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Washington Post

July 19, 2007

Pg. 16

N. Korea Nuclear Talks Resume

After Shutdown of Main Reactor, More Hard Tasks Ahead

By Edward Cody, Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIJING, July 18 -- Buoyed by their first success, diplomats from six nations resumed talks on North Korean nuclear disarmament Wednesday, warning that a difficult road still lies ahead despite North Korea's closure of its main nuclear reactor.

The new round of Chinese-sponsored negotiations -- a two-day session grouping North and South Korea, Russia, Japan and the United States in addition to China -- was called to work out the timing of the next steps laid out in a landmark accord reached Feb. 13 in Beijing.

The first major step was taken Saturday when North Korea turned off its only working reactor, at Yongbyon, in return for an initial shipment of heavy fuel oil to power electrical generators.

North Korea has since shut down four related facilities, including a plant that extracted plutonium that could be used to construct bombs, said Mohamed El Baradei, head of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency. Agency inspectors stationed at Yongbyon confirmed the closings, he said.

The next steps are to include permanent disabling of the now-closed reactor and revelation by North Korea of its entire nuclear research and weapons development program, the February accord stipulated. In return, it said, North

Korea is to receive 1 million tons of heavy fuel oil or equivalent aid, and the United States, Japan and South Korea are to initiate moves toward better relations with the isolated communist state.

The chief U.S. negotiator, Christopher R. Hill, expressed hope that the second-phase goals could be met by the end of the year. "We've got a lot of work to do, a lot of catching up to do," he told reporters in Beijing.

Hill's timetable was endorsed by the chief South Korean negotiator, Chun Yung Woo, who told reporters that North Korea also had voiced willingness to meet the deadline. But he, Hill and the chief Japanese negotiator, Kenichiro Sasae, all warned that closing the Yongbyon reactor was only the first step and that moving on to the next steps would not be easy.

"This is just the beginning of denuclearization," Chun said.

North Korea pledged in the accord to ultimately surrender all its nuclear materials, including nuclear weapons, leading to a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and perhaps a new multilateral forum to promote regional security.

In return, the Bush administration has held out hope that North Korea will be taken off the list of states that sponsor terrorism, that it will receive substantial economic aid and that a peace treaty with the United States may be negotiated to mark a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War.

The diplomats' caution as they resumed work reflected the many disagreements that have repeatedly bogged down the four-year-old talks and raised questions whether North Korea is committed to giving up nuclear weapons.

During one such delay last October, for instance, North Korea announced it had conducted an underground nuclear weapons test and henceforth should be considered a nuclear power.

In what could become another sticking point, Sasae told the Chinese hosts that Japan would contribute aid to North Korea and normalize relations only if progress was made on learning the fate of Japanese citizens kidnapped in past decades by North Korean security services, according to a Japanese diplomat who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/07/18/AR2007071800855.html>

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Los Angeles Times

July 19, 2007

Poland Wants Perks For Missile Shield

President Kaczynski says his nation probably will allow system to be based there, but will want military assistance in return.

By Ann M. Simmons, Times Staff Writer

Unmoved by protests from Russia or the reservations of many of his countrymen, President Lech Kaczynski is signaling that Poland probably will allow the U.S. to base a missile defense shield in its territory — but wants something in return.

In an interview with The Times late Tuesday, Kaczynski said Poland would have to reap some tangible benefits from such a deal.

Kaczynski said no final decision had been made about the defense system that Washington says is aimed at protecting Europe and the United States from possible strikes by Iran. But, he said, "we are very much interested ... and certainly steps have been taken."

The Polish Parliament must approve installation of 10 interceptor missiles. The plan also calls for a radar center to be set up in the Czech Republic.

A thumbs-up for the missile defense system would solidify Poland's position as a steadfast friend of the United States. Kaczynski described his nation as "probably the most pro-American society in Europe."

But the president's determination to ensure that Poland profits from any agreement shows a greater resolve to focus more on national interests, while gaining greater respect for Poland on the international stage, political analysts said. Poland is "trying to raise its stature a bit by increasing its assertiveness," said Janusz Bugajski, director of the European Democracies Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a global defense and security policy research institute in Washington. "There's a little more underscoring of national interests regardless of what America's interests are. They have to show that they are getting something for this deal."

