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Washington Post

July 21, 2004

Pg. 15

North Korean U.N. Envoy Visits Capitol Hill

Visit, Which Bush Administration Approved, May Be First by One of Nation's Top Officials

By Glenn Kessler, Washington Post Staff Writer

A senior North Korean official, in an unusual visit to Capitol Hill sanctioned by the Bush administration, said "big differences" remain between North Korea and the United States over Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions, but he asserted that the reclusive nation will pledge not to test or transfer nuclear weapons and would ultimately dismantle its nuclear programs if the United States dropped its "hostile policy."

Participants in the event said they could not recall any previous visit by a North Korean official to Capitol Hill. In fact, the Bush administration had previously refused at least twice to permit the official -- Pak Gil Yon, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations -- to travel to Washington, said Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.). Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kerry has criticized the administration for declining to meet directly with North Korean officials to resolve the impasse.

The State Department must approve any travel by Pak or his deputy, Han Song Ryol, outside a 25-mile radius of new York City. Han made an undisclosed visit to Washington in September 2002.

Yesterday, however, Pak and Han spent hours on Capitol Hill, attending an all-day seminar in the Dirksen Senate Office Building with congressional officials, South Korean parliamentarians and Korean experts and holding a news

conference. He said he would not speculate on why the administration finally permitted him to visit Washington and said Pyongyang -- which has broadcast pro-Kerry statements -- has no favorite in the presidential race. "It's entirely a U.S. internal affair," he told reporters.

Donald P. Gregg, chairman of the Korea Society, which helped organize the seminar, called the meeting a "historic session" and said it indicated that progress on restarting a dialogue was being made after three years of stalemate. Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (Del.), senior Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the administration's decision to permit Pak's travel was "some small measure of the realization on their part that there needs to be this direct contact between us." Earlier this month, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell met with his North Korean counterpart in Jakarta, Indonesia -- the highest-level meeting since North Korea abandoned an agreement to freeze its nuclear programs and began producing weapons-grade plutonium nearly two years ago.

Pak, in remarks to the seminar, reiterated that North Korea believes that the root cause of the standoff is the administration's "hostile policy" toward North Korea. He said Pyongyang "will give up its nuclear program if conditions are met through ending the USA's hostile policy against it." He added that "mistrust and misunderstandings are the biggest obstacles" between the two countries.

Pak said the more detailed proposal advanced by the administration during the round of six-nation talks last month in Beijing had positive aspects, including the administration's willingness to soften the diplomatic language outlining its demands. "However, we also found a lot of regrettable elements in it," he said. "We concluded it was a roadmap to disarm [North Korea] step by step."

Under the U.S. proposal, once North Korea declares it would end its programs, U.S. allies such as South Korea could provide immediate energy assistance. North Korea then would have three months to disclose its programs and have its claims verified by U.S. intelligence. After that, the United States would join in providing Pyongyang with written security assurances and participate in a process that could ultimately result in the normalization of relations. Pak noted that a state of war still exists between the United States and North Korea and thus the administration's demand that North Korea give up its weapons first before discussions can proceed on other aspects of the relationship "has no credibility in terms of laws or lawyers."

Pak also asserted that the three-month time frame for verifying North Korean claims did not meet favor with other participants at the talks. "The three months of preparation for dismantling the nuclear program has little scientific and realistic nature with no parties' support," he said.

Last week, Chinese Embassy spokesman Sun Weide said at a news conference that China, along with other participants in the North Korean talks, believes the United States must reward North Korea with "corresponding measures" at the moment Pyongyang declares it has frozen its nuclear activities.

Speaking with reporters, Pak again denied U.S. allegations that North Korea has a program to produce highly enriched uranium. He called the charge "totally fabricated." U.S. officials have said that disclosure of the uranium program is essential to ending the impasse.

South Korean officials attending the seminar told Pak that the nuclear issue was an impediment to a better relationship between the two countries. But Pak responded that the nuclear issue was between the United States and North Korea, and should have little bearing on North-South relations.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64943-2004Jul20.html>

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Washington Post

July 21, 2004

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Maryland

Anthrax Investigators Search Labs

Investigators in the anthrax attacks have been searching for evidence at some of Fort Detrick's laboratories in Frederick for the past several days, resulting in the temporary closure of those facilities, authorities said yesterday. FBI agents and postal inspectors began reviewing records and searching for evidence Friday at Fort Detrick's U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. They were expected to continue through the week, said law enforcement sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

The sources said the search did not represent a major break in the case but was part of the ongoing probe to unearth clues in the attacks, which killed five people in 2001 and left 17 ill.

