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Philadelphia Inquirer/Associated Press September 30, 2008

Nuclear Chief Assails Iran Secrecy

By George Jahn, Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria -- A six-year probe has not ruled out the possibility that Iran may be running clandestine nuclear programs, the chief U.N nuclear inspector said yesterday, urging Tehran to reassure the world by ending its secretive ways. On the opening session of the International Atomic Energy Agency's 145-nation conference, Europe also urged Iran to fully cooperate with a U.N probe that is trying to assess all of its past and present nuclear activities. "The international community cannot accept the prospect of Iran acquiring nuclear weapons," the European Union said in a statement.

In his opening speech, chief U.N nuclear inspector Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the IAEA, focused on Iran's refusal to suspend its uranium-enrichment program and its alleged past plans to develop the bomb. "[Iran should] implement all transparency measures . . . required to build confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program," ElBaradei said. "This will be good for Iran, good for the Middle East region, and good for the world."

Israel took Iran to task for cosponsoring Islamic attempts to label the Jewish state a nuclear danger to the Middle East. Israeli delegate Schaul Chorev said Iran, whose president has called for Israel to be wiped off the map, had no standing in criticizing Israeli "policies aiming at securing its very existence."

Iran, in turn, accused the United States, Britain and France of breaking their nonproliferation commitments by giving Israel "full uninterrupted cooperation with, and assistance in, nuclear-weapon technology." Tehran's delegate, Ali Ashgar Soltanieh, also condemned the "illegal and unjustified engagement of the United Nations Security Council" in pressuring his country to give up uranium enrichment - something he said would never happen. Iran and its ally Syria figured directly at the Vienna conference because they were among four nations seeking their region's nomination for a seat on the IAEA's decision-making 35-nation board.

Tehran was running to counteract a U.S. push to have Afghanistan or Kazakhstan elected over Syria, which is under IAEA investigation for allegedly hiding a secret nuclear program. But both Iran and Kazakhstan withdrew their candidacies by evening, said Mohammad Badi Khattag, Syria's chief representative to the IAEA. "There is near consensus in our group for us," he said in an interview. "Nobody supports Afghanistan, except Afghanistan." In his remarks ElBaradei appealed for more funds, warning that his organization was increasingly stretched in trying to carry out responsibilities that include nonproliferation and preventing terrorists from acquiring the bomb.

The annual meeting allows the agency's member countries to set policies that range from strengthening nonproliferation to carrying out medical and scientific research. But tensions between Islamic members and the West threaten to hamper decision-making this year.

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/world_us/20080930_Nuclear_chief_assails_Iran_secrecy.html

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Washington Times October 2, 2008 Pg. 2 **Ex-Iraq Inspector: Don't Bomb Iran**

Iran is two to five years away from being able to produce a nuclear weapon, the former head of the U.S. weaponshunting team in Iraq said Wednesday. But David Kay said the U.S. should not consider bombing Iranian nuclear facilities unless the weapon was about to be transferred to a terrorist group. Mr. Kay, who led the Iraq Survey Group from 2003 until early 2004, said the U.S. should line up international support to pressure Iran to give up on a nuclear weapon, while also preparing for the strong possibility that effort will fail. Preparations could include offering security guarantees to Iran's neighbors and shoring up Middle East stability and economic growth.

Iran is 80 percent of the way to a nuclear weapon, Mr. Kay estimates, but the last 20 percent of development is the most difficult. He noted that Iran has worked on the program for 20 years without successfully producing a weapon. "You've got a clear record of a country that is ... determined at some point to develop nuclear weapons," Mr. Kay said in a talk at the Nixon Center. "The real question to ask is, 'What are the political strategies we can follow now that can lessen the impact?" of a nuclear Iran.

http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/oct/02/washington-in-five-minutes-85006202/

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Rueters

ElBaradei says IAEA Lacks Tools to Expose Secret Work

Tuesday, September 30, 2008 By Mark Heinrich

VIENNA (Reuters) - The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog said on Tuesday its failure to detect nuclear arms work in Saddam Hussein's Iraq in the 1980s showed his inspectors lacked authority to pre-empt proliferators. His remark was telling because an investigation of Iran by the agency has stalled over Tehran's failure to explain allegations of secret nuclear arms research and its refusal to grant inspectors access to military-affiliated sites and officials they deem relevant.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said the crux of the problem was that some countries under investigation, the latest being Syria, had failed to ratify an agency protocol permitting short-notice IAEA visits to sites not declared to be nuclear to ensure no bomb-related work was going on at secret locations. "Our legal authority is very limited. With Iraq, we have discovered that unless we have the Additional Protocol in place, we will not really be able to discover undeclared activities," he said on the sidelines of the agency's annual 145-nation General Conference in Vienna. "Our experience is that any proliferator will not really go for declared diverted activities (that would quickly reveal them as violators of the Non-Proliferation Treaty), they will go for completely clandestine undeclared activities," he said.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Iraq under Saddam Hussein developed a nuclear weapons programme hidden from the IAEA because of severe restrictions on access for inspectors. It came to light only after Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War and the IAEA spent the next seven years dismantling it.

DECLARATIONS NOT ENOUGH

Diplomats say the key to resolving current IAEA inquiries into Iran and Syria is extra access to sites not declared to be nuclear. Tehran and Damascus have both ruled this out, arguing that such sites involve their conventional military and so lie outside the IAEA's writ. Iran and Syria deny having any covert weapons programmes or illicitly hiding any nuclear activity from the IAEA. ElBaradei has called on Syria for greater transparency and access. Damascus has not ratified the Additional Protocol. ElBaradei said the failure of about 100 countries, including the United States, to ratify the decade-old protocol handicapped the IAEA's verification mandate. Since May, the IAEA has been investigating Syria, based on U.S. intelligence allegations that it had almost completed a secret nuclear reactor that might have made bomb-grade plutonium before the site was destroyed in an Israeli air strike.

