea last month.

“Had the UN Security Council, from the very beginning, not made an issue of the... peaceful satellite launch in the same way as it kept silent over the satellite launch conducted by South Korea... it would not have compelled [North Korea] to take strong counteraction such as its second nuclear test,” the KCNA report on the letter said. “The ‘sanctions resolution’... was framed up in the same way as the thief turning on the victim with a club over the DPRK’s self-defensive steps.”

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article6821741.ece>

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Hindustan Times

September 01, 2009

## **Pak Enhancing N-capability to Target India: US report**

Agencies

Top US nuclear scientists have shockingly revealed in a report that Pakistan is enhancing its nuclear weapons and production capabilities.

According to the report, which is yet to enter the public domain, Pakistan is readying a new nuclear capable ballistic missile for deployment and two nuclear capable cruise missiles.

It also says that Pakistan is building two new plutonium production reactors and a second chemical separation facility at Chasma, Khushab and Dera Ghazi Khan in southern Punjab.

Pakistan is also renewing work on a partially built separation plant at Chasma. It is believed that this secretive and substantial arsenal build-up is targeted at India.

Based on official estimates of Pakistan's current uranium and plutonium technology, scientists had so far thought the country far short of having a 100 nuclear warheads in its kitty. (*With ANI inputs*)

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/homepage/americas/Pak-enhancing-N-capability-to-target-India-US-report/449554/H1-Article1-449228.aspx>

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Indian Express

September 2, 2009

## **Rising Pak Nuke Stockpile A Matter of Concern: Army Chief**

Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor said on Wednesday that increase in Pakistan's atomic weapons stockpile, if true, was a cause for concern for India. "There is a degree of deterrence for one's protection, but this is beyond that. They are going well beyond what can be called 'deterrence'," said Kapoor, while addressing media persons on the sidelines his visit to Pune's Artificial Limb Centre and the Armed Forces Medical College.

"If these reports are true then, it is definitely a matter of concern for us," he said. On Tuesday, reports quoted an American scientist saying that Pakistan has amassed a stockpile of 70-90 nuclear warheads, up from its previous known figure of 60.

On repeated Chinese incursions along the Indian border, Kapoor said it was a difference of perception on both sides about the actual line of control and not a cause for alarm. "The solution lies in resolving the border issue," he said. "It is perceived by us as incursion. We also patrol up to what we think is the border, which might be perceived differently on their side," he said. Kapoor, however, did not comment on the Chinese denial that it had not violated the line of control.

Kapoor also said that the numbers of these 'incursions' had remained more or less the same as compared to the same period last year, 20 in June, 21 in July and 24 in August. "It is not a cause for alarm. We have regular border meetings, where such questions are raised," Kapoor said.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/pak-nuke-stockpiling/511181/>

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Pakistan News

2nd September, 2009

## **A.Q. Khan Still Remains 'Serious Proliferation Risk': US**

Pakistan News.Net

Washington, Sep.2 : Expressing concerns over the Lahore High Court's decision to end all security restrictions on disgraced Pakistani scientist Dr. A.Q. Khan the United States has warned that Dr.Khan still remains a 'serious proliferation risk'.

Interacting with media persons here, State Department spokesperson Ian Kelly said the Obama Administration is keeping a close watch on developments regarding Dr.Khan, and it has already expressed its concerns to Islamabad.

'Our concerns over the potential for proliferation activities by Mr. Khan are well known to the Pakistani government. We believe that he remains a proliferation risk," Kelly said.

"We're following this closely," he added.

A former UN weapons inspector and nuclear specialist has also raised questions over ending all security restrictions on the Pakistani scientist, who had confessed in 2004 that he had 'illegally' provided nuclear know-how's to countries such as Libya, Iran and North Korea.

The President of the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), David Albright, said it was mistake to 'free' Dr.Khan.

It is a mistake to remove restrictions on a man who cannot be 'trusted. There is a risk that Khan, who retracted his 2004 confession, will now be able to offer nuclear know-how to scientists from Iran, North Korea and any other rogue countries feared to be pursuing a nuclear weapons program," The Dawn quoted Albright, as saying.

In January 2004, Khan had confessed to having been involved in a secret international network of nuclear weapons technology proliferation from Pakistan to Libya, Iran and North Korea.