Speaking through an interpreter, Kaczynski said Poland would like U.S. military assistance, including access to some military technology.

Poland would like U.S. help in modernizing its Soviet-era military hardware, analysts said, and Warsaw probably wants greater intelligence cooperation with Washington as well.

"The question is," Bugajski said, "will Poland get some specific bilateral security guarantees from the United States" outside the structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which Poland joined in 1999.

Russian President Vladimir V. Putin has accused Washington of "pursuing world domination" and has argued that the expansion of U.S. interests in former Soviet bloc nations would threaten Russia's security. The Kremlin has made veiled threats against Poland and the Czech Republic, warning that both countries would fall within range of new Russian missiles if they agreed to the U.S. defense shield project.

Kaczynski said that Poland is not afraid of military threats, but that his country is concerned about the possibility that Russia might withhold supplies of oil and natural gas.

The Polish leader spoke a day after a White House meeting with President Bush. He visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Library in Simi Valley, where he presented Reagan posthumously with the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest award.

Kaczynski said his admiration for the U.S. has much to do with Reagan's role in the defeat of communism and bringing democracy to the Polish people.

But critics say Kaczynski, and his identical twin, Jaroslaw, the country's prime minister, have moved toward a culturally conservative nationalism.

The Kaczynskis, who are staunch Catholics, reject gay rights, accuse the press of liberal bias and want to ensure that the educational system emphasizes Polish identity and traditional values. They have been criticized for trying to purge politicians, businesspeople and other members of the country's elite who they say illegally benefited from their support of the former communist regime.

"I wouldn't call it nationalism, I would call it patriotism, love of one's country," Lech Kaczynski said. "Nationalism in Poland means first and foremost anti-Semitism. You know, the worst of my enemies do not accuse me of anti-Semitism."

Kaczynski said claims of rising anti-Semitism in Poland are exaggerated. But members of California's Jewish community say there is cause for concern, particularly given the continued anti-Jewish rhetoric of Father Tadeusz Rydzyk, who heads the popular Radio Maryja. He has blamed Jews for Poland's economic woes and denounced Kaczynski as a "fraudster" who is in the pocket of a Jewish lobby.

Historians estimate that 3 million Polish Jews died in the Nazi Holocaust. Government efforts to address the possible return of confiscated property to the country's tiny remaining Jewish community have sparked outrage among critics such as Rydzyk.

"Anti-Semitism has not disappeared in Poland; that would be a complete exaggeration," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder and dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Los Angeles-based international Jewish human rights organization. "What [Kaczynski] should come out and publicly say is that there's no place for anti-Semitism in Poland and that the Vatican must discipline Father Rydzyk."

Hier said more than 20,000 members of the Simon Wiesenthal Center had sent e-mails to the head of the Bishop's Conference in Poland, and to the Vatican, demanding Rydzyk's removal.

Kaczynski defended his efforts to weed out prominent people who were aligned with the old communist regime, and who he has said used corruption to gain unfair advantage.

"They are now fiercely defending their position," he said. "We want to change this status quo."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-poland19jul19,1,3246048.story?coll=la-headlines-world>

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Los Angeles Times

July 20, 2007

N. Korea Nuclear Talks Shun Deadlines For Disarmament

By Reuters

BEIJING — Talks to end North Korea's nuclear arms program veered away Thursday from setting a deadline for the next phase of disarmament but settled on a set of tasks the United States said could be carried out this year.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said this week that North Korea had closed five main nuclear facilities, completing the first stage of a disarmament deal reached in February.

The six-nation talks in Beijing were seeking consensus on the second stage of disarmament: permanently disabling the Yongbyon nuclear complex and receiving a full declaration of Pyongyang's atomic arms activities in return for heavy fuel oil.

Chief U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill said the envoys broadly agreed on how that next phase will unfold but did not agree on a deadline. At the start of the latest talks Wednesday, he had proposed completing the steps by year's end.

Closure of the Yongbyon nuclear complex was delayed for many weeks by a financial snarl that held up North Korea's receipt of more than \$20 million in frozen bank funds.

