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Welcome to the CPC Outreach Journal. As part of USAF Counterproliferation Center's mission to counter weapons of mass destruction through education and research, we're providing our government and civilian community a source for timely counterproliferation information. This information includes articles, papers and other documents addressing issues pertinent to US military response options for dealing with nuclear, biological and chemical threats and attacks. It's our hope this information resource will help enhance your counterproliferation issue awareness.

Established in 1998, the USAF/CPC provides education and research to present and future leaders of the Air Force, as well as to members of other branches of the armed services and Department of Defense. Our purpose is to help those agencies better prepare to counter the threat from weapons of mass destruction. Please feel free to visit our web site at www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/awc-cps.htm for in-depth information and specific points of contact. Please direct any questions or comments on CPC Outreach Journal Jo Ann Eddy, CPC Outreach Editor, at (334) 953-7538 or DSN 493-7538. To subscribe, change e-mail address, or unsubscribe to this journal or to request inclusion on the mailing list for CPC publications, please contact Mrs. Eddy.

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Boston Globe
January 11, 2005

Iran Says Its Nuclear Work Freeze Hinges On EU Talks

By Reuters

TEHRAN -- Iran may resume uranium enrichment, a process which can be used to make atomic bombs, in March if talks with the European Union fail to yield satisfactory progress, a senior Iranian security official said yesterday. If the talks go well, Hossein Mousavian said Tehran was prepared to extend until June the enrichment freeze it began in late November in an effort to disprove US accusations it is seeking nuclear weapons.

"The outcome of the talks will have a great impact on Iran's decision," said Mousavian, a member of Iran's nuclear negotiating team with the EU and head of the foreign policy committee on the Supreme National Security Council.

"If the talks end without any result, March itself could be the date for resuming enrichment. I am optimistic that we will reach an agreement on the objective guarantees by June, and I believe this period is sufficient for reaching a mutual understanding," he added, explaining suspension would continue throughout these talks.

Tehran has consistently said its freeze on nuclear work was voluntary and would last only a matter of months. But the possibility enrichment could resume as soon as March is likely to concern Washington, which has given only lukewarm support to the EU initiative to engage with the Islamic state.

Iran denies seeking nuclear weapons but agreed to freeze sensitive atomic work, including uranium enrichment, last year to avoid referral to the United Nations Security Council, where it could have faced economic sanctions.

Led by Britain, Germany, and France, the EU is trying to persuade Iran to give up work that could be used to make atomic warheads in return for a package of incentives including trade deals and help with a civilian nuclear program. Iran-EU working groups dealing with economic, security and technological issues are due to complete the first phase of the talks by mid-March.

But Mousavian said Iran would never scrap its nuclear fuel cycle work and was only prepared to give "objective guarantees" that it will not divert nuclear fuel into bomb making.

"If the Europeans' problem is the fuel cycle, then negotiations are useless," he said. "But if they are concerned about us building nuclear bombs, we are fully prepared for a comprehensive arrangement to give all assurances that Iran will not seek nuclear bombs."

Tehran says it needs the nuclear fuel cycle to feed atomic reactors for generating electricity to meet growing demand.

Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has been investigating Iran's nuclear program for the past two years, said last week the jury was still out on Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Russia has said it will finish building Iran's first atomic reactor in the southern port of Bushehr next year.

Fuel for the plant is supposed to be supplied by Russia. But Tehran is balking at the price Moscow wants to charge it for returning the spent fuel to Russia to prevent Iran reprocessing it into weapons-grade material. "This fuel is becoming very expensive for us and by this the Russians are encouraging us to become more and more independent and produce our own fuel," Mousavian said.

http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2005/01/11/iran_says_its_nuclear_work_freeze_hinges_on_eu_talks/

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USA Today

January 12, 2005

Pg. 1

Chemical-Arms Disposal Snagged

Pentagon to delay plants in Colo., Ky.

By Peter Eisler, USA Today

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon plans to delay building two plants crucial to meeting international treaty deadlines for destroying thousands of tons of U.S. chemical weapons, according to documents obtained by USA TODAY.

Pentagon officials have said repeatedly that quick destruction of the U.S. chemical arsenal is a security priority.

Storing the aging weapons raises risks of terrorists stealing or detonating them at a storage site. And as the stockpiles sit, odds rise that a leak of such agents as VX or sarin nerve gas could threaten communities.

The Dec. 21, 2004, documents indicate that major construction on the plants in Pueblo, Colo., and Richmond, Ky., won't begin until 2011 — about five years after the Pentagon had promised. Asked about the documents, Pentagon spokeswoman Cheryl Irwin said officials are exploring ways to meet a 2012 deadline set by the international Chemical Weapons Convention to destroy the U.S. arsenal.

"Communities that have been told for 20 years that the military will do whatever it takes to get rid of this stuff because it poses all of these risks now are being told that they have to let it sit," said Craig Williams of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, a coalition of citizens living near stockpile sites.

The Colorado and Kentucky plants are supposed to destroy 10% of the 30,600-ton U.S. cache of chemical weapons. The rest of the stockpile is stored at six other sites. Disposal plants already are running at Tooele, Utah; Aberdeen, Md.; Anniston, Ala.; and Umatilla, Ore. Two other plants — at Newport, Ind., and Pine Bluff, Ark. — missed start-up deadlines in 2004 but are expected to begin work this year.

The Pentagon's plans to delay construction of the Colorado and Kentucky plants are in documents outlining future budget needs for chemical-weapons disposal. The plans need congressional approval, and lawmakers from both

states vowed Tuesday to resist them. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said in a statement that he will press "to prevent the destruction of these dangerous weapons from being unnecessarily delayed."

In the documents, Undersecretary of Defense Michael Wynne says design problems have slowed the Colorado and Kentucky plants, which would use new technology to neutralize chemicals. He directs managers to seek alternatives, but no options are offered. Wynne suggests that managers consider moving weapons from Kentucky and Colorado to other disposal sites. But that would require changing federal law, which now bars interstate transport of the weapons.

Much work left

Progress in destruction of U.S. chemical weapons stockpile since 1990: Destroyed -- 9,727 tons (32%); Remaining - 20,885 tons (68%) *Source: Dept. of Defense*

http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20050112/1a_bottomstrip12_dom.art.htm

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Washington Post

January 12, 2005

Pg. 1

Search For Banned Arms In Iraq Ended Last Month

Critical September Report to Be Final Word

By Dafna Linzer, Washington Post Staff Writer

The hunt for biological, chemical and nuclear weapons in Iraq has come to an end nearly two years after President Bush ordered U.S. troops to disarm Saddam Hussein. The top CIA weapons hunter is home, and analysts are back at Langley.

In interviews, officials who served with the Iraq Survey Group (ISG) said the violence in Iraq, coupled with a lack of new information, led them to fold up the effort shortly before Christmas.

Four months after Charles A. Duelfer, who led the weapons hunt in 2004, submitted an interim report to Congress that contradicted nearly every prewar assertion about Iraq made by top Bush administration officials, a senior intelligence official said the findings will stand as the ISG's final conclusions and will be published this spring.

President Bush, Vice President Cheney and other top administration officials asserted before the U.S. invasion in March 2003 that Iraq was reconstituting its nuclear weapons program, had chemical and biological weapons, and maintained links to al Qaeda affiliates to whom it might give such weapons to use against the United States.

Bush has expressed disappointment that no weapons or weapons programs were found, but the White House has been reluctant to call off the hunt, holding out the possibility that weapons were moved out of Iraq before the war or are well hidden somewhere inside the country. But the intelligence official said that possibility is very small.

