



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER  
**CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL**  
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

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Issue No. 373, 23 September 2004

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Washington Times  
September 21, 2004  
Pg. 3

## **Al Qaeda Seen Planning For 'Spectacular' Attack**

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

U.S. intelligence agencies concluded recently that al Qaeda — fearing its credibility is on the line — is moving ahead with plans for a major, "spectacular" attack, despite disruptions of some operations by recent arrests in Britain and Pakistan.

Officials said recent intelligence assessments of the group, which is blamed for the September 11 attacks, state that an attack is coming and that the danger will remain high until the Nov. 2 elections and last until Inauguration Day on Jan. 20.

"They [al Qaeda] think their credibility is on the line because there hasn't been a major attack since 9/11," said one official familiar with intelligence reports on the group.

A second official said: "There isn't reason to believe that the recent arrests have disrupted their plans." Authorities in Pakistan and Britain recently arrested key al Qaeda leaders, but the group uses tight "compartmentation" of its operations. The process, used by intelligence services, keeps information about operations within small "cells" of terrorists to protect secrecy.

Thus, details of the possible attack remain murky, but analysts say it is planned to be bigger and deadlier than the September 11 attacks, which killed 3,000 people.

Potential targets include the White House, Pentagon, U.S. Capitol and congressional buildings, as well as landmarks and business centers in New York, the officials said. The officials said that there is no specific information about targets.

Intelligence officials say a key figure in al Qaeda's North American operations is Adnan Shukrijumah, who is being sought by the FBI for the past several years.

One official said Shukrijumah recently was seen in Mexico and earlier had been in Canada near a university with a nuclear reactor, leading to concerns that he was seeking radioactive material for a radiological bomb.

The Mexican newspaper Proceso, quoting Mexican officials, reported earlier this month that Shukrijumah was being sought in northeastern Mexico after being tracked to Sonora in August.

Acting CIA Director John McLaughlin told a Senate hearing last month that al Qaeda's ability to keep its operations secret is a "strategic weapon."

Mr. McLaughlin told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the group "compartments secrets down to a handful of people in a cave somewhere."

"It's very well-documented in the 9/11 report how few people knew about that," he said Aug. 17. "They use secrecy as a strategic weapon. It's a strategic weapon for them because it asymmetrically works against us because we don't keep secrets very well."

Several key arrests of al Qaeda members were made over the past several months in Britain and Pakistan.

One major intelligence "break" was the arrest in June of MUSAAD ARUCHI, who was captured in Karachi. Aruchi was a senior al Qaeda member who provided information that led to other key arrests within weeks.

The arrest of Aruchi, a nephew of September 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, provided U.S. and Pakistani intelligence and security officials with information that led to further arrests, including that of Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian linked by U.S. intelligence to the August 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Along with Ghailani, U.S. and Pakistani authorities also arrested another al Qaeda member, Muhammad Naeem Noor Khan, a Pakistani, who was picked up in Lahore on July 13.

Khan was seized along with a laptop computer that had information on al Qaeda planning and operations.

The computer did not contain specific information about plans for a major attack in the United States, but the information did lead to the raising of the national terrorism alert levels in Washington and New York.

Eisa al-Hindi, an al Qaeda leader in Britain, was arrested after the arrest of Khan. Al-Hindi was arrested in London Aug. 3 along with 12 other suspected al Qaeda members.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20040921-121158-2444r.htm>

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Washington Post  
September 21, 2004  
Pg. 6

## **New Headquarters Will Guard Capital Area**

*Joint Command at Fort McNair Will Support Police and Federal Agencies*

By Josh White, Washington Post Staff Writer

A new military headquarters at the District's Fort McNair will work to deter and respond to terrorist activities in the Washington region, bringing area military resources under a unique joint command that will prepare for attacks such as the strike on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

The Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region -- which is scheduled to be officially activated at a ceremony tomorrow -- will be largely responsible for land-based homeland defense and providing military support to local police departments and federal agencies in the wake of an attack.

Commanded by Army Maj. Gen. Galen B. Jackson, the joint force will be in charge of about 4,000 soldiers and focus on safeguarding obvious potential targets in the Washington region, such as the White House, the Capitol and the Pentagon. The group also has a headquarters staff of about 60 people working to compile threat data from the FBI and local government agencies.

"Now we don't have to wait for something to happen -- we're proactive, we're planning, we're training, rehearsing to defend the national capital region," said Barbara Owens, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. "It brings a number of resources under one command and unifies the effort."

The new headquarters will pull together the Army military district -- which is best known for its management of Arlington National Cemetery and funeral ceremonies -- the Naval District of Washington and smaller resources within the Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Rear Adm. Jan Gaudio, commandant of the naval district, will be second in command of the joint force, which answers to U.S. Northern Command, based in Colorado.

The joint force will be used to supplement response efforts in the Washington region, Owens said.

"We would assist the first responders," she said. "We would not be the lead, but would be in a support role."

The local headquarters has been operational since last fall and has responded to six events, including the discovery of poisonous ricin powder in the Dirksen Senate Office Building in February.

Thomas J. Lockwood, director of the Office for National Capital Region Coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, said that the department looked forward to working with the command, which would help civilian authorities contact the wide array of military units based around Washington.

"The Department of Homeland Security has been working with the Department of Defense on this project and is excited to see it come to fruition," Lockwood said in a statement. "There is a lot of value added for all entities in the national capital region to have one, direct point of contact for DOD assets and issues."

*Staff writer Spencer Hsu contributed to this report.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A37092-2004Sep20.html>

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New York Times  
September 21, 2004

#### **DIPLOMATIC MEMO**

## **Bush Aides Divided On Confronting Iran Over A-Bomb**

By Steven R. Weisman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20 - At a time when the violent insurgency in Iraq is vexing the Bush administration and stirring worries among Americans, events may be propelling the United States into yet another confrontation, this time with Iran. The issues have an almost eerie familiarity, evoking the warnings and threats that led to the war to overthrow Saddam Hussein, and stirring an equally passionate debate.

Like Iraq in its final years under Saddam Hussein, Iran is believed by experts to be on the verge of developing a nuclear bomb. In Iraq, that proved to be untrue, though this time the consensus is much stronger among Western experts.

In addition, as with Iraq, administration officials have said recently that Iran is supporting insurgencies and terrorism in other countries. Recently, top administration officials have accused the Tehran government of backing the rebels in Iraq, something that officials fear could increase if Iran is pressed too hard on its nuclear program.