The United States and Western allies have criticised Iran and Syria in the IAEA debate, accusing both of stonewalling U.N. investigators and demanding unfettered cooperation. ElBaradei said his job was complicated by loopholes in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which permits states to develop nuclear fuel enrichment technology even though this can yield material for civilian energy purposes as well as to make atom bombs, depending on how the process is configured. He said the seven known nuclear weapons powers were setting a bad example to non-nuclear-armed states by clinging to doomsday arsenals as the pillar of their security instead of dismantling them according to NPT commitments. "How can I go with a straight face to the non-nuclear weapons states and tell them these weapons are no good for you, when the nuclear weapons states continue to modernise and say we absolutely need nuclear weapons?" said ElBaradei. "So we are seeing a new phenomenon of proliferation of

sensitive fuel-cycle activity. Whether you do it for economic or science reasons ... or as an insurance policy (against attack), you come very close to becoming a nuclear weapons state."

(Editing by Andrew Dobbie)

http://uk.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idUKTRE48T4U220080930?sp=true

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International Herald Tribune Iran Hints at Nuclear Rethink if Gets Guarantees

The Associated Press Thursday, October 2, 2008

BRUSSELS, Belgium: A leading Iranian nuclear envoy on Thursday suggested the country could reconsider its uranium enrichment program if it gets cast-iron guarantees of regular international fuel supplies for its nuclear power plants. "We are going to continue as long as there is no legally binding internationally recognized instrument for assurance of supply," said Ali Ashgar Soltanieh, the chief Iranian delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, he declined to clarify whether that meant that Iran would halt its enrichment program in return for such international guarantees, suggesting it might have to continue at a diminished level in case the outside supply stops. Iran has steadfastly rejected international pressure to give up enrichment, a potential source of both nuclear fuel and fissile warhead material.

The United States says the enrichment program is designed to giver Iran a nuclear bomb. Iran insists it is for peaceful nuclear power generation. Soltanieh said Iran is forced to develop its own enrichment facilities to ensure security of supply for its power plants because it fears international suppliers would face pressure from the Untied States or others to cut deliveries. That might change if all 145 members of the U.N.'s atomic energy agency concluded a legally binding agreement to guarantee a constant supply of fuel, Soltanieh told reporters after addressing a think-tank conference. "Then Iran would be able to reconsider the position that we have now," he said.

Iranian officials have for years refused to consider calling a halt to the program despite U.N. sanctions. Getting all members of the Vienna-based nuclear agency to agree on legally binding guarantees would be very difficult, and Soltanieh suggested that Iran may want to keep some enrichment activities even if such an agreement were found. "We have to have a contingency (safeguard) in case of interruption," he said. "This is not an overnight situation that there is a paper today, and tomorrow then they say Iran will stop. No, it's not possible. There is no way."

Previous efforts to persuade Iran to stop its enrichment program by offering outside fuel supplies, notably from Russia, have failed. Nevertheless the suggestion that an international supply agreement might end the nuclear stand off was welcomed by Hans Blix, the former head of the nuclear agency and chief U.N. weapons inspector in Iraq. He said it could be the basis for international negotiations. "This is the direction in which one should look for the future," Blix told the conference on Iran's nuclear program organized by the European Policy Center.

http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/10/02/europe/EU-Iran-Nuclear.php

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New York Times October 2, 2008 Pg. 16 Envoy Pushes To Save Deal On Disarming North Korea

By Helene Cooper

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's top envoy for North Korea, Christopher R. Hill, extended his trip to Pyongyang on Wednesday as negotiators from both sides searched for a way to salvage a nuclear disarmament deal that the White House had hoped to portray as a major achievement. The administration is desperate to restore an accord that has been teetering on the edge since last week, when North Korea broke the seals that United Nations inspectors had placed on its equipment and said it was restarting a facility to manufacture bomb-grade plutonium. State Department officials maintained that Mr. Hill would not offer substantive concessions but had proposed

changes in what one official described as the "choreography" of arrangements meant to verify the accord. Administration officials have acknowledged that the accord could collapse if the two sides do not reach an agreement this week. The Bush administration has already been fending off criticism from conservatives in Washington who argue that the United States should have extracted more concessions as part of the nuclear pact.

North Korea was supposed to be dismantling its nuclear reactor at Yongbyon as part of the agreement, and any resumption of nuclear work at the complex would violate the terms of the agreement, which was announced with fanfare in June and was followed by North Korea's public demolition of a cooling tower at Yongbyon. North Korea's government has complained that the United States has not kept its part of the deal to remove the country from a list of state sponsors of terrorism, and instead has made new demands. Those include requiring North Korea to accept a strict and intrusive verification system before the United States would carry out reciprocal steps.

Mr. Hill is trying to find a work-around. One possibility, a senior administration official said, would be to rely more heavily on China, as close to an ally as North Korea has at this point, by giving it a more prominent role in verification efforts. Under one scenario, the official said, North Korea would submit a list of its nuclear sites to China, rather than to the United States; it would still have to permit inspections from American and Chinese officials. Mr. Hill will continue negotiations on Thursday in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, administration officials said. The reported ill health of Kim Jong-il, the North's leader, has also added uncertainty to the efforts.

In Seoul, South Korea, on Tuesday, Mr. Hill told reporters that an agreement on verification did not mean that the North would be subject to immediate inspections. "The verification will actually take place later on, but we need to know what the rules of the road are for verification," he said.

Choe Sang-hun contributed reporting from Seoul. http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/02/washington/02diplo.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss

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Reuters.com October 2, 2008 North Korea Upgrading Missile Test Site: Report

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea has been upgrading the facilities at the site of its past missile tests in what may be preparations for another long-range missile launch, a news report said on Thursday quoting government sources. The report comes after North Korea declared in recent weeks it was stepping away from a nuclear disarmament-foraid deal and restoring a reactor that made bomb-grade plutonium. A U.S. envoy went to Pyongyang on Wednesday in a bid to rescue the pact.

"North Korea has replaced a tower crane that propped up the launch pad and is improving the stability of missile fittings such as reinforcing missile supporters," Dong-a Ilbo newspaper quoted a source as saying. The government source was also quoted as saying a system to supply missile fuel was being set up and the facility is supposed to help North Korea cut the time it needs to prepare a missile for launch.

The facility was being constructed at the Musudan-ri site, used in previous launches and located on the east coast. The site has been used to test-fire the country's Taepodong-2 multi-stage missile that has a possible range of up to 3,500 - 4,300 km (about 2,200 - 2,700 miles). South Korea's spy agency could not immediately confirm the report.