Duelfer is back in Washington, finishing some addenda to his September report before it is reprinted.

"There's no particular news in them, just some odds and ends," the intelligence official said. The Government Printing Office will publish it in book form, the official said.

The CIA declined to authorize any official involved in the weapons search to speak on the record for this story. The intelligence official offered an authoritative account of the status of the hunt on the condition of anonymity. The agency did confirm that Duelfer is wrapping up his work and will not be replaced in Baghdad.

The ISG, established to search for weapons but now enmeshed in counterinsurgency work, remains under Pentagon command and is being led by Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Joseph McMennamin.

Intelligence officials said there is little left for the ISG to investigate because Duelfer's last report answered as many outstanding questions as possible. The ISG has interviewed every person it could find connected to programs that ended more than 10 years ago, and every suspected site within Iraq has been fully searched, or stripped bare by insurgents and thieves, according to several people involved in the weapons hunt.

Satellite photos show that entire facilities have been dismantled, possibly by scrap dealers who sold off parts and equipment to buyers around the world.

"The September 30 report is really pretty much the picture," the intelligence official said.

"We've talked to so many people that someone would have said something. We received nothing that contradicts the picture we've put forward. It's possible there is a supply someplace, but what is much more likely is that [as time goes by] we will find a greater substantiation of the picture that we've already put forward."

Congress allotted hundreds of millions of dollars for the weapons hunt, and there has been no public accounting of the money. A spokesman for the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency said the entire budget and the expenditures would remain classified.

Several hundred military translators and document experts will continue to sift through millions of pages of documents on paper and computer media sitting in a storeroom on a U.S. military base in Qatar.

But their work is focused on material that could support possible war crimes charges or shed light on the fate of Capt. Michael Scott Speicher, a Navy pilot who was shot down in an F/A-18 fighter over central Iraq on Jan. 17, 1991, the opening night of the Persian Gulf War. Although he was initially reported as killed in action, Speicher's status was changed to missing after evidence emerged that he had ejected alive from his aircraft.

The work on documents is not connected to weapons of mass destruction, officials said, and a small group of Iraqi scientists still in U.S. military custody are not being held in connection with weapons investigations, either.

Three people involved with the ISG said the weapons teams made several pleas to the Pentagon to release the scientists, who have been interviewed extensively. All three officials specifically mentioned Gen. Amir Saadi, who was a liaison between Hussein's government and U.N. inspectors; Rihab Taha, a biologist nicknamed "Dr. Germ" years ago by U.N. inspectors; her husband, Amir Rashid, the former oil minister; and Huda Amash, a biologist whose extensive dealings with U.N. inspectors earned her the nickname "Mrs. Anthrax."

None of the scientists has been involved in weapons programs since the 1991 Gulf War, the ISG determined more than a year ago, and all have cooperated with investigators despite nearly two years of jail time without charges.

U.S. officials previously said they were being held because their denials of ongoing weapons programs were presumed to be lies; now, they say the scientists are being held in connection with the possible war crimes trials of Iraqis.

It has been more than a year since any Iraqi scientist was arrested in connection with weapons of mass destruction. Many of those questioned and cleared have since left Iraq, one senior official said, acknowledging for the first time that the "brain drain" that has long been feared "is well underway."

"A lot of it is because of the kidnapping industry" in Iraq, the official said. The State Department has been trying to implement programs designed to keep Iraqi scientists from seeking weapons-related work in neighboring countries, such as Syria and Iran.

Since March 2003, nearly a dozen people working for or with the weapons hunt have lost their lives to the insurgency. The most recent deaths came in November, when Duelfer's convoy was attacked during a routine mission around Baghdad and two of his bodyguards were killed.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A3740-2005Jan12.html>

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Washington Post

January 12, 2005

Pg. 9

Man Accused Of Smuggling Goods For Iran

By Associated Press

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 11 -- An Iranian-born businessman was accused Tuesday of illegally smuggling equipment to support his native country's nuclear missile program.

Mohammad Farahbakhsh, 43, of Los Angeles, who has both Iranian and U.S. citizenship, was arraigned on federal charges that he sent pressure sensors and other equipment from a Stamford company to the United Arab Emirates, where they were to be shipped to Iran.

His indictment does not mention the nuclear program, but federal agents recently raided Farahbakhsh's homes in Los Angeles and in Cambridge, Iowa, where they discovered computer files showing deliveries to a company involved in Iran's nuclear missile program, prosecutors said.

The company, the Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group, has twice been sanctioned for its role in developing missile technology.

Farahbakhsh's attorney, Kristan Peters, denied that her client had dealings with the Iranian military or the nuclear program.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A1927-2005Jan11.html>

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Washington Post

January 12, 2005

Pg. 18

N. Korea Hesitant To Resume Talks

BEIJING, Jan. 11 -- A U.S. congressman who traveled to North Korea for talks with senior leaders said Tuesday that the discussions were "serious and substantive" but that he was told the North was not ready to resume negotiations about dismantling its nuclear weapons program.

Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), briefing reporters after three days of meetings in Pyongyang, said the officials indicated they were "waiting to see the shape of the second Bush administration" before resuming six-nation talks that began in 2003.

Lantos said he told them that Bush's new foreign policy team was in place, that its approach to North Korea would not change and that Congress supported the approach. The North Koreans did not specify what would persuade them to resume the talks, he said.

-- Philip P. Pan

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A1962-2005Jan11.html>

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New York Times

January 12, 2005

A High Level Of Alert For The Inauguration

By David Johnston and Michael Janofsky

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 - Tom Ridge, the homeland security secretary, said Tuesday that even in the absence of any specific security threat to next week's presidential inauguration, civilian and military forces had been ordered to an extraordinarily high state of alert.

"You can well imagine that the security for this occasion will be unprecedented," Mr. Ridge said at a news conference. "Protective measures will be seen. There will be quite a few that are not seen. Our goal is that any attempt on the part of anyone or any group to disrupt the inaugural will be repelled by multiple layers of security." In his first detailed outline of inauguration security planning, Mr. Ridge said that more than 6,000 civilian and military personnel trained in crisis response, crowd control and dignitary security would be in place, with thousands more available to respond if necessary.

At the heart of the plan are tightly controlled security zones that will restrict pedestrian and vehicle access to the streets around the Capitol, where Mr. Bush will be sworn in, and over the route of the traditional parade along Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.

Before the inauguration events, security teams will sweep through hotels and office buildings along the parade route, in some cases barring office workers from sitting near windows overlooking the procession.

Even now, security teams are working to ensure the safety of food that will be served to President Bush and other guests at inaugural events. Caterers are being instructed to arrive for work at 7 p.m. the night before the inauguration.

For next Thursday's swearing-in ceremonies, sniper teams will be in position on rooftops. Specialists in chemical, biological and radiological terrorism will mingle with the crowds, carrying hand-held detection devices designed to pick up any sign of unconventional weapons. Squads of plainclothes agents, with federal prosecutors among them, will move along the parade route scouting for potential problems. Armed Coast Guard boats will patrol the Potomac River.

Security will be tighter than at recent high-profile events like last year's political conventions.

"Our system of government is rooted in the sovereign principle of democratic authority bestowed by the people," Mr. Ridge said. "And the people, both the inauguration participants and city residents, are resolved to go forward with an event that so deeply reflects that ideal."

