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Washington Post

October 4, 2006

Pg. 1

## **N. Korea Pledges Nuclear Test**

*Need Cited to Deter Threat From U.S., But No Date Is Set*

By Anthony Faiola and Dafna Linzer, Washington Post Foreign Service

TOKYO, Oct. 3 -- North Korea declared Tuesday that it would conduct a nuclear test to bolster its defenses against the United States, raising tensions in the region and marking the communist government's first unambiguous pledge to prove it has become a nuclear power.

Though North Korea has previously said it possesses nuclear bombs -- U.S. intelligence officials have estimated it could have as many as 11 -- a test detonation would dramatically change the region's power dynamics. Analysts have said the United States and area neighbors including China, Japan and South Korea would be forced to deal far more harshly with the North Koreans.

A test would be a "very provocative act," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said during a visit to Cairo. It would create a "qualitatively different situation on the Korean Peninsula" that would spill over into the entire region, she said. Rice declined to predict what the U.S. response might be.

In a statement issued through the official KCNA news service, North Korea's Foreign Ministry said the government would "conduct a nuclear test under conditions where safety is firmly guaranteed." The statement did not say when the test might occur, but added that the North's "nuclear weapons will serve as reliable war deterrent for protecting the supreme interests of the state and the security of the Korean nation from the U.S. threat of aggression."

The declaration follows reports in recent months, based on intelligence agency findings, that the secretive communist state might be preparing a test site in its barren northeast. Observers greeted the reports with some skepticism, partly because North Korea is widely known for brinkmanship.

High-level officials from the United States, Japan, South Korea and China immediately began exchanging calls Tuesday to discuss a response, according to Asian diplomatic sources. These countries have been part of six-party talks attempting to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear program. Large numbers of intelligence analysts and policymakers who usually split their time among a host of issues, including Iran, were devoted Tuesday exclusively to the North Korean statement.

The reaction was particularly sharp in Japan, which sees itself as a primary target of North Korean aggression. "If they conduct a nuclear test, it will not be forgiven," Japan's new prime minister, Shinzo Abe, told reporters Tuesday night. "The international community will deal with the situation firmly."

Before his election last week, Abe suggested that Tokyo should study whether Japan's constitution would allow a preemptive strike on North Korean missile bases.

Several analysts and diplomats said a test would in effect mean that North Korea's absolute ruler, Kim Jong Il, had played his last card in the standoff over the country's nuclear program. Observers suggested that the threat might be an attempt to force an easing of the economic pressure against the North that has risen dramatically in recent months.

Analysts said the threat might also reflect attempts by Kim to appease the North Korean military, which is still smarting from a failed test of its new intercontinental Taepodong-2 missile in July.

"North Korea's final goal is survival, and a test is their final option," said Ahn Yinhay, professor of international relations at Korea University in Seoul. "Given the current situation -- the enormous pressure from the U.S.'s hard-line policy -- the North Koreans may think they have no other means to try to get out of this deadlock. They may think they have nothing else to lose."

Many observers say there would be a great deal to lose. A nuclear test would make it far more difficult for Pyongyang's chief benefactors -- China and South Korea -- to continue to provide billions of dollars worth of economic aid and trade, money that has helped Kim prop up his government.

[On Wednesday, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said China "hopes that the North Korean side will keep calm and restrained on the nuclear test issue," while South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun called for a "cool-headed and stern" response, the Associated Press reported.]

Rumors of a nuclear test have surfaced almost every year since 2002, when North Korea began an escalating series of actions regarding its nuclear program -- including kicking out U.N. weapons inspectors and reprocessing spent fuel rods.

A sense of new urgency has been building in diplomatic circles in recent months. Last week, Christopher R. Hill, the Bush administration's special envoy to the stalled six-country talks, publicly warned that a test would be viewed by world powers as a "very serious" escalation.

The last country to conduct a nuclear test was Pakistan, in 1998, when it detonated five bombs underground in response to tests two weeks earlier by India.

Some scientists question whether North Korea has the technology to conduct a test safely -- leaking radiation is a major concern.

Lee Sang Deuk, vice speaker of the South Korean National Assembly, said in an interview in Washington last month that in late August intelligence agencies had detected unusual movements of troops and equipment around a complex of caves believed to contain a nuclear test site. Cables were laid and tents erected. A U.S. official confirmed that there had been signs of an impending test other than Tuesday's statement.

North Korea has frequently provided the world with early warnings of dramatic moves and has often chosen symbolic dates for them. A series of missile tests took place during the July 4 weekend, and Tuesday's statement came as South Korea was marking its national day.

"A decision to test is a political calculation, not a technical one," said one intelligence officer. The officer said analysts believed that the Pyongyang government issued the statement in part to gauge international reaction before making a final decision. "It doesn't mean they won't test, but it gives them a chance to roll back, or be coaxed back if they want to," said the officer, who agreed to discuss some of the classified analysis on condition of anonymity.

A U.S. government official said the North Koreans might also be trying to refocus international attention on their issues at a time when Iran is becoming the administration's main concern.

A major concern among U.S. officials is the potential reaction by Japan. U.S. nuclear analysts have worried for years that a North Korean nuclear test might lead Japan to break with decades of nonproliferation commitments and speed toward its own weapons capability. Japan's nuclear industry is highly advanced, giving the country the ability to make nuclear weapons within months if it chose to do so.

Frederick Jones, spokesman for President Bush's National Security Council, shared White House concerns in prepared comments that said a test "would severely undermine our confidence in North Korea's commitment to denuclearization and to the Six Party Talks and would pose a threat to peace and security in Asia and the world." North Korea's nuclear capabilities have grown significantly during Bush's tenure. When Bush came into office six years ago, intelligence agencies estimated that North Korea had the capability to make one or two nuclear weapons. Those sources now put the number as high as 11.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack called North Korea's announcement an "unacceptable threat" to peace and stability in Asia and in the wider world. The Bush administration will continue to work with its allies in the six-party talks to discourage "such a reckless action," the statement said.

