



# **USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**

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Wall Street Journal

October 3, 2009

## **Iran Diplomacy Shifts To U.N. Watchdog**

By Jay Solomon

WASHINGTON -- International nuclear diplomacy shifted to the United Nations Friday, as the International Atomic Energy Agency's top official flew to Iran to firm up agreements Tehran struck with global powers in Geneva this week to better monitor Iran's nuclear facilities.

Senior U.S. officials said the Obama administration fully embraced Mohammed ElBaradei's mission, illustrating the central role the White House now seeks for the IAEA and its outgoing Egyptian leader in its Iran diplomacy.

The current U.S. position marks a sharp reversal from the Bush administration's relationship with the IAEA, which was marked by public sparring over the Iraq war and allegations Syria was clandestinely pursuing nuclear work.

"With respect to the IAEA...this is the appropriate body to go to," said a senior U.S. official involved in White House strategy toward Iran. "And this had been done quite consciously here to have maximum unity and to have maximum credibility and to move it as quickly as possible."

Mr. ElBaradei is initially scheduled to meet Iranian officials Saturday to formalize an agreement to allow IAEA monitors to inspect Iran's previously secret uranium-enrichment facility in Qom, which the U.S. and its allies feared could be used to produce nuclear weapons. Iran says the its nuclear program is intended for purely peaceful purposes.

The IAEA has also been tasked to firm up by the middle of October an agreement reached in principle Thursday that would see Tehran transfer the bulk of its low-enriched uranium for further processing in Russia and France. U.S. officials hailed this tentative pact as potentially bringing Tehran's nuclear fuel under international monitoring, while denying it the ability in the near-term to quickly assemble an atomic weapon.

Iran's commitment to the deal was thrown into some question Friday, when an Iranian diplomat told the Associated Press that Tehran hadn't formally agreed to this proposal. But U.S. officials stressed that they believed the agreement would be formalized by the IAEA in the coming weeks. "It is our understanding that they agreed in Geneva to accept this proposal to [send] this low-enriched uranium out of the country," said State Department spokesman Ian Kelly.

Mr. ElBaradei and the IAEA were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 for their work to prevent nuclear proliferation for military uses. But American and European diplomats have recently accused the IAEA chief of playing down evidence pointing toward Iranian attempts to advance its nuclear program.

European and U.S. officials said in interviews in recent weeks that they were hearing much more alarming assessments from IAEA technical experts on the status of Iran's nuclear weapons works than what Mr. ElBaradei was publishing or stating publicly.

On Friday, David Albright, founder of the Institute for Science and International Security in Washington and a former nuclear inspector, said he had viewed excerpts from an "in-house" IAEA study that raised concerns about evidence indicating Iran had conducted studies on ways to build a nuclear warhead. The study documented what it

said was growing evidence that Tehran was studying how to place a miniaturized nuclear device atop a long-range missile, he said. The IAEA study was reported by the AP last month.

Mr. ElBaradei and other IAEA officials said that they can only publicize information that they have independently vetted and confirmed. IAEA officials say the agency has presented concerns about potential military applications of Iran's nuclear program in past IAEA reports. Japanese diplomat Yukiya Amano will take up the directorship of the in December and is expected to focus on technical issues. In a March interview, he said the agency "should not be a venue for negotiating disarmament."

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125453086371960917.html>

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London Daily Telegraph

3 October 2009

## **Iran's Nuclear Programme in Spotlight as IAEA Chief El-Baradei Arrives in Tehran**

By Adrian Blomfield in Jerusalem and Nick Meo

Mohammed El-Baradei, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, arrived in Tehran last night for discussions on Sunday with Ali Akbar Salehi, head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation and other officials.

His visit comes as pressure mounts on Iran again following a warning from President Barack Obama that his patience is limited. The US president has demanded swift action from the Iranian regime.

An Iranian official told journalists that Mr El-Baradei will discuss a timetable for inspectors to visit a newly disclosed nuclear enrichment plant.

Iran's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad defended the nuclear programme, including the building of the second plant which was revealed to the outside world for the first time last week.

"Iran's actions are based on honesty," he said. "We did not have any secret (nuclear) work because we gave information (about the new plant) ahead of time," to the IAEA, he said at a ceremony in the capital.

He also accused the American president of "a great mistake" in criticising Iran over the secret plant. "We gave the information sooner.. but his (Obama's) information was wrong. He said incorrect words," Mr Ahmadinejad said.

Iranian newspapers on Saturday praised their government for gaining the upper hand in the Swiss talks - not the view taken in the outside world.

The threat of tough new sanctions - or even military action - hangs over Iran if diplomatic efforts fail in the next few months to stop it building an atomic weapon. The Western powers insist that is what it wants to do. Iran's rulers say the nuclear programme they are developing is only for generating energy.

Sceptics fear that Iranian rulers may have bought time once again at Geneva, in the hopes that international outrage will die down. Since the revelation of the secret plant, Russian president Dmitry Medvedev has seemed to signal a shift in Moscow's long-held objections to more punitive sanctions.

Without international consensus behind American leadership, new sanctions may have little effect. Iran has friends and trading partners in Russia and China in particular which could help it to circumvent US pressure. Many believe Russia lacks the long-term will to fall in with the European Union and US

So far there has been a muted response from Israel, the country which feels most threatened by the nuclear programme. Israel remains sceptical, however, that Iran's nuclear ambitions can be curtailed. It has chosen to remain silent in the hope that the exposure of the second nuclear plant will unite world opinion.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/6257932/Irans-nuclear-programme-in-spotlight-as-IAEA-chief-El-Baradei-arrives-in-Tehran.html#>

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New York Times  
October 4, 2009

## **Report Says Iran Has Data To Make A Nuclear Bomb**

By William J. Broad and David E. Sanger

Senior staff members of the United Nations nuclear agency have concluded in a confidential analysis that Iran has acquired “sufficient information to be able to design and produce a workable” atom bomb.

The report by experts in the International Atomic Energy Agency stresses in its introduction that its conclusions are tentative and subject to further confirmation of the evidence, which it says came from intelligence agencies and its own investigations.

But the report’s conclusions, described by senior European officials, go well beyond the public positions taken by several governments, including the United States.

Two years ago, American intelligence agencies published a detailed report concluding that Tehran halted its efforts to design a nuclear weapon in 2003. But in recent months, Britain has joined France, Germany and Israel in disputing that conclusion, saying the work has been resumed.

A senior American official said last week that the United States was now re-evaluating its 2007 conclusions.

The atomic agency’s report also presents evidence that beyond improving upon bomb-making information gathered from rogue nuclear experts around the world, Iran has done extensive research and testing on how to fashion the components of a weapon. It does not say how far that work has progressed.

The report, titled “Possible Military Dimensions of Iran’s Nuclear Program,” was produced in consultation with a range of nuclear weapons experts inside and outside the agency. It draws a picture of a complex program, run by Iran’s Ministry of Defense, “aimed at the development of a nuclear payload to be delivered using the Shahab 3 missile system,” Iran’s medium-range missile, which can strike the Middle East and parts of Europe. The program, according to the report, apparently began in early 2002.

If Iran is designing a warhead, that would represent only part of the complex process of making nuclear arms. Engineering studies would have to turn ideas into hardware. Finally, the hardest part would be enriching the uranium that could be used as nuclear fuel — though experts say Iran has already mastered that task.

While the analysis represents the judgment of the nuclear agency’s senior staff, a struggle has erupted in recent months over whether to make it public. The dispute pits the agency’s departing director, Mohamed ElBaradei, against his own staff and against foreign governments eager to intensify pressure on Iran.

Dr. ElBaradei has long been reluctant to adopt a confrontational strategy on Iran, an approach he sees as counterproductive. Responding to calls for the report’s release, he has raised doubts about its completeness and reliability.

Last month, the agency issued an unusual statement cautioning it “has no concrete proof” that Iran ever sought to make nuclear arms, much less to perfect a warhead. On Saturday in India, Dr. ElBaradei was quoted as saying that “a major question” about the authenticity of the evidence kept his agency from “making any judgment at all” on whether Iran had ever sought to design a nuclear warhead.

Even so, the emerging sense in the intelligence world that Iran has solved the major nuclear design problems poses a new diplomatic challenge for President Obama and his allies.

American officials say that in the direct negotiations with Iran that began last week, it will be vital to get the country to open all of its suspected sites to international inspectors. That is a long list, topped by the underground nuclear enrichment center under construction near Qum that was revealed 10 days ago.

Iran has acknowledged that the underground facility is intended as a nuclear enrichment center, but says the fuel it makes will be used solely to produce nuclear power and medical isotopes. It was kept heavily protected, Iranian officials said, to ward off potential attacks.

Iran said last week that it would allow inspectors to visit the site this month. In the past three years, amid mounting evidence of a possible military dimension to its nuclear program, Iran has denied the agency wide access to installations, documents and personnel.

In recent weeks, there have been leaks about the internal report, perhaps intended to press Dr. ElBaradei into releasing it.

The report's existence has been rumored for months, and The Associated Press, saying it had seen a copy, reported fragments of it in September. On Friday, more detailed excerpts appeared on the Web site of the Institute for Science and International Security, run by David Albright, a nuclear expert.

In recent interviews, a senior European official familiar with the contents of the full report described it to The New York Times. He confirmed that Mr. Albright's excerpts were authentic. The excerpts were drawn from a 67-page version of the report written earlier this year and since revised and lengthened, the official said; its main conclusions remain unchanged.

"This is a running summary of where we are," the official said.

"But there is some loose language," he added, and it was "not ready for publication as an official document."

Most dramatically, the report says the agency "assesses that Iran has sufficient information to be able to design and produce a workable implosion nuclear device" based on highly enriched uranium.

Weapons based on the principle of implosion are considered advanced models compared with the simple gun-type bomb that the United States dropped on Hiroshima. They use a blast wave from a sphere of conventional explosives to compress a ball of bomb fuel into a supercritical mass, starting the atomic chain reaction and progressing to the fiery blast. Implosion designs, compact by nature, are considered necessary for making nuclear warheads small and powerful enough to fit atop a missile.

The excerpts also suggest that Iran has done much research and testing to perfect nuclear arms, like making high-voltage detonators, firing test explosives and designing warheads.

The evidence underlying these conclusions is not new: Some of it was reported in a confidential presentation to many nations in early 2008 by the agency's chief inspector, Ollie Heinonen.

Iran maintains that its scientists have never conducted research on how to make a warhead and that any documents to the contrary are fraudulent.