Mr. Ridge said that the security for the inauguration would cost millions of dollars but that he did not know the total amount

Costs have created at least one conflict between the federal government and the District of Columbia. The city is underwriting about \$17.3 million of the cost, and Washington officials are not happy about it.

Mayor Anthony A. Williams has asked Mr. Ridge and Joshua B. Bolten, director of the Office of Management and Budget, why the city should cover security costs out of federal grants that are otherwise used for everyday needs, like protecting buildings, bridges, subways and waterways, as well as for emergencies and events like the funeral of President Ronald Reagan last year.

City officials say this is the first time that the federal government has not promised to cover all of the district's inauguration expenses, leaving open the possibility that district taxpayers might have to pay.

"We're delighted to be part of this; it's a great honor," said Gregory McCarthy, Mr. Williams's deputy chief of staff.

"But we shouldn't be raided for something as predictable as this."

Asked about the issue, Mr. Ridge said that city governments of Boston and New York had agreed to spend federal security money to cover costs associated with protecting last year's political conventions in their cities. Even as Mr. Ridge emphasized the urgency of preventive steps, several senior security officials said in private that planning for security at inaugurations seemed to be growing beyond the precautions that could be justified based on the threat level.

They also said that security planning for the inauguration was a well-rehearsed responsibility involving agencies whose roles were well known from past inaugurations.

"There's not much about this that we haven't done before," a senior law enforcement official said.

In part, the officials said, the extraordinary security arrangements at this year's swearing-in, parade and related events represent a chance for the nearly 50 federal agencies involved to show newly bought exotic equipment, specially trained antiterror units and communications networks put into place after the September 2001 attacks. The military will play a more visible role in this inauguration, with 2,500 troops involved in security, said Maj. Gen. Galen B. Jackman, commander of the Joint Task Force-Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, which coordinates military operations for the inauguration.

"We believe we are ready to deter any type of attack," General Jackman said before Mr. Ridge's news conference. The general wore camouflage gear as he spoke with reporters in front a group of battle-dressed soldiers who carried automatic weapons.

The security plan for the inauguration is based on a system of overlapping zones. Vehicular traffic will be restricted from an outer zone about six blocks from inauguration sites. Pedestrians will be screened at 22 checkpoints set up around an inner zone perimeter about two blocks from event locations. An even more restrictive area in the vicinity of the swearing-in and the parade bleachers will be closed to anyone without a ticket or an invitation.

In a break with past inauguration parades, protest groups are being assigned specific areas for their demonstrations in a way that protest organizers say will enable law enforcement agencies to exert tighter control over them.

Access to the presidential entourage itself will be limited to people who have been subjected to fingerprinting and criminal background checks.

Security is under the control of the Secret Service, which will manage the event from a central command center, known as the Joint Field Office, in a Virginia suburb. A number of federal agencies will open operations centers in a network being coordinated through 13 subcommittees, each with responsibilities ranging from the processing of drunken revelers to a nuclear attack.

Not everything is working smoothly, officials said. At one training exercise this week intended to test the complex communications network that links federal, state and local agencies, personnel were handed a 10-page phone directory of agencies listed only by acronym. The directory was so confusing - even to emergency workers - that officials ordered a new phone book with the names of agencies written out in full.

Mr. Ridge said that the nation's color-coded alert level would not be raised for the inauguration. The alert level is at yellow, for a heightened but not imminent threat.

"This is the most visible manifestation of our democracy," Mr. Ridge said, adding, "So there's very little intelligence, but we're as vigilant as ever."

Mr. Ridge has said that several factors may help explain the absence of threats, among them efforts by the United States and its allies to disrupt terrorist networks overseas and initiatives by the government to reduce the nation's vulnerability to attack.

Some intelligence officials have offered other reasons for the fewer reports of threats, including the possibility that planning for an attack might be going on undetected or that extremists might be turning their attention to other objectives like interfering with Iraqi elections scheduled this month.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/12/politics/12security.html?oref=login>

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Washington Times

January 12, 2005

Pg. 11

Powell OKs Merging Arms-Focused Bureaus

By Nicholas Kralev, The Washington Times

The State Department plans to merge its arms control and nonproliferation bureaus, having concluded that much of their work overlaps and resources are being wasted, officials said yesterday.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell signed off on the recommendation — which was made in September by the department's inspector general — after his office completed a routine evaluation of the four divisions involved in international security policy.

The other two bureaus — dealing with political-military affairs and with verification and compliance — will remain separate, officials said.

"The report of the inspector general found that we still have structures created for Cold War challenges," a State Department official said. "We need to reduce overlap by retooling and improving efficiency."

He pointed out that many issues fall within the purview of more than one office in the department, such as chemical weapons or missile technology.

He rejected suggestions by some critics that the merger reflects a lack of interest in arms control and the international laws that regulate it.

"That is a distortion of the truth," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

"It's true that we are not judging our success by the number of new treaties we sign, but we are very concerned about countries abiding by existing agreements, such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention."

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, complained that the merger "represents a further diminishing of the importance of U.S. arms-control policy within the larger federal bureaucracy."

He said the first major step in that direction was the Clinton administration's 1999 decision to fold the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency into the State Department.

The agency's head used to have greater authority and more direct access to the president than the holder of the new post, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, Mr. Kimball said.

He added that the merger "may not necessarily be a bad thing," saying that depends on whether "the combined bureau can cover all the issues and if the number of people working on those issues will be reduced."

Several employees of the arms control and nonproliferation bureaus expressed concerns about their jobs, but officials involved in the merger decision said there are enough positions in the department for everyone.

"The reason for the merger is not to cut budgets or personnel," a second department official said. "That's not our problem."

Even if the combined bureau cannot keep all employees of the two bureaus, the first official said, they will be assigned to other jobs.

"There are many offices elsewhere in the State Department that are hurting for people," he said.

Officials said there was agreement on the merger among Mr. Powell's top team — his deputy, Richard L. Armitage; the undersecretary for management, Grant Green; and the undersecretary for arms control and international security, John Bolton.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20050111-114340-8200r.htm>

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New York Times

A DNA Success Raises Bioterror Concern

By **NICHOLAS WADE**

Published: January 12, 2005

Researchers have made an unexpectedly sudden advance in synthesizing long molecules of DNA, bringing them closer to the goal of redesigning genes and programming cells to make pharmaceuticals.

But the success also puts within reach the manufacture of small genomes, such as those of viruses and perhaps certain bacteria. Some biologists fear that the technique might be used to make the genome of the smallpox virus, one of the few pathogens that cannot easily be collected from the wild.

The advance, described in the Jan. 6 issue of the journal *Nature* by Dr. George M. Church of the Harvard Medical School and Dr. Xiaolian Gao of the University of Houston, involves the use of a new technique to synthesize a DNA molecule 14,500 chemical units in length. The molecule contained a string of 21 genes used by a harmless laboratory bacterium.

The full power of the technique is still being explored, but genomes like that of the smallpox virus - 186,000 chemical units long - seem well within reach. Dr. Church has completed the first part of a plan to synthesize the 777,000-unit genome of a small bacterium known as *Mycoplasma mobile*.

"This has the potential for a revolutionary impact in the ease of synthesis of large DNA molecules," said Dr. Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University with an interest in bioterrorism.

"This will permit efficient and rapid synthesis of any select agent virus genome in very short order," he added, referring to the list of dangerous pathogens and toxins that possessors are required to register with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Ebright said any facility possessing the new DNA synthesis equipment should be assumed capable of making any virus on the select agent list.

