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## Articles & Other Documents:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <a href="#">Reworked Device A Few Months Off, U.S. Analysts Say</a>            | <a href="#">North Korea Looks Down, Feels Secure</a>                            |
| <a href="#">Sanctions Don't Dent N. Korea-China Trade</a>                      | <a href="#">S. Korea moves on sanctions as N. Korea issues warning</a>          |
| <a href="#">In '97, U.S. Panel Predicted A North Korea Collapse In 5 Years</a> | <a href="#">Security Council Split On Iran Sanctions Draft</a>                  |
| <a href="#">Using A 2nd Network, Iran Raises Enrichment Ability</a>            | <a href="#">South Suspects Neighbor Preparing New Test</a>                      |
| <a href="#">Gingerly, South Korea Imposes First Sanction On North</a>          | <a href="#">Twenty-Five Nations To Join in Nonproliferation Exercise</a>        |
| <a href="#">Anthrax vaccine opponents gear up to renew fight</a>               | <a href="#">Nations Meet in Morocco on How To Counter Nuclear Terror Threat</a> |
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Washington Times  
October 27, 2006  
Pg. 13

## **Reworked Device A Few Months Off, U.S. Analysts Say**

### *More nuclear tests anticipated*

By Anju S. Bawa, The Washington Times

North Korean scientists will only need a few months at most to correct technical problems connected with the Oct. 9 test of the country's first nuclear device, U.S. analysts estimate.

U.S. government and private analysts are still trying to gauge the effectiveness of the test, which sparked global condemnation and a drive to impose new sanctions on the isolated Northeast Asian state.

"North Korea's nuclear test was a partial success," said David Albright, a former inspector for the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, and president of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security. "They will fix the problem, and maybe try again."

U.S. intelligence officials have confirmed the explosion was a nuclear device, but basic questions about the test remain. Pyongyang reportedly told Chinese officials before the test that it would be a 4-kiloton blast, but the actual measured explosion was estimated at less than 1 kiloton.

The smaller blast suggests a problem with the chain reaction, Mr. Albright said at a forum on the North Korean nuclear program at Johns Hopkins University earlier this week. "It blew apart before [the] optimal time."

The most likely cause of the failure was a component that initiates the chain reaction that produces the explosion, Mr. Albright said.

Frank N. von Hippel, a nuclear physicist and professor of public and international affairs at Princeton University, said a successful nuclear blast requires an intricate sequence of events that must be timed perfectly for complete detonation.

"There are lots of things that could have gone wrong," he said in a phone interview. The timing may have been off, or something else could have started the chain reaction, he said.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the D.C.-based Arms Control Association, said the test could have developed problems even before the chain reaction started, owing to the poor quality of the plutonium used or faults with the detonators.

"We can't say what was the cause or what the device was expected to do," Mr. Kimball said.

It also is not clear exactly how much the North Koreans expected the device to yield, analysts said.

"We don't know what they meant when they said 4 kilotons. They may have meant 4 to 10 kilotons," Mr. Albright said. By comparison, the nuclear bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945 was 20 kilotons.

All of the U.S. analysts agreed that it would take the North Koreans only a few months to fix these types of problems.

It is possible that a crude 4-kiloton nuclear device can be carried by North Korea's Nodong missile, Mr. Albright said. Such a missile could easily reach U.S. allies Japan or South Korea and "threaten American assets" in the region.

He estimated that North Korea has enough weapons-grade plutonium to make between four and 13 nuclear weapons. Mr. Kimball said the North Koreans "learned a lot from the test, even if it did not detonate fully."

"This was a political test. Whether it performed exactly as designed or not, the world now knows North Korea has nuclear weapons," he said.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20061026-102734-5998r.htm>

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

Los Angeles Times

October 27, 2006

## **North Korea Looks Down, Feels Secure**

*Like China used to, the Stalinist state with more land than technology relies heavily on tunnels for its national defense.*

By Mark Magnier, Times Staff Writer

In a nondescript neighborhood of Beijing near the Temple of Heaven, behind a seemingly normal doorway, two flights of stairs reveal a 62-mile complex of tunnels built in the 1970s as China braced for Soviet and U.S. attack.

"Many Chinese tourists ask us if Americans will bomb us in the future," guide Shao Cen said, standing next to a poster that read "American Invaders Will Fail" as water dripped from the flaking plaster overhead.

Situated along the 8-foot-high tunnels are the remains of hospitals, reading and conference rooms, warehouses and arsenals, part of a network that once linked Beijing's airport, Tiananmen Square and the government ministries.

News that North Korea had conducted its first nuclear test in a tunnel 60 miles from the Chinese border brought the memories of those invasion fears flooding back — and kindled a kind of empathy for China's controversial neighbor.

"The success of the Chinese government's propaganda campaign turned us all into Spartan soldiers eager for war so we could become communist heroes," said Ni Lexiong, a military analyst with the Shanghai Institute of Politics and Law who helped build an underground network in that city. "I believe the North Koreans are feeling exactly the same today. Nor can I imagine them giving up on a war effort after a few setbacks. I believe their mind is determined and fixed."

North Korea certainly had several reasons to conduct the Oct. 9 test underground: The subterranean endeavor provided an element of surprise by allowing the government in Pyongyang to time the blast for maximum political impact. It hid many of the preparations from prying U.S. satellites. And, assuming that adherence to international agreements matters to North Korea, it allowed the regime to comply with the 1963 nuclear test ban treaty, which forbids above-ground testing.

But the North's love affair with tunnels goes far deeper than the shaft bored into the 1,188-foot Hwadaeri mountain that has become the focus of global attention. Tunnels hold deep psychological comfort for the North Koreans, analysts say, providing a sense of safety from above-ground threats.

"North Korea's extensive tunnel network makes them much braver in times of crisis like this," said Kim Tae-woo, a senior fellow with the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses. "It's a key part of the political effect their authorities aim at, the belief that the nation can be defended."