But in August, a public report to the board of the I.A.E.A. by its staff concluded that the evidence of Iran's alleged military activity was probably genuine.

It said "the information contained in that documentation appears to have been derived from multiple sources over different periods of time, appears to be generally consistent, and is sufficiently comprehensive and detailed that it needs to be addressed by Iran with a view to removing the doubts" about the nature of its nuclear program.

The agency's tentative analysis also says that Iran "most likely" obtained the needed information for designing and building an implosion bomb "from external sources" and then adapted the information to its own needs.

It said nothing specific about the "external sources," but many intelligence agencies assume that Iran obtained a bomb design from A. Q. Khan, the rogue Pakistani black marketer who sold it machines to enrich uranium. That information may have been supplemented by a Russian nuclear weapons scientist who visited Iran often, investigators say.

The I.A.E.A.'s internal report concluded that the staff believed "that non-nuclear experiments conducted in Iran would give confidence that the implosion system would function correctly."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/04/world/middleeast/04nuke.html>

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London Sunday Times  
October 4, 2009

## **Israel Names Russians Helping Iran Build Nuclear Bomb**

Uzi Mahanimi in Tel Aviv, Mark Franchetti and Jon Swain

Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, has handed the Kremlin a list of Russian scientists believed by the Israelis to be helping Iran to develop a nuclear warhead. He is said to have delivered the list during a mysterious visit to Moscow.

Netanyahu flew to the Russian capital with Uzi Arad, his national security adviser, last month in a private jet.

His office claimed he was in Israel, visiting a secret military establishment at the time. It later emerged that he was holding talks with Vladimir Putin, the Russian prime minister, and President Dmitry Medvedev.

“We have heard that Netanyahu came with a list and concrete evidence showing that Russians are helping the Iranians to develop a bomb,” said a source close to the Russian defence minister last week.

“That is why it was kept secret. The point is not to embarrass Moscow, rather to spur it into action.”

Israeli sources said it was a short, tense meeting at which Netanyahu named the Russian experts said to be assisting Iran in its nuclear programme.

In western capitals the latest claims were treated with caution. American and British officials argued that the involvement of freelance Russian scientists belonged to the past.

American officials said concern about Russian experts acting without official approval, had been raised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in a report more than a year ago.

“There has been Russian help. It is not the government, it is individuals, at least one helping Iran on weaponisation activities and it is worrisome,” said David Albright, a former weapons inspector who is president of the Institute for Science and International Security.

However, Israeli officials insist that any Russian scientists working in Iran could do so only with official approval.

Robert Einhorn, the special adviser for non-proliferation and arms control to Hillary Clinton, the US secretary of state, is understood to believe that Russian companies have also supplied material that has been used by Iran in the production of ballistic missiles.

The disclosures came as Iran agreed at talks in Geneva to submit to IAEA inspections of its newly disclosed enrichment plant, which is being built under a mountain on a military base at Qom. Iran revealed the plant to the IAEA to pre-empt being caught out by an imminent announcement from western governments, which had discovered its existence.

The West says the plant is tailor-made for a secret weapons programme and proves Iran’s claim that its nuclear programme is intended only for peaceful purposes is a lie. The plant is designed to hold 3,000 centrifuges — enough to produce the material needed for one bomb a year.

Iran’s conduct over the next few weeks will determine whether the West continues its new dialogue or is compelled to increase pressure with tougher United Nations and other sanctions.

Ephraim Sneh, a former Israeli deputy defence minister, warned that time was running out for action to stop the programme. “If no crippling sanctions are introduced by Christmas, Israel will strike,” he said. “If we are left alone, we will act alone.”

A key test for the West will be whether Iran allows IAEA inspectors unfettered access to the Qom plant. Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the IAEA, was in Tehran this weekend to discuss this and Iran’s agreement, in principle, to ship most of its current stocks of low-enriched uranium to Russia so it can be used in medical research. President Barack Obama has told Iran he wants to see concrete results within two weeks.

While there is consensus in the West that Iran is trying to acquire the capability to build a weapon, the progress of its weaponisation programme is a matter of fierce debate among intelligence agencies.

The Americans believe secret work to develop a nuclear warhead stopped in 2003. British, French and German intelligence believe it was either continuing or has restarted. The Israelis believe the Iranians have “cold-tested” a nuclear warhead, without fissile material, for its Shahab-3B and Sejil-2 rockets at Parchin, a top-secret military complex southeast of Tehran.

The vast site is officially dedicated to the research, development and production of ammunition, rockets and explosives. Satellite imagery as early as 2003 has shown Parchin to be suitable for research into the development of a nuclear weapon, say western experts.

The Shahab-3B, which the Iranians test-fired last Monday, is capable of carrying a 2,200lb warhead. Its 1,250-mile range puts parts of Europe, Israel and US bases in the Middle East within its reach.

According to the Israelis, Russian scientists may have been responsible for the nuclear warhead design. But western experts have also pointed the finger at North Korea.

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Russia Today  
04 October, 2009

## **Russians Helped Iran with Nukes – Israel**

A list of Russian scientists who allegedly helped Iran to develop a nuclear bomb was handed to the Kremlin by Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, The Sunday Times reports.

It is said that Netanyahu came up with concrete evidence of Russians helping the Iranians to make the bomb, The Sunday Times newspaper claims, citing an unnamed source close to the Russian defense minister.

The Israeli leader visited Moscow with Uzi Arad, his national security adviser, and the visit was not publicized.

The prime minister's office said then that he was in Israel, but later it was revealed that Netanyahu had flown to Moscow and held talks with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, and with President Dmitry Medvedev, the newspaper writes. Israeli sources say it was a short and tense meeting.

Medvedev later confirmed that Netanyahu was on a secret visit to Moscow, though earlier the Foreign Affairs Ministry had made a different statement.

*"Israel's prime minister made the visit privately, and that was his decision. I can't say I understand fully what it was connected with, but as our partners decided that way, we took it as a normal thing. I had a conversation with him,"* the Russian leader said.

### **What's behind the claims?**

The statement seems to lack concrete facts proving the Russian scientists' involvement, and the Israeli claims look to be mere allegations. Proof is yet to follow. Moreover, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has recently made a report on Iran's nuclear program and it says that the country has enough information and resources of its own to make a nuclear bomb in the near future.

The West met Israel's claims with caution. US and British sources said that the participation of freelance Russian scientists was a thing of the past.

Israeli officials insist that any Russian scientists working in Iran could do so only with official approval. However, US officials said concern about Russian experts had been raised by the IAEA more than a year ago, but that was about individuals acting without official approval.

*"There has been Russian help. It is not the government, it is individuals – at least one helping Iran on weaponization activities, and it is worrisome,"* David Albright, a former weapons inspector who is now president of the Institute for Science and International Security, told The Sunday Times.

### **Russian freelancer assisted Iran with nukes?**

Almost a year ago the IAEA investigated whether a Russian scientist helped Iran carry out experiments on nuclear weapon detonation, The New York Times reported, citing European and American officials.

The newspaper reported that UN nuclear watchdog inspectors obtained a long document written in Farsi, according to which the scientist was acting on his own in providing assistance in conducting experiments described in the document.

The unnamed officials told the paper that the *"document appeared authentic, without explaining why."* However, the IAEA made it clear the person was a freelancer and was not working on behalf of the Russian Federation.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, some Russian scientists left to work for other countries.

The New York Times quoted Gary S. Samore, a National Security Council official during the Clinton administration, as saying that, *"The Iranians were very active in recruiting and paying Russian scientists to provide them with assistance in their nuclear program."*

### **Russia considers sanctions against Iran possible**

Russia, which usually calls for diplomatic influence rather than further sanctions on Iran, said that it wants full disclosure, or else repercussions will follow.

*"We must create comfortable conditions to facilitate Iran's co-operation, and must create incentives,"* Medvedev said at a Pittsburgh press briefing during [G20 summit](#) last week.

Meanwhile, tension in Israel over the Iranian nuclear program has been rising for some time already, and that's no secret to the West: the development of Iran's military cannot but worry Israel. But the fact that should not be forgotten is that while Iran may be planning to build nukes, Israel already has them, despite having no formal right for that. The country's nuclear arsenal hasn't been defined yet, despite many calls by the international community to do so.

### **Iran not closer to nuclear bomb**

Meanwhile, US President Barack Obama's top security adviser on Sunday dismissed a report that Iran was closer to making an atomic bomb, Reuters reports.

The New York Times reported on Saturday that a confidential analysis by staff of the International Atomic Energy Agency concluded that Iran has acquired "sufficient information to be able to design and produce" a bomb.

*"Whether they know how to do it or not is a matter of some conjecture, but what we are watching is what their intent is, and we have been worried about that intent,"* said National Security Adviser Jim Jones.

However, when asked whether Iran was any closer to making the bomb, Jones denied any such claims.

*"No, we stand by the reports that we have put out,"* he said.

### **Iran's nukes sabotaged?**

While Iran is allegedly continuing its uranium enrichment program, the international community, according to some sources, is responding through sabotage of these actions.

*"Industrial sabotage is a means to halt the program without military action and attracting attention,"* says Mark Fitzpatrick from the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Sources from various countries involved in obstructing Iran's nuclear program have told CBS that there are Russian nuclear scientists and Iranian citizens living abroad among those working on the industrial sabotage. Those involved sell Iran equipment with defects which are difficult to notice immediately.

*"One of the ways to sabotage the program is to alter the equipment bought by the country on the black market,"* Fitzpatrick noted. *"Because it is the black market, the buyer often doesn't know who he is dealing with."*

Representatives of the countries involved in the sabotage actions have reported, under the condition of anonymity, that power-generating unit explosions have been organized.

Some of the technical difficulties which Iran faced in using centrifuges are also reportedly the result of various countries' participation in political sabotage, CBS reports.

Iran is highly susceptible to industrial sabotage, since the country does not have access to legitimate resources and has been forced into using the black market for its needs.

<http://www.russiatoday.com/Politics/2009-10-04/russians-helped-iran-nukes.html?fullstory>

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Los Angeles Times

October 4, 2009

## **Nuclear Chief ElBaradei Visits Iran**

Associated Press

Tehran

As the head of the U.N. nuclear monitoring agency arrived in Iran on Saturday, the country's president declared that it had reported the existence of a new nuclear site earlier than required.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, is in Tehran to arrange an



inspection of the uranium enrichment facility near the holy city of Qom.

The revelation that Iran has been building the nuclear plant has heightened the concern of the United States and many of its allies, which suspect that Tehran is using a civilian nuclear program as a cover for developing weapons-making capability. Iran says it wants only to generate energy.

