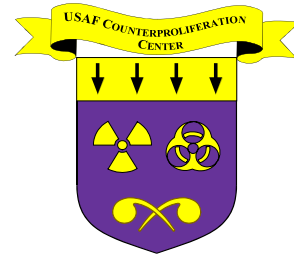


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USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL



Air University

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Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Welcome to the CPC Outreach Journal. As part of USAF Counterproliferation Center's mission to counter weapons of mass destruction through education and research, we're providing our government and civilian community a source for timely counterproliferation information. This information includes articles, papers and other documents addressing issues pertinent to US military response options for dealing with nuclear, biological and chemical threats and attacks. It's our hope this information resource will help enhance your counterproliferation issue awareness.

Established here at the Air War College 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 to 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. The following articles, papers or documents do not necessarily reflect official endorsement of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense, or other US government agencies. Reproduction for private use or commercial gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. All rights are reserved

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Last Updated: Thursday, 6 March, 2003, 23:42 GMT

New weapon against germ warfare

By Tom Heap

BBC correspondent

BBC correspondent Tom Heap was given exclusive access to the Government's secret Defence Laboratory at Porton Down in Wiltshire to see a revolutionary technology to give British soldiers better protection against chemical and biological weapons.

Soldiers currently have to wear masks as well as their heavy uniforms to protect themselves against chemical or biological warfare.

But a novel technology is being developed which has created a liquid repellent coating which prevents toxic agents penetrating soldiers' uniforms.

It could also have wider uses in civilian life such as creating glasses that do not fog, clothes that do not become waterlogged or soldiers who are better equipped for modern warfare.

Porton Down is known as the place where chemical and biological agents are handled.

But it is here that the new technology is being developed to combat chemical and biological warfare.

The secret to the development is cold plasma.

Gases in a chamber are energised by electricity.

Items such as soldiers' uniforms are put in a tube and come out with an invisible coating of flourine which in turn has extraordinary effects.

If a regular uniform is treated with the plasma the surface water behaves like mercury so toxic liquids cannot get through or stick - even liquids that are oil-based.

Stephen Coulson, of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, said: "This could be really effective for our soldiers because they could go about their daily activities with much more ease and much lower heat stress.

"This would mean they could be deployed for much longer."

But to put this new technology into use would need industrial scale production rather than just laboratory trials.

And so the army is seeking private investment.

Tim Rubidge, commercial development manger, is confident that companies will see the commercial advantage.

"Companies gain access to leading defence technologies and ordinary men and women a new range of improved products," he said.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/2827829.stm

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New York Times

March 10, 2003

Pg. 1

U.S. Says Iraq Retools Rockets For Illicit Uses

By John H. Cushman Jr. with Steven R. Weisman

WASHINGTON, March 9 — United Nations weapons inspectors in Iraq recently discovered a new variety of rocket seemingly configured to strew bomblets filled with chemical or biological agents over large areas, United States officials say.

The reconfigured rocket warheads appear to be cobbled together from Iraq's stockpiles of imported or home-built weapons, some which Iraq had used with both conventional and chemical warheads. Iraq contends that it has destroyed all its old chemical warheads, a claim that the inspectors have not verified.

An American official who described the weapon said it was discovered in the last few months, since the United Nations inspectors returned to Iraq in November. At first, he said, Iraq told the inspectors that it was designed as a conventional cluster bomb, which would scatter explosive submunitions over its target, and not as a chemical weapon. A few days later, he said, the Iraqis conceded that some might have been configured as chemical weapons. The distinctive appearance of the rockets' cluster munitions, heavy metal balls with holes in them, suggested their use as a way to disperse chemical or biological weapons, said the official. "If you take the kinds of fuses we know they have, and you screw them in there, when these things come out from the main frame and they explode inward, chemical agents come out," he said.

"These can be used for biological weapons, too," he said.

American officials said the discovery showed that Iraq could not be trusted to cooperate with the inspectors. They provided the information to reinforce the administration's point of view that weapons inspectors found incriminating evidence in Iraq.

The discovery is buttressed by information contained in a detailed, 173-page report by the inspection team, cataloging the history of Iraqi weapons programs and the United Nation's attempts to enforce compliance with its disarmament resolutions over the last 12 years.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said today that the chief inspector for chemical and biological weapons, Hans Blix, should have made more of the evidence in that report when he appeared before the Security Council last week.

"When you look at page after page of what the Iraqis have done over the years to hide, to deceive, to cheat, to keep information away from the inspectors, to change facts to fit the latest issue, and once they put that set of facts before

you, when you find you those facts are false, they come up with a new set of facts — it's a constant pattern," he said on "Fox News Sunday."

Mr. Powell did not mention the rocket, but cited development of drone aircraft capable of dispensing chemical weapons as another example, and hinted that the United States would release more information about prohibited weapons as the Council debates a resolution this week. "That's the kind of thing we're going to be making some news about in the course of the week and point this out," he said. "And there are other things that have been found that I think more can be made of."

