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**Chemical Demilitarization: Additional Management Actions Needed to Meet Key Performance Goals of DOD's Chemical Demilitarization Program.**

GAO-08-134, December 6.

**Why GAO Did This Study**

Destruction of the nation's remaining stockpile of chemical weapons in a safe, efficient, and timely manner is essential to meet Chemical Weapons Convention treaty obligations and to reduce the risk of a potential catastrophic event. The Department of Defense (DOD) established the Chemical Demilitarization Program to manage the

destruction of the remaining stockpile. GAO was asked to evaluate the (1) progress DOD and the Army have made in addressing GAO's prior recommendations to strengthen program management, (2) reasonableness of schedule milestones, (3) reliability of cost estimates, and (4) effectiveness of efforts to provide monetary incentives to the systems contractors. GAO reviewed relevant planning documents, schedules, cost estimates, and contracts; interviewed program and contractor officials; and visited chemical agent destruction sites.

### **What GAO Recommends**

GAO recommends that DOD and the Army develop interim destruction goals, approaches, and milestones; establish time frames to complete its risk management approach; develop realistic schedule and closure cost estimates; finalize and independently review cost estimates; and determine whether a greater emphasis can be placed on schedule and cost, and develop more objective award fee performance evaluation criteria. DOD concurred or partially concurred with 12 of GAO's 13 recommendations.

(For complete report, please click on link below.)

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-08-134>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d08134high.pdf>

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Boston Globe  
January 15, 2008

## **Olmert Hints That Strikes On Nuclear Facilities In Iran Are An Option**

By Mark Lavie, Associated Press

JERUSALEM - Prime Minister Ehud Olmert warned yesterday that all options are open when it comes to keeping Iran from obtaining atomic weapons, his clearest sign yet that Israel could use force against a nation considered among its most serious threats.

Addressing a closed meeting of the parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Olmert was quoted as saying that Israel would not accept an Iran armed with nuclear weapons.

Iran has always maintained that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, and a recent report by US intelligence agencies concluded that Iran suspended its nuclear weapons program in 2003. However, Israel continues to warn that Iran's goal is to acquire nuclear weapons.

Israel considers Iran a serious threat because of suspicions over its nuclear program and its long-range missile capabilities. Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has repeatedly called for Israel to be "wiped off the map," and there is evidence that Iran bankrolls such extremist anti-Israel groups as Hezbollah and Hamas.

A participant in the committee meeting yesterday said Olmert warned, "Israel clearly will not reconcile itself to a nuclear Iran," adding, "All options that prevent Iran from gaining nuclear capabilities are legitimate within the context of how to grapple with this matter."

The meeting participant spoke on condition of anonymity because the session was closed.

Israel has been warning about Iran's nuclear program for more than a decade.

It has said that since Iran threatens not only Israel but also Europe and the Middle East, Israel will not take the lead in the struggle to keep Iran free of nuclear weapons.

But there has been speculation that Israel might mount a preemptive strike at Iran, similar to its 1981 Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

However, analysts have pointed out that the Iranian nuclear facilities are spread around the country, many of them hidden, and doubt whether Israel has the military capability of destroying Iran's nuclear program.

Meir Javedanfar, an Israel-based Iran analyst, said Olmert refused to rule out a military option "in order to increase the urgency to find a diplomatic solution."

"I think this is Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's way of making sure that the international community stays alert on the Iranian nuclear issues," Javedanfar said.

[http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2008/01/15/olmert\\_hints\\_that\\_strikes\\_on\\_nuclear\\_facilities\\_in\\_iran\\_are\\_an\\_option/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2008/01/15/olmert_hints_that_strikes_on_nuclear_facilities_in_iran_are_an_option/)

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CRS Report - RL33548

## **Nuclear Weapons: Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**

30-Nov-2007; Jonathan Medalia; 47 p.

**Update:** Previous Releases:

January 18, 2007

July 10, 2006

August 28, 2006

#### MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization held its 26th session June 20-23, 2006. On March 10, Vietnam became the 132nd nation to ratify the CTBT. On February 23, the United States and United Kingdom jointly conducted a subcritical experiment at the Nevada Test Site. On December 22, 2005, an Indian government official said, "India has stated that it will not stand in the way of the Entry into Force of the [Comprehensive Test Ban] Treaty." On December 8, the U.N. General Assembly adopted, 168-2, a resolution sponsored by Japan, "Renewed Determination Towards the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons," that, among other things, urged nations to ratify the CTBT and continue nuclear test moratoria. The fourth conference on facilitating CTBT entry into force was held September 21-23, 2005, at U.N. Headquarters in New York.

**Abstract:** *A comprehensive test ban treaty, or CTBT, is the oldest item on the nuclear arms control agenda. Three treaties currently limit testing to underground only, with a maximum force equal to 150,000 tons of TNT. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, the United States conducted 1,030 nuclear tests, the Soviet Union 715, the United Kingdom 45, France 210, and China 45. The last U.S. test was held in 1992; Russia claims it has not tested since 1990. In 1998, India and Pakistan announced several nuclear tests and declared that they were nuclear weapon states; each declared a moratorium on further tests, but neither has signed the CTBT. North Korea, which has not signed the treaty, conducted a nuclear test on October 9, 2006.*

Since 1997, the United States has held 23 "subcritical experiments" at the Nevada Test Site, most recently on August 30, 2006, to study how plutonium behaves under pressures generated by explosives. It asserts these experiments do not violate the CTBT because they cannot produce a self-sustaining chain reaction. Russia has reportedly held some since 1998, including several in 2000.