The genetic sequences of smallpox and many other dangerous pathogens are easily obtained because they were deposited in public databases as an aid to medical researchers at a time when synthesizing large DNA molecules seemed prohibitively expensive or impossible.

Dr. Church is developing automated methods of DNA synthesis for a variety of research purposes including vaccines and pharmaceutical production. He has no interest in synthesizing dangerous pathogens but is aware of the technique's potential for misuse. Last year he proposed that the machines and ingredients for synthesizing DNA should be controlled, with manufacturers selling supplies only to facilities whose DNA machines had been registered. The manufacturers have expressed willingness to adopt the proposal, Dr. Church said in an e-mail message, "but it would be reassuring to get some official governmental support."

Some experts say bioterrorists would find it much easier to collect pathogens in the wild than to synthesize the organisms' genetic material. But this is less of an option for smallpox, now officially held by only two laboratories in the world, and for the increasingly rare polio virus.

In part to draw attention to the dangers of bioterrorism, Dr. Eckard Wimmer of the State University of New York at Stony Brook spent three years synthesizing DNA corresponding to the 7,500 units of polio virus, a feat he announced in July 2002. "It will be possible in 10 to 15 years to make smallpox," Dr. Wimmer told the Knight Ridder/Tribune Business News at the time.

Dr. Wimmer said last week that the method described by Dr. Church and Dr. Gao was in technical terms "a tremendous step forward." But the technology would be impossible to control, he said, since any restraints that might be agreed to in the United States would not necessarily be followed by other countries. The only protection against harmful agents, in his view, is for the government to step up development of efficient vaccines.

The genetic sequence of many pathogens has been determined and published by the Institute for Genomic Research in Rockville, Md. Dr. Claire M. Fraser, the institute's president, said the new DNA synthesis method was a big advance in speed, cost and accuracy, but it was not yet clear if it would be possible to synthesize the genomes of large bacteria like anthrax.

"I think we are going to see some point in the future when there will be a need for additional oversight on research," Dr. Fraser said.

But scientists abroad, whose cooperation would be needed, seemed to her less concerned about the dangers. "We don't want to handicap science in the U.S." if others will not join in the effort, she said.

Once scientists have synthesized the genome of an organism, it must then be "booted," or made to operate in a cell. Dr. Wimmer was able to reboot his polio virus genome so as to generate infectious particles, and a method for rebooting the cowpox genome, which is similar to that of smallpox, has already been reported.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/01/12/national/nationalspecial3/12gene.html?oref=login&oref=login>

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Philadelphia Inquirer

January 13, 2005

No Iraqi WMD, But Bush Calls War Right

While the search has now ended without finding the weapons he had warned of, the President said invading was still the proper course.

By Katherine Pflieger Shrader, Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The White House acknowledged yesterday that its hunt for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction had shut down without finding the stockpiles that President Bush cited as a justification for overthrowing Saddam Hussein.

Bush's spokesman said the President had no regrets about invading Iraq.

"Based on what we know today, the President would have taken the same action," press secretary Scott McClellan said, "because this is about protecting the American people."

The Iraq Survey Group - made up of as many as 1,500 military and intelligence specialists and support staff - is ending its search of military installations, factories and laboratories where it was thought that equipment and products might be converted to making weapons.

McClellan said that at a meeting last month, Bush thanked the chief U.S. weapons inspector, Charles Duelfer, for his work. A special adviser to the CIA director, Duelfer will deliver a final edition of a report on Iraq's weapons next month. McClellan said it was not expected to fundamentally differ from the findings of a report last fall.

Duelfer said then that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction and had not made any since 1991. However, he said the government harbored intentions of re-creating its weapons programs and had gone to great lengths to manipulate the U.N. oil-for-food program.

In an interview yesterday with Barbara Walters of ABC News, Bush defended his decision to invade Iraq.

"I felt like we'd find weapons of mass destruction - like many here in the United States, many around the world," Bush said in the interview, to be broadcast tomorrow night. "We need to find out what went wrong in the intelligence-gathering... . Saddam was dangerous and the world is safer without him in power." In a statement, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.) said Bush "needs to explain to the American people why he was so wrong, for so long, about the reasons for war."

When asked whether the failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq would damage U.S. credibility in handling future threats, McClellan said the President would continue to work with the international community, particularly on diplomatic solutions. He said preemptive military action was "the last option" to pursue.

At the State Department, spokesman Richard Boucher said the government was paying stipends to about 120 Iraqi scientists who once worked in weapons programs. They now are working on scientific research outside weapons development.

Greg Thielmann, the former manager of the State Department office that tracked chemical, biological and nuclear weapons issues, said the United States should devote energy to employment of these scientists, who now appear to have been involved in nonweapons work under Hussein in recent years.

"Who knows what they are going to do?" asked Thielmann, who left his position in September 2002. "One can question whether we improved the security situation through the invasion."

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/nation/10630869.htm>

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Washington Post

January 13, 2005

Pg. 14

'Minor' Software Glitch Is Cited In Missile Failure

Program Official Calls Problem Easily Correctable

By Bradley Graham, Washington Post Staff Writer

The test failure last month of the Bush administration's new missile defense system resulted from a "very minor" computer software glitch that can be easily corrected and will have no effect on the system's ability to defend the United States against attack, the general in charge of the Pentagon program said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Henry "Trey" Obering III, who directs the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency, said the flight test will be tried again in mid-February, and other tests scheduled for later this year will proceed as planned.

Last month's experiment was to have marked the first flight of the system's interceptor missile, which is designed to fly into space and release a "kill vehicle" that steers into enemy warheads. Previous flight tests had relied on a slower, less advanced interceptor.

During the Dec. 15 event, the interceptor never launched from its site at Kwajalein Atoll in the central Pacific Ocean after a target missile lifted off without incident from Kodiak Island in Alaska.

Providing the first detailed account of what went wrong, Obering told reporters that the countdown was automatically aborted when a routine system check of internal electronic signals detected a potential problem. The check showed that too many electronic messages had been missed in the signal flow between the flight computer and the unit that controls the interceptor's thrusters.

In retrospect, Obering said, designers of the interceptor had imposed too tight a limit on the number of allowable missed messages.

"It turns out we had overly constrained the system," he said.

Obering called the chances of such a glitch occurring "very rare." If it had happened during an actual crisis, with an enemy missile heading toward the United States, the system would have simply bypassed the faulty interceptor and launched another one, Obering said.

Nevertheless, to avoid a recurrence, Pentagon officials plan to raise the interceptor's tolerance level for missed messages -- something that can be done by changing one line of computer software code, Obering said.

"What we discovered was we could almost sustain twice as much -- in terms of dropout rates of the messages -- and still not affect the flight of the interceptor," the general said.

Critics in Congress, the scientific community and elsewhere have accused the Bush administration of rushing ahead with deployment of the antimissile system before testing it sufficiently under realistic conditions.

The first eight interceptors were installed last year -- six at Fort Greely, Alaska, and two at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. -- with 10 more to go into silos in Alaska this year.

Obering said that if the antimissile system had been subjected to the Pentagon's "classic" development approach, the United States would still be several years away from installing interceptors. He defended the administration's effort, saying it has resulted already in some antimissile capability.

Just how much, though, remains in question.

Obering expressed confidence that the system "would work" if pressed into service against relatively simple enemy targets, meaning warheads without complex decoys or other measures for deceiving U.S. interceptors. But the Pentagon's chief weapons evaluator has yet to issue any public statement validating the system's probable effectiveness, and instead has cited the paucity of realistic flight testing.