Hill said negotiators wanted to avoid more broken deadlines.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-norkor20jul20,1,812027.story>

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Washington Post

Friday, July 20, 2007; Page A01

Radiation Detector Program Delayed

DHS May Have Misled Congress, GAO Audit Finds

A \$1.2 billion program to deploy new radiation monitors to screen trucks, cars and cargo containers for signs of nuclear devices has been delayed by questions over whether Department of Homeland Security officials misled Congress about the effectiveness of the detectors.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced the contracts for monitors with cutting-edge technology a year ago. He said they would improve radiation scans at borders and ports, while sharply reducing the number of false alarms. Congress had allowed the five-year project to move ahead after Homeland Security assured appropriators that the \$377,000 machines would detect highly enriched uranium 95 percent of the time.

"What this next generation of detection equipment is going to let us do is make those determinations much more precisely, much more easily and much more quickly," Chertoff said.

But the department's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office did not know whether the detectors would work effectively, according to documents and interviews.

Auditors from the Government Accountability Office later found that the detection rates of machines tested by the department were as low as 17 percent and no higher than about 50 percent. The auditors said the department's optimistic report to Congress on the cost and benefits of the machines was based on assumptions instead of facts -- a finding that prompted lawmakers to put the project on hold last year.

Last week, the GAO told Congress that Homeland Security officials did not follow their own guidelines for ensuring that the cost-benefit report was accurate and complete. The GAO also said the director of the nuclear detection office was incorrect when he testified in March that the office was not aware of any specifics about whether officials followed the guidelines. A GAO official said auditors would release a report about the monitors next month.

Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Chairman Joseph I. Lieberman (I-Conn.) said Congress will continue pressing officials for more verifiable details about the monitors before they allow the project to proceed.

"As DHS develops costly new technology critical to the nation's security, Congress must be able to rely on DNDO's claims about the technology," Lieberman said in an e-mailed statement. "DNDO's estimates of costs and benefits must be based on facts, not assumptions. And, while taking into account the effects this technology will have on commerce, it must be based first and foremost on how best to prevent nuclear smuggling."

Vayl Oxford, director of the nuclear detection office, defended the high detection rate cited in the report to Congress last year as a "high-water goal" the agency hoped to achieve, not an assessment of the monitors' capabilities. Oxford said recent tests of the monitors in New York show a "dramatic decrease" in false alarms. Oxford said eight monitors will be deployed at four border crossings and ports for further performance tests this week.

The government has had difficulty getting independent, reliable technical assessments about the plausibility, cost and benefits of advanced technology before Congress and agencies commit to spending. It has always struggled when buying new technology, which is why Congress created the Office of Technology Assessment in 1972. For two decades, scientists and engineers in that office helped sort out technical truths from wishful thinking in project proposals. But the office was killed in 1995 in an effort to streamline federal programs.

Since then, as government spending on new technology rose to record levels, the primary technical advisers to federal officials often have been the contractors themselves. Billions of dollars have been wasted on failed, flawed or speculative projects.

A new computer system for tracking imports and exports was delayed by years because of technical problems, and the cost rose by \$1 billion, to \$3.1 billion. A computer system for the FBI to track criminal cases was abandoned after more than \$100 million was spent. A system designed to track the entry and exit of foreign visitors featured a "prototype" network for recording visitor exits that cost \$146 million but does not work.

The radiation portal monitors were envisioned as the nation's key bulwark against attacks with radioactive material. After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the government spent more than \$200 million on detection equipment that could not distinguish nuclear devices from more benign sources of radiation, such as ceramic tiles and cat litter. President Bush directed the establishment of the nuclear detection office in spring 2005 to be the main resource for assessing and buying monitors. Its mission includes providing technical advice to other agencies.

The office immediately began testing machines that, according to GAO estimates, cost about six times as much as current monitors. The Advanced Spectroscopic Portal radiation monitors rely on sensitive detection technology that had not previously been used in the field in the way officials envisioned.

Homeland Security officials tested monitors made by 10 companies. But before the results of those tests were made available to Congress, auditors from the GAO, in March 2006, raised questions about the procurement process. The auditors predicted cost overruns of as much as \$596 million and said the "prototypes of this equipment have not yet been shown to be more effective than the portal monitors now in use." The auditors concluded that it "is not clear that the dramatically higher cost of this equipment would be worth the investment."