Charles Dasey, a Fort Detrick spokesman, said the facility was "temporarily closing some of its laboratory suites in support of an ongoing FBI criminal investigation." He said it was the first time some suites had been closed for the probe.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A471-2004Jul20.html>

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Baltimore Sun

July 21, 2004

Closing Of Lab Marks Renewed Intensity In Anthrax Probe

'01 case evidence may be goal of Fort Detrick work

By Scott Shane, Sun National Staff

FBI anthrax investigators have closed some high-security laboratory suites at the Army's biodefense research center at Fort Detrick, apparently searching for scientific evidence as the third anniversary of the unsolved case approaches.

The temporary shutdown of much-needed lab space at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases marks a notable return of investigators to the Frederick facility where numerous employees were questioned by the FBI in the early months of the investigation. In recent months, FBI agents have seized medical records and computer hard drives from the institute, causing friction with Fort Detrick officials, according to a source in contact with the Army institute's scientists.

Neither the FBI nor the Army would describe the work being done since the labs were closed Friday. But a law enforcement official and a scientist said it has not produced a major breakthrough in the case.

Debra Weierman, a spokeswoman for the FBI's Washington field office, said agents would be at the labs "for a few more days."

Investigators have shut off access to bacteriology labs in the main USAMRIID building and an adjoining building where anthrax research is done or has been done, according to the source. Only caretakers responsible for feeding research animals are being permitted to enter, the source said.

Outside scientists said the agents might be hunting for stray spores of anthrax that match the genetic and chemical signature of the anthrax mailed in September and October 2001. The FBI has said in court papers that it has engaged 19 labs to study the spores in order to trace them back to a particular facility.

Investigators have found that the mailed anthrax consists of a combination of two different samples that form slightly different patterns when the bacteria are grown in the lab, The Sun reported this month. Scientists can use this peculiarity in combination with the genetic fingerprint of the anthrax, isotopes in the water used to grow it and the properties of chemical additives to try to match the powder to its source.

Henry L. Niman, a Pittsburgh molecular biologist who has followed the anthrax case closely, noted that spores of anthrax can survive for centuries in soil, and that spores might linger in a laboratory for years after research was performed there.

"My guess is they'd be vacuuming in all the corners, hoping to find spores that match," Niman said. "If they can show it came from a certain lab, then they can see who had access to that lab."

A possible complication if a match is found at USAMRIID is that its laboratories were used extensively after the anthrax mailings to study the envelopes and their contents. So if matching spores are found, it might be difficult to prove whether they were there before the mailings or spilled during a subsequent examination of the evidence.

Sounding an alarm?

The anthrax letters, which investigators believe were put in a mailbox in Princeton, N.J., were postmarked Sept. 18 and Oct. 9, 2001. They were addressed to two Democratic U.S. senators, Tom Daschle of South Dakota and Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont, and to media organizations.

The anthrax killed five people, including two Washington, D.C., postal workers, and sickened at least 17 others, leading to the shutdown of numerous government buildings.

Because the accompanying notes included militant Islamist rhetoric and were mailed in the weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks, investigators at first pursued the possibility that al-Qaida might be responsible.

But the notes also warned that the letters contained anthrax and urged recipients to take antibiotics, which investigators believe points to an American more intent on sounding an alarm about bioterrorism than killing large numbers of people.

Since late 2001, the investigation has appeared to focus chiefly on American biodefense laboratories, including USAMRIID, which first identified the Ames strain of anthrax used in the letters and was its main distributor.

Hatfill suit on hold

A biowarfare expert who worked at USAMRIID from 1997 to 1999, Dr. Steven J. Hatfill, was followed for months in 2002 and 2003 by FBI surveillance teams. FBI investigators went to great lengths in their scrutiny of Hatfill, repeatedly searching his former apartment near Fort Detrick, bringing in bloodhounds in an attempt to trace a scent from the letters to him, and draining a pond near Frederick in search of discarded anthrax-making equipment. But since late last year, agents have rarely been seen tailing Hatfill, his acquaintances say.

Last August, Hatfill sued the FBI and Justice Department, alleging that they had wrongly targeted him as the anthrax mailer. The lawsuit has been put on hold until at least October, after the FBI told the judge that it might interfere with the investigation.