According to South Korean propagandists, North Korea's founder Kim Il Sung once said, "One good tunnel is worth more than an atomic bomb."

"It's an effective and easy way to deal with countries like the U.S. and Japan with advanced technology," Jin Linbo, Asia-Pacific director with the China Institute of International Studies in Beijing, said of the North's tunnel vision, which had its genesis in the Korean War half a century ago. "For a poor country with mountains, the only way is to take advantage of this land advantage."

Each subsequent war involving archenemy America that North Koreans have watched on their fuzzy TV sets — from Vietnam and the removal of President Slobodan Milosevic in Yugoslavia to the two Iraq wars — has only underscored the strength of U.S. airpower and the need to retreat farther into the darkness of the North's estimated 8,000 to 18,000 tunnels.

The nation's obsession can be seen in the 330-foot depth of the Pyongyang subway, the fear of imminent U.S. attack reinforced by constant propaganda and the location deep underground of museums related to the military or leadership.

"This has more security in case of bombing," guide Paek Hye Sim told foreign visitors in one museum north of the capital last fall.

A 33-page "Detailed Wartime Guidelines" manual from North Korea that surfaced in South Korea early last year orders all government offices and military units to retreat underground with weapons and food within 24 hours of a war breaking out. South Korean analysts said its timing reflected the Pyongyang regime's fear that it was Washington's next target after Iraq.

Everyone should also bring their portraits, plaster busts and bronze statues of leader Kim Jong Il and his parents, it adds, so that these might be protected in a special room.

The discovery between 1974 and 1990 of at least four major tunnel systems running from North Korea across the demilitarized zone and into the South rattled South Korean nerves. Some were discovered after patrolling soldiers noticed smoke, heard voices and felt explosions underground, others after intelligence was gleaned from defectors. Experts estimated that the cross-border shafts, some with rail lines, platforms for heavy equipment and communication cables buried hundreds of feet below ground, would allow 30,000 North Korean troops to infiltrate in an hour.

"It was eerie," said David M. Finkelstein, director of Project Asia at the Alexandria, Va., nonprofit research center CNA Corp. and a former Army officer posted at the Panmunjom truce village in the early 1980s. "I was absolutely amazed at how wide and high the tunnel I visited was."

There haven't been any major discoveries in recent years, leading some to conclude the North has focused its tunnel-building exclusively inward.

Others aren't so sure, however, and accuse the South of hiding such finds in keeping with its accommodating "sunshine policy" toward its mercurial northern neighbor.

The fear that Northern soldiers might one day pop out of a Seoul or Incheon sewer has spurred on a small group of avid South Korean tunnel hunters who comb the country, poking microphones, cameras and lasers into the ground in search of the North's mole holes.

"Kim Jong Il's regime can only collapse, but even a rat will charge if driven into a corner," said Kim Han-sik, a pastor who heads a prominent tunnel-hunting group. "We don't know when the country could be taken by the North Koreans."

Back in the Beijing tunnel network, guides sporting Chairman Mao pins and camouflage outfits over their designer shoes steer visitors through a small part of the maze deemed safe to navigate.

In a sign of just how far China has drifted from the days of invasion obsession, however, a large underground military planning hall has been turned into a well-stocked silk and souvenir market.

"Business is good," Shao said. "We give you very good price for the quality."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-tunnels27oct27,1,19878.story>

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

## Sanctions Don't Dent N. Korea-China Trade

By Jim Yardley

SANHE, China, Oct. 25 — At the isolated border crossing in this small Chinese town, no one noticed when North Korea conducted its nuclear test in an underground mine about 90 miles away. Nearly three weeks later, no one seems to have noticed the recent United Nations sanctions against North Korea, either.

Truckers carrying goods into North Korea across the sludge-colored Tumen River say inspections are unchanged on the Chinese side. Customs agents rarely open boxes here or at two other border crossings in this mountainous region, truckers and private transport companies say.

Nor are any fences visible, like the barrier under construction near China's busiest border crossing at the city of Dandong. There were early reports that inspectors in Dandong were at least opening trucks for a look, but so far statistics and anecdotal reports in the Chinese news media indicate that, essentially, everything remains the same. What is visible here, though, is the growing and, in some ways, surprisingly complicated trade relationship between China and North Korea. China remains North Korea's most important aid donor and oil supplier, but, conversely, China is now importing growing amounts of coal and electricity from North Korea. Chinese entrepreneurs, meanwhile, are starting to buy shares in North Korean mining operations and, in one case, trying to gain access to the Sea of Japan by leasing a North Korean port as a potential shipping hub.

The upswing in Chinese economic activity — which is already raising questions about whether the intent is more strategic than commercial — is one of the reasons that China has sent mixed signals about how aggressive it will be in inspecting border trade to meet the United Nations sanctions. For now, at least, some truckers in this region say the only change in border inspections has come on the North Korean side, where customs agents are checking loads more carefully for items deemed contraband by Kim Jong-il's government.

"We used to sit with North Koreans that we know and have a chat," said Jiang Zhuchun, a trucker waiting to cross into North Korea on Tuesday afternoon. "But after the nuclear test, we are only allowed to sit alone in our trucks." The United States has praised China for approving the sanctions against North Korea, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice used her visit to Beijing last week to emphasize the common desire to restart diplomatic talks on North Korea's nuclear program. China's leaders are said to be deeply angered over the nuclear test and have signaled they may take a harder line against their longtime ally. Last week, some banks in Dandong froze certain accounts and financial transactions with North Korea.

But the question of inspections along the 866-mile border between China and North Korea is a different matter. The sanctions authorized countries to inspect cargo entering and leaving North Korea and barred the sale or transfer of material that can be used to make nuclear weapons. Yet the sanctions are still less than two weeks old, and some details have still not been worked out. For example, the sanctions ban luxury goods without defining them.