In response, Congress told Chertoff and officials at the nuclear detection office to produce a "cost-benefit" analysis, comparing the existing machines with the proposed replacements.

In June 2006, the department delivered a report that said that the new machines "can correctly detect and identify highly enriched uranium (HEU) 95 percent of the time," according to the GAO. Congressional appropriators then approved the spending.

On July 14, 2006, Chertoff and Oxford announced that they had ordered the first 80 of 1,400 new monitors. The monitors, manufactured by three companies, were to be deployed last fall under a deal that officials said involved up to a year of research and development and up to four years of full-scale deployment.

In the meantime, the GAO auditors examined the detection office's cost-benefit report. In a private meeting last August, the auditors told lawmakers that the report used optimistic assumptions and overstated the acquisition costs of the existing detection machines, distorting any cost comparison.

The auditors concluded that "DNDO's cost-benefit analysis does not justify its recent decision to purchase and deploy" the new machines and that the nuclear detection office should not spend more money buying the machines "until it conducts realistic testing," according to documents included with a GAO report last fall.

That finding prompted Congress to tell Chertoff that deployment of the new monitors should not occur until he vouched for a new round of tests his department conducted in January and February, the results of which have yet to be released.

In March, Oxford testified before a House homeland security subcommittee that the GAO misunderstood the cost-benefit report. He said "we stand behind the basic conclusions" of the report, which he said was done to justify research and development, not full-scale production. Oxford said his office followed department guidelines in drafting the report.

That assertion was contradicted last week by the GAO letter, which said that Oxford's nuclear detection office did not meet seven of eight department guidelines. The letter also said that DHS officials were briefed on the requirements just days before the cost-benefit report was delivered to Congress.

During that March hearing, the GAO's Eugene E. Aloise warned lawmakers that "the data used in the [cost-benefit] analysis was incomplete and unreliable, and as a result, we do not have any confidence in it."

Lawmakers in both parties were also openly skeptical of Oxford's testimony.

Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Calif.) told Oxford that Aloise's testimony suggested that "you screwed up big time. You did what you weren't supposed to do."

In an interview this week, Oxford said the contracts for the project were written in a way to give his office flexibility to continue studying the performance of the monitors before they were deployed. He defended last year's cost-benefit report as a "preliminary" document that did not mean his office was prepared to authorize full production. Oxford stood by his assertion that his office was not told by the GAO precisely what to include in the cost-benefit report. "We were never given the specific details of what they thought was flawed in our methodology," he said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/07/19/AR2007071902615.html>

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Washington Post

Friday, July 20, 2007; Page A02

Not-Guilty Plea in Nuclear Theft Case

Sensitive Material Allegedly Peddled

By Duncan Mansfield

Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., July 19 -- A contract employee at a nuclear materials cleanup site in Tennessee pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges that he stole classified information about enriching uranium to sell to foreign governments.

Roy Lynn Oakley, 65, of Roane County, Tenn., was arrested in January after he allegedly tried to sell the sensitive material to undercover FBI agents, officials said. None of the information made it out of the country or was transmitted to criminal or terrorist organizations, officials said.

Oakley entered the plea before a federal judge in Knoxville. He was charged with two counts of possessing hardware used in uranium enrichment. He could face up to 20 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine.

His attorney, Herb Moncier, said Oakley did not take anything important. Moncier said government lawyers, referring to the hardware items, "say they are 'appliances.' We say they are trash."

Oakley was a maintenance worker for Bechtel Jacobs at the East Tennessee Technology Park. The park is a cleanup site that once housed the government's gaseous diffusion plant used to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons, the Department of Energy said.

Moncier said Oakley's job was to break up metal rods so they could be thrown away. Moncier did not know what the rods were made of, but said they were not uranium or dangerous.

A law enforcement official, who asked to remain anonymous because of the sensitive nature of the information, said Oakley was soliciting buyers for the material.

Moncier said Oakley sold the rods to an undercover federal agent who told Oakley that he represented the French Embassy.