The U.N. General Assembly adopted the CTBT in 1996. As of November 30, 2007, 177 states had signed it; 141, including Russia, had ratified; and of the 44 that must ratify the treaty for it to enter into force, 41 had signed and 34 had ratified. Five conferences have been held to facilitate entry into force, most recently in 2007.

In 1997, President Clinton transmitted the CTBT to the Senate. On October 13, 1999, the Senate rejected the treaty, 48 for, 51 against, 1 present. It is now on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's calendar. It would require a two-thirds Senate vote to send the treaty back to the President for disposal or to give advice and consent for ratification; few see either event as likely.

In 2002, the Administration said it continues to oppose the CTBT, continues to adhere to the test moratorium, has not ruled out resumed testing, and has no plans to test. These positions remain current. It indicated plans to reduce the time between a decision to conduct a nuclear test and the test itself, which has been done. Critics raised concerns about the implications of these policies for testing and new weapons.

At present, Congress addresses nuclear weapon issues in the annual National Defense Authorization Act and the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. Congress considers the Stockpile Stewardship Program (listed as Weapons Activities), which seeks to maintain nuclear weapons without testing. The FY2007 operating plan for it contains \$6.276 billion; the FY2008 request is \$6.511 billion.

Congress considers a U.S. contribution to a global system to monitor events that might violate the CTBT. The United States paid \$10.0 million for FY2007; the FY2008 request is \$18.0 million. The United States had lost its voting rights in the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission because it had not paid enough of its dues, but paid an additional \$3.5 million around the beginning of October, restoring its voting rights. This report will be updated.

<http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRS/abstract.cfm?NLEid=1685>

(For complete report, please click link below.)

<http://www.ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/07Nov/RL33548.pdf>

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Washington Times

January 16, 2008

Pg. 13

## **Warsaw Ups Ante For U.S. Shield**

*Says base 'risk' with added costs*

By Nicholas Kravev and Andrew Borowiec, Washington Times

The United States is headed for tough negotiations with Poland over a planned missile defense shield in Eastern Europe, with Warsaw now demanding that Washington pour hundreds of millions of dollars into improving its defense capabilities.

The Bush administration considered the deal almost done under Poland's previous government, but the recently elected Prime Minister Donald Tusk has raised serious questions about the costs and benefits from the missile system for his country.

Mr. Tusk sent his defense minister, Bogdan Klich, to Washington this week to make the new government's case.

"We believe that the injection of American funds into modernization of our armed forces would balance the risk to our security linked to the construction of the base," Mr. Klich told the Dziennik newspaper before leaving Poland. Mr. Klich met yesterday with Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates after holding talks with Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte on Monday.

"It's a negotiation. We are allies, but even allies have negotiations," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters. "They have a certain set of interests, and we want to talk to them about how, in the framework of these negotiations and our understanding, that we can accommodate their interests."

U.S. officials did not say whether they would accept Poland's new demands, but they indicated that the significance of the missile project for the administration would translate into flexibility during the negotiations.

"They have some domestic concerns which they are trying to address, while at the same time we are trying to figure out how to work with them to continue to move forward on what we believe to be a program of vital importance not just for us but really for Europe," said Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell.

Mr. Klich said after his meeting with Mr. Gates: "We still in Poland do not see the right balance between the costs and the benefits of this installation."

The \$3.5 billion system known at the Pentagon as the Ballistic Missile Defense European Capability is intended to protect Europe and the United States against a limited intermediate- and long-range ballistic missile attack from the Middle East, particularly Iran.

The Bush administration wants to place 10 interceptor missiles in Poland, for which it would have to build a base, and a radar installation in the Czech Republic.

But Mr. Tusk and other Cabinet members have said that hosting part of the system would make Polish air space more vulnerable.

"We feel no threat from Iran," Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski told the Warsaw daily Gazeta Wyborcza. "It is not the benefits but the risks of the system that have to be discussed fully. ... We cannot carry the cost alone."

Mr. Morrell said yesterday such statements "are not helpful." He reminded the Poles that the United States was "instrumental in them becoming members of NATO."

"They are the biggest beneficiary within Europe of defense aid. Nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars under the Bush administration has been provided to the Polish military in military aid," he said. "And because of that special relationship, we believe that we can overcome whatever differences may exist on this issue very quickly."

Another complicating matter for the U.S. is Mr. Tusk's promise to repair relations with Russia, which have been strained since the end of the Cold War and particularly under the previous Polish government.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has described the planned installation of interceptors and radar sites in Europe as the start of a new arms race and suspended Russia's participation in the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty.

*Andrew Borowiec contributed to this article from Geneva.*

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080116/FOREIGN/550717248/1003>

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U.S. Joint Forces Command

## **USJFCOM readies for Noble Resolve 08**

**U.S. Joint Forces Command and U.S. Northern Command recently began planning for Noble Resolve 08, a series of events designed to enhance homeland defense measures and military support during natural or man-made disasters.**

**By Robert Pursell**

**USJFCOM Public Affairs**

(SUFFOLK, Va. - Jan. 16, 2008) - U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) and U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) recently began planning for Noble Resolve 08, a series of events designed to enhance homeland defense measures and military support during natural or man-made disasters.

Noble Resolve, sponsored by USJFCOM but in support of NORTHCOM, is an experimentation campaign supporting NORTHCOM's efforts to develop solutions and capabilities for the U.S. to better defend the homeland and improve response to a crisis.

Rear Adm. Dan Davenport, director of the Joint Concept Development and Experimentation Directorate (J9), explained USJFCOM's role in the event.

"Our particular role for this event is that we design and conduct the experiment," he said. "We will provide the distributed experimentation environment, we generate a scenario and we distribute it out to all of the participants so we don't have to bring everyone to Suffolk, Va. for the experiment."

