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

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USA Today
August 30, 2004
Pg. 13

Iran's Nuke Plans May Be Unstoppable

If Tehran wants arms, U.S. options limited

By Barbara Slavin, USA Today

WASHINGTON — The core of President Bush's foreign and national security policy is that he will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to acquire the world's most dangerous weapons.

But Iran, a charter member of Bush's "axis of evil," is believed to be only one to three years away from being able to make nuclear weapons, and a growing number of nuclear experts worry that there may be no way to stop it from becoming the world's 10th nuclear weapons state.

"We can't stop Iran from developing the technology and reaching the breakout point," says Anthony Cordesman, a military expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington.

Anxiety about Iran's bomb plans have new prominence because of accusations that a Pentagon official passed an internal memo on U.S. policy toward Iran to a pro-Israel lobbying group and ultimately to Israel. Though the group and the Israeli government both deny any spying, Israel is deeply worried about an Iranian bomb.

United Nations inspectors have caught Iran hiding nuclear infrastructure, including equipment at military bases. In July, Iran announced that it had resumed manufacturing centrifuges to make nuclear fuel. Iranian leaders say the fuel is for reactors that generate electricity. But the technology can also be used for bombs. At a news conference in Tehran on Saturday, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami denied that Iran wanted weapons but said it was Iran's "legitimate right" to be able to enrich uranium, and "no country can prevent us from achieving it."

Wary of engaging Iran, the Bush administration has left it to the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and three European countries to try to persuade the Iranians to scale back their nuclear program. Neither approach appears to be working. An agreement reached last October between Iran and Britain, France and Germany is unraveling. Under it, the Iranians accepted short-notice inspections of nuclear infrastructure and suspended uranium enrichment in return for promises of assistance for civilian nuclear energy. Iran has threatened to resume enrichment in October.

John Bolton, undersecretary of State for arms control and international security affairs, said the Iranians had told the French, British and Germans in July that they could enrich enough uranium for a bomb in a year and make a weapon in three years. Europeans deny that such threats were made but have not challenged Bolton on the record. Meanwhile, the IAEA meets Sept. 13 to discuss Iran. A Vienna-based diplomat with knowledge of an upcoming IAEA report says that Iran has answered a number of questions about suspect facilities and that there is no proof strong enough to warrant U.N. sanctions. The diplomat asked that he not be named because the report has not yet been published.

The Bush administration has been urging the IAEA to refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions. But that might not prevent a bomb. "The only sanction that would count is an embargo (on Iranian oil exports) and there is no chance of that" when the world is short of oil, Ray Takeyh, an Iran expert at the Council on Foreign Relations, told a conference on Iran's nuclear program this month at the Washington, D.C., office of the Hudson Institute, a conservative research organization.

Some Bush administration hard-liners favor efforts to overturn the Iranian regime, and the Pentagon is widely assumed to have contingency plans to attack nuclear installations. But it would be difficult to destroy Iran's nuclear infrastructure because it is dispersed around the country and some is underground. Any military effort to topple the Iranian regime also seems unlikely with U.S. forces tied down in Iraq.

Some experts on nuclear proliferation say it is still possible to slow or reverse Iran's nuclear march if Americans and Europeans reverse roles. "The Europeans have been the good cops and the Americans the bad cops," says Robert Einhorn, assistant secretary of State in the Clinton administration. "The Europeans have to be tougher, and the Americans have to be prepared to engage with Iran."

Henry Sokolski, executive director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, says that neither "bombing or bribing Iran is likely to succeed and could easily make matters worse." He says the goal should be to dissuade other countries from following Iran's example by blocking aid for major economic projects if they violate their non-proliferation pledges.

Ultimately, Sokolski says, nothing is likely to stop Iran from being "nuclear ready. They have the people and the hardware," he says. "Whether it's 12 months or 36 months, the idea that you can stop them is hoping for too much." http://www.usatoday.com/printedition/news/20040830/a_iranbomb30.art.htm

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Chicago Tribune
August 29, 2004

Leader Mentions Guarantee Not To Build Nuclear Arms

TEHRAN, IRAN -- Iran said Saturday that it would continue its nuclear program but provide "guarantees" not to build atomic weapons, and it warned that Washington cannot stabilize neighboring Iraq and Afghanistan without Tehran's help.