President Obama and the leaders of France and Britain accused Iran of keeping the construction hidden from the world for years. The U.S. president said last month that Iran's actions "raised grave doubts" about its promise to use nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes.

EIBaradei has also said Tehran was "on the wrong side of the law" over the new plant and should have revealed its plans as soon as it decided to build the facility.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad challenged that view in a speech Saturday, saying that Iran voluntarily revealed the facility to the IAEA in a letter on Sept. 21. He said that was one year earlier than necessary under the agency's rules.

Iran agreed to allow U.N. inspectors into the facility. Its meeting with six world powers Thursday near Geneva included the highest-level bilateral contact with the U.S. in three decades.

Iranian officials argue that under IAEA rules, a member nation is required to inform the U.N. agency about the existence of a nuclear facility six months before introducing nuclear material into the machines. Iran says the new facility won't be operational for 18 months, and so it has not violated any IAEA requirements.

The IAEA has said that Iran is obliged under the Additional Protocol to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to notify the organization when it begins to design a new nuclear facility.

Iran says it voluntarily implemented the Additional Protocol for 2 1/2 years as a confidence-building gesture, but its parliament passed legislation in 2007 forcing the government to end such cooperation after the country was referred to the U.N. Security Council for sanctions over its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment.

The IAEA says a government cannot unilaterally abandon such an agreement.

A document drafted by senior officials at the IAEA says Iran probably has sufficient information to design and produce a nuclear bomb. But the agency has said publicly that there is no concrete proof that Iran has a nuclear weapons program.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iran-nuke4-2009oct04,0,3859896.story>

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London Guardian  
4 October 2009

## **Iran Agrees Nuclear Inspection - but not yet**

By Simon Tisdall

Iran has agreed to allow international inspectors to visit its uranium enrichment plant near the holy city of Qom, the head of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, said today.

But the proposed date for the start of the inspection – 25 October – falls short of demands by the Obama administration and its allies, who fear a cover-up and who initially demanded immediate access for UN inspectors after the secret plant's existence was first disclosed last month.

The Qom agreement also came amid disclosures concerning Iran's alleged attempts to design a nuclear warhead to be mounted on its Shahab long-range missiles that are capable of striking Israel and some European countries.

Speaking after talks in Tehran with Ali Akbar Salehi, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, ElBaradei sounded upbeat about the prospects for a diplomatic resolution of the long-running dispute over Iran's suspect nuclear programmes.

Relations with Iran were moving from "conspiracy" to "co-operation", he said. "It is important for us to have comprehensive co-operation over the Qom site. We had dialogue, we had talks on clarification of the facility in Qom, which is a pilot enrichment plant."

ElBaradei said Iran had broken IAEA rules in not notifying the agency earlier about the Qom plant but he did not propose any penalties. For his part, Salehi described the talks as "very successful".

The Tehran talks followed a meeting in Geneva last Thursday between Iran and the UN security council's five permanent members plus Germany, during which US diplomats engaged in direct, overt talks with Iranian officials for the first time since the two countries broke off diplomatic relations after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Although Iran offered concessions in Geneva on inspection of the Qom plant and the future reprocessing of some of its enriched uranium stockpile abroad, it did not agree to "unfettered" inspections of all its nuclear facilities, as demanded by the UN, and continued to insist on its "sovereign" right to pursue all aspects of nuclear technology.

The talks also ended without agreement on the idea of "freeze for freeze" – a suspension of further enrichment in return for a halt to tougher UN sanctions against Iran.

The US and France had said that Tehran must allow access to the Qom plant within two weeks. Western officials and nuclear experts expressed concern that Iran, by not opening its doors until 25 October, will have more than a month since it acknowledged the existence of the Qom plant on 21 September to conceal key information about its design and ultimate purpose.

David Albright, a former weapons inspector and president of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security, said it would probably take Iran some time to conceal what had happened at the facility. "If you have a month, you have the time," he said.

Albright said a faster process would have been better. "It's not good that the inspection has taken so long ... There is no reason it could not have happened yesterday. It should have."

Western officials worry that the Qom plant may be the tip of the iceberg in terms of undisclosed nuclear-related Iranian facilities and capabilities. British sources echoed other European intelligence agencies last week in suggesting that Iran, contrary to US estimates, had not stopped and was continuing with a secret programme to build a nuclear warhead, to be mounted on its long-range missiles.

Those suspicions were reinforced on Saturday when the New York Times reported that a confidential analysis by IAEA staff had concluded that Iran had acquired "sufficient information to be able to design and produce" a nuclear bomb using highly enriched uranium.

An internal IAEA report, entitled "Possible Military Dimensions of Iran's Nuclear Programme", described a complex programme run by Iran's defence ministry "aimed at the development of a nuclear payload to be delivered using the Shahab 3 missile system", the paper reported. It said the programme apparently started in 2002.

Documents relating to Iran's suspected attempts to design a missile-deployable nuclear warhead are the subject of long-standing disclosure demands by the IAEA. Earlier this year French officials suggested the UN agency was not telling all it knew about Iran's warhead research, for fear of increasing international tensions.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/oct/04/iran-nuclear-weapon-inspection>

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Wall Street Journal  
October 5, 2009

## **U.N. Inspectors to Examine Nuclear Site in Iran**

By JOE LAURIA and JAY SOLOMON

United Nations nuclear inspectors said Sunday that they will visit a recently revealed Iranian nuclear-enrichment facility in Qom later this month to determine if it has a military purpose, as U.S. national security adviser retired Gen. James Jones cast doubt on a report that Iran was closer to designing a nuclear warhead than previously thought.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told a news conference in Tehran on Sunday that inspectors will arrive at the facility on Oct. 25 to check its design. "It is important for us to send out inspectors to do comprehensive verification...to assure ourselves that it is...fit for peaceful purposes," Mr. ElBaradei said.

Iran says its nuclear program is purely civilian. The IAEA "has no concrete proof of an ongoing weapons program in Iran," Mr. ElBaradei said, but harbors "concerns about Iran's future intentions." U.S. intelligence agencies have raised suspicions about the Qom site based on the small size of the facility and its location near a military base. The facility can house only 3,000 centrifuges -- far too few to enrich uranium for a nuclear-power plant but enough to fill a nuclear warhead.

Gen. Jones on Sunday played down an IAEA internal draft whose accuracy is in debate. According to some people who have seen it, the report suggests Iran is closer to being able to make an atomic bomb than U.S. reports or Mr. ElBaradei have indicated. His comments on CNN's "State of the Union" indicate the U.S. is sticking to its position that Tehran halted its program to develop atomic weapons in 2003, though some countries' intelligence services believe the program remains active.

A British security official said last week that London believes Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in 2004 or early 2005 ordered his Defense Ministry to restart experiments into warhead design and delivery systems.

A European diplomat said the IAEA's internal paper, which U.N. officials say was sourced from nearly 10 countries, has only hardened the belief in Europe that Tehran has made continued advances in weaponizing its nuclear technologies.

The White House said last week that the U.S. believed the exposure of the Qom facility significantly undercut Tehran's ability to rapidly build a nuclear weapon, and that the Obama administration continues to stand by the U.S. position.

The internal IAEA report raises concerns about evidence indicating that Iran had conducted studies on ways to build a nuclear warhead, said David Albright, founder of Washington think tank the Institute for Science and International Security and a former nuclear inspector, who viewed and released excerpts from the report on Friday.

The IAEA itself hasn't made public the report; Mr. ElBaradei and other agency officials say they won't release information they can't prove conclusively is true. The IAEA has identified in some of its past public reports concerns about Iran's efforts to build nuclear warheads and long-range missiles; but the agency has stressed that these were suspicions that it couldn't prove.

Both Republican and Democratic lawmakers seized on the disclosure of the IAEA report to call for stronger action, including sanctions, against Iran.

Asked on CNN Sunday if he thought Iran's capability to build a nuclear weapon had increased, Gen. Jones replied, "No. We stand by the reports that we put out."

He added, "I think you're going to get a lot of speculation one way or another. I think that what's happened regarding Iran in the last couple of weeks is very significant."

U.S. intelligence officials in recent days backed Gen. Jones's position that Washington hasn't altered its assessment on the state of Iran's efforts to build nuclear weapons. These officials said the Central Intelligence Agency and other agencies continually update their assessments.

Mr. Albright and some Western diplomats who have viewed parts of the IAEA report say it is an evolving "working paper" that appears more resolute in declaring that Tehran has been experimenting in weaponization. Western diplomats based at the IAEA say they have received technical briefings from agency staff in recent months that are much more declarative about Tehran's nuclear weapons capabilities.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125464868345562291.html>

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New York Times  
October 5, 2009

## **Iran Agrees to Allow Inspectors on Oct. 25**

By DAVID E. SANGER and NAZILA FATHI

WASHINGTON — The chief of the world's nuclear inspection agency said during a visit to Tehran on Sunday that the Iranian government had agreed to allow access to a newly disclosed nuclear enrichment facility on Oct. 25, and Iran said it would enter talks earlier about temporarily exporting much of its low-enriched uranium to be converted into nuclear reactor fuel.

At a news conference, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, praised Iran for moving forward on agreements reached at a meeting last week with the United States and its allies, even while cautioning that his agency had “concerns about Iran’s future intentions.”

“I see that we are at a critical moment,” Dr. ElBaradei said. “I see that we are shifting from confrontation into transparency and cooperation.”

In Washington, officials were not willing to go as far as Dr. ElBaradei, saying the next few months will be critical in determining whether Iran is truly cooperating, or simply trying to drag out negotiations.

President Obama’s national security adviser, Gen. James L. Jones, said on CBS’s “Face the Nation” that “for now, things are moving in the right direction,” citing the forthcoming inspection and discussion on uranium exports as evidence that the new effort to deal with Iran was gaining momentum. But some administration officials expressed private skepticism that Iran would ultimately prove willing to allow the kind of widespread inspections that the United States and its Western allies have in mind.

They want the inspections to include several facilities that American and European officials suspect could be part of a string of covert facilities built to supply the newly revealed enrichment center near the holy city of Qum.

Getting inspectors inside Qum is the top priority on the Obama administration’s Iran agenda, officials said. The administration had demanded that the facility be opened within two weeks of their meeting with Iran on Oct. 1. Instead, Iran has offered a date 24 days later, and exactly a month after President Obama, President Nicolas Sarkozy of France and Prime Minister Gordon Brown of Britain stood together to announce that their intelligence services had seen evidence Iran was putting equipment into the site, tunneled under a mountain and inside a Revolutionary Guards base.