Noble Resolve will use intricate computer-based models and long distance virtual connections to provide the environment for participants to make decisions and work together as they would in case of a real crisis. By using the models, no troops or emergency personnel will actually have to deploy or respond to events, saving money and time. "We can let them actually see the scenario and provide their responses and execute their procedures in their own locations, fusion centers, and operating centers," said Davenport.

"We will also coordinate the participation. We'll synthesize the results and then we're responsible to ensure those results and the things that we've learned, concepts and capabilities, are transitioned properly so that the operators, whether they're state, federal, local and DoD, are able to gain from what we've learned," said Davenport.

USJFCOM and NORTHCOM will partner with other combatant commands, to include U.S. Pacific Command. Major participation will also come from the Department of Homeland Security, the National Guard Bureau and National Guard organizations from several states.

Experimentation scenarios will involve the commonwealth of Virginia, Oregon, Texas and Indiana; as well as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) organizations in those regional areas.

Davenport explained the scenarios will focus on information sharing, maritime domain awareness (MDA), natural disasters, mass population movement, and weapons of mass destruction.

"The major efforts that we're focused on are maritime domain awareness. We're also looking at improving our detection, identification, and tracking of weapons of mass destruction. [We'll look at] mass population movement from a national disaster or other challenge and the long-term sustainment of a reaction for us for a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive event," he said.

Air Force Col. Gene Taylor, the USJFCOM Noble Resolve lead, explained each of the scenarios.

"The piece about population movement with FEMA will be a microcosm spurred by natural disaster to allow them to look at how they would deal with large population movement," he said. "There will be an earthquake in order to stimulate our FEMA region 3 partners in Indiana and some of the associated responders to a defense support civil authorities' role.

"We'll have some simultaneous scenarios going on to include an MDA- type threat to both the east and west coast to simulate particular fusion centers there to drive the information sharing that we want to measure at the end of year event."

Davenport said during a national crisis, the biggest challenge is sharing information and coordinating procedures amongst all of the civil authorities. The two Noble Resolve experiments in 2007 built a foundation and established many of the partnerships and information-sharing and coordination procedures that need to be in place in order to prepare for future crisis. Noble Resolve 08 will benefit from this foundation.

"We were successful in establishing many of those partnerships, establishing some of those procedures, evaluating some tools that can be put into place and evaluating some of the command and control structures between the state, federal, local and DoD organizations," he said. "Much of that work will carry into the future efforts and so there are similarities in the themes from last year to what we're doing this year, but we're advancing those capabilities and those experiments for this year."

This year, instead of having two main experimentation events like last year, there will be a number of workshops and limited objective experiments throughout the year focused on specific objectives and research questions. These will culminate into one major event in late July.

<http://www.jfcom.mil/newslink/storyarchive/2008/pa011608.htm>

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## **TOWARD A NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD**

**By GEORGE P. SHULTZ, WILLIAM J. PERRY, HENRY A. KISSINGER and SAM NUNN**  
***THE WALL STREET JOURNAL***

***January 15, 2008***

The accelerating spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear know-how and nuclear material has brought us to a nuclear tipping point. We face a very real possibility that the deadliest weapons ever invented could fall into dangerous hands.

The steps we are taking now to address these threats are not adequate to the danger. With nuclear weapons more widely available, deterrence is decreasingly effective and increasingly hazardous.

One year ago, in an essay in this paper, we called for a global effort to reduce reliance on nuclear weapons, to prevent their spread into potentially dangerous hands, and ultimately to end them as a threat to the world. The interest, momentum and growing political space that has been created to address these issues over the past year has been extraordinary, with strong positive responses from people all over the world.

Mikhail Gorbachev wrote in January 2007 that, as someone who signed the first treaties on real reductions in nuclear weapons, he thought it his duty to support our call for urgent action: "It is becoming clearer that nuclear weapons are no longer a means of achieving security; in fact, with every passing year they make our security more precarious."

In June, the United Kingdom's foreign secretary, Margaret Beckett, signaled her government's support, stating: "What we need is both a vision – a scenario for a world free of nuclear weapons – and action – progressive steps to reduce warhead numbers and to limit the role of nuclear weapons in security policy. These two strands are separate but they are mutually reinforcing. Both are necessary, but at the moment too weak."

We have also been encouraged by additional indications of general support for this project from other former U.S. officials with extensive experience as secretaries of state and defense and national security advisors. These include: Madeleine Albright, Richard V. Allen, James A. Baker III, Samuel R. Berger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Frank Carlucci, Warren Christopher, William Cohen, Lawrence Eagleburger, Melvin Laird, Anthony Lake, Robert McFarlane, Robert McNamara and Colin Powell.

Inspired by this reaction, in October 2007, we convened veterans of the past six administrations, along with a number of other experts on nuclear issues, for a conference at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. There was general agreement about the importance of the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons as a guide to our thinking about nuclear policies, and about the importance of a series of steps that will pull us back from the nuclear precipice. The U.S. and Russia, which possess close to 95% of the world's nuclear warheads, have a special responsibility, obligation and experience to demonstrate leadership, but other nations must join.

