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New York Times
May 17, 2004

Powell Says C.I.A. Was Misled About Weapons

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON, May 16 — Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said for the first time on Sunday that he now believes that the Central Intelligence Agency was deliberately misled about evidence that Saddam Hussein was developing unconventional weapons.

He also said, in his comments on the NBC News program "Meet the Press," that he regrets citing evidence that Iraq had mobile biological laboratories in his presentation to the United Nations on Feb. 5, 2003.

The assertion about the mobile labs was one of the most dramatic pieces of the presentation, which was intended to make public the Bush administration's best case for invading Iraq. For days before his speech, Mr. Powell sat in a conference room at the C.I.A., examining the sources for each charge he planned to make.

But on Sunday, Mr. Powell argued that the C.I.A. itself was misled, and that in turn he was, too. "Unfortunately, that multiple sourcing over time has turned out not to be accurate," Mr. Powell said, going farther than he did on April 2 when he conceded that the intelligence was not "that solid."

On Sunday, Mr. Powell hinted at widespread reports of fabrications by an engineer who provided much of the most critical information about the labs. Intelligence officials have since found that the engineer was linked to the Iraqi National Congress, an exile group that was pressing President Bush to unseat Mr. Hussein.

"It turned out that the sourcing was inaccurate and wrong and in some cases, deliberately misleading," Mr. Powell said in the interview, broadcast from Jordan. "And for that, I am disappointed and I regret it."

That was a sharp contrast to comments four months ago by Vice President Dick Cheney, who said the administration still believed that the trailers were part of a program of unconventional weapons, and added that he "would deem that conclusive evidence" that Mr. Hussein in fact had such programs.

Taken with past admissions of error by the administration or its intelligence agencies, Mr. Powell's statement on Sunday leaves little room for the administration to argue that Mr. Hussein's stockpiles of unconventional weapons posed any real and imminent threat.

"Basically, Powell now believes that the Iraqis had chemical weapons, and that was it," said an official close to him.

"And he is out there publicly saying this now because he doesn't want a legacy as the man who made up stories to provide the president with cover to go to war."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/17/international/middleeast/17POWE.html>

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New York Times

May 15, 2004

Nuclear Monitor Sees Treaties Weakening

By Judith Miller

The chief international nuclear weapons monitor warned yesterday that the intricate web of treaties and agreements that limit the spread of nuclear weapons was weakening and could be endangered unless sweeping reforms to the system were made in the United Nations Security Council and elsewhere.

Speaking at the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations, Mohamed ElBaradei, the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said he and President Bush had discussed at the White House working jointly toward a package of measures to bolster the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and on other reforms that he called crucial to stopping the spread of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

Specifically, he said, he and the Bush administration had discussed a proposal to spend between \$50 million and \$100 million over the next five years to better guard stockpiles of highly enriched uranium in atomic power reactors and other sources throughout the world. Experts have warned that terrorists who obtained such material could use it to make nuclear or radiological weapons.

He said Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham of the United States would travel to the atomic agency's headquarters in Vienna this month to announce details of the program.

Jeanne Lopatto, spokeswoman for the Energy Department, confirmed that the administration was developing a plan to "accelerate and expand efforts to secure and remove high-risk nuclear and radiological materials."

Dr. ElBaradei said Mr. Bush and he had also agreed on the need to supplement the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the main treaty that seeks to limit the spread of nuclear weapons, and to strengthen both the agency's ability to inspect suspect nuclear facilities and international controls on sales of nuclear technology. Both agreed, he added, on the need to penalize states that opt out of the treaty after acquiring nuclear equipment under the guise of a peaceful program.

He said there was further agreement on the need to find a way to deny countries that refuse to sign the treaty, or those that are suspected of cheating on it, access to technology that enriches uranium or reprocesses fuel that has been used in peaceful nuclear reactors. Such material can also be used in nuclear bombs.

Although he said Mr. Bush and he had disagreed about "some approaches and specific proposals," he said he was struck by the substantial degree of agreement about the need for urgent reform. This assertion by Dr. ElBaradei, an Egyptian citizen who studied law in New York, surprised several who heard the speech, given previous tensions between the atomic agency and the administration over the invasion of Iraq and over charges by some in the administration that the agency has been too tolerant of nuclear cheating and other treaty violations by member nations like Iran.

