



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER  
**CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL**  
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

---

---

Issue No. 628, 9 May 2008

**Articles & Other Documents:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <a href="#">Debate rages over scanning mandate for incoming cargo</a>              | <a href="#">Iran rejects intrusive nuclear inspections as unfair in view of Israel</a> |
| <a href="#">U.S. Envoy To Urge Talks In N. Korea</a>                               | <a href="#">Poland: Conditions Set For Planned U.S. Missile Shield</a>                 |
| <a href="#">Gates Urges Full Funding For European Missile Defenses</a>             | <a href="#">U.S., Russia Sign Pact On Nuclear Cooperation</a>                          |
| <a href="#">India Tests Ballistic Missile Capable Of Reaching China</a>            | <a href="#">Poland, U.S. Will Talk Military Aid</a>                                    |
| <a href="#">Syria: Atomic Agency Seeks Answers</a>                                 | <a href="#">Carrier Returns To Test Missiles</a>                                       |
| <a href="#">State Department Asks Congress To Keep Quiet About Details Of Deal</a> | <a href="#">North Korea Gives U.S. Files On Plutonium Efforts</a>                      |
| <a href="#">China To Modernise Nuclear Weapons Capability</a>                      |  |
- 

Welcome to the CPC Outreach Journal. As part of USAF Counterproliferation Center's mission to counter weapons of mass destruction through education and research, we're providing our government and civilian community a source for timely counterproliferation information. This information includes articles, papers and other documents addressing issues pertinent to US military response options for dealing with nuclear, biological and chemical threats and attacks. It's our hope this information resource will help enhance your counterproliferation issue awareness. Established in 1998, the USAF/CPC provides education and research to present and future leaders of the Air Force, as well as to members of other branches of the armed services and Department of Defense. Our purpose is to help those agencies better prepare to counter the threat from weapons of mass destruction. Please feel free to visit our web site at <http://cpc.au.af.mil/> for in-depth information and specific points of contact. Please direct any questions or comments on CPC Outreach Journal to Jo Ann Eddy, CPC Outreach Editor, at (334) 953-7538 or DSN 493-7538. To subscribe, change e-mail address, or unsubscribe to this journal or to request inclusion on the mailing list for CPC publications, please contact Mrs. Eddy, [joann.eddy.ctr@maxwell.af.mil](mailto:joann.eddy.ctr@maxwell.af.mil). The following articles, papers or documents do not necessarily reflect official endorsement of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense, or other US government agencies. Reproduction for private use or commercial gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. All rights are reserved

GovExec.com

## **Debate rages over scanning mandate for incoming cargo**

By Chris Strohm *CongressDaily*

May 5, 2008

Although no longer in the spotlight, a congressional mandate that all cargo containers be scanned for weapons of mass destruction before they are shipped to the United States has fueled increasing debate between security advocates and business interests.

Congressional and industry officials said Monday they are anxiously awaiting a report from the Homeland Security Department on its pilot programs at foreign ports to scan 100 percent of the U.S.-bound cargo containers there. The report was supposed to be delivered to Congress last month, said Denise Krepp, senior counsel for House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss.

She said the report is likely to be delivered in June. Thompson led a controversial effort last year to include a mandate in a massive homeland security bill that requires all U.S.-bound cargo containers to be scanned at foreign ports by 2012.

Homeland Security Department officials are examining the cost and feasibility of meeting the 100 percent scanning requirement at six foreign ports.

Debate over cargo security erupted in 2006 after the Bush administration approved the now-defunct deal to have Dubai Ports World take over the management of major U.S. port operations. Although the public spotlight has faded, advocates and opponents of the mandate appeared as entrenched as ever during a panel discussion Monday at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

Former Republican Rep. Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, who also served as a senior Homeland Security official, said the upcoming report from Homeland Security on the test programs will be critical. "It will tell us the measure of success in the pilots," said Hutchinson, who also heads the Safe Commerce Coalition, an industry association that opposes the 100 percent scanning mandate. He expressed the view that no legitimate case has been made for the mandate. Instead, he said the U.S. government should use intelligence and shipping information to determine which containers pose high risks, and scan only those.