The United States wants tightened border inspections by China as a tool for squeezing the North Korean economy and ensuring that North Korea cannot buy or sell nuclear materials. China is worried that destabilizing North Korea could begin an exodus of refugees and has resisted changing inspections. This week, with rumors swirling about a possible border crackdown, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Liu Jianchao, said China intended to comply fully with the sanctions, but also said inspections along the border would remain "normal."

The Yanbian Korean Autonomous Region, the name of the sprawling district that includes the Sanhe border checkpoint, is not the primary trade route between China and North Korea; Dandong, with its more direct route to Pyongyang, the North's capital, is by far the busiest. But the Yanbian area is wedged into a geopolitical hotspot where China, North Korea and Russia all come together.

In interviews and visits to three crossings from Yanbian into North Korea, truckers, transportation company agents, investors and others confirmed without exception that trade is continuing across the border much as it always has. Customs agents examine bills of lading but usually open shipments only when they are tipped in advance to someone trying to smuggle goods like beer or liquor without paying customs duties, several people said.

"No matter who you talk to, they will tell you there is not much difference," said Jin Lanzhu, whose trading company is one of the largest in the region.

On Wednesday morning inside the Chinese customs yard in the border city of Tumen, small groups of North Koreans, each wearing their mandatory pins with images of either North Korean leader Kim Jong-il or his father, Kim Il-sung, waited to cross the bridge. They had nylon sacks stuffed with shoes and clothes, television sets, a refrigerator. Some carried bags of rice.

"How many bags do you have?" asked a female Chinese customs agent in a blue uniform. She looked them over and walked away without opening any. She did forbid the North Koreans to take several boxes of fruit because of a problem with worms. Then, the men began loading the sacks onto a flatbed truck operated by the customs office to

carry smaller loads to the North Korean side. Two North Korean women complained to a local taxi driver that they had to pay 400 yuan, or about \$50, for the service.

"They don't really check over here," one North Korean woman said of Chinese customs. "They do on the North Korean side."

A similar scene unfolded later in the day at a smaller crossing in the dingy town of Kaishan, where the customs port is so small that trucks take a dirt road to a crumbling checkpoint. On Wednesday, a young soldier watched laborers load about 150 used televisions and boxes of medicine into a North Korean truck that had crossed the river to collect the shipment.

"I'm here for security," the soldier said.

Trade between China and North Korea has grown rapidly in recent years — as has North Korea's trade deficit with China, in part, because China no longer appears to be selling oil at a subsidized rate. China now accounts for almost 40 percent of North Korea's total foreign trade; bilateral trade has more than doubled to \$1.1 billion in 2005 from \$490 million in 1995. In Yanbian alone, trade with North Korea jumped 82 percent in 2004 and another 20 percent in 2005, according to a local newspaper account.

Divining what the increased traffic says about the state of North Korea's economy is a subject of debate. New research and interviews in the Yanbian region suggest that North Korea, a country that regularly suffers blackouts, is now exporting growing amounts of coal, minerals and even electricity to China, which is hungry for energy and raw materials. In exchange, North Korea is no longer importing as much raw material and machinery as it had in the past.

Instead, North Korea is importing food, clothes, daily sundries, outdated televisions and appliances and, of course, oil. The trend could suggest that North Korea's recent experiments with private markets may be expanding, some analysts said.

A recent study by the Nautilus Institute, a San Francisco-based research group, used customs statistics to describe the trend, but also concluded that it might indicate that North Korea's nonmilitary manufacturing industries were in sharp decline. One Chinese investor in a North Korean coal mine agreed. "They seemed to have stopped the factories," said the investor, who asked not to be identified. He said doing business with North Korea was very risky and cautioned that numerous Chinese businessmen had lost money. "There are zero guarantees and protections." Even so, Chinese entrepreneurs and companies, both private and state-owned, are starting to buy interests in North Korean mines to export raw materials. The amount of investment is not clearly defined, but different Chinese proposals call for building truck routes between inland trade centers in northeast China to the North Korean coast, according to Chinese media accounts.

A Chinese property developer, Fan Yingsheng, told the Chinese news media that despite the nuclear test, he was still pursuing plans to develop the North Korean port of Rajin into a shipping center for goods from China. He said he would soon fly to Pyongyang to sign a final agreement.

The flurry of Chinese activity has not gone unnoticed by South Korea and others in the region, analysts say. Like China, South Korea has resisted harsh economic sanctions and refused to shut down its own trade deals with North Korea in part because of concerns about a swift collapse of the North Korean government. But South Korea is also positioning itself, to some degree against China, to be the dominant player in the future of North Korea.

China, meanwhile, has said the activity is not strategic positioning but natural economic outgrowth for a booming, entrepreneurial economy in need of resources. Li Dunqiu, a North Korea specialist with a research institute under China's State Council, or cabinet, recently wrote that "laws of the market economy" were the driving force in Chinese investment in North Korea.

Along the border, it is easy to see how the daily traffic from China is a lifeline for North Korea. One woman from Yanbian said her family had recently come across to buy rice and other essentials. But Mr. Jin, the owner of the trading company, said charity was not at the essence of China's trade with North Korea.

"The business interest is the most important thing," he said. "Helping them comes after that." Then, pausing to reflect on the potential and perils of trading with North Korea, he added: "North Korea is just like China in the past. It is a blank sheet of paper. You can draw wherever you want to. The question is whether the paper is going to be there at all times for you to draw on."

[http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/27/world/asia/27border.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/27/world/asia/27border.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

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

USA Today  
October 27, 2006  
Pg. 12A

**S. Korea moves on sanctions as N. Korea issues warning**

By Tanalee Smith, Associated Press

SEOUL — South Korea made its first concrete move Thursday to enforce United Nations sanctions imposed on North Korea for its nuclear test, a government minister said.

Unification Minister Lee Jong Seok said Seoul would ban officials from the communist country who fall under a U.N. travel restriction and control financial transactions between the Koreas.

The U.N. resolution, passed in response to the North's underground nuclear blast on Oct. 9, seeks to ban the country's weapons trade and calls for North Korean ships to be searched for suspected illegal materials.