It is believed that Khan and his network were one of the worst proliferators of nuclear technology that could be used to develop nuclear weapons.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had also expressed concerns when Islamabad High Court eased restrictions on Khan in February this year.

<http://www.pakistannews.net/story/537981>

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Indian Express  
September 2, 2009

## **'India has Simulation Capability, N-tests Not Needed'**

Joining issue with an ex-DRDO scientist that Pokhran-II was not a full success and India needs to go for a few more nuclear tests, Atomic Energy commission chief Anil Kakodkar on Wednesday said the country has strong simulation capability and that additional tests were not required.

"We have enough data. We have comprehensive simulation capability and therefore there is no need for any more tests," Kakodkar said, days after K Santhanam ignited a controversy that Pokhran-II was a fizzle and did not give the desired yield. "We are very confident about the simulation capability,"

Indian nuclear scientists had already validated and bench marked the validated tool of the three dimensional simulation for earth motion and displacement data collected following Pokhran II tests in 1998, he said.

"We used the data of Beneberry nuclear tests of US of December 18,1970 to validate our 3-D simulation for earth motion and displacement and this validated tool was used for bench marking," Kakodkar said.

There is no need for series of tests to validate the yield since the tool and also observations are available, he said adding that it was published in the international journal Nuclear Technology in 2006 four years after its communication from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

Scaling up of neutronic calculation can always be done, he said adding that all the observations and calculations were done by scientists from BARC.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/india-has-simulation-capability-ntests-not-needed/511402/>

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The Hindu - India  
September 3, 2009

## **Kakodkar says No More Nuclear Tests Required**

MUMBAI: "India does not need to carry any more nuclear tests," Atomic Energy Commission chief Anil Kakodkar said here on Wednesday in the backdrop of the controversy over whether the 1998 Pokhran thermonuclear explosion was a fizzle.

Joining issue with an ex-Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) scientist K. Santhanam who claimed that Pokhran-II was not a full success and that a few more nuclear tests were required, Dr. Kakodkar said the country had strong simulation capability and additional tests were not required.

#### **"We have enough data"**

"We have enough data. We have comprehensive simulation capability and therefore there is no need for any more tests," Dr. Kakodkar told PTI days after Mr. Santhanam ignited a controversy that Pokhran-II was a fizzle since the thermonuclear explosion did not give the desired yield. "We are very confident about the simulation capability."

#### **Already validated**

Indian nuclear scientists had already validated and benchmarked the validated tool of the three-dimensional simulation for earth motion and displacement data collected following Pokhran II tests in 1998, he said.

"There is no need for a series of tests to validate the yield since the tool and also observations are available," he said, adding that it was published in the international journal *Nuclear Technology* in 2006 four years after its communication from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

#### **Measurements done**

Dr. Kakodkar said BARC scientists had done the measurements meticulously and large number of diverse instrumentations was used using four independent measurements — seismic, large tele-seismic, accurate measurements at Gauribidnur seismic measurement site; radiochemical samples estimation done by different groups; specific evidence of fusion reaction and 3-dimensional simulation of motion of earth and displacement. — PTI

<http://www.hindu.com/2009/09/03/stories/2009090360251200.htm>

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Xinhua News – China  
3 September 2009

## **Pakistan Concerned Over Reports of India's New Nuclear Test: FO**

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 3 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan is concerned on reports that India is again preparing for a new nuclear test, the Foreign Office said on Thursday.

Pakistani Foreign Office Spokesman Abdul Basit made the remarks at his weekly news briefing.

The spokesman said there are reports that India has a new nuclear test in the works, adding these reports are rather embarrassing to Pakistan. He said Pakistan is however steadfast on its policy of maintaining minimum defense deterrence and does not want arms race in the region.

A senior Indian scientist, K. Santanam, had recently revealed that the country's 1998 test had not been as successful as previously claimed. But leading Pakistani physicist Pervez Hoodbhoy reportedly said that the admission was not an act of coming clear but an attempt by India's nuclear establishment to press the case for new tests.

The recent United States statements on nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan and nuclear proliferation are quite baseless, Basit said, adding that Pakistan like any other responsible country is full-fledged alive to its responsibility.

Expressing concern over the release of Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan, the U.S. State Department said on Wednesday that they were monitoring the situation very closely because U.S. still believed that Abdul Qadeer Khan poses a threat of nuclear proliferation.

