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World - Reuters

Jordan to Charge 17 Over Foiled Chemical Attack

Sun Aug 1, 12:22 PM ET

By Suleiman al-Khalidi

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordan will bring official charges this week against 17 militants suspected of links to al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in connection with a plot to launch a massive chemical attack, security sources said Sunday.

They said the state security court was expected in the next few days to lay out the case against ring leader Azmi Jayousi and sixteen other militants, including six Syrians.

The 17 include four militants killed in clashes with the security forces before the plot was thwarted in April. Nine of the suspects are in police custody and four will be tried in absentia, including Zarqawi himself.

"The charge list will be sent very soon to the military prosecutor to be formally issued against the defendants," one security source told Reuters, saying the trial could start as early as September.

The defendants will stand trial on several charges including "conspiracy to carry out terrorist acts" against the intelligence headquarters and U.S. interests with a string of suicide bombings that could have killed thousands of civilians in Jordan, a close ally of Washington.

The main charges carry the death sentence if convicted, a judicial source said.

Jayousi was shown confessing on state television in April that he first met Zarqawi at an al Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), and that had he met him again in Iraq ([news](#) - [web sites](#)).

The charge list will detail Jayousi's confession of how he planned the attacks with trucks laden with 80 tons of explosives, helped by key Syrian members of the group.

Officials said cars carrying the explosives had been driven into Jordan from Syria. Both sides patrol the long desert border but smugglers often slip across it.

A security source said confessions had revealed the group operated under the name of Kateab al-Tawhid (Brigades of Tawhid), purportedly affiliated to Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad blamed by the U.S. army for deadly suicide bombings in Iraq.

Defense lawyers say the confessions were extracted under duress with no evidence to back up prosecution claims.

Jordanian security sources said al Qaeda was incensed at the covert aid Jordan had given to the U.S. military campaign in Iraq and had tried to punish Jordan for supporting Washington's efforts to pacify post-war Iraq.

http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=nm/20040801/wl_nm/security_jordan_plot_dc_1

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Washington Times

August 3, 2004

Pg. 1

North Korea Pumps Money Into Military

Tries to compete with U.S., Seoul

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

SEOUL — North Korea is spending as much as 40 percent of its gross domestic product on its military, including its nuclear-weapons program, to give its 1.2-million-man army key advantages over better-armed U.S. and South Korean forces, said Army Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, the U.S. Forces Korea commander.

North Korea's conventional forces — including the world's largest special operations commando force and 12,000 artillery pieces near the border — pose a continuing "credible military threat," but have some limitations, Gen. LaPorte said.

The four-star general said North Korea, despite its poor economy, continues to invest between 35 percent and 40 percent of its gross domestic product in what Pyongyang calls a "military first" policy — building up military forces at the expense of the civilian sector.

"They are making, primarily, their investments in the asymmetrical arena," he said in an interview with The Washington Times at his headquarters in the Yongsan military garrison.

"They realize that they can never invest enough money in their navy and air force to compete [with U.S. and South Korean forces]. So they are investing in asymmetrical capabilities."

Asymmetrical-warfare weapons are those that provide a military advantage over more advanced militaries, such as that of the United States. In North Korea, that includes nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and missiles to deliver them at both short and long distances.

Currently, North Korea can fire missiles throughout South Korea and at bases in Japan.

Gen. LaPorte said one major fear is that North Korea's continuing work on nuclear arms will lead the country to eventually "weaponize their weapons-grade material on missiles."

If that were to occur, "now you have a threat not just to South Korea, you have a threat to the region and the international community," he said.

U.S. officials have said the recent discovery that Pakistani nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan provided Chinese-language warhead design documents to Libya as part of a nuclear-weapons and missile program has raised new worries that North Korea soon will have nuclear arms small enough to be fitted on missiles.

Six-way nuclear talks with North Korea, aimed at negotiating the dismantling of its weapons program, have produced no breakthroughs despite several rounds of discussions with China, the United States, Japan, South Korea and Russia.

Pyongyang threw another wrench into the latest round of inter-Korea negotiations, suddenly boycotting Cabinet-level talks with South Korea scheduled to start in Seoul today.

The communist state said it was angry at the mass defection of hundreds of North Koreans to the South last week.

The South Korean Unification Ministry said that it deeply regretted Pyongyang's decision and added, "We urge the North side to come to the talks at the earliest possible date."

Gen. LaPorte said the North Koreans are investing heavily in deploying and building missiles, and have an arsenal of more than 800 missiles.

Asked what worries him, Gen. LaPorte said he is concerned about the continuing missile development by the North. "Their growing missile technology, their continued research and development and testing of missiles, that is a concern to all of us," he said.