Additionally, despite the installation of the first interceptors last autumn, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has delayed a decision to start operating the system full time. Pressed on when such a decision might come, Obering had no answer. "Whether or not that occurs -- and when that occurs -- is not my decision," he said.

He added that his agency had met its responsibility to field most of the system's initial components last year. Those components, which include tracking radars, communication links and control networks along with the interceptors, have been run through "shakedown" exercises in recent weeks and have been shown ready to go on alert if necessary, Obering said.

The official vagueness about when the system might begin round-the-clock operations may reflect a desire to keep the focus on further development.

Pentagon officials have argued that the fledgling system could be activated and still serve as a "test bed" for more development. But these dual missions can impose conflicting demands on military crews and facilities. In the absence of an immediate long-range missile threat to the United States, Rumsfeld has made clear his interest in giving priority to continued testing.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A4973-2005Jan12.html>

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Washington Post

Iran to Monitor U.N. Nuclear Inspectors

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

Thursday, January 13, 2005; 2:24 PM

TEHRAN, Iran - Iranian officials vowed to carefully watch for any attempted espionage by international inspectors, who on Thursday were visiting a military complex that the United States alleges may be involved in nuclear weapons research.

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, arrived in Iran on Wednesday for a visit to the huge Parchin military complex just outside the capital Tehran, according to state-run television.

Iran has said it will allow U.N. nuclear experts to take environmental samples from landscaped areas outside the military complex's ammunition production workshops but it won't allow them to inspect military equipment.

The IAEA has been pressing Tehran for months to be allowed to inspect the complex, long used to research, develop and produce ammunition, missiles and high explosives.

Officials at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran confirmed Thursday that a four-member team of inspectors was heading to Parchin, but would not say Thursday evening if the visit had taken place. State media also remained silent on the subject.

At IAEA headquarters in Vienna, agency spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said Thursday only that a visit would take place: "I confirm that a team of IAEA inspectors is today conducting an inspection at Parchin, including the taking of environmental samples."

In leaks to media last year, unidentified U.S. intelligence officials were quoted as saying Iran could be using a secured site at Parchin in research on high-explosive components for use in nuclear weapons. Iran repeatedly has denied allegations of a secret nuclear weapons programs, saying its nuclear activities are for peaceful energy purposes.

"Iran's red line for entry of IAEA inspectors into military sites, including Parchin, is to protect the secrets of the country's conventional military capabilities," top nuclear negotiator Hossein Mousavian was quoted as saying in Thursday's government-owned daily "Iran."

"We have allowed (the IAEA) visit to our military sites, but we are watchful not to allow any espionage or intelligence theft from these sites," the newspaper also quoted him as telling top military officials. It did not say when he addressed them.

Mousavian and other Iranian nuclear officials could not be reached for comment about the inspection, which journalists were not allowed to attend.

But Ali Akbar Salehi, a nuclear adviser to Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, said Thursday the Parchin visit was a "transparency visit."

Last year, Iran started implementing what is known as the Additional Protocol to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The protocol allows intrusive inspections of nuclear facilities, although it has not been approved by parliament.

"To prove its sincerity and transparency, Iran agreed to IAEA inspectors taking environmental samples that allows the agency to check whether any weapons-related activity has been carried out," he said.

Under international pressure, Iran suspended uranium enrichment and all related activities in November, hoping to avoid U.N. Security Council sanctions. The IAEA agreed to police the suspension of Iran's nuclear activities.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A6850-2005Jan13.html?nav=headlines>

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(Editor's Note: Hyperlinks for referenced report follow article.)

Washington Post

January 14, 2005

Pg. 1

Iraq New Terror Breeding Ground

War Created Haven, CIA Advisers Report

By Dana Priest, Washington Post Staff Writer

Iraq has replaced Afghanistan as the training ground for the next generation of "professionalized" terrorists, according to a report released yesterday by the National Intelligence Council, the CIA director's think tank. Iraq provides terrorists with "a training ground, a recruitment ground, the opportunity for enhancing technical skills," said David B. Low, the national intelligence officer for transnational threats. "There is even, under the best scenario, over time, the likelihood that some of the jihadists who are not killed there will, in a sense, go home, wherever home is, and will therefore disperse to various other countries."

Low's comments came during a rare briefing by the council on its new report on long-term global trends. It took a year to produce and includes the analysis of 1,000 U.S. and foreign experts. Within the 119-page report is an evaluation of Iraq's new role as a breeding ground for Islamic terrorists.

President Bush has frequently described the Iraq war as an integral part of U.S. efforts to combat terrorism. But the council's report suggests the conflict has also helped terrorists by creating a haven for them in the chaos of war.

"At the moment," NIC Chairman Robert L. Hutchings said, Iraq "is a magnet for international terrorist activity."

Before the U.S. invasion, the CIA said Saddam Hussein had only circumstantial ties with several al Qaeda members. Osama bin Laden rejected the idea of forming an alliance with Hussein and viewed him as an enemy of the jihadist movement because the Iraqi leader rejected radical Islamic ideals and ran a secular government.

Bush described the war in Iraq as a means to promote democracy in the Middle East. "A free Iraq can be a source of hope for all the Middle East," he said one month before the invasion. "Instead of threatening its neighbors and harboring terrorists, Iraq can be an example of progress and prosperity in a region that needs both."

But as instability in Iraq grew after the toppling of Hussein, and resentment toward the United States intensified in the Muslim world, hundreds of foreign terrorists flooded into Iraq across its unguarded borders. They found tons of unprotected weapons caches that, military officials say, they are now using against U.S. troops. Foreign terrorists are believed to make up a large portion of today's suicide bombers, and U.S. intelligence officials say these foreigners are forming tactical, ever-changing alliances with former Baathist fighters and other insurgents.

"The al-Qa'ida membership that was distinguished by having trained in Afghanistan will gradually dissipate, to be replaced in part by the dispersion of the experienced survivors of the conflict in Iraq," the report says.

According to the NIC report, Iraq has joined the list of conflicts -- including the Israeli-Palestinian stalemate, and independence movements in Chechnya, Kashmir, Mindanao in the Philippines, and southern Thailand -- that have deepened solidarity among Muslims and helped spread radical Islamic ideology.

At the same time, the report says that by 2020, al Qaeda "will be superseded" by other Islamic extremist groups that will merge with local separatist movements. Most terrorism experts say this is already well underway. The NIC says this kind of ever-morphing decentralized movement is much more difficult to uncover and defeat.

Terrorists are able to easily communicate, train and recruit through the Internet, and their threat will become "an eclectic array of groups, cells and individuals that do not need a stationary headquarters," the council's report says.

"Training materials, targeting guidance, weapons know-how, and fund-raising will become virtual (i.e. online)."

The report, titled "Mapping the Global Future," highlights the effects of globalization and other economic and social trends. But NIC officials said their greatest concern remains the possibility that terrorists may acquire biological weapons and, although less likely, a nuclear device.

The council is tasked with midterm and strategic analysis, and advises the CIA director. "The NIC's goal," one NIC publication states, "is to provide policymakers with the best, unvarnished, and unbiased information -- regardless of whether analytic judgments conform to U.S. policy."

Other than reports and studies, the council produces classified National Intelligence Estimates, which represent the consensus among U.S. intelligence agencies on specific issues.

Yesterday, Hutchings, former assistant dean of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, said the NIC report tried to avoid analyzing the effect of U.S. policy on global trends to avoid being drawn into partisan politics.