A parallel concern in Washington is Iran's continued backing of Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shiite group that the administration and the Israeli government say is channeling aid to groups attacking Israeli civilians. Israel also warns that Iran's nuclear program will reach a "point of no return" next year, after which it will be able to make a bomb without any outside assistance.

The Bush administration has yet to forge a clear strategy on how to deal with Iran, partly because of a lack of attractive options and partly because there is a debate under way between hard-liners and advocates of diplomatic engagement. But in another similarity with the Iraq situation before the war, Washington is in considerable disagreement with key allies over how to handle the threat.

Britain, France and Germany say Iran's nuclear program is unacceptable, but they also warn that a confrontation could backfire and that incentives as well as punishments need to be presented to Tehran. Threatening sanctions - a cutoff in oil purchases, for example - is not viewed as credible or likely to get much support, they say.

European views cannot be dismissed, especially after the discord over Iraq, administration officials say. Last weekend, under European pressure, the United States agreed to defer its demand that the International Atomic Energy Agency immediately refer Iran's noncooperation on nuclear issues to the United Nations Security Council, where sanctions might be considered. Instead, Iran was given two more months to show that it was cooperating.

Still, even Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, the leading advocate of diplomacy in Mr. Bush's inner circle, cites a gathering threat from Iran.

"Diplomacy does not mean failure to look in the lion's mouth," Mr. Powell said in a recent interview. "Diplomacy doesn't mean pretending something isn't there when it's there. The Iranians have a nuclear weapons program, and I keep telling everybody it is the responsibility of the international community to apply all the pressure we can."

With Iran policy in a state of flux, there is a drive among conservatives to reach out to Iranian dissidents and exiles seeking to overthrow the government, much as efforts were made with Iraqis in the 1990's. Senator Rick Santorum, a Pennsylvania Republican, is sponsoring legislation favoring "regime change," with what some say is the tacit backing of administration conservatives.

Last year, when it was trying to reach out to Tehran for cooperation on Iraq, the administration stated that it did not support regime change in Iran, though President Bush also spoke out in favor of greater democracy there.

Administration officials say that there was an internal debate last year but that the idea of giving aid to dissidents who might try to overthrow the Iranian government had been dropped for lack of any credible groups to support.

Yet the cause of regime change in Iran is expected to be revived if President Bush is re-elected, administration officials say. Leading the charge is John R. Bolton, the under secretary of state for nonproliferation, who gave a speech last month saying that Iran's conduct did not "bode well for the success of a negotiated approach to dealing with this issue." A colleague called him "the self-appointed tip of the spear" in the discussions.

In an interview, Mr. Bolton declined to comment on whether regime change was appropriate for Iran, other than to say that even without outside support, widespread unhappiness among Iranians over a lagging economy and stifling religious rule could bring a "revolution from below."

"When the old regime in South Africa collapsed they got rid of their nukes," Mr. Bolton said. "When Ukraine became independent they did the same. At a time of profound dislocation, it is not inconceivable that a new government in Tehran might be persuaded to drop its nuclear program."

On the other side of the spectrum, some at the State Department say no solution is possible without a discussion of benefits to the Tehran government if it changes its behavior, or without progress in the impasse between Israel and the Palestinians.

Some experts call for a "grand bargain" that would involve an across-the-board agreement in which changed behavior by Tehran on all fronts would be negotiated in return for normal relations and investment from the West. Still other experts say that such an approach is overly ambitious and that "selective engagement" on a few crucial issues, including steps to stabilize Iraq, should be tried first. That view is advocated by a Council on Foreign Relations committee led by Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser, and Robert M. Gates, a director of central intelligence in the early 1990's.

In three and a half years the Bush administration has tried engaging Iran, but little has come of its efforts.

Diplomatic contacts at low levels were suspended in May of last year. Senator John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate, is charging the Bush administration with ignoring the Iran problem. Mr. Kerry said last month that the United States "must work with our allies to end Iran's nuclear weapons program and be ready to work with them to implement a range of tougher measures if needed."

For all the talk about new policies, few administration officials or policy makers and experts outside the administration think that any new approach will be unveiled soon.

A final unpredictable factor in the discussions involves Israel, which some intelligence experts say would be willing to strike one or more Iranian weapons sites, as it did with the French-built nuclear reactor in Iraq in 1981.

Israeli and American officials insist that the idea of a strike against Iranian sites is impractical. Nevertheless, some diplomats were rattled by a recent warning from Iran's defense minister, Vice Adm. Ali Shamkhani, that Iran would retaliate if Israel tried any such thing.

"I'm frankly very pessimistic about the future," said Patrick Clawson, deputy director of the Washington Institute for Near Eastern Policy. "We have to offer a carrot as well as brandishing a stick. But this administration is too busy and they don't want to think about it. I don't think very much is going to happen until after the American election."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/21/politics/21diplo.html>

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Washington Post

## **Bush Lifts Sanctions Against Libya**

Families of Pan Am Bombing Expected to Be Compensated

*By George Gedda*

Associated Press

Tuesday, September 21, 2004; Page A17

President Bush yesterday removed a ban on commercial air service to Libya and released \$1.3 billion in frozen Libyan assets in recognition of "significant" steps to eliminate its deadliest weapons programs.

In response, Libya is expected to disburse \$1 billion in compensation payments to 269 families of the victims of the 1988 Pan Am 103 bombing.

Libya, which has acknowledged responsibility for the bombing, had conditioned release of the money on an end to the two sets of U.S. sanctions. It had established a Wednesday deadline for Bush to act.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bush lifted the sanctions by signing an executive order. He credited Libya with having taken significant actions over the past nine months to eliminate its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs.

"Concerns over weapons of mass destruction no longer pose a barrier to the normalization of U.S.-Libyan relations," McClellan said.

He added that Libya facilitated the removal of all significant elements of its declared nuclear weapons program and began converting a chemical facility at Rabta to a pharmaceutical plant.

The country destroyed chemical munitions and removed highly enriched uranium for its research reactor and equipment for uranium enrichment, he said. Libya also eliminated one class of Scud missile and agreed to eliminate another, he added.

"They have pledged to halt all military trade with countries of proliferation concern and increased our understanding of the global black market in the world's most dangerous technologies," McClellan added.

Libya's disarmament plan has led to a substantial improvement in ties with the government of Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi, once considered to be among the most dangerous of U.S. adversaries. During the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan twice ordered airstrikes against Libya.