A Pakistani court last week removed all restrictions on the movement of the father of the country's nuclear program Abdul Qadeer Khan and allowed him to go anywhere as he wants. But the court restored the security protocol of the renowned nuclear scientist Wednesday after hearing intra-court appeal on the pleading by the Pakistani federal government. The government said that the restrictions are necessary for his own safety.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-09/03/content\\_11991096.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-09/03/content_11991096.htm)

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New York Times  
September 3, 2009

## **Court Reinstates Limits on Pakistani Scientist**

By SALMAN MASOOD

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — A two-member panel of the Lahore High Court ruled Wednesday to reinstate travel restrictions on Abdul Qadeer Khan, the Pakistani scientist who has confessed to running the world's largest nuclear proliferation network.

The restrictions on Mr. Khan, who is widely revered in Pakistan as the founder of the country's nuclear program, had been lifted in a ruling on Friday. The federal government appealed.

Mr. Khan was placed under house arrest in 2004 by Pervez Musharraf, the president at the time, after Mr. Khan confessed to selling nuclear technology to various countries. American officials say they believe that among them were Iran, Libya and North Korea.

In February, a court in the capital, Islamabad, declared him a free man, but the government assured the United States that it would continue to monitor him, and allowed him to meet friends and family only after getting approval from the security agencies. He has not been allowed to travel abroad and is required to inform the government 48 hours in advance of his travel plans within the country.

Mr. Khan filed suit last week to end those restrictions, saying they made him "feel like a prisoner." On Friday, the Lahore High Court ordered the government to lift the restrictions and explain why they had been imposed after the February ruling. Mr. Khan was scheduled to address the bar association in Rawalpindi, the garrison city adjacent to the capital, on Wednesday but abruptly canceled, citing health concerns.

A metallurgist by profession, Mr. Khan admitted in a tearful public apology in 2004 that he had sold nuclear technology to several countries, although he did not identify them.

International nuclear inspectors and the Central Intelligence Agency have wanted to interview him about his activities.

The investigators, who have repeatedly been rebuffed by Pakistani officials, want to know whether he sold uranium enrichment equipment to other countries that he visited when he was selling Pakistani nuclear technology from the late 1980s until his detention in early 2004.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/03/world/asia/03nuke.html?ref=world>

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Alarabiya News – Saudi Arabia  
OPINION  
September 2, 2009

## **Illegal Nuclear Trading**

By Faisal al-Rfouh

The increasing number of cases of illegal nuclear material possession or related incidents is worrisome for the international peace and security.

According to the 2008 annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), released in the second week of August this year, the IAEA received reports about 15 cases of clandestine nuclear possession or related incidents and 16 cases involving theft or loss of sensitive substances.

According to the IAEA report, these incidents are part of 119 events from 2008 that were added to the IAEA's Illicit Trafficking Database, which has recorded 1,562 nuclear trafficking incidents from 1993 till the end of 2008. These incidents vary from illicit disposal efforts to discoveries of "orphan" nuclear material of unknown provenance.



Cautioning against alarmism based on the figures, Richard Hoskins, head of the IAEA's Nuclear Safety and Security Department, said in early November 2007 that the figures were evidence of a major problem, but not necessarily one that could get worse quickly.

While conceding that the absolute number of incidents might increase, Hoskins said that "other factors are at work in driving up the numbers reported to the database."

It was the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, about 17 years ago, which triggered concern that fissile materials and even complete nuclear weapons would escape from poorly secured stockpiles and end up in dangerous hands. However, the shape of the nuclear leakage threat remains ill defined and somewhat hypothetical till now.

Rens Lee, in an article published in the summer 2008 issue of Orbis, reported that though a black market in nuclear and radiological materials had emerged as a consequence of the Soviet collapse, little material of direct military significance and no nuclear warheads surfaced on the international smuggling channels.

According to data by the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies, published in early 2007, total seizures of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU), in uranium-235 equivalent and plutonium respectively, in the period 1992 to 2006 amounted to about 9.4 kilogram's and a little less than half a kilogram not enough for a bomb.

According to the IAEA 2008 report, the agency conducted 21 advisory missions during 2008 that generated sets of proposals for states to improve the security of nuclear materials and related infrastructure, establish nuclear regulatory systems and counter nuclear smuggling, and prepare for nuclear or radiological attacks.