*Linzer reported from New York. Staff writer Robin Wright, traveling with Rice, contributed to this report.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/03/AR2006100300188.html>

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New York Times

October 4, 2006

## **Iran's Proposal To End Nuclear Standoff Is Rejected By The West**

By Elaine Sciolino

PARIS, Oct. 3 — Iran has proposed that France organize and monitor the production of enriched uranium inside Iran, complicating negotiations over the fate of its nuclear program.

The United States, France and Britain rejected the proposal on Tuesday, saying it was a stalling tactic and fell far short of the United Nations Security Council's demand that Iran freeze all uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities.

The proposal, made by Mohammad Saeidi, the deputy director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, was presented as a sign of flexibility in negotiations between Iran and six world powers represented by the European Union.

"In order to reach a solution, we've just had an idea: we propose that France create a consortium for the production in Iran of enriched uranium," Mr. Saeidi said in an interview in Tehran with France Info radio that was broadcast Tuesday.

A senior French official on Tuesday said: "This is totally excluded. There is nothing substantive behind it. This is not the first time the Iranians have tried to divide the international community."

Another senior European official — who, like the first, spoke on condition of anonymity under diplomatic rules — said that proposal "seemed to have the intention of distracting."

The United States, meanwhile, is giving Iran until the end of the week to declare whether it will agree to fully stop making enriched uranium or face sanctions. Enriched uranium can be used to make energy or to fuel weapons, and Washington has consistently taken the position that any uranium enrichment on Iranian soil is out of the question because it could give Iran the ability to master the nuclear fuel cycle.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the foreign ministers of the other five governments involved in the negotiations with Iran — Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany — have discussed the possibility of meeting in London on Friday to plot a strategy for the next steps, officials said.

While at a meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo on Tuesday, Ms. Rice told reporters that there was nothing new in the Iranian proposal, and that it continued to fall far short of international demands.

"The Iranians have floated it before," she said, suggesting that the United States would reject any proposal that allowed Iran to enrich and reprocess uranium on its own soil. "This may be a stalling technique."

The Iranian proposal, which has been rejected by Iran's negotiating partners in the past, comes as Iran has hardened its position in negotiations between Ali Larijani, its chief nuclear negotiator, and Javier Solana, the European Union foreign policy chief.

Mr. Solana reported to the six governments in recent days that Mr. Larijani rejected the calls to halt key nuclear activities even though Iran could face sanctions by the Security Council, three senior European officials said.

Instead, in meetings in Berlin with Mr. Solana last week, Mr. Larijani floated the idea of the creation of an international consortium to administer Iran's production of enriched uranium. He did not mention France as the central player, the officials said.

In what was widely perceived as a stalling tactic, Mr. Larijani also spent much of his time in recent conversations with Mr. Solana, airing Iran's historical grievances against the rest of the world.

Specifically, Mr. Larijani told Mr. Solana that Iran's current enrichment activities would have to continue, and that Iran would consider only a temporary halt to the expansion of its uranium enrichment program, the officials added.

The six powers, through Mr. Solana, had been trying to persuade the Iranians to accept a three-month halt on all uranium enrichment activities at their vast plant at Natanz and on construction at the plutonium plant at Arak, the European officials said. Uranium conversion, an earlier stage of processing, would have been allowed to continue at the Isfahan plant.

These officials also spoke on condition of anonymity under normal rules of diplomacy.

There is also increasing frustration among European governments with Mr. Solana for presenting the results of his talks in too positive a light, several European officials said.

Mr. Solana has acknowledged the lack of progress on substantive issues, telling reporters in Finland on Monday, "The fundamental matter of suspension has not been agreed." But he has repeatedly pointed to "progress" on peripheral issues, like where and when further negotiations with the six governments would take place.

On Tuesday, Mr. Solana appeared to keep the door open to Iran's new proposal, describing it as "interesting," and adding, "This is something we have to analyze in greater detail."

In the radio interview, Mr. Saeidi proposed that Iran's uranium enrichment activities would be monitored "in a tangible way" by Eurodif, a multinational enrichment consortium based in France, and by Areva, the France-based nuclear energy giant and majority shareholder in Eurodif.

Eighty-seven percent of Areva is held by French governmental institutions, and the company has vast interests in the United States (\$1.8 billion in earnings in America in 2005) that it may not want to jeopardize by seeming to negotiate with Iran.

*Philip Shenon contributed reporting from Cairo.*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/04/world/middleeast/04iran.html>

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Washington Post

October 5, 2006

Pg. 20

## **Pyongyang Warned On Weapon Testing**

*U.S. Won't Accept Nuclear N. Korea*

By Dafna Linzer, Washington Post Staff Writer

The Bush administration delivered a secret message to North Korea yesterday warning it to back down from a promised nuclear test, and it said publicly that the United States would not live with a nuclear-armed Pyongyang government.

North Korea "can have a future or it can have these weapons. It cannot have both," Assistant Secretary of State Christopher R. Hill said yesterday in remarks at Johns Hopkins University's U.S.-Korea Institute. It was the toughest response yet from the Bush administration, coming two days after Pyongyang announced plans to conduct its first nuclear test.

Hill did not explain how the administration would respond to a test, but he said it is willing to sit with North Korean officials and diplomats from the region to discuss the crisis. "We will do all we can to dissuade [North Korea] from this test," he said. State Department officials said Hill is considering a trip to Asia to discuss options with key allies. "We are not going to live with a nuclear North Korea, we are not going to accept it," Hill said. He said the United States had passed along a private warning through North Korea's diplomatic mission to the United Nations in New York.