In a wide-ranging news conference, Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said the wall of mistrust separating Tehran and Washington had become thicker during the Bush administration, and added that he hoped American casualties in Iraq would affect U.S. public opinion before the November election.

Washington claims the Iranian nuclear program is aimed at building atomic weapons, but Tehran says it is directed at generating electricity.

"We are ready to do everything necessary to give guarantees that we won't seek nuclear weapons," Khatami said. He did not elaborate on the nature of the guarantees, but Iran has already agreed to international inspections of its nuclear facilities and military sites.

Khatami's statement marks the first time Tehran has so publicly said it would provide guarantees to ease concerns about its nuclear program.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0408290413aug29,1,147120.story>

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International Herald Tribune
August 30, 2004

India Tests A Missile With Nuclear Capability

By Associated Press

NEW DELHI - India on Sunday test-launched a surface-to-surface missile capable of carrying nuclear weapons, a Defense Ministry spokesman said.

The Agni II missile lifted off from India's missile testing range on Wheeler Island off the coast of eastern Orissa state, said a Defense Ministry official, B.S. Menon. The island is about 1,220 kilometers southeast of New Delhi.

This was the third trial of the Agni II, which has a range of up to 2,500 kilometers. The missile can carry conventional and nuclear warheads weighing up to 1,000 kilograms, or 2,240 pounds, according to Defense Ministry figures.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/536310.html>

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Boston Globe
August 29, 2004

EU Presses For Syrian Weapons Clause

By Lin Noueihed, Reuters

DAMASCUS -- The European Union wants to sign a trade and aid pact that may ease Syria's diplomatic isolation, but only if Damascus agrees to renounce weapons of mass destruction, Germany's foreign minister said yesterday.

"We have an interest in finalizing the Association Agreement, but for us it is crucial that the clause about weapons of mass destruction will be also accepted," Joschka Fischer said after a meeting with his Syrian counterpart.

EU diplomats said this month that Syria was poised to accept tougher wording on nuclear, biological, and chemical arms than it originally negotiated with Brussels, in a pact that has gained significance since US sanctions took force in May.

Foreign Minister Farouq al-Sharaa of Syria had said in July that the 25-nation EU was reconsidering the clause, which he called an Israeli demand, with a deal possible by September. But Fischer said the European Union would not dilute the clause and urged Damascus to accept it.

"It is important for the European Union to reach an agreement about this clause, not to water down this clause," he said.

The executive European Commission negotiated a text with Syria in December, but Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, and Denmark said that it fell short of an EU commitment to make the fight against weapons of mass destruction a key plank of ties with third countries.

They agreed to add a clause on weapons to the pact that diplomats say Syria is keen to finalize to offset US sanctions imposed over its support for anti-Israeli groups, accusations it is doing too little to secure its border with Iraq, and alleged pursuit of unconventional arms.

The Europeans contend that engaging Syria would do more to promote economic, political, and human rights reforms than isolation would, and they hope that President Bashar al-Assad of Syria will overcome the resistance of an entrenched old guard to reforms he pledged when he succeeded his late father in 2000.

http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2004/08/29/eu_presses_for_syrian_weapons_clause/

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Washington Times

Learning to be safe

By Ann Geracimos

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The term "homeland security" conjures a number of images, but an academic cap and gown probably isn't one of them.

Yet several institutions of higher learning now offer classes and majors as well as graduate degrees in subjects directly related to the Cabinet department's mission of protecting Americans from terrorism.

The federally funded Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., for example, in June awarded master's degrees in the subject to 12 students for studies conducted largely over the Internet.

Perhaps more surprising is the range of community colleges offering similar programs — often to members of civic protection services such as police, fire and emergency medical personnel. Owens Community College in Toledo,

Ohio, is planning a \$10 million homeland security center that will house a terrorism simulation center.

Late last month, the University of Southern California announced the creation of a new master of science degree in system safety and security, an interdisciplinary course funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It is meant to serve government agencies as well as contractors allied with those agencies and will be available online as a certificate program through the USC Viterbi School of Engineering Distance Education Network.

USC is actively involved in counterterrorism measures in other ways, too. In March, the campus became the site of DHS' first so-called Center of Excellence — a multimillion-dollar research program involving partnerships with other universities across the country. The USC center is known as CREATE, short for Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (www.usc.edu/dept/ise/hsc).