Dr. ElBaradei said that his agency was not ready to state that Iran was not using its peaceful nuclear program to acquire nuclear weapons, but that Tehran was now cooperating more fully with his agency than it had in the past. In a brief telephone interview after his speech, he said that although he expected to receive a "good deal of information" from Iran in the next two weeks, he did not know whether Iran would clear up questions about its nuclear program in time for his agency's board of governors meeting in June.

He said that while Iran had the technology to enrich uranium, he had no proof that such uranium had been processed to a level adequate to make a nuclear bomb.

"We will close the file when we have dealt with all the issues that require to be investigated," he said.

Iran has been pressing the monitoring agency to state that it does not have a nuclear weapons program, while the Bush administration has been pushing the agency to go to the Security Council with a resolution to punish Tehran for withholding information about its nuclear activities.

Dr. ElBaradei also said North Korea's announcement that it was withdrawing from the nuclear weapons treaty posed one of the most significant challenges to international efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. He expressed disappointment that the United Nations Security Council had failed to act against North Korea in connection with over a decade of the agency's complaints about that country's nuclear activities. The Council's lack of action, he said "has not been optimum."

Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, said Dr. ElBaradei's remarks reflected the growing recognition that the nonproliferation system that had served the world well during the cold war was now unraveling. "There's a consensus that something needs to be done," he said. "But there's not yet consensus on what needs to be done."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/15/international/15nuke.html>

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Los Angeles Times

9:15 AM PDT, May 17, 2004

Sarin Nerve Agent Found in Roadside Bomb

From a Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD — A roadside bomb containing deadly sarin nerve agent exploded near a U.S. military convoy, the U.S. military said today. It was believed to be the first confirmed finding of any of the banned weapons upon which the United States based its case for the Iraq war.

Two people were treated for "minor exposure," but no serious injuries were reported.

The deadly chemical was inside an artillery shell dating to the Saddam Hussein era that had been rigged as a bomb in Baghdad, said Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the chief military spokesman in Iraq.

U.S. troops have announced the discovery of other chemical weapons before, only to see them disproved by later tests. A dozen chemical shells were also found by U.N. inspectors before the war; they had been tagged for destruction in the 1990s but somehow were not destroyed.

"The Iraqi Survey Group confirmed today that a 155-millimeter artillery round containing sarin nerve agent had been found," Kimmitt said. "The round had been rigged as an IED (improvised explosive device) which was discovered by a U.S. force convoy."

"A detonation occurred before the IED could be rendered inoperable. This produced a very small dispersal of agent," he said.

The incident occurred "a couple of days ago," he said.

The Iraqi Survey Group is a U.S. organization whose task was to search for weapons of mass destruction after Saddam's ouster.

The round was an old 'binary-type' shell in which two chemicals held in separate sections are mixed after firing to produce sarin, Kimmitt said.

He said he believed that insurgents who rigged the artillery shell as a bomb didn't know it contained the nerve agent, and that the dispersal of the nerve agent from such a rigged device was very limited.

"The former regime had declared all such rounds destroyed before the 1991 Gulf War," Kimmitt said. Two members of a military bomb squad were treated for minor exposure to nerve agent, but none was injured.

It was unclear if the sarin shell was from chemical rounds that the United Nations had tagged and marked for destruction before the U.S. invasion.

Prior to the war, U.N. inspectors had compiled a short list of proscribed items found during hundreds of surprise inspections: fewer than 20 old, empty chemical warheads for battlefield rockets, and a dozen artillery shells filled with mustard gas. The shells had been tagged by U.N. inspectors in the 1990s but somehow not destroyed by them. In 1995, Japan's Aum Shinrikyo cult unleashed sarin gas in Tokyo's subways, killing 12 people and sickening thousands. In February of this year, Japanese courts convicted the cult's former leader, Shoko Asahara, and sentence him to be executed.

Developed in the mid-1930s by Nazi scientists, a single drop of sarin can cause quick, agonizing choking death.

There are no known instances of the Nazis actually using the gas.

Nerve gases work by inhibiting key enzymes in the nervous system, blocking their transmission. Small exposures

can be treated with antidotes, if administered quickly.