North Korea is believed to have enough plutonium for as many as 11 nuclear bombs. It announced in February that it had succeeded in building a weapon, although intelligence analysts believe it is still years away from being able to deliver one.

Tuesday's statement did not set a date for a test. Senior intelligence officers and some administration officials said they had no clear signs indicating when one might occur.

"In terms of how much time they need and how far along they are, we don't know if it's even realistic" to test in the near term, said one official who spoke on the condition of anonymity in discussing classified intelligence estimates.

State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey said U.S. officials are looking at "all kinds of information" related to the possibility of a test.

Topographical changes resulting from a test would be visible to U.S. satellites, officials said. The test could also be detected by ground-based seismic sensors, some owned by U.S. intelligence and others by international monitoring stations set up to detect and deter nuclear tests around the world.

Several government analysts suggested that a test could come as early as Sunday, the anniversary of Kim Jong Il's appointment as head of the Korean Workers' Party, in 1997. It may also be timed to coincide with an election at the United Nations on Monday during which Ban Ki Moon, South Korea's foreign minister, is expected to be chosen as the next U.N. secretary general.

In a private phone conversation with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice yesterday, Ban offered to mediate between Washington and Pyongyang should he be selected as the next U.N. chief, according to an official briefed on the call.

Bush's top advisers held an emergency meeting about North Korea on Tuesday to review a number of strategies under consideration but came away with little agreement. Officials briefed on the meeting, chaired by national security adviser Stephen J. Hadley, said the participants discussed a range of options for restarting talks with Pyongyang and coaxing allies such as China and South Korea to adopt a tough line in the face of threats. "It was the first in a series of meetings we're going to have to hold," said one official who agreed to discuss it on the condition of anonymity. "There has been no major policy shift or change in anything at this point," the official said. The State Department issued a worldwide communique to foreign governments afterward reiterating the administration's belief that a test would destabilize the region.

At the United Nations, U.S. Ambassador John R. Bolton discussed the matter with the Security Council, Casey said. The United States hopes "to see some action there in the near future," he added.

But Bolton said that, already, there are disagreements among council members about how to respond and that a Japanese initiative to send a council warning to Pyongyang lacks support.

North Korea's nuclear capabilities have grown significantly during Bush's presidency. When he came into office six years ago, intelligence agencies estimated that North Korea had the capability to make one or two nuclear weapons. As the potential arsenal has grown to as high as 11, the administration has rebuffed calls to sit down directly with North Korea.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/04/AR2006100400278.html>

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Washington Post

October 5, 2006

Pg. 30

## **Nuclear Talks Seen Leaving Iran Closer To U.N. Sanctions**

By Associated Press

HASHTGERD, Iran, Oct. 4 -- President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned Wednesday that sanctions will not stop Iran from enriching uranium after a European negotiator conceded that "endless hours" of talks had made little progress and suggested that the dispute could wind up at the United Nations soon.

The talks had been seen as a last-ditch attempt to avoid a full-blown confrontation between Iran and the U.N.

Security Council after the Tehran government ignored an Aug. 31 deadline to suspend enrichment -- a key step toward making nuclear weapons -- or face punishment.

The latest comments suggested an emerging consensus that the time has finally come to consider Security Council sanctions.

Iran maintains that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes and does not violate international law. Javier Solana, the European Union official who has been negotiating with the Iranians, told the European Parliament on Wednesday that the Iranians had made "no commitment to suspend."

The dialogue "cannot last forever," he said, adding that it was up to Tehran to decide whether the time for talks was over.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/04/AR2006100402052.html>

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New York Times

October 5, 2006

# An Old Letter Casts Doubts On Iran's Goal For Uranium

By Nazila Fathi

TEHRAN, Oct. 4 — A forgotten letter in which the founder of the Iranian revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, cited a need for nuclear weapons has stoked a debate over whether to negotiate with the West and raised questions about Iran's nuclear intentions today.

Within hours after the letter appeared Friday on the Web site of the news agency ILNA, the word "nuclear" was removed, apparently after a call from the Iranian National Security Council.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has repeatedly insisted that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful, sharply criticized the release of the letter. "Those who think they can weaken the will of the people for construction and development by questioning their values will fail," he said Sunday, "and they only show their lack of wisdom and commitment."

The letter, which had been previously published elsewhere, was written in 1988, near the end of Iran's eight-year war with Iraq. It was brought to light again on Friday by the former Iranian president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, to defend himself against hard-line critics who accuse him of ending the war when Iran was on the brink of victory.

But the letter has also been used by moderates to bolster the case for nuclear talks with the West. Iran faces sanctions for defying the United Nations Security Council's demand that it halt its uranium enrichment, which the United States says is part of a weapons program.

In the letter, Ayatollah Khomeini outlined the reasons Iran had to accept the bitter prospect of a cease-fire in the war, which had ground down to a stalemate, with about 250,000 Iranians dead and 200,000 disabled. It did not specifically call for Iran to develop nuclear weapons, but referred indirectly to the matter by citing a letter written by the officer leading the war effort, Mohsen Rezaei.

"The commander has said we can have no victory for another five years, and even by then we need to have 350 infantry bridges, 2,500 tanks, 300 fighter planes," the ayatollah wrote, adding that the officer also said he would need "a considerable number of laser and nuclear weapons to confront the attacks."

Ayatollah Khomeini determined that the nation could not afford, politically or economically, to continue the war, and in a famous public statement compared the decision to "drinking a chalice of poison."