North Korea last launched the Taepodong-2 in July 2006 but the missile fizzled and destructed a few seconds into flight.

http://www.reuters.com/article/newsOne/idUSTRE4910ZA20081002?virtualBrandChannel=10279

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Washington Times October 1, 2008 Pg. 1

New U.S. Defenses Sought To Counter Beijing Buildup

Report urges development of weapons By Bill Gertz. The Washington Times

The United States needs new weapon systems, including missile defenses and other advanced military capabilities, to deter and counter China's steady buildup of nuclear and conventional arms, according to a draft internal report by a State Department advisory board. U.S. defense policy has stressed missile defenses against Iran and North Korea. The report, by the Secretary of State's International Security Advisory Board (ISAB), is the first to recommend such defenses against China, including technology in space.

The draft, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Times, said Chinese strategy goes beyond building forces capable of retaking the island of Taiwan. China seeks to "break out" by projecting power beyond its region, including sea lanes that carry energy resources for its modernization, the document said. "Using superior U.S. military technical capacities, the United States should undertake the development of new weapons, sensors, communications, and other programs and tactics to convince China that it will not be able to overcome the U.S. militarily," the report said. The draft report presents a tough assessment of Chinese strategic modernization that goes beyond many current government and private-sector analyses that say that China's military modernization does not pose a major challenge to U.S. security interests.

For example, in an interview with The Washington Times in March, CIA Director Michael V. Hayden expressed professional "admiration" for China's rapid and sophisticated buildup and said it is "not inevitable that they will be an enemy." The report said that to reduce the chance of a miscalculation by China that could lead to a crisis or conflict, the United States "must take seriously China's challenge to U.S. military superiority in the Asia-Pacific region. ... China's military modernization is proceeding at a rate ... to be of concern even with the most benign interpretation of China's motivation."

Chinese Embassy spokesman Wang Baodong said in a statement that China is "naturally becoming stronger and more influential in world affairs" after 30 years of reform, but remains committed to peaceful development and a "foreign policy of peace." "China will not harm anyone or pose a threat to anyone. China's development is opportunity, not threat. Any versions of China threat will continue to be proved fallacious," he said. Mr. Wang also said his government is "committed to the peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question and the peaceful reunification" of the island with the mainland.

The draft by the 17-member advisory board has not been officially released. A State Department official familiar with the report said it is in the late stages and could be completed in the next several weeks. The official said the report's stark assessment of China's strategy and forces was in line with the board's mandate to provide frank advice to the secretary of state from analysts outside government.

Brandon A. Buttrick, the ISAB executive director, said his office did not know when members would complete their review. "If the report is an unclassified report, it will be made available for public distribution as we have done with the previous ISAB reports when they are approved by the ISAB," he said.

The board is headed by former Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz. The task force that produced the report was led by Robert Joseph, a former undersecretary of state and specialist on nonproliferation. The task force included former Sen. Charles S. Robb, Virginia Democrat; Allison B. Fortier, a vice president for missile defense at Lockheed Martin; and William Van Cleave, emeritus professor for defense and security studies at Missouri State University. Mr. Robb said he initially took part but dropped out because of time constraints "notwithstanding my interest in the topic." He declined to comment further.

Mr. Wolfowitz declined to be interviewed. Once the Bush administration's chief theorist on the war on terror and a major policymaker on the invasion of Iraq, Mr. Wolfowitz previously held numerous senior posts dealing with Asian affairs at both the State Department and Pentagon. He stepped down as World Bank president amid ethics inquiries in June.

The draft report said China's "major objective is to counter U.S. presence and U.S. military capabilities in East Asia through the acquisition of offensive capacities in critical functional areas that systematically exploit U.S. vulnerabilities." It said the buildup involves capabilities for "asymmetric warfare," such as space and computer weapons, that could help Chinese forces defeat a stronger U.S. military.

Among the areas of U.S. strategic vulnerability identified in the report are gaps in U.S. missile defenses; dependence on space for communications; the U.S. inability to use force against China except through aircraft carrier groups; and "fragile electronics and the Internet." The report recommends that the United States acquire new offensive space and cyber warfare capabilities and missile defenses as well as "more robust sea- and space-based capabilities" to deter any crisis over Taiwan.

China currently has about 20 missiles capable of reaching the United States but is projected to have more than 100 nuclear missiles, some likely with multiple warheads, by 2015, the report said.

Among the key findings:

*Continued rapid economic growth of 10 percent a year is "vital" for China to continue to compete with the United States and achieve its main goals of regime survival and regional dominance.

*China's industrial and defense espionage is aimed at obtaining advanced technology for economic and military modernization.

*The scale, scope and speed of China's rise fundamentally impacts U.S. national security, yet the U.S. "possesses only a limited understanding of Chinese intentions, and how Beijing's economic and military expansion affects these interests."

*China's military and civilian leaders are not always on the same page and that separation is a potential "focal point" for mitigating hostility. China's civilian leaders understand Americans but the Chinese military suffers from "clear paranoia and misperceptions" about U.S. intentions.

*To avoid an "emerging creep" by China toward strategic nuclear coercion, "the United States will need to pursue new missile defense capabilities, including taking full advantage of space," the report said.

On China's expansion after centuries as a regional power, the ISAB report stated that: "In China's view, Taiwan is the key to breakout: If China is to become a global power, the first step must include control of this island." Taking over the island would allow China to control the seas near its coasts and to project power eastward, the report said.

China views Taiwan, where nationalist forces fled from the mainland in 1949, as central to "the legitimacy of the regime and key to power projection," the report said. Taiwan also is seen by China as a way to deny the United States a key ally in "a highly strategic location" of the western Pacific, the report said. Chinese authorities have said they desire peaceful reunification with Taiwan but will not allow it to declare formal independence and have not ruled out the use of force. The advisory panel report also recommended that the U.S. increase sales of advanced conventional forces to allies in Asia and improve counterintelligence efforts.