A few days before the leaders spoke, Iran had sought to pre-empt them by declaring the site to the atomic agency, years after it had begun building.

Agency inspectors are concerned that a month is sufficient time for Iran to remove some of the equipment. “The longer you wait, the less you learn,” a senior European official familiar with inspections said last week.

One of the important tests of Iran’s attitude, officials said Sunday, will be willingness to ship its stock of low-enriched uranium, produced in recent years at a declared nuclear enrichment site at Natanz, to Russia and France for conversion to reactor fuel and shipment back to Iran.

In Tehran, Ali Akbar Salehi, Iran’s top nuclear official, said at a news conference that he would take part in a meeting on Oct. 19 with the United States, France and Russia to discuss the details of an agreement for Iran to get enriched uranium for a research reactor in Tehran. That material is supposed to be processed in Russia and France, turned into a kind of fuel difficult to use in nuclear weapons, and returned. But the state-run Press TV in Tehran reported Sunday that Iranian officials had “rejected reports that they had reached a deal with world powers to ship its enriched uranium abroad for processing.” The report said “the purchase” of 20 percent uranium would be discussed on Oct. 19.

In appearances on American television on Sunday, General Jones and Susan E. Rice, the United States ambassador to the United Nations, tried to walk a fine line between arguing that Mr. Obama’s strategy of direct engagement with Iran was yielding initial benefits and insisting they would not get dragged into prolonged negotiations.

Ms. Rice said on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that it was now up to Iran to “prove to our satisfaction that their program is, as they claim, for peaceful purposes and open up their facilities to inspections, freeze their uranium enrichment program, commit, as they have done, and follow through on that commitment to provide fuel for enrichment outside of the country or face real pressure and consequences.”

She declined to be specific about those consequences, but appeared to be referring to American and European plans to move to harsh sanctions if Iran fails to open up.

Asked about a draft report written by staff members of the I.A.E.A. and reported in The New York Times on Sunday, concluding that Iran has sufficient information to be able to design and produce a workable atom bomb, General Jones said on CNN’s “State of the Union” that the United States stood by its intelligence assessment that Iran was still years away from such an accomplishment.

For her part, Ms. Rice sidestepped questions about the I.A.E.A. report. “I’m not in a position to characterize that report or our own intelligence,” she said.

Lawmakers in both parties agreed that the new I.A.E.A. report added to their concerns about Iran. Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, speaking on "Fox News Sunday," said that in light of the report, the United States should continue to push for inspections. "One of the things that we'd want to do is challenge the Iranians to give us some access to what's alleged in this report," Mr. Graham said. "Clearly, they're not developing a nuclear program for peaceable purposes."

Senator Evan Bayh, Democrat of Indiana, said the United States should set hard deadlines for a response from Iran on the unanswered questions, "the sooner the better, and real consequences if those deadlines aren't met."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/05/world/middleeast/05nuke.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russia  
05 October 2009

## **Tehran's Top Nuclear Official says Iran has Mastered Fuel Cycle**

MOSCOW, October 5 (RIA Novosti) - Iran's top nuclear energy official said in a television interview on Monday that the Islamic Republic has now mastered the full nuclear fuel cycle.

"We can enrich uranium, we can process uranium, we can produce fuel rods, we can mine uranium, we can deal with spent fuel, which proves we have a full fuel cycle," Ali Akbar Salehi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization and the country's vice president, told IRI channel.

Iran has been in the center of a protracted international dispute over its nuclear program. It has the right to the full nuclear fuel cycle if used for civilian purposes, but Western nations fear the program could lead to the production of weapons-grade material.

Salehi said Iran is able to enrich uranium to a 20% concentration of uranium-235 for its research reactor near Tehran if no deal to buy low-enriched uranium is reached with its partners.

UN nuclear watchdog chief Mohamed ElBaradei was reported to have said that experts would meet in Vienna on October 19 to discuss a deal for Russia to take Iran's processed uranium and enrich it.

Iran and six world powers involved in the nuclear dispute met in Switzerland last week. The meeting took place after news of Iran's second uranium enrichment facility led to calls for tougher sanctions against Tehran.

Iran is under three rounds of UN sanctions for refusal to halt uranium enrichment. Tehran insists it needs nuclear technology for power generation.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20091005/156356997.html>

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Times of London  
October 5, 2009

## **Iran Could Make An Atom Bomb, According to UN Report's 'Secret Annexe'**

Catherine Philp, Diplomatic Correspondent and Giles Whittell in Washington

Iran has the know-how to produce a nuclear bomb and may already have tested a detonation system small enough to fit into the warhead of a medium-range missile, according to confidential papers.

The "secret annexe" to this year's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report on Iran summarises information submitted by intelligence agencies about the country's work on warheads, detonators and nuclear fuel enrichment. It is based partly on evidence thought to have been smuggled out of Iran by the wife of a spy recruited by German intelligence.

The papers conclude that Iran already "has sufficient information to be able to design and produce a workable implosion nuclear device", or atom bomb.

The finding goes beyond America's public stance and may complicate its efforts at talks in Geneva to prevent Iran acquiring nuclear weapons.

General James Jones, President Obama's National Security Adviser, said yesterday: "Whether they know how to [build a bomb] or not is a matter of some conjecture. What we are watching is what is their intent — and we have been worried about that intent."

The secret report, excerpts of which were posted on the internet at the weekend, matches British and French estimates of Iran's nuclear progress. Its findings are tentative and not endorsed by the IAEA's own chief, Mohamed ElBaradei, who emphasised last month that the agency had "no concrete proof" of a military dimension to Iran's programme.

France and Israel accused the IAEA of suppressing the annex on publication of its report on Iran last month.

The report, Possible Military Dimensions of Iran's Nuclear Program, presents evidence that Iran has done extensive research and testing on how to fashion the components of a nuclear payload to be delivered by the Shahab 3, a medium-range missile capable of hitting Israel and parts of southern Europe.

American intelligence agencies concluded in a 2007 report that Iran had suspended its research into making a nuclear warhead in 2003 — an assessment rejected by Britain and France.

"We are not convinced they stopped then," a European official told *The Times*. "We believe they know what they need to know to make a bomb. The question is whether they take the political decision to do so."

Warhead design represents only part of the complex process of making nuclear arms. Experts say that Iran has already mastered the hardest part, enriching uranium to be used as nuclear fuel, for civilian and military purposes alike.

Dr ElBaradei secured access yesterday to the second of Tehran's uranium enrichment sites after its dramatic public unveiling by President Obama at the Pittsburgh G20 summit last month. America believes that the facility, hidden inside a mountain near Qom, may be one of a series of clandestine sites, a charge that Tehran vehemently denies.

The site's disclosure has been credited with forcing Iran's hand at the talks in Geneva last week. Iran agreed to open the plant, enter further negotiations and send most of its known enriched uranium stockpiles abroad for reprocessing, removing it from potential redirection to a weapons programme.

Dr ElBaradei declared a "shifting of gears" in Iran's confrontation yesterday, announcing an agreement for inspectors to visit the Qom site on October 25. That, however, is some days later than the two-week deadline laid down by Mr Obama. Iran is due to return to talks with six leading world powers before the end of the month but after inspectors have gained admittance to the site.

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran, Dr ElBaradei reiterated that the IAEA "has no concrete proof of an ongoing weapons programme in Iran" but said that it did harbour "concerns about Iran's future intentions".

America is determined to frame its high-risk overture to Tehran as the best way of preventing Iran acquiring nuclear weapons. That strategy could be undermined by evidence that it is already close to building them.

Susan Rice, the US Ambassador to the UN and a close ally of President Obama, refused to be drawn on the IAEA report yesterday, focusing instead on the Geneva process. After "years of drift", the West and Iran were "in a different place now", she insisted. "The onus is very much on Iran. Time is short. We're not interested in talking for talking's sake."

Suspicion that Iran's newly revealed nuclear site was meant for military purposes was heightened by its location, at least partly inside a mountain and within a military base. Iran has said that it built the facility to protect it from potential aerial bombing and to ensure continuity of its nuclear activities in case of an attack.

Although Tehran has always insisted publicly that its nuclear enrichment programme is for civilian purposes, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's Supreme Leader, is alleged to have said as early as 1984 that "a nuclear arsenal would serve Iran as a deterrent in the hands of God's soldiers".

The IAEA said earlier this year that Iran had probably produced more than 1,000 kilograms of low enriched uranium — enough, if further enriched, to provide the fuel for a single bomb. Dr ElBaradei told a private meeting of the agency's board last month that if the intelligence on which the annex was based was genuine, "there is a high probability that nuclear weaponisation activities have taken place — but I should underline 'if' three times".

Dr ElBaradei's seven-year tenure at the UN's chief nuclear watchdog ends next month. He will not be missed by foreign policy hawks in the US who accuse him of acquiescing in years of nuclear prevarication by Iran. "Thank goodness he'll be gone by the end of the year," John Bolton, the former US ambassador to the UN, said yesterday.

[http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle\\_east/article6860719.ece](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article6860719.ece)

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RIA Novosti – Russia

06 October 2009

## **Russia Denies Secret Involvement in Iran's Nuclear Program**

CHELYABINSK, October 6 (RIA Novosti) - Moscow possesses no information to suggest that Russian scientists are secretly involved in the development of Iran's nuclear program, national security chief Nikolai Patrushev said on Tuesday.

The British media recently claimed that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had handed Russian officials the names of Russian researchers that Tel Aviv believes are helping Iran develop nuclear weapons.

"I have heard of these reports...but I do not know who has supplied this information and why it was published," Patrushev said.

"Our intelligence services constantly receive information, and when they have it, they pass it on to our partners for analysis and confirmation. But we do not have any such information at this point. If we receive it, we will study it thoroughly," he said.

He added that Iran had the right to develop a nuclear program for civilian purposes, but said "there should not be any cases when something is being concealed."

"We are against Iran having a nuclear weapon," he added.

Russia has long stated that it opposes any effort by Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon, but Western experts suspect that cooperation by some Russian individuals and even companies with some aspects of Iran's nuclear program dates back at least a dozen years.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, Russia's scientific and technical elite have reportedly forged ties to Iran, which paid hard currency for aid in weapons and technical programs.

Western experts say the help could have extended to Tehran's nuclear efforts, but there was never any proof in those years of a Russian link to nuclear weapons development.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20091006/156371186.html>

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Reuters

October 6, 2009

## **Iran Plans to Use New Centrifuge At Nuclear Plant**

By Hashem Kalantari

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran plans to use a new generation of faster centrifuges to enrich uranium at a newly-revealed nuclear site, its atomic energy chief said in remarks published on Tuesday.