ILNA, the Iranian Labor News Agency, removed the word "nuclear" within a few hours of putting the letter on the Web, after receiving a call from the Iranian National Security Council, according to a reporter with the agency. The reporter insisted on anonymity for fear of retribution.

The letter was released as part of a debate about who was most instrumental in persuading Ayatollah Khomeini to end the war. That argument, in turn, reflects growing tensions between moderates, led by Mr. Rafsanjani, and military figures, who are expanding their power in the government of President Ahmadinejad.

"The letter is purely part of a domestic argument," said Mohammad Atrianfar, the director of the daily Shargh, an opposition paper that was shut down last month, and a close aide to Mr. Rafsanjani. "Mr. Rafsanjani is very worried because he feels that military and intelligence figures are coming to power and want to alienate the clergy by blaming them for the damages caused during the war."

Hard-liners have criticized Mr. Rafsanjani for disclosing what they said was a classified document and casting doubt over what was termed by many a holy war. He has denied the accusations, saying the letter was made public in 1988 and later published in a book.

But the letter has provided an opportunity for moderate voices to warn about the risks Iran takes in defying the United Nations, comparing the consequences to what happened during the war with Iraq. They argue that, when confronted with the realities of the war, Ayatollah Khomeini decided that the confrontation was not sustainable. On Saturday the daily Kargozaran, a paper aligned with Mr. Rafsanjani, called the letter evidence of "Iran's realistic understanding of the international situation," and concluded that the "experience should become a basis in the decision makings, including Iran's nuclear plans."

Mohsen Armin, a reformist politician, said hard-line politicians who welcomed confrontation with the West should learn a lesson from the letter so they would not have to "drink a chalice of poison" themselves, ILNA reported.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/05/world/middleeast/05iran.html?ref=world>

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Christian Science Monitor

October 5, 2006

## What if North Korea tests a nuclear bomb?

It announced plans Tuesday for a test, prompting a closed-door session at the UN.



**By Howard LaFranchi and Donald Kirk**

## **WASHINGTON AND SEOUL**

In all its years of saber rattling and boasts of nuclear-weapons capabilities, North Korea has never gone beyond talk to proving that it has the bomb.

Now Pyongyang says it will conduct a nuclear test - a move that would remove any doubt about the accession of the secretive and volatile regime of dictator Kim Jong Il to the nuclear club. With no international inspectors having set foot in the country for four years, a test would provide clues about the kind and power of weapons and the level of technology it possesses.

"At a minimum, a test would be a clarifying moment," says Jonathan Pollack, director of the Strategic Research Department at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

In addition, a test would hold geopolitical ramifications for the northeast Asian region, experts say, and for international efforts to keep the proliferation genie in its bottle. "The political effects of a nuclear test would be at least as consequential - and destabilizing - as any technological leap it might provide the North Korean nuclear program," says Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association in Washington.

A test would shake up northeast Asia, sending shock waves through South Korea and possibly inciting a regional arms race - causing Japan and even South Korea to consider it a necessity to reverse course and develop their own nuclear deterrents. That, experts say, would very likely mean that the international nonproliferation regime is dead.

### **North Korea's ability to do harm**

North Korea has claimed since 2005 that it has a nuclear arsenal, and intelligence specialists believe Pyongyang probably possesses enough plutonium for as many as 10 average-size plutonium bombs. A missile test Pyongyang conducted this summer demonstrated its continuing progress in missile technology, but experts say it still does not have the capability - or a miniaturized weapon - to deliver a weapon by missile.

The only way North Korea at this stage could stage a nuclear attack would be to drop a bomb from an airplane that might be detected as it left North Korean airspace. Besides, notes Mr. Kimball, the North does not possess anything like the B-29 the US used to deliver the first nuclear weapon to its target.

"Their bomb is a standard bomb comparable to the one on Hiroshima," says Kim Tae Woo, senior fellow at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, an adjunct of the defense ministry in Seoul. The Hiroshima bomb, dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, had an explosive effect of 12.5 kilotons, while the one dropped three days later on Nagasaki had an impact of 20 kilotons.

"They have missiles capable of mounting nuclear weapons," says Mr. Kim, "but they should continually minimize the size of weight" so the warheads are small enough for missiles to be able to carry them long distances.

Analysts in South Korea say a nuclear test by the North could cause Seoul to reconsider its policy of reconciliation with Pyongyang.

Still, many observers say North Korea's new threat is primarily directed at the United States - designed to pressure the US into calling off financial sanctions that have been hurting the North, and accepting the direct talks, and the security guarantees, that Pyongyang wants.

### **Washington's careful response**

Washington's response since North Korea announced its intentions Tuesday has been deliberate but nonreactive, with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice saying a test would be "provocative."

The United Nations Security Council was to take up the North Korean issue Wednesday. Some experts see UN Ambassador John Bolton's call for "preventive diplomacy" toward the North as a desire by Washington to use Pyongyang's threatened test to fortify the international front of powers, including China and Russia, to deal more forcefully with the Kim regime.

Alarm over North Korea's nuclear program stems mainly from its more advanced plutonium-weapon development. But Pyongyang is also working on uranium enrichment technology, though less is known about its progress in that area, say intelligence and weapons experts.

"Nobody has a clue where the uranium program is, how big it is, or how far along it is," says John Pike of GlobalSecurity.org.

The Bush administration confronted the regime with evidence of uranium enrichment activities, which the regime reportedly acknowledged - then denied.

The US and other nations need to think in terms of North Korea's global threat as much for its potential to sell nuclear technology and materials as for its future ability to deliver a weapon to a target, says Mr. Kimball of the Arms Control Association. North Korea's regime has already shown a willingness to sell technology and materials - in particular involving its missile program - in return for cash to keep afloat, he adds.