Antidotes to nerve gases similar to sarin are so effective that top poison gas researchers predict they eventually will cease to be a war threat.

The Bush administration cited allegations that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction as a main reason for launching the war in Iraq last year, but no evidence of such weapons has been found.

Since the war ended, the U.S.-led coalition has found several caches that tested positive for mustard gas but later turned out to contain missile fuel or other chemicals.

In January, troops discovered 36 mortar rounds believed to hold a blister agent, but later tests showed there was no such chemical inside.

http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/iraq/la-051704sarin_wr.1.6361877.story?coll=la-home-headlines

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Washington Times

May 18, 2004

Pg. 1

Bomb In Iraq Contained Sarin Agent, Military Says

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

A roadside bomb found in Baghdad contained a deadly nerve agent, the second time in 10 days, that U.S. forces have found weapons of mass destruction hidden since the fall of Saddam Hussein, U.S. officials said yesterday.

The 155 mm artillery shell found Saturday that had been fashioned into a homemade bomb by Iraqi insurgents contained two chemicals that, when mixed, make the nerve agent sarin. Ten days earlier, a homemade device was found containing mustard agent.

The Iraq Survey Group, the joint CIA and military intelligence unit in Iraq, confirmed the presence of small amounts of sarin in the exploded shell, the U.S. military said last night.

The military said the bomb was evidence of banned weapons because Saddam's regime "had declared all such rounds destroyed."

"This is it," said a defense official involved in monitoring Iraqi weapons.

The bomb was found early Saturday by U.S. military forces on a road near Baghdad International Airport after a soldier noticed a detonation cord sticking out of bomb placed along a road.

The bomb went off before it could be disarmed, and a liquid began seeping out of the remains of the artillery shell.

The liquid was determined in early tests to be one of two chemicals that when mixed together produce sarin — a poison that kills by disrupting the central nervous system.

The military described the artillery shell as "an old binary type that requires the mixing of two chemical components stored in separate sections of the shell."

"For the deadly agent to be produced, the two components have to be mixed," the military said. U.S. intelligence official said. "This is a very significant development and not only raises concerns about how many more might be out there but who has them."

The official said it was too early to say whether the discovery of the sarin bomb and the mustard bomb on May 7 indicate that insurgents might be resorting to the use of chemical bombs against U.S. and allied forces.

It also was not clear, the official said, whether the insurgents who planted the bomb "knew it contained sarin," because the shell did not have any special markings and the bomb was configured as if the shell contained conventional explosives.

Defense officials think Saddam hid chemical weapons with conventional arms in the widely dispersed ammunition dumps being found throughout Iraq.

About 8,700 weapons depots have been uncovered from the estimated 650,000 tons to 1 million tons of stored weapons. Many were looted by Iraqis immediately after the fall of Baghdad in April 2003.

Hans Blix, a former U.N. weapons inspector, suggested that the sarin bomb is not evidence of large-scale hidden stockpiles, saying the sarin agent might have been a leftover shell from a chemical-arms dump.

"It doesn't sound absurd at all. There can be debris from the past, and that's a very different thing from having stocks and supplies," Mr. Blix said in Sweden.

David Kay, who quit as head of the Iraq Survey Group earlier this year, has criticized U.S. intelligence agencies for failing to accurately gauge Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological arms programs. In January, he told a Senate panel:

"It turns out we were all wrong."

Yesterday, Mr. Kay said: "It is hard to know if this is one that just was overlooked — and there were always some that were overlooked, we knew that — or if this was one that came from a hidden stockpile. I rather doubt that because it appears the insurgents didn't even know they had a chemical round."

Mr. Kay said the sarin bomb "doesn't strike me as a big deal."

Army Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, deputy director for coalition military operations, first disclosed that the shell "containing sarin nerve agent" blew up, but only "produced a very small dispersal of agent" because the shell was used as a homemade bomb and not fired from artillery.

Still, two U.S. soldiers were treated for exposure to sarin after experiencing symptoms including nausea and dilated eyes.

The intelligence official said a 155 mm shell like the one found in Iraq can hold between 2 liters and 5 liters of sarin. "Two to five liters is deadly if people in the vicinity breathe the vapors," the official said. "As you go a couple dozen meters down wind, in the open, it is less lethal."

