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Financial Times

August 3, 2007

## **Pakistan Warns US Of Asian Arms Race**

By Jo Johnson and Edward Luce, New Delhi and Washington

Pakistan warned last night that the groundbreaking civil nuclear co-operation agreement between the US and India risked triggering an arms race in south Asia, in a statement likely to inflame already tense relations with Washington.

The country's National Command Authority - a committee of top generals, government officials and nuclear scientists chaired by President Pervez Musharraf - warned that the deal would upset the strategic balance in the region.

The statement said that the US-India deal would have "implications on strategic stability" because it would "enable India to produce significant quantities of fissile material and nuclear weapons from unsafeguarded nuclear reactors". "Strategic stability in south Asia and the global non-proliferation regime would have been better served if the US had considered a package approach for Pakistan and India . . . with a view to preventing a nuclear arms race in the region," it added.

US officials say Pakistan's objections are based on a fundamental misreading of last week's deal, which places India's nuclear reprocessing facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. US officials also distinguish between the non-proliferation records of India, which they consider to be good, and of Pakistan, seen as one of the worst proliferators.

"We are not anticipating in any way, shape or form a similar deal for any other country," Nick Burns, the US undersecretary of state, who led the US negotiations with India, said after the deal was announced last Friday.

"Obviously Pakistan has a past in terms of nuclear proliferation which, with the A.Q. Khan network, was very troubling. India has a very different past."

The US remains concerned over the operation overseen by Abdul Qadeer Khan, Pakistan's one-time chief nuclear scientist, who in 2004 admitted to trading nuclear technology with Iran, Libya and North Korea.

Pakistan has consistently objected to being excluded from the special deal that Washington is offering India, but never warned so starkly of a renewed arms race between the two nuclear powers, who have fought three wars since 1947.

The deal promises to end more than three decades of isolation for the Indian nuclear programme, notwithstanding New Delhi's refusal to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT). The US has refused to extend the same nuclear co-operation to Pakistan.

Both India and Pakistan developed their nuclear weapons as non-signatories to the NPT, which recognised as nuclear weapons states only the five countries that had detonated devices before 1967.

Washington is seeking to persuade the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the 44-country body that regulates trade in nuclear commerce, to make an exception to the NPT by allowing the sale of fissile fuel and technology to India under IAEA safeguards.

Pakistan argues that India will be free to allocate more of its indigenous fissile fuel to its atomic weapons programme once the majority of its civil nuclear reactors are able to import uranium from overseas.

Analysts expect the Indo-US relationship to push Pakistan into seeking even closer ties with China.

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India will not be pressed into supporting the US on issues such as Iran in return for the nuclear pact with Washington, according to Ronen Sen, New Delhi's ambassador to the US, Reuters reports from New Delhi.

US officials say India's ties with Iran remain a source of concern to the US Congress in the run-up to a vote on the pact. But Mr Sen told the Indian magazine Outlook that India would not toe Washington's line on Iran.

"It would be totally unrealistic to expect a large and vibrant democracy like India to give up its independence of judgment and action," he said.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/b3e2d7f0-4159-11dc-8f37-0000779fd2ac.html>

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Financial Times

August 5, 2007

## **Russia To Start Missile Production**

By Isabel Gorst, in Moscow

Russia is ready to start production of a new submarine-based intercontinental ballistic missile that will form the core of the country's seaborne nuclear arsenal in coming years, the commander of the Russian Navy said on Sunday.

Admiral Vladimir Masorin, said a recent successful test of the Bulava-M missile, following repeated misfires, had paved the way for the start of production.

"After the results of this, a decision was made to start [the] creation of the military base for the system, in other words, the serial production of parts for this new missile system," Admiral Masorin said in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol, home of the Russian Black Sea fleet.

The Russian navy said in June that a Bulava missile fired from a submarine in the White Sea hit its target 6,700km away on the Kamchatka peninsula in the Russian Pacific opposite Alaska.

However, analysts said there had been conflicting reports about the latest test of the Bulava, which has been championed by President Vladimir Putin but is unpopular in some quarters of the navy. Four out of the past six test launches since 2005 have failed, according to Russian media reports.