The resolution asks all member countries to state how they plan to implement the sanctions within 30 days of their Oct. 14 adoption.

Lee said Seoul would ban some North Korean officials from traveling to the South and control inter-Korean trade and investment transactions and remittances, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported.

It was unclear how tough the South would be in enforcing the restrictions. Seoul had been hesitant to take strong measures because of concerns over North Korea's massive armed forces poised at the border, family and cultural ties between the two Koreas and the South's wish to expand economic relations with its neighbor.

Also at issue: whether South Korea would expand its participation in a U.S.-led drive to intercept North Korean ships and aircraft suspected of carrying weapons of mass destruction or related material. U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has accused the North of proliferating weapons technology.

On Wednesday, the government in Pyongyang warned that any move by the South to impose trade, travel and financial sanctions would be seen as a "declaration of confrontation" that would elicit "corresponding measures." It also said sanctions could cause a breakdown in inter-Korean relations.

"If North-South relations collapse due to reckless and imprudent sanctions against us, the South Korean authorities will be fully responsible for it and will have to pay a high price," said a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

South Korea rejected the North's warning Thursday.

"If North Korea is concerned about the future of Korean people, it should not aggravate the situation any more (and) return immediately to the six-party talks," the Unification Ministry said, referring to negotiations among the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, China and Russia aimed at resolving the standoff.

A report released by the South Korean Defense Ministry says the North is believed to have extracted 110 pounds of high-grade plutonium, enough for up to seven nuclear weapons.

North Korea also is working to make a small, lightweight nuclear warhead that can be carried by ballistic missile, according to the report released by an opposition lawmaker. The report said the North has developed a warhead weighing 2 to 3 tons. The warhead would need to weigh less than a ton to be mounted on a missile.

The North can use its Russian-made bombers to drop the bombs, said the report, which was based on a meeting of top military officials a day after the North's test. It also said the North has 82 Il-28 bombers at bases in Uiju and Jangjin.

[http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20061027/a\\_korea27.art.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20061027/a_korea27.art.htm)

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

New York Times

October 27, 2006

Pg. 6

## **In '97, U.S. Panel Predicted A North Korea Collapse In 5 Years**

By Mark Mazzetti

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 — A team of government and outside experts convened by the Central Intelligence Agency concluded in 1997 that North Korea's economy was deteriorating so rapidly that the government of Kim Jong-il was likely to collapse within five years, according to declassified documents made public on Thursday.

The panel described the isolated and impoverished country as being on the brink of economic ruin and said that "political implosion stemming from irreversible economic degradation seems the most plausible endgame for North Korea." The majority among the group argued that the North's government "cannot remain viable for the long term" and could fall within five years.

Nearly a decade later, the assessment has not been borne out, and its disclosure is evidence of past American misjudgments about the internal dynamics of North Korea's closed society. American intelligence agencies still regard North Korea as among the toughest of intelligence targets and have made little progress inserting human spies into the country to steal secrets about the government.

The assessment was produced by a group that included senior intelligence analysts, Pentagon war gamers and independent academic experts. It was made public on Thursday by the National Security Archive, a research group.

“Conventional wisdom was completely wrong,” said Ambassador Wendy Sherman, who during the late 1990s was the Clinton administration’s coordinator for North Korea policy. “People constantly underestimated the staying power of the North Korean regime.”

The North Korean economy has stabilized in recent years, in part because of a sustained humanitarian aid campaign carried out by the country’s neighbors, especially China and South Korea. Today, there is less belief in Washington that Mr. Kim could lose his grip on power because of an economic collapse within the country.

The documents released Thursday chart a pattern of growing concern about North Korea’s economic crisis during the second half of Bill Clinton’s presidency.

The belief that the North Korean economy was collapsing helped shaped White House thinking in 1994 when it promised to deliver light-water nuclear reactors to North Korea by 2003 in exchange for Pyongyang’s halting its covert nuclear weapons program. Senior Clinton administration officials said privately at the time that they did not expect Mr. Kim’s government to be in power by the time the United States had to make good on its pledge.

By early 1997, according to another document released Thursday, the C.I.A. had concluded that North Korea “cannot reverse its economic fortunes without sweeping reform that would take time to produce results that could unleash destabilizing forces.”

The documents disclosed a misjudgment by the C.I.A. that is the mirror image of an earlier one: while it was predicting an imminent North Korean collapse, the agency was still being criticized for failing in the 1980s to anticipate the speed with which the Soviet Union would eventually fall.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice recently traveled across northeast Asia to build support for a slate of tough economic sanctions intended to punish North Korea for its recent nuclear test.

Publicly, Bush administration officials say that the sanctions can be useful for bringing North Korea back to the negotiating table. Privately however, some officials hold out the hope that the economic squeeze could work to undermine Mr. Kim.

Some members of the C.I.A.-led team of experts interviewed Thursday said they never suspected in 1997 that North Korea’s neighbors would undertake such a concerted aid effort.

“Maybe I just don’t have a great imagination, but the idea that South Korea and Japan and other countries would come to North Korea’s rescue wasn’t one of the hypotheses that I was entertaining,” said Nicholas Eberstadt, a North Korea expert at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

*Thom Shanker contributed reporting.*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/27/world/asia/27intel.html>

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

Los Angeles Times

October 27, 2006

## **Security Council Split On Iran Sanctions Draft**

*China and Russia call the plan too punitive. The U.S. had hoped to build on momentum from North Korea vote.*

By Maggie Farley, Times Staff Writer

U.S. expectations that a tough response to North Korea's nuclear test would inspire swift action against Iran for its nuclear ambitions appeared to diminish Thursday, amid signs of wider divisions and hardening positions on the U.N. Security Council.

It will take "weeks and weeks" of negotiations for a new sanctions resolution for Iran, Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said Thursday after a meeting of the council's five veto-holding members. "A lot of work has still to be done," he said. "A lot of work."