That concern is what stands behind President Bush's focus on keeping weapons of mass destruction out of the wrong hands, says the Naval War College's Mr. Pollack. "Bush has said since at least the 2002 national security estimate

that there is no higher priority than preventing a so-called rogue regime from developing such weapons - or acquiring one," he says.

Still, Pyongyang-as-proliferator, though worrying, is a long-term problem - while the likelihood that a nuclear test will set off an Asian arms race is more immediate, experts say.

### **Worries about regional proliferation**

North Korea gave no hint of when it planned to conduct a nuclear test, leading some experts to suggest that it may be a bluff to draw international attention. But just the threat may be enough to set off a chain reaction in the region, others note.

"The most serious impact would be what this would be likely to cause in the region, prompting other countries to reverse their nuclear nonproliferation policies," says Kimball. In that sense, the North Korea issue parallels the challenge of Iran's nuclear program, since many experts believe a nuclear Iran would tempt other Middle Eastern nations to "go nuclear."

Even now, just because North Korea is threatening to test a nuclear weapon, Japan may well do away with Article Nine of the post-World War II "peace" constitution that bans Japan from sending its "self-defense" forces to fight foreign wars.

If North Korea goes through with a test, Japanese scientists are likely to complete the process of building nuclear weapons. Kim, the Korean defense analyst, estimates that Japan could become a nuclear power within months, despite its aversion to any form of nuclear warfare carried over from the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Such eventualities explain why some experts insist that the real impact of North Korea's test threat would be on global nonproliferation efforts.

"The real challenges are yet to come," says Pollack. "We have to ask if the fact of a North Korea test triggers other responses that fundamentally mean that the nonproliferation regime as we know it has ceased to exist."

• *Staff writer Ben Arnoldy contributed to this report.*

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2006/1005/p01s03-woap.html>

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The Washington Times

October 4, 2006

## **Detectors hunt anthrax 5 years after deadly attack**

By Randolph E. Schmid and Michael J. Sniffen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than 1,000 biological detectors are sniffing mail across the country for dangerous contamination as the hunt goes on for whoever put anthrax in letters and killed five persons just after the September 11 attacks.

An anthrax case in Florida, reported five years ago today, brought the first hint of what turned out to be contamination of mail that reached the District, New York, Connecticut and New Jersey and raised fears nationwide. Last month, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III said that agents are still working on the aging anthrax case, and he declared it "will be solved and the person or persons responsible will be brought to justice."

"From the outset, we have been open to any and all theories, and the investigation continues on any and all theories," Mr. Mueller said.

The U.S. Postal Service has taken action to prevent a repeat.

"We have fully deployed the fleet of bio-detection systems" on canceling machines at 271 mail-processing locations, Postal Vice President Tom Day said.

A modified version for larger, flat mail items will be put into service next year, he said.

Installation of the current system cost \$800 million, provided by Congress, and the post office is spending about \$70 million to operate it. That annual cost is expected to climb to \$120 million.

The detectors check for anthrax and two other biological hazards, which Mr. Day declined to identify.

Among those killed in 2001 were two postal workers at the District's Brentwood mail processing facility.

Mr. Day said that workers now are trained to look for suspicious packages and call in postal inspectors if they detect something unusual.

Last week, the FBI denied it had overestimated the potency of the anthrax spores used in the killings.

Shortly after the attacks, reports said the spores contained additives and had been subjected to sophisticated milling - both techniques used in anthrax-based weapons -- to make them more lethal.

But bureau officials now say that the early reports of weapons-grade anthrax were misconceptions.

If the anthrax used was less sophisticated than originally thought, that opens a wider field of potential suspects.

Investigators are looking at a small number of people in the United States and abroad because they fit some criterion, such as access to anthrax, said one official who declined to be identified because authorities are reluctant



to discuss the details of ongoing investigations.

Neither that official nor any others involved with the case would discuss the status of Steven Hatfill, the former Army scientist once described by then-Attorney General John Ashcroft as a "person of interest" in the case.

Mr. Hatfill has sued the government, saying that leaked statements about him damaged his career.

There are 17 FBI agents and 10 postal inspectors assigned to the case. Investigators have conducted more than 9,100 interviews, issued more than 6,000 grand jury subpoenas and completed 67 searches.

Despite the installation of the detectors, many postal workers contend not enough has been done, said William Burrus, president of the American Postal Workers Union.

The units that have been installed are effective, Mr. Burrus said, but not all mail is processed in postal facilities. He said some is prepared by large business mailers and dropped off for delivery.

The detectors have conducted more than 3 million tests, screening about 60 billion pieces of mail with no false alarms. Postal contractors and the Defense Department worked together to devise the system.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/metro/20061003-103956-5418r.htm>

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Boston Globe  
October 6, 2006

## Rumsfeld Warns On N. Korea

*Global leaders must act, he says*

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said yesterday that if North Korea successfully tests a nuclear weapon, it would show weakness on the part of the international community.

"And that failure . . . is something that the international community would have to register," Rumsfeld said at the Pentagon during a visit by Croatian Defense Minister Berislav Roncevic.

His comments came as US officials warned North Korea anew not to test a nuclear weapon. Amid the rising tensions, Japan's Kyodo News agency said a US military plane capable of detecting radiation took off from southern Japan, believed to be part of US efforts to monitor for signs of a North Korean test.

"It isn't in their interest and it isn't in anyone's interest," Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, the top US negotiator on the communist country's nuclear program, said. "We will not accept a nuclear state."

Rumsfeld also said that a successful North Korean test could prompt other countries to pursue nuclear weapons.

"Because of the ineffectiveness, and the lack of cohesion and the inability to marshal sufficient leverage to prevent North Korea from proceeding toward a nuclear program . . . it will kind of lower the threshold, and other countries will step forward with it," Rumsfeld said.