Among the report's major findings is that the likelihood of "great power conflict escalating into total war . . . is lower than at any time in the past century." However, "at no time since the formation of the Western alliance system in 1949 have the shape and nature of international alignments been in such a state of flux as they have in the past decade."

The report also says the emergence of China and India as new global economic powerhouses "will be the most challenging of all" Washington's regional relationships. It also says that in the competition with Asia over technological advances, the United States "may lose its edge" in some sectors.

Staff writer Bradley Graham and researcher Julie Tate contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7460-2005Jan13.html>

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Mapping the Global Future

Report of the National Intelligence Council's 2020 Project

Based on Consultations With Nongovernmental Experts

Around the World

Web Page: http://www.cia.gov/nic/NIC_globaltrend2020.html

PDF Version: <http://www.foia.cia.gov/2020/2020.pdf>

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Los Angeles Times

January 14, 2005

Iraq War May Incite Terror, CIA Study Says

Think tank sees a breeding ground for militants. It says the risk of a germ attack is rising.

By Bob Drogin, Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The war in Iraq is creating a training and recruitment ground for a new generation of "professionalized" Islamic terrorists, and the risk of a terrorist attack involving a germ weapon is steadily growing, an in-house CIA think tank said in a report released Thursday.

The "dispersion of the experienced survivors of the conflict in Iraq" to other countries will create a new threat in the coming 15 years, especially as the Al Qaeda network mutates into a volatile brew of independent extremist groups, cells and individuals, according to the report by the National Intelligence Council.

David B. Low, the national intelligence officer for transnational threats, said those who survived the Iraq war would pose a threat when they went home, "even under the best of scenarios."

But broader trends are likely to overshadow terrorism on the world stage.

Most important, India and China increasingly will flex powerful political and economic muscles as major new global players by 2020, said the council, which likened the rise of the two countries to the emergence of the United States as a world power a century ago.

The two nuclear-armed Asian giants — one a vibrant democracy, the other a one-party state — will "transform the geopolitical landscape" because of their robust economic growth, expanding military capabilities and large populations, the council predicted.

"The rise of these new powers is a virtual certainty," the council said in the report, titled "Mapping the Global Future."

Partly as a result, the council expects the world economy to be about 80% larger than in 2000, and per capita income 50% higher.

The bad news: The United States "will see its relative power position eroded" and the world will face a "more pervasive sense of insecurity" from terrorism, the spread of unconventional weapons and political upheaval that could reverse recent democratic gains in parts of Central and Southeast Asia.

"Weak governments, lagging economies, religious extremism and youth bulges will align to create a perfect storm for internal conflict in some areas," the authors warned. "Our greatest concern is that terrorists might acquire biological agents, or less likely, a nuclear device, either of which could cause mass casualties."

The 119-page report is intended to help the White House and other policymakers prepare for probable challenges by tracing how key trends may develop and influence world events over the next 15 years.

"It's designed to stimulate thought," Robert L. Hutchings, chairman of the council, said at a news briefing at CIA headquarters.

Although few of the forecasts come as surprises, Hutchings said the authors sought to challenge conventional thinking.

"Linear analysis will get you a much-changed caterpillar," he said, "but it won't get you a butterfly. For that you need a leap of imagination. We hope this ... will help us make that leap."

The report, the third in a project launched in the mid-1990s, is based on the thinking and comments of more than 1,000 U.S. and foreign experts who participated in more than 30 conferences and workshops over the last year. The text and a computer simulation of possible scenarios are available online at <http://www.cia.gov/nic>.

The United States will retain enormous advantages and will continue to play a pivotal role in economic, political and military affairs, the report concludes. But Washington "may be increasingly confronted" with managing fast-shifting international relations and alignments.

Washington probably will face "dramatically altered alliances and relations with Europe and Asia," for example, with the European Union increasingly supplanting NATO on the world stage.

The United Nations and international financial institutions "risk sliding into obsolescence unless they adjust" to the changes in the global system, the authors wrote.

"While no single power looks within striking distance of rivaling U.S. military power by 2020, more countries will be in a position to make the United States pay a heavy price for any military action they oppose," they said.

Suspected possession of unconventional weapons by Iran, North Korea and perhaps others will "also increase the potential cost of any military action" by U.S. forces.

But the likelihood that a local conflict could escalate into a total war or nuclear exchange is "lower than at any time in the past century."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-intel14jan14.1.4774116.story?coll=la-headlines-world>

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Washington Times

January 14, 2005

Pg. 4

Attacks By Islamists Projected To Continue

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

Radical Islamic terrorists will continue to attack the United States and the world in the coming two decades and are likely to obtain and use biological weapons, according to a new intelligence report made public yesterday.

The National Intelligence Council (NIC) report, based on more than 1,000 interviews with U.S. and foreign specialists, said extremist Muslims pose the greatest danger of terror attack because their "religious zeal" has pushed them to conduct mass casualty attacks.

"The most worrisome trend has been an intensified search by some terrorist groups to obtain weapons of mass destruction," the report said. "Our greatest concern is that these groups might acquire biological agents or less likely, a nuclear device, either of which could cause mass casualties."

The report, "Mapping the Global Future," projects future threats and trends to 2020, and concludes that globalization is creating a new era of world insecurity.

"Our starting point is that we are facing a more fluid and complicated set of international alignments than any we have seen since the creation of the Western alliance system in 1949," said Robert Hutchings, NIC chairman.

The NIC is a group of forecasting intelligence analysts under CIA Director Porter J. Goss. It is not formally part of the CIA.

Mr. Hutchings told reporters at CIA headquarters that the risk of global conflict among states is low, although Islamic terrorism and the rise of China pose new challenges for the future.

The main worry is that smaller and better informed terrorist groups will resort to the use of biological weapons, the report said.

"Indeed, the bioterrorist's laboratory could well be the size of a household kitchen, and the weapon built there could be smaller than a toaster," the report said. "Terrorist use of biological agents is therefore likely, and the range of options will grow."

The report said inability to rapidly detect anthrax, smallpox and other diseases could lead to a "nightmare scenario" of a terrorist biological attack that could be carried out before authorities recognize it.

Regarding al Qaeda, the report said the group headed by Osama bin Laden will change in the coming years.

"The core al Qaeda membership probably will continue to dwindle, but other groups inspired by al Qaeda, regionally based groups, and individuals labeled simply as jihadists — united by a common hatred of moderate regimes and the West — are likely to conduct terrorist attacks," the report said.

Al Qaeda members trained in Afghanistan in the 1990s will dissipate and "be replaced in part by the dispersion of the experienced survivors of the conflict in Iraq."

"We expect that by 2020 al Qaeda will have been superseded by similarly inspired but more diffuse Islamic extremist groups, all of which will oppose the spread of many aspects of globalization into traditional Islamic societies."

The report said Iraq and other wars in the future could provide recruitment and training grounds for a new class of "professionalized" terrorists "for whom political violence becomes an end in itself."

The key factors that inspired international terrorism "show no signs of abating over the next 15 years," the report stated.

Terrorists will continue to use car bombs as "asymmetric weapons" but extremists also are expected to step up their use of higher-technology weapons, including advanced explosives and unmanned aerial vehicles.

As for targets, the report stated that the United States and its interests abroad will remain "prime terrorist targets," with other terrorist attacks aimed at Middle Eastern regimes and against Western Europe.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20050113-114518-9423r.htm>

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Dallas Morning News

January 14, 2005

Pg. 1

U.S. Enlists Nations' Help To Rein In Nuclear Threat

By Jim Landers, The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON – President Bush has called radicals with nuclear weapons the "gravest danger" facing the United States.