China and Russia overcame their traditional reluctance to impose sanctions after North Korea ignored the Security Council's warnings and conducted a nuclear test Oct. 9.

U.S. officials heralded the unanimous support for tough measures against the government in Pyongyang as a sign of new unity on the Security Council to stop weapons proliferation.

But those hopes were short-lived.

Russia and China have rejected a new draft resolution that would call Iran a "threat to international peace and security" and would bar all Iranian trade in nuclear and missile technology. Although both countries agreed to impose sanctions if Iran flouted a July 31 resolution, they said the new draft was too punitive.

"Since the door for diplomatic efforts is still open, why should we rush to sanctions?" Chinese envoy Li Junhua said to reporters at the United Nations, noting that an incentives package designed by the Europeans was still on the table. "Sanctions, in our assessment, will not help."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei V. Lavrov, speaking to journalists while visiting Salekhard in northwestern Siberia, said the proposed resolution did not match the previously agreed position of the permanent Security Council members — Russia, the U.S., Britain, China and France — and Germany. He did not specify the differences. The Iran resolution, drafted by France, calls for some of the same measures imposed on North Korea: a ban on trade linked to nuclear development, and a travel ban and asset freeze for officials connected to the missile and nuclear programs. It also prohibits travel or study visas for Iranian nationals involved in specialized training that could contribute to the country's nuclear and missile programs.

Like the North Korea resolution, the Iran draft calls for enforcement of sanctions without military action — a new formulation designed to allay Chinese and Russian fears that the resolution could provide cover for an invasion similar to that of Iraq.

But China, Russia and other council members argue that sanctions on Iran should be much lighter because Tehran's infractions are not as serious.

Tehran is facing Security Council action because it has rejected the council's demand to stop enriching uranium — a process that can be used to make fuel for a power plant or material for a nuclear weapon.

Iran has blocked U.N. inspectors from some of its facilities and has been unable to provide verifiable evidence that its nuclear program, developed covertly over 18 years, is for purely peaceful purposes.

Iran denies it is pursuing nuclear weapons, and it remains a member of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, unlike North Korea, which dropped out of the treaty, conducted a nuclear test and has boasted of its nuclear weapons capability.

Some diplomats think that North Korea could have been persuaded to come back to the table, and that the isolation and financial sanctions by Washington only deepened Pyongyang's determination to build a nuclear bomb.

Sanctions against Iran could push it to the edge as well, they argue, and should be imposed only after exhausting other measures, such as direct U.S. talks.

Such talks "would have been useful and will be useful," said Russia's deputy ambassador, Konstantin Dolgov. "Iran is a separate track, but Russia has always held that sanctions are not effective. Negotiations in good faith can be." Diplomats from the European countries leading negotiations with Iran — Britain, France and Germany — have urged Washington to talk to Tehran.

But U.S. officials say direct talks would reward bad behavior.

The draft also exempts a Russian-built nuclear plant in Bushehr, Iran, from sanctions, a concession to Moscow but a rejection of the U.S. position that work there should be halted because it could mask delivery of nuclear material related to a weapons program.

A Russian official said construction would continue, including delivery of plutonium to fuel the plant in the first half of 2007.

"We hope we'll carry the project through to the end," said Alexander Glukhov, vice president of Atomstroieksport, the state firm overseeing the plant's construction, the Russian news agency Interfax reported.

*Times staff writer David Holley in Moscow contributed to this report.*

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iran27oct27,1,3324264.story>

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

New York Times

October 28, 2006

Pg. 7

## **Using A 2nd Network, Iran Raises Enrichment Ability**

By Nazila Fathi

TEHRAN, Oct. 27 — Iran has begun to enrich uranium in a second network of centrifuges, an Iranian local news agency reported Friday, in defiance of a United Nations Security Council demand that it halt its nuclear program.

ISNA Student News Agency quoted an "informed source" as saying that Iran installed a second cascade of 164 centrifuges two weeks ago and successfully injected gas into it last week, theoretically doubling its enrichment capacity.

"We now have the product of the second cascade," the unidentified speaker was quoted as saying.

International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors know of this activity, he said.

In Washington, President Bush said he was aware of "speculation" that Iran has started enriching uranium in a second network. "Whether they doubled it or not, the idea of Iran having a nuclear weapon is unacceptable," Mr. Bush said.



But Russia's defense minister, Sergei Ivanov, said it was too early to speak about Iran being able to produce weapons-grade uranium. "These are empty centrifuges," he told the Itar-Tass news agency. "You can't produce anything with them, so to speak about enriching uranium is premature."

The announcement was widely expected. On Monday, the head of the I.A.E.A., Mohamed ElBaradei, said that "based on our most recent inspections, the second centrifuge cascade is in place and ready to go."

As Iran was reporting the doubling of its enrichment capacity, the five permanent members of the Council — the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia — and Germany were discussing a draft resolution to impose sanctions on Iran for its refusal to comply with their earlier demand that it stop enrichment.

The draft resolution would reportedly bar Iranian students from studying nuclear physics at foreign universities, prohibit technical or financial assistance that could benefit the nuclear program and impose a visa ban on any Iranians involved in nuclear activities.

A senior Western diplomat in Tehran said Iran went ahead after seeing the limited sanctions imposed on North Korea after its nuclear test this month. "They were reasonably reassured that if North Korea can live with the sanctions, they can do better," said the diplomat, who refused to be identified. "They think if they give in now, it is a sign of weakness and the West will ask for more."

Iran insists that its program is for peaceful purposes, and that as a member of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty it has the legal right to enrich uranium to produce its own reactor fuel. The United States says Iran, a major oil exporter, has no need for a peaceful nuclear program and is merely using it as a cover for an effort to produce nuclear weapons.

Iran, which already had one cascade of 164 centrifuges in operation, has said repeatedly that it plans to increase the number of centrifuges in operation to 3,000 by the end of this year. In a separate interview, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, said Tehran was still willing to resolve its nuclear issue through negotiations. But he also issued a veiled threat, saying Europeans "should pay the price" if they choose a different path, ISNA reported. He did not elaborate, but it seemed that he was referring to sanctions.