Some steps are already in progress, such as the ongoing reductions in the number of nuclear warheads deployed on long-range, or strategic, bombers and missiles. Other near-term steps that the U.S. and Russia could take, beginning in 2008, can in and of themselves dramatically reduce nuclear dangers. They include:

- *Extend key provisions of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty of 1991.* Much has been learned about the vital task of verification from the application of these provisions. The treaty is scheduled to expire on Dec. 5, 2009. The key provisions of this treaty, including their essential monitoring and verification requirements, should be extended, and the further reductions agreed upon in the 2002 Moscow Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions should be completed as soon as possible.
- *Take steps to increase the warning and decision times for the launch of all nucleararmed ballistic missiles, thereby reducing risks of accidental or unauthorized attacks.* Reliance on launch procedures that deny command authorities sufficient time to make careful and prudent decisions is unnecessary and dangerous in today's environment. Furthermore, developments in cyber-warfare pose new threats that could have disastrous consequences if the command-and-control systems of any nuclear-weapons state were compromised by mischievous or hostile hackers. Further steps could be implemented in time, as trust grows in the U.S.-Russian relationship, by introducing mutually agreed and verified physical barriers in the command-and-control sequence.
- *Discard any existing operational plans for massive attacks that still remain from the Cold War days.* Interpreting deterrence as requiring mutual assured destruction (MAD) is an obsolete policy in today's world, with the U.S. and Russia formally having declared that they are allied against terrorism and no longer perceive each other as enemies.
- *Undertake negotiations toward developing cooperative multilateral ballistic-missile defense and early warning systems, as proposed by Presidents Bush and Putin at their 2002 Moscow summit meeting.* This should include agreement on plans for countering missile threats to Europe, Russia and the U.S. from the Middle East, along with completion of work to establish the Joint Data Exchange Center in Moscow. Reducing tensions over missile defense will enhance the possibility of progress on the broader range of nuclear issues so essential to our security. Failure to do so will make broader nuclear cooperation much more difficult.
- *Dramatically accelerate work to provide the highest possible standards of security for nuclear weapons, as well as for nuclear materials everywhere in the world, to prevent terrorists from acquiring a nuclear bomb.* There are nuclear weapons materials in more than 40 countries around the world, and there are recent reports of alleged attempts to smuggle nuclear material in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. The U.S., Russia and other nations that have worked with the Nunn-Lugar programs, in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), should play a key role in helping to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 relating to improving nuclear security – by offering teams to assist jointly any nation in meeting its obligations under this resolution to provide for appropriate, effective security of these materials.

As Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger put it in his address at our October conference, "Mistakes are made in every other human endeavor. Why should nuclear weapons be exempt?" To underline the governor's point, on Aug. 29-30,

2007, six cruise missiles armed with nuclear warheads were loaded on a U.S. Air Force plane, flown across the country and unloaded. For 36 hours, no one knew where the warheads were, or even that they were missing.

- *Start a dialogue, including within NATO and with Russia, on consolidating the nuclear weapons designed for forward deployment to enhance their security, and as a first step toward careful accounting for them and their eventual elimination.* These smaller and more portable nuclear weapons are, given their characteristics, inviting acquisition targets for terrorist groups.

- *Strengthen the means of monitoring compliance with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a counter to the global spread of advanced technologies.* More progress in this direction is urgent, and could be achieved through requiring the application of monitoring provisions (Additional Protocols) designed by the IAEA to all signatories of the NPT.

- *Adopt a process for bringing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) into effect, which would strengthen the NPT and aid international monitoring of nuclear activities.* This calls for a bipartisan review, first, to examine improvements over the past decade of the international monitoring system to identify and locate explosive underground nuclear tests in violation of the CTBT; and, second, to assess the technical progress made over the past decade in maintaining high confidence in the reliability, safety and effectiveness of the nation's nuclear arsenal under a test ban. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization is putting in place new monitoring stations to detect nuclear tests – an effort the U.S. should urgently support even prior to ratification.

In parallel with these steps by the U.S. and Russia, the dialogue must broaden on an international scale, including non-nuclear as well as nuclear nations.

Key subjects include turning the goal of a world without nuclear weapons into a practical enterprise among nations, by applying the necessary political will to build an international consensus on priorities. The government of Norway will sponsor a conference in February that will contribute to this process.

Another subject: Developing an international system to manage the risks of the nuclear fuel cycle. With the growing global interest in developing nuclear energy and the potential proliferation of nuclear enrichment capabilities, an international program should be created by advanced nuclear countries and a strengthened IAEA. The purpose should be to provide for reliable supplies of nuclear fuel, reserves of enriched uranium, infrastructure assistance, financing, and spent fuel management – to ensure that the means to make nuclear weapons materials isn't spread around the globe.

There should also be an agreement to undertake further substantial reductions in U.S. and Russian nuclear forces beyond those recorded in the U.S.-Russia Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty. As the reductions proceed, other nuclear nations would become involved.

President Reagan's maxim of "trust but verify" should be reaffirmed. Completing a verifiable treaty to prevent nations from producing nuclear materials for weapons would contribute to a more rigorous system of accounting and security for nuclear materials.

We should also build an international consensus on ways to deter or, when required, to respond to, secret attempts by countries to break out of agreements.

Progress must be facilitated by a clear statement of our ultimate goal. Indeed, this is the only way to build the kind of international trust and broad cooperation that will be required to effectively address today's threats. Without the vision of moving toward zero, we will not find the essential cooperation required to stop our downward spiral.

In some respects, the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons is like the top of a very tall mountain. From the vantage point of our troubled world today, we can't even see the top of the mountain, and it is tempting and easy to say we can't get there from here. But the risks from continuing to go down the mountain or standing pat are too real to ignore. We must chart a course to higher ground where the mountaintop becomes more visible.