Michal Freedhoff, senior policy associate for House Global Warming Chairman Edward Markey, D-Mass., said she hopes the department report will include an assessment of how 100 percent scanning might create economic benefits, such as by helping to detect and deter smuggling activity.

Markey, who sits on the Homeland Security Committee, worked with Thompson to write the mandate into law. Freedhoff also said the cost to meet the mandate could be as low as \$20 per container, adding that each container carries about \$66,000 worth of goods using their retail value. Krepp and Freedhoff did not rule out the possibility that Congress might change or eliminate the mandate before 2012, but they said much more information is needed on the issue before making any determination.

"We have to see what's in that report," Krepp said.

[http://govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=39947&dcn=todaysnews](http://govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=39947&dcn=todaysnews)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

International Herald Tribune

## **Iran rejects intrusive nuclear inspections as unfair in view of Israel**

**The Associated Press**

Monday, May 5, 2008

**GENEVA:** Iran on Monday rejected pressure to submit to intrusive nuclear inspections while Israel is outside the global treaty to curb atomic weapons.

"The existing double standard shall not be tolerated anymore by nonnuclear-weapon states," Ambassador Ali Asghar Soltanieh told a meeting of the countries in the 190-nation Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

He said nuclear armed countries such as the United States, France and Britain were practicing "nuclear apartheid" by clandestinely providing nuclear supplies to favored countries while denying or restricting peaceful nuclear technology to countries like Iran.

"Access of developing countries to peaceful nuclear materials and technologies has been continuously denied to the extent that they have had no choice than to acquire their requirements for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including for medical and industrial applications from open markets," Soltanieh said.

This usually means the material provided is more expensive, poorer quality and less safe, he added.

Nuclear safeguards are far from universal, Soltanieh said, adding that more than 30 countries are still without a comprehensive safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure full cooperation with the nuclear watchdog.

"Israel, with huge nuclear weapons activities, has not concluded" such an agreement or submitted its facilities to the IAEA's safeguards, he said.

The United States accused Iran of "provocative and destabilizing activities" and said its leaders were responsible for leading the country into the sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council aimed at encouraging Iranian compliance with the treaty.

"The path of defiance is also the path of isolation, of continuing and additional sanctions and of further stunted economic opportunities for a proud and sophisticated people already suffering from economic turmoil and mismanagement by its regime's leaders," said Christopher A. Ford, U.S. special representative for nuclear nonproliferation.

Ford said Iran joined North Korea and Syria in weakening the nonproliferation treaty.

"This treaty regime faces today the most serious tests it has ever faced: the ongoing nuclear weapons proliferation challenges presented by Iran, by North Korea and now by Syria," Ford said.

He said North Korea's nuclear weapons program poses a threat to regional and global security.

And he cited U.S. allegations that Syria "until several months ago was secretly constructing a nuclear reactor that we believe was not intended for peaceful purposes."

Syria said last week that the U.S. allegations about the reactor, reportedly destroyed by Israeli bombs, were manufactured.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/05/05/news/UN-GEN-Nuclear-Treaty-Conference-Iran.php>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer

May 7, 2008

## **U.S. Envoy To Urge Talks In N. Korea**

WASHINGTON - A top State Department specialist on Korean affairs is going to North Korea for nuclear discussions, the United States said yesterday, in a flurry of diplomatic activity by American officials working to break an impasse in six-nation disarmament talks.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters that Sung Kim was scheduled to have meetings in Pyongyang, the North's capital, tomorrow. He called the meetings part of discussions to rid the North of its nuclear-weapons programs.

A senior U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the negotiations, said Kim was expected to pick up documents from the North Koreans, including some related to the country's plutonium program.