U.S. intelligence agencies, in the past, have estimated that North Korea's one or two nuclear devices weigh about 750 kilograms and that fashioning a warhead for a missile would require a much smaller warhead, ranging from 100 to 200 kilograms.

The general also said U.S. military forces will be more efficient and better prepared for war with North Korea after several thousand troops are moved out of the peninsula and thousands more are moved farther south of the capital as part of the first major relocation and consolidation troop plan since the armistice that ended the Korean War.

Gen. LaPorte said he does not anticipate that the new South Korean defense minister, Yoon Kwang-ung, will backtrack on the agreement to pull out about 12,500 troops and move others farther south to Pyongtaek and Pusan. Mr. Yoon took over last week after Defense Minister Cho Young-kil resigned in a political dispute over the military's role in a recent North Korean naval incursion.

"I will give him an opportunity to make his own assessment, but I have no indication that the [South Korean] government does not agree, because the president — President Roh [Moo-hyun] — and President Bush have agreed to in principle with the consolidation of United States forces in Korea," Gen. LaPorte said.

"I think once he's had an opportunity to understand the issue fully and be briefed, that we will continue on the road that we're on in terms of our consultative process."

Gen. LaPorte, who also leads United Nations command and the Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, said he helped start the talks with South Korea that eventually will lead to the addition of new U.S. weapons systems here, including twice as many Patriot anti-missile systems, because the posture of U.S. forces needed upgrading to meet changed circumstances.

The initiative is a two-year effort to re-examine the roles and missions of the 37,000 U.S. troops in the country.

The last American observation post on the demilitarized zone, known as Camp Ouellette, will be turned over to the control of the South Korean military on Oct. 1 as part of the U.S. pullback from the Joint Security Area. All but 50 of the 240 U.S. soldiers in the area will be withdrawn.

Below that area, known as the Joint Security Area, but north of Seoul, is where the 15,000 troops of the 2nd Infantry Division — the unit that would be the first to come in contact with any North Korean military advance — are based. These troops are being deployed to Iraq and moved farther south.

The division currently is deployed in the same areas that it was located in when the 1953 armistice was declared at the end of the Korean War. Any conflict with North Korea would require the division to regroup before fighting, Gen. LaPorte said.

Plans call for the division to consolidate from 17 camps into five to seven bases, before moving to two "hubs" in Pyongtaek and Pusan, well south of Seoul, Gen. LaPorte said.

He said the realignment of forces will have no negative impact on security in the country.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20040803-122618-7502r.htm>

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Va. Terror Drills Set Up Worst-Case Scenarios

By Michael D. Shear

Washington Post Staff Writer

Tuesday, August 3, 2004; Page B01

RICHMOND, Aug. 2 -- Thousands of local police and firefighters, members of the military, state officials and federal homeland security experts will hold a terrorism drill across Virginia this week, part of a long-planned test of the nation's coordination during simultaneous terrorist attacks, Gov. Mark R. Warner (D) announced Monday.

Warner said the exercise, dubbed "Determined Promise 2004," was not prompted by Sunday's announcement of new terrorism threats against five buildings in Washington, New York and New Jersey. Planning for the terror drill began 18 months ago.

But the governor said the new warning "reinforces the importance of regular training. I am committed to doing anything possible to better prepare the commonwealth. Our job is to keep Virginia safe and secure."

Security officials declined to provide details about the drill, which also will take place in California. They said they want local officials to be surprised by the mock devastation as it unfolds so experts can better judge their responses.

But then they showed two maps suggesting the magnitude of simultaneous attacks. Labels on the maps include:

"Henrico Attack," "Richmond Attack," "Port of Hampton Roads Attack," "Air Threats," "Missile Attack," "Maritime threats," and "WMD Attack."

In addition, they released broad descriptions about the attacks that would be chilling if they were real:

On Aug. 4, SWAT team members will raid a house in Hampton, where they will discover the production of chemical weapons.

On Aug. 5, the Coast Guard and the city of Portsmouth will respond to the release of sarin gas on a cruise ship at Pier 3 of the Norfolk International Terminal.

On Aug. 6, Chesterfield County emergency officials will rush to an elementary school, where explosions and sarin gas have resulted in "numerous casualties."

Other simulated attacks will occur throughout the week, but officials declined to say where or when. Warner, flanked by members of the military and state police, said he did not believe that local officials would mistake a planned exercise for a real terrorist attack.

Col. Michael Coleman, assistant chief of staff for the Virginia Army National Guard, said leading participants in the exercise always will be aware of what is real and what is not.

"They know what is supposed to happen," he said.

George W. Foresman, the governor's top aide on terrorism issues, said federal and state officials debated over the weekend whether to postpone the training exercise because of the real threats along the East Coast.