Pavel Felgenhauer, a Moscow-based military expert, said: "They are jumping the gun. It would be irresponsible to begin producing the Bulava now. Even if the test was successful we would need at least 10 more successful tests before beginning serial production.

Mr Felgenhauer said exaggerating missile capability was a key part of any military strategy based on deterrence. "If the other side thinks you have missiles they act as a deterrent even if they are dummies. No one really wants to use ballistic missiles."

Admiral Masorin said "huge labour, intellectual and financial resources" had been invested in development of the Bulava missiles which carry multiple nuclear warheads said to be capable of penetrating any missile defence.

He said Russia would make two more long-range tests of the Bulava this year, but the details were secret.

Russia's annual spending on research, development and procurement of weaponry is rising by about 30 per cent and is expected to top \$11.5bn this year, prompting international fears of a new cold war.

The first in a series of four Borei-class nuclear submarines designed to carry the Bulava was launched from the Sevmash shipyard on the White Sea in April. Sergei Ivanov, Russia's deputy prime minister, said the submarine launch was "a big day for Russia, for industry, the defence sector and the whole country".

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/9f1333f8-4382-11dc-a065-0000779fd2ac.html>

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Global Security Newswire (nti.org)

August 6, 2007

## **U.S. Central Commander Expects Nuclear Restraint From Pakistan**

By Elaine M. Grossman, Global Security Newswire

WASHINGTON — Adm. William Fallon, head of the U.S. military's Central Command, said late last month he is confident Pakistan would avoid ratcheting up tensions in its nuclear weapons standoff with India, despite some troubling signs (see GSN, June 25).

The top commander's remarks, offered in an exclusive July 27 interview with Global Security Newswire, come as the government of Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf appears to be moving to dramatically increase the nation's nuclear weapons production capacity.

At the same time, Pakistan is renewing its condemnation of a pact the Bush administration has struck that promises U.S. aid for India's nuclear energy program. The agreement, which has not yet been approved by either nation's legislature, would grant New Delhi access to sensitive U.S. nuclear technologies in exchange for submitting its civilian nuclear reactors to international oversight (see GSN, Aug.3).

The deal's omission of any restrictions on India's military nuclear production facilities has some Pakistani leaders fuming. In the latest statement on the matter, the Pakistani body that controls the nation's nuclear weapons hinted a substantial response is in the making.

"The U.S.-India nuclear agreement would have implications on strategic stability [in the region]," said Pakistan's "nuclear command authority," as Reuters reported Thursday from Islamabad.

However, the top U.S. officer in the region remains unfazed.

"I think that [the Pakistanis] would recognize that it is not in their best interest to end up increasing tensions with India, particularly in the business of nuclear weapons," said Fallon, who assumed the post at Central Command in March. "I feel very confident that the leadership of both countries recognize this is not a place they want to go. And they have other, higher priorities than this."

For Musharraf, higher priorities might include a mounting military operation against radical Islamists in the largely ungoverned western frontier, according to the admiral. Al-Qaeda's senior leaders also are believed to be in hiding in North Waziristan province, along the border with Afghanistan.

During a June meeting in Islamabad, Fallon says he urged Musharraf to consider taking steps aimed at further easing tensions with India.

"If the [Pakistani] army's still very concerned about a strategic threat from India, they're going to be loathe to want to get very involved in anything at their back door," in terms of ridding militants and terrorists from the lawless tribal areas, Fallon said.

In July, the Pakistani leader is believed to have shifted at least 20,000 troops from the Punjab region away from the Indian border, said Ahmed Rashid, a Pakistani journalist who has written extensively about militant Islam. An estimated half-million or more Pakistani forces patrol the boundary with India.

Following a wave of terrorist bombings, the occupation of Islamabad's Red Mosque by student militants and mounting political pressure from Washington, Musharraf in July deployed two additional brigades to the tribal northwest, the *Washington Post* reported yesterday.

