



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
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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 to 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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Washington Times

December 21, 2005

Pg. 14

Light-Water Reactors Signaled In Report

SEOUL -- North Korea plans to build light-water atomic reactors and develop two other reactors that can produce large amounts of fissile material to boost its nuclear deterrent, official press sources said yesterday.

Six-country talks to try to end North Korea's nuclear-weapons programs have stalled. Diplomats said the latest comment from the North's official Korean Central News Agency could complicate an already difficult negotiating process.

Pyongyang previously had not said that it planned to build relatively proliferation-resistant light-water reactors, but had threatened to resume work on two graphite-moderated reactors, which can produce large amounts of material for atomic bombs, said a South Korean Foreign Ministry official.

"There have never been any plans for North Korea to build [light-water reactors] on their own," the official said.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/worldscene.htm>

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U.S. Research Produces Plant-Grown Anthrax Vaccine

Current vaccine production method expensive, causes side effects

Research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture has produced a safe and effective way to make large quantities of vaccine for anthrax, a top bioterrorism threat.

According to a December 19 press release from the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando, 360 million doses of anthrax vaccine could be grown inexpensively and safely with one acre [.4 hectare] of tobacco plants.

Mice immunized with a vaccine produced in a UCF laboratory through the genetic engineering of tobacco plants survived lethal doses of anthrax administered later by NIH researchers.

"Anthrax vaccine is very much in need, primarily because of bioterrorism concerns," said UCF professor Henry Daniell, whose laboratory produced the vaccine.

Current production of the vaccine involves an expensive fermentation process that can cause harmful side effects such as inflammation, flu-like symptoms and rashes. Fear of such side effects caused many U.S. military personnel to defy orders to receive inoculation starting in 1998, and the mandatory vaccination program subsequently was suspended.

Seeking a safer and more effective alternative, Daniell and colleagues injected the vaccine gene into tobacco cells, and grew the cells for several weeks.

Tests showed vaccine taken from the plants was just as potent as the one produced through fermentation but lacks the bacterial toxin that can cause harmful side effects.

Researchers then injected the vaccine into mice to immunize them against anthrax and sent the mice to NIH labs, where they survived doses of anthrax several times stronger than the amounts to which humans have been exposed.

The next step for the anthrax vaccine would involve a company working with NIH to conduct clinical trials.

The work holds promise for treating other diseases, including diabetes and hepatitis, and improving vaccines for plague, cholera and other bioterrorism agents.

Text of the UCF press release follows:

(begin text)

University of Central Florida

Press release, December 19, 2005

[Orlando, Florida]

UCF, NIH study: Effective, safe anthrax vaccine can be grown in tobacco plants

Study a breakthrough in efforts to find safe, effective method of producing large quantities of vaccine for top bioterrorism threat

Enough anthrax vaccine to inoculate everyone in the United States could be grown inexpensively and safely with only one acre of tobacco plants, a University of Central Florida molecular biologist has found.

Mice immunized with a vaccine produced in UCF professor Henry Daniell's laboratory through the genetic engineering of tobacco plants survived lethal doses of anthrax administered later by National Institutes of Health researchers. The results of the NIH-funded study are featured in the December issue of the *Infection & Immunity* journal.

Daniell's research is a breakthrough in efforts to find a safe and effective method of producing large quantities of vaccine for anthrax, one of the top bioterrorism threats facing the United States. The new production method also could help the government and health care providers avoid supply shortages, as one acre of plants can produce 360 million doses in a year.

"Anthrax vaccine is very much in need, primarily because of bioterrorism concerns," Daniell said. "But in the United States, only one company has the capacity to produce the vaccine, and it is made in very small quantities by fermentation. We can provide enough doses of a safe and effective vaccine for all Americans from just one acre of tobacco plants."

Current production of the vaccine involves an expensive fermentation process that can cause harmful side effects such as inflammation, flu-like symptoms and rashes. This has prompted some people to refuse to be vaccinated. Seeking a safer and more effective alternative, Daniell and his colleagues injected the vaccine gene into the chloroplast genome of tobacco cells, partly because those plants grow much faster than carrots, tomatoes and coffee. They grew the cells for several weeks in Daniell's laboratory. Tests showed the vaccine taken from the plants was just as potent as the one produced through fermentation but lacks the bacterial toxin that can cause harmful side effects.