Still on the books is Libya's inclusion on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism, which substantially restricts commercial activities between the two countries.

State Department spokesman J. Adam Ereli said terrorism remained a concern and cited reports that Libya may have been involved in an attempt on the life of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

In the Pan Am bombing, all 259 people on board were killed, including 189 Americans. Also killed were 11 people on the ground in Lockerbie, Scotland.

Families of the Pan Am victims are expected to receive \$4 million each that has been held in an escrow account. The families had received a similar payment of \$4 million each after United Nations sanctions against Libya were lifted last year. If Libya is removed from the terrorism list, a final payment -- \$2 million per family -- would be made, bringing the total to \$10 million for each.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A36763-2004Sep20.html>

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New York Times  
September 21, 2004

## **U.S. Lifts Trade Embargo On Libya In Return For Promise On Arms**

By Steven R. Weisman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20 - President Bush revoked the United States trade embargo on Libya on Monday and took other steps aimed at eventually establishing normal relations with the government of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi in return for its keeping a promise to give up nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Libya, however, remains on the American list of states that sponsor terrorism. The Bush administration said specifically that it remained "seriously concerned" about allegations of Libyan involvement in an attempt to assassinate Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

Libya's listing as a sponsor of terrorism bars the restoration for now of full diplomatic relations and means that some restrictions on commercial activity, like the export of items with military and security applications, will be maintained. Mr. Bush's action is a significant step in a process that began last year, when it was announced that Libya had agreed to abandon its weapons programs on a phased basis. The steps taken Monday were the results of a decision announced in April to suspend most remaining sanctions.

"At the beginning of this process, the president committed to respond to concrete Libyan actions in good faith," said Scott McClellan, the White House spokesman, noting that Mr. Bush had promised last year to work with Libya so that it could "regain a secure and respected place among the nations and, over time, better relations with the United States."

Among the steps taken by Mr. Bush were the removal of economic restrictions on aviation services, permitting direct flights between the United States and Libya; unfreezing \$1.3 billion in assets; and providing what Mr. McClellan said would be "a level playing field for U.S. businesses in Libya" by allowing them to secure American economic benefits for foreign investment.



The American action clears the way for additional compensation payments from Libya to the families of 270 people killed when Libyan terrorists blew up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

Most of the families have been pressing the administration to meet the deadlines of their agreement on compensation with the Libyan government, which had agreed to make the payments and dismantle its banned weapons programs as long as the United States reciprocated by lifting its sanctions by Sept. 22.

The White House announcement of the Libya steps was low key, issued in written statements. But administration spokesmen said Libya's agreement of last September to disarm in return for improved relations was an example of Mr. Bush's belief in diplomacy to solve problems.

"Looking back over those nine months, I think we've seen some significant actions taken," said Adam Ereli, a State Department spokesman. He cited steps including Libya's signing of various protocols on nuclear weapons and its destruction of munitions.

He said Libya had also pledged "to halt military trade with countries of proliferation concern and increased our understanding of the global black market in the world's most dangerous technologies."

Some administration officials say Libya's steps to help the United States investigate the black market in banned weapons and weapon materials have been the greatest dividend of its changed behavior. With Libya's help, the United States uncovered links among Pakistan, North Korea, Iran and other countries on unconventional arms.

With the lifting of most economic sanctions, the way is clear for American oil companies to try to secure contracts or to revive previous contracts for Libya's vast oil reserves.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/21/politics/21libya.html>

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New York Times

## **Iran Advances Move to Nuclear Fuel, Defying U.N.**

By **CRAIG S. SMITH**

Published: September 21, 2004

ARIS, Sept. 21 — Iran defied the United Nations today by announcing that it had begun converting tons of uranium into the gas needed to turn the radioactive element into nuclear fuel. The world body's International Atomic Energy Agency called on Saturday for the country to suspend all such activities.

Iran's statement, made to reporters in Vienna by Gholamreza Aghazadeh, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, put the country on a collision course with the United States, which has lobbied vigorously for the agency to send Iran before the United Nations Security Council for its past breaches of the Nonproliferation Treaty.

"Some of the amount of the 37 tons has been used," Mr. Aghazadeh was quoted as saying by Reuters, referring to a quantity of yellowcake, or uranium oxide, which Iran had earlier indicated it planned to convert into gas.

"The tests have been successful but these test have to be continued using the rest of the material," he said.

Mr. Aghazadeh, one of Iran's vice presidents, is attending a general conference of the Vienna-based atomic energy agency.

Washington is certain to use any failure by Iran to abide by the agency's latest requests, made in a resolution passed by its 35-nation board of governors on Saturday, to push for Security Council referral when the board meets again on Nov. 25.

Iran, as a signatory of the nonproliferation treaty, has the right to convert uranium into a gas and to concentrate the fissile 235 isotope in that gas with high-speed centrifuges, a process known as enrichment. But the United Nations agency has used the threat of Security Council intervention for the country's past failings to pressure it to voluntarily stop all of the steps leading to the production of enriched uranium.

Uranium with a high enough concentration of the uranium-235 isotope can be used to fuel a nuclear reactor, but the enrichment process can easily be extended to produce higher concentrations of the isotope necessary for a nuclear bomb.

Though Iran calls the 37 metric tons, or more than 40 tons, a test amount, experts say it will produce enough gas for enrichment into fissile material for several nuclear bombs.

Iran argues that its uranium enrichment program is intended to produce low-enriched uranium for use in a nuclear power plant that it began building in the 1970's. But the United States and other countries believe the program is part of an effort to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran has offered to accept any safeguards imposed by the United Nations agency to ensure its enrichment activities do not go beyond the 3.5 percent concentration of the uranium-235 isotope needed for its power plant.

But some American analysts warn that the international community has only a year or so left to stop the Iranian program from achieving self-sufficiency. After that, they warn, the country will have the means to create a nuclear arsenal without outside help, forever altering the Middle East balance of power.

The atomic energy agency is trying to force the country to voluntarily accept limits to its rights under the nonproliferation treaty without setting off an Iranian withdrawal from the accord.

Iran, however, says it is reluctant to accept such limits, arguing that such discrimination is specifically prohibited under the treaty and that accepting any such limits would set a dangerous precedent for other treaties that it has signed.