Larry M. Wortzel, chairman of the congressional U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, said he has not seen the report but that blocking Taiwan independence and gaining control of the island "is one of the highest priorities set for the People's Liberation Army by the Communist Party Politburo Standing Committee and the Central Military Commission." "If China accomplishes this, its military can concentrate on missions to expand China's presence, influence, and even control, in wider areas of the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

Mr. Wang, the Chinese Embassy spokesman, said China's budget for 2007 was \$45 billion, or 1.4 percent of gross domestic product. He said this year's defense budget is \$57.2 billion, an increase of 17.6 percent. The United States spends about 4 percent of GDP on defense, according to the CIA World Factbook.

However, the Pentagon's latest annual report on China's military stated that China's military spending figures do not include spending on China's space program, strategic forces, foreign acquisitions, military-related research and development and paramilitary forces.

http://washtimes.com/news/2008/oct/01/new-us-defenses-sought-to-counter-beijing-buildup/

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Washington Times September 30, 2008 Pg. 13

Ex-Official Reports U.S. Efforts Still Falling Short

Rips lack of strategy to face foreign threats By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

U.S. government efforts to counter foreign spies remains fragmented and weak, despite a series of highly damaging spy cases, said a report made public Monday by a former high-ranking counterintelligence official.

Michelle Van Cleave, the former U.S. national counterintelligence executive, stated in the report that the FBI, CIA and other federal counterspy units lack both a needed focus and strategy for thwarting the growing foreign intelligence threat. "Our counterintelligence capabilities are in decay. Instead of leadership and strategic coherence, the [director of national intelligence's] office has given us more bureaucracy," Miss Van Cleave said in an interview. "Hostile intelligence activities are a national security challenge of the first order," Miss Van Cleave said. "The new administration will need to go back to first principles and be willing to make some major changes, in order to build a genuine strategic counterintelligence capability for the United States."

Richard Willing, chief spokesman for retired Adm. Michael McConnell, the U.S. director of national intelligence (DNI), said the office was studying the report and had no immediate comment. Release of the report follows a recent letter to Congress from former FBI agent Terry D. Turchie, a counterintelligence official posted to an Energy Department nuclear weapons laboratory, warning of "potentially catastrophic consequences" as the result of a downgrading of counterintelligence at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Reforms that focused on intelligence rather than counterintelligence "opened the way for major security breaches involving [Department of Energy] installations and personnel in the future," said the Sept. 1 letter to Rep. John D. Dingell, Michigan Democrat and chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The 88-page report was authored by Miss Van Cleave for the private Project on National Security Reform, a nonprofit and nonpartisan group that, according to its Web site, works to modernize and improve U.S. national security.

The National Counterintelligence Executive office was set up in 2001 in the aftermath of the devastating cases of FBI agent Robert Hanssen and CIA officer Aldrich Ames, who both spied for Russia and compromised CIA-recruited agents, many of whom were executed. The office reports to the director of national intelligence.

The office, which Miss Van Cleave headed from 2003 to 2006, was established to coordinate efforts by the FBI, CIA and other agencies to stop foreign spying. But she stated in the report that bureaucratic walls and differing missions have prevented the federal government from launching a strategic effort against foreign intelligence agencies.

Testifying before the House Judiciary Committee earlier this month, Mr. McConnell singled out "China and Russia's foreign intelligence services" as "among the most aggressive in collecting against sensitive and protected U.S. systems, facilities and developmental projects." "Their efforts are reaching Cold War levels," he said. Current National Counterintelligence Executive Joel Brenner has made similar comments.

Miss Van Cleave's report said that "strategic integration" of agencies that monitor spying are hampered by "individual agency priorities." "National leadership exists in name only. Across the government, our [counterintelligence] capabilities are in decay. We seemingly cannot get ahead of the cycle of losing talent. And the potential costs of failure are profound."

On the FBI, the report noted that the FBI is skilled at enforcing counterespionage and related laws but is not "organized, trained or equipped to collect or analyze intelligence on the extensive foreign intelligence presence in the United States beyond those personnel here under official or journalistic cover, or to develop or execute offensive operations to mislead, deny or otherwise exploit foreign intelligence activities against the United States."

http://www.washtimes.com/news/2008/sep/30/ex-official-reports-us-efforts-still-falling-short/

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MSNBC.com/ The Associated Press September 29, 2008 Suicide Attacks Soar in Pakistan

Clashes with extremists also forcing tens of thousands to flee homes

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - Suicide attacks have killed almost 1,200 Pakistanis since July last year, most of them civilians, according to military statistics released Monday that highlight the ferocity of the militant threat facing the country. Meanwhile, heavy fighting between Pakistani troops and insurgents on the Afghan border has sent some 20,000 Pakistanis fleeing into Afghanistan, the United Nations reported.

Under U.S. pressure, Pakistan launched a military offensive in its Bajur region in early August against Taliban and al-Qaida militants blamed for rising attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Fierce fighting has raged ever since. "In the last two weeks alone, over 600 Pakistani families (around 20,000 people) have fled into Afghanistan," the U.N. refugee agency said in a statement. "While the vast majority of them are living with their relatives and friends, there are already some 200 families who live in the open air." The families have fled to Afghanistan's Kunar province, which is itself plagued by fighting between militants and Afghan troops backed by coalition forces. Pakistani officials say the fighting in Bajur has displaced as many as 500,000 people within the country. Most have found shelter with relatives across northwestern Pakistan, though about 100,000 are living in camps.

Nuclear-armed Pakistan has seen a surge in attacks by Islamic extremists since the July 2007 army siege on militants in Islamabad's radical Red Mosque, where about 100 people died. Pakistani security officials regard the siege in the heart of the previously mostly peaceful capital as a watershed moment in the country's struggle against militancy. The most recent major attack was the Sept. 20 suicide truck bombing of the Marriott Hotel in the capital, which killed at least 54 people, including three Americans.

Figures released at a military briefing in Islamabad showed 88 suicide attacks have taken place across Pakistan since the Red Mosque siege, killing 1,188 people. Of that figure, 847 were civilians, while the rest were troops and police. More than 3,000 were listed as injured. The number of attacks in that 15-month period is more than twice as many as in the previous five years, according to a database compiled by the South Asia Terrorism Portal, an Indiabased terrorism research Web site.