Researchers then injected the vaccine into mice to immunize them against anthrax and sent the mice to NIH labs, where they survived doses of anthrax several times stronger than the amounts to which humans have been exposed.

The next step for the anthrax vaccine would involve a company working with NIH to conduct clinical trials. Human subjects would be injected only with the vaccine and not with anthrax itself, and scientists would then check the subjects' immunity levels. The vaccine later could be mass-produced and stockpiled for emergencies.

Daniell conducted his study with part of a \$1 million NIH grant and a \$2 million U.S. Department of Agriculture grant that cover research related to genetic engineering in plants as a way to produce therapies for several diseases. Daniell's work holds promise for treating other diseases, including diabetes and hepatitis, and improving vaccines for plague, cholera and other bioterrorism agents.

Daniell is developing a new technology that would enable vaccines to be administered orally and allow effective and less expensive treatments to be more accessible worldwide. He believes fruits and vegetables such as carrots and tomatoes are the keys to figuring out a way for people to take anthrax vaccines orally in capsules of dried plant cells that contain correct doses of the protective antigen.

If that research is successful, the needs for requiring doctors to administer the shots and for shipping vaccines in refrigerated trucks, both of which can be especially difficult in poorer nations, would be eliminated.

The military now administers the vaccine with three shots in the first four weeks, three more in the next 17 months and then annual booster shots, according to the Pentagon (www.anthrax.mil).

Daniell, who is the first UCF Trustee Chair in Life Sciences, began teaching at UCF in 1998. He has formed a biotechnology company called Chlorogen to apply his work in chloroplast genetic engineering. In 2004, he won UCF's Pegasus Professor Award, the top honor given to a faculty member who excels in teaching, research and service. Last year, he also became only the 14th American in the last 222 years to be elected to the Italian National Academy of Sciences.

The research team for the anthrax project also included Vijay Koya, a graduate student in Daniell's lab, and Mahtab Moayeri and Stephen H. Leppla of the Microbial Pathogenesis Section of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at NIH.

(end text)

(Distributed by 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=2005&m=December&x=20051220120153lcnirellep0.1692774&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>

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(Editor's Note: ODNI Press Release follows article.)

Yahoo! News

Arms Center to Give Biothreats New Focus

By KATHERINE SHRADER, Associated Press Writer

Wed Dec 21, 8:19 PM ET

A new government center focusing on weapons intelligence will pay significant attention to biological threats, which the director considers a soft spot for spy agencies.

In an interview Wednesday as the center officially opened, Kenneth Brill said the National Counterproliferation Center will give a heightened profile to threats from pandemics and other biological threats.

Brill noted that the government has had a 60-year relationship with experts in physics, which has been part of nuclear technology's maturation, but comparable ties in biological sciences are not as strong.

"Naturally occurring diseases can be much more devastating than a weapon," Brill said. "The life sciences are moving so quickly and there are so many new dramatic breakthroughs. Yet some of those breakthroughs, if you tweak them just slightly, become really potentially devastating agents for harm."

With a staff of about 67, the center based in Washington's Virginia suburbs is intended to bring elements of the 15 different U.S. spy agencies together.

The center will include intelligence analysts and intelligence collectors who have been involved in operations, and scientific experts who study nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, as well as delivery systems.

They will focus on ways to understand threats from countries that are getting involved in weapons proliferation, as well as terrorists groups or entrepreneurs such as Abdul Qadeer Khan of Pakistan. Regarded as the father of the program that built Pakistan's nuclear bomb, Khan confessed in early 2004 that he had spread sensitive technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea without the knowledge of the government.

The center, created as a result of the intelligence overhaul in December 2004, was envisioned as being similar to the National Counterterrorism Center, which has a staff of hundreds.