-- AP

[http://www.philly.com/inquirer/world\\_us/20080507\\_In\\_the\\_World.html](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/world_us/20080507_In_the_World.html)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

New York Times

May 7, 2008

## **Poland: Conditions Set For Planned U.S. Missile Shield**

By Agence France-Presse

Prime Minister Donald Tusk warned that Warsaw would block the United States' plan to base a missile shield in Poland unless Washington meets Polish demands, including helping to upgrade the country's military. Mr. Tusk's comments came on the eve of negotiations between Polish and American officials in Warsaw. Washington is seeking to build 10 silos in Poland for interceptor missiles by 2012; it has already reached an agreement with the Czech Republic to install powerful tracking radar on Czech soil, designed to work with the proposed base in Poland.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/07/world/europe/07wbriefs-CONDITIONSSE\\_BRF.html?ref=world](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/07/world/europe/07wbriefs-CONDITIONSSE_BRF.html?ref=world)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

National Journal's CongressDailyPM

May 6, 2008

## **Gates Urges Full Funding For European Missile Defenses**

Defense Secretary Gates is urging key House lawmakers to back without restriction the Bush administration's full FY09 request for the proposed European missile defense site, arguing that doing so would send a strong message of congressional support at a critical time for the program.

In a letter sent last Wednesday to House Armed Services Chairman Ike Skelton and ranking member Duncan Hunter, Gates emphasized that the administration has made progress in gaining NATO support for the so-called third site, as Congress has encouraged the White House to do.

"I urge you to support full funding of \$712 million, without restriction, for this purpose," Gates wrote. "Full funding is vital to the conclusion and implementation this year of the bilateral missile defense agreements necessary to allow the United States to begin to deploy capabilities critical to the defense of the homeland and U.S. allies."

Gates also said that fully funding the site, which would complement missile defense sites in Alaska and California, could spur the Czech Republic and Poland to ratify the proposal. The Czech Republic, which would house the radar site to track missile launches, is reportedly close to ratifying the agreement. But there is more resistance in Poland, where the United States wants to erect a launch site for missile interceptors.

"Full funding without restrictions would signal to Poland and the Czech Republic that congressional support for the U.S. proposal is strong, and would give added impetus to their efforts to conclude and implement the necessary bilateral missile defense agreements," Gates said, adding that Congress' approval of the \$712 million request would

also send a "strong message" to Iran that the United States and NATO are serious about developing effective missile defenses. In addition, he said, it would demonstrate to Russia, which has opposed the site because of security concerns, that there is bipartisan support for moving ahead with the effort "with or without Moscow's cooperation." The letter comes just as the House Armed Services Committee begins its negotiations on the FY09 defense authorization bill. As she did last year, Strategic Forces Subcommittee Chairwoman Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif., has said she will seek to restrict funding for building or activating the site until Poland and the Czech Republic ratify proposals to have them host the key facilities.

Strategic Forces ranking member Terry Everett, R-Ala., recently said he would likely agree to the same types of strings in last year's bill, but suggested he may try to tweak the language a bit. Tauscher's subcommittee will mark up its portion of the authorization bill, which sets Pentagon policy and prescribes funding levels, Wednesday. In its markup of the authorization measure last week, the Senate Armed Services Committee fully funded the administration's request. But some of that funding is contingent on certain conditions being met, including ratification from the Czech Republic and Poland.

*by Megan Scully*

[http://www.nationaljournal.com/congressdaily/cdp\\_20080506\\_7141.php?related=true&story1=cdp\\_20080506\\_7141&story2=null&story3=null](http://www.nationaljournal.com/congressdaily/cdp_20080506_7141.php?related=true&story1=cdp_20080506_7141&story2=null&story3=null)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Washington Post

May 7, 2008

Pg. 10

## **U.S., Russia Sign Pact On Nuclear Cooperation**

*Moscow's Work With Iran Had Stalled Bush Initiative*

By Peter Finn, Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, May 6 -- The United States and Russia signed a long-sought agreement Tuesday on civilian nuclear cooperation, which officials said would offer Russia lucrative new business while limiting the risk of material being used for weapons.

President Bush had announced his intent to pursue such a deal almost two years ago, but it was delayed by debate within the administration and in Congress over Moscow's policies, particularly toward Iran.

The framework agreement could open the way for Russia to import, store and reprocess thousands of tons of spent nuclear fuel that had been supplied by the United States for reactors around the world, a business potentially worth billions of dollars.

The agreement would also reduce the risk of countries developing their own nuclear fuel facilities that could divert material into weapons programs, according to U.S. officials. And it would facilitate joint ventures between the U.S. and Russian nuclear industries, the officials said.

"The U.S. and Russia were once nuclear rivals," said U.S. Ambassador William J. Burns, who signed the pact in Moscow with Sergei Kiriyenko, the head of Russia's state-owned nuclear company, Rosatom. "Today, we are nuclear partners with unique capabilities and unique responsibilities for global nuclear leadership."