"There was a lot of discussion," he said. "But at the end of the day, a threat of an attack doesn't allow you to suspend your preparation."

Officials declined to say exactly how much the drill would cost. Coleman said several state agencies, including the Health Department, have received federal grants to conduct readiness tests.

Chesterfield also sought a federal grant to pay for its portion of the test. He said the National Guard received about \$131,000 from the Department of Defense during the planning phase of the exercise.

In addition, the U.S. Army's Joint Task Force Civil Support, which is based at Fort Monroe, Va., budgeted \$1.3 million for the exercise, which will involve more than 450 sailors and soldiers, according to Maj. Gen. Jerry W. Grizzle, the task force's commander.

Warner called the exercise "a great learning opportunity" for state and local officials and said he was pleased that Virginia was selected as one of the sites for the training.

But he urged residents to continue to be on the watch for suspicious activity. Warner said residents can go to www.vaemergency.com for more detailed instructions about what to look for.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A35395-2004Aug2.html>

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London Daily Telegraph

August 3, 2004

Troops 'Put At Risk' By Nerve Gas Bombing

By Oliver Poole

British troops in the first Gulf war may have been exposed to low-level chemical warfare agents after bombing destroyed an Iraqi nerve gas site, an American delegation told the Gulf War Illnesses inquiry yesterday.

The group, led by Ross Perot, the former presidential candidate, was in Britain to explain the latest findings by the United States Congress into the consequences of the bombing of Tallil, in southern Iraq, in March 1991.

Attention has focused on the contents of Bunker 73, a military installation the Ministry of Defence and the Americans have publicly accepted stored nerve gas, including sarin.

The delegation claimed its destruction led to tens of thousands suffering ill health and an attempt by the American department of defence to deny the problem in an approach reminiscent of Vietnam veterans harmed by Agent Orange, a condition only recently officially acknowledged.

In 1996 the British Government said only one British soldier may have been affected by the Tallil emission.

In 1999, it modified its position to one that 9,000 of the 50,000 British troops deployed may have been within its area of impact.

The Government still maintains that the possible level of exposure to nerve agent from the Tallil explosion would have had "no detectable effect" on human health.

However, the independent inquiry led by Lord Lloyd of Berwick was told yesterday that six weeks ago the investigative arm of Congress concluded that it was impossible to say which troops were and were not exposed and the Pentagon's figure that 102,000 US servicemen were potentially exposed could be a significant underestimation. The inquiry continues today with Nicholas Soames, the Conservative defence spokesman, and Mr Perot providing evidence.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml;sessionId=GW4R4SQZVJ5B3QFIQMFCM5OAVCBQYJVC?xml=/news/2004/08/03/wirq203.xml&secureRefresh=true&requestid=153714>

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Washington Times

August 4, 2004

Pg. 12

N. Korea Expands Missiles

LONDON (Agence France-Presse) — North Korea is developing a pair of new ballistic-missile systems, including a sea-launched model that soon could enable the communist state to target the continental United States, a leading military publication said yesterday.

"Both these new land- and sea-based systems appreciably expand the ballistic-missile threat presented by the DPRK," a report in Jane's Defense Weekly said, using the official name for the country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The version of the missile capable of being launched from submarines or ships "is potentially the most threatening," the weekly said.

"It would fundamentally alter the missile threat posed by the DPRK and could finally provide its leadership with something that it has long sought to obtain — the ability to directly threaten the continental U.S."

Information about North Korea's military capabilities is sketchy because of the ultra-secretive nature of the hard-line communist regime, which has been ruled for the past half-century by father-and-son dictators Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il.

However, the country is known to possess ballistic-missile technology. In August 1998, Pyongyang stunned the world by test-launching a Taepo-Dong-1 missile over Japan, officially saying it was a satellite launch.

Four years later, the United States said North Korea had acknowledged that it was developing nuclear weapons, prompting a series of as-yet unsuccessful talks involving Washington as well as China, South Korea, Russia and Japan.

According to Jane's Defense Weekly, North Korea is working on a pair of missile systems based on Russian technology, completely different from the Taepo-Dong-1 and its mooted successor, the Taepo-Dong-2.

The new systems are based on the defunct Soviet R-27 submarine-launched ballistic missile, known to NATO at the time as the SS-N-6, Jane's said.

The land-based model has an estimated range of 1,560 to 2,500 miles, bringing into range all of East Asia, as well as Hawaii and U.S. military bases on the Pacific islands of Okinawa and Guam.

The sea-launched model could be fired at least 1,500 miles, the article said.

The origin of the new missiles is thought to have been shown by an incident in 1992, when specialists from the Makeyev Design Bureau in Chelyabinsk, Russia, which developed the R-27, were detained as they tried to leave for North Korea.