This month, Hatfill filed a second lawsuit against the New York Times and one of its columnists, Nicholas D. Kristof, claiming Kristof's columns implied he was the perpetrator.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/custom/attack/bal-te.anthrax21jul21,0,3707134.story?coll=bal-nationworld-headlines>

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U.S. National – AP

Mon Jul 19, 4:52 PM ET

Ridge, Governors Examine Terror Scenarios

By ROBERT TANNER, AP National Writer

SEATTLE - Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge gave governors a taste of terror Monday, playing out a simulated "tabletop" bioterrorism attack and likely responses — from trying to keep the public informed and calm to carrying out massive vaccinations.

Gathered here for the final day of a National Governors Association meeting, state leaders brought their own concerns about homeland security to the simulation. Some worried about administrative logjams over money. Others talked of pressure on the National Guard.

"How do the state government, local governments and federal government interact? That's why we're here," Ridge said. "At the end of the day ... the homeland is secure when the home towns are secure."

The exercise comes at a critical time, with increased chatter about a potential attack during the election season — even as Ridge's agency has kept the official terror alert at "yellow," the midpoint on the five-step terror alert system. Behind closed doors, governors were faced with a scenario of simultaneous bioterrorist attacks in cities in several unspecified states, then discussed responses through several steps — from the first credible report, to engaging law enforcement, intelligence, and information officials to deploying of stockpiled vaccines.

The hypothetical attack involved anthrax, brought into the country by al-Qaida through the ports and spread by crop-duster planes, according to one person attending the private meeting. Governors were particularly interested in how much information they would get from the federal government, and discussion included the state of readiness of bioterror vaccines.

Governors welcomed the simulation, even if the exercise was something less than a full-blown terrorist exercise, which usually lasts for a day or two and brings in officials from all agencies that would be involved.

"This is just a little taste," said Democrat Janet Napolitano of Arizona, who as a former U.S. Attorney took part in earlier exercises. "If they're well run, I've always found them to be very helpful."

"It really forces all the governors to go through these decisions," said Bob Taft of Ohio, a Republican.

Shying away from the open partisan complaints that marked many of the weekend's discussions on domestic issues, most governors embraced the overall effort by Ridge, a former Pennsylvania governor, to get security resources to states.

"We've had an excellent working relationship," said Democrat Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania. "Can we prevent all possibilities? Absolutely not ... But we've been able to get a lot of the money we need."

Republican Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, who headed a task force that identified the weaknesses of homeland security from the perspective of state and local officials, said there continues to be a problem with getting federal money quickly to front line responders.

Romney said it was a problem at all levels, federal, state and local, but some Democrats said the Bush administration could do more to ease administrative rules that require financially strapped local governments to buy equipment first, and then seek reimbursement.

"Many of our communities can't afford to do that," Napolitano said. "I'd give them a C-plus." Democrat Jim Doyle of Wisconsin said: "It's created a kind of bottleneck, when everyone points fingers at everyone."

Phil Bredesen of Tennessee, a Democrat, said he and other governors had continuing worries about the pressures on their various National Guard units, which have been heavily deployed for service in Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) and Afghanistan ([news](#) - [web sites](#)).

"We're not complaining. But it has an effect. The fiscal impact is tremendous," not only for smaller communities that may lose crucial law enforcement and other officials to extended deployments, but for their families, since many Guard members have families to support.

Romney said that, so far, all of the funds have focused on preparing communities to respond to a terrorist attack. More needs to be targeted toward data gathering, analysis and intelligence at the state and local level.

"We have not focused on prevention," he said. "What should the state police and local police role be?"
http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20040719/ap_on_re_us/governors_security_1

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Washington Times
July 22, 2004
Pg. 1

N. Korea Urged To Disarm, Follow Example Of Libya

Bolton calls for 'bold strategic decision'

By Andrew Salmon, The Washington Times

SEOUL — The top U.S. arms-control official yesterday asked North Korea to follow the "Libyan model" of disarmament by abandoning nuclear-arms programs while retaining its leadership.

John Bolton, the undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, said, however, that Pyongyang must make the first move before receiving any benefits.

"The central issue is whether North Korea's leadership will make the bold strategic decision that pursuit of weapons of mass destruction makes their country not more, but less, secure," Mr. Bolton said in a speech at Yonsei University and a subsequent press conference.