Yet it appears the Pakistani military also continues to retain a significant focus on its nuclear competition with India. Satellite photographs of construction at the Khushab nuclear site appear to show a partially completed heavy-water reactor that independent analysts say might be capable of producing enough plutonium for 40 to 50 nuclear weapons a year. That would constitute a 20-fold increase in Pakistan's production capacity.

The new plutonium production reactor, the country's third, could also allow the production of a new generation of lighter and more powerful nuclear weapons, according to experts.

"I think the [U.S.-Indian] deal confirms Pakistani military assumptions that India is going to grow its nuclear arsenal at an increased pace," Michael Krepon, co-founder of the Henry L. Stimson Center in Washington, told GSN today.

"It appears, at least to me, that we have the makings of a more serious ... arms competition."

Critics say U.S. assistance for India's nuclear energy program could allow the South Asian nation to redirect domestic fissile material to its weapons production program while using foreign supplies for the nation's energy needs.

With Musharraf's focus already shifting to battling extremists, Fallon said he is "not particularly concerned" that the Pakistani leader would heighten nuclear tensions with India.

"[Both] governments know there is too much at stake," Fallon said. "They're taking enough steps in the right direction that I think the leaders both recognize the incredibly negative aspects of a renewed arms race. That's not their priority."

The two neighbors have undertaken a number of confidence-building measures in recent years, including a nuclear risk reduction pact signed in February (see GSN, Feb. 21). Pakistan also has proposed a "strategic restraint regime" to curb deployment of both nuclear and conventional weapons throughout South Asia, though India has not embraced that idea (see GSN, Aug. 23, 2006).

Fallon explained the Pakistani denunciations of the new U.S.-Indian accord as something to be expected from a multidimensional culture facing an array of competing threats.

"It's a complex society and you're always hedging," he said.

Pakistan conducted its first nuclear weapons test in 1998 just two weeks after India conducted its first tests since 1974. Each nation is now believed to have between 30 and 50 nuclear weapons.

As neither nation has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, few of their nuclear facilities have been subject to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

[http://www.nti.org/d\\_newswire/issues/2007\\_8\\_6.html](http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2007_8_6.html)

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New York Times

August 8, 2007

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## **Leaders Of 2 Koreas Will Meet In The North**

By Norimitsu Onishi

TOKYO, Wednesday, Aug. 8 — The two Koreas announced Wednesday morning that they would hold a summit meeting later this month, the first since a groundbreaking meeting in 2000 began an ongoing reconciliation process on the Korean peninsula.

President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea will meet the North's leader, Kim Jong-il, during a three-day meeting Aug. 28 to Aug. 30 in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, the two Korean governments said in coordinated announcements.

The North said the meeting will carry "weighty significance in opening a new phase of peace," according to the government's Korean Central News Agency. The South, using similar language, added that the meeting would "provide momentum to settle the North Korean nuclear problem."

Neither side released details about the agenda, and it was not clear how much can realistically be accomplished because the deeply unpopular Mr. Roh has only a few months left in office.

The meeting, which had been rumored for months, was immediately criticized by South Korea's political opposition as a ploy to influence the presidential election in December. The trip by Mr. Roh is widely expected to boost the popularity of liberal presidential candidates who share his engagement policy toward the North.

While the main opposition Grand National Party also favors engaging North Korea, its candidates call for tougher concessions from the North. Two Grand National Party candidates, Lee Myung-bak and Park Geun-hye, lead in polls for the election.

"This summit is about politics between North and South Korea," Nam Sung-wook, a North Korea expert at Korea University, said in a telephone interview from Seoul. "It is unlikely to solve the nuclear problem because North Korea has consistently argued that it is a problem between North Korea and the United States."

Still, South Korea said the North had agreed to the meeting because of the recent progress in negotiations over the North's nuclear program. The North shut down its nuclear reactor at Yongbyon last month, and talks are continuing over its entire nuclear program.