"We are determined to obtain peaceful atomic technology even if it causes a halt to international supervision," President Mohammad Khatami of Iran said in Tehran today. He reiterated the country's claim that it has no interest in developing nuclear weapons and wants a nuclear capability only for peaceful purposes, such as power generation. The country is nearing completion of a 1,000-megawatt light-water nuclear reactor and plans to build seven more. A clause in the nonproliferation treaty permits any country to withdraw on three months' notice. North Korea withdrew in 2001, allowing it to proceed with the separation of plutonium from spent uranium and presumably the development of a nuclear bomb.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/21/international/middleeast/21CND-IRAN.html>

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Washington Times  
September 21, 2004  
Pg. 13

## **IAEA Wants Tighter Policing**

### *Nuclear arms threat at issue*

By George Jahn, Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — More than 40 countries with peaceful nuclear programs could retool them to make weapons, the head of the U.N. atomic watchdog agency said yesterday amid new U.S. and European demands that Iran give up technology capable of producing such arms.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), suggested in a keynote address to the agency's general conference that it was time to tighten world policing of nuclear activities and to stop relying on information volunteered by countries.

Beyond the declared nuclear arms-holding countries, "some estimates indicate that 40 countries or more now have the know-how to produce nuclear weapons," Mr. ElBaradei said. "We are relying primarily on the continued good intentions of these countries, intentions, which ... could ... be subject to rapid change."

His comments appeared prompted by a series of revelations of proliferation or suspected illicit nuclear activities over the past two years.

Libya last year revealed a clandestine nuclear arms program and announced it would scrap it; North Korea is threatening to activate a weapons program; Iran is being investigated for what the United States says is evidence it was trying to make nuclear arms; and South Korea recently said it conducted secret experiments with plutonium and enriched uranium, both possible components of weapons programs.

Mr. ElBaradei linked the need for strengthened controls to concerns about the international nuclear black market, which supplied both Iran and Libya and whose existence was proved last year.

The "relative ease with which a multinational illicit network could be set up and operate demonstrates clearly the inadequacy" of the present controls on nuclear exports, he said.

Mr. ElBaradei did not name the countries capable of quickly turning peaceful nuclear activities into weapons programs. But more than a dozen European countries with either power-producing nuclear reactors or large-scale research reactors are among them, as well as Canada and countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Most peaceful nuclear programs use enriched uranium — a substance that when processed to levels of enrichment above 90 percent can be used to make nuclear warheads — as a power source. Most countries also could extract plutonium from spent fuel for nuclear weapons use.

Iran's enrichment program has been the focus of increased world concern because of suspicions Tehran may not be telling the truth when it says it is interested in the technology only to generate power.

A resolution passed unanimously Saturday by the IAEA governing board demanded for the first time that Iran freeze all work on uranium enrichment. Suggesting that Iran may have to answer to the U.N. Security Council if it defies the demands, the resolution said the next board meeting in November "will decide whether or not further steps are appropriate" in ensuring Iran complies.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20040920-105550-9429r.htm>

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## **Nonproliferation and disarmament go hand in hand**

IHT

Seven foreign ministers speak out Nuclear weapons, a legacy of the cold war, today give rise to dangerous new perspectives. Old and new threats converge, putting at risk the security of us all.

Seven years ago the foreign ministers of our countries - Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden - joined together in a New Agenda Coalition to work toward a security order where nuclear weapons would no longer be given a role. Today, we are more convinced than ever that nuclear disarmament is imperative for international peace and security.

We are faced with the perils of nuclear weapons finding their way into more military arsenals and the risk that these old tools of deterrence might become new tools of terrorists.

Nonproliferation is vital. But it is not sufficient. Nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament are two sides of the same coin and both must be energetically pursued. Otherwise we might soon enter a new nuclear arms race with new types, uses and rationales for such weapons and eventually also more warheads. And the primary tool for controlling nuclear weapons, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, risks falling apart, with further proliferation as a consequence.

The nonproliferation treaty cannot be complied with à la carte. It is a legally binding agreement, which relies on a fine balance between the commitments of the five nuclear-weapon states - China, France, Russia, Britain and the United States - and those of the nonnuclear-weapon states. The heart of the treaty is that the latter will not develop nuclear weapons in return for which the nuclear powers will reduce and eventually eliminate their nuclear weapons.

In 1995 and 2000 this bargain was further refined. In 1995, the nonnuclear-weapon states agreed to the indefinite extension of the nonproliferation treaty, provided that the nuclear powers pursued nuclear disarmament and that all worked toward the entry into force of the comprehensive nuclear test-ban treaty.

In 2000, the nuclear powers made an unequivocal undertaking to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, and all parties adopted a practical plan for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. Since then, however, very little progress has been made.

There are deeply disturbing signs pointing in the opposite direction. Instead of working toward the entry into force of the nuclear test-ban treaty, the United States, which was the first country to sign the treaty, has withdrawn its support. And China delays its ratification process year after year. Instead of eliminating nuclear weapons, some nuclear powers have plans to modernize or develop new kinds of nuclear weapons or new rationales for them.

Some even entertain the notion that nuclear weapons may be used pre-emptively against nonnuclear-weapon states. In Russia, nuclear weapons are increasingly seen as a possible defense against conventional weapons. Instead of destroying their nuclear warheads, the United States and Russia store them.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty is an important step in the right direction, but it does not require the destruction of these weapons, does not include tactical nuclear weapons and does not have any verification provisions. The process is neither irreversible, nor transparent.

If the nuclear-weapon states continue to treat nuclear weapons as a security enhancer, there is a real danger that other states will start pondering they should do the same. Recent developments show that this has already happened.

What, then, can be done?

First, all parties must comply with their commitments under the nonproliferation treaty, and the treaty should be made universal. All states should raise the guard against the further spread of nuclear weapons. And the nuclear-weapon states must comply with their commitments and pursue nuclear disarmament in good faith. Any plans to develop new nuclear weapons, new uses, roles or rationalizations for their use, must be shelved immediately.

Second, the entry into force of the nuclear test-ban treaty should be pursued as a matter of urgency.

Third, talks on a verifiable fissile material cutoff treaty should start immediately. The treaty would ban the production of key components of nuclear weapons, enriched uranium and plutonium, and form a cornerstone in the nuclear disarmament process.

It would impose restraints on India, Israel and Pakistan, the three states still outside the nonproliferation treaty.

Together with the test-ban treaty, it would go a long way to uphold the nonproliferation treaty and strengthen the norm on nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament.

The future depends on our actions.