The military statistics showed 1,368 members of the security forces had died since 2001, when former President Pervez Musharraf sided with the United States in its war on terror. Pakistan cites such figures in part to deflect criticism of its record and commitment to the fight against Islamic militants amid lingering suspicion the country's intelligence agencies maintain links with some of them. In the latest fighting in the frontier region, security officials killed 35 militants in two clashes, a spokesman for the Frontier Corps said.

Overnight, troops repelled an attack on an army camp just north of Khar, Bajur's main town, killing up to 15 militants, two officials said. There was no word of casualties on the government side. Poor access and security in Bajur prevents reporters from verifying casualty reports.

Also near Khar, eight tribesmen and three militants were killed in a gunbattle, said government official Fazal Rabbi. He provided no more details on the clash, but the army is reportedly trying to enlist local support against the insurgents there. Bajur is the most northerly of Pakistan's tribal regions, several of which have fallen largely under the control of militants opposed to the Afghan and Pakistani governments.

U.S. and NATO commanders say the insurgents use the region as a safe haven in which to plan attacks in Afghanistan, which is increasingly violent seven years after the downfall of the Taliban. The area is believed to be a possible hiding place for Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaida leaders.

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, the top U.S. commander in eastern Afghanistan told The Associated Press last week he was encouraged by Pakistan's offensive in Bajur but hadn't yet seen a drop in the number of militants crossing the border. "We need a persistent series of operations by Pakistan over a lengthier period of time before we see a change there," Schloesser said. The army claims to have killed more than 1,000 militants in the Bajur offensive and lost 69 troops since August. It has declined to estimate casualties among civilians. Copyright 2008 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26945494/

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Haaretz/Associated Press October 2, 2008 Khamenei: Iran Will Never Abandon Hamas, Haniyeh

By Natasha Mozgovaya and the Associated Press

Iran's supreme religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said yesterday his country will stand beside Gaza's Hamas rulers and that Israel is on the path to destruction. According to Iranian state-run television, Khamenei called the Hamas' prime minister in the Gaza Strip, Sheikh Ismail Haniyeh, a "mojahed," or soldier of holy war, saying the Iranian nation will "never let you be alone." It also quoted him as saying Israel's Zionist regime is moving toward weakness, destruction and defeat and that the current generation of Palestinians will see "that great day."

Khamenei, who was speaking at prayers marking the Muslim Eid el Fitr holiday, has predicted Israel's downfall in the past, as has Iran's hard-line President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Khamenei has repeatedly called Israel a cancerous tumor that need to be removed from the Middle East.

Israel's ambassador to the U.S., Sallai Meridor, issued a statement in response, saying "not since World War II has the world faced such a dangerous and significant threat. The fanatical Iranian regime, a sponsor of global terror, is threatening the elimination of another state and is striving to achieve a nuclear weapon. This should be a moment of truth for the world to take immediate actions to prevent this regime from pursuing the development of a military nuclear capability," the statement continued.

http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1025594.html

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DHS Leadership Journal September 30, 2008 **The Next Chapter in Bio-Readiness**

I am pleased to report that we opened a first-of-its kind biosurveillance center today that gives the nation the ability to see fast-moving, potential health threats in a new way – before it's too late.

Patterns in illnesses usually are only seen after enough people get sick or die to sound alarms. Investigators then retrace the steps of the victims to determine the source of trouble, but it's often too late for those who have already been unknowingly exposed. Whether it's food contaminated with Salmonella, the first waves of illness from a pandemic flu, or an anthrax attack by terrorists, spotting biological threats sooner means that thousands of lives might be saved. Traditional methods of detecting such threats often take too long. Our National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC) will change that.

The center will combine all sorts of information – from classified material shared in a secure environment, to transportation and border data, to local media reports – so that events around the country and the world can be connected and analyzed more closely and quickly, and threats bubbling up can be detected earlier than ever before.

This 24-hour operation brings together experts from some agencies that may be obvious. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, for instance, both monitor health patterns. And the

Departments of Agriculture, State and Commerce all play critical roles in preventing the global spread of avian flu or Foot-and-Mouth disease while protecting the nation's economy. But there is more to the center than a collection of agency representatives.

Through the center's secure computer network, DHS has now created a whole new level of daily cooperation among private sector partners, health officials and government agencies who now all work together to hunt for early signs of trouble. The center is developing a clearer picture of what typical health patterns look like so that even a small blip can be investigated before large clusters of people get sick.

Being able to identify emerging threats earlier was one of the key recommendations from the 9/11 Commission. As the Japanese learned in 1995 when the Aum Shinrikyo religious sect released sarin nerve gas on subway lines killing 12 and injuring 5,500, biological attacks are a modern global reality.

Our new surveillance builds on another one of our programs, BioWatch, an environmental early detection program which uses monitors in over 30 urban areas to sniff the air for biological threats.

Dr. Jon R. Krohmer Acting Assistant Secretary/Chief Medical Officer

http://www.dhs.gov/journal/leadership/

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Washington Post Thursday, October 2, 2008; A02 If Bioterrorists Strike, Letter Carriers Might Deliver Antibiotics

By David Brown Washington Post Staff Writer

"Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night, nor bioterrorism attack stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds -- especially if they are delivering antibiotics to protect people from anthrax." That may someday become the unofficial motto of the U.S. Postal Service.

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt yesterday proposed a solution to one of the bigger challenges in responding to an anthrax bioterrorism attack -- how to deliver protective antibiotics to tens of thousands of people overnight? The tentative answer: have the mailman (and -woman) do the job.

As an incentive to the letter carriers -- who would be volunteers -- the government would issue them in advance an antibiotic supply large enough to treat themselves and their families. They would also be accompanied by police officers on their rounds. "We have found letter carriers to be the federal government's quickest and surest way of getting pills to whole communities," Leavitt said. The strategy has the full support of the Postal Service and its unions, spokesmen said. "Letter carriers are on the street six days a week. They are constantly helping out as just part of their job, and this is taking it one step further," said Drew Von Bergen of the National Association of Letter Carriers. "Anytime this country has any kind of crisis, it is the Postal Service that is out there first," said Postal Service spokeswoman Sue Brennan.