Months later, a presidential commission studying weapons of mass destruction suggested the counterproliferation center be a leaner operation of fewer than 100, coordinating sometimes disparate elements of the intelligence agencies. The White House accepted that recommendation.

Brill said the center will do a series of classified studies in the next three years on issues or countries that present challenges.

"It's no secret that Iran and North Korea are areas where we are concerned about WMD activities," Brill said. "The proliferation of WMD programs in areas of tension is a very real concern — not just to this government but to many."

A career diplomat like his boss, National Intelligence Director John Negroponte, Brill has served in Jordan, Ghana and India. Brill was the U.S. representative to the United Nations' office in Vienna, Austria, and the International Atomic Energy Agency from September 2001 to July 2004, when the U.S. made its case to the world to invade Iraq. The outcry for an overhaul of U.S. intelligence agencies was driven largely by the flawed intelligence used as the basis for that invasion. Still, some long involved in intelligence agencies have questioned whether centers such as Brill's will have enough authority to shape policy decisions.

Spy agencies are known for their autonomy.

Brill, who acknowledged he may be in a honeymoon period now, said he has not seen bureaucratic infighting, but he has backing of Negroponte, who can move money and make other decisions aimed at change.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051222/ap_on_go_ot/weapons_intelligence_center_2

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Office of the Director of National Intelligence

NEWS RELEASE

ODNI Announces Establishment of National Counterproliferation Center (NCPC)

December 21, 2005

ODNI News Release No. 9-05

Today, the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) is announcing the formal establishment of the DNI National Counterproliferation Center (NCPC).

The NCPC will coordinate strategic planning within the Intelligence Community (IC) to enhance intelligence support to United States efforts to stem the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and related delivery systems. It will work with the Intelligence Community to identify critical intelligence gaps or shortfalls in collection, analysis or exploitation, and develop solutions to ameliorate or close these gaps. It will also work with the Intelligence Community to identify long-term proliferation threats and requirements and develop strategies to ensure the IC is positioned to address these threats and issues. NCPC will reach out to elements both inside the Intelligence Community and outside the IC and the U.S. Government to identify new methods or technologies that can enhance the capabilities of the IC to detect and defeat future proliferation threats.

"Establishing the National Counterproliferation Center is an essential and critical step forward for the IC and the Nation to help prevent and deter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," said John D. Negroponte, Director of National Intelligence. "Along with the National Counterterrorism Center, the NCPC will enhance our country's ability to prevent terrorists or terrorist-related entities from acquiring weapons of mass destruction."

Negroponte appointed Ambassador Kenneth C. Brill to be the Director of the NCPC as well the Counter Proliferation Mission Manager on August 8, 2005. In his capacity as Mission Manager, Ambassador Brill serves as the principal advisor to the DNI on issues and matters relating to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Intelligence and Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 provided for the establishment of the NCPC to enhance coordination, planning and information sharing amongst the IC on proliferation issues. The Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction's Report of March 31, 2005 also recommended the establishment of an NCPC. The President accepted the Commission's recommendation on June 30, 2005.

Media interested in interviewing NCPC officials should contact the ODNI Public Affairs Office at (202) 395-7957.

http://www.dni.gov/release_letter_122105.html

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New York Times

December 22, 2005

Talks With Iran On Nuclear Plans Resume; Little Progress Is Seen

By Richard Bernstein

BERLIN, Dec. 21 - Representatives of three European countries and Iran met Wednesday for the first time since negotiations over Iran's nuclear development program were suspended four months ago in bitterness. After five hours of closed-door meetings in Vienna, the delegates said the two sides had agreed to hold further talks in January. The purpose of what European diplomats were calling "talks about talks" was to see if enough common ground existed for the stalled negotiations to resume next year.

"Both sides set out their positions in an open and frank manner," the leader of the French delegation, Stanislaw de Laboulaye, told reporters, using a diplomatic code that usually signifies sharp differences.

Mr. Laboulaye said the delegates would return to their home countries for consultations "with the aim of agreeing on a framework for negotiations." But it seemed virtually certain that the two sides had failed to agree on resuming substantive talks.