He added that depending on whether the test is above or below ground, the United States has as good a capability of detecting it as any country.

He declined to say, however, whether or not it would trigger any US military action.

"That's a decision for the country, and a decision for president," Rumsfeld said.

The United States has sent a message of "deep concern" to the North through diplomatic channels at the United Nations in New York, Hill said Wednesday, adding that the North Koreans had received it and had not yet responded.

The North Korean announcement gave no date for any test, but US intelligence agencies are closely monitoring activity at possible test sites, even while cautioning against reading too much into every movement.

The United States and North Korea have no diplomatic relations outside deadlocked six-nation nuclear talks and rarely communicate with each other so directly.

Hill would not discuss policy options, but he said senior US diplomats, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, were in steady communication with their counterparts in Asia and Europe.

In the event of a nuclear test, Hill said, "We would have no choice but to act and act resolutely to make sure (North Korea) understood, and make sure every other country in the world understands, that this is a very bad mistake."

US and international officials also said the UN Security Council would consider sanctions against the North if the test occurs.

[http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2006/10/06/rumsfeld\\_warns\\_on\\_n\\_korea/](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2006/10/06/rumsfeld_warns_on_n_korea/)

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New York Times  
October 6, 2006

# U.S. Weighs Sanctions Against North Korea

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5 — The Bush administration is developing an extensive list of possible new sanctions against North Korea in the event that it carries through with its threat to conduct a nuclear test, senior officials said Thursday.

The measures under consideration include renewing efforts that have been unsuccessful in the past — persuading South Korea and China to cut off energy supplies and trade — and potentially confrontational steps that include intercepting and inspecting sea shipments into and out of the country.

Many of the sanctions have been considered before, as part of a long-running argument within the Bush administration over the best way to deal with North Korea. After a series of emergency meetings, including one on Tuesday at the White House, officials on each side of that debate said a nuclear test would end the argument about whether the United States should emphasize rewards or penalties.

“If the test happens, all the arguments are over,” said one senior official in the midst of the debate. “We’ll end up going to full-scale sanctions; the only debate is what ‘full-scale’ means.”

On Wednesday night, Christopher R. Hill, the assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs and a leading proponent of making new creative diplomatic offers to the North, announced that “we are not going to live with a nuclear North Korea.”

Administration officials concede that the United States has been living with a nuclear North Korea for years. But the fact that North Korea has not yet tested its weapons has created enough diplomatic ambiguity that President Bush has not had to confront how he would enforce his own declaration in 2003 that he would never tolerate a nuclear-armed North Korea.

American intelligence agencies have long declared that North Korea has produced the fuel for nuclear weapons, but in recent days, their briefings have also included an assessment based on the expectation that the North is likely to make good on its threat to conduct an underground test.

The briefings include the important caveat that such assessments are based more on an evaluation of the political environment and North Korean strategy than on physical evidence that a test is imminent. The briefings were described by several government officials, who said they did not forecast a specific timetable.

The question of sanctions is an enormously delicate one, which officials will not discuss on the record because the issue is still under debate. The officials who did discuss them, however, came from both camps in the administration, and they appeared unified in sending North Korea a warning that a test would galvanize Washington into actions that some administration hawks have proposed for years.

Mr. Bush, several officials said, planned to call the president of China, Hu Jintao, in coming days to urge him to send an emissary to North Korea to deliver a sharp warning about the consequences of a test. They said Mr. Bush was also planning to call other leaders in the region.

Frederick Jones, a National Security Council spokesman, would only say, “Our objective is to try to use our influence, and the influence of others, to convince the North Koreans that they should not test a nuclear device.” But American officials are clearly concerned that the appeal to Beijing will not prove sufficient. “The last time the Chinese did this after the missile tests” that North Korea launched in early July, “their delegation was left cooling their heels for days,” one senior official said. Others cautioned that China always shied away from the ultimate sanction, cutting off the North’s oil, for fear that it could set off an economic or political collapse that would result in chaos along the border.

So for now the United States is seeking to win agreement on a “president’s statement” from the United Nations Security Council warning North Korea against a test. But the threatened test comes as the administration is already trying to persuade the Security Council to make good on its threat to impose sanctions against Iran for defying a call for it to suspend uranium enrichment. That situation is the subject of a meeting in London on Friday that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will attend.

Some American officials are concerned that adding North Korea to the list of countries the United States wants punished could complicate those efforts and fracture a fragile coalition. But the under secretary of state for political affairs, R. Nicholas Burns, said in a telephone interview on Thursday that he did not believe the Council was growing either weary or leery of threatening sanctions.

“You haven’t heard a single country support the North Koreans this week,” Mr. Burns said. “And we have made it very clear that should they test, we will work for a Chapter VII resolution at the Council,” a reference to the section of the United Nations Charter that declares a country’s act to be a threat to peace and security, and can pave the way for retaliation.

The potential sanctions against North Korea are described in a series of classified options papers that have been circulating among senior administration officials.

The proposed sanctions, which are graduated, could begin with a significant tightening on economic transactions — a process that began last year with action against a small bank in Macao that is widely believed to have handled transactions for President Kim Jong-il and other leaders, and that American investigators say was involved in money laundering.

A more escalated measure would involve inspection of all shipping, using a provision of a Security Council resolution passed after the July missile tests that allows nations to block missile or missile-related transactions.

But the reality is that North Korea receives most of its goods over the Chinese and Russian borders. Kurt Campbell, a former Defense Department official who specializes in Asia and is now at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said, "Without leveraging the Chinese to put firm pressure on, very little can be accomplished by the U.S. through sanctions."

