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New York Times
March 31, 2007
Pg. 6

Iran Says It Rebuffed U.N. Because It Feared U.S. Attack

VIENNA, March 30 (AP) — In a confidential letter posted Friday on an internal Web site of the United Nations nuclear monitoring agency, Iran said its fear of attack by the United States and Israel prompted its decision to withhold information from the agency.

In the letter, Iran said the agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency, had repeatedly allowed confidential information crucial to the country's security to be leaked.

The agency, in response, urged Iran to reconsider, saying the decision would be in defiance of its 35-nation board. The Iranian document and the confidential response were made available to The Associated Press.

The exchange reflected heightened tensions between Iran and the agency arising from the country's refusal to heed the United Nations Security Council's deadline to freeze uranium enrichment and the Council's decision last week to increase sanctions in response to Iran's nuclear defiance.

The agency also is waiting for Iran to respond to its requests to install remote cameras at crucial locations at Iran's underground enrichment plant at Natanz. No enrichment is taking place at Natanz, but diplomats accredited to the agency said Friday that it might start within days.

If it does, those cameras would be crucial for the agency's efforts to monitor possible attempts to reconfigure machinery there into making weapons-grade uranium.

Iran insists that it wants to enrich only to low levels, suitable for generating nuclear power. But the United States and other nations increasingly fear that Iran may want to develop enrichment for weapons uses.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/31/world/middleeast/31nuke.html>

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Washington Times

March 31, 2007

Pg. 1

Bogus Greenbacks From North Korea Close To 'Perfect'

By Hideko Takayama, Bloomberg News

TOKYO -- Kim Il-nam's first encounter with counterfeit U.S. currency was embarrassing. On an overseas trip several years ago, the North Korean diplomat took a \$100 bill from a wad of more than \$7,000 he had received from the Trade Bank in Pyongyang to the front desk of his hotel.

"I had to buy some toiletries, so I asked the cashier at the hotel front desk to change one of the new bills," said Mr. Kim, who uses a pseudonym to protect his identity since defecting. "She took my note away and returned, saying, 'Sir, this is fake.' I felt like a criminal and protested to the Trade Bank when I got back to Pyongyang."

Things are different now. A new generation of fake "supernotes," far harder to detect, has appeared, counterfeiting experts say.

Feeling the latest \$100 bill from North Korea, Yoshihide Matsumura, whose Matsumura Technology Co. supplies counterfeit-detection machinery to Japan's post offices, banks and law-enforcement agencies, said: "This is the closest to perfect counterfeit U.S. money ever made."

Counterfeit dollars are one of the issues that have complicated the six-party talks over North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Before Kim Jong-il's government admits United Nations inspectors, it is demanding release of \$25 million in frozen accounts at a Macao bank the U.S. accuses of laundering counterfeit dollars. North Korea denies making or trafficking in counterfeits.

In separate interviews, Mr. Kim and Mr. Matsumura, 57, identified a printing factory in Pyongsong, on the outskirts of Pyongyang, as the location of presses that print counterfeit currency.

Mr. Matsumura, whose Tokyo-based company started in the counterfeit-detection business around the time of the 1988 Seoul Olympics, said North Korea's early efforts were often seized in quantity from diplomats and trade officials.

Now that the United States, Japan and other countries have intensified their checks, "the North Koreans are more careful," he said. The greater scrutiny has restricted the spread of the fake bills in developed countries. The U.S. government has only seized about \$50 million of the fake notes since they were detected in the Philippines in 1989, Michael Merritt, an official in the Secret Service, told a Senate committee last year.

The fakes still circulate in quantity in less-developed countries, Mr. Matsumura said. The U.S. Treasury Department has warned banks in Vietnam, Malaysia, Mongolia and elsewhere that they are holding accounts traceable to North Korea that may be used for money laundering.

Treasury Undersecretary Stuart Levey said on March 14 that an 18-month investigation had found the Macao bank, Banco Delta Asia, had allowed North Korea to launder money. U.S. banks have been barred from doing business with the institution.

"Many account holders at BDA had connections to entities involved in North Korea's trade in counterfeit U.S. currency," Mr. Levey said.

U.S. and Chinese negotiators in Beijing have been meeting since Monday to discuss the release of the North Korean funds frozen in Banco Delta. Obstacles include approval from account holders and reluctance of banks to handle the funds because of the U.S. blacklisting.

"We continue to make progress," U.S. Treasury spokeswoman Molly Millerwise said in an e-mail this week. "We remain committed to working through this matter as quickly as possible."