"If Europeans think they can pursue a radical approach toward Iran and negotiate with us on the side as well, they should know that Iranians are not naïve people," he added.

He also rejected comments made by the foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, who said last week that Iran might consider suspending its program during negotiations. "I do not approve this view," he said. "I am in charge of nuclear issues and I do not think the news was accurate."

Members of the Security Council reacted to the announcement immediately, Reuters reported.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman in France, Jean-Baptiste Mattéi, said the report increased the international community's worries about the growth of Iran's capacity to produce fissile material.

"The priority is to move toward the negotiation of a Security Council resolution," Mr. Mattéi told reporters in Paris in response to the news.

A British Foreign Office spokesman said it was a matter for the I.A.E.A., the United Nations nuclear agency, to investigate.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/28/world/middleeast/28iran.html>

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

Washington Times

October 28, 2006

Pg. 6

## **South Suspects Neighbor Preparing New Test**

SEOUL (AP) -- South Korea's military is observing movements at a site in North Korea where the communist country is believed to have conducted its first nuclear test, indicating possible preparations for another test, Yonhap news agency reported early today.

The report, citing multiple unnamed military officials, said South Korea is closely monitoring movements of trucks and North Korean soldiers at the site in Punggye-ri in the country's remote northeast.

"It is clear there are movements at Punggye-ri after the nuclear test," one military official was quoted as saying. "We are closely monitoring to see if these are preparations for a second nuclear test."

Another official also confirmed activities at the North Korean site but said another test "is not believed to be imminent," according to Yonhap.

North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test on Oct. 9, prompting the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions.

It was not immediately clear how the military officials first spotted the activity at the site. However, the United States and South Korea generally share intelligence information obtained through satellite imagery.

Meanwhile, more unidentified South Korean government sources said they are trying to determine whether a new facility that has been built at the site could be part of preparations for a second nuclear test, the JoongAng Ilbo newspaper reported in today's editions.

Defense officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

The news came a day after South Korean Foreign Minister and incoming U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with Chinese leaders to discuss sanctions against the North for conducting its Oct. 9 underground nuclear test.

Mr. Ban met with Chinese President Hu Jintao, State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing yesterday. South Korea's Foreign Ministry said the officials would discuss sanctions, but details of their talks were not immediately released.

Mr. Ban is visiting the five permanent U.N. Security Council members in the wake of his election as secretary-general earlier this month. He pledged to make resolving the North Korea nuclear issue a priority on his agenda as head of the international body.

The United States has been trying muster greater support for a U.N. Security Council resolution that calls for sanctions in response to the North's nuclear test.

Seoul and Beijing have been reluctant to enforce sanctions for fear they might aggravate their unpredictable Stalinist neighbor and destabilize the region.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20061027-112927-8961r.htm>

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

New York Times

October 28, 2006

Pg. 7

## **Gingerly, South Korea Imposes First Sanction On North**

By Martin Fackler

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct. 27 — South Korea has taken a first step toward imposing United Nations sanctions against North Korea for conducting a nuclear test, banning visits by officials involved in the North's nuclear weapons program.

And in a sign of how Seoul has struggled to carry out the United Nations Security Council resolution without antagonizing the heavily armed North, a third top government official involved in North Korea offered to resign Friday over the test.

The travel ban, first reported by several news organizations on Thursday, is largely symbolic in a country that gets few North Korean visitors at all, much less officials engaged in the North's covert nuclear weapons efforts. It falls short of American requests that South Korea join a United States-led effort to inspect North Korean ships for nuclear and missile-related technology.

South Korean officials have expressed concern that such searches could lead to clashes between South and North Korean warships, something that has occurred in the past.

The resignation offer — by Kim Seung-gyu, head of the National Intelligence Service — came days after the defense minister and the unification minister, the point man on relations with the North, also tendered their resignations.

While President Roh Moo-hyun has not said whether he will accept the resignations, South Korean news media have reported that a cabinet reshuffle is imminent. With the foreign minister, Ban Ki-moon, about to become the new secretary general of the United Nations, Mr. Roh may have to replace all aides who oversee his policy on the North. The cooperation of South Korea, a major source of trade and investment for the North, is seen as crucial for the success of the United Nations resolution, adopted after the North's test on Oct. 9. The resolution bans the sale of weapons to the North, and restricts sales of luxury goods and travel abroad by its officials.

In addition to not becoming involved in searching North Korean ships, Seoul also has so far balked at taking more punishing steps, like closing a South Korean-run industrial park and a tourist resort in North Korea, which are the North's largest economic contacts with the outside world. Many South Korean officials have said they fear that stronger sanctions could provoke the North into war, or push it toward China.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/28/world/asia/28korea.html>

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

28 October 2006

# Twenty-Five Nations To Join in Nonproliferation Exercise

## U.S. lauds countries' resolve to curb spread of weapons of mass destruction

By Ralph Dannheisser

Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington – Twenty-five countries will take part in the first Gulf exercise under the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) aimed at preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery systems. The interdiction training exercise, called Leading Edge, will be held October 30 and 31, according to a Department of State statement issued October 27.

PSI is a voluntary group of nations working together to halt the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems and related materials to and from states and nonstate agents that raise proliferation concerns. (See [related article](#).)

The statement noted that the exercise also will be the first held since the adoption of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1718, and includes the participation of Japan and South Korea.

Resolution 1718, passed by a unanimous Security Council October 14 after North Korea held a nuclear test, imposes stringent, mandatory international sanctions on Pyongyang and demands an end to nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches to address what the council termed "a clear threat to international peace and security."

The State Department statement expresses U.S. appreciation for "the leadership of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] to ensure that the Gulf States will actively prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and related materials."

It lauds "responsible nations from the region and around the globe" for demonstrating their resolve to work together to stop the spread of WMD.