"Reports indicate that other groups of missile specialists successfully traveled to the DPRK," Jane's said.

Then in 1993, the North Korean navy bought 12 decommissioned Russian submarines, ostensibly for scrap metal. Some of these had been equipped to blast ballistic missiles. All missiles and firing systems were removed, but the submarines still had "significant elements" of launch systems.

"This technology, in combination with the R-27 design, provided the Korean People's Navy with elements crucial to the subsequent development of a submarine or ship-mounted ballistic-missile system," the report said.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20040803-101013-3474r.htm>

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London Financial Times

August 5, 2004

Arms Control Deals With UK 'Should Halt,' Rumsfeld Told

By Peter Spiegel

Two arms-control agreements that would make it easier for the UK to gain access to American defence technologies are probably illegal under US law and should be halted, two powerful congressmen have argued in a letter to Donald Rumsfeld, US defence secretary.

One agreement, currently being negotiated by Pentagon and British officials, covers the highly sensitive bilateral work on ballistic missile defence, which has caused controversy in the UK because of government acquiescence to participating in the US-led programme.

The other pact, also the subject of current talks, covers technology being transferred to the UK for a sophisticated battlefield rocket system.

The July 20 letter from Republicans Duncan Hunter, chairman of the House armed services committee, and Henry Hyde, chairman of the House international affairs committee, to Mr Rumsfeld is an escalation of a battle inside the US over whether the UK should be given special treatment when access is given to sophisticated American defence technologies.

British government and defence industry officials have expressed increasing frustration over the failure of the Bush administration to deliver on promises to move forward on the issue, particularly following the close alliance in the Iraq war. That frustration led Geoff Hoon, UK defence secretary, to send Mr Rumsfeld an angry letter in June warning of British retaliation against American defence companies.

Mr Hyde and Mr Hunter have expressed concern over the UK's ability to re-export American technologies, arguing that British arms trafficking regulations are not stringent enough to keep sensitive weaponry out of enemy hands. In their letter to Mr Rumsfeld, the two chairmen note that US law forbids any transfer of critical military technologies to a foreign country unless the foreign government promises to seek US consent before re-exporting the technology. The chairmen insist the UK is balking at the demand, and argue that moving forward without British acquiescence would circumvent US law. They threaten public hearings on the issue.

The two chairmen and the Bush administration have disagreed over US State Department efforts to secure Britain a broad-brush waiver to complex US arms exporting rules - known as the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).

The US has promised such an ITAR waiver for years, which would enable UK companies to gain easier access to unclassified military technologies.

Mr Hunter and Mr Hyde have vehemently objected to an ITAR waiver for the UK, and the new letter is a sign the chairmen have dug in their heels on even smaller defence export deals.

The Bush administration has pressed particularly hard to internationalise the ballistic missile defence programme, both as a way to ease the burden on US taxpayers and to make it a truly global system. The UK government agreed in December to allow the US to upgrade its early-warning radar station at the Royal Air Force base in Fylingdales. In return, the UK is counting on getting military contracts for British companies such as BAE Systems.

<http://news.ft.com/cms/s/bd41ab04-e67c-11d8-9bd8-00000e2511c8.html>

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New York Times

August 5, 2004

Korean Missile Said To Advance; U.S. Is Unworried

By Thom Shanker

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 - North Korea appears closer to deploying a new mobile ballistic missile that is a worrisome increase in that nation's military capacity, but American government officials stressed Wednesday that the weapon could not reach the continental United States.

The new missile is based on designs of a Soviet-era submarine-launched weapon, known in the West as the SSN6, which has an estimated maximum range of just over 2,600 miles. American officials first disclosed North Korea's efforts to develop the variant of the Soviet missile in September 2003.

Fresh reports of North Korea's readiness to deploy the missile appeared in Wednesday's editions of Jane's Defense Weekly.

North Korea does not have a submarine capable of carrying the missile to within striking range of the continental United States. Officials also expressed doubts that the North Korean government had developed the missile for the purpose of hiding it inside freighters to be sailed closer to this nation's shores for launch.

"There is no way this can hit the mainland," an American government official said Wednesday, speaking on condition of anonymity. Even so, the missile's development raises questions about whether Russian or other scientists had helped develop the missile for North Korea, which has a troubling history of selling its military technology on the black market. The new missile, if launched from North Korean soil, would be able to put American forces on Guam and Okinawa at risk. North Korea has already demonstrated the capability to fire ballistic missiles that can reach across South Korea and Japan.