While Banco Delta rejected the U.S. finding, the designation remains in place and Treasury will work with Macao authorities on money-laundering issues, Daniel Glaser, deputy assistant secretary for terrorist financing and financial crimes, said in a March 19 briefing.

Mr. Merritt, in his testimony last year, said there are "definitive connections" between North Korea and top-quality counterfeits. Mr. Matsumura said the printing techniques and ink used on the most recent fake \$100 bills are identical to those used in producing North Korea's own 100-won bill.

"North Korea has used front companies to purchase ink for currencies," Mr. Matsumura said. "Any country that makes automobile paint can make the ink." The volume needed for a major print run could be transported in a single large paint can, he said, estimating the cost of producing each fake note at around 4 U.S. cents.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20070330-114945-7644r.htm>

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Boston Globe
March 31, 2007

Japan Prepares A Missile Defense Shield Near Tokyo

30 interceptors by 2010 planned across the nation

By Takanori Isshiki, Reuters

IRUMA, Japan -- Japan trucked its first ballistic missile interceptors to an air force base north of Tokyo yesterday in an effort to beef up its defenses against its neighbor North Korea.

Tokyo decided to deploy the advanced interceptor system after Pyongyang's 1998 firing of a ballistic missile that flew over Japan. It rushed the equipment into service a year ahead of schedule after North Korea unnerved the region last year by firing more missiles and testing a nuclear device.

The Patriot Advanced Capability-3 launchers are able to shoot down incoming missiles in the final stage of flight as they near their target.

Japan plans to place about 30 of the mobile launchers at 10 military bases across the country by 2010. They are intended to be used as a last resort if interceptors fired from US or Japanese ships fail to hit the incoming missiles.

"We consider it very meaningful to deploy the air defense missiles close to metropolitan Tokyo, which is the center of business and political activities," said Kazumasa Echizen, the Iruma air base public information chief. "We will continue our efforts to be ready for any possible emergencies."

About 50 demonstrators shouted and waved banners as a line of green trucks carried the equipment through the gates of the base, about 25 miles from central Tokyo, before dawn yesterday.

"Bringing PAC-3s to places like Iruma makes them the focus of interception strategy and therefore at risk of becoming the target of attack by other countries," an activist group said in a statement condemning the deployment as a "military performance."

The relatively short range of PAC-3 interceptors -- about 12 miles -- means they are likely to be deployed closer to the center of the capital to protect financial and government hubs. More interceptors are set to be deployed at bases around the country over the next few years.

The United States has already deployed its own PAC-3s at a base on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa, and has deployed ship-based Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) missile interceptors at Yokosuka, west of Tokyo.

The new interceptors are the first to be controlled by the Japanese government, which has been pushed into a tighter defense relationship with the United States as regional tensions rise.

Tokyo's close involvement in US defense strategy in Asia, while not as controversial as Washington's planned shield in eastern Europe, stretches the boundaries of Japan's pacifist constitution. Russia reacted angrily to US plans to place parts of such a shield in Poland and Czech Republic.

Japan limits military activities strictly to self-defense, meaning it is unable to shoot down a missile that is not headed for its own territory. The restriction annoys some officials in the United States.

Tokyo plans to equip one of its own warships with SM-3 interceptors, intended to shoot down ballistic missiles in the mid-phase of flight while outside the earth's atmosphere, by the end of this year.

It will attempt to bring down a dummy missile using its own ship-based SM-3 interceptors in a test later this year, Lieutenant-General Henry Obering, director of the US Missile Defense Agency, told the House Armed Services Committee this week, in the first such test by a US ally.

Japan's spending on missile defense is set to increase by 30.5 percent to \$1.55 billion in the financial year that starts next month.

http://www.boston.com/news/world/articles/2007/03/31/japan_prepares_a_missile_defense_shield_near_tokyo/

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Elite Revolutionary Guard Broadens Its Influence In Iran

Unit That Captured Britons Has Sway In Politics, Economy

By Robin Wright, Washington Post Staff Writer

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, the elite unit at the heart of the latest Middle East crisis, has greater power today than at any point since the revolution's early days to export Islamic militancy and challenge the West's presence in the region, say U.S. officials and Iran experts.