This article was signed by Foreign Ministers Celso Amorim of Brazil; Ahmed Ali Aboul Gheit of Egypt; Brian Cowen of Ireland; Luis Ernesto Derbez Bautista of Mexico; Phil Goff of New Zealand; Nkosazana Dlimini-Zuma of South Africa; and Laila Freivalds of Sweden.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/539812.html>

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New York Times  
September 22, 2004

## **Iran Moves Toward Enriching Uranium**

By Craig S. Smith

PARIS, Sept. 21 - Iran defied the United Nations' nuclear agency on Tuesday, announcing that it had begun converting tons of uranium into gas, a crucial step in making fuel for a nuclear reactor or a nuclear bomb. The International Atomic Energy Agency called Saturday for Iran to suspend all such activities.

Iran's statement, made in Vienna by the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Gholamreza Aghazadeh, put the country on a collision course with the United States, which has lobbied vigorously for the international nuclear agency to refer Iran's nuclear program to the Security Council for past breaches of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The announcement will only add weight to Washington's arguments.

On Saturday, the United Nations agency's 35-member board passed a resolution calling for Iran to halt all uranium-enrichment activities, but it declined to refer the matter to the Security Council.

The board meets again on Nov. 25. Should the United States prevail, the Council could decide to impose sanctions against Iran, issue a warning or take no action at all.

The nuclear agency's resolutions are not legally binding, and many countries, including Brazil and South Africa, may resist American pressure to sanction Iran for activities they support: the development of a complete nuclear fuel cycle, from mining uranium ore to reprocessing nuclear waste.

Mastering the cycle can make countries nearly independent in fulfilling their energy needs. But it brings them to within months of being able to build nuclear weapons.

Iran, as a signer of the nonproliferation treaty, has the right to convert uranium into a gas and to concentrate the fissile 235 isotope of that gas with high-speed centrifuges, a process called enrichment.

But it began an enrichment program without notifying the I.A.E.A. - a breach of its responsibilities under the treaty - and the agency has used the threat of Council intervention to press it to stop all of the steps leading to the production of enriched uranium.

Uranium with a relatively low concentration of the uranium-235 isotope can be used to fuel a nuclear reactor, but the process can easily be extended to produce the higher concentrations of the isotope necessary for a nuclear bomb.

The agency had expressed alarm at Iran's earlier announced plans to convert more than 40 short tons of uranium oxide, known as yellowcake, into uranium hexafluoride gas.

The resolution passed Saturday said the agency "considers it necessary" that in order for Iran to "promote confidence" - a veiled reference to the threat of a referral to the Security Council - it must "immediately suspend all enrichment-related activities," including the production of uranium hexafluoride gas at a plant built near Isfahan with Chinese technology and opened last year.

That plant is monitored by the international agency, but it declined to say Tuesday whether gas had been produced there since Saturday.

"Some of the amount of the 37 [metric] tons has been used," Mr. Aghazadeh was quoted as saying Tuesday by Reuters. Mr. Aghazadeh, one of Iran's vice presidents, was attending a general conference of the nuclear agency, which is based in Vienna. "The tests have been successful, but these tests have to be continued using the rest of the material," he said.

Though Iran calls the yellowcake a test amount, experts say the 40 short tons could produce enough fissile material for several weapons.

Iran argues that its uranium-enrichment program is intended to produce low-enriched uranium for use in a 1,000-megawatt nuclear power plant that it began constructing in the 1970's.

It has offered to accept any safeguards imposed by the agency to ensure its enrichment activities do not go beyond the 3.5 percent concentration of the uranium-235 isotope needed for its power plant and six others it plans to build. But the United States and other countries say they believe the program is part of an effort to develop a capacity for nuclear weapons.

Some American analysts warn that there is only a year or so left to stop Iran from achieving nuclear self-sufficiency. After that, they say, the country will have the means to create a nuclear arsenal without outside help, forever altering the Middle East balance of power.

One concern is that Israel, an I.A.E.A. member that has not signed the nonproliferation treaty and has nuclear weapons, may decide to take the matter into its own hands if diplomacy fails to deter Iran.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported Tuesday that Israel was planning to buy 500 so-called bunker-busting bombs capable of penetrating six feet of concrete.

Those bombs could be used to destroy Iran's underground nuclear facilities. While analysts say such a pre-emptive strike is unlikely, in 1981 Israel bombed a nuclear reactor in Iraq to stop that country from developing nuclear weapons.

Iran argues that it is being unfairly penalized and that it has repeatedly proposed keeping the Middle East free of nuclear weapons.

The nuclear agency is trying to force Iran to accept limits on what it can do under the nonproliferation treaty without causing Iran to withdraw from the treaty.

Iran argues that discrimination among signatories is prohibited under the treaty and that accepting any limits would set a dangerous precedent for other treaties it has signed.

On Sunday Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Hassan Rowhani, warned in Tehran that Iran might drop out of the treaty if its case were sent to the Security Council. The treaty permits any country to withdraw on three months' notice.

North Korea withdrew in 2001.

"We have made our choice: yes to peaceful nuclear technology and no to nuclear weapons," Iran's president, Mohammad Khatami, said in Tehran on Tuesday at a military parade featuring the Shahab-3 missile, with a range that could reach Israel. Missiles at the parade were draped with banners that read "Crush America" and "Wipe Israel Off The Map," according to The Associated Press and Agence France-Presse.

"We will continue on this path even if it means cutting off international supervision," he said.

*Greg Myre contributed reporting from Israel for this article, and Nazila Fathi from Tehran.*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/22/international/middleeast/22iran.html>

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Washington Post

## **Iran Announces A New Round Of Nuclear Tests**

Move Defies IAEA Call for Suspension

*By Dafna Linzer*

Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, September 22, 2004; Page A24

NEW YORK, Sept. 21 -- Defying recent requests from the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, the Iranian government said Tuesday it had begun a new round of nuclear experiments, intensifying concerns of U.N. weapons inspectors and the U.S. government that the Islamic republic has plans to develop nuclear weapons.

The head of Iran's nuclear energy program, Gholamreza Aghazadeh, told reporters in Vienna on Tuesday that scientists were following through on plans to convert nearly 40 tons of raw uranium into a state suitable for enrichment.

Two years ago, Iran enriched low levels of uranium that could be used in a civilian energy program. But once the enrichment technique is mastered, it could be used to produce weapons-grade uranium.

U.S. officials said they viewed the move as proof that Iran has no interest in abandoning its nuclear ambitions or respecting decisions made by the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency last week.