In Washington the State Department spokesman, Sean McCormack, said, "What needs to happen is the Iranians need to get serious about negotiating in good faith."

The negotiations between Iran and Britain, France and Germany began two years ago and were an effort, supported by the United States, to persuade Iran to forgo an independent nuclear development program, in exchange for a package of economic incentives.

But the talks have foundered on Iran's insistence on developing a nuclear program on its own soil that would include the technology that would enable it to enrich uranium to produce material that could be used either to generate electricity or to produce a bomb.

Iran has maintained all along that its purpose is limited to electrical power, but the United States and Europe, faced with numerous instances in which Iran concealed aspects of its nuclear program, say they believe its aim is a nuclear weapon.

The atmosphere, already soured by Iran's resumption of uranium conversion at a research plant in Isfahan, has been worsened in recent weeks by statements made by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in which he has called the Holocaust a myth and said Israel should be "wiped off the map."

The Europeans and Americans have wanted to have the International Atomic Energy Agency refer the matter to the United Nations Security Council for possible economic sanctions, but they have agreed to hold off because of opposition from Russia and China.

At a meeting of the agency last month, the European countries, with the support of the United States, agreed to hold open what was called a "window" for the stalled talks to be resumed, and the meetings on Wednesday were a consequence of that decision.

Specifically, the Europeans have wanted to see if Iran might agree to discussions based on a new Russian proposal that Iran's nuclear stockpile be enriched in Russia and the nuclear fuel sent back to Iran, a process that would presumably prevent Iran from acquiring an independent enrichment capacity.

But Iran has insisted that it intends to carry out uranium enrichment itself.

The European hope is that if Iran continues to refuse to move toward an agreement, both Russia and China might drop their objections to Security Council sanctions.

Steven R. Weisman contributed reporting from Washington for this article.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/22/international/middleeast/22iran.html>

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Washington Times

December 27, 2005

Pg. 1

U.S. Puts Sanctions On Chinese Firms For Aiding Tehran

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

Several Chinese companies involved in selling missile goods and chemical-arms materials to Iran have been hit with U.S. sanctions, Bush administration officials said yesterday.

The sanctions cover six Chinese government-run companies, two Indian firms and one Austrian company, according to officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The penalties have been under consideration since April and were approved by Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick within the past several weeks.

An announcement will be published in the U.S. government's Federal Register in the next several days -- and perhaps as early as today, the officials said.

The sanctions were imposed under the Iran Nonproliferation Act, which Congress passed in 2000 to deter international support for Iran's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs and missile-delivery systems. The penalties, which will last until December 2007, bar the companies from doing business with the U.S. government and prohibit U.S. firms from obtaining export licenses to sell sensitive products to these companies. The details of the transfers to Iran were not disclosed.

The sanctions are part of a more aggressive policy aimed at identifying foreign companies engaged in helping rogue states gain access to weapons technology. So far, 40 companies and people have been punished since 2001.

They come as the United States and Europe consider whether to seek U.N. Security Council action on Iran's covert nuclear arms programs. Iran has violated International Atomic Energy Agency commitments by denying access to numerous nuclear-related facilities. The U.S. government suspects oil-rich Iran is building nuclear weapons under the cover of producing civilian facilities for generating electrical power.

These latest sanctions show that China is continuing to support the missile and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs of states that support international terrorism.

"We think these transfers helped [Iran's] ballistic missile and WMD programs," a senior official said.

Beijing has denied U.S. reports that the government or any of its companies have supplied missile- or weapons-related goods and technology to Iran and other rogue states and, in 2004, denounced a previous round of sanctions as "wrong."

A Chinese Embassy spokesman could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The Chinese companies involved in the transfers are the China National Aerotechnology Import Export Corp., known as CATIC; the missile exporter China North Industries Corp., known as NORINCO; Zibo Chemet Equipment Co.; the Hongdu Aviation Industry Group; Ounion International Economic and Technical Cooperative Ltd.; and the Limmt Metallurgy and Minerals Co.

The officials said that three of the Chinese companies have been sanctioned in the past for illicit arms transfers -- CATIC, NORINCO and Zibo.