Its naval forces abducted 15 British sailors and marines nine days ago. Its special forces unit is operating deep in Iraq, providing militias with deadly roadside explosives used against American troops, U.S. officials say. It supplied missiles used by Hezbollah last summer in the longest war Arabs ever fought with Israel. And it now plays the largest role in Iran's ambitious military industries, including attempted acquisition of nuclear weapons and surface-to-surface missiles, according to an upcoming book by Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

But almost three decades after the 1979 revolution, the Revolutionary Guard has also become a leading political and economic force in Iran. One of its veterans, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, became Iran's president in 2005. The force and a network of current and former commanders have also moved into Iran's oil and gas business, won bids on major government construction contracts, and even gained lucrative franchises such as Mercedes-Benz dealerships, the sources say.

"The Revolutionary Guards are quickly emerging as the most prominent actor in Iran," said Karim Sadjadpour of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "They're playing an increasingly active role on the domestic political scene, have enormous economic assets and interests, are a key player in the nuclear program, and are essentially running Iranian activities in Iraq and Lebanon."

The Guard's high profile is one of the reasons that the assets of its top officials were frozen, because of ties to sensitive nuclear and missile programs, under two U.N. resolutions passed on March 24 and Dec. 23. Among the officials cited were the Guard's top commander, Maj. Gen. Yahya Rahim Safavi, and deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Morteza Rezaie, as well as the heads of the Guard's ground forces, navy, Quds Force and Basij (Mobilization of the Oppressed) volunteers.

The widening presence of its Quds Force in Iraq is the reason U.S. troops launched two raids in December and January on Iran's operating bases, detaining seven men in Baghdad and Erbil. Five are still held, although Iranian officials expected them to be released on the Iranian new year, March 21.

Although neither Tehran nor London has linked the events, the 15 Britons were captured two days after Tehran expected the five in Iraq to be freed and the day before the U.N. vote freezing the assets of seven top Revolutionary Guard commanders.

In his first public comments on the matter, Ahmadinejad said yesterday that the Guard had demonstrated "skill and bravery" in detaining the Britons.

Ahmadinejad, who was a midlevel officer, mirrors the evolution of the Guard, formed to protect the revolutionaries and prevent a military coup. The Guard is separate from Iran's conventional military -- and less than one-third the size, according to Cordesman. Iran's regular army, navy and air force total more than 400,000 troops. The Guard numbers about 125,000. But its numbers belie its power.

The Guard gained stature during Iran's eight-year war with Iraq, when it fought some of the toughest battles, provided human minesweepers and took huge casualties. That generation has now come of leadership age, said Kenneth Katzman of the Congressional Research Service, the author of "Warriors of Islam," a book about the Guard.

"They fought as young men, and now they're middle-aged. They have gone from the battlefield to mayoralties, governates and management of ministries," Katzman said. Tehran Mayor Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf was a senior Guard commander.

The Guard is now a less effective conventional fighting force than it was during the Iran-Iraq war, Cordesman said. But it controls the deadliest arms, including adapted Scud missiles with ranges up to 1,200 miles, along with a chemical and biological weapons program and missile production. The Revolutionary Guard remains "the center of Iran's hard-line security forces," he said.

The most secretive Guard unit is the Quds Force, which conducts operations beyond Iran's borders using proxies such as Hezbollah, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Cordesman says in the book. It has several directorates -- for Iraq, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and Jordan; Afghanistan, Pakistan and India; Turkey and the Arabian

Peninsula; North Africa; and Europe and North America, Cordesman writes. It has operatives in many embassies abroad, he says, and runs Iran's training camps for unconventional warfare.

In January, Cordesman says, Iran's Supreme National Security Council gave the Quds Force control of Iran's operations in Iraq and expanded it from 5,000 to 15,000 troops. After its men were captured in Iraq, the force has lowered its visibility and changed its style of operations, U.S. officials say.

The Quds Force is led by Brig. Gen. Qassem Soleimani and reports directly to the office of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Many senior Revolutionary Guard officers have close family ties to top members of the clergy, according to a study of the Guard by Michael Eisenstadt of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. The Guard's ties and the widening corruption in Iran have increasingly led its commanders, companies and connections to bid on and win government contracts, including for recent oil and gas projects, for which they are not qualified, U.S. officials say. The result, they add, is that key projects are either poorly done or farmed out to other contractors, for a commission.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/03/31/AR2007033101105.html>

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New York Times

April 1, 2007

Pg. 26

Inspector Lists Computers With Atomic Secrets As Missing

By Matthew L. Wald

WASHINGTON, March 30 — The office in charge of protecting American technical secrets about nuclear weapons from foreign spies is missing 20 desktop computers, at least 14 of which have been used for classified information, the Energy Department inspector general reported on Friday.

This is the 13th time in a little over four years that an audit has found that the department, whose national laboratories and factories do most of the work in designing and building nuclear warheads, has lost control over computers used in working on the bombs.