"This clearly indicates Iran is continuing its unrelenting march toward a nuclear weapons capability," said J. Adam Ereli, a State Department spokesman. "Iran knows what it must do to alleviate concerns, but so far it appears determined to ignore the IAEA and proceed with its nuclear weapons program."

IAEA inspectors have not found evidence of a weapons program. But Iranian experiments, concealed for years from the outside world, have fueled suspicion that the Tehran government is determined to build a bomb.

Last Saturday, the United States and other members of the IAEA board called on the Iranian government to suspend enrichment-related activities and provide the agency with a complete history of its nuclear program.

The resolution noted, "with serious concern," that Iran had not "heeded repeated calls from the Board to suspend, as a confidence building measure, all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities." Iran's intention to process the 40 tons of raw uranium into uranium hexafluoride gas "would run counter" to early requests to forgo the work, the resolution stated.

But the IAEA board also noted recent improvements in Iran's cooperation with agency inspectors and recognized its right to develop a peaceful energy source. Iran's president, Mohammad Khatami, indicated in a speech in Tehran on Tuesday that his country was prepared to retain that right at great cost.

"We are determined to obtain peaceful atomic technology, even if it brings an end to international supervision," Khatami was quoted as saying. Iran notified the IAEA weeks ago that it planned to proceed with the conversion experiments, and the agency said it would monitor the work.

It is permissible under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to process uranium for an energy program, as long as the IAEA is informed of the work. But the IAEA has noted that Iran's energy program is at an early stage and as far as 10 years away from needing converted uranium to operate.

The IAEA director general, Mohamed ElBaradei, said that conducting such work now, while international pressure is high, would hurt Iran's credibility and could jeopardize important gains it had made in recent months with IAEA inspectors.

"We have repeated calls on the Iranians to suspend this kind of testing in order for it to build international confidence," said Melissa Fleming, the IAEA spokeswoman.

A secret, 18-year effort by Iran to obtain nuclear technology and know-how was exposed by an opposition group two years ago. Since then, IAEA inspectors investigating Iran's program have uncovered equipment purchased on a black market run by Abdul Qadeer Khan, who guided the development of Pakistan's nuclear bomb. But ElBaradei said last week that there was no evidence of an Iranian nuclear weapons program. Iranian authorities insist their nuclear program is intended solely to generate electricity.

"I'm not sure we are facing an imminent threat," ElBaradei said in an interview with CNN on Sunday. But he said it was clear Iran was acquiring, or has already acquired, "a capability to produce the material that can be used for nuclear weapons should they decide to do that."

Iran has promised several times in the past year to halt enrichment work but then reneged on aspects of those pledges in response to IAEA decisions. Last week, Iranian officials in Vienna said the country would continue a suspension on enrichment but did not specify whether it would halt the processing of uranium hexafluoride gas. The announcement by Aghazadeh, who is one of Iran's vice presidents as well as head of the country's nuclear energy program, dispelled any doubt on the issue. He said Iran had begun work with some of the 40 tons marked for conversion.

"The tests have been successful, but these tests have to be continued using the rest of the material," Aghazadeh said in Vienna, where he was attending an IAEA conference.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A37675-2004Sep21.html>

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Korea Times  
September 22, 2004

## **Lab Tests Not on Nuke Talks Agenda**

By Yoon Won-sup  
Staff Reporter

South Korea on Wednesday rebuffed China's claim that Seoul's recently revealed nuclear activities will be on the agenda at the next round of six-party talks aimed at ending the North Korean nuclear crisis.

"South Korea's nuclear experiments are not the subject matter to be discussed in the six-way talks," Chung Woo-sung, presidential aide for foreign policy, said in an interview with local radio station MBC.

Chung, who is accompanying President Roh Moo-hyun on his visit to Russia, stressed that the tests were of a small-scale and were conducted in a laboratory without the government's involvement.

"President Roh explained about the nuclear test and our four-point peaceful nuclear policy in detail to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who showed his understanding on that matter," Chung added.

The remarks came a day after Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said the upcoming six-way talks will address South Korea's nuclear experiments, explaining that "the purpose of the negotiations is the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

With China, which has hosted the multilateral discussions three times, suggesting Seoul's nuclear scandal be put on the agenda at the talks, prospects for the six nations reconvening any time soon have darkened.

Meanwhile, a senior government official said on condition of anonymity that China's position on South Korea's nuclear experiments as a stumbling block to the six-way talks is exaggerated citing, "The Chinese Foreign Ministry just mentioned the test as one of many difficulties in the talks."

Japan also joined hands with China, repeating concerns about South Korea's nuclear activities in what was seen as further diplomatic pressure by Tokyo on its neighbor.

Toshimitsu Motegi, Japan's science minister, said South Korea's two laboratory nuclear experiments are "serious," speaking at a general conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna.

Japan has taken a hard-line stance on the case despite Seoul's repeated assertion that the experiments were purely academic activities that had nothing to do with nuclear weapons.

<http://times.hankooki.com/lpage/200409/kt2004092215230910230.htm>

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London Daily Telegraph

September 22, 2004

Pg. 1

## **Israel Challenges Iran's Nuclear Ambitions**

By Anton La Guardia, Diplomatic Editor

Israel admitted yesterday that it is buying 500 "bunker-buster" bombs, which could be used to hit Iran's nuclear facilities, as Teheran paraded ballistic missiles as a warning against attack.

The BLU-109 bombs, which can penetrate more than 7ft of reinforced concrete, are among "smart" munitions being sold to Israel under America's military aid programme.

The US and Israeli governments did not comment publicly but Israeli security sources said the deal would go through. "This is not the sort of ordnance needed for the Palestinian front. Bunker busters could serve Israel against Iran, or possibly Syria," an Israeli source said.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz said the sale would take place after the November presidential election.

Israel regards Iran as its greatest strategic enemy and has issued thinly-veiled threats of military action to try to stop Teheran's nuclear programme if diplomatic efforts fail to halt it.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) last week gave Teheran an informal deadline to halt all aspects of its controversial uranium enrichment programme by November - and answer all outstanding nuclear questions - or face referral to the United Nations for possible sanctions.

However, Iran has denounced the resolution as "illegal" and defiantly announced that it would continue converting 37 tonnes of yellowcake - milled uranium oxide - into uranium hexafluoride, the feed-material for uranium enrichment.