Reports of North Korean progress in developing the missile appeared in the South Korean press this past May, including articles that predicted that about 10 of the missiles and their mobile launchers would be ready by September to coincide with a North Korean national holiday.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/08/05/politics/05kore.html>

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Washington Times
August 5, 2004
Pg. 8

Details Of Nuke Security Withheld

Vulnerabilities to be kept secret

By Associated Press

The government will no longer reveal security gaps discovered at nuclear-power plants, hoping to prevent terrorists from using the information, regulators said yesterday.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced the change in policy during its first public meeting on power-plant safety since the September 11, 2001, attacks.

Until now, the NRC has provided regular public updates on vulnerabilities its inspectors found at the country's 103 nuclear-power reactors, such as broken fences or weaknesses in training programs.

"We need to blacken some of our processes so that our adversaries won't have that information," said Roy Zimmerman, director of the commission's Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, which was created after the attacks.

NRC spokesman Scott Burnell said commissioners voted to take the step March 29, but kept it quiet as agency staff worked to implement it.

"We deliberated for many months on finding the balance between the NRC's commitment to openness and the concern that sensitive information might be misused by those who wish us harm," commission Chairman Nils Diaz said.

Michele Boyd, a lobbyist for the consumer group Public Citizen, said they failed to strike that balance.

"The public has zero confidence in NRC, and making this information completely out of the public, not available, does not bring any more confidence," she told the commission. "The commission could have come up with more creative ways of making the information public."

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20040804-110935-4107r.htm>

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New York Times
August 5, 2004

Los Alamos Lab Puts 4 More Scientists On Leave

By Sandra Blakeslee

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., Aug. 4 - Los Alamos National Laboratory announced Wednesday that four more scientists had been put on leave as an investigation into two missing classified computer disks continued.

The four are implicated in the loss of the disks, which no one has been able to find since July 7. Nineteen other scientists are on disciplinary leave until security and safety violations have been addressed.

The laboratory has been shut down since July 16 as it undergoes a reassessment of all operations.

With their lucrative contract to operate the Los Alamos nuclear weapons laboratory up for grabs, top officials at the University of California went to the laboratory on Wednesday to speak "eyeball to eyeball" with its 12,000 employees and contractors.

"I need you to help me help you," said the university's president, Robert C. Dynes. "Get it?"

The university has not yet decided whether to bid to renew its management contract, said Gerald Parsky, the chairman of university's board. "We cannot tolerate the recent security and safety violations," he said.

Although the University of California has operated Los Alamos for 61 years, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham announced in April 2003 that others would be allowed to bid on the contract after a scandal involving misuse of laboratory money by employees. The contract expires in September 2005.

The lab, with a \$2 billion annual budget and entry into the federal research laboratory system, is considered a plum. The Universities of Texas and Colorado are interested.

The California officials said Los Alamos employees would have to demonstrate that they had changed their "cowboy culture." "There is a lot of blame to go around," said S. Robert Foley, the university's vice president for Los Alamos laboratory management.

George P. Nanos, director of the laboratory, said two-thirds of the lowest-risk activities, like office work, had resumed, but not medium- or high-risk activities.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/08/05/national/05lab.html?pagewanted=all>

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Washington Times
August 5, 2004
Pg. 15

Enriching Uranium A 'Legitimate Right'

TEHRAN — Iran's foreign minister said yesterday the [R]Islamic republic has a "legitimate right" to enrich uranium, the most sensitive part of the nuclear fuel cycle that the country is under pressure to abandon.

"We will never allow the enemy to trample upon our legitimate rights enshrined in the international conventions," the Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Kamal Kharazi as saying.

The European Union's "big three" — Britain, France and Germany — have been pressing Iran to cease working on the nuclear fuel cycle in exchange for increased trade and cooperation and the guaranteed supply of nuclear fuel from abroad.

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

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London Financial Times
August 5, 2004

Saudi Oil Money Joins Forces With Nuclear Pakistan

Is a secret nuclear deal at the heart of an enduring friendship? Special report by Roula Khalaf, Farhan Bokhari and Stephen Fidler

A week before Pakistan's first nuclear tests in May 1998, then prime minister Nawaz Sharif received a late night telephone call from a Saudi prince. India, Pakistan's arch-rival, had conducted nuclear tests that month and Mr Sharif was weighing the consequences of following suit.

As Mr Sharif told a hurriedly organised meeting of senior officials, the Saudi prince had offered up to 50,000 barrels of oil a day to Pakistan for an indefinite period on deferred payment terms. This would allow Pakistan to overcome the impact of punitive western sanctions expected after the tests.

The Saudi message, delivered on behalf of Crown Prince Abdullah, the de facto ruler, once again bailed out Pakistan at a difficult moment.

"It is possible that Pakistan may still have conducted its nuclear tests without the Saudi oil. But the tests would have been done with the knowledge that the economic fallout was going to be far more severe," says a former aide to Mr Sharif.