Aside from the computers it cannot find, the department is also using computers not listed in its inventory, and one computer listed as destroyed was in fact being used, the audit said.

“Problems with the control and accountability of desktop and laptop computers have plagued the department for a number of years,” the report said.

In January, Linton F. Brooks was fired as the administrator of the National Nuclear Security Agency, the Energy Department agency in charge of bombs, because of security problems. The agency was created in the 1990s because of security scandals.

When the most recent audit began, the Counterintelligence Directorate was unable to find 141 desktop computers. In some cases, documents were found indicating that the computers had been taken out of service.

Previous incidents of wayward computers have also involved nuclear weapons information. But the office involved in this breach has a special responsibility, tracking and countering efforts to steal bomb information. Its computers would have material on what the department knew about foreign operatives and efforts to steal sensitive information.

The report includes a response from the security agency that generally agrees with the findings. But the inspector general, Gregory H. Friedman, noted in his report that “the comments did not include planned corrective actions with target completion dates.”

A spokesman for the department, Craig Stevens, said Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman “recognizes that we need to manage this place better.”

The counterintelligence office was recently merged with the intelligence office to improve operations, Mr. Stevens said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/01/washington/01missing.html>

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Nuclear Nonproliferation: Progress Made in Improving Security at Russian Nuclear Sites, but the Long-term Sustainability of U.S.-Funded Security Upgrades Is Uncertain.

GAO-07-404, February 28.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-404>
Highlights - <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07404high.pdf>

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New York Times

April 3, 2007

U.S. Cites Indian Government Agencies In Weapons Conspiracy

By Mark Mazzetti and Neil A. Lewis

WASHINGTON, April 2 — The Justice Department, in an indictment disclosed Monday, charged that agencies of the Indian government participated in a conspiracy to sidestep United States export regulations and obtain secret weapons technology from American companies over several years.

The indictment charges that a private electronics firm, Cirrus Inc., operating in Singapore, South Carolina and Bangalore, India, was working as an agent of the Indian government to obtain sensitive missile and weapons technology for its military programs.

It lists four company officials, including the founder, Parthasarathy Sudarshan, and a number of unidentified co-conspirators who were not charged, including one mentioned only as an Indian government official who worked in Washington. The indictment indicates that the defendants were buying equipment for three Indian government agencies.

The charges, coming just months after Congress approved President Bush's plan to ship American nuclear reactors and fuel to India, could prove to be a diplomatic embarrassment for the administration, which has made cementing closer ties with India a top foreign policy priority.

The indictment suggests that India broke a pledge to the Bush administration more than two years ago not to flout American export laws and secretly seek weapons technology from the United States.

Although Congress has signed off on the nuclear deal, India must still reach a separate agreement on nuclear inspections with several international organizations before the deal is complete.

In a letter to the State Department in September 2004, Shyam Saran, then the Indian foreign secretary, wrote, "The Government of India shall not obtain or use U.S. origin licensable items in contravention of U.S. export control laws and regulations."

The weapons sales detailed in the indictment occurred between 2003 and 2006 and were shipped to government agencies that were part of the Indian Ministry of Defense and Department of Space.

The defendants were charged with violating the United States Export Administration Act, which prohibits the export of dual-use technologies, those with both military and nonmilitary uses, without approval from the Commerce Department attesting that the technology will be used only for nonmilitary purposes.

The indictment charges that Cirrus officials sometimes forged certificates to show the vendors in the United States that the sales had Commerce Department approval.

Officials at the Indian Embassy in Washington declined to comment except to say that government officials in New Delhi have pledged to look into the allegations.

Some critics of the nuclear deal reacted angrily to the indictment, and criticized the administration for pressing Congress to approve the agreement at the same time that the Justice Department was investigating an alleged conspiracy involving Indian government officials.

"This is not only an indictment of individuals for breaking export control law, it is also a blistering indictment of the Bush administration's judgment," said Representative Edward J. Markey, the Massachusetts Democrat who was one of the leading Congressional opponents of the nuclear deal.

Tom Casey, a State Department spokesman, said, "This is a law enforcement matter that began before our efforts to conclude a civilian nuclear cooperation agreement."

He added, "The arrests of these individuals are not connected to our efforts to conclude an agreement."

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/03/world/asia/03india.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

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Los Angeles Times

April 4, 2007

Pg. 1

U.S. Steps Up Missile System Push In Eastern Europe

The effort may escalate the issue into an international dispute, depending on Moscow's reaction.