If the name is a mouthful, so is CREATE's mission, which is to do research and provide outreach and education on risk assessment of terrorism of an especially catastrophic kind. That involves providing guidance to government agencies at all levels "on making the right investments to improve the safety and security of the nation," says director — formally, "principal investigator" — Randolph Hall, an industrial and systems engineer who is associate dean of USC's Viterbi School of Engineering.

"You could call it a think tank," Mr. Hall says. One area of interest, he says, is the economic consequences of putting devices on airplanes to counter anti-aircraft missiles.

Two other Centers of Excellence have been established with slightly different goals under contract with DHS, one at the University of Minnesota and another at Texas A&M University. Both will deal with aspects of agro-security — the safety of America's food supply and livestock.

A fourth center is to be set up at yet another campus to study social and behavioral aspects of terrorism. The goal of this center will be to contribute to the understanding of the characteristics of terrorists so that such people can be more readily recognized.

Grants are given for three years under DHS' science and technology office in the District. Any extensions will depend on how DHS officials judge results. All four research projects involve partnerships with other American universities and, in some cases, with private businesses. The Centers of Excellence name stems from the concept of "bringing together the best group of academic researchers and educators on each of the topic areas and [taking] research, education and outreach efforts to a new level," explains Shaun Kennedy of the Minnesota group.

It's not as though the subject has not already been studied elsewhere in academia. Just not on as far-reaching a basis. In response to the September 11 attacks, for instance, the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture & Natural Resources established the Maryland Center for Agro-Security Outreach and Education in collaboration with the state's Department of Agriculture. Its purpose, interagency liaison Robert Halman says, is readying the agricultural community, from farmers to equipment dealers, to organize for an emergency response to terrorist outbreaks.

Texas A&M has \$18 million for three years for the newly established National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense. (Zoonotics deals with the transmission of diseases from animals to humans and vice versa.) It will be led by Neville Clarke, a faculty member, veterinarian and former military officer who already bears the heavy title of director of the university's Agriculture Bio-terrorism Institute.

The Texas group, according to Dr. Neville, is concerned with chemical and biological agents that are a central part of the biological threat.

"The scenario most commonly thought about is bringing an organism into the country surreptitiously and introducing it into livestock populations," he says.

Ultimately, he says, he and his colleagues hope to develop better prevention and detection tools for the most important diseases and better mathematical models to map out potential consequences of intervention decisions.

Unfortunately, he can't elaborate further, he says; due to security measures, "what there is known [already] I'm not able to talk about."

Mr. Kennedy, associate director of the Center for Animal and Food Safety at the University of Minnesota, is responsible for operation and management of the \$15 million Minnesota DHS project, to be spread initially among as many as 70 investigators. Known formally as the Center for Post-Harvest Food Protection and Defense, the program is headed by Francis Busta of the university's department of food science and nutrition. They will be partnering with major food companies such as Cargill, General Mills, 3M and Hormel.

Among other duties, the Minnesota consortium will identify gaps in protection of the nation's food supply and distribution system and develop plans to close them. Of special importance, Mr. Kennedy says, is improving ways of tracking and identifying shipments of contaminated produce and then cleaning up such sites quickly and safely. A connection with the private sector "gives us a good sounding board to see if solutions are implementable," he says. Those companies in turn will benefit from federally funded university research that is too costly for the private sector to undertake, he suggests. The Minnesota center's plan, which calls for looking at the entire food system, literally from the ground up, has the advantage of being able to "cross the regulatory boundaries that normally would apply," he says.

Finding better and more rapid ways to detect food-borne pathogens would have benefits beyond defense against terrorism, he notes.

"Right now, if you sample a product for salmonella in a production facility, it usually is between 24 and 72 hours before you have an answer," he says. "If we are successful in developing rapid test techniques, there is opportunity to simplify and modify these techniques for use in real time."

<http://washingtontimes.com/metro/20040829-094933-9269r.htm>

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Washington Post

August 31, 2004

Pg. 15

IAEA Cites Doubts On Libya's Uranium

Report Says Country Has Given Conflicting Statements on Source of Material

By Dafna Linzer, Washington Post Staff Writer

Libya has offered conflicting information about whether North Korea or Pakistan supplied uranium for its nuclear weapons program and has been unable to account for some equipment that could be used to make a bomb, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, which released a report yesterday on its investigation of Libya and the nuclear black market that supplied it.