The underground enrichment plant near the holy Shi'ite city of Qom was kept secret until Iran disclosed its existence last month. Diplomats say it did so after learning Western intelligence services had discovered the site.

In Geneva on October 1 Iran agreed with six world powers -- the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany -- to allow U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors access to the site. Follow-up talks are due in late October.

"We have put our effort on research and development of new machines in the past two or three months so that we would be able to produce machines with high efficiency and completely indigenous," Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, was quoted as saying by the newspaper Kayhan on Tuesday.

"We are hopeful of using a new generation of centrifuges at the (Qom-area) Fordu site," he said. Kayhan published a transcript of a state television interview with Salehi.

Nuclear experts believe the new model of centrifuge is capable of doubling or tripling the output rate.

IAEA director Mohammed ElBaradei secured a deal with Iran on Sunday to let inspectors visit it on October 25. The plant under construction would be Iran's second uranium-enrichment site, after a larger one under IAEA surveillance near Natanz.

The West suspects the Islamic state is covertly seeking to develop nuclear weapons. Iran denies this but has refused to curb the program or allow unfettered IAEA inspections needed to verify it is for peaceful purposes only.

Last Thursday's talks are expected to win Iran a reprieve from tougher U.N. sanctions in the near future.

#### TRANSPARENCY PLEDGES

However, the prospect could arise again if Iran does not, in coming talks, go beyond the limited nuclear transparency pledges agreed in Geneva and instead tries to string out dialogue to buy time to develop possible atomic bomb capability.

Enriched uranium can be used to fuel nuclear power plants and, if refined much further, provide material for atomic bombs.

Iran has said the new enrichment site, which has space for 3,000 centrifuges, is about 18 months away from going on line.

Last month, Salehi said Iran had built a new generation of centrifuges and was testing them, adding they were stronger and faster than the 1970s-vintage "P-1" deployed in Natanz.

Western diplomats said Iran agreed in principle in Geneva to send about 80 percent of its stockpile of low-enriched uranium to Russia and France for further processing and return to Tehran to replenish rapidly dwindling fuel stocks for a reactor that produces isotopes for cancer care.

Some experts said the non-proliferation purpose of this deal -- reducing Iran's accumulation of enriched uranium that could possibly be diverted for weaponisation -- would mean little if Iran accelerated its enrichment rate with advanced centrifuges, and without a cap on the program as a whole.

"We have to be wary of other activities that could discount the positive potential of the uranium (processing deal)," a senior European diplomat said, alluding to the centrifuge plan.

David Albright, head of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security which tracks nuclear proliferation, said: "At best, the proposal to remove the LEU (low-enriched uranium) is a temporary measure that becomes meaningless unless Iran suspends its enrichment program."

World powers at the next round of talks aim to press Iran for a freeze on expansion of enrichment as an interim step toward a suspension that would bring it major trade rewards.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE5951Z920091006?sp=true>

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RIA Novosti –Russia  
03 October 2009

## **Russia's Lavrov to Meet Hillary Clinton on Oct. 13 in Moscow**

MOSCOW, October 3 (RIA Novosti) - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on October 13 in Moscow after bilateral arms reduction talks, the Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

The announcement came after the sixth round of Russian-U.S. talks in Geneva on a new deal to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-1), which expires on December 5.

The ministry called the discussions "constructive", and said the sides agreed to continue work on modifying certain points of the treaty.



"Coordination of articles of the new draft agreement, as well as its technical points, were held by expert groups," the statement said, adding that the full results of the talks will be disclosed during the meeting in Moscow.

Clinton's trip to Russia will be part of her European tour, starting on October 9. She will also be travelling to Britain and Ireland.

The U.S. State Department earlier said that while in Moscow, she will "meet with senior Russian officials to discuss progress on a successor agreement to START, cooperation on nonproliferation and counterterrorism, and next steps for the Clinton-Lavrov commission."

Medvedev told the UN Security Council Summit on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament in late September that both countries were "ready to move further and cut the number of delivery vehicles for strategic offensive armaments by more than three times, and this issue is now being discussed at the negotiating table with our American partners."

He also said that a new Russian-U.S. strategic arms reduction treaty is likely to be ready by December this year.

According to a report published by the U.S. State Department in April, as of January 1 Russia had 3,909 nuclear warheads and 814 delivery vehicles, including ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) and strategic bombers. The same report said the United States had 5,576 warheads and 1,198 delivery vehicles.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20091003/156337286.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russia  
05 October 2009

## **Russia to Start Construction of 4th Borey-Class Sub in December**

MOSCOW, October 5 (RIA Novosti) - Russia's Sevmash shipyard will start the construction of the fourth Borey class (Project 955) strategic submarine on December 22, a Sevmash press secretary said Monday.

Anastasia Nikitinskaya said the keel-laying ceremony for an as-yet-unnamed sub was timed to coincide with the shipyard's 70th anniversary.

She said Russia's newest Borey class strategic nuclear submarine, the Yury Dolgoruky, had undergone three sea trials out of the required six.

The Yury Dolgoruky, which is expected to be armed with the new Bulava sea-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM), successfully completed its first round of sea trials in the White Sea on July 10.

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

The construction cost of the submarine totaled 23 billion rubles (about \$713 mln), including 9 billion rubles (\$280 mln) for research and development.

Two other Borey class nuclear submarines, the Alexander Nevsky and the Vladimir Monomakh, are in different stages of completion. Russia is planning to build eight of these subs by 2015.

According to Navy officials, fourth-generation Borey class nuclear-powered submarines will form the core of Russia's modern strategic submarine fleet, and will be deployed with Russia's Northern and Pacific fleets.

However, the submarine's commissioning into the Navy could be delayed by setbacks in the development of the troubled Bulava missile, which has officially suffered six failures in 12 tests.

However, some analysts suggest that in reality the number of failures was considerably larger. For example, according to Russian military expert Pavel Felgenhauer, of the Bulava's 12 test launches, only one was quite successful.

The future development of the Bulava has been questioned by some lawmakers and defense industry officials, who have suggested that all efforts should be focused on the existing Sineva SLBM.

But the Russian military has insisted that there is no alternative to the Bulava and pledged to continue testing the missile until it is ready to be put in service with the Navy.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20091005/156357397.html>

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Korea Herald  
October 3, 2009

## **Wen Jiabao Holds Key To Nuke Talks**

All eyes are on Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao who is scheduled to visit North Korea this week to discuss bilateral and regional issues including a nuclear standoff originating in Pyongyang.

Wen will be in Pyongyang during Oct. 4-6. His visit comes following an earlier tour by Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo who reported that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il is willing to come out to bilateral and multilateral talks on the issue of its denuclearization.

By bilateral, Kim is seen to have indicated a one-on-one with the United States, with which Pyongyang is eager to sit down with in order to discuss possible incentives Washington may be offering in return for "irreversible" denuclearization.

The Barack Obama administration has yet to make the decision, however, although many expect the bilateral dialogue to start soon.

Deputy U.S. Secretary of State James Steinberg, during his visit here this week, prodded Kim Jong-il to capitalize on the current reconciliatory mood, offering dialogue with the Pyongyang regime.

But Washington also remains firm in that any talks with the North would be aimed to reopen the six-party talks that have been stalled since last year.

Pyongyang in April permanently quit the dialogue citing international conspiracy to curb its "peaceful" rocket technologies.

"Wen's visit is likely to touch off some serious discussions between China and North Korea that could possibly lead to the restart of denuclearization dialogue, although whether the six-nation talks format would pick up as readily remains to be seen," said professor Yang Moo-jin of the University of North Korean Studies here.

He predicted that China - known for its powerful stronghold over the North - may be able to produce a joint statement outlining concerted efforts for promoting peace and security in Northeast Asia.

South Korean officials were a bit more cautious as to whether Washington would come out for talks with Pyongyang any time soon despite the signs that may indicate otherwise.

"It will be some time before the two can sit down for earnest talks," said one diplomatic source declining to be identified.

The latest North Korean nuclear crisis began in April this year with its rocket launch, followed by the May 25 nuclear test.

Following a period of brinkmanship tactics, Pyongyang has since July converted to a more engaging attitude, even agreeing to a series of reunions between families who were separated by the Korean War.

But officially, Pyongyang maintained its hawkish rhetoric.

On Wednesday, the North said it would not forfeit its nuclear weapons programs until the United States and other advanced nations shut down their own programs.

The North, via its state-run broadcaster, also criticized South Korean President Lee Myung-bak for offering a "grand bargain" deal that involves sizeable economic assistance in return for measures from North Korea guaranteeing irrevocable denuclearization.

Seoul's Foreign Ministry yesterday expressed regret toward Pyongyang's announcement but refused to perceive it as an official response.

Ministry spokesman Moon Tae-young also pointed out that Seoul has yet to inform the North of what the "grand bargain" may involve specifically.

"It is still a work in progress," Moon said.

[http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html\\_dir/2009/10/02/200910020036.asp](http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/NEWKHSITE/data/html_dir/2009/10/02/200910020036.asp)

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Reuters

October 3, 2009

## **Myanmar says Nuclear Ambitions are Peaceful: Japan**

By Ek Madra

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (Reuters) - Japan said on Saturday it had been assured by military-ruled Myanmar that it was not developing nuclear weapons even though it was working with Russia on a nuclear energy program.

Myanmar has remained tight-lipped about its nuclear plans, despite speculation it has been receiving help from North Korea to build nuclear facilities near its remote capital with the intent of developing a weapon.

Myanmar's Foreign Minister Nyan Win told his Japanese counterpart Katsuya Okada that his country was seeking Russia's expertise, but only in developing a peaceful energy program for its people.

"(Nyan Win) told Japan's foreign minister that Myanmar has no intention to have a nuclear weapon," Japan's Foreign Ministry spokesman Kazuo Kodama told reporters on the sidelines of a Mekong-Japan ministerial meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

"Myanmar has conducted a consultation to have assistance from Russia for a peaceful use of nuclear energy."

Kazuo did not say if the issue of any nuclear links with North Korea was discussed.

Academic researchers said in August Myanmar was building a secret nuclear reactor and plutonium facility in caves tunneled into a mountain, citing intelligence from two defectors.

The defectors also said Myanmar, which has known reserves of uranium ore, had provided refined "yellowcake" processed uranium that can be used as nuclear fuel to Iran and North Korea.