The safeguards activities were carried out by the IAEA in 163 nations in 2008, intended to ensure the states are not diverting material for illicit purposes, producing undeclared nuclear material or conducting secret nuclear operations.

Cautioning that "malicious" acts involving nuclear or other radioactive material are a continuing worldwide threat, the IAEA report lays emphasis on "the need for further improvement of measures to control and secure nuclear and other radioactive material, and of capabilities to detect illicit nuclear trafficking and other unauthorized acts involving such material."

\*Published in Jordan's THE JORDAN TIMES on September 2, 2009. Faisal al-Rfouh is the former minister of culture, a professor and the chairman of the Political Science Department, University of Jordan. He is also the president of the Orient Center for Studies and Cultural Dialogue.

<http://www.alarabiya.net/views/2009/09/02/83730.html>

[www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=19678](http://www.jordantimes.com/index.php?news=19678)

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Washington Post  
EDITORIAL  
September 2, 2009

## **A Familiar Pitch**

IT WOULD be easy to dismiss North Korea's diplomacy as crude, mendacious and comically repetitive -- if only it had not proved so effective. Over the past 15 years, the nuclear-armed Stalinist state has yo-yoed between bellicose provocations directed at South Korea, Japan and the United States and promises of far-reaching cooperation. With each schizophrenic swing it has demanded -- and usually received -- political and economic bribes, sustaining a regime that has starved millions of its people and imprisoned or enslaved millions of others.

The latest hinge between Pyongyang's two facades was provided at the beginning of this month by former president Bill Clinton, who met with dictator Kim Jong Il to win the release of two American journalists. The meeting provided a huge boost for Mr. Kim, who is seeking to restore his authority after a stroke and install a son as his successor, and who had greeted the Obama administration with hostility. His regime abruptly dropped that offensive -- which included new nuclear and missile tests -- and began dispatching envoys who sweetly proposed negotiations with Seoul and Washington.

Once again, there is no subtlety here. North Korea wants to establish direct bilateral talks with the United States -- excluding China, Japan and other members of the "six-party" group organized by the Bush administration. Having fractured the leverage provided by the six-party alliance, it would then demand more U.S. economic and political concessions in exchange for promises to freeze and eventually dismantle its nuclear and missile programs. It sold the

same bill of goods to the two previous U.S. administrations; in both those cases, Mr. Kim reneged on his commitments and returned to brinkmanship. As former secretary of state Henry A. Kissinger recently wrote on the opposite page, this pattern of behavior not only has kept the regime economically afloat but has also allowed it to steadily improve and protect its nuclear arsenal without incurring severe economic sanctions or prolonged isolation.

The Obama administration has been saying that it intends to break this cycle. It has taken some steps in the right direction by renewing the squeeze on North Korea's finances and winning approval of a U.N. resolution cracking down on Pyongyang's arms trafficking. Encouragingly, a ship reportedly carrying North Korean weapons to Iran was seized by the United Arab Emirates this month. The administration has said that North Korea must return to the six-party negotiations. But, in keeping with its belief in dialogue with rogue states, it also has appointed a special envoy for North Korea, Stephen W. Bosworth; the State Department says he will be dispatched to Asia soon for consultations on how to respond to North Korea's latest offers. Earlier this year, Mr. Bosworth declared his readiness to go to Pyongyang "whenever it appears to be useful" and hinted at "incentives" for the regime. If that occurs without a decisive change in North Korean behavior, Mr. Kim's crude but effective diplomacy will have triumphed again.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/09/01/AR2009090103491.html>

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The Nation

OPINION

September 3, 2009

## **The False and Dangerous Allure of Nuclear Weapons**

By Bernard F. W. Loo

The recent allegations that Burma has started to develop a nuclear weapons programme appear to have surprised no one; in a similar vein, no one was surprised when the first news of a nuclear weapons programme in North Korea emerged. If a country is led by a paranoid government eternally suspicious of just about every other state in the international system, then nuclear weapons must surely be the ultimate guarantor of that country's national security.