Saudi financial support has fuelled suspicions of nuclear co-operation between the two countries.

A senior US official says Saudi finance helped fund Pakistan's nuclear programme, allowing it among other things to buy nuclear technology from China.

Officials discount the possibility of Pakistani help to build an indigenous Saudi nuclear weapon. But they say there could be a sort of "lend-lease arrangement" that would allow weapons from Pakistan to be made available to Saudi Arabia. "The argument that they have options on Pakistan's arsenal is more likely," the US official says.

Both Saudi and Pakistani officials vehemently deny the existence of any such deal. "We've never given money aimed at nuclear research and development and so we never asked or received privileges to nuclear weapons programmes," insists Prince Turki al-Faisal, the former Saudi intelligence chief.

Nawaf Obeid, a Saudi security consultant close to the government, however, suggests the kingdom enjoys Pakistan's security umbrella without any formal agreement. "We gave money and they dealt with it as they saw fit," he says of the Pakistanis. "There's no documentation but there is an implicit understanding that on everything, in particular on security and military issues, Pakistan would be there for Saudi Arabia."

The relationship has been thrown into sharp focus recently with the uncovering of a clandestine nuclear network led by disgraced Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan. This sent investigators in search of the so-called "fourth customer" beyond the three to which Mr Khan confessed supplying: Libya, Iran and North Korea.

Diplomats close to the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency say Mr Khan tried to find customers all over the Middle East but they have yet to find evidence to implicate a fourth country. Nor is there any suggestion so far that Saudi Arabia purchased nuclear equipment or expertise from the Khan network.

To be sure, Saudi Arabia has plenty of reasons - and the financial muscle - to seek nuclear weapons. Saudis live in a dangerous environment, surrounded by rivals. They include Israel, whose undeclared nuclear arsenal Saudi Arabia criticises as the main block to a nuclear-free Middle East, and Iran, Saudi Arabia's strategic competitor suspected by western governments of developing nuclear weapons.

In the 1980s, when Saddam Hussein was considered a close friend of Saudi Arabia, Iraq's military strength was seen as protection for the Sunni Muslim monarchies of the Gulf against the ambitions of a revolutionary Shia regime in Iran.

After Mr Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990, however, Iraq became the main threat in the Gulf and the Saudis called on the US for protection. Relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia have meanwhile gradually improved over the past decade, though they remain beset by suspicion.

Nearly all US troops stationed in the country since the Gulf war were withdrawn last year following the removal of Mr Hussein's regime, leaving a few advisory and support units. Political ties with the US also became strained in the backlash from the September 11 attacks, carried out by mostly Saudi militants.

"Saudi Arabia is in strategic limbo, with the US security commitment being called into question or being redefined and with Iran's nuclear programme," says Wyn Bowen, a lecturer in war studies at King's College, London.

Against this troubled background, the link with Pakistan has become all the more important. "It's probably one of the closest relationships in the world between any two countries without any official treaty," says Prince Turki, now ambassador to London.

Reports of Saudi nuclear ambitions have been around since the 1970s, fuelled partly in the late 1980s by the purchase of 30 or more nuclear-capable, medium-range Chinese missiles. Though both countries said they had been adapted to carry conventional weapons, US pressure following the purchase led Saudi Arabia to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

Saudi officials say the country's leaders always considered that nuclear weapons would bring the kingdom more controversy than comfort. Last year, in the aftermath of the Iraq war, senior princes considered a paper that offered three options: acquiring a nuclear capability as a deterrent, allying with a nuclear power that would offer protection, or working to rid the region of banned weapons. Prince Turki insists the paper "died in its place".

Robert Einhorn, a senior arms control official in the Clinton administration, acknowledges there is little hard evidence that Saudi Arabia is pursuing the bomb: "It's like a suspected crime where you have a motive but not much more than that."

Over the years, however, Saudi Arabia's discreet but deep ties with Pakistan have kept suspicions of nuclear co-operation alive.

Rooted in co-operation between military generals and intelligence operatives, the relationship survived repeated political upheavals in Pakistan.

The two countries also have been drawn together by religious ties: the Saudis, custodian of Islam's two holiest sites, have been eager to protect a country, also governed by Sunni Muslims, that came into existence because of its religion. Moreover, the kingdom has also poured money into religious schools - madrassas - spreading its puritanical brand of Wahabi Islam throughout Pakistan.

Saudi officials say Pakistan has probably received more Saudi aid than any other non-Arab country. In return, the Saudis received military and diplomatic assistance.

In the 1960s, Pakistani instructors were dispatched to Saudi Arabia to train Saudis on the use of newly acquired British aircraft. In the 1970s, an agreement was reached with Pakistan to second 15,000 military personnel to the kingdom. They pulled out in 1987, at a time of depressed Saudi oil revenues.