Iraq had told U.N. inspectors in the 1990s that "a few hundred" sarin artillery shells were made and used in testing during the late 1980s, but insisted all were destroyed after the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

But it was not until after the 1995 defection of Iraqi official Hussein Kamel that Saddam's government admitted having binary sarin shells, which are safer to handle for military personnel.

One immediate worry is that U.S. troops on patrol in Iraq must don sealed protective suits, which are debilitating in the 100-plus-degree heat.

Coalition spokesman Capt. Patrick Swan, said, "We have had no change to our current protective posture."

Troops currently are outfitted for conventional combat.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20040518-120218-4817r.htm>

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(Editor's Note: Hyperlink for referenced GAO Report follows article. This GAO Report was also part of CPC Outreach 340.)

Salt Lake City Deseret News

May 15, 2004

Exposure To Germ Tests Was Extensive

Exposure to agents was widespread, GAO report says

By Lee Davidson, Deseret Morning News

WASHINGTON — It may have sounded awful when the Pentagon reported last year that nearly 6,000 soldiers may have been unwittingly exposed to germ and chemical weapons in 50 tests conducted worldwide from 1962 and 1974 by Army scientists based in Utah.

But congressional investigators said Friday that figure was just the tip of the iceberg.

The U.S. General Accounting Office, a research arm of Congress, said those Pentagon-reported numbers were just for one series of experiments, called Project 112 or Project SHAD. "We have determined that hundreds of such classified tests and research projects were conducted outside Project 112," GAO officials said in a new report released Friday.

In fact, the GAO said it quickly found that at least 100 secret germ and chemical experiments were conducted at Utah's Dugway Proving Ground alone, or more than double the number of tests conducted under Project 112 during the same time period. The report said hundreds more secret tests were conducted in the 48 contiguous states.

So the GAO said the Pentagon, which declared last June that its work in identifying potential chemical and germ arms victims for Project 112 was complete, should continue probing further now to try to identify soldiers and civilians possibly exposed in all those other tests. In response, the Pentagon said it is planning to try to do so.

The Deseret Morning News has shown through the years, through documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, that thousands of open-air trials occurred in Utah with chemical, biological and radiological weapons, often upwind from populated areas.

The newspaper also first reported the Project SHAD and Project 112 tests, many of which were conducted at sea. Some sailors had sought the newspaper's help, complaining they were suffering from cancer and nervous system ills they blamed on the tests. But Veterans Affairs denied claims because the Army said the tests never occurred. Despite the newspaper obtaining reports and plans of some of those tests, the Pentagon continued for years to deny they occurred.

But after pressure from national media, members of Congress, the VA and sailors, the Pentagon finally said in May 2002 that some initial research showed such tests happened. It said last June that it had identified all the places and the names of veterans likely involved.

The new GAO study was ordered to measure the adequacy of that recent Pentagon work. The GAO said the Pentagon generally did a good job of identifying all Project 112 tests and most of the veterans involved. But it said a few veterans and many civilian workers were likely missed because records of some tests have yet to be found.

The Pentagon has entirely ignored other series of tests that may have exposed more people than Project 112, the report says.

"While there is no database that contains information concerning the biological and chemical tests that have been conducted, we determined that hundreds of such classified tests and research projects were conducted outside Project 112," the GAO wrote.

"In addition, information from various sources shows that personnel from all services were involved in chemical and biological testing," it said. Many were designed by the old Deseret Test Center, which originally was at Fort Douglas and later relocated to Dugway before disbanding.

"A former Deseret Test Center scientist estimated that the number of chemical and biological tests conducted at just one location — Dugway Proving Ground, Utah — was over 100, or more than double the number of tests conducted under Project 112," the GAO reported. GAO said it found one old study that listed biological field tests conducted at locations including Dugway; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Detrick, Md.; and Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. The GAO noted that its office and others also previously reported that "hundreds of radiological, chemical and biological tests were conducted in which hundreds of thousands of people were used as test subjects." Also, it previously reported that the Army Chemical Corps conducted classified research on incapacitating agents that used at least 7,120 volunteers.

The GAO said that amid its probe, the Pentagon in February "began preparing a plan to identify tests outside Project 112 that might have exposed service members," and civilians.