Two arguments have traditionally been made in favour of nuclear weapons. First, the eminent nuclear strategist Bernard Brodie in 1946 called them the "ultimate weapon". There is something viscerally certain, even iconic, about the nuclear mushroom cloud. More recently, there was the 21st century re-imagining of the classic 1970s television series "Battlestar Galactica", which revolved around a simple premise: Two civilisations, both capable of faster-than-light travel (which Einsteinian physics maintains is impossible) seeking to destroy the other with nuclear weapons. This premise reflects the emotive power that nuclear weapons exercise over the human imagination.

Second, nuclear weapons offer an apparent cost-effective alternative to the otherwise expensive business of acquiring and maintaining armed forces. Defence budgets typically go mostly to manpower costs. A nuclear weapons programme offers the prospect of significant downsizing of the armed forces and, consequently, significant cuts in defence spending; it can also have civilian energy spin-offs. For states with nuclear ambitions - the so-called nuclear wannabes - these arguments appear to be very persuasive.

There are two key arguments that relate nuclear weapons to national security. The first posits a scenario in which a nuclear state faces potential aggression from a non-nuclear state. In this scenario, it is possible to argue that the mere possession of a nuclear weapon should be sufficient to act as a deterrent against external aggression. It would be tempting to ascribe this state of affairs to the case of Israel - long suspected of having an opaque nuclear weapons programme - in its relations with its Arab neighbours.

This scenario is, however, problematic. Any nuclear retaliation against a conventional military offensive crosses a threshold that has remained intact since 1945. This renders the nuclear state as a pariah, likely to then face a variety of very severe sanctions imposed by the international community.

The second argument involves threats to the nuclear wannabe's existence from an existing nuclear state. The argument is that for the nuclear wannabe, the possession of nuclear weapons will deter any aggression from other nuclear states, and therefore provide the country with a measure of national security. After all, as one Indian general was alleged to have remarked, the signal lesson of Operation Iraqi Freedom is that if one wishes to go up against the United States, make sure you already have a nuclear weapon.



What deters aggression between two nuclear powers, what keeps the nuclear peace, in other words, is not the fact that both are nuclear powers. If that were the case, all nuclear powers should only need to maintain only one nuclear weapon in each arsenal. The fact that this is not the case suggests that nuclear deterrence and nuclear peace may be rather more complicated.

If a nuclear wannabe genuinely believes that nuclear weapons will enhance its security, it needs to keep in mind two considerations. One is retaliation. What maintains the peace between two adversarial nuclear states is the fear that one may attack first. But the victim will still have nuclear weapons that survive this first attack. The nuclear weapons that have survived will then be sufficient for the victim to launch a retaliatory attack against the aggressor, and inflict on the aggressor levels of damage that are politically unacceptable.

This means the nuclear wannabe will need either a very extensive nuclear arsenal, or it will need to ensure that its nuclear arsenal is survivable, either by hardening nuclear silos or by deploying their nuclear weapons on mobile, difficult-to-detect platforms such as missile submarines. Neither option is cheap; both subvert the myth of nuclear weapons as a low-cost solution to national security challenges.

The second critical element in nuclear deterrence is that of sufficient warning. This typically - but not exclusively - applies in the case of states with very small nuclear arsenals that are not likely to survive a nuclear first strike. In this instance, one state has the capacity to react quickly enough in the event of a nuclear attack, to launch its own nuclear weapons against the aggressor before its arsenal is destroyed. In this instance, because both adversaries know the other has sufficient early warning of impending nuclear attack, any nuclear aggression by one will almost certainly be counter-productive, inasmuch as it will lead to the state's own nuclear demise.

The nuclear wannabe will have to undertake serious investments in geo-stationary satellites that can monitor the nuclear weapons facilities of its putative adversaries, and advanced command and control facilities that allow for quick launch of its nuclear weapons. Again, this is not a cheap option, and it demands of such states very high levels of technological expertise that most will in fact lack.

It therefore means that if any state, genuinely worried about its survival and security, seeks to acquire nuclear weapons, the mere possession of even a handful of nuclear weapons - assuming the country then has the systems that can deliver these weapons against its putative adversary - is not enough. Secondly, nuclear weapons will not constitute a cheap, cost-effective security for the country. The great irony is that if any state genuinely desires to acquire nuclear weapons, it has made itself more vulnerable to external attack than ever before.

[http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2009/09/03/opinion/opinion\\_30111323.php](http://www.nationmultimedia.com/2009/09/03/opinion/opinion_30111323.php)

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