Australia, Bahrain, France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States "provided operational assets for the live exercise phase including ships, aircraft and special teams to improve our combined capabilities to interdict shipments of proliferation concern and deter those who would trade in materials for such weapons," the department noted.

Participating in the exercise are: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

For more information, see [Arms Control and Non-Proliferation](#) and [Response to Terrorism](#).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=October&x=20061028130459emohkcabhplar0.3623468>

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

ArmyTimes.com

October 30, 2006

## Anthrax vaccine opponents gear up to renew fight

By Gayle S. Putrich

Staff writer

As the Pentagon prepares to resume mandatory anthrax shots, vaccine opponents — including lawyers, medical experts and veterans — gathered Saturday in Washington to discuss current cases and potential legal avenues for helping those who say they were harmed by the vaccine.

The day-long seminar was held in the shadow of the Defense Department's Oct. 16 announcement of its plan to resume mandatory anthrax vaccinations after a nearly two-year, court-ordered hiatus.

But Byron Holcomb, the lawyer who organized the seminar, said the day-long event was not prompted by the Pentagon's policy change. He said it had been in the works since July with an underlying goal of trying to "see what we can do ... to get us yoked together to do the right thing."

Holcomb, a retired Navy judge advocate general who has been involved with various anthrax-related court cases since 2002, said every victim's story pains him, and has spurred him to seek ways in which legal, medical and defense officials could cooperate to ensure those harmed by the vaccine get the legal and medical help they need. "These are young people who are essentially done for in life," Holcomb said.

The Defense Department's recent announcement of its decision to restart the mandatory vaccination program made the seminar even more relevant and necessary, Holcomb said.

Part of the reason the Seattle-based lawyer wanted to hold the event in Washington was to make it easier for military lawyers who adjudicate contested findings from military medical and physical evaluations boards and military doctors, especially those from the vaccine health care center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, to attend. Holcomb said many were invited — but none came. He said those who had previously indicated they would attend canceled at the last minute, without giving a specific reason.

Although the Pentagon insists the vaccine is safe and effective, with an adverse event rate that is not outside the norm for other vaccines, reported side effects of the anthrax shots range from mild reactions such as rashes and sores to severe, incapacitating, irreversible damage.

For example, retired Air Force Capt. Kelli Donley, a former military lawyer, told seminar attendees she contracted idiopathic spinal cerebellar ataxia, a shrinking of the brain's cerebellum, which governs motor function, after taking the first three shots of the six-shot anthrax vaccine regimen in 2000.

She said she began to suffer from slurred, slow speech, became clumsy in her movements and experienced numbness in the arm in which she received the shots. After returning to the U.S. from Korea, she underwent tests that showed her cerebellum was shrinking.

"It was a bittersweet relief — I wasn't imagining this," she said.

Also attending the seminar were Air Force Reserve Maj. Margaret McFann, a nurse diagnosed with lupus after receiving the vaccine, and former Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. Frank Fisher, a physician who contracted Still's disease and became disabled after taking the shots. Still's disease is a rare disorder marked by high, spiky fevers, rashes and joint pain that may lead to chronic arthritis.

Some service members have died after taking the shots, but the Defense Department says the deaths cannot be conclusively linked to the vaccine.

The Food and Drug Administration issued a report on adverse reactions to the anthrax vaccine last December, at about the same time that it made a final ruling on the safety and efficacy of the vaccine.

From July 1990 through March 2005, the government-sponsored Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) logged 4,279 reports of health problems as a result of anthrax vaccine, 390 of which were classified as "serious."

But critics of the vaccine have claimed the number of adverse events is actually much higher, and even the FDA acknowledged the voluntary nature of VAERS may lead to underreporting.

Dr. Mark Geier, a Maryland-based physician who previously worked as a researcher at the National Institutes of Health for 10 years and has studied vaccines for more than 30 years, told seminar attendees that his review of available data shows the anthrax vaccine has "a safety profile significantly worse than almost any civilian vaccine."

### **Continuing the fight**

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia shut down the military's mandatory anthrax vaccine program in December 2004 with an injunction.

At that time, Judge Emmet Sullivan ruled that forcing troops to take the vaccine amounted to an illegal order because the FDA had failed to follow its own regulatory procedures in declaring the drug safe and effective against all forms of anthrax, including the inhalation variety that defense officials say poses a threat to U.S. troops.

In the interim, defense officials launched a voluntary vaccination program. About half the troops offered the vaccine have taken it, officials said.

In December 2005, the FDA followed through on the approval process and a federal appeals court dissolved the injunction, clearing the way for the Pentagon to resume mandatory shots.

Mark Zaid, one of the lawyers representing the six anonymous military and civilian plaintiffs in the Doe v. Rumsfeld anthrax lawsuit, said he expects to file a new suit in the coming weeks to challenge the resumption of the mandatory program on the grounds that in addition to being potentially extremely harmful, the vaccine's effectiveness is questionable at best.

"You can't show it's effective in humans from the studies," said Zaid, who gave a legal history of the vaccine and the fight against the mandatory program at the seminar.

The suit will question the science behind the FDA's approval of the vaccine, he said, which has been a pillar of the opposition's strategy all along.

"There will be nothing new in this lawsuit," Zaid said. "The Defense Department is just exploiting the weakness of the FDA."

Geier noted that the efficacy of the anthrax vaccine is based on several studies in animals and has never been tested in a double-blind, placebo-controlled human vaccine trial.

The only study of anthrax vaccine use in humans, he said, was published in 1962 of a clinical trial among 1,133 mill workers who handled animal hides.

In addition to being geared specifically toward the skin form of anthrax — not the inhalation variety troops would be expected to encounter on the battlefield — the vaccine in that trial had a different formulation than the current one, Geier said.

As it has from the beginning, the Pentagon maintains that the drug is safe and effective against all forms of anthrax. “The licensed vaccine is safe, effective and based on sound science,” Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., the Defense Department’s top health official, said in a statement. “This was determined by eight separate independent reviews, including the National Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Medicine.”