"However, that office has not yet completed its plan for doing this," the GAO wrote.

The GAO called for finalization and implementation of that plan. It said the Pentagon "concurred with our report findings and recommendations and agreed to implement our recommendations."

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,595063439,00.html>

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Chemical and Biological Defense: DOD Needs to Continue to Collect and Provide Information on Tests and on Potentially Exposed Personnel.

GAO-04-410, May 14.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-410>

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Washington Times

May 18, 2004

Pg. 8

Sarin Poses Fatal, 'Short-Lived' Threat

By Joyce Howard Price, The Washington Times

Sarin, the deadly nerve gas thought to have been found in a roadside bomb in Baghdad, was first produced by Nazi scientists in 1938 as a pesticide.

Like most other nerve agents, sarin is colorless, odorless and tasteless and diffuses rapidly into the skin and eyes because of its high volatility.

"Sarin is the most volatile of the nerve agents, which means it can easily and quickly evaporate from a liquid into a vapor (gas) and spread into the environment," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web site.

"People can be exposed to the vapor, even if they do not come into contact with the liquid form of sarin. Because it evaporates so quickly, sarin presents an immediate but short-lived threat," the CDC said.

Sarin works by being inhaled or absorbed through the skin or eyes, crippling the respiratory and nervous systems. Even if it does not kill, sarin can result in permanent damage to the lungs, eyes and central nervous system.

The nerve gas is made from widely available chemicals, such as organic phosphorous, sodium fluoride and alcohol.

"But you have to have some chemical and biological know-how to produce it," said Stephanie Loranger, biology-issues director for the Federation of American Scientists.

Because sarin is heavier than air, it can remain in an area for up to six hours, depending on weather conditions. It will sink to low-lying areas and create a greater exposure hazard there, according to the CDC.

"It takes very little sarin to be toxic ... let's say you have 100 milligrams (of sarin) in a drop. That amount could kill the average person," Stephanie Loranger, biology-issues director of the Federation of American Scientists, said yesterday.

She noted that specialist knowledge and equipment are needed to make pure and long-lasting sarin.

Because it disperses into the air, sarin has the potential to be used as a weapon of mass destruction. In March 1988, 5,000 residents of the Kurdish city of Halabjah, Iraq, died when Saddam Hussein's air force attacked the city with poison gases thought to include sarin.

Many other Kurds in Halabjah lost vision and suffered cancer, breathing disorders or birth defects after the assault.

A person's clothing can release sarin for about 30 minutes after exposure to sarin vapor, which can threaten other people. Sarin can contaminate both water and food.

Death by sarin is brutal.

"In the nervous system, messages are constantly relayed, and sarin prevents messages from being turned off. So muscles and glands are constantly being stimulated," said Ms. Loranger.

As a result, the CDC says, the glands and muscles may tire and no longer will be able to sustain breathing.

Symptoms of exposure to low or moderate levels of sarin include runny nose, watery eyes, blurred vision, sweating, drowsiness and nausea, according to the CDC.

Even a small drop of sarin on the skin can cause sweating and muscle twitching where sarin touched the skin. Ms.

Loranger said uncontrolled twitching from exposure to larger doses of sarin "results in paralysis, coma and death."

In high doses, she said, sarin paralyzes the muscles around the lungs and prevents a turn-off of bodily secretions. So, victims suffocate or drown as their lungs fill with mucus and saliva.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20040517-111617-3332r.htm>

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Washington Times

May 19, 2004

Pg. 1

U.S. Considers Reactor Deal With North Korea

Pyongyang would have to dismantle nuke program

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

The United States said it would consider again supplying North Korea with a light-water nuclear reactor as part of recent talks in Beijing, according to Bush administration officials.

The discussion came during a meeting at the six-party talks last week between Joseph DeTrani, the top U.S. representative to the talks, and his North Korean counterpart, Ri Gun.

"The North Koreans raised it," said one official, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "They said, 'If we address the [highly enriched uranium] program, what would that mean for the light-water reactor program?'"

The private discussion, part of the working group talks on North Korea's nuclear arms program, also was the first time since 2002 that North Koreans acknowledged their covert uranium-based nuclear program. Publicly, North Korea has denied having a uranium-enrichment program.