His comments echo statements made here recently by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. She had said she wished North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-il, would contact Libya's leader Moammar Gadhafi to ascertain the benefits of abandoning weapons programs and rejoining the international community.

By verifiably abandoning its nuclear-arms programs in a matter of months, Libya gained "a new relationship with the United States and the world," Mr. Bolton said.

He said Washington had offered no specific rewards, but noted Libya's decision to disarm was followed by eased U.S. sanctions, improved business ties, and steps toward resuming diplomatic relations.

"The United States has kept its word to Libya, and the evidence is plain for all to see, even Pyongyang," he said.

Although his statements indicated that Washington is pursuing nuclear disarmament rather than regime change in Pyongyang, Mr. Bolton didn't appear any less hawkish toward a leader he has characterized as a "tyrannical rogue."

"There is the possibility that Kim Jong-il will not make the correct choice. ... The world should know that even now, the United States and other countries are not sitting idly by and waiting for Kim to see the light," he said.

Mr. Bolton hinted that anti-proliferation activities — which helped persuade Libya to end its nuclear programs — could be stepped up against North Korea.

Even if there were a nuclear deal, Washington would still have issues with Pyongyang, such as its chemical- and biological-weapons programs and human rights abuses, he said.

"We have a saying: 'Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.' We will not be fooled again," he said, in an apparent reference to the Clinton administration's 1994 Agreed Framework deal that aimed to halt the North's nuclear program but fell apart when Pyongyang reactivated nuclear facilities in 2002.

Pak Gil-yon, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, told congressional leaders in Washington on Tuesday that Pyongyang was willing to give up its nuclear weapons, but that the United States must first provide certain guarantees.

In a related development, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun, meeting for a summit on South Korea's Cheju Island, said they would supply aid if North Korea gives up its weapons programs.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20040722-121157-3587r.htm>

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Los Angeles Times
July 23, 2004

Missile Interceptor Installed In Alaska

By Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A ground-based missile interceptor was installed Thursday in Alaska's interior — the first component of a national defense system designed to shoot down enemy missiles.

Crews at Ft. Greely lowered the 55-foot-long, three-stage interceptor into one of six silos built behind a double-perimeter reinforced fence.

"We're coming to the end of an era where we have not been able to defend our country against long-range ballistic missile attacks," said Maj. Gen. John Holly, who heads the ground-based missile defense program for the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency.

Five more interceptors will be installed at the complex 80 miles southeast of Fairbanks — and four at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Santa Barbara County — by the end of the year. Ten more will be installed at Ft. Greely by late 2005.

Missile defense is an essential part of President Bush's national security policy. It hasn't been as politically divisive as President Reagan's more elaborate Star Wars program, but Democrats complain that the administration is spending billions of dollars to deploy interceptors without knowing if they will work.

The interceptors have not proved their reliability, hitting targets only five times in eight tests, said Philip Coyle, former assistant secretary of operational test and evaluation at the Pentagon. He said they failed even with information "an enemy would never give us," including launch time.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-missile23jul23,1,1273106.story?coll=la-headlines-nation>

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Washington Times

July 23, 2004

Pg. 5

Inside The Ring

By Bill Gertz and Rowan Scarborough

China proliferation

The White House and Energy Department apparently do not want the public to know that China was the source of nuclear warhead design information supplied to Libya and possibly other rogue states by the covert nuclear supplier group led by Pakistani Abdul Qadeer Khan.

Asked recently about Chinese-language warhead design documents found in Libya, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said he could not speak to the "chain" of how design information reached Libya from the Khan network. Mr. Abraham referred the Chinese document question to the White House National Security Council, which also ducked.

The NSC told us that President Bush said in February that Mr. Khan had sold a blueprint for 'a nuclear design stolen from the Pakistani government.'

But the NSC statement noted: "We cannot offer any further details about Dr. Khan's transactions but continue to support Pakistan's efforts to investigate and prosecute those associated with Khan's network."

Other officials said the Energy Department and NSC are trying to avoid linking the warhead documents to China to keep from upsetting Beijing.

China's government initially said it was investigating reports of the Chinese warhead documents found in Libya, but has not revealed what its investigation found.

U.S. security officials said China provided the warhead documents to Pakistan. Depending on when they were transferred, the discovery could prove to be a violation of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which China signed in 1992.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/inring.htm>

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