Kiriyenko said the deal would help "to eliminate the legacy of the Cold War."

But the agreement is likely to draw opposition in both the United States and Russia. It does not require congressional approval but could be blocked by majority votes in the House and Senate.

"It would be a mistake for the United States to provide Russia an important civilian nuclear benefit while Moscow itself continues to assist Iran's nuclear and missile programs," Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, wrote in a May 1 letter to Bush.

Environmentalists in Russia have expressed concern about the country's ability to transport and safeguard spent nuclear fuel. Russia passed a law in 2001 allowing the reprocessing of nuclear fuel from other countries.

"There were very sharp debates about this at the start of the decade, and there are both environmental questions and concerns about Russia's capacity," said Alexander Pikayev, a disarmament specialist at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations in Moscow.

Opinion polls show that most Russians oppose the government's plans. But the ability of grass-roots organizations to protest is limited in a country where the Kremlin tolerates little dissent.

The deal must be ratified by Russia's lower house of parliament, but that chamber is dominated by the United Russia party, which generally rubber-stamps Kremlin decisions.

Russia is planning to build a nuclear fuel reprocessing facility in eastern Siberia. An agreement with Washington is key to the plant's viability, as the United States controls the vast majority of the world's spent fuel through agreements with third countries that it supplies with nuclear material.

The agreement signed Tuesday, the last full day of Vladimir Putin's presidency, is a rare instance of open cooperation in a relationship that has frayed over a host of issues, from the expansion of the NATO military alliance to Russia's stance on Iran's nuclear ambitions.

"A lot of this was done out of a sense of legacy and obligation because nothing in it needs to be done now or done at all," said Henry D. Sokolski, executive director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center in Washington. "On Iran, Russia's support has not been zero, but to say Moscow has been very helpful is a stretch. You have to argue that there has been a very stiff turnaround" inside the Bush administration.

An agreement was initialed just before a Bush-Putin summit last summer, but some officials in Washington appeared to balk, suspicious about Russia's continuing cooperation with Iran. Russia is helping Iran build a nuclear power plant and is a major arms supplier.

International attention has focused on Iran's controversial program to produce enriched uranium, which can be used either as reactor fuel or in making weapons.

"Two years ago, no one would have believed that Russia would support three consecutive U.N. Security Council resolutions against Iran," Pikayev said. "It appears to have helped to turn the debates inside the American administration in favor of this agreement."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/06/AR2008050602564.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Yahoo.com  
May 7, 2008

## **India Tests Ballistic Missile Capable Of Reaching China**

BHUBANESWAR, India (AFP) -- India successfully tested a nuclear-capable missile Wednesday that can hit targets deep inside China, joining the ranks of nations possessing intermediate-range missile capacity, the defence ministry said.

It marked the third test of the Agni-III missile -- India's longest-range ballistic missile -- and was staged "to establish the repeatability of the missile's performance," defence ministry spokesman Sitanshu Kar told AFP.

The missile was fired from a mobile launcher Wednesday morning at a testing site on Wheeler Island off the coast of the eastern state of Orissa.

Kar said the launch "propelled India into a select group of countries with intermediate-range ballistic missile capabilities and added yet another dimension to national deterrence."

The missile, which has a 3,000-kilometre (1,860-mile) range, can carry conventional or nuclear payloads of 1.5 tonnes, and puts China's major cities such as Shanghai within striking distance, defence analysts say.

The surface-to-surface projectile reached its designated target in 13 minutes and 20 seconds "travelling through a peak height of 350 kilometres with a velocity of more than 4,000 metres per second," said Kar.

The Agni-III -- Agni means fire in Sanskrit -- was first tested in 2006.

But that first trial of the 1.8 metre-diameter (six-foot) missile was a flop when it rose 12 kilometres before crashing into the Bay of Bengal.

The failure was blamed on a snag with its strapped-on solid fuel booster rocket. India successfully tested the missile in April 2007.

In Wednesday's test, 180 kilometres northeast of Orissa's state capital Bhubaneswar, "all the sub-systems of the missile functioned in a copybook manner, giving an outstanding integrated performance of the missile in terms of range and accuracy," Kar said.