***Mr. Shultz was secretary of state from 1982 to 1989. Mr. Perry was secretary of defense from 1994 to 1997. Mr. Kissinger was secretary of state from 1973 to 1977. Mr. Nunn is former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.***

***The following participants in the Hoover-NTI conference also endorse the view in this statement: General John Abizaid, Graham Allison, Brooke Anderson, Martin Anderson, Steve Andreasen, Mike Armacost, Bruce Blair, Matt Bunn, Ashton Carter, Sidney Drell, General Vladimir Dvorkin, Bob Einhorn, Mark Fitzpatrick, James Goodby, Rose Gottemoeller, Tom Graham, David Hamburg, Siegfried Hecker, Tom Henriksen, David Holloway, Raymond Jeanloz, Ray Juzaitis, Max Kampelman, Jack Matlock, Michael McFaul, John McLaughlin, Don Oberdorfer, Pavel Podvig, William Potter, Richard Rhodes, Joan Rohlfing, Harry Rowen, Scott Sagan, Roald Sagdeev, Abe Sofaer, Richard Solomon, and Philip Zelikow.***

<http://www.kintera.org/TR.asp?a=gkLRI2PPIpJWJgL&s=9gKQI0MvFdIQIXOwFIE&m=lvKYKbPUJIL8E>

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New York Times  
January 17, 2008

## Accords On U.S. Missile Shield Are Taking Shape, Czech Says

By Judy Dempsey

BERLIN — The Czech Republic and the United States are within months of signing three framework agreements on the deployment of the Pentagon's missile shield, Karel Schwarzenberg, the Czech foreign minister, said Wednesday. One agreement would be related to the deployment of radar installations on Czech territory, he said. The second would involve American and Czech companies cooperating on research, development and the deployment of the ballistic missile defense system. The third would establish the status of United States forces stationed on Czech territory.

"We hope to conclude the negotiations on the text by the end of spring," Mr. Schwarzenberg said, referring to the defense cooperation agreement. "The document should minimize the legal, trade and political limitations and create favorable conditions for establishing new ties and contacts between Czech and American researchers and businessmen."

The Czech announcement, during talks in Prague that included Lt. Gen. Henry A. Obering III, director of the United States Missile Defense Agency, and American and Czech defense contractors, came as Poland's new center-right government resumed talks with the United States over the terms for deploying up to 10 interceptors on Polish territory.

In talks on the missile shield, the Czech Republic has set much more modest demands than Poland has. It has requested that its companies be involved in some of the defense contracts, as well as the development of the system. Poland is asking the United States to contribute to financing and modernizing Poland's air defense system. The Polish demands, which were presented this week during talks in Washington between Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and his Polish counterpart, Bogdan Klich, are being considered by the Pentagon.

"This is about our American friends contributing to modernizing our air defense system," Mr. Klich said Wednesday after two days of talks.

Poland still has some cards to play. Prime Minister Donald Tusk has said that he will withdraw the remainder of Poland's 900 troops from Iraq this year. He has also said he will enhance the military's presence in Afghanistan. Warsaw has 1,200 soldiers in Afghanistan and is prepared to send 400 more in the coming months, according to the Polish Defense Ministry.

The Pentagon said this week that it would send 3,200 more troops to Afghanistan, after repeated requests by NATO commanders for additional forces. The troops are expected to serve in Afghanistan for seven months, raising the total number of American forces there to about 30,000. But United States defense officials said that they expected other NATO allies to respond accordingly.

"We're going to need our allies' help to either back fill this deployment or to perhaps match us in the numbers we're putting forth," said Geoff Morrell, the Pentagon press secretary.

Commanders of NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan have said in the past that they require 7,500 more troops to confront Taliban insurgents and to help train new Afghan soldiers and police officers, Mr. Morrell said.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/17/world/europe/17shield\\_web.html?ref=world](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/17/world/europe/17shield_web.html?ref=world)

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Los Angeles Times  
January 17, 2008

## West Says N. Korea, Syria Had Nuclear Link

*A European diplomat says the consensus is that a site in the Mideast nation bombed by Israel was part of an atomic program.*

By Paul Richter, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Western governments have concluded that Syria and North Korea were collaborating on a nuclear weapons program at a mysterious site in the Syrian desert that was bombed by Israel last year, a senior European diplomat said Wednesday in a rare comment about the episode by a high-ranking official.

The diplomat said that after a review of available intelligence, Western governments have reached "some sort of common ground . . . that there seems to have been cooperation between Syria and North Korea" at the site. The official's remarks were made on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject



Since the Israeli bombing in September, U.S. and allied officials have said little about the attack, the site or the possible existence of a Syrian nuclear weapons program, which could further destabilize the turbulent Middle East. Officials at the CIA and the State Department declined comment again Wednesday.

But the European official's remarks represented both an acknowledgment of the attack and the conclusion of Western governments that the site was a nuclear installation. Before Wednesday, leading Americans, Israelis and Western allies had avoided addressing either issue.

An international consensus that the governments in Pyongyang and Damascus have collaborated on nuclear weapons would mark a new setback to U.S. efforts to entice North Korea to scrap its nuclear armament program. It also could blunt efforts to pursue engagement with Syria, after apparent U.S. overtures before November's Mideast peace conference in Annapolis, Md.

Yet some observers have remained skeptical that the Syrian structure was part of any nuclear program.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog, has said that on the basis of satellite photos, IAEA experts believe it unlikely the site housed a nuclear reactor.

ElBaradei's comments came in a Jan. 8 interview with the Arabic-language newspaper Al Hayat.

Syrian officials have said repeatedly that the building was not a nuclear installation but an empty military structure. Israeli officials have acknowledged the attack in vague terms but have provided no detailed information concerning the site.

U.S. allies acknowledge that the evidence of weapons activity could be stronger.

The European diplomat acknowledged that the available intelligence is "not as much as we would love to have about that."

He also said it was not clear how far along the Syrian effort was, or what the Syrian government is doing now at the site.