The isolated country has been under Western sanctions for two decades and analysts say a nuclearized Myanmar could trigger an arms race in the region.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said at a security forum in Thailand in July that she was concerned about the possible transfer of nuclear technology to Myanmar from North Korea.

In reference to ties between North Korea and Myanmar, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell, the top U.S. diplomat for Asia, said there were "some signs that that cooperation has extended into areas that would be prohibited.

However, many analysts have said evidence of attempts to develop nuclear weapons is scant and have questioned the reliability of the defectors' information.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUSTRE59211O20091003>

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Yonhap News

5 October 2009

## **S. Korea Suspects 100 Nuclear-related Sites in N. Korea**

By Sam Kim

SEOUL, Oct. 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea has created a list of about 100 North Korean sites linked to the communist state's nuclear program and is capable of striking any one of them if necessary, its defense chief said Monday.

"There are about 100 sites related to the nuclear" program in North Korea, South Korean Defense Minister Kim Tae-young told lawmakers during a parliamentary audit. He did not elaborate.

Kim, sworn in last month after stepping down as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was answering questions over whether his military has a specific list of targets to hit in the event of war.

"We have a complete list of them," he said, expressing confidence his forces could strike any nuclear-related site "if it is absolutely clear a North Korean offensive is imminent."

The comments came after Kim said at a parliamentary confirmation hearing last month that he knew of sites where the North could be hiding its stockpile of nuclear arms if the communist state had one.

North Korea has conducted two known atomic tests in the past three years -- one in October 2006 and the other in May this year -- but South Korea and its ally, the United States, refuse to classify the intransigent country as a nuclear state.

Speaking to Rep. Yoo Seung-min of the ruling Grand National Party, the defense minister said he is not sure whether North Korea has already succeeded in making nuclear bombs.

"It is not clear whether North Korea has nuclear arms," he said, adding it would be difficult to know how many North Korea has even if the communist state did "because they will be small in size."

"But we have sufficient information on the locations where items related to the nuclear program are stored and where the delivery means are placed," he said. Delivery means refer to missiles and bombers.

South and North Korea remain technically at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce rather than a peace treaty. About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed here as a deterrent against the North.

North Korea, which remains under tough U.N. sanctions for its nuclear and missile testing, has threatened to retaliate with nuclear arms should foreign forces encroach its sovereignty.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2009/10/05/45/0401000000AEN20091005006500315F.HTML>

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Yonhap News  
5 October 2009

## **S. Korea Searched Suspicious N.K. Containers: Sources**

By Tony Chang

SEOUL, Oct. 5 (Yonhap) -- South Korea confiscated and searched containers shipped by North Korea on a Panama-registered freighter last month but reportedly found no suspicious cargo, according to sources Monday.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) and relevant authorities on Sept. 22 ordered an inspection of the ship docked in the southeastern port of Busan and searched the four containers, a government official said, requesting anonymity.

The official said authorities found some kind of protective clothing but did not elaborate further.

A port official in Busan also confirmed that the NIS ordered the search, saying it received tips that the containers could be carrying hazardous material. The ship carrying the containers had arrived from China last month.

"Nothing particular was discovered from the search, but I'm aware that the government is still in the process of confirming the results," the port official said, refusing to elaborate.

The NIS and the foreign ministry neither confirmed nor denied the claim, but observers speculate the search was conducted as part of Seoul's participation in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), a U.S.-led counter-proliferation campaign, as well as U.N. Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1874.

Seoul joined the PSI, which was launched in 2003 to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, after North Korea conducted its second nuclear test in May this year.

North Korea is known as an exporter of illicit weapons and is among the major targets of the initiative.

UNSC Resolution 1874, adopted after North Korea's second nuclear test, calls for an overall arms embargo on the communist country, as well as financial sanctions and interdiction of cargo on the high seas to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, missiles and other weapons of mass destruction.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2009/10/05/97/0401000000AEN20091005006900315F.HTML>

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Times of London  
October 6, 2009

## **North Korea Can Unleash 13 Types Of Biological Agent, South Korea Says**

By Richard Lloyd Parry, Pyongyang

North Korea's armed forces are capable of carrying out 13 kinds of viral and bacterial attack, the South Korean Government said yesterday in one of the most detailed assessments of the dictatorship's biological weapons arsenal.

In a submission to the South Korean National Assembly, the Defence Minister also said that the North had 5,000 tonnes of chemical weapons, believed to include mustard gas, phosgene and sarin. Among its biological agents are cholera, yellow fever, smallpox, typhus, typhoid fever and dysentery.

Despite the alarming assessment, Kim Tae Young also said that his country's armed forces had the capacity pre-emptively to destroy about a hundred sites connected to the North's nuclear programme in the event of an imminent attack.

"We have a complete list of them," Mr Kim said, adding that the North Korean military may not have achieved the technological breakthroughs necessary to attach nuclear warheads to a missile delivery system or launch them from a bomber.

"It is not clear whether North Korea has nuclear arms," he said. "But we have sufficient information on the locations where items related to the nuclear programme are stored and where the delivery means are placed."

It is known that North Korea's 1.2 million-man armed forces possess significant chemical and biological weapons, but the details announced yesterday emphasise the hardline approach to its neighbour taken by the South Korean Government under the President, Lee Myung Bak.

Yesterday's statements came as North Korea was pressed from other quarters, including China, whose Prime Minister, Wen Jiabao, is in Pyongyang on a rare three-day visit.

Mr Wen had talks with the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, which doubtless included ways of persuading the North to return to the multilateral disarmament talks that it renounced this year.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article6862306.ece>

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Wall Street Journal  
October 6, 2009

## **North Korea Says U.S. Key To Disarmament Talks**

By Evan Ramstad

SEOUL—North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il said he is willing to return to six-party aid-for-disarmament talks "depending on the outcome" of two-way talks it wants first with the U.S., the North's state-run media reported early Tuesday.

Mr. Kim's statement left unclear what would constitute progress in discussions with Washington but the state-run Korean Central News Agency quoted the dictator as saying "The hostile relations between North Korea and the United States should be converted into peaceful ties through the bilateral talks without fail."

Although the statement repeated the North's fundamental position, it marked a small easing from statements made earlier this year that it would never return to the six-party process, which China presides over and also involves Japan, Russia, South Korea and the U.S.

Mr. Kim made the remarks during a meeting with Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, whose three-day visit to Pyongyang has focused new attention on international efforts to get the North back to disarmament talks.

North Korea has long said it wants diplomatic ties with the U.S. and a peace treaty to officially end the Korean War of the 1950s. But the U.S. has for years positioned those as rewards the North would receive after it ended its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

The U.S. State Department issued a statement reiterating that it wants Pyongyang to "engage in a dialogue that leads to complete and verifiable denuclearization." It said the U.S. remains open to talking to the North "within the framework"—a phrase that could be widely defined—of the six-party process.

North Korea took a harder line on the multilateral talks in response to penalties imposed on it for testing a long-range missile in April and a nuclear explosive in May.

Mr. Kim's latest statement also represents an opening for the type of discussion the Obama administration offered him shortly after it took office.

U.S. envoy to North Korea Stephen Bosworth made two trips to the region this spring expecting to be allowed in to Pyongyang. Instead, North Korea undertook its weapons tests and only began to reach out in August, when it freed several Americans and South Koreans it had captured and restored some connections with Seoul.

Mr. Wen traveled to North Korea, the first Chinese premier to do so in 18 years, as part of China's commemoration of the 60th anniversary of its founding. But analysts said Mr. Wen's visit likely has another purpose: deepening China's economic connections and influence there.

It was clear when Mr. Wen arrived Sunday that he was there to work on more than the nuclear issue. He brought senior leaders from China's foreign affairs, defense and commerce ministries.

After greeting Mr. Kim with a hug, Mr. Wen donned a red scarf and shook hands with leaders of the Korea Workers' Party, which controls a major portion of the North Korean economy and the biggest number of state-run enterprises.

"The symbolism of the Communist Party connection is very, very heavy on this trip," said John Park, senior research associate for the U.S. Institute of Peace, a group funded by the U.S. Congress that studies conflicts, and a specialist in North Korea's economic structure. Though neither country practices textbook-rigid communism, he said, the party connection plays a key role in their economic relationship.

The last time a top Chinese leader visited North Korea—President Hu Jintao in October 2005—details emerged over subsequent weeks and months about new Chinese economic projects and investments in the North. One outcome at that time was the takeover of a major North Korean mine by a Chinese state-run company. Two-way trade between China and North Korea took off that year after being confined to a tight range for many years. Last year, two-way trade reached \$2.8 billion, up from \$1.5 billion in 2005, according to Chinese government statistics.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125473768056064121.html>

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London Daily Telegraph  
6 October 2009

## **North Korea to Resume Nuclear Talks**

By Malcolm Moore in Shanghai

The rogue state abandoned the talks in April, after being heavily criticised by the United Nations for testing a long-range missile.

It said it would "never again take part in such talks", restarted its uranium-enrichment plant and tested a nuclear bomb the following month in an underground bunker.

However, a visit to Pyongyang by Wen Jiabao, the Chinese prime minister, has persuaded North Korea to change tack. Xinhua, the Chinese government news agency, said a "vital consensus" had been reached on the issue.

During a meeting with the Chinese, Kim Jong-il, the North Korean leader "expressed our readiness to hold multilateral talks, depending on the outcome of talks with the US," said the official Korean Central News Agency.

"The hostile relations between the DPRK (North Korea) and the United States should be converted into peaceful ties through the bilateral talks without fail," Mr Kim said.

Stephen Bosworth, as special US negotiator, is due in Pyongyang in the coming weeks. "We and our six-party partners want North Korea to engage in a dialogue that leads to complete and verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula through irreversible steps," said a spokesman for the US State department.

The six-party talks, which first began in 2003, include China, the US, Russia, Japan and South Korea. The forum reached deals in 2005 and 2007 under which the North shut down its plants at Yongbyon and began disabling them.

Xu Wenji, a professor at Jinlin University, said that although Mr Wen's trip had been a success, there was no guarantee that North Korea would not reverse its course again in the future.

"The talks will not be smooth sailing," he said. "The talks need to set a more focused target this time, not like before when they tried to solve everything within the framework of the dialogue. They need to focus on the nuclear issue."

Mr Xu added that China had lost patience with North Korea, despite being Pyongyang's greatest ally.