The missile is one of a series developed as part of India's deterrence strategy against neighbouring China and Pakistan which also have nuclear weapons, analysts say.

India has shorter-range missiles that analysts say were developed to target long-time rival Pakistan with which it has fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947.

The two neighbours who launched a slow-moving peace process in 2004 aimed at resolving outstanding disputes including over disputed Kashmir often stage tit-for-tat missile tests.

But the development of the Agni III is aimed at displaying that India's deterrent reach can stretch far beyond Pakistan, analysts say.

In the last few years, however, tensions between India and China, which fought a brief border war in 1962, have eased and there is now direct trade through the Himalayas.

The Agni-III is the country's first solid fuel missile that is compact enough for easy mobility.

India's indigenously developed missile arsenal also includes the short-range Prithvi ballistic missile and the medium-range Akash.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080507/wl\\_sthasia\\_afp/indiamissilenuclear\\_080507074957](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080507/wl_sthasia_afp/indiamissilenuclear_080507074957)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer  
May 8, 2008

## **Poland, U.S. Will Talk Military Aid**

WARSAW, Poland - Poland and the United States will form working groups to study Warsaw's demands for defense aid in exchange for placing part of an American missile defense system on Polish territory, U.S. officials said yesterday.

The United States wants to place 10 interceptor missiles in northern Poland and a radar base in the Czech Republic, saying the defense system is needed to protect Europe and the U.S. from being attacked by countries such as Iran.

Russia opposes missile defense sites so close to its borders. In light of Moscow's objections, Poland is demanding a significant U.S. contribution to modernize its armed forces by supplying them with Patriot 3 or THAAD air-defense systems.

-- AP

[http://www.philly.com/inquirer/world\\_us/18757174.html](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/world_us/18757174.html)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

New York Times  
May 8, 2008

## **Syria: Atomic Agency Seeks Answers**

By Reuters

Mohamed ElBaradei, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Brussels, said Syria had an obligation to tell his agency whether the site Israeli warplanes bombed there in September was an undeclared nuclear reactor. The government in Damascus has not granted United Nations inspectors access to the area despite several requests, diplomats say. The United States released intelligence last month that it said showed that Syria had built a reactor at the site. The Syrian government has denied the accusations.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/08/world/middleeast/08wbriefts-ATOMICAGENCY\\_BRF.html?ref=world](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/08/world/middleeast/08wbriefts-ATOMICAGENCY_BRF.html?ref=world)

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Honolulu Star-Bulletin  
May 8, 2008

## **Carrier Returns To Test Missiles**

By Gregg K. Kakesako

The 600-foot decommissioned Navy helicopter carrier USS Tripoli will be back in island waters this month and will again become a floating platform that will launch Scud-type missiles as part of the ongoing high-altitude ballistic intercept missile tests off Kauai.

The Vietnam-era amphibious assault ship left Mare Island near San Francisco under tow yesterday, Missile Agency spokesman Chris Taylor said. "It will support flight tests later this summer," Taylor added.

The Tripoli, which was decommissioned in 1995, had been moored for several months at the Concord Naval Weapons Station in California, Taylor said.

While in the islands, the Tripoli, which was put into service in 1966, will be used as a mobile launch platform -- the same role it played last year.

The fifth Iwo Jima-class amphibious assault ship, the Tripoli fired a Scud-like missile on Oct. 27 during a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense test several miles off Kauai's Barking Sands beaches. An interceptor missile launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility successfully hit Tripoli's target missile.

During the 1991 Gulf War, the Tripoli struck a mine off the coast of Iraq. The blast ripped open a 16-foot hole below the waterline, but the ship was repaired and returned to duty. It later sailed to Somalia in 1992 to land Marines in Mogadishu as part of Operation Restore Hope.

The Missile Defense Agency leases the Tripoli from the Naval Air Systems Command, Taylor said.

Adm. Robert Willard, head of U.S. Pacific Fleet, commanded the Tripoli from September 1994 to June 1995.