Boston, Philadelphia and Seattle held experimental runs of the distribution strategy in 2006 and 2007, said William Raub, Leavitt's science adviser. In Philadelphia, 50 carriers, each accompanied by a city police officer, reached 55,000 households in less than eight hours. Based on those tests, the strategy was deemed practical and will be put in effect on a trial basis next year in Minneapolis and St. Paul, he said.

The Postal Service there will solicit about 700 letter carriers, enough to cover 20 Zip codes or about one-quarter of all households. The workers will be medically screened (including questions about family members), fitted with N95 face masks, and issued a supply of the antibiotic doxycycline for their household. If successful, it may be expanded to encompass the entire Twin Cities area, said Jude Plessas, a Postal Service official. Before that pilot project can

begin, however, the <u>Food and Drug Administration</u> must approve distribution of the drug for this purpose, which is not currently part of its label, or officially approved list of uses. Leavitt yesterday requested that FDA review, which may take months.

Since 2004, the federal government has funded the Cities Readiness Initiative, which is helping 72 urban areas make plans to distribute drugs to a target population within 48 hours of a bioterrorism attack. Any of those cities will now be able to employ the letter carrier distribution strategy. The federal government will not force them to adopt it, as disaster planning is principally a job for state and local governments.

The federal government has enough anthrax antibiotics in the Strategic National Stockpile to treat 40 million people for 60 days. The medicine is cached in 12 sites around the country. Sixty days is the maximum amount of time a person exposed to airborne anthrax spores might have to take medicine to prevent the inhalational form of the bacterial infection, which is rapidly fatal if not treated. Letter carriers who volunteer for this duty would not be paid bonuses or given any other incentives, Brennan said.

In a bioterrorist attack seven years ago this fall, finely powdered anthrax spores were sent in envelopes to several addresses on the East Coast. Four workers at a mail processing center in the District, where at least one of the letters was sorted, developed inhalational anthrax, and two died. In all, 8,424 postal employees were offered prophylactic courses of antibiotics. Sixty-six percent started, but about 10 percent of them stopped taking the offered drugs for various reasons. Nearly all took <u>ciprofloxacin</u>, a medicine that is not being offered as part of the letter carriers' supply under the new plan, in part because of its possible side effects.

In another action yesterday, Leavitt issued a declaration that will provide protection against lawsuits for companies that make drugs for mass distribution during an anthrax attack, or who help distribute them.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/10/01/ST2008100102936.html

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Bloomberg.Com

Nuclear Terrorism Is No. 1 Threat, ElBaradei Says

By Jonathan Tirone

Sept. 30 (Bloomberg) -- The likelihood that terrorists will detonate a nuclear weapon poses the greatest risk to world security, surpassing proliferation threats from Iran and North Korea, United Nations atomic chief <u>Mohamed</u> <u>ElBaradei</u> said. ``There is a lot of interest on the part of extremist groups to obtain nuclear material," ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said at a scientific forum today in Vienna during the annual conference of the 145 nations in the IAEA. ``It's the No. 1 security threat right now."

The <u>IAEA</u>, established in 1956 under the slogan ``Atoms for Peace," said it's becoming easier for groups and countries to access nuclear secrets because detailed bomb-making plans have been circulated electronically. Nuclear-armed terrorists are more dangerous than governments with atomic weapons because they don't have the same decision-making restraints, according to ElBaradei. ``The rules of deterrence don't apply to them," said the Egyptian diplomat, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. ``If they get it, they will use it."

The IAEA has recorded 18 attempts to sell bomb-grade uranium and plutonium to black-market intermediaries since 1993. During the same period, the agency has tracked more than 1,300 incidents involving less-potent nuclear material that may be used to spread radioactive contamination.

``There is a possibility that the seized material was only a sample of larger quantities available," IAEA officials who maintain the agency's Illicit Trafficking Database said Sept. 26 in a <u>statement</u>. ``These materials continue to pose potential security risks."

Radiological Attack

A radiological attack on Washington could inflict economic damage of as much as \$107 billion, according to <u>Igor</u> <u>Khripunov</u>, a former Soviet diplomat who runs the <u>Center for International Trade and Security</u> in Athens, Georgia. North Korea and Iran, along with <u>Saddam Hussein</u>'s Iraq, were the countries that President <u>George W. Bush</u> described in 2002 as an ``axis of evil." The U.S. accuses Iran of supplying arms to terrorist organizations.

The Persian Gulf nation, which is under three sets of Security Council sanctions for its refusal to halt the enrichment of uranium, says it wants nuclear technology to generate electricity. The U.S. and its allies accuse the government in Tehran of harboring a secret atomic weapons program.

``Influence, power and an assurance against attack," are what drives countries to develop nuclear weapons, ElBaradei said. ``Scores of countries" have the technical know-how to develop nuclear weapons programs, he said. ElBaradei appealed to the IAEA's 145 members to boost the agency's \$16.5 million budget to combat nuclear terrorism. About 90 percent of the budget is restricted funding provided by the member states for specific projects, the IAEA chief said.

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=ae.wPfK0oXfM&refer=home

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ArmyTimes.com September 30, 2008

Military Needs Hackers, StratCom Chief Says

By William H. McMichael, Staff writer Uncle Sam is looking for a few good computer hackers.

The U.S. military needs a two-edged cyber capability that can not only defend its .mil and .smil domains from outside attacks but, if necessary, launch cyber attacks against intruders. To do that, the individual services need to recruit and train more cyber-qualified personnel, Air Force Gen. Kevin Chilton, chief the U.S. Strategic Command, said today.

The military is dependent on its .mil and .smil domains for everything from e-mail exchanges to employment of its nuclear arsenal. StratCom's vast portfolio includes operating and defending those domains.

The importance, Chilton said, is self-evident. "On your worst day, you want to be able to make sure that the military network still works so that you can effect either the defense of the United States ... or an offensive action, should they be required," Chilton said in a meeting with Military Times reporters and editors. "The hardest thing we're going to have to do is to be able to operate this network in time of war — as we will be attacked," Chilton said. "And there's no perfect firewall."