IAEA inspectors said efforts to resolve one of the biggest mysteries about Libya's program were complicated by statements from one Libyan, who said the uranium came from North Korea, and from another who pointed the finger at Abdul Qadeer Khan, Pakistan's top nuclear scientist. Khan supplied much of Libya's nuclear infrastructure. The IAEA report made it clear that some countries are cooperating with its investigation. But the report reflects the difficulty its inspectors are having as they try to unravel the Pakistani black market that supplied Libya and Iran, and to understand the extent of international trafficking in nuclear materials.

"We've had conflicting reports and we can't nail it down," one IAEA official said, referring to the competing claims about Libyan suppliers. "But if North Korea is another player in the black market, then things are much worse than we know." The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity.

In Washington, a Bush administration official familiar with the report said the source for the North Korea claim was credible, but there was nothing else to corroborate the story.

North Korea is not believed to have the capability to supply the type of uranium found in Libya, and there has been no firm evidence that it provides nuclear materials to other countries.

Throughout the IAEA report, which was written ahead of the agency's Sept. 13 board meeting, Libya is praised for providing inspectors with access to facilities and responses to inquiries. But the report notes that Libya has failed to account for sophisticated enrichment technology that could have been stolen, hidden or lost, and also notes that some of Libya's responses have not been borne out by test results and soil samples.

Despite Libya's commitment to the United States and Britain to come clean about its weapons programs, "there are gaping holes in this investigation," another IAEA official said.

"Much of what the Libyans have told us appears to be consistent with our findings, but the black market is still murky enough that we're not closing any doors right now," the official said. Libya is hoping that the IAEA's board will agree next month that the country no longer requires special inspections.

The IAEA has been active in Libya since the country's leader, Moammar Gaddafi, agreed to give up his biological, chemical and nuclear weapons programs in December 2003. That concession was part of a deal that ended years of sanctions against the country for its role in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet that killed 270 people in Lockerbie, Scotland.

The White House often cites Libya's decision as evidence of progress in its efforts to keep weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of terrorists. On Monday, President Bush said while campaigning that Gaddafi had "heard a clear message and voluntarily got rid of his weapons of mass destruction program."

Libya's decision exposed Khan, and the IAEA believes that he and a network of middlemen in 20 countries supplied Libya and Iran with equipment and technology for enriching uranium.

Khan also is expected to feature prominently in an IAEA report due this week on Iran, which maintains that its equipment is for use in a program designed to produce energy, not weapons. Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear program, is considered a national hero at home. Despite his activities, he was pardoned by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and lives under government protection.

The agency is conducting forensic analysis of warhead designs Khan gave Libya, in an effort to determine whether the drawings were copied or shared with other countries. The designs were Chinese in origin, obtained by Pakistan and then sold by Khan.

The report also expressed frustration with the level of cooperation by Pakistan. In a veiled reference to Khan and Pakistan, the agency wrote that its ability "to derive a credible assessment . . . would benefit greatly from the provision of additional information, including from the provider of the weapons design."

The agency also noted that Pakistan has refused to allow inspectors to take samples at Pakistani laboratories that could help confirm where Libya and Iran got their nuclear materials. The Pakistanis have insisted on conducting their own tests, without outside observers, and then sharing data with the IAEA.

"This investigation is continuing but can only be completed if the agency is permitted to take independent swipe samples at locations where the enriched uranium contamination may have originated," the IAEA wrote.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A47259-2004Aug30.html>

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European Stars and Stripes

August 30, 2004

Bush Nuke Plan May Not Affect Europe Stores

By Ron Jensen, Stars and Stripes

The Bush administration plans to cut by nearly half America's nuclear warhead stockpile, a result of the Moscow Treaty of 2002 reducing deployed nuclear forces, according to a report to be published in the September/October edition of The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.

But one of the authors of the article said the nuclear arsenal kept on European soil is not going anywhere.

"Right now, I assume those weapons are staying, at least in the short term," said Robert S. Norris of the Natural Resources Defense Council, or NRDC, an environmental watchdog group from Washington, D.C.