<http://starbulletin.com/2008/05/08/news/story05.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Washington Post  
May 9, 2008  
Pg. 25

## State Department Asks Congress To Keep Quiet About Details Of Deal

By Glenn Kessler, Washington Post Staff Writer

Washington's civil nuclear deal with India is in such desperate straits that the State Department has imposed unusually strict conditions on the answers it provided to questions posed by members of Congress: Keep them secret.

The State Department made the request, even though the answers are not classified, because officials fear that public disclosure would torpedo the deal, sources said. The agreement would give New Delhi access to U.S. nuclear technology for the first time since it conducted a nuclear test in 1974, but leftist parties in the coalition government remain skeptical and view it as a possible infringement on India's sovereignty.

Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), the late chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, agreed to the request in February, and the current chairman, Rep. Howard L. Berman (D-Calif.), has abided by that commitment, though Berman is not considered a strong supporter of the deal. A group of prominent nonproliferation experts has decried the "virtual 'gag' order," but thus far, the answers have not leaked, in part because only a handful of congressional officials have been able to read them.

"The administration's unwillingness to make their answers more widely available suggests they have something to hide from either U.S. or Indian legislators," said Daryl Kimball, director of the Arms Control Association.

President Bush's agreement with India, considered a key part of the administration's foreign policy legacy, is designed to solidify Washington's relationship with a fast-emerging economic power. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh agreed to the pact in July 2005, but it has faced many hurdles. If Congress gives the deal final approval, India will be able to engage in civil nuclear trade with the United States, even though it has not signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The nearly 50 questions posed by Congress are highly technical, but they were carefully crafted to get to the heart of the balancing act the administration has performed between adhering to the letter of U.S. nonproliferation law and assuaging Indian concerns that it was not being treated like a true nuclear power.

Congress passed a law, known as the Hyde Act, to provisionally accept the agreement, but some lawmakers have raised concerns about whether the implementing agreement negotiated by the administration fudges critical details. For instance, one of the questions pertains to whether the United States would terminate nuclear trade if India resumes nuclear testing. This is a sensitive point in India and is required under U.S. law, but the answer is not entirely clear from the text of the U.S.-India agreement.

Another series of questions addresses the commitment by the United States to supply India with a "reliable supply of fuel" for its reactors, including a pledge to take steps to "guard against the disruption of fuel supplies." A series of questions asks whether these commitments are legally binding, whether the two governments agree on the definition of a fuel supply disruption and whether the commitments would be affected by a nuclear test.

At one point, the lawmakers question whether these commitments in the implementing agreement are consistent with the Hyde Act.

Given the pointed nature of the questions, sources said the State Department had little choice but to be candid with lawmakers about the answers, in ways that senior State Department officials had not been in public.

Lynne Weil, a spokeswoman for the committee, said the State Department provided a lot of information, but the committee has agreed not to disclose the answers because "some data might be considered diplomatically sensitive." She said the nuclear deal still must come back to Congress for final approval, and, at that point, public hearings will be held and "the questions will come up again."

State said it had no plans to make the answers public. "We've handled answers to sensitive questions in an appropriate way that responded to congressional concerns," said State Department spokesman Tom Casey. "We're going to continue with that approach."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/08/AR2008050803427.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

New York Times  
May 9, 2008

## North Korea Gives U.S. Files On Plutonium Efforts

By Helene Cooper

WASHINGTON — North Korea has turned over to the United States 18,000 pages of documents related to its plutonium program dating from 1990, in an effort to resolve remaining differences in a pending agreement meant to begin the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, Bush administration officials said Thursday.

The documents contain information about North Korea's three major campaigns to reprocess plutonium for nuclear weapons, in 1990, 2003 and 2005, a senior official said. The official, like some others who agreed to discuss the documents, spoke on the condition of anonymity because of diplomatic considerations.

But the documents do not include information on two other areas about which North Korea has promised to be forthcoming — a uranium program that some officials in the Bush administration regard as another track toward weapons development, and North Korea's involvement in the proliferation of nuclear material.

State Department officials have nevertheless described the move on Thursday as an important step, saying they hope it will help to resolve a dispute over how much plutonium North Korea holds. Administration officials have not said how much plutonium North Korea has admitted to possessing, but they have criticized as incomplete a preliminary declaration it made last December.