By Peter Spiegel, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration has begun to step up its efforts to build a controversial missile defense system in Eastern Europe, launching a public push in recent weeks to counter bitter opposition in Russia and overcome fears of a new arms race elsewhere on the continent.

The move, coming ahead of a major NATO meeting on the project this month, could escalate a simmering diplomatic issue into a significant international dispute, depending on Moscow's reaction and the administration's next moves in its effort to base 10 interceptor missiles in Poland and a radar center in the Czech Republic, both formerly part of the Soviet Bloc.

The senior Pentagon official responsible for overseeing the plan said Tuesday in a briefing that the administration hoped to damp Russian opposition, but that Moscow would not be allowed to derail the project if no agreement was reached with the Kremlin.

"We think there is a benefit to cooperating with Russia; we think the threat is one that they face as well as one that we face," said Eric S. Edelman, undersecretary of Defense for policy, who returned from making the case for the system in European capitals last week. "That being said, I don't think if, for some reason, we're unable to reach a commonly agreed way ahead, that we would want to accede to Russia being able to dictate what we do bilaterally with other countries."

The missile defense system, which would be operated by American soldiers stationed in the Eastern European countries, has become one of the thorniest points of contention between Russia and the U.S., and rhetoric has escalated since December, when Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates gave the go-ahead to seek formal negotiations. The Bush administration has been pushing for a European site to expand its missile defense system for several years as a hedge against Iran. The current U.S. system, with interceptor missiles based in Alaska and California, is considered useful mainly against North Korea.

But the missile defense plan is unpopular in Europe, where long-standing suspicion of American weapon installations has been fueled by growing opposition to U.S. foreign policy in the wake of the Iraq war. Europeans also fear that the presence of a missile shield could spark a new arms race. Poland, ordinarily a staunch U.S. ally, is concerned that the plan would spur Russia to upgrade and reconfigure troop placements and missile systems. The vehemence of Russian criticism has caught the Bush administration by surprise and raised the diplomatic stakes over the project.

In February, Russian President Vladimir V. Putin used a major address in Munich, Germany, to chastise the Bush administration over the program and warned of an "inevitable arms race" if the U.S. proceeded. Gen. Nikolai Solovtsov, the chief of Russia's missile forces, later said that Moscow could resume building intermediate- and short-range missiles to target Poland and the Czech Republic if those nations agreed to allow bases on their territory. In a telephone call to Putin last week, President Bush discussed what he sees as the program's objectives. After that phone call, Edelman said, there was a "bit of a cessation of the incessantly negative statements from Russia."

But Russian analysts said the Kremlin remains highly suspicious of the program. The U.S. has said the missile defense system would face away from Russia and toward the Middle East. Although it may not directly encroach on Russia's nuclear deterrence in the near term, Moscow fears that the system could present a longer-term threat.

"Iran won't be able, in the foreseeable future, to manufacture missile launchers with more than a 3,000-kilometer [1,800-mile] radius. How can it present an acute danger to the United States, then?" said retired Maj. Gen. Roman Popkovich, a former chairman of the defense committee in the lower house of the Russian parliament. "Maybe they are not telling us about their real strategic plans, something like being able to shoot down our missiles at takeoff."

In an opinion article published in a German newspaper after Putin's talk with Bush last week, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei V. Lavrov raised similar concerns, saying that missile silos for interceptors could be converted to other uses, including to house intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Edelman said the Bush administration repeatedly has offered to cooperate with Russia on the program, including a proposal to provide Moscow access to data gathered by the antimissile radar.

Although opposition is growing within the Czech Republic, the government announced last week that it would open formal negotiations with the U.S. over basing rights. But other European leaders, including German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, have urged caution, warning that the system could split NATO and force Russia back to its old Cold War ways.

Support for the system is wavering in Poland, where some members of Parliament normally predisposed to backing the U.S. are fearful of possible Russian retaliation.

In an effort to calm the growing anxieties, officials have traveled to Europe to brief U.S. allies. Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry Obering III, head of the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency, stopped in Paris and Berlin last month to push the plan. A week later, Daniel Fried, the State Department's top European expert, toured Europe, stopping in Warsaw to appeal directly to the Polish prime minister.

In what the State Department is billing as a major U.S. presentation on the subject, Obering will travel to Brussels this month to address a North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting.

Edelman, the latest U.S. official to visit, acknowledged that the administration has done a poor job of explaining its case for the system to the people of Europe, but insisted that the public efforts to win over skeptics are having an effect.

"As you get the facts out, it becomes harder for people to make the arguments that this is destabilizing or dangerous," Edelman said. "I think that people begin to understand that there's virtue in having some capability to defend against this threat."