There have been some signs of rebuilding at the site, on the banks of the Euphrates in eastern Syria. Recent satellite photos by a private Colorado firm, DigitalGlobe, show a new building on part of the site, based on photos kept on the firm's website. However, private analysts said it was unlikely the Syrians would try to duplicate facilities destroyed in the Israeli attack.

The European diplomat said it was "possible" that the structure that seems to be under construction at the site was being built simply to conceal the nature of past activities.

David Schenker, a former Pentagon specialist on Syria now at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said a general agreement among Western governments that North Korea and Syria collaborated at a nuclear site would be "a pretty significant development."

There has been wide agreement that North Korea has helped Syria on its arms program. Pyongyang helped Damascus build Scud missiles, the crude, short-range weapons used by Iraq in the 1991 Persian Gulf War, as well as more advanced designs, Schenker noted.

Syria has sought to buy nuclear reactors in years past from several countries, including Russia, analysts say.

International officials know of only one small reactor operating in Syria, a 30-kilowatt Chinese-supplied plant at Dayr Al Hajar. .

ElBaradei, in his Al Hayat interview, said IAEA officials would like to examine the Syrian site but have so far been barred by Damascus. Syria is a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which allows for periodic inspections of declared nuclear materials and activities.

U.S. officials have asked North Korea whether it has worked with Syria on a nuclear program; the North Koreans have denied it.

As part of the ongoing denuclearization talks between North Korea and five international powers, U.S. officials are awaiting a formal declaration of Pyongyang's nuclear activities, including any nuclear collaboration with Damascus. North Korea, however, has said it plans no further disclosures, jeopardizing what had been considered a promising deal.

The potential warming between U.S. and Syrian officials already had begun to encounter strains.

After hints of progress last fall, friction has developed recently over Lebanon's selection of a new government. U.S. officials are unhappy with what they consider Syrian meddling in the process.

On Tuesday, as President Bush toured the Middle East, a bomb exploded near a U.S. Embassy convoy in Beirut, killing three people and injuring more than 20, including two U.S. Embassy employees who are Lebanese.

Schenker said the bomb may have been intended as a warning from Syrian-supported militants to U.S. officials.

*Times staff writer Greg Miller contributed to this report.*

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-syria17jan17,1,1225988.story?coll=la-headlines-world>

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(Editor's Note: Hyperlink for referenced report follows article.)

Washington Post

January 17, 2008

Pg. 16

## **GAO Report Challenges Effect Of Longtime U.S. Sanctions On Iran**

By Robin Wright, Washington Post Staff Writer

A three-year international effort to pressure Iran is faltering, with a new report to Congress questioning the impact of 20 years of U.S. economic sanctions on Tehran and a long-sought U.N. resolution against Iran in trouble.

In a report released yesterday, the investigative arm of Congress challenged the impact of U.S. sanctions against Iran dating to 1987. Tehran has circumvented many economic sanctions, it concluded, noting Iran's ability to negotiate \$20 billion in contracts with foreign firms since 2003 to develop its energy resources. With the country's oil wealth, Iranian banks also have funded their activities in currencies other than the dollar.

"Iran's global trade ties and leading role in energy production make it difficult for the United States to isolate Iran and pressure it to reduce proliferation and support for terrorism," the Government Accountability Office said. "Iran's overall trade with the world has grown since the U.S. imposed sanctions, although this trade has fluctuated."

The report also faults the Bush administration for not developing a system to assess sanctions and recommends that Congress require the National Security Council to do so and report results regularly to Congress.

The Treasury Department countered that Iran faces "increased economic, financial and political isolation" because of U.S. and U.N. sanctions, with about 25,000 transactions worth more than \$5 billion rejected since 1997. Stuart A. Levey, undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, said many financial institutions had stopped doing business with Iran.

The report comes as the Bush administration is struggling to salvage a new U.N. resolution on Iran. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is expected to meet with representatives of the world's major powers in Berlin on Tuesday to try to work out disputes that have significantly watered down new punitive measures on Iran, European and U.S. officials said.

"The substance is getting smaller and smaller," said a senior European official, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive diplomacy still underway. Some of the provisions in the latest draft call for "monitoring" financial transactions with Iran rather than freezing assets of institutions, banks and businesses suspected of ties to nuclear proliferation.

The United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany backed two modest resolutions -- in December 2006 and March 2007 -- demanding Iran suspend its uranium enrichment, a process that can be used to produce energy and to develop a nuclear weapon. After Tehran failed to comply, the Bush administration called on the Security Council to impose tougher restrictions on Iranian banks, financial institutions and military.

"The whole strategy here is to use various kinds of diplomatic pressure at a gradually increasing rate to try to get a different set of decisions out of the Iranian leadership," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said.

After a U.S. National Intelligence Estimate last month said Iran had halted its nuclear weapons program in 2003, the Bush administration has been under increasing pressure from across the Arab world not to consider military options against Tehran. The Arab News yesterday called President Bush's "saber rattling" against Iran during his Middle East tour "sad, even depressing."

Undersecretary of State R. Nicholas Burns has had almost daily conversations with allies over the past two weeks.

"We still have some gas left in the tank," a senior administration official said.

But the main product of eight months of intense diplomacy may be just getting a resolution that still has limited practical impact on Iran, European officials said. "Even if there's not much substance in the end, at least we'll have a show of unity," one European official said.

Russia and China balked at earlier drafts. Both countries have significant financial ties to Iran, with Moscow building Iran's first nuclear reactor and China importing Iranian oil. The resolution is now not expected to be put up for a vote until next month, U.S. and European officials said.