Each service, and each combatant commander, has to have operational networks, he noted. As such, each service needs to provide forces to support that effort. However, they are coming up short. "I don't think our services [have] quite yet come to grips on how best to organize, train and equip forces to support this mission area," Chilton said. "It's not because they're not working the problem hard — they are. It's just new."

According to a February 2008 report by the Pentagon inspector general on contingency planning for the military's mission-critical information systems, the military is coming up woefully short in defending its networks. "DoD mission-critical systems may not be able to sustain warfighter operations during a disruptive or catastrophic event," the report concluded. StratCom is also responsible for all U.S. strategic deterrence, military operations in space, missile defense, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations.

In addition to defending and maintaining the military's networks during an attack, Chilton said, the military needs to develop offensive capabilities — not only across computer networks but in the domains of space, air, land and sea. Chilton said StratCom has been asked to plan for how to conduct these "cross-domain" attacks as well as offensive cyber operations. Recommendation for the move was included in this year's National Military Strategy for Cyberspace Operations. "You need to be able to operate, defend and attack in the domain, and then cross-domain," Chilton said. "And I think there are opportunities to do that. So we've been given the task to think about those opportunities."

The most devastating sort of cyber attack on the U.S. would involve a decidedly kinetic weapon — a nuclear bomb, detonated high over the Earth. Such an explosion would shut down all but the most "hardened" networks and

computers within range; the Pentagon has hardened its most critical structures and weapons systems, such as nuclear-capable B-52 bombers, for such an eventuality.

In one such scenario that defense officials have considered at length, an enemy detonates a nuclear device over international waters in an effort to sidestep the detonation being termed an act of war. That rationale wouldn't fly, Chilton said. "If you affect the United States of America with a nuclear detonation, I don't care where you detonate it, that's an attack on the United States of America," Chilton said. "We have been thinking about that, and we do think about … how we might respond to that. And of course, that would be up to the president. "I'm not one who says, well, just because there's no visible kinetic effect, that that means it doesn't count," Chilton added. "It counts. Because the long-term effects on the population and the economy and our lifestyle and the very existence of the United States of American being held at risk is important to deter."

On another issue, Chilton said recent Russian muscle-flexing, evident in acts as overt as the recent invasion of Georgia and as symbolic as using Venezuela as a temporary base for carrying out strategic bomber training flights — echoes of its aggressive Soviet past — haven't affected how he does his day-to-day job. "Not at all," he said, noting that U.S. Northern Command has specific responsibility for the air defense of the U.S. "The difference between 1989 and today vis-à-vis a country like Russia is intent, not in capability," Chilton said. "So, we have been in the business, and continue to be in the business, of deterring any thought of using that capability. … That's baseline going in, no matter how many airplanes they fly, or what they do."

http://www.armytimes.com/news/2008/09/military_chilton_093008w/

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Washington Times October 2, 2008 Pg. B1

Neuroscience Wake-Up Call

U.S. lags in ability to monitor Iran and China By Kelly Hearn, The Washington Times

Iran and China are developing the ability to use sophisticated neuroscience, while U.S. intelligence officials find themselves ill prepared to monitor scientific advances that could threaten U.S. interests, a new report commissioned by the Pentagon says. The report for the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) calls on U.S. intelligence officials to closely monitor global advances in neuroscience. Although a handful of emerging nations are said by experts to be gaining capacity to conduct neuroscience research, the study by 16 scientists under the auspices of the National Research Council (NRC), a nonprofit institution that provides advice on science and technology, focuses on just two.

Jonathan D. Moreno, professor of medical ethics at the University of Pennsylvania and a committee member, explained: "Take the short list of nations that have the capacity to do sophisticated neuroscience and cross-check that with the list of nations that are either ideological enemies of the U.S. or capable of aiding those enemies. You end up with two, China and Iran." The panel searched for evidence of research into cognitive neuroscience and biotechnology, specifically for military uses, for both countries.

Though the report paints China and Iran as rising science powers in fields such as biotechnology, it offers no evidence that either is currently steering neuroscience work to military ends. Nonetheless, many experts see the report as a wake-up call for U.S. intelligence.

"Technological advancements in specific fields of neuroscience have implications for U.S. national security and should therefore be monitored consistently by the intelligence community," the scientists write. The report looks at trends during the next two decades, but experts say the global neuroscience race has heated up, with about 500 global companies trying to develop brain-targeting drugs and devices, according to NeuroInsights, an industry group.

Like biotechnology, neuroscience and neurotechnology - the engineering of devices and drugs targeting the brain and nervous system - have therapeutic and military uses. Officials with the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency openly talk of next-generation wish lists that include pills that decrease fear or enhance cognition in soldiers and devices that connect human thoughts with devices such as prosthetic limbs and unmanned aircraft. Meanwhile, such nations as India, Brazil, China and Iran are increasing their capabilities in fields related to neuroscience - a fact that worries U.S. intelligence officials concerned with threats involving "neuroweapons" that act on the brain and nervous system.

The NRC panel, consisting of 16 scientists given classified and unclassified briefings from about two-dozen U.S. institutions doing neuroscience, looked abroad for emerging science threats. The panel used open-source journals and Internet documents to show that China and Iran are growing their capacity to conduct sophisticated science. Yet despite receiving classified briefings from U.S. officials tasked with preventing "foreign technology surprises," the panel came up with no proof that Tehran or Beijing is engaging in classified military work dealing with neuroscience or technology. The report says that China "is fast becoming an international superpower and a haven for biotechnology research," in part because of relatively inexpensive labor and biotechnological expertise in universities and companies. It also cites a 2007 Chinese strategy paper saying that the People's Liberation Army is trying to "make major breakthroughs in some basic, pioneering and technological fields of strategic importance."

The panel concludes that "although the [strategy document] does not directly mention specific details as to what technologies and science are to be used, it would not be too great a leap to suggest that the Chinese government is probably pursuing capability in cognitive neurosciences to enhance its national defense." In the case of Iran, the panel states that it was easy to find information about the country's biotechnology programs and research groups on the Internet. "But it is not at all straightforward to find out how much of the research is connected to cognitive neuroscience and possible advances in science related to national defense."