Osama bin Laden has told his followers that acquiring nuclear weapons is "a religious duty" in the war against America. Mr. Bush, in a speech last February at the National Defense University, said the traditional defense of massive retaliation no longer acted as a deterrent in the face of such threats.

"In the hands of terrorists, weapons of mass destruction would be a first resort – the preferred means to further their ideology of suicide and random murder," he said.

In his first term, Mr. Bush stressed his willingness to act unilaterally to protect U.S. interests. But going into his second term, Mr. Bush is relying for now on other countries to confront the vexing problems of nuclear proliferation.

Among the nuclear-related challenges for America and its partners:

*North Korea has all it needs for seven or eight nuclear bombs and has threatened to sell them. Mr. Bush is relying on China to restrain North Korea's bomb program, while waiting for North Korea to come back to a bargaining table that includes China, Russia, Japan and South Korea.

*Iran is apparently near the threshold of having all it needs to make weapons-grade uranium, and it has taken steps to manufacture plutonium, another ingredient that can be used to make a nuclear bomb. The Bush administration is relying on Britain, France and Germany to persuade Iran to halt these programs, and on the International Atomic Energy Agency to check Iran's compliance.

*Hundreds of tons of loosely secured weapons-grade material are still scattered across Russia. Nineteen other countries have joined the United States and Russia in financing a \$20 billion effort to track it down and lock it up.

*The Bush administration has recruited more than 60 countries to hunt down traffickers of nuclear weapons materials.

*Mr. Bush is seeking global support to stop other countries from enriching uranium or reprocessing nuclear fuel – technologies that could bring a country within "the turn of a screw" of having a bomb. Iran is a case in point, but Brazil is also pursuing uranium enrichment.

Administration disputes

Most of these initiatives followed the March 2003 invasion of Iraq by U.S.-led forces to rid the world of Iraq's suspected arsenals and labs for weapons of mass destruction. The invasion strained U.S. relations with countries around the world, and no weapons of mass destruction were found.

On Thursday, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham stressed that the United States would continue to expand cooperation with other countries to limit the spread of nuclear weapons.

"A global threat demands global participation," Mr. Abraham said in a Washington speech.

But relying on others may show strains within the administration as much as a willingness to turn to the international community, said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association.

Throughout Mr. Bush's first term, disputes among administration officials over how to deal with Iran and North Korea hampered the United States' approach to these countries. U.S. policy-makers instead relied on allies in Asia and Europe to press the issue.

The emphasis on working with others faces a test in May, when the 130 countries that have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty meet to review its effectiveness.

"It can't be 'my way or the highway' as certain people in the State Department and Defense and the office of the vice president would have you think," said John S. Wolf, who was assistant secretary of state for non-proliferation matters until June.

"The administration's first-term thinking is going to have to be a little more agile, because this is of vital importance to the national security of the United States."

Mr. Bush is not expected to set aside his preference for playing offense. The administration's 2002 National Security Strategy and the National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction stress attacking the problem with many tools besides diplomacy.

"In the new world we have entered, the only path to peace and security is the path of action," Mr. Bush said on Sept. 17, 2002.

'Quite a pickle'

Administration officials say the overthrow of Saddam Hussein persuaded Libya's Moammar Gadhafi to give up his efforts to build a nuclear weapon.

But the invasion of Iraq also revealed the risks of a pre-emptive attack.

"Whatever one feels about whether this was the right thing to do in Iraq, the way we did it, without strong international support and with false intelligence to boot, put us in quite a pickle right now," said Sidney Drell, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University with broad experience in arms control.

Force has not been taken off the table as an option for dealing with the nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea, although administration officials have stressed that the United States has no plans to attack either one.

The administration also is pressing ahead with a national missile defense program and will soon have an anti-missile system in place in Alaska to confront a limited missile attack from East Asia.

Mr. Bush has said the United States has no plans to test a nuclear weapon, but he is not expected to push the Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The Senate refused to ratify the treaty in 1999. Eleven of the other 43 nuclear-capable countries in the world have not ratified the treaty, either, and all 44 are needed before the treaty can take effect.

The Bush administration also wants to work on a new nuclear weapon that could attack deeply buried bunkers hiding weapons or enemy commanders.

Administration critics say the bunker-busting bomb should be abandoned because of the message it sends to other nations.

"If the strongest nation says we need new nuclear weapons, it doesn't contribute to our argument to other nations that they don't need them," Dr. Drell said.

Congress has refused to fund the bunker buster, but it remains part of the administration's overall nuclear weapons posture.

"The strategy's in place," said a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "That doesn't mean there won't be policy initiatives. And many of the policies we have articulated will demand vigorous pursuit." One that's still expanding is the Proliferation Security Initiative, which Mr. Bush first described in a May 2003 speech in Poland. Sixty countries have joined in a U.N.-endorsed effort to track down and intercept trafficking in the stuff needed to make weapons of mass destruction.

Three notable interceptions occurred in 2003. Italy seized a cargo of uranium-enrichment centrifuges from a German-registered ship, the BBC China, heading for Libya. Germany intercepted a shipment of aluminum tubes suitable for centrifuges that was headed to North Korea. China, though not yet a member of the Proliferation Security Initiative, stopped a shipment of chemicals from reaching North Korea's nuclear program.

"There are many success stories I can't discuss," John Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control, said in an October speech in Tokyo. "But while you may not be aware of them, would-be buyers and sellers of weapons of terror are all too aware."

Pakistan investigation

The administration is still seeking answers about Pakistan's bomb peddler, Abdul Qadeer Khan.

Mr. Bush inherited an investigation of Dr. Khan from the Clinton administration. By 2002, the investigation revealed a black market in bomb designs and components stretching from Europe to East Asia that sold Iran, North Korea and Libya crucial enrichment technologies and designs.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf retired Dr. Khan in 2001, then put him under house arrest in 2003 after a nationally televised confession and pardon. U.S. and U.N. investigators are still trying to learn the identity of at least one other client for Dr. Khan's bomb wares, but they have not been allowed to question him.

Mr. Wolf, the former assistant secretary of state, put the Khan investigation at the top of his list of things the administration needs to do in its second term.

"They need to continue to work with other countries to make sure, like any root canal effort, that they get all of the disease," he said.

The senior administration official agreed and also said that Mr. Bush would continue to press Gen. Musharraf to ensure that Pakistan's nuclear weapons are kept out of the hands of Pakistani radicals.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/world/stories/011405dnintnuke.623ea.html>

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USA Today

January 14, 2005

Pg. 7

Missile Interceptor System Still Evolving

The United States has a limited capability to defend against a small-scale missile attack and may never declare when a new system is ready to defend against long-range missiles, a Pentagon official said Thursday. The Bush administration's goal was to have the system ready by the end of 2004. "We have a nascent operational capability," said Larry Di Rita, spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. "It's not what everybody wishes it may be, perhaps. But some capability exists, while you continue to improve upon the capability of that system.

"We haven't made a declaration that we are now hereby operational," he said. "I don't know that such a declaration will ever be made." Di Rita didn't explain why the Pentagon might never publicly declare the system fully ready. At some point, the interceptor missiles will be placed on permanent alert, a condition in which they will be capable of being fired from their silos at any time of day or night on short notice.

Rick Lehner, a spokesman for the Missile Defense Agency, which is managing the program, said the interceptors haven't been placed on alert, and he didn't know when they would be.