The divisions among the world's major powers will make it increasingly difficult for the Bush administration to achieve its goal of getting Iran to suspend uranium enrichment before leaving office, diplomats said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/16/AR2008011603711.html>

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## **Iran Sanctions: Impact in Furthering U.S. Objectives Is Unclear and Should Be Reviewed.**

GAO-08-58, December 18.

## Why GAO Did This Study

The 2006 U.S. National Security Strategy stated that the United States faces challenges from Iran, including Iran's proliferation efforts and involvement in international terrorism. To address these concerns, the United States employs a range of tools, including diplomatic pressure, a military presence in the Gulf, and sanctions. A U.S. sanction is a unilateral restriction or condition on economic activity imposed by the United States for reasons of foreign policy or national security.

We were asked to review (1) U.S. sanctions targeting Iran and their implementation, (2) reported sanction impacts, and (3) factors limiting sanctions. To conduct the review, we assessed trade and sanction data, information on Iran's economy and energy sector, and U.S. and international reports on Iran, and discussed sanctions with U.S. officials and Iran experts.

## What GAO Recommends

Congress should consider requiring the National Security Council, in collaboration with key agencies, to (1) assess data on Iran sanctions and complete an overall baseline assessment of sanctions, (2) develop a framework for ongoing assessments, and (3) periodically report the results to Congress.

The Department of the Treasury commented that it assesses the impact of financial sanctions. We now cite Treasury's assessments in our report but conclude no overall assessment of all U.S. sanctions has been conducted. (For complete report, please click on link below.)

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-08-58>

Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0858high.pdf>

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Marianas Variety

### Guam News

Thursday January 17, 2008

## Andersen to exercise disease containment readiness

By Senior Airman Miranda Moorer

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam -- Recent events such as the anthrax attacks that struck the United States shortly after 9/11, the Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome that occurred in 2003, and Hurricane Katrina and the ensuing disaster response, have highlighted the need for the Department of Defense to be able to respond to natural disasters and acts of asymmetric warfare.

As part of a March 2007 exercise, the 36th Wing added a looming avian flu outbreak scenario to the week's events, but as Col. Walter Cayce, 36th Medical Group commander stated, that particular exercise was the first of a series of required exercises to improve Andersen's capabilities to effectively respond to a natural disaster.

While last year's exercise touched on the topic of pandemics and was required by Air Force Instruction 10-2603 Public Health Emergency Powers, the current base-wide disease containment exercise will put more of the installation's people and resources to the test with a different, but equally serious, medical scenario.

The exercise is a requirement of AFI 10-2604 Disease Containment and will test the base's ability to respond to either a natural occurring disease, or an act of asymmetric warfare, Colonel Cayce said.

The January 15th and 16th exercise addresses not only medical response issues--such as identification and containment--but services issues, legal, security and public affairs issues.

Successful response to such an event requires a coordinated response by the entire base in cooperation with community and national leaders.

Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, the United States experienced several anthrax attacks in the New York and Washington D.C. areas by an unknown suspect. Naturally, this caused the Department of Defense to rethink and reexamine its ability to respond to a new threat to America and our allies, asymmetric attacks whether by terrorists or an enemy state.

\* Response Capability \*

Bases' mandatory compliance with Air Force Instruction 10-2604, Disease Containment Planning Guidance, is one example of the Air Force's continued attempt to develop and increase response capabilities in the event of a biological attack.

"This [DCP exercise] is how we're responding to this doctrine," said Colonel Cayce, "the true test is in exercising these capabilities."

Historically, pandemics have been world-changing events, such as the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 that killed between 20 and 40 million people around the world. The hope is that with better preparation the United States will

be able to mitigate the effects of such immense events as a natural pandemic or biologic attack. The DoD and USAF have a major role to play in making this happen.

While health and sanitation standards and vaccinations play a big role in the prevention of such outbreaks today, the possibility of unexpected pandemic diseases occurring naturally or as the result of a deliberate attack requires our personnel be aware of the risks and prepared to respond, said Colonel Cayce.

For now, the Air Force and Pacific Air Forces are ensuring that all bases begin exercising our ability to fully integrate the potential for medical and base plans for response to potential terrorist attacks.

Sometime in the future, Colonel Cayce anticipates the wing will conduct not just a base-wide but an island-wide DCP exercise. But for now, he said, it's important to test the elements and intra-base communication required for this unique threat.

While this exercise may sound like it's solely geared towards the emergency powers of medical personnel, Colonel Cayce emphasized that many agencies on base possess capabilities that are out of the scope of the Medical Group and will be expected to test them and generate ideas for improvement.

"This is going to be an exercise that includes a tremendous amount of learning. Although a unlikely event, I believe that if [a biological attack] does happen we'll be better off for it because of what we've learned and what we've developed from the exercise next week," he said.

Andersen should expect to see and hear warning announcements for elements of the disease containment scenario marked "Exercise" through several means on the 15th and 16th, among them the base public address system, or "giant voice," emails and the commander's access channel.

[http://www.mvariety.com/?module=displaystory&story\\_id=5312&format=html](http://www.mvariety.com/?module=displaystory&story_id=5312&format=html)

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Washington Times

January 18, 2008

Pg. 13

## **Nuke-Capable Missile Tested**

JERUSALEM — Israel tested a missile yesterday, prompting speculation about its ability to launch nuclear strikes on Iran after Israeli warnings and accusations about Tehran's atomic ambitions.

Photographs posted on Israeli news Web sites showed a white plume in the sky above central Israel — suggesting a test of a large missile.