The IOM also states adverse events due to the anthrax vaccine are ‘comparable to those observed with other vaccines administered to adults,’ ” he said.

When the inoculation program resumes in 30 to 60 days, the shots will be mandatory for all service members, defense civilian employees and contractors going for more than 15 days to Korea or anywhere within the U.S. Central Command area of operations, which includes Afghanistan and Iraq.

U.S. personnel in those areas are considered by the Pentagon to be at “high risk” for weaponized anthrax exposure. “We vaccinate our service members to protect them against deadly diseases — both natural and those potentially spread by terrorists or enemy forces,” Winkenwerder said. “Protection against anthrax is important to the mission, and that’s why we are returning to a mandatory program for those at higher risk.”

<http://www.armytimes.com/story.php?f=1-292925-2318585.php>

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

30 October 2006

## **Nations Meet in Morocco on How To Counter Nuclear Terror Threat**

**Under Secretary of State Robert Joseph says detecting illicit materials is key**

By Jacquelyn S. Porth

Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Representatives of 12 nations are gathering in Rabat, Morocco, October 30-31 to discuss how to address effectively the ever-present threat to the international community from terrorists determined to detonate a nuclear or radiological device.

This will be the first diplomatic meeting to discuss the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism since the United States and Russia proposed it at the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, in July. For about six months before it was announced, the United States and Russia discussed the need for partners to counter this dangerous threat (See [related article](#).)

Robert Joseph, under secretary of state for arms control and international security, said the initiative is designed to address all aspects of a complex nuclear threat because a single incident would cause grave consequences. In an October 27 interview with the *Washington File*, Joseph said the initiative “is designed to build a partnership of countries that are committed to countering nuclear terrorism.”

Predicting the likelihood and location of nuclear terrorist attack is next to impossible, but he said, “we do know that nonstate ‘actors’ -- terrorists -- are very interested in acquiring this type of capability” and would not hesitate to use it.

He said the initiative will help prevent terrorists from acquiring the nuclear and radiological materials or expertise needed to set off a nuclear or radiological device. It also will go a long way toward improving the physical security at civilian nuclear facilities, Joseph said, as well as establishing better accounting procedures for nuclear and radioactive substances. (See [related article](#).)

These measures are necessary to prevent terrorists from gaining access to the means to detonate a nuclear weapon or a “dirty” bomb (a device that disperses radioactive material) thereby causing nuclear contamination and economic disruption. “We need to do everything we can to prevent and protect against” the dire consequences of a terrorist incident, Joseph said.

Although even the best designed program cannot provide complete success, he said deterrence involves using technology and intelligence to better detect and suppress the illicit transit of source materials so useful to terrorists. The initiative is expected to promote greater international research and development cooperation in the field of detection, he said.

But successful detection is only part of the equation. Detection must be followed by swift interdiction and the seizure of dangerous nuclear materials. “We will work with our Global Initiative partners,” Joseph said, along the lines of the three-year-old Proliferation Security Initiative that began with a small group of partners and now is supported by 80 nations that want to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. (See [related article](#).)

To prevent the nightmare of terrorists armed with nuclear or radiological weapons, nations have to improve their ability to respond to an incident, and, to be ready to do whatever necessary to mitigate its terrible impact. Joseph said partners also must improve investigative techniques to figure out who may have facilitated an illicit transfer or triggered a deadly detonation. This is critical, he said, to put partners “in a better position to stop a second, or follow-on, attack.”

This broad initiative also has law enforcement and legal ramifications that would involve denying safe haven to terrorists behind an attack and strengthening the national laws of countries seeking to prosecute them.

Joseph said Rabat was a logical choice to launch this diplomatic effort because Morocco has very strong nonproliferation and counterterrorism credentials. He also said the Moroccan government was instrumental in negotiating the related International Convention for the Suppression of Act of Nuclear Terrorism. (See [related article](#).)

#### MEETING WILL FOCUS ON ESTABLISHING FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION

The meeting in Morocco is aimed at establishing the framework for future work through a statement of principles that initial and future partners will endorse. “We will also focus on what those principles, or objectives, mean operationally,” the under secretary said.

Attendees will share information on the best practices associated with securing nuclear materials and facilities, Joseph said, as well as ways to measure the initiative’s future success. One measure will be the deployment of effective nuclear detection equipment and the associated confidence partners will gain from relying on it. As partners field increasingly effective nuclear detection equipment, there will be a greater chance of stopping “the transfer of nuclear materials early in the process,” the under secretary said, which would be beneficial for all. To succeed in the long-term, the initiative measurably must improve the capacities of individual partners so that each one is “better prepared to prevent, protect against, and respond to any incident,” Joseph said. Additionally, he said, the initiative must boost the capacity of nations to act, collectively.

Besides delegations from 12 nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will attend the meeting in Morocco as an observer. The United States and Russia view the IAEA as having capabilities useful to advance the goals of the initiative, Joseph said. The IAEA is a good resource for helping nations enhance the physical protection of nuclear facilities, he added.

Private-sector support, especially from the civil nuclear industry, also is important. “There are many points of intersection,” the official said, where private-public partnerships should expand. Joseph singled out improved nuclear forensics as an area of particular importance in countering nuclear terrorists.

After Rabat, he said, the goal is to expand the number of partners willing to endorse the initiative’s principles and carry out necessary preventative measures and actions, including enacting or changing relevant laws to prosecute nuclear terrorists.

While the State Department is leading initiative-related international outreach efforts, it also is working with other agencies, including the departments of Homeland Security, Defense, Energy and Justice. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the FBI also are involved. Joseph said together these organizations have considerable expertise to offer on nuclear detection and security matters.

[Additional information](#) on the July U.S.-Russian the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism is available on the State Department’s Web site.

For more information, see [Arms Control and Nonproliferation](#) and [Response to Terrorism](#).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=October&x=20061030083445sjhtrop2.418154e-02>

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