Times staff writer Sergei L. Loiko in Moscow contributed to this report.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-missile4apr04,1,409648.story>

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USA Today

April 6, 2007

Pg. 8

Book Details Army Drug Experiments

Doctor recounts chemical warfare research program

By Richard Willing, USA Today

Army doctors gave soldier volunteers synthetic marijuana, LSD and two dozen other psychoactive drugs during experiments aimed at developing chemical weapons that could incapacitate enemy soldiers, a psychiatrist who performed the research says in a new memoir.

The program, which ran at the Army's Edgewood, Md., arsenal from 1955 until about 1972, concluded that counterculture staples such as acid and pot were either too unpredictable or too mellow to be useful as weapons, psychiatrist James Ketchum said in an interview.

The program did yield one hallucinogenic weapon: softball-size artillery rounds that were filled with powdered quinuclidinyl benzilate or BZ, a deliriant of the belladonnoid family that had placed some research subjects in a sleeplike state and left them impaired for days.

Ketchum says the BZ bombs were stockpiled at an Army arsenal in Arkansas but never deployed. They were later destroyed.

The Army acknowledged the program's existence in 1975. Follow-up studies by the Army in 1978 and the National Academy of Sciences in 1981 found that volunteers suffered no long-term effects.

Ketchum's book, *Chemical Warfare: Secrets Almost Forgotten*, appears to be the first insider's account of experiments performed on about 2,000 soldier volunteers, says Steven Aftergood, a government-secrecy expert for the Federation of American Scientists in Washington, D.C. Ketchum self-published the book, which he sells on his website.

In an interview, Ketchum, 75, said he wrote the book to trigger a debate about the potential uses of non-lethal chemicals to incapacitate terrorists who take hostages or use human shields. "Incapacitating agents are designed to save lives," he said. "Isn't it at least something we should be thinking about?"

Such research, says chemical weapons opponent Edward Hammond, would not only be illegal under current international law but probably never should have been performed.

"There are things that have taken place in the past that should probably stay there," says Hammond, director of the Sunshine Project, an Austin group that opposes biological warfare.

Ketchum's memoir draws from previously classified files, including filmed experiments, and notes of tests given subjects before, during and after they were fed, sprayed or injected with mind-altering chemicals.

He says:

- LSD was rejected for weapons use because even soldiers on prolonged trips could carry out violent acts.
- Even especially powerful marijuana lacked "knockdown effect." It was rejected because its effects could be overcome simply by lying down and resting.
- Soldier volunteers were willing participants who knew the program's potential risks. Drugs given to soldiers were described in general terms but not named though "many seemed to find out through the grapevine."
- Intelligence reports of the time showed that Soviet researchers were planning a large-scale LSD program.
- The CIA ran a parallel program that sometimes gave hallucinogens secretly to unwitting citizens. The agency persuaded two Army doctors to carry out experiments for the CIA that the Army would not have authorized. Ketchum says the Army phased out the hallucinogen project in about 1972, in part because disclosure of such research would have caused a "public relations problem."

Ketchum's notes suggest the Army's fears were not imaginary. They describe soldiers on "red oil," an especially powerful form of marijuana, who smirked for hours and found even routine spatial reasoning tests to be hilarious. Soldiers under the influence of hallucinogens ate imaginary chickens, took showers in full uniform while smoking cigars and chatted with invisible people for two to three days at a time. One attempted to ride off on an imaginary horse while another played with kittens only he could see. Another described an order of toast as smelling "like a French whore."

Some of the researchers also took LSD "as a matter of curiosity," Ketchum says.

His lone trip, he adds, was "something of an anticlimax." Colors seemed more vivid and music more compelling, he remembers, but "there were no breakthroughs in consciousness, no Timothy Leary stuff."

At least two soldiers who received LSD in the 1950s later sued the Army, alleging that the drug later caused them to suffer memory loss, hallucinations and occasional outbursts of violence. The claims were denied.

After leaving the Army, Ketchum saw patients in a private psychiatric practice.

The experiments on human subjects ended in 1975, according to Jeff Smart, historian for the Army's Research, Development and Engineering Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The United States signed a United Nations-sponsored chemical weapons ban in 1993 that outlawed incapacitating agents.

Even so, the U.S. military has remained interested in researching non-lethal chemicals.

In 2000, the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate, a Quantico, Va., group run by all four major military branches, commissioned a study of the possible military uses of "calmative" pharmaceuticals such as anesthetics and serotonin reuptake inhibitors.