Mr. DeTrani responded in the talks that providing the light-water reactor is possible and could be "one element" of a U.S. policy response, if the North Koreans abandoned their nuclear arms program.

However, Mr. DeTrani informed North Koreans that before the reactor deal could be discussed, Pyongyang would have to rejoin the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and permit International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to return to monitor North Korean nuclear activities.

North Korea pulled out of the nonproliferation accord in January 2003 and expelled IAEA inspectors in December 2002.

The United States, Japan and South Korea agreed to provide North Korea with two light-water reactors as part of the 1994 Agreed Framework, negotiated by the Clinton administration. The reactors — which use ordinary water instead of "heavy water" containing the hydrogen isotope deuterium — are designed to be less useful for making nuclear weapons.

The 1994 agreement was supposed to have halted Pyongyang's development of nuclear arms but was abandoned after North Korea's disclosure to a U.S. diplomat in October 2002 that it was working on uranium enrichment, a process that would allow North Korea to produce fuel for nuclear bombs.

The agreement called for supplying the reactors and fuel oil to North Korea but was put on hold after the disclosure of the secret uranium-enrichment effort. Concrete was poured for the foundation of the first reactor in August 2002. Construction was suspended — but not canceled — in December 2002.

The offer of the reactor last week set off interagency disputes between Bush administration officials who oppose making any deals with North Korea and others who favor compromise.

Within interagency councils, Defense Department officials generally have been opposed to making any concessions to North Koreans. State Department officials, specifically those in the East Asian bureau, are more supportive of reaching a new agreement.

"We've been that route before," said one U.S. official familiar with the talks who opposes any suggestion of giving North Korea a reactor.

This official said it appeared Mr. DeTrani went beyond the very limited talking points, prepared during U.S. interagency discussions, that prevent him from discussing concessions such as the reactor.

A second administration official said that Mr. DeTrani's discussion of the reactor with the North Koreans did not undermine the tough stance of the U.S. side at the talks.

The U.S. side is insisting that before any concessions are made to North Korea, Pyongyang must completely dismantle all its nuclear arms programs and provide ways to verify that the programs have been dismantled.

At the White House, a senior administration official said the U.S. policy toward the North Korean nuclear program "remains unchanged" in advocating a complete end to the program.

As for discussion of the light-water reactor program, the senior official said: "We see no future for the light-water project."

Henry Sokolski, director of the private Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, said any discussion of resuming the light-water reactor deal with North Korea is a bad idea.

"I think we should leave bad enough alone," Mr. Sokolski said in an interview. "This is no way to improve any aspect of the crisis. This is literally a radioactive idea that should be kept away from all people who care about keeping peace on the [Korean] peninsula for the future. If we are going to bribe them, find something else."

Mr. Sokolski said that the only thing that giving the North Koreans a light-water reactor would do is "increase the uncertainty of how many bombs' worth of plutonium they can produce."

"There is no way we should be going back to this," he said. "We were good enough to unplug this."

The six-party talks ended Friday with no real progress in reaching an agreement. No details of the secret talks have been public until now.

Publicly, Mr. DeTrani told reporters in Beijing that the talks were a "good meeting."

Asked if progress had been made, Mr. DeTrani said: "Yes, definitely." He did not elaborate.

The U.S. position remained that North Korea would not get any concessions until it carries out a "complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantling," a position officials call CVID.

North Korea's chief negotiator, Ri Gun, told reporters that negotiators backed Pyongyang's call for aid in exchange for freezing the country's nuclear program.

"One thing that has been confirmed is that there is a shared view that we must get compensation when we freeze our nuclear weapons development plan," Mr. Ri told reporters in Beijing last week.

"But the United States kept demanding our promise of CVID, and there has been a shared view that this is the basic hurdle in discussions," he said. "We will, however, continue to participate in the talk process with patience."

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20040518-115636-2708r.htm>

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Washington Times

May 19, 2004

Pg. 6

Bomb Sparks Fears Of Sarin Stockpile

By Guy Taylor, The Washington Times

Security and defense specialists yesterday said the discovery of sarin in a roadside bomb in Baghdad has renewed fears that insurgents in Iraq have access to more of the deadly nerve agent.