[http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/06/world/asia/06nuke.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/06/world/asia/06nuke.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

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YaHoo! News

Thu Oct 5, 9:19 PM ET

## U.S. Softens Warning On Nuclear Test

By Carol Giacomo, Diplomatic Correspondent

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States on Thursday played down an earlier warning to

**North Korea** over that country's plans for a nuclear test, saying it was not threatening Pyongyang with "lethal" action.

But U.S. officials again promised unspecified consequences if Pyongyang tested a nuclear weapon and said the test could come within days, possibly on Sunday.

At the **United Nations**, Security Council members reached broad agreement on a Japanese-drafted statement that warns North Korea of unspecified consequences if it conducts a nuclear test.

North Korea's neighbors, including China -- the closest the reclusive communist state has to an ally -- hardened their response to Tuesday's announcement it would conduct a nuclear test, in contrast to their disunity over missile tests carried out by Pyongyang three months ago.

The U.S. point man on North Korea, Chris Hill, told CNN that predictions were difficult but a North Korean test "could come very soon, it could take a little while longer."

Hill gave Pyongyang a stark warning on Wednesday, insisting the United States would not live with a nuclear-armed North Korea and would "act resolutely" to ensure it understood testing would be a "bad mistake."

White House spokesman Tony Snow said on Thursday that was not "a lethal threat ... it's a statement of our policy, which is we don't think they should have nuclear weapons."

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he worried North Korea would sell nuclear weapons to terrorists or hostile countries.

Three senior U.S. officials, with access to intelligence, told Reuters that U.S. speculation about a possible test centered on Sunday, the anniversary of when North Korean leader Kim Jong-il became head of the national defense commission in 1997, or Monday, which is North Korea Worker's Party Day as well as the U.S. holiday for explorer Christopher Columbus.

"We're looking at this weekend," said one administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Asked if the test could come this weekend, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso told reporters on Friday : "Unlike a rocket, we can't see it, so there is nothing we can say." Asked if Japan thought that tension was really mounting, he said "No."

The U.N. statement, first submitted by Japan's U.N. Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, urges Pyongyang to cancel its planned test and return immediately to six-party talks aimed at persuading it to abandon its atomic arms program, according to the text obtained by Reuters.

The text warns North Korea a nuclear test would lead to further unspecified council action "consistent with its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations."

It does not include a U.S. proposal to refer to Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter. Chapter 7 includes sanctions and other punitive measures, including a military strike, providing the council adopts a resolution specifying the action, which at this stage is doubtful.

Japan's Kyodo news agency reported from New York that Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing had warned North Korea it would face "serious consequences" if it made good on its pledge to test a nuclear device.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said she could not confirm the report. Publicly, the ministry has called only for restraint on North Korea's part and for other countries to avoid actions that would heighten tensions.

MILITARY AIRCRAFT

Citing "informed sources," Kyodo said a U.S. military aircraft capable of collecting and analyzing airborne radioactive substances had earlier taken off from the Kadena base in Okinawa.

China wants the issue resolved through the six-country talks that include

**South Korea**, Japan, Russia and the United States set up to end North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Japan's new prime minister, Shinzo Abe, is due to visit Beijing on Sunday and Seoul the following day to break the ice in relations between Tokyo and its neighbors left by his predecessor, Junichiro Koizumi.

North Korea's nuclear threat would naturally be a topic during Abe's talks with Chinese and South Korean leaders, Japanese Foreign Minister Aso said.

"Seeing the new diplomatic overtures between China, South Korea and Japan is probably ratcheting up North Korean concerns," said Brad Glosserman, executive director at the Hawaii-based Pacific Forum CSIS.

Pyongyang has boycotted the six-party talks for almost a year due to a U.S. crackdown on North Korean offshore bank accounts that Washington says is aimed at ending suspected illicit activities and has nothing to do with the talks.

(Additional reporting by Linda Sieg, Isabel Reynolds and Chisa Fujioka in Tokyo, Paul Eckert and Will Dunham in Washington, Ben Blanchard in Beijing and Evelyn Leopold at the United Nations)

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20061006/ts\\_nm/korea\\_north\\_dc\\_11](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20061006/ts_nm/korea_north_dc_11)

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Washington Post

October 6, 2006

Pg. 20

## **World Powers To Discuss Sanctions Against Iran Over Nuclear Issue**

By Robin Wright, Washington Post Staff Writer

BAGHDAD, Oct. 5 -- Months of intense negotiations with Iran about its nuclear program have failed and the United States and its diplomatic partners will meet in London on Friday to discuss which punitive actions to include in a new U.N. resolution, U.S. and European officials said Thursday.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack announced in Baghdad that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and counterparts from Britain, France, Russia and China -- the four other permanent members of U.N. Security Council -- plus Germany will hold talks.

The United States wants to impose sanctions on Iran, but divisions are still deep among the six countries over whether to go that far and, if so, in what form. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Thursday that his country does not back sanctions as a means to punish the Islamic republic for failing to comply with a U.N. resolution that requires it to suspend uranium enrichment. Iran maintains that the fuel program is part of a peaceful nuclear energy program, but U.S. officials and others worry that it could be subverted for making weapons.

"I believe that until diplomatic means are exhausted, sanctions would be too radical," Lavrov said at a news conference in Warsaw. "We have to do everything to persuade Iran to begin negotiations. . . . The issue needs to be resolved diplomatically."

European Union foreign affairs chief Javier Solana, who has taken the lead in recent last-ditch talks with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, also said talks should not be closed off. "Even if we fail now, we should maintain the doors open to continue dialogue with Iran," he said Thursday in Rome.

China also has been reluctant to impose tough sanctions, while France has not been as adamant as the United States and Britain. "We've done the Solana effort and now we'll have to move to sanctions. That's the ministers' role," Rice said en route to Baghdad on Thursday.