In the 1980s and 1990s the two countries found common cause in arming the Arab fighters who helped drive the Soviet Union from Afghanistan. After the Soviet withdrawal and Afghanistan's descent into civil war, both favoured the Taliban militia which emerged from the Wahabi religious schools in Pakistan.

Hasan Askari Rizvi, a leading Pakistani analyst on defence and national affairs, says Saudi Arabia paid for 40 F-16 fighter aircraft bought by Pakistan in the 1980s from the US for Dollars 1bn.

"Not only did the Saudis pay for the aircraft but they also lobbied for Pakistan with the US government," he says.

"The Saudis have played a critical role for Pakistan. That has won them tremendous influence in Islamabad."

<http://news.ft.com/cms/s/33019f30-e67c-11d8-9bd8-00000e2511c8.html>

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Los Angeles Times

August 6, 2004

U.S. Says N. Korea Developing Missiles

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States has determined that North Korea is working on new ballistic missile systems designed to deliver nuclear warheads and that it is testing the technology by proxy in Iran, a Bush administration official said Thursday.

North Korea, which has agreed to a self-imposed test ban, is sharing technology information with Iran, which carries out missile tests on its behalf, the administration official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The missile program is based on technology developed by Russia and has been conducted with the help of Russian scientists — help that the United States thinks may be continuing, the official said.

A leading military publication, Jane's Defense Weekly, reported recently that North Korea was developing two systems that "appreciably expand the ballistic missile threat."

A version of the missile that could be launched from a submarine or a ship is potentially the most threatening, the publication said.

Not all of the details of the North Korean program are known to the United States, the administration official said. One important question, he said, is whether the missiles are patterned exactly on a Russian model.

Another, he said, is whether the missiles could reach the United States.

U.S. officials believe that North Korea may have the technology for a submarine-launched ballistic missile, but it is not clear whether the country has a missile platform, the administration official said.

The administration is working with South Korea, Japan, China and Russia to negotiate an agreement with North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-korea6aug06,1,2524070.story?coll=la-headlines-world>

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Washington Post

August 6, 2004

Pg. 3

N.Y. Home Searched In Anthrax Probe

Agents Investigate Bioterrorism Lecturer

By Michael Powell and Dan Eggen, Washington Post Staff Writers

NEW YORK, Aug. 5 -- Federal agents investigating the deadly anthrax attacks of 2001 on Thursday searched the home of an Upstate doctor who founded an organization that teaches medical and defense professionals how to respond to biological terrorist attacks.

Dozens of agents, some clothed in protective suits, descended on the home of Kenneth M. Berry in the small town of Wellsville, which sits on the Pennsylvania border, south of Buffalo. Agents searched another home in the beach community of Lavallette on the New Jersey shore. Officials did not identify that house's owner.

A senior Justice Department official, who declined to be identified, played down the significance of the searches. The effort, the official said, was "more about trying to clear the guy than anything else."

A spokeswoman for the FBI, Debra Weierman, confirmed that the searches were related to the agency's investigation of the 2001 anthrax attacks, which killed five people and sickened 17. The search warrants are sealed, and FBI officials said there is no risk to public health and safety.

"This is strictly being conducted by the FBI and U.S. postal officials, as the complement of agencies on the Amerithrax task force," Weierman said, adding that the searches would be completed Thursday.

One law enforcement official said agents were "tying up some loose ends" and added: "They're going back and trying to make sure there's nothing there that they missed." Another official said Thursday's searches represented "nothing earth-shattering."

The anthrax case has confounded the FBI for nearly three years. Letters containing the deadly bacteria arrived in the fall of 2001 at news media and government offices, including those of Senate Democratic leader Thomas A. Daschle (S.D.) and Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) only weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Attorney General John D. Ashcroft named bioweapons expert Steven J. Hatfill as a "person of interest" in the case, but no charges have been brought against anyone and there are no named suspects. Hatfill is suing the government over his treatment.

Berry, 48, worked for five years as an emergency room physician in Wellsville before resigning in October 2001. He lists himself as the former president of an organization of emergency physicians.

In 1997, he founded a nonprofit organization, PREEMPT Medical Counter-Terrorism. According to his Web site, the organization trains medical personnel to respond to bioterrorism. On the site, Berry lists himself as a consultant to the Defense Department on the subject of weapons of mass destruction, a claim that could not be confirmed Thursday. Federal law enforcement officials, however, also portrayed Berry as someone with expertise in bioterrorism and anthrax.

Berry did not respond to telephone messages or e-mails sent to him Thursday.

Joseph Pelych, a lawyer who has represented Berry in the past, but not in the anthrax matter, said last night: "I haven't spoken to Dr. Berry in some time. I think at this point it would be premature and speculative that he even needs representation. I just like to caution people not to rush to judgment."