Norris and Hans M. Kristensen — who are on the NRDC nuclear issues staff — wrote the article, in which they say the National Nuclear Security Administration, or NNSA, submitted a classified report to Congress on June 1 outlining the administration's plans to reduce the number of nuclear warheads, Norris said in a telephone interview last week.

An unclassified letter to Congress from the NNSA that accompanied the report says the stockpile reduction is possible because the Moscow Treaty will reduce the nation's deployed force of nuclear weapons to the lowest level in decades by 2012. The treaty requires a reduction of those weapons to no more than 2,200 by that date. A reduction in deployed weapons makes possible a reduction in the stockpile, which supports the deployed force, the letter says.

Details of the NNSA report were not provided to the authors, but Norris and Kristensen used declassified material to estimate that the United States has about 10,350 warheads in the stockpile and plans to cut about 4,300 of them, or 42 percent.

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has been tracking nuclear weapon development by the United States and other countries for 60 years.

Norris and Kristensen claim that America has 480 warheads stored in six countries in Europe, including Turkey. Most of them — 130 — are at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, they say. RAF Lakenheath, England, is home to 110, they said.

They said others are stored at Klein Brogel Air Base, Belgium; Buchel Air Base, Germany; Aviano Air Base and Ghedi Air Base, Italy; Volkel Air Base, the Netherlands; and Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

The U.S. European Command said Thursday the locations and numbers of nuclear weapons are classified. But those sites also appear in publications from other organizations that follow nuclear weapon development, including the Italian Union of Scientists for Disarmament and various anti-nuclear groups in Europe and America.

A EUROM spokesman in Stuttgart, Germany, told Stars and Stripes that NATO considers nuclear weapons "an essential political and military link between the European and North American members of the alliance."

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Rick Haupt said, "The alliance will, therefore, maintain adequate nuclear forces in Europe." He said their numbers would be at "the minimum level to maintain peace and stability."

"The U.S. remains committed to NATO's strategic concept and will continue to support it, along with its allies," he said.

Hopes were raised in the European anti-nuclear crowd a few months ago when Gen. James L. Jones, EUROM commander and supreme allied commander in Europe for NATO, told a Belgian senate committee that U.S. nuclear weapons would be reduced in Europe.

"The reduction will be significant. Good news is on the way," Jones told the committee in March, according to La Libre Belgique, a newspaper.

Pol D'Huyvetter, a spokesman for a Belgian anti-nuclear group known as For Mother Earth, said, "That [newspaper article] appeared even on the Web site of SHAPE for a few days and then — whoosh! — it was gone."

However, it had already been picked up by anti-nuclear Web sites and raised expectations for a further announcement.

"I was expecting a follow-up then, but it didn't happen," said Norris.

America has maintained nuclear weapons in western Europe since the 1950s as part of its Cold War strategy to counter the threat of the Soviet Union in eastern Europe. At the height of the Cold War, thousands of nuclear warheads were placed in Europe, according to reports from various groups.

Treaties with the Soviets prompted a reduction of weapons even before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and further reductions have taken place since.

Their presence over the years sparked the growth of a European anti-nuclear movement that survives to this day, still pushing for elimination of American nuclear weapons from Europe. The United States is the only country to deploy nuclear weapons outside its border.

Activists remain pessimistic that their goal will be met anytime soon, even with the announcement of possible troop withdrawals from Europe. D'Huyvetter said, "We think the withdrawal of U.S. troops is the right signal, but we don't see that as related [to reducing nuclear weapons]."

"We've discussed that," said Roland Blach of the German group Nonviolent Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

"So far, I have not much hope. I think the nuclear weapons will be here for another five or 10 or 15 years."

David Higgins, an American who created Lakenheath Action Group to campaign for the removal of nuclear weapons from RAF Lakenheath, said: "We would be very glad if the bombs we firmly believe are there were taken away."

But, she added, her worry is that they would be replaced with "mininukes," a new generation of weapon being developed by America.

The purpose of maintaining a nuclear stockpile in Europe escaped the anti-nuke people. Blach called it "really stupid" and D'Huyvetter said the reason was "a mystery."

Norris said, "I think it would be a wise move to bring them home."

<http://www.estripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=24094>

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