"China now shows its concern and criticism about North Korea's defiance, which is an indication that China is moving forward with its responsibility as a superpower."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/northkorea/6264116/North-Korea-to-resume-nuclear-talks.html#>

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Agenzia Giornalistica Italia (AGI) - Italy  
October 6, 2009

## **N. KOREA: KIM TO US 'LETS NEGOTIATE' THEN REACTIVATES NUCLEAR**

(ANG/REUTERS) Beijing, 6 Oct. North Korea said that it is ready to negotiate on its nuclear programme after having instated the "end to hostile relations with the US" with bilateral meetings but at the same time reactivated the nuclear plant in Yongbyon. The openness of Pyongyang to restarting negotiations with Washington was announced by leader Kim Jong-il at the end of the meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on a visit to Pyongyang. The negotiations at six (United States, Russia, China, Japan and South Korea, in addition to Pyongyang) after some steps forward and repeated halts on the part of North Korea were interrupted in May when North Korea carried out new atomic testing with the launch of medium and long range missiles. The US, in favour of continuing down the multilateral path, said that it was open to direct negotiations with the regime in Pyongyang as a last resort. But in the meantime, North Korea is just a step away from reactivating the nuclear plant in Yongbyon, in spite of the agreement in 2007 with the six member negotiation team, reported the press agency Yonhap. "We have the clues to say that the reactivation of the plant is in its final stage", stated a source from the South Korean government, adding that the activities to make the plant operational had begun at the beginning of the year. Last April Pyongyang announced that it would reactivate the plant in response to the ruling by the UN Security Council after the testing of long range rockets. A spokesman from the US State Department said that "the US is open to bilateral dialogue with North Korea as a part of the six member negotiations with the objective of convincing Pyongyang to start down the path to being completely nuclear-free".

[http://www.agi.it/world/news/200910060952-pol-ren0001-n\\_korea\\_kim\\_to\\_us\\_lets\\_negotiate\\_then\\_reactivates\\_nuclear](http://www.agi.it/world/news/200910060952-pol-ren0001-n_korea_kim_to_us_lets_negotiate_then_reactivates_nuclear)

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Xinhua News – China  
6 October 2009

## **Wen's DPRK Visit Rich in Content, Weighty in Outcome: Chinese FM**

BEIJING, Oct. 6 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is rich in content, weighty in outcome and significant in meaning, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said on Tuesday.

Yang, who accompanied the premier on his visit to the DPRK from Oct. 4 to Oct. 6, made the remarks when Wen's delegation was flying back to Beijing from Pyongyang.

Yang stressed that the three-day visit had achieved two major results -- further deepening the traditional China-DPRK friendship and boosting their good-neighborly relations of cooperation as well as promoting the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a positive way.

As an important country in Northeast Asia and a host of the six-party talks, China has once again played its due role and shouldered its due responsibility, he said.

The foreign minister said that China and the DPRK are two friendly neighbors, and this year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations and is the China-DPRK Friendship Year.

Bilateral relations, according to Yang, are experiencing a new historic starting point for cemented friendship, deepened cooperation and coordinated development which conform to the common wishes of the countries and two peoples.

Citing the complicated and ever-changing situation on the Korean Peninsula and in the Northeast Asian region, Yang said denuclearization of the peninsula has drawn the attention of the international community with all parties concerned.

At the time when the Chinese people are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the premier paid a special visit to the DPRK to join in the celebrations of the establishment of diplomatic ties and events of the friendship year, said the foreign minister.

The visit shows that China has attached great importance to developing ties with the DPRK, and its firm commitment to maintaining regional peace and stability, Yang said.

Wen is the first Chinese premier to visit the DPRK since former Premier Li Peng visited the country in 1991, according to Yang.

Wen was greeted at the airport by DPRK's top leader Kim Jong Il, top legislator Kim Yong Nam, and his DPRK counterpart Kim Yong Il. Hundreds of thousands of residents in Pyongyang gave the Chinese premier a warm welcome along the city's streets.

During their talks, both the Chinese and the DPRK sides agreed that the China-DPRK friendship forged by old generation revolutionaries is in line with the common wishes and fundamental interests of both the Chinese and DPRK people, said the foreign minister.

In the spirit of "inheriting the tradition, facing to the future, developing the good-neighborly relations and strengthening cooperation," the two sides are ready to maintain high-level exchanges, deepen pragmatic cooperation in economy and trade and boost coordination on major issues, so as to further develop their good-neighborly relations of cooperation, bring benefit to the two peoples and promote regional peace, stability and development, Yang said.

The two countries signed a series of agreements on cooperation and announced that a new highway bridge over the Yalu River will be built, Yang said.

During his visit, Premier Wen also watched "A Dream of Red Mansions," a DPRK-staged opera adapted from a Chinese classical masterpiece, and attended a grand celebration marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the closing ceremony of the China-DPRK Friendship Year, the minister said.

Premier Wen had sincere and in-depth talks with the DPRK leaders on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and made much headway on the promotion of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, Yang said.

The commitment to the objective of making the peninsula nuclear free, and to maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia as a whole, serves the interests of all the parties concerned, including the DPRK, Wen was quoted as saying.

To realize denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue and consultation is a common understanding of the international community and the only way to solve the peninsula's nuclear issue, Wen said.

The six-party talks are an effective mechanism to realize the above mentioned targets, to which all the parties concerned should stay committed, he said.



China is willing to make concerted efforts with the DPRK and other parties concerned to contribute to realizing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and maintaining peace, stability and development in the Northeast Asian region, Wen said.

The DPRK side said that realizing a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula is the instruction of the late DPRK leader Kim Il Sung, and the DPRK's commitment to realizing the denuclearization of the peninsula remains unchanged.

Through bilateral meetings between the DPRK and the United States, the hostile relations between the two countries must turn into peaceful ones. The DPRK is willing to attend multilateral talks, including the six-party talks, based on the progress in the DPRK-U.S. talks, the DPRK side said.

Premier Wen also visited a cemetery for martyrs of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV), in Hoechang County of South Phyongang province during his visit to the DPRK, Yang said.

The cemetery, located some 100 km east of Pyongyang, is the largest in the DPRK among dozens for the Chinese People's Volunteer Army soldiers who died in the War to Resist U.S. Aggression and Aid Korea more than 50 years ago.

Wen laid a wreath before the bronze statue of a CPV soldier and visited the tombs of CPV martyrs. He said the people of the motherland have never forgotten the CPV martyrs and will always cherish their memory, according to Yang.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/06/content\\_12187487.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-10/06/content_12187487.htm)

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Washington Post

October 5, 2009

## **Key Indian Figures Call for New Nuclear Tests Despite Deal With U.S.**

By Rama Lakshmi

Washington Post Foreign Service

NEW DELHI -- A little more than a year after India and the United States signed a historic civilian agreement lifting a 30-year ban on nuclear trade, some former top nuclear scientists here are arguing that India needs to conduct another weapons test.

The move would undoubtedly alarm nonproliferation advocates but would be needed for India to master the weapon and to ensure that it has a "credible nuclear deterrent" in its arsenal, according to two retired nuclear scientists.

One of the scientists, K. Santhanam, who coordinated India's nuclear weapons program when the country conducted five nuclear tests 11 years ago, has said that the original thermonuclear device test was a dud. That claim comes at a time when the idea of a universal test ban is gaining momentum under President Obama. Speaking last month at the United Nations, Obama called for the signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by 2010.

Some Indian analysts say Santhanam is speaking for a powerful but small group of nuclear scientists, diplomats and military experts who wish to prevent Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh from supporting Obama's call.

"Santhanam finally realized the enormity of consequences of India's never testing again," said Bharat Karnad, a member of the team that developed India's nuclear doctrine and a former member of the National Security Advisory Board. "It has to do with the perception that Manmohan Singh is predisposed to offer no resistance to Obama's nonproliferation policy push and may sign the CTBT. And that the government has to be stopped from doing this. It is, in fact, about keeping our testing option open."

Singh's government immediately distanced itself from Santhanam and reiterated its commitment to the moratorium on tests. But Karnad said the question "is not whether India will test, but when."

Last week, the former chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, P.K. Iyengar, also joined the chorus advocating more tests and said "nobody makes a weapon out of a single test."

Conducting a nuclear test would lead to the termination of the nuclear deal with the United States and would jeopardize fuel supplies. It would also flout India's voluntary moratorium on testing, declared in 1998.

"Santhanam and other Indian Dr. Strangeloves see this as a way to block progress toward disarmament and possibly get more nuclear testing going before it is too late," said Daryl G. Kimball, executive director of the Washington-based Arms Control Association. "Indian testing would likely trigger additional Pakistani testing . . . and could even provoke a resumption of Chinese testing."

The five Indian tests in May 1998 prompted archrival Pakistan to conduct tests of its own.

Santhanam said that the hydrogen bomb tested in 1998 "completely failed to ignite" and that the shaft, the frame and the winches were found to be intact even after the tests. No crater was formed in the fusion test.

"If the second H-bomb stage of the composite device had worked, the shaft would have been blown to smithereens," he told reporters.

India's national security adviser, M.K. Narayanan, dismissed the scientist's statements as "horrific" and said researchers have verified the nation's thermonuclear capabilities.

Nonetheless, Santhanam's revelation has struck at the heart of Indian pride over its nuclear weapons capability. The Indian news magazine Outlook called Santhanam a "whistle-blower" and a "myth bomber." A tabloid, Mail Today, said he had poured "a bucket of cold water on the security establishment." Others dubbed him unpatriotic for undermining India's credibility.

Critics of Santhanam say that testing now would endanger India's rising prominence in international affairs and would invite sanctions that could hurt India's economic growth.

"The cost is intolerable if India tests," said Kanwal Sibal, a former foreign secretary. "We will suffer international isolation. It will be a huge setback to our bid for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/04/AR2009100402865.html>

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Daily Mail – United Kingdom

04th October 2009

## **Terrorists Could Seize Nuclear Weapons If We Fail in Afghanistan, Warns Army Chief**

By Daily Mail Reporter

The new head of the British Army has given a stark warning to the public of the 'terrifying prospect' of losing the war in Afghanistan.

General Sir David Richards intervened by saying that if Britain and Nato failed in Afghanistan the risks to the western world would be 'enormous' and 'unimaginable', with the possibility of terrorists seizing nuclear weapons.

Speaking to the Sunday Telegraph, the Chief of the General Staff said: 'If al-Qaeda and the Taliban believe they have defeated us – what next?'

'Would they stop at Afghanistan? Pakistan is clearly a tempting target not least because of the fact that it is a nuclear-weaponed state and that is a terrifying prospect.'