"NORINCO is a serial proliferator," one official said. "All these sanctions are for transfers to Iran."

The 2000 law requires the U.S. government to impose sanctions on companies or people that supply Iran with goods, services or technology related to nuclear weapons, missiles and toxic chemicals that can be used to make chemical arms.

Zibo is known to make glass-lined containers that can be used to make chemical weapons. CATIC and Norinco are involved in manufacturing missiles.

A CIA report to Congress made public last year stated that Chinese companies' supplies of ballistic missile-related assistance have "helped Iran move toward its goal of becoming self-sufficient in the production of ballistic missiles." Chinese firms also have provided dual-use missile-related items, raw materials and assistance to Iran, Libya and North Korea, the CIA report stated.

The two Indian chemical companies that will be sanctioned are Sabero Organics Chemical and Sandhya Organics Chemical. The Austrian firm Steyr-Mannlicher, which makes high-quality assault weapons, also is being sanctioned. The sanctions announcement will also state that the U.S. government is lifting sanctions imposed last year on Chaudhary Surendar, one of two Indian nuclear scientists who had been linked to Iran's nuclear program.

India's government had denied that Mr. Surendar was linked to Iranian proliferation activities

Mr. Surendar was sanctioned in September 2004 for his role in providing weapons of mass destruction and missile goods to Iran under the Iran Nonproliferation Act. The other scientist, Y.S.R. Prasad, continues to face sanctions until they expire in September.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20051227-124948-5253r.htm>

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USA Today
December 27, 2005

Pg. 2

Scientists Recruit Wasps For War On Terror

Insects could be used to detect toxins, explosives

By Mimi Hall, USA Today

Scientists at a Georgia laboratory have developed what could be a low-tech, low-cost weapon in the war on terrorism: trained wasps.

The tiny, non-stinging wasps can check for hidden explosives at airports and monitor for toxins in subway tunnels.

"You can rear them by the thousands, and you can train them within a matter of minutes," says Joe Lewis, a U.S. Agriculture Department entomologist. "This is just the very tip of the iceberg of a very new resource."

Lewis and others at the University of Georgia-Tifton Campus developed a handheld “Wasp Hound” to contain the wasps while they sniff out chemicals and other substances.

Lewis and his partner, University of Georgia biological engineer Glen Rains, say their device is ready for pilot tests and could be available for commercial use in five to 10 years.

Rains says the wasps could one day be used instead of dogs to check for explosives in cargo containers coming in to the nation's seaports, in vehicles crossing at border checkpoints, at airports and anywhere else where security should be tight.

“It's real easy to learn how to work with them,” he says about the wasps. “You could show somebody what to do in 30 to 40 minutes. And they're very specific in what they learn.”

This new method comes as the government has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on high-tech equipment and training since 9/11 to secure the nation from another terrorist attack.

Bomb-sniffing dogs cost thousands of dollars and take months to train. High-tech equipment can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars per unit and often has spotty performance.

“We don't have portable, flexible systems,” Lewis says.

Scientists started working with the species, a type of parasitic wasp called *Microplitis croceipes*, decades ago — long before the terrorist attacks in 2001.

In the 1990s, the Defense Department paid for part of that work to find out whether wasps could be used for a variety of defense purposes, including sniffing out land mines. They couldn't do that well because the areas they would have to check are too vast.

The scientists — funded by the Agriculture Department and the University of Georgia — have looked at other uses for the wasps.

Rains says the wasps can be trained to detect fungal diseases on crops while the damage is still below ground and can't be seen.

This method would help farmers avoid having to spread toxic fungicide over an entire crop after the disease spreads.

Rains says farmers would save money, and consumers and the environment would benefit as well.

The wasps may also be trained for medical uses, including detecting cancer or ulcers by smelling someone's breath.

They probably can be trained like dogs to find bodies buried in rubble, Rains says.

Given the strong government effort since 9/11 to focus on the nation's security, the scientists see a vast market for the wasps to detect explosives.