The government said the material Oakley tried to sell was classified and that he had "reason to believe the materials would be used to injure the United States and secure an advantage to a foreign country."

The gaseous diffusion plant closed in 1987. The cleanup of the site has continued under a contract with Bechtel. The site is part of the Oak Ridge reservation but is separate from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Oak Ridge is Energy's largest science lab. Between 1942 and 1945, it was part of the top-secret bomb-building Manhattan Project.

"We're dealing with an issue of obvious sensitivity. I can't discuss it," said Billy Stair, a spokesman for the Oak Ridge lab.

The indictment was the second leak of classified information from sensitive Energy sites in the past year. In October, police conducting a drug raid in northern New Mexico found more than 1,000 pages of secret documents and several computer storage devices containing classified information that had been taken from the Los Alamos National Laboratory by a contract employee assigned to archive nuclear weapons data.

Because of that security breakdown, the Energy Department this week proposed \$3.3 million in fines against the University of California, former manager of the Los Alamos lab, and a consortium of companies that took over the management contract a year ago.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/07/19/AR2007071901085.html?hpid=topnews>

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New York Times

July 21, 2007

Pg. 5

North Korea: Talks End Without Disarmament Timetable

By Associated Press

Arms negotiators failed to set a deadline for North Korea to disable its nuclear facilities following the shutdown of its reactor at Yongbyon, but top envoys planned to meet again in early September. Wu Dawei, a Chinese envoy, said working groups would meet before that to discuss technical details for the North's next steps: declaring and disabling its nuclear programs. The United States had hoped the three days of talks would end with a deadline for North Korea to take those actions.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/21/world/asia/21briefs-KOREANUCLEAR.html?adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1185226297-SejWmW7kdXkOUGGOHvpJ9A>

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Newport News Daily Press

July 23, 2007

Pg. B1

Fort Monroe Unit Devises U.S. Pandemic Flu Plan

By Stephanie Heinatz

FORT MONROE -- Should a pandemic flu spread across the United States, the Defense Department now has a plan of attack that incorporates the response of federal, state and local agencies.

The Fort Monroe-based Joint Task Force Civil Support -- the Defense Department group responsible for coordinating the military's reaction to everything from a nuclear attack to a contagious disease -- took a year to develop what it calls a "pandemic influenza playbook."

If a pandemic flu actually does hit, "there's not going to be time to figure out how we are going to do our mission," said Army National Guard Maj. Gen. Bruce Davis, who spearheaded the project. Davis is a former commander of Joint Task Force Civil Support.

Initially, the Defense Department only discussed the potential problems that could arise with the onset of a pandemic flu, said Army Maj. George Hanford, the strategic plans and policy officer. In 2006, the task force was assigned to support federal, local and state agencies.

Until now, there was no plan in place for the military to support civilian agencies, Hanford said.

"Mainly we questioned federal, local and state agencies directly," Hanford said. "For example, we questioned the Department of Homeland Security on its procedures and then coordinated efforts in writing."

The book includes information from medical professionals, logisticians, mortuaries and public affairs.

It details how the military should set up command and control stations and communicate with other agencies. It includes data about how to keep the troops responding to a pandemic flu safe from contracting the virus.

It also has a state law compendium. Depending on how large an area is affected by a flu, individual state laws could complicate response.

"There are some states that have legal barriers in place that unless a person is a licensed pharmacist in that state, nobody else can distribute medication," Davis said. "Obviously that wouldn't work. Another... example would be Nevada, which does not allow (temporary interment) unless a waiver could be granted."

It was important to gather information from agencies down to the local level, Davis said.

"One of the unique challenges in a pandemic influenza is ... it's going to start somewhere and it's going to spread," Davis said. "It's not a situation where a response force will go to that location and try to work the consequence and its effects."

"The main use of this playbook (is to) help military commanders taking on the responsibility for assisting and supporting federal, local and state agencies," Hanford said.

But each of those civilian agencies can also use the book to see how other groups are responding.

"DoD and federal agencies have devised plans to address the potential of a pandemic threat," Hanford said.

"The federal government now has organized planning and procedures to address interagency parties to make the impact of the pandemic as minimal as possible."

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/dp-88990sy0jul23.0.3470924.story>

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