"The worst case would be that you'd have to have your chemical protection gear at close hand at any time, because any of these mortar attacks could turn out to be a poison gas attack and any roadside bomb could turn out to be a poison gas attack," said John Pike of GlobalSecurity.org.

Mr. Pike, whose Washington think tank is following developments in Iraq, said he is not suggesting that such a scenario is probable, but it certainly is cause for concern.

Randall Larsen, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel who is the head of a security-consulting firm and an adviser to the McGraw Hill Homeland Security Summit, said the incident is receiving too much hype.

"I don't think there's enough information available right now to know if this was one round that was just mixed in with some high explosive 155 mm shells or did it actually come out of some hidden stockpile that we don't know about," Mr. Larsen said.

But if it did, he said, coalition forces will face a long, hot summer in their chemical uniforms.

"It is almost summer in Iraq, and the heat becomes unbearable in those suits."

There were no indications yesterday that the sarin discovery had prompted coalition forces to change their force protection level to wear gas masks and the full protective gear known as "moon suits."

A spokesman at the Pentagon said troops in Iraq are "well-trained and well-equipped to deal" with the threat posed by chemical weapons and that "commanders on the ground are authorized" to order troops to don full chemical protective gear if needed.

The Iraq Survey Group, the joint CIA and military intelligence unit in Iraq, Monday night said small amounts of sarin were in the exploded shell discovered by U.S. troops Saturday near Baghdad International Airport.

In the run-up to the war in Iraq, the Bush administration repeatedly cited concern over Saddam Hussein's having weapons of mass destruction as a reason for the invasion.

The round found Saturday was an older, binary type in which two chemicals were stored. When fired from a rocket launcher, the chemicals mix to create sarin. Military officials said the mixture and its dispersal are "very limited" when such a round is used in a roadside bomb.

Meanwhile, Mr. Pike said the sarin discovery raised questions about whether Iraqi insurgents purposely planted the 155 mm chemical artillery shell near the airport.

Remnants of Saddam's security apparatus might compose an element of the insurgency and could have made off with a fraction of residual chemical weapons stocks, he said.

"There were obviously large quantities of stocks that were missing in action."

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20040518-112111-5547r.htm>

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Associated Press

Official: al-Qaida Seeks Chemical Strike

Wed May 19, 9:39 AM ET

By KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRADER, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - The top intelligence official at the Homeland Security Department, worried about an increased risk of attack in coming months, says al-Qaida wants to strike on U.S. soil with something other than a conventional explosive — perhaps with a chemical or biological weapon.

Retired Lt. Gen. Patrick Hughes said in an Associated Press interview that America has gotten better at predicting and safeguarding itself against attacks since Sept. 11, 2001. But Hughes said he fears that new terrorists "are being made every single day on the streets of the Middle East."

As Homeland Secretary Tom Ridge prepares to testify Wednesday before the Sept. 11 commission in New York, Hughes and his deputies at the agency's information analysis division say the nation's security has improved since the terrorist attacks claimed nearly 3,000 lives.

"We had a dark age on 9/11," Hughes said in the interview Monday evening. "Now, we are trying to make ourselves more secure in a way that is palatable and constitutionally right."

Still, significant threats remain, especially now, as high "background noise" from terrorists and heightened sensitivity during the election year has officials on guard for a possible attack whose nature they can't quite pin down.

Hughes marks the orange alert at the holidays as the start of a new era of threats.

"We have a new norm," said Hughes, who believes terrorists learned about security checks and changes implemented during that alert and have adapted.

Now — based on captured material, interviews and other sources of information — Hughes said he believes al-Qaida wants to strike with something other than a conventional explosive device.

He worries about chemical and biological attacks, including a dirty bomb. And, in particular, he points to the possibility of another anthrax biological attack, following the one that wreaked havoc on the postal system, closed a Senate building for three months and killed five in 2001.

"It's not the only one," Hughes said of that possibility, but anthrax is easy to produce and disperse, he said, noting that the recipes for it and the deadly poison, ricin, are on the Internet. "It's not hard to do."