Israel Radio said the missile was capable of carrying an "unconventional payload" — an apparent reference to the nuclear warheads that Israel is assumed to possess.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/article/20080118/FOREIGN/647275842/1003/FOREIGN>

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Washington Post

January 18, 2008

Pg. 16

## **Bush Envoy To N. Korea Criticizes Six-Party Talks**

By Foster Klug, Associated Press

A U.S. official, in a rare public departure from Bush administration policy, yesterday criticized the nuclear talks with North Korea, contending that Pyongyang is not serious about disarming.

Jay Lefkowitz, President Bush's envoy on North Korean human rights, said the North will likely "remain in its present nuclear status" when the next U.S. president takes over, despite four years of nuclear disarmament efforts.

"North Korea is not serious about disarming in a timely manner," Lefkowitz told an audience at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, referring to that country's recent missed deadlines and a surge in what he called "bellicose language."

"We should consider a new approach to North Korea," he said.

Lefkowitz suggested that negotiators link human rights and security concerns, something not achieved under the six-nation talks aimed at reaching an agreement under which North Korea dismantles its nuclear program. The North's treatment of its people, he said, is "inhumane and, therefore, deeply offensive to us."

"The key," Lefkowitz said of his proposal, "is to make the link between human rights and other issues explicit and non-severable, so that it cannot be discarded in any future rush to get to 'yes' in an agreement."

Lefkowitz's comments are at odds with recent statements by other Bush administration officials. But White House spokeswoman Dana Perino, when asked to comment, said the administration believes that six-party talks remain the best opportunity to reach the goal of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

Early in the administration, U.S. officials took a hard line on North Korea. But recently they have been cautious not to criticize Pyongyang for fear of unraveling the delicate nuclear negotiations.

When the North missed an end-of-2007 deadline to declare all of its nuclear programs, the comments by the chief U.S. envoy to the nuclear talks were measured. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher R. Hill pushed the North to quickly produce a "complete and correct" declaration. But he also indicated that the United States is prepared to wait.

Lefkowitz, when asked if he was speaking on behalf of the Bush administration, said U.S. policies "are under review right now."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/17/AR2008011703410.html>

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Houston Chronicle

January 18, 2008

## **U.S., Iran Lobby Chinese Over Proposed Nuclear Sanctions**

By Christopher Bodeen, Associated Press

BEIJING — U.S. and Iranian envoys lobbied China on Thursday over proposed new sanctions on Tehran's nuclear program, underscoring Beijing's key role in determining U.N. involvement in the dispute.

Visiting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte urged China to back proposed new U.N. measures aimed at convincing Iran to reveal more about its nuclear program, insisting that its alleged uranium enrichment and missile development programs remain a threat.

China has repeatedly opposed new measures. Underscoring the difficulty of his mission, Negroponte's comments in Beijing coincided with a visit by Iran's senior nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili.

The hard-line Jalili, who replaced moderate Ali Larijani in October, met with Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi to discuss bilateral ties and the nuclear issue, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said.

The diplomatic tug of war illustrates the importance of China, one of five veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council, in resolving the dispute.

State media said that Jiechi urged renewed talks on Iran's nuclear program.

"The Iranian nuclear issue is now at a crucial moment," Yang was quoted by the Xinhua News Agency as telling Jalili late Thursday. "China hopes all concerned parties, including Iran, make joint efforts to resume negotiations as soon as possible in a bid to promote the comprehensive and proper settlement of this issue."

Xinhua said Jalili told Yang that Iran's nuclear program was "completely of a peaceful nature." Iran rejects U.S. claims that it is seeking nuclear weapons.

Jalili said Iran wanted talks and was willing to boost cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, Xinhua said.

Energy-hungry China, which has extensive business interests in Iran, supported earlier U.N. resolutions against Tehran, but has sided with Russia in opposing a new sanctions resolution being sought by Washington and its allies, instead calling for more intensive negotiations.

That opposition has hardened since the December release of a U.S. National Intelligence Estimate that said Iran stopped working on a secret nuclear weapons program in 2003, contradicting Washington's previous view that Tehran was continuing such activities.

However, Negroponte said the report showed only that Iran has suspended work on warhead design but it was pressing ahead on uranium enrichment and missile development.

"Work continues by Iran on two out of those three parts of that program," Negroponte told reporters in Beijing before departing for the southern city of Guiyang, which is hosting a semiannual U.S.-China Senior Dialogue.

"We think it's important that there be an additional Security Council resolution because Iran is out of compliance on previously passed resolutions," Negroponte said.

He said he planned to raise the Iran issue at the talks with Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo, along with matters concerning Taiwan, Sudan, human rights and efforts to dismantle North Korea's nuclear program.

China's Yang is to meet with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and foreign ministers from the three other permanent Security Council members and Germany over the Iran nuclear issue in Berlin on Tuesday.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu indicated Thursday there were no changes to China's opposition to new sanctions. Beijing hopes the international community will "intensify diplomatic efforts for an early resumption of negotiations," she said at a regular news briefing.

China and the U.S. are increasingly linked through trade and international cooperation, although the potential for instability in ties was underscored by Beijing's barring of U.S. Navy ships from Hong Kong late last year. In Hong Kong, the head of the U.S. Pacific Command said Thursday he does not expect China to refuse future requests for American naval ships to visit there.

Adm. Timothy Keating said he had spoken with Chinese military and government officials about their refusal to allow the USS Kitty Hawk battle group and 8,000 sailors to dock in Hong Kong for a Thanksgiving break, and that they had indicated future visits were possible.

China said the ships were turned away because the U.S. military did not follow correct procedures in requesting the port visits. But some analysts suggested China was reacting to a congressional decision to grant an award to Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Beijing accuses the Dalai Lama of trying to split Tibet from China.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/world/5465342.html>

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