The system will initially rely on interceptor missiles based in silos at Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., to hit incoming missiles.

In the most recent test, on Dec. 15, the interceptor missile that was to be launched was never fired.

http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20050114/a_capcol14.art.htm

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Washington Times

January 14, 2005

Pg. 10

Al Qaeda Threat Looms Over U.S., Official Warns

Agency chief emphasizes need to maintain 'sense of urgency'

By Jerry Seper, The Washington Times

Al Qaeda terrorists continue to pose a significant threat to the United States, which includes the use of nuclear devices and so-called "dirty bombs," but U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Robert C. Bonner believes his agency can stop that threat at the U.S. borders.

"After September 11, we knew we had to act quickly to protect our country, our citizens and our economy. And act we did," Mr. Bonner said yesterday during a CBP trade conference at the agency's Washington headquarters. "We reorganized a huge portion of our federal government. We ratcheted up our border security. And we implemented sweeping initiatives to protect global trade and travel — and the global economy.

"We're not done yet, but combating terrorism is the number one priority of our country — now and for the foreseeable future. Yet, it is critical that we maintain the sense of urgency and action that galvanized us and the world against terrorism," he said.

Mr. Bonner told 800 business and community leaders, trade representatives and importers that the threat of future terrorist attacks in the United States is real, adding that al Qaeda's leaders have vowed to "strike America again, even harder than September 11."

He said there was "credible intelligence" that al Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, was plotting multiple terrorist attacks in this country to influence the 2004 presidential elections, but was "unable to do so." But he warned that U.S. authorities could not underestimate al Qaeda's patience and determination to strike America again.

"We must not become complacent. We must not let down our guard," he said.

To defend the country, he said, CBP has implemented a maritime security system — working in conjunction with border agents and inspectors at and between the nation's ports of entry — to detect terrorists and deter their efforts to enter the country or bring their weapons of mass destruction into the United States.

Mr. Bonner, who formerly headed the U.S. Customs Service, said the system includes four interrelated, interlocking initiatives now operational that have extended the nation's borders "by pushing our zone of security out beyond our physical borders."

"Every one of these initiatives is designed to meet the twin goals of vastly increasing security, but doing so without choking off the flow of legitimate trade," he said. "And not one of these initiatives existed before September 11."

Mr. Bonner said the new system includes:

*The 24-Hour Rule, which obtains advance electronic information on all cargo shipped to the United States 24 hours before it is loaded at foreign seaports.

*The National Targeting Center, which houses CBP's Automated Targeting System. It evaluates every one of those containers for terrorist risk before they are loaded and shipped to U.S. seaports.

*The Container Security Initiative (CSI), which inspects — with the help of trading partners — high-risk containers before they are loaded onboard vessels bound for the United States.

*The Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT), now at 34 of the largest seaports in the world, which increases security from the foreign loading docks to the U.S. ports of arrival in exchange for expedited processing — working with more than 8,000 private companies.

In addition, Mr. Bonner said, CBP is moving forward with the "Smart Box," which allows agents to secure cargo containers with an imbedded, electronic device that can determine if a container has been opened or tampered with at any point along its journey from a foreign manufacturer to the United States.

Mr. Bonner noted that in the wake of September 11, the priority mission of Customs — much of which became CBP after the creation of the Department of Homeland Security — changed from the interdiction of illegal drugs and regulation of trade to preventing terrorists and terrorist weapons from getting into the United States.

"As you know, the effects of September 11 still reverberate in America ... even now, though, it's hard for some to imagine a plot so treacherous and evil that turned commercial passenger airplanes into missiles that brought huge skyscrapers to the ground," he said.

Mr. Bonner said the creation within Homeland Security of one border agency to manage, control and secure the nation's borders at and between the ports of entry was one of the most important aspects of the reorganization effort.

"Customs and Border Protection is the largest honest-to-goodness merger taking place within the Department of Homeland Security," he said. "Needless to say, no other agency of the U.S. government has a more important mission."

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20050113-114514-9386r.htm>

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MARION COUNTY

Ocala man had biotoxin, police say

Federal agents arrested a restaurant worker in Marion County on charges that he had the lethal biological agent ricin in his home.

BY DAVID KIDWELL AND PHIL LONG

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A 22-year-old Ocala man who aspired to defuse bombs for the police was arrested late Wednesday after federal investigators found a cardboard box in his room containing the lethal biological agent ricin.

Federal sources said Thursday they have no evidence yet that Steven Ekberg -- who lives with his mother and works as a host at a local restaurant -- intended to use the poison.

And there is no indication that he was involved with extremist causes that might have a use for it, said Jeff Westcott, spokesman for the FBI's Jacksonville office.

"This is all being blown out of proportion," said Ekberg's uncle, Scott Ekberg, an Ocala FedEx driver who said he visited Steven over the holidays. "This isn't Steve. He wasn't angry at anybody. He didn't have any axes to grind. He was talking about going back to school to defuse bombs for the sheriff's office," the uncle said. "That's what he really wanted to do."

Possession of ricin carries a possible sentence of 10 years, but in past cases probation was more likely if investigators uncovered no actual plot to use it.

WEAPON MATERIAL

Ricin -- converted to weapons form by the U.S. military in World War II but never used -- is derived from the castor bean.

A microscopic dose -- either injected or inhaled -- can be fatal. There is no antidote or treatment, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Marion County sheriff's investigators were first alerted to Ekberg by an anonymous caller who said Ekberg was known to frequent nightclubs carrying concealed firearms. The informant also said Ekberg bragged about possessing ricin and showed off a box containing several glass tubes, jars and various seeds, police said.

Sheriff's Capt. Dennis Strow said investigators were able to track down the anonymous source, who became a confidential informant. Strow said the informant said Ekberg had also talked of having a substance "that if you took it, it would kill you," Strow said.

On Jan. 5., Strow said, the confidential informant met with Marion County sheriff's detectives and agents from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to establish the informant's credibility.

On Jan. 7, an undercover operation was set up and Ekberg was followed to the Crock Club in Ocala, a bar popular with young people, Strow said.

At the bar, Ekberg was introduced to undercover police officers who confirmed that he had two weapons -- a .45-caliber gun and a .357-caliber gun -- both of which Strow described as "small-frame automatics."

He was arrested on a charge of violation of a concealed weapons permit, a misdemeanor, and on a felony charge of possession of cocaine.

"It was just a small amount, but any cocaine is a felony in Florida," Strow said, adding, "you cannot carry a concealed weapon in a bar."

FIREARMS

Ekberg's mother later consented to a search of her home, investigators said. They found an "Uzi sub-type machine gun, an AK-47 type weapon, a Rock River Arms semiautomatic rifle and Mole semiautomatic bipod rifle," according to a sheriff's report.

They also found the cardboard box with a suspicious substance, Strow said, and sent it to the Florida Department of Health Laboratory in Jacksonville.

"When you see something that resembles what you are trained to see, for us the red flag goes up," Strow said. Wednesday "we received confirmation that it was ricin."

Ekberg's uncle, Scott Ekberg, said there was no ricin and there were no assault rifles found.

"What they found was 86 beans of some kind, that's it," he said. "It seems to me like somebody is trying to flex some muscle here."

Ekberg's mother, contacted Thursday at her home, declined to comment.

Federal sources reiterated they have no evidence Ekberg intended to use the ricin against anyone.

"We don't have any indication there was any real threat here," one source said. "But it's still early in the investigation. Just having it is threat enough."

Herald staff writer Jacob Goldstein contributed to this report.

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/10640805.htm>

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