Teheran said it may renege on a promise to Europe to "suspend" enrichment. It says it seeks to make nuclear fuel for its planned electricity-generating reactors but the West fears that the same process could make material for weapons. Western diplomats believe that America, or Israel, could resort to air strikes against nuclear facilities. Israel's bombing of Saddam Hussein's Osirak reactor in 1981, which set back Iraq's nuclear programme, is held up as a model of "pre-emptive action".

Iran has placed some of its facilities, such as the large Natanz enrichment plant, in protected underground sites.

Teheran has vowed to retaliate against any attack, and at one point said it might launch pre-emptive strikes if it felt threatened.

Seeking to underline the point, Iran showed off its ballistic missiles at an annual military parade in Teheran near the mausoleum of Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Khomeini. A banner proclaiming "Israel must be wiped off the map" was draped on the side of a 450-mile Shahab-2 missile. Another saying "We will crush America under our feet" graced a trailer carrying a 930-mile Shahab-3 missile.

"The Shahab-3 missiles, with different ranges, enable us to destroy the most distant targets," said the commentary.

Speaking at the parade, President Mohammad Khatami said Iran would not give up its "natural and legal right" to nuclear know-how, but he also tried to reassure the West.

"We've made our choice: yes to peaceful nuclear technology, no to atomic weapons," he said.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2004/09/22/wnuke22.xml&sSheet=/news/2004/09/22/ixnewstop.html>

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New York Times

September 22, 2004

## **Lots Of Chemicals, Little Reaction**

By Rick Hind and David Halperin

Washington — While President Bush continues to make terrorism and domestic security the centerpiece of his campaign, he has made little mention of one of the most urgent threats to our safety: the risk that terrorists could cause thousands, even millions, of deaths by sabotaging one of the 15,000 industrial chemical plants across the United States.

The dangers from chemical plant mishaps are clear. According to data compiled by Greenpeace International, the 1984 accident at an Union Carbide insecticide plant in Bhopal, India, has caused 20,000 deaths and injuries to 200,000 people. A terrorist group could cause even greater harm by entering a plant in the United States and setting off an explosion that produces a deadly gas cloud.

The administration knows the dangers. Soon after the 9/11 attacks, Senator Jon Corzine, Democrat of New Jersey, highlighted the issue with legislation requiring chemical plants to enhance security and use safer chemicals and technologies when feasible. (Such safer substitutes are widely available.)

A study by the Army surgeon general, conducted soon after 9/11, found that up to 2.4 million people could be killed or wounded by a terrorist attack on a single chemical plant. In February 2003, the government's National Infrastructure Protection Center warned that chemical plants in the United States could be Qaeda targets.

Investigations by The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review and the CBS program "60 Minutes" have highlighted lax or nonexistent security at chemical plants, with gates unlocked or wide open and chemical tanks unguarded.

The Environmental Protection Agency under Christie Whitman did its part to evaluate the threat, identifying 123 chemical facilities where an accident or attack could threaten more than a million people, and 7,605 plants that threatened more than 1,000 people. The agency determined that it could use the Clean Air Act to compel chemical plants to increase security.

Following the Corzine approach, the agency also planned to promote the use of less hazardous chemicals. But the Bush administration overruled the initiative, and in December the president announced that chemical security was now the province of the new Department of Homeland Security, under Secretary Tom Ridge.

As The Wall Street Journal disclosed last month, Homeland Security tried to reduce the threat of catastrophic attack with the stroke of a pen. The department announced that the number of plants that threatened more than 1,000 people was actually only 4,391, and the number that endangered more than a million people was not 123 but two.

Mr. Ridge has set in motion plans to install security cameras at chemical plants in seven states - but not in some high-threat states like Florida, Ohio and Minnesota. Although the department visits plants and offers advice, unlike the E.P.A., it doesn't have the power to enforce security measures and relies instead on voluntary efforts by the industry. Without enforceable requirements, chemical firms will remain reluctant to put sufficient safeguards in place, for fear that their competitors will scrimp on security and thus be able to undercut them on price.

Industry groups have lobbied intensely against the Corzine legislation. While reluctant to invest in plant safety, some of these companies and their executives have found the resources to help pay for the Republican campaign. For the Bush administration, it seems, homeland security is critical except when it conflicts with the wishes of supporters who own chemical plants.

*Rick Hind is legislative director of Greenpeace's toxics campaign. David Halperin, a lawyer, has served on the staffs of the National Security Council and the Senate Intelligence Committee.*

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/22/opinion/22halperin.html>

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New York Times

## North Korea Said to Be Preparing Missile Launch

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published: September 23, 2004

Filed at 10:47 a.m. ET

TOKYO (AP) -- Japan said it has obtained intelligence indicating that North Korea may be preparing to test fire a short-range missile, in what would be the latest provocation from the communist country.

Government officials convened an emergency task-force team in the prime minister's office Thursday after intelligence showed that North Korea appears to be beefing up troops and equipment around missile launch bases, said Shigemi Terui, a spokesman at the prime minister's office.

Media reports citing government officials said an immediate launch was not expected. South Korea said missile-related activities had been detected in the North by U.S. and South Korean militaries.

``There is a high possibility that these were part of the annual, routine activities of North Korean missile units," Rhee Bong-jo, the deputy unification minister, said in Seoul.

Nam Dae-Yeon, spokesman of South Korea's Defense Ministry, said, ``we cannot rule out a possibility of a missile launch, so South Korean and U.S. intelligence authorities are working closely together to follow the movements."



Terui said the task force was gathering more information.

When North Korea test fired a ballistic Taepodong-1 missile over Japan and into the Pacific Ocean in 1998, it highlighted its military ambitions and penchant for provocation. The North said it was an attempt to insert a satellite into orbit.

The unpredictable communist nation also test fired short-range, land-to-ship missiles into the ocean on at least three occasions last year during an international standoff over its nuclear weapons program. The United States and South Korea criticized them as attempts to force Washington into direct negotiations with North Korea about its nuclear weapons program.

Japan's daily Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper Thursday reported that officials believed North Korea was preparing to launch a short-range Nodong missile or possibly a long-range Taepodong.

Nodong missiles have a range of about 810 miles, while the Taepodong is believed to have a 1,540-mile range. Most of Japan's four main islands fall within their range.

The developments come amid troubling signs in recent weeks from the North, whose previous test launches were widely viewed as attempts to gain leverage in rocky nuclear negotiations.

Angry rhetoric from North Korea's official media has said that Pyongyang could refuse to take part in six-nation talks on ending its nuclear weapons development. The next round of talks with the United States, South Korea, Japan, China and Russia were planned for late September.