The documents, which fill seven boxes, "will help shed light on why they have a lower figure," said an administration official who insisted on anonymity. He said one reason could be that North Korea has more nuclear waste than expected, which could have led to lower plutonium production than the United States had estimated. Officials in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, gave the documents to Sung Kim, the director of the State Department's Korea office, on Thursday, and he was poring over them in his hotel before bringing them back to the United States this weekend, State Department officials said. They said that several other American diplomats would accompany Mr. Kim and the documents on a commercial flight back to Washington so they could transport the boxes as carry-on luggage. Transporting them as checked baggage would be too risky, the officials said. The acquisition of the documents is the latest step in the Bush administration's effort to complete a nuclear pact with North Korea before it leaves office in January. The nuclear deal has come under fire from some conservatives, in and out of the administration, who contend that North Korea cannot be trusted to end its nuclear program.

On Wednesday, The Wall Street Journal's editorial page, which has opposed the pact, said Christopher R. Hill, the assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, had "made a mockery of the interagency process." It said he had been bypassing other Bush officials and, instead, "handpicking experts to work at Yongbyon," where North Korea is dismantling its nuclear reactor.

Mr. Hill has the backing of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and they have kept President Bush's support for a pact that many foreign policy experts say is the administration's best chance at a tangible foreign policy accomplishment — beginning the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula — in its remaining months.

The administration has focused its efforts on getting North Korea to disclose fully information about its plutonium cache, which represents what most experts say is the bulk of its nuclear program.

In return for the information it seeks on plutonium, the administration has relaxed a demand for North Korea to admit that it supplied Syria with nuclear technology. The United States has also indicated that it will postpone a demand that North Korea provide an immediate and full accounting of its fledgling uranium program.

North Korea's plutonium program was the source of raw material for the device it tested in October 2006.

Sean I. McCormack, the State Department spokesman, said that officials would take time to review the documents to determine whether North Korea's declaration about its plutonium program is satisfactory. He said that any final agreement would include a strict verification process for all North Korean nuclear activities.

"Our top three priorities are going to be verification, verification, verification," Mr. McCormack said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/09/world/asia/09diplo.html?ref=world>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

London Daily Telegraph

May 9, 2008

## **China To Modernise Nuclear Weapons Capability**

By Richard Spencer, in Beijing

China is undertaking a dramatic overhaul of its nuclear weapons in an effort to modernise and expand its arsenal. One of the world's leading arms control experts has said that the Chinese have realised that their nuclear weaponry has fallen behind those of other major powers and might not survive a first strike.

Bates Gill, head of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri), said that as a result it was developing more flexible delivery systems, including from submarines, as well as the capacity to use multiple warheads.



"Among the major nuclear powers China stands out in its effort to modernise, expand and improve its nuclear weapons capability," he said at a conference in Beijing.

China's first nuclear test took place amid huge patriotic pride in 1964.

But Chairman Mao was famously ambiguous about such weapons, once calling them "paper tigers".

Its arsenal, estimated at between 100 and 200 warheads, is the smallest of the big powers – the United States, Russia, Britain and France. The US is currently updating its missiles and warheads.

China now has a stated policy of never using nuclear weapons against a non-nuclear country and never as a "first strike". But Dr Gill said its static nuclear delivery system had left it vulnerable to a first strike.

A sea-based capability would "make it less likely that an adversary could wipe out the possibility of a response," he said.

*The Telegraph* disclosed last week that China is constructing a secret nuclear submarine base to bolster its capabilities in the Pacific.

Dr Gill said the advances China was making raised questions about whether it could be an active participant in future arms control or reduction talks.

His comments were notable for being presented alongside a spokesman for China's own arms control association, which is publishing the Chinese language version of Sipri's annual report.

Teng Jianqun, a former navy colonel in the People's Liberation Army, said the increase in military spending was partly a result of improving equipment and the living conditions for its troops, and partly due to refocusing strategy across the Taiwan strait.

On the positive side, Dr Gill said that China had made a complete about-turn in policy on weapons proliferation compared with 15 years ago, when it actively sought to undermine international treaties.

He also said that despite criticisms over its supplies of weapons to Africa and other unstable regions, its share of the global arms trade had fallen to about two per cent.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/1939031/China-to-modernise-nuclear-weapons-capability.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)