According to the PREEMPT Web site, Berry gave a presentation in June at a biodefense conference in Gothenburg, Sweden, that included substantial information on how to construct bioshields and sensors as a defense against aerosol attacks involving anthrax bacteria, smallpox virus and other pathogens.

In a 1997 interview with USA Today, Berry advocated wide distribution of anthrax vaccine, especially to people living in major cities. He spoke out shortly after the Pentagon announced it would begin inoculating military personnel against anthrax bacteria.

Berry, a graduate of the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, says on his Web site that he has considerable experience in forensic investigations of aircraft accidents, including the TWA flight 800 crash off New York's Long Island in 1996.

PREEMPT's Web site features praise from former U.S. senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), who is quoted as having said in 1997: "Dr. Berry has been one of the leaders within the emergency medical community in recognizing the potential threat of use of weapons of mass destruction against American cities."

An aide to Nunn who spoke with the former senator Thursday said that Nunn probably met Berry at a conference but that "he can't remember specifically."

Eggen reported from Washington. Staff writers Ceci Connolly, Allan Lengel, Thomas E. Ricks and Helen Dewar and researchers Julie Tate and Richard S. Drezzen contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A42835-2004Aug5.html>

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New York Times

Battle Swirls on Security at A-Plants

By MATTHEW L. WALD

Published: August 6, 2004

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5 - The nuclear power industry's trade association has hired the company that guards half of the nation's civilian reactors to train and manage "adversary teams" that attack the plants in drills.

The decision, by the Nuclear Energy Institute, has drawn the disapproval of a government watchdog that has issued several reports in recent years critical of security at nuclear power and weapons plants.

"It is not an apparent conflict of interest, but a blatant conflict of interest," Danielle Brian, executive director of that group, the Project on Government Oversight, said of the company's dual roles in a letter to the chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The added responsibilities of the company, the Wackenhut Corporation, were posted on the trade association's Web site in June but were little noticed until recently. They have led Peter D. H. Stockton, a security adviser to the secretary of energy in the Clinton administration and now the security expert for Ms. Brian's group, to complain that the attackers' trainers should be hired by the regulatory commission.

"This is a governmental function," Mr. Stockton said.

The industry group defended its decision, saying uniform selection and training by Wackenhut, which already performs attacking and defending roles at nuclear weapons plants, would improve standardization of security tests. And, said Stephen D. Floyd, the association's vice president for regulatory affairs, while grading the tests is a government function, playing attacker is not.

"These folks are nothing more than players," Mr. Floyd said.

At the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Roy P. Zimmerman, director of the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, said the companies that operate the reactors, and the commission itself, would be looking for any sign of cheating and that the choice of Wackenhut was not a problem for his agency.

"Tapping that pool of experience is not a surprise to us," Mr. Zimmerman said.

Eleven months ago, the Government Accountability Office, then called the General Accounting Office, issued a report that said attackers in security exercises were often undertrained and underarmed, while the defenders were unrealistically overstaffed. The attacking team in those exercises sometimes included guard trainers or off-duty guards from the plant being tested, or guards borrowed from other plants.

Mr. Floyd acknowledged that until now, most of the attackers had had training only in defense. In contrast, he said, Wackenhut, a subsidiary of Group 4 Securicor, a leading security services company based in Britain, is providing two trainers with extensive expertise in "hand-to-hand combat, urban assault, terrorist training, small arms and munitions" - the skills required, he said, to see if the defenders can withstand an attack of the kind envisioned by the regulatory commission.

But Wackenhut has had problems in running drills at weapons plants. In January, the inspector general of the Energy Department said that at Oak Ridge, Tenn., where the government stores weapons-grade uranium, Wackenhut attackers had told Wackenhut defenders which buildings were to be attacked, the targets at those buildings and

whether a diversionary tactic would be used. The inspector general, Gregory H. Friedman, said the internal leaks raised doubts about the value of the tests.

Mr. Floyd said that for the tests at the civilian reactors, Wackenhut employees had signed nondisclosure agreements and were subject to dismissal if they violated them.

Representative Edward J. Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat who has focused on security issues at nuclear plants for more than 20 years, said allowing Wackenhut to test security at plants where it is the security contractor was like letting athletes conduct their own drug tests.

Mr. Markey said public confidence would be undermined both by that step and by the commission's decision, announced Wednesday, to keep reactor-security lapses secret so as not to alert terrorists to them.

The commission recently decided to step up the pace of "force on force" tests, and plans to conduct one every three years at each plant starting this fall. The adversaries use weapons that resemble laser tag guns.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/08/06/politics/06nukes.html?pagewanted=all>

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