The Sunshine Project's Hammond, who obtained the study through the Freedom of Information Act, says using calmatives as weapons would also be outlawed by the 1993 chemical weapons ban. Ketchum says that is not clear.

In October 2002, Russian special forces used a calmative agent to subdue Islamist Chechen terrorists who were holding about 850 hostages in a Moscow theater. More than 120 hostages died from the drug's effects.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-04-05-army-experiments_N.htm

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Washington Times

April 6, 2007

Pg. 12

N. Korea Seeks Aid As Millions Face Famine

By Robert J. Saiget, Agence France-Presse

BEIJING -- Unable to feed millions of its people, North Korea has made an abrupt about-face and asked the World Food Program to increase its aid, an official with the U.N. agency said this week.

After a visit to the isolated nation, where hundreds of thousands died from famine in the 1990s, WFP Asian regional director Tony Banbury said officials told him that the food shortage amounted to 1 million tons. "They have asked WFP to expand assistance to meet the gap," Mr. Banbury told reporters in Beijing.

The shortage represents at least 20 percent of North Korea's food needs, meaning that up to a third of its 23 million people will need food assistance until the harvest arrives this year, he said.

The request signals an abrupt turnaround by the Stalinist regime, which announced cutbacks to a decade of WFP assistance at the end of 2005 after trying to rid itself entirely of its dependence on the agency.

The shortfall was exacerbated last year as the scaled-back program coincided with floods in June and August that devastated critical farmland.

"Right now we are losing the fight against hunger in the [Democratic People's Republic of Korea]. The DPRK faces a chronic food security problem," Mr. Banbury said.

The WFP is engaged in a two-year assistance program with North Korea that aims to provide 150,000 tons of food aid for 2006 and 2007. This amount is enough to feed only 3 percent of its population, Mr. Banbury said.

From 1996 to 2005, North Korea was the largest recipient of WFP aid, but the regime routinely balked at the agency's food-monitoring activities, carried out to ensure that aid reached the most needy, he said. The WFP has sought to ensure that the food reaches children, nursing and pregnant women, and the elderly, Mr. Banbury said.

The WFP delivered more than 4 million tons of food valued at \$1.7 billion and supported up to one-third of the North Korean population during the 10-year period starting in 1995.

As the crisis worsened, the WFP faced increasing problems raising donations for North Korea from around the world because of disenchantment over its nuclear and other weapons programs.

Donating countries also have voiced concerns that the regime channels food aid to the military, the political elite and key cities such as Pyongyang, the capital.

The United States, South Korea, Japan and China, the main providers of assistance to North Korea, reduced shipments last year, Mr. Banbury said, as the isolated nation tested a nuclear weapon and ballistic missiles. He said the WFP doesn't link North Korea's food needs to the politics surrounding its nuclear program.

"Our support is not to the DPRK government; it is to the DPRK people," Mr. Banbury said.

He welcomed a Feb. 13 agreement at six-party disarmament talks in which China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States agreed to supply North Korea with more aid if it dismantled its nuclear-weapons programs. The talks have been under way since 2003, and under this agreement, North Korea should shut down and seal its plutonium-producing Yongbyon reactor and other plants by April 14 in exchange for energy aid.

"We are hopeful that there will be a conclusion of those discussions soon and that the parties involved in those talks will provide assistance through the WFP," Mr. Banbury said. "The problem is we can't wait. The people of the DPRK can't wait."

The WFP has begun to look for increased aid from donor nations within the framework of the ongoing two-year aid package, Mr. Banbury said.

"If the donors don't respond, millions of people will go hungry," he said.

CIA Director Michael V. Hayden told South Korean Defense Minister Kim Dong-shin this week, "The United States does not recognize North Korea as a nuclear power because its nuclear test last year was a failure."

A South Korean defense source also said Mr. Hayden stressed the importance of exchanging intelligence on North Korea between Seoul and Washington.

"The United States has a large amount of intelligence on North Korea, and South Korea has many experts who understand well North Korean sentiments and culture," the CIA chief was quoted in the newspaper JoongAng Ilbo as saying. "U.S.-South Korean intelligence exchange is crucial to analyze North Korea's decisions," he added. The Defense Ministry confirmed the Hayden-Kim meeting but refused to comment on what was discussed. The U.S. Embassy had no comment on the CIA chief's visit.