U.S. officials are adapting, too. Unlike before the attacks, encrypted networks now link hundreds of law enforcement and security officials across the country to an operations center at the department's campus, about six miles from the White House. When threat information indicates a heightened risk, a 24-hour operations center opens

there, run out of a windowless conference room. And, bulletins to state and local officials routinely go out to inform about threats.

In late April, in one example, Homeland officials and the FBI ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) put out a lengthy warning advising local law enforcement authorities to be on guard for possible truck bombs, or vehicle-borne explosive devices, according to a copy of the four-page document obtained by The Associated Press.

Hughes ticks off a list of terrorist attacks that began in the 1990s — Khobar Towers, the African embassy bombings, the USS Cole ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), bombings in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East and 9/11 — and worries that terrorists are able to show much patience.

"If the past is indeed prologue, then we are going to screw up, or they are going to get lucky," Hughes said. "I can't sleep."

Aides note it is his job to worry.

Still, for reasons Hughes can't explain, there was no attack at the holidays. Ridge, too, has said he believes an attack was averted.

Perhaps, Hughes said, it comes down to the work of the government, here and overseas: Passengers and flights, most originating out of Europe, were searched in extraordinary ways. Some were canceled.

"It is an axiom of terrorism that you don't conduct terrorist attacks without absolute secrecy," he said.

http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20040519/ap_on_go_ca_st_pe/terror_threats_9

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USA Today

Posted 5/19/2004 2:38 PM

Senate weighs new measure against chemical attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The discovery of sarin in Iraq and the use of anthrax and ricin against Congress spurred the Senate Wednesday to consider spending \$5.6 billion to help prepare for possible future bioterrorism attacks.

America is not prepared for a major bioterror attack, said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., who is helping push "Project BioShield" legislation to fund the research, production and stockpiling of vaccines and antidotes.

The sarin gas discovered in a roadside bomb Monday in Iraq, and the ricin and anthrax attacks on the Capitol complex "demonstrated that bioterror is here," said Frist, whose office was mailed a letter laced with ricin last fall.

"It's on our own soil, it's hit this nation, hit this Capitol, hit the entire East Coast, and indeed it was deadly."

The measure provides incentives to the pharmaceutical industry to research and develop bioterrorism countermeasures, accelerates the approval process for antidotes, and, in an emergency, allows the government to distribute certain treatments before the Food and Drug Administration approves them.

It also assures drug companies that there will be a market for new products that under normal circumstances would have little market value.

"The bill before the Senate guarantees that any company which develops a successful new product for these threats will find a willing buyer in the federal government," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. "With that guarantee, companies will make the investments needed to prepare for any attack."

Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., said the effort will be expensive. But, he said, "we had to set up a structure where we make it viable for our private-sector pharmaceutical industries and biotechnology industries to invest the extraordinary amount of money it takes to invest in the production of this type of response capability," he said.

In cases where the private sector does not respond, the bill allows the government to operate emergency programs to research and produce vaccines.

President Bush has been calling for the legislation since his 2003 State of the Union address.

"Project BioShield is critical for strengthening the nation's ability to protect Americans against biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological terrorist threats," the White House said in a statement Wednesday.

Among the agents to be included in Project BioShield are smallpox, anthrax, botulism toxin, plague and Ebola.

The House overwhelmingly passed the bill last year, and now the two sides will have to reach a compromise before the legislation heads to the White House for Bush's signature.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2004-05-19-bioshield_x.htm

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ncb4.com

Pentagon Conducts 'Gallant Fox II' Exercise

Officials Train For Attacks By Terrorists

POSTED: 11:07 am EDT May 19, 2004

ARLINGTON -- Today, Pentagon officials will conduct a large-scale chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear training exercise called "Gallant Fox II."

The exercise is taking place near the heating and refrigeration plant.

Officials said the purpose of the exercise is to enable the Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA), and its federal and local partners to exercise emergency response training in a duty-day, real-world scenario.

The Pentagon is not being evacuated. Instead, a predesignated work force of employees is taking part.

Also, the Pentagon Metro Station is not shutting down, and trains and buses will continue to run as scheduled.

However, the Boundary Channel Parking Lot is closed until 2:30 p.m. In addition, the South Parking Connector Road from North of the River Terrace to Boundary Channel Drive is also closed until 2 p.m.

<http://www.nbc4.com/news/3322436/detail.html>

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