Officials from the Chinese Embassy in Washington and the Iranian mission in New York did not respond to requests for comment by press time. The Iranian mission was closed Wednesday in observation of the end of Ramadan. DIA officials declined to talk about the report, and the Office of Naval Research, which sent officials to brief the panel, did not respond to interview requests. Unlike some committee reports on sensitive subjects regarding intelligence or national security, this report does not contain a classified appendix. Christopher C. Green, the committee chairman and a clinical fellow in neuroimaging at the Detroit Medical Center, said that's because the committee received a number of classified briefings from U.S. government sources but got little useful information. "We asked them to tell us their impressions of what is going on that might be of value in neuroscience and neurocognition, in particular over the next 20 years in China, Iran and Korea," said Mr. Green, who also is the assistant dean, Asia Pacific, of the Wayne State School of Medicine in Beijing. "We never got answers we thought were interesting."

Still, the panel of experts lobbed intelligence officials a warning about Tehran: "The development of other forms of military technologies, such as neurotechnological devices, to build Iran's national defense and perhaps even offense, remains largely unknown. It poses a threat to international stability, and we are compelled to learn more about ethical regulations for biomedical research in Iran." More than moral considerations, ethical regulations over biomedical research on human testing have a strategic impact - giving nations with loose or no testing regulations an advantage over those with strict laws and monitoring.

There are international documents that nations pledge to follow in terms of human and animal testing, but each nation is responsible for establishing its compliance regime. The study reports that Iran's ethics framework for human testing is largely influenced by the Islamic underpinnings of the society. Tehran says it adheres to international documents and guidelines on human testing and has confirmed its compliance with the United Nations and UNESCO documents that deal with human rights.

"However, the Iranian record of questionable treatment of [assumed] homosexuals, women, and secular scholars does not bolster confidence that both international and Iranian bioethics guidelines will always be complied with by Iranian government biomedical researchers," the report states.

As for China, the NRC report cites a paucity of regulations on human testing but indicates an effort by officials to improve protections. "My experience suggests that China is trying to firm up its human testing rules," said Mr. Moreno, author of "Mind Wars," a book exploring the intersection of neuroscience and national security. He added that he did not have information about Iran's ethical guidelines. "In any case, the fact is there's no international regime for monitoring human experiments," Mr. Moreno said.

The disparities in human testing regulations and the lack of international monitoring, according to Dennis K. McBride, academic president at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies and an affiliated professor at Georgetown

University, is a serious problem that threatens, among other things, to shift the weight of research power in biotechnology from the United States to other nations, especially China.

"For a number of reasons, from differences in human testing controls to intellectual property laws, the U.S. stands to lose its leadership in biotechnology in a matter of years, not decades," Mr. McBride said.

http://washingtontimes.com/news/2008/oct/02/neuroscience-wake-up-call/

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Government Accounting Office September 26, 2008

Disaster Recovery: Past Experiences Offer Insights for Recovering from Hurricanes Ike and Gustav and Other Recent Natural Disasters

GAO-08-1120

Summary

This month, Hurricanes Ike and Gustav struck the Gulf Coast producing widespread damage and leading to federal major disaster declarations. Earlier this year, heavy flooding resulted in similar declarations in seven Midwest states. In response, federal agencies have provided millions of dollars in assistance to help with short- and long-term recovery. State and local governments bear the primary responsibility for recovery and have a great stake in its success. Experiences from past disasters may help them better prepare for the challenges of managing and implementing the complexities of disaster recovery. GAO was asked to identify insights from past disasters and share them with state and local officials undertaking recovery activities. GAO reviewed six past disasters-- the Loma Prieta earthquake in northern California (1989), Hurricane Andrew in south Florida (1992), the Northridge earthquake in Los Angeles, California (1994), the Kobe earthquake in Japan (1995), the Grand Forks/Red River flood in North Dakota and Minnesota (1997), and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast (2005). GAO interviewed officials involved in the recovery from these disasters and experts on disaster recovery. GAO also reviewed relevant legislation, policies, and its previous work.

While the federal government provides significant financial assistance after major disasters, state and local governments play the lead role in disaster recovery. As affected jurisdictions recover from the recent hurricanes and floods, experiences from past disasters can provide insights into potential good practices. Drawing on experiences from six major disasters that occurred from 1989 to 2005, GAO identified the following selected insights: (1) Create a clear, implementable, and timely recovery plan. Effective recovery plans provide a road map for recovery. For example, within 6 months of the 1995 earthquake in Japan, the city of Kobe created a recovery plan that identified detailed goals which facilitated coordination among recovery stakeholders. The plan also helped Kobe prioritize and fund recovery projects, in addition to establishing a basis for subsequent governmental evaluations of the recovery's progress. (2) Build state and local capacity for recovery. State and local governments need certain capacities to effectively make use of federal assistance, including having sufficient financial resources and technical know-how. State and local governments are often required to match a portion of the federal disaster assistance they receive. Loans provided one way for localities to enhance their financial capacity. For example, after the Red River flood, the state-owned Bank of North Dakota extended the city of Grand Forks a \$44 million loan, which the city used to match funding from federal disaster programs and begin recovery projects. (3) Implement strategies for businesses recovery. Business recovery is a key element of a community's recovery. Small businesses can be especially vulnerable to major disasters because they often lack resources to sustain financial losses. Federal, state, and local governments developed strategies to help businesses remain in the community, adapt to changed market conditions, and borrow funds at lower interest rates. For example, after the Loma Prieta earthquake, the city of Santa Cruz erected large pavilions near the main shopping street. These structures enabled more than 40 local businesses to operate as their storefronts were repaired. As a result, shoppers continued to frequent the downtown area thereby maintaining a customer base for impacted businesses. (4) Adopt a comprehensive approach toward combating fraud, waste, and abuse. The influx of financial assistance after a major disaster provides increased opportunities for fraud. waste, and abuse. Looking for ways to combat such activities before, during, and after a disaster can help states and localities protect residents from contractor fraud as well as safeguard the financial assistance they allocate to

victims. For example, to reduce contractor fraud after the Red River flood, the city of Grand Forks established a credentialing program that issued photo identification to contractors who passed licensing and criminal checks.

http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-08-1120

for the full text of the report see: http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d081120.pdf

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