The wasps are trained with sugar water by using the classical conditioning techniques made famous by Pavlov's dogs. Rains says the wasps are sensitive to a host of chemical odors, including 2,4-DNT, a volatile compound used in dynamite.

To do their work, five wasps — each a half-inch long — are placed in a plastic cylinder that is 15 inches tall. This “Wasp Hound,” which costs roughly \$100 per unit, has a vent in one end and a camera that connects to a laptop computer.

When the wasps pick up an odor they've been trained to detect, they gather by the vent — a response that can be measured by the computer or seen by observers.

Lewis says the wasps, when exposed to some chemicals, “can detect as low as four parts per billion, which is an incredibly small amount.”

He says the “ability to capture nature and its marvels is ... revolutionary.”

Rains says, “The sensitivity of animals (and insects) to chemicals in general is probably beyond what we can comprehend. We don't really know what the limits are.”

http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20051227/a_wasps27.art.htm

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Washington Times

December 27, 2005

Pg. 12

Defend East Coast Too

By James T. Hackett

Defenses against ballistic missiles are in place in Alaska and California, and missile interceptors soon will be on Aegis ships in the Sea of Japan and the North Pacific. They will protect the Western United States and U.S. bases and allies in the Pacific. But what about the East Coast, especially al Qaeda's prime targets, Washington and New York? A missile defense base in Europe is planned to meet that need, but the budget is tight.

In 1993, the first attack on the World Trade Center killed six people. Eight years later, Muslim terrorists struck again and killed nearly 3,000. That attack also hit the national capital area, where one plane crashed into the Pentagon and the other, which crashed in Pennsylvania, reportedly was aiming for the White House.

Al Qaeda clearly considers New York and Washington prime targets and would like to strike them again with even greater death and destruction. One way to do so would be with a ballistic missile armed with a nuclear weapon. Yet, missile defense of the Eastern U.S. has been a relatively low priority.

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) properly is concentrating on getting the most urgent missile defenses in place first. Those now are being deployed to protect against the hostile regime in North Korea. They also will help prevent China from using its nuclear missiles to pressure this country and its Asian allies to allow the intimidation of Taiwan.

But defenses in Alaska cannot effectively protect the Eastern United States against missiles from the Middle East. It is true terrorists do not have ballistic missiles, but prior to September 11 they did not have airliners to fly into buildings. There are hundreds of aging ballistic missiles and thousands of nuclear warheads in Russia, and it is not certain all can be kept out of the hands of terrorists. The Muslim fanatics who strike frequently within Russia are allies of al Qaeda.

Then there is Iran, which appears determined to produce both long-range missiles and nuclear warheads. Iran is believed by various observers to be anywhere from a few months to a few years from having a nuclear bomb, and the Tehran government persists in fighting U.S. and European efforts to prevent it.

Using Nodong missile technology from North Korea, Iran is producing ballistic missiles, including the medium-range Shahab-3 that threatens Israel. Last May, Iran tested the Shahab-3 with a solid-fuel rocket engine, which also is likely to be used as the second stage for a longer-range missile Iran is developing that could deliver a nuclear weapon to most of Europe. Add a third stage, as North Korea did with its Taepodong-2, and it could reach the United States.

MDA plans to defend against a missile from the Middle East by building a third ground-based site, like those in Alaska and California, in Europe. Prime locations to defend both Europe and the Eastern U.S. would be in Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary or Romania. A missile defense site there would be well located to defend against a long-range missile heading for North America and a medium-range missile targeting Europe.

It would be a political and military plus to put the third site in Poland, which has a newly elected pro-American, conservative government. Long a friend of this country, Poland is emerging as an important member of the New Europe. A site there would strengthen our military alliance with Poland and move toward the goal of a global missile defense.

Moscow treats Poland as though it were still part of its lost empire. Paranoid Russian generals complain about possible missile defenses in Poland, claiming they would be aimed at Russia. But a base in Poland would be strictly defensive and its only threat to Russia would be to stop an unauthorized or accidental missile launch. Besides, Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov has just confirmed a contract to sell more than \$700 million worth of sophisticated air defense missiles to Iran, leaving Moscow no right to object to missile defenses in Poland.