U.S. officials said in October that air samples had confirmed a nuclear test but that the explosion yield was less than 1 kiloton. South Korean officials also said they thought the test was only a partial success.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20070405-105917-5360r.htm>

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New York Times
www.nytimes.com

Bomb With Chlorine Kills 15 Iraqis

By REUTERS

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Filed at 4:34 a.m. ET

RAMADI, Iraq (Reuters) - A truck bomb exploded in the volatile Iraqi city of Ramadi on Friday, killing at least 15 people and releasing chlorine gas into the air, police and security sources said.

Police Colonel Tareq Dulaimi from Ramadi said the bomb, which targeted a police patrol, wounded at least 30 people. He said several people were also choking from the gas.

There has been a spate of chlorine truck bomb attacks in recent months, mainly in western Anbar province. Ramadi is the capital of Anbar, stronghold of the Sunni Arab insurgency and a haven for al Qaeda.

U.S. commanders and Iraqi police have blamed al Qaeda militants for several of the chlorine attacks.

Chlorine gas was widely used in World War One but its use in insurgent attacks in Iraq has particular resonance there. Saddam Hussein attacked Kurdish areas with chemical weapons in the 1980s during the Iran-Iraq war.

http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/world/international-iraq-bombing.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin

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Reno Gazette-Journal
news.rgj.com

Trains open to attack, activists contend

RAY HAGAR

Posted: 4/4/2007

Supporters of a bill designed to increase railroad security in Nevada painted a disastrous scenario of what terrorists could do to Reno, Sparks and Las Vegas on Tuesday at the Legislature.

Assemblyman Bernie Anderson, D-Sparks, the son of a former railroader, said he shuddered to think what could happen if a chemical explosion occurred in the rail yards in Sparks, about 100 yards away from John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort.

"It is just a target waiting to happen," said Anderson, who grew up near the Sparks rail yards. "If this happened in my community, we would lose a sizable part of the downtown area, three or four of the major economic centers." Assembly Bill 340, sponsored by Anderson, would force railroad operators to inform state agencies of dangerous chemicals and compounds that move through the state and require railroad yards and other installations to develop and submit security plans to state agencies.

The bill also would require background checks for railroad employees and subcontractors and demand that remote locomotive devices be secured when not in use.

The bill was heard for the first time at the Legislature just days after a report published in the Reno Gazette-Journal told of U.S. Department of Energy plans to transport up to 4,500 casks of high-level nuclear waste through downtown Reno and Sparks every week for the next 24 years.

The plan is part of the DOE strategy to build a rail line to the Yucca Mountain nuclear-waste repository just north of Las Vegas, Nevada officials said.

The Union Pacific Railroad, the only major railroad with yards in Nevada, often stores and transports dangerous substances such as chlorine and propane gas in the state, bill supporters told the Assembly Transportation Committee. With the current state of shoddy security, terrorists could easily sneak into a railroad yard in Sparks or Las Vegas and cause tankers, storage units -- or both -- to explode, they said.

If enough tankers exploded, the blast could rival that of the Hiroshima atomic bomb that helped end World War II, said Joe Carter of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. An explosion of one tanker of chlorine gas could lead to horrific results, Carter said.

"Given the level of security today in the state of Nevada, it would be child's play to explode one of these (chlorine) tank cars, which is approximately 15,000 gallons," Carter said. "And, depending on the population density and weather conditions, thousands could die before evacuation could be accomplished."

The state rail system is easy prey for terrorists, Carter said.

Carter and Anderson's concerns about railroad safety are overplayed, said Scott Hinckley, general director of safety and security for Union Pacific Railroad.

"Union Pacific takes security very seriously," Hinckley said. "I've been sitting here and listening to this -- and consider that I spend almost all of my time in security, and others don't -- and there are a lot of misconceptions and misunderstandings of what is taking place."

The bill singles out Union Pacific for terrorism breakdowns but does not address issues with other methods of transportation, Hinckley said.

"Our disagreement with the bill deals with the fact that people are not aware," Hinckley said. "What we think we need to do is draft the ability of handling terrorist issues by gathering all the people to the table and not just the railroads."

Union Pacific also sponsors training programs, which many Nevada firefighters have attended, to help them train for chemical explosions, Hinckley said.

Some members of the committee were not comforted by Hinckley's assessment.

"It is one of those situations that, when you start peeling back the onion, you get more and more uncomfortable as you go," Assemblyman David Bobzien, D-Reno, said. "I'm not convinced that enough is happening on this very important security issue."

"You come down to the Legislature thinking that you know of all the big issues, and then somebody drops this in your lap and you say, 'Man, this is big problem'."

The committee will review the bill at a future meeting, he said.

<http://news.rgj.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070404/NEWS07/704040431/1002/NEWS>

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