In 2000, Kim Jong-il and the previous South Korean president, Kim Dae-jung, met in Pyongyang in sessions that inaugurated a policy of reconciliation between the two cold war enemies, which remain technically at war. That meeting led to a profound change in relations between the two countries.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/08/world/asia/08korea.html>

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## **S. Koreans Divided Over North-South Summit**

*Some Criticize Agreement for Historic Meeting in Pyongyang as an Election-Driven Ploy*

By Joohee Cho, Special to The Washington Post

SEOUL, Aug. 9 -- South Korean negotiators prepared Wednesday for the first North-South summit in seven years, while opposition groups in Seoul criticized the surprise meeting as a ploy to shore up President Roh Moo Hyun's sagging popularity.

Officials from the two sides will meet in the North Korean border town of Kaesong soon to conclude arrangements for the Aug. 28-30 talks between Roh and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang, the North's capital, the two governments announced.

The South Korean government had recently denied speculation that a summit was imminent. But Roh's intelligence chief, Kim Man Bok, secretly visited Pyongyang on Aug. 2-3 to discuss a summit, the South Korean government said in a statement Wednesday.

There, according to the South Korean account, Kim was given a proposal stating that "the North Korean leader had long wished to meet with President Roh Moo-hyun . . . but the situation was not ripe for such a meeting." The proposal conveyed Kim Jong Il's "message that the current moment is the most appropriate time for it, thanks to the recent improvements in South-North Korean relations and the regional situation."

After returning to Seoul for consultations, Kim Man Bok went back to Pyongyang on Aug. 4, carrying a letter of acceptance from Roh, the statement said. A deal regarding the summit was signed there Aug. 5.

The South's opposition Grand National Party condemned the secrecy of those contacts, dismissing the resulting summit deal as a political stunt ahead of presidential elections in December. For now, the opposition party is leading in the polls, but Roh's party would probably receive a boost if he sits down with Kim Jong Il.

A joint statement by the two governments said the summit would serve to "expand and develop" relations. South Korea said it would press for completion of the North's promised nuclear disarmament, regular summits, heightened economic links and other exchanges and steps designed to build military trust.

Debate broke out immediately in Seoul on exactly what to offer the North in the talks and what to refuse. The Roh government pledged to coordinate closely with parliament on those issues.

The two Koreas remain on a war footing more than half a century after an all-out military conflict that lasted three years. Their leaders have met only once before, in June 2000, when the South's President Kim Dae Jung flew to Pyongyang for talks with Kim Jong Il.

The new summit comes at a time of relative detente. The North has agreed during six-country negotiations to dismantle its nuclear weapons program and has shut down its main reactor and readmitted U.N. nuclear inspectors. The communist state has already begun receiving its promised reward of increased aid and movement toward normalization of diplomatic relations.

In recent years, the South Korean public has moved away from a view of the North as a grave military threat. Some U.S. and Japanese officials worry that the South will undermine efforts to keep up strong pressure from all sides on the North to follow through on its disarmament pledge.

Other members of the six-party talks would expect South Korea to press the North on its nuclear pledge, analysts here said. But they called it unlikely that Kim Jong Il would respond positively, saying they expect him to demand large amounts of new aid from the affluent South, including long-term loans. With the more hawkish Grand National Party leading in opinion polls, North Korea might be calculating it will get the best deal from Roh in his final months in office, analysts said.

After the 2000 summit, Kim Dae Jung was widely faulted in the South for having previously approved secret payments to the North valued at about \$186 million. Critics said that he had in effect bought himself a seat at the table with Kim Jong Il.

On Wednesday, the South Korean government denied that any inappropriate concessions had been made to secure the new meeting.

In Washington, U.S. officials welcomed the upcoming talks. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack stressed to reporters the importance of continuing the joint negotiations. "The center of gravity of everybody's diplomatic efforts here really is in the six-party talks," he said. "You have South Korea, Japan, Russia, China, the United States and, it would seem, North Korea invested in this diplomatic process."

In Seoul, some South Koreans also criticized the location of the summit, Pyongyang rather than Seoul. At the close of the 2000 summit, the leaders' joint statement mentioned a "return trip" by Kim Jong Il to Seoul. Instead, South Korea's leader will again be going north. Analysts and citizens expressed concern that this might give Kim Jong Il the upper hand.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/08/AR2007080800287.html>

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