MDA Director Lt. Gen. Henry Obering has said he wants to "move out" and build a site in Europe. The goal is 2008, but the MDA budget is inadequate to meet that timetable. White House budget officials working on the 2007 defense budget should provide enough money to get the third site built in 2008, before President Bush leaves office. That will assure a missile defense for the East Coast.

James T. Hackett is a contributing writer to The Washington Times based in San Diego.

<http://www.washtimes.com/commentary/20051226-095628-3389r.htm>

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New York Times
December 28, 2005

U.S. To Punish 9 Companies Said To Help Iran On Arms

By David E. Sanger

CRAWFORD, Tex., Dec. 27 - The Bush administration announced new sanctions on Tuesday against state-owned Chinese companies that it accused of aiding Iran's missile and chemical programs, insisting that Beijing cut off the trade at a time when Mr. Bush is trying to persuade China's leaders to condemn Tehran's nuclear program.

The sanctions, announced by the State Department, are part of a diplomatically complex effort to cut off the flow of technology into Iran that could aid its weapons programs, while pressing both China and Russia to threaten action against Tehran at the United Nations Security Council.

Included in the latest sanctions, first reported Tuesday by The Washington Times, are two companies closely tied to the Chinese military: the China North Industries Corporation, known as Norinco, and the China Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation, or Catic, which is one of the country's largest producers of military aircraft. The sanctions will have little practical effect on most of the nine companies cited, including two Indian companies and one Austrian one that makes assault rifles and other small arms. The Chinese companies are already barred from doing business with the United States.

But Adam Ereli, a State Department spokesman, called the move "an important and effective tool in constraining Iran's efforts to develop missile and W.M.D. capabilities." He added, "It does have an impact, I think, particularly in alerting governments to activity taking place in their countries and instituting measures or taking actions to prevent those kinds of activities."

Administration officials said they had no evidence that President Hu Jintao or other Chinese leaders were aware of the sales, and they said the Chinese had been sporadically helpful in cutting off shipments of crucial technologies to the Iranians.

But the announcement on Tuesday was the third since July 2003 in which the administration released a list of Chinese companies that officials say are bolstering Iran's missile and chemical programs. There is little evidence so far that China has cracked down on the companies that are owned or effectively controlled by the military.

While the State Department announcement did not describe the technology exported to Iran, information that is classified, officials said none of it specifically dealt with nuclear weapons or the integration of Iran's nuclear program with its missile program.

Nonetheless, they said, they were concerned that Iran was strengthening its missile technology at the same time that its new president had declared that Israel should be "wiped off the map," and that new evidence, acquired from a stolen laptop computer in Iran, suggested that Iranian engineers were grappling with the technical difficulties of fitting a nuclear device atop a missile. Iran does not yet possess such a device, American intelligence officials say. "There is a serial proliferation issue under way here, and the only way we know to deal with it is to keep up this pressure," said one senior administration official, who asked not to be identified because the administration was trying to impose the sanctions with little fanfare.

The announcement comes at a particularly delicate moment in the American effort to win support from China and Russia for acting against Iran.

Earlier this month, American, British and French officials met in Paris to draft a statement condemning Iran's nuclear program. They are circulating that draft to China and Russia, two officials said Tuesday, in hopes of getting all the permanent members of the Security Council to sign on. So far China and Russia have resisted any move toward sanctions, saying any overt confrontation would be counterproductive.

Mr. Ereli said that Austria had been cooperative in the investigation leading to sanctions against the company there, Steyr-Mannlicher G.m.b.H., but that the company had continued to do business with Iran. He said nothing about India's dealings with two chemical companies on the list: Sabero Organics Gujarat Ltd. and Sandhya Organic Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.

The other Chinese companies were the Hongdu Aviation Industry Group, the Limmt Metallurgy and Minerals Company, Ounion (Asia) International Economic and Technical Cooperation Ltd. and the Zibo Chemet Equipment Company.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/28/international/asia/28china.html?pagewanted=all>

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