Doubts also remain about a mysterious explosion in North Korea's remote northeastern region on Sept. 9.

Diplomats who visited what North Korea claimed was the site of a huge explosion found no sign it was nuclear.

South Korea said a huge mushroom-shaped plume thought to be from the blast occurred 60 miles away from the site where North Korea said it occurred.

The developments also come as the United States prepares to launch a new mission patrolling the Sea of Japan with Aegis-equipped destroyers to monitor any ballistic missile launches -- an effort widely seen as being aimed at keeping watch over North Korea.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/international/AP-Japan-NKorea.html?pagewanted=all>

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New York Times  
September 23, 2004

## **Iran's Plans For Nuclear Fuel Widen Global Rift Over Technology**

By Craig S. Smith

PARIS, Sept. 22 - Iran reiterated its right on Wednesday to produce uranium fuel for nuclear energy, seizing on a rift between nuclear-weapon nations that want to slow the spread of such technology and developing countries that see the technology as the entitlement of every signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

"This right is enshrined in the nonproliferation treaty and we will not give it up," Iran's president, Mohammad Khatami, told reporters after a cabinet meeting in Tehran, according to Agence France-Presse. He promised full cooperation with the nonproliferation program if that right is internationally recognized.

Iran has been battling a coalition of countries, led by the United States, that want to stop it from developing its nuclear capabilities, fearing that it intends to use the technology to produce weapons. But the United States has met stiff resistance from some of the 35 countries on the board of the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency.

Those countries contend that the treaty has become a tool of nuclear states to impede nuclear development in nations they mistrust and has lost its original purpose. The original purpose was to encourage a system under which countries without nuclear weapons that signed the treaty were promised full support in developing other nuclear technologies in exchange for renouncing nuclear weapons.

The debate over Iran's right to produce nuclear fuel, which could be diverted to make nuclear weapons, has widened the rift.

Many developing countries concede that Iran may be using loopholes in the treaty to develop nuclear weapons. But they argue that inequities in the nonproliferation program are undermining efforts to close those loopholes.

Iran has sought to exploit frustration among developing countries with the one-sided nature of compliance with the treaty.

"There is clearly a double standard," Hossein Mousavian, an official at Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said last week in Vienna. He argued that Iran was being unfairly penalized while Israel, an I.A.E.A. member that is presumed to have nuclear weapons, had never signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or accepted inspections. Concerns about a double standard delayed an agency resolution on Iran last week. The agency's board finally passed a resolution censuring Iran on Saturday. But several European and developing countries read statements making



clear that the resolution, which called on Iran to suspend its nuclear fuel activities, was neither legally binding nor could be used as a precedent for similar actions against other members, according to a Western diplomat who attended the meeting.

Iran is evidently hoping that this division has given it room to maneuver before Nov. 25, when the agency will review Iran's case and decide on further action. The United States is pushing for the agency to referring Iran to the United Nations Security Council for having enriched uranium without notifying the agency.

Iran voluntarily stopped enriching uranium last year as a gesture of good faith while the I.A.E.A. investigated its nuclear activities, which were largely hidden until 2002. But the country has insisted that the suspension is temporary.

On Tuesday, Iran said it had begun converting 40 tons of uranium oxide into uranium hexafluoride gas, the feedstock for enriched uranium. While it has not yet resumed enrichment of the gas by feeding it into supersonic centrifuges, President Khatami has said it intends to do so.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/23/international/middleeast/23iran.html?pagewanted=all>

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Washington Times  
September 23, 2004  
Pg. 16

## **Nuclear Attack Protection**

By Curt Weldon

In the three years since the attacks of September 11, 2001, Congress has gone to great lengths to better secure our nation from terrorism. Federal air marshals have been deployed on passenger planes, security standards have been imposed on ports, millions of dollars have been dispensed to first responders, and an entirely new department of government has been created. However, a potential nuclear attack on the United States has not received the attention it warrants or the resources it requires.

A nuclear attack on our nation would produce unparalleled devastation and suffering here. It is estimated a 12-1/2 kiloton nuclear weapon — which could fit in a small crate — used against New York City could kill 250,000 innocent people; another 700,000 would suffer from radiation sickness.

An attack would create widespread chaos as people fled the deadly cloud of radiation. The pulse from a strike would take down communication systems, cyber networks, and the other electronic control systems that make our lives function. Our already stretched health-care infrastructure would be overwhelmed immediately. Afterward, a broad swath of a once-vibrant urban area would be rendered uninhabitable for years.

A nuclear attack against the United States is a real and potential threat. Respected researchers from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the Monterey Institute, Center for Nonproliferation Studies, have recently written reports predicting and depicting the home-front threat of nuclear terrorism. The news services provide fresh disclosures literally every day on this increased risk. North Korea and Iran are the latest but certainly not the only flash points of concern. Lack of security around nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union continues to be documented. Reports of suitcase-sized nuclear weapons sold on the black market are often cited, as well as al Qaeda claiming access to various capabilities. The knowledge necessary to build a nuclear weapon can be found on-line and in libraries around the world. Readily available shielding technologies make smuggling a weapon into the United States a low-risk proposition.

America needs to deny terrorists access to these materials and the knowledge necessary to turn them into weapons of mass destruction. And all nations must disrupt the terrorist networks and deny them funding needed to carry out such an attack. However, in addition to reducing risk of an attack, the United States needs to be ready to respond if our best efforts fail.

And, with the enactment of Project BioShield, the government has the mechanism available to spur investment in next-generation medical counter-measures against the nuclear threat. Why, then, is the government not acting more rapidly to employ a mechanism to encourage the development and delivery of effective new medical countermeasures against a nuclear threat? This is proceeding too slowly. Other threats require attention but they simply do not present the same risk.

Why isn't development of drug candidates fast-tracked immediately by the government, especially now that BioShield has been enacted? To get that answer, Rep, Darrell Issa, California Republican, and I introduced the Radioprotectant Procurement Act of 2004 (H.R. 5000), asking for accelerated identification and development of available medical countermeasures against nuclear and radiological threats.

If the government acts now, we might have a safe, effective nuclear antidote deployed as early as next year. Failure to do so now, before a terrorist can use a nuclear weapon against us, unacceptably risks millions of American lives.

*Curt Weldon, a Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Pennsylvania, is vice chairman of the House Armed Services Member and serves on the Select Committee for Homeland Security.*  
<http://www.washtimes.com/commentary/20040922-091144-9106r.htm>

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