'Even if only a few of those [nuclear] weapons fell into their hands, believe me they would use them.'

General Richards said that the recent airlines plot reminded us that 'there are people out there who would happily blow all of us up.'

The Army chief said deploying more troops to Afghanistan would enable the Nato coalition to start winning the 'psychological battle', while reducing casualty levels.

His intervention comes as the coalition commander in Afghanistan, U.S. general Stanley McChrystal, is requesting up to 40,000 additional troops.

General McChrystal's plan is reported to have received a cool reception in Washington where Vice President Joe Biden is said to favour reducing overall troop levels and instead concentrating on limited counter-terrorist operations using special forces.

But in his interview with the Sunday Telegraph, General Richards made it clear that he backed General McChrystal's broader counter-insurgency strategy, establishing security by building up the support and confidence of ordinary Afghans.

'If you put in more troops we can achieve the objectives laid upon us more quickly and with less casualties,' he said.

'What we need to demonstrate is that we, Nato and the Afghan government, offer a much brighter future which is more secure, with jobs, and education and better health.'

Speaking about the possibility of losing the war, General Richards said: 'Failure would have a catalytic effect on militant Islam around the world and in the region because the message would be that al-Qaeda and the Taliban have defeated the U.S. and the British and Nato, the most powerful alliance in the world.'

'So why wouldn't that have an intoxicating effect on militants everywhere?'

In a speech in London on Thursday, General McChrystal warned that coalition success in Afghanistan could not be taken for granted and that they would have a 'problem' if resources were not properly aligned with the mission objectives.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-1218035/Terrorists-seize-nuclear-weapons-fail-Afghanistan-warns-Army-chief.html#>

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New York Times

October 3, 2009

EDITORIAL

## **Negotiating With Tehran**

Buyer beware has to be the rule when dealing with Iran and its nuclear ambitions. For years, Iran has cheated and lied and made just-in-time concessions to sidestep any real punishment.

So we are skeptical about Tehran's offer this week to send most of its stock of low-enriched uranium to Russia and France to be turned into reactor fuel. It could be good news — delaying the day when Iran would be able to build a nuclear weapon and, we hope, quieting calls in Israel for military action.

But that would only be true if Iran isn't hiding more stocks of enriched uranium somewhere else. And one must not forget that Tehran is continuing to churn out enriched uranium at its plant in Natanz — in direct defiance of a United Nations Security Council order.

The United States and the other great powers that resumed negotiations with Iran this week are going to have to push Iran's leaders hard to fulfill this promise and to finally open up their entire nuclear complex to rigorous international inspection.

At the talks — the first with the Americans fully involved — Iran also said it would open the uranium-enrichment plant it is building near Qum to international inspection in the next two weeks. Of course, Iran didn't even acknowledge that it was building a plant near Qum until last week after it was caught red-handed.

Iran has long insisted that it must be able to do all of the steps in nuclear fuel production — from uranium mining through enrichment and fuel fabrication. It argued that that was the only way it could be sure it would have an uninterrupted fuel supply for its nuclear power plants.

Most of the rest of the world suspected that what it really wanted was to be able to make the fuel for a nuclear weapon.

That said, there are good reasons to continue negotiating — and to continue testing Iran's intentions.

Odds are Tehran is just playing for more time. But given all of the political ferment in the wake of June's stolen presidential elections — and the disclosure of the Qum site — there is a chance that Iran's leaders are getting nervous about their future and their ability to avoid or withstand tough international sanctions.

We are encouraged that more talks are set for later this month. But this is no time for complacency or wishful thinking. The United States and its partners must push Iran to open all of its declared nuclear facilities and allow inspectors to interview any Iranian scientist they choose to — the only way to figure out what else Iran may be

hiding. The leading powers must also be ready to impose tough sanctions if Iran resists or if negotiations go nowhere.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/03/opinion/03sat1.html?\\_r=1&adxnnl=1&ref=opinion&adxnnlx=1254765668-VgfbXHK4zFu2b/aJzDjbww](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/03/opinion/03sat1.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&ref=opinion&adxnnlx=1254765668-VgfbXHK4zFu2b/aJzDjbww)

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Washington Post

EDITORIAL

October 4, 2009

## **The Coming Failure On Iran**

By Jackson Diehl, Deputy Editorial Page Editor

The Obama administration's positive tone following its first diplomatic encounter with Iran covers a deep and growing gloom in Washington and European capitals. Seven hours of palaver in Geneva haven't altered an emerging conclusion: None of the steps the West is considering to stop the Iranian nuclear program is likely to work.

Not talks. Not sanctions, even of the "crippling" variety the Obama administration has spoken of. Not military strikes. And probably not support for regime change through the still-vibrant opposition.

For obvious reasons, senior officials won't state this broad conclusion out loud. But it's not hard to find pessimistic public statements about three of the four options. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called the prospects for diplomacy "very doubtful." Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has said military action will do no more than "buy time." Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, echoing private statements I've heard from the Obama administration, told me last week that a strategy of backing the Iranian opposition "would take too long" and might well produce a government with the same nuclear policy.

As for sanctions, Western officials rarely disparage them in public. They don't want to help spoilers in Russia and China who want to block U.N. action against Iran for their own reasons. But many are doubtful about them, and with good reason. Despite hints of cooperation by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, the White House is pessimistic that Russia or China will agree to the sort of escalation in sanctions that would command Iran's attention, such as a ban on gasoline supplies or arms sales or new investments in oil and gas production.

The history of sanctions in the region also is not good: More than a decade of punishment, including regular airstrikes, had no positive impact on Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Iran's current rulers, many of whom came of age in the Revolutionary Guards during the Iran-Iraq war, sound convincing when they say they are ready for the country to suffer more austerity for the cause of Iranian greatness.

What of Thursday's talks in Geneva? Iran agreed to international inspections of its new nuclear facility and to ship out of the country some of the uranium it has enriched. Yet those modest concessions may complicate the negotiations and the prospects for sanctions. The headlines about them already obscured the fact that Tehran's negotiator declined to respond to the central Western demand: that Iran freeze its uranium enrichment work. Iran has rejected that idea repeatedly, and there is no reason to believe the hard-liners in power will change their position.

In the meantime, talks about the details of inspections and the uranium shipments could easily become protracted, buying the regime valuable time. (On Friday the Associated Press quoted a member of the Iranian delegation as saying it had not, in fact, agreed to the uranium deal.) Meanwhile, Tehran's tactical retreat has provided Russia and China with an excuse to veto new sanctions -- something they would have been hard-pressed to do had Iran struck an entirely defiant tone in Geneva.

The Obama administration and its allies have said repeatedly that they will pursue diplomacy until the end of the year and then seek sanctions if diplomacy hasn't worked. That sets up a foreseeable and very unpleasant crossroads. "If by early next year we are getting nothing through diplomacy and sanctions," says scholar Kenneth Pollack of the Brookings Institution's Saban Center, "the entire policy is going to be revealed as a charade."

What then? Pollack, a former Clinton administration official, says there is one obvious Plan B: "containment," a policy that got its name during the Cold War. The point would be to limit Iran's ability to produce nuclear weapons or exercise its influence through the region by every means possible short of war -- and to be prepared to sustain the effort over years, maybe decades. It's an option that has been lurking at the back of the debate about Iran for years. "In their heart of hearts I think the Obama administration knows that this is where this is going," Pollack says.

I suspect he's right. I also don't expect Obama and his aides to begin talking about a policy shift anytime soon. For the next few months we'll keep hearing about negotiations, sanctions and possibly Israeli military action as ways to stop an Iranian bomb. By far the best chance for a breakthrough, as I see it, lies in a victory by the Iranian opposition over the current regime. If that doesn't happen, it may soon get harder to disguise the hollowness of Western policy.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/10/02/AR2009100204020.html>

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Times of London

COMMENT

October 5, 2009

## **Nuclear Cheating**

Iran's agreement to allow a United Nations inspection team to visit its secret nuclear facility in Qom shows, as the White House remarked guardedly, that it is moving "in the right direction". There is a very long way still to go. This concession, wrung from Iran's nuclear negotiator at last week's confrontation with the five Security Council permanent members plus Germany, was a desperate attempt to play for time. Iran had been caught red-handed by Western intelligence, which revealed the Qom plant at a moment calculated to cause maximum embarrassment. Unless Tehran moved swiftly, it faced exposure at the UN General Assembly as a serial liar, fresh UN sanctions and the very real threat of an Israeli military strike.

So the tone taken in Geneva last Thursday by Saeed Jalili, Iran's negotiator, was in striking contrast to the bluster of President Ahmadinejad, who only three weeks ago said Iran would never abandon its nuclear programme to appease Western critics. Mr Jalili refused to accept the West's long-standing offer of a freeze on nuclear enrichment in return for a freeze on new sanctions. But he did make two concessions unthinkable a month ago: he agreed to an immediate visit by Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); and he appeared to accept an idea first floated by Russia some years ago that Iran should ship 1,200kg of low-enriched uranium to either Russia or France to be enriched for use as fuel rods for Iran's research reactor.

Mr ElBaradei has now made his visit, and yesterday arranged to send his IAEA team to Qom on October 25. He, too, appears to have been caught out by this secret plant: only a month ago he said that the threat that Iran was developing a nuclear weapon was exaggerated. In the past two years he has repeatedly played down Western concerns, but even he could not explain away the Qom facility. He reproved Iran on Saturday for not declaring it earlier. But he still insisted there was no "concrete proof" that Iran was developing nuclear weapons.

However, according to leaked excerpts of an analysis contained in an IAEA report, nuclear weapons experts say that there is information to suggest that Iran has the know-how to make an atomic bomb and has worked on the military technology to produce and deliver such a weapon. This goes further even than the Pentagon's assessment, and vindicates the scepticism of those who doubted an earlier US intelligence report that work on a weapon had stopped. The leak from the IAEA may have been an attempt to force the hand of its departing director: in any case, it lends the visit to Qom critical importance.

This latest exposure of Iran's true intentions underlines two vital facts that must guide Western policy. First, Iran will lie and lie again about its nuclear programme, admitting details only when caught. That makes the delay in the visit to Qom worrying: there is plenty of time to dismantle the laboratories, conceal the research and present a false picture of what is going on there. Second, realpolitik is the final determinant of Iranian policy. Russia, pleased by the abandonment of the US anti-missile shield and angered by the Qom revelation, is unlikely to veto new Security Council sanctions, and China is unlikely to hold out on its own. The West must press home its advantage. Only by holding Iran's feet to the fire can its nuclear programme be halted or slowed.

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