The first stage of sanctions could include a travel ban on Iranian officials involved in the nuclear program and a ban on selling Iran so-called dual-use equipment that can be adopted for weapons. Tougher actions could follow if Iran continues to balk.

At the United Nations, Britain's ambassador, Emyr Jones Parry, said the Security Council is likely to discuss specific language for a resolution on Iran next week that would include nonmilitary sanctions under Chapter 7, Article 41 of the U.N. Charter.

U.S. officials remain optimistic that they can win agreement -- in large part because of Iran itself. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has repeated several times in recent weeks, including during a trip to the United Nations last month, that Iran would not give up its enrichment program because it is operating within the rules of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

During a visit to Spain, French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said that Iran is "gaining time" and that the time had come "to look at the consequences of Iran's attitude." But Douste-Blazy also said the route to dialogue would remain open if Tehran suspends its nuclear program.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/05/AR2006100501848.html>

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Los Angeles Times

October 6, 2006

## **If Kim Jong Il Gets Nukes**

*How the world would change for the worse if the hermit kingdom explodes a bomb.*

By Aaron L. Friedberg

After four years of bluster and buildup, North Korea has finally reached the nuclear finish line. On Tuesday, it announced its intention to step across. At every point along the way, Pyongyang has telegraphed its intentions, first announcing that it would withdraw from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and reprocess plutonium, then declaring that it already possessed a "deterrent force" and now, for the first time, proclaiming that it will conduct a weapons test. In this way, Pyongyang has probed the resolve of those seeking to stop it, extorting economic rewards for simply showing up at the negotiating table while at the same time forcing the world to adjust to the idea that it either already is, or soon will be, a member of the nuclear club.

In keeping with past practice, the North will probably not test right away, preferring instead to see what new concessions it can extract. Unless it encounters a tougher and more unified response than it has to date, however, Pyongyang will probably follow through eventually on its latest threat. On the nuclear issue, at least, Kim Jong Il has proved to be a man of his word.

What would be the effect of a successful North Korean nuclear test? The answer could turn out to be worse than many observers now seem to imagine.

For Kim, a nuclear blast would be a personal triumph, the crowning glory of a 20-year nuclear research program carried out under his direction that puts him at last on an equal footing with his father and sainted predecessor and promises to secure the Kim dynasty for decades to come. Success will boost the "Dear Leader's" already ample confidence in his own strategic genius, while putting him in a better position to deter external threats and to command the continued loyalty of his subordinates in the military and the security services. It may also convince him that he is freer to indulge his propensity for taking risks and his habit of extorting food, fuel and cash from his neighbors.

Instead of making Kim secure, and hence easier to deal with, nuclear weapons could well make him more aggressive and dangerous. The aftershocks of a nuclear test will reverberate in South Korea and could shake its society, economy and political system to their foundations. Critics of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun will accuse him of pursuing a failed policy of appeasement that has condemned the North's wretched masses to continuing enslavement while exposing the South to endless, escalating blackmail. Roh's defenders will, in turn, blame the U.S. for provoking Pyongyang and will urge a redoubling of economic assistance and diplomatic suasion.

In Washington, long frustrated by Seoul's unwillingness to step up pressure on the North, there will be sharp questions about the wisdom of continuing to deploy tens of thousands of U.S. troops to defend a country that has been subsidizing its own enemy with aid and trade. If Americans blame Seoul for having done too little to stop it, a nuclear test could well trigger an agonizing reappraisal of the U.S.-South Korea alliance. The resulting climate of uncertainty could damage investment and growth in the South, further heightening political tensions.

In Tokyo, a North Korean nuclear test would doubtless accelerate efforts by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to remove the pacifism clauses from Japan's constitution and expand its military capabilities. The question of whether Tokyo should acquire its own nuclear deterrent will move from speculation to serious political debate. Moreover, with Kim brandishing nuclear weapons, Abe would probably fear that any conciliatory gestures could be misinterpreted as signs of weakness, and so would be far less likely to heed the advice of those who are urging him to give ground on public acknowledgment of Japan's misdeeds during World War II. With Japan adopting a tougher defense posture, and probably faulting Beijing for not restraining its North Korean ally, any prospect of warmer relations with China will quickly evaporate.

If China's leaders believe they can sidestep blame for Pyongyang's actions, they are likely to be disappointed. If China fails to stop the North from crossing this last line, it will be humiliating for Beijing and will raise questions in Washington about the extent to which China has truly become a "responsible stakeholder" in the international system. The claim that Beijing is indispensable in keeping North Korea in check has helped the Bush administration fend off pressure for tough action on other issues, including China's alleged unfair trading practices. With this prop gone, U.S. policy toward China could become more sharply confrontational.

Finally, a North Korean test would mark a painful defeat for the Bush administration. Having said repeatedly that it would never tolerate a nuclear-armed North, Washington may find that it has little choice but to do so. American credibility will be weakened and the system of international agreements meant to stop nuclear proliferation will suffer a possibly fatal blow. Pyongyang's success will probably embolden Iran in its quest for nuclear capability while heightening Washington's resolve to use any means necessary to stop it. And this is to say nothing of the possibility that North Korea may follow through on yet another threat that it has made, albeit obliquely, in recent years: to sell or transfer nuclear weapons or material to whomever it chooses.

A North Korean nuclear test would damage the national interests of all the major northeast Asian powers. They would be well advised to join ranks and finally apply the coordinated diplomatic and economic pressures that provide the last best hope for a satisfactory, peaceful solution to the current crisis.

*AARON L. FRIEDBERG is a professor at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a former advisor to Vice President Dick Cheney.*

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-friedberg6oct06,0,2834319.story?coll=la-opinion-rightrail>

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