According to the detailed report by the inspection team, which was circulated at the United Nations during the Security Council's debate on a new resolution to authorize the use of force against Iraq, Baghdad has a long history of exploring novel approaches for chemical and biological weapons. It remains unclear whether the Iraqi cluster warhead is a newly developed one, devised during the absence of inspectors over the last four years, or whether its existence was kept secret before 1998, when the inspectors left.

The report, a copy of which has been provided to The New York Times, mentions that Iraq was known since 1996 to have been working on new chemical warheads at a facility known as Haidar Farm, where inspectors had discovered caches of documents and other evidence of prohibited programs with which to confront the Iraqi government. Videotapes from Haidar, the report said, showed "personnel conducting tests of a cluster bomb that appears to utilize submunitions based, in part, on 122-millimeter warhead components."

As early as 1988, Iraq subsequently admitted to the United Nations, it had experimented on converting short-range "Frog" rockets with a cluster warhead using aluminum shells and some components from another rocket, the Ababil 50. However, Iraq said that it had done nothing but produce drawings and that no prototypes were built.

When the evidence of those programs from Haidar Farm was analyzed in 1997, intelligence agencies supporting the United Nations weapons inspectors said materials found there included "all the necessary files and specifications to build" an unconventional, probably chemical, warhead for the Frogs.

Photographs, used by an American official to buttress the administration's position on Iraq, were said by the official to depict the newly discovered munitions.

They show a large, cylindrical body of roughly the same size as a conventional Frog missile, with a series of round cluster munitions, about the size of soccer balls or basketballs, set into cavities in the rocket. The official did not say how the photographs were obtained.

The new United Nations report, noting that Iraq had been found able to make chemical warheads for longer-range Scud missiles, said inspectors "assumed" that Iraq could do so for shorter range missiles as well.

Iraq is thought to have produced at least 50 to 75 chemical warheads for ballistic missiles, and inspectors have not confirmed that they were all destroyed. But cluster warheads of this new kind have not been described in a number of documents made public recently by the inspectors or by British and American intelligence agencies.

The report also noted that Iraq still has "significant stocks" of smaller, 122-millimeter warheads similar to those previously used as chemical weapons before the first gulf war. "Iraq's industries appear fully capable of modifying these conventional munitions for use with chemical agents as well as the indigenous production of most or all of their components," the new report from the inspectors said.

The suspect cluster munitions look strikingly different than the photos of 18 empty chemical warheads for 122-millimeter rockets found by inspectors in January of this year at a storage depot southwest of Baghdad and at another depot. Iraq explained that the existence of those warheads had simply been overlooked for many years. This time, the American official said, the inspectors found just one rocket at first.

"Then they found a second, a third, a fourth and a fifth," the official said.

"These are imported," he added. "Then they found Iraq could manufacture these indigenously, so who knows how many they have?"

The new United Nations report describes in considerable detail the inspectors' continuing uncertainty about how much chemical and biological agents Iraq may have retained. Sections of the report suggest that Iraq had tried repeatedly, and sometimes succeeded, in developing agents especially suited for cluster munitions.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/10/international/middleeast/10WEAP.html>

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'91 Iraq Toxics Plan Reported

Hussein was going to launch missiles armed with toxic warheads if Baghdad was hit with nuclear weapons, U.N. inspectors' report says.

By Bob Drogin, Times Staff Writer

UNITED NATIONS -- Saddam Hussein secretly planned to launch 75 missiles armed with chemical or biological warheads during the Persian Gulf War if Baghdad was hit with nuclear weapons, according to a new report by U.N. weapons inspectors.

The Iraqi president authorized his field commanders to unleash a counterattack with 50 Al-Hussein missiles armed with poison gas and 25 armed with deadly microbes. The warheads and the missiles, which could fly 400 miles, were hidden in four places outside the Iraqi capital, the report says.

Iraq fired 88 Scuds at Israel and coalition troops in the Arabian Peninsula during the 1991 conflict, but none carried biological or chemical agents. Hussein's aides told U.N. inspectors that the dictator is convinced that his weapons of mass destruction deterred U.S. and other armies from advancing to Baghdad -- not the lack of a U.N. mandate for doing so after Iraq was forced from Kuwait.

The question that now obsesses the White House, Pentagon planners and intelligence officials is whether Hussein or his aides could and would launch similar weapons -- assuming they still exist -- in the event of a military assault on Baghdad.

Although missiles, aircraft or drone planes also could be used, a U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency report notes that Iraq's "preferred weapon" for short-range chemical or biological attacks is an artillery battery firing 155-millimeter shells that can reach a distance of between 10 and 25 miles.

Using computer software prepared by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, defense analysts also have "war-gamed" such horrific scenarios as a battalion of 75 howitzers on the outskirts of Baghdad firing at U.S. troops with sarin, a colorless and odorless nerve gas, or VX, which can cause death in 15 minutes.

The military software also modeled the potential effect if a U.S. bomb or missile strike hit a facility resulting in the release of an airborne plume of several pounds of anthrax over downtown Baghdad, a sprawling city of nearly 5 million people.

"You'd expect hundreds of thousands of people infected," one official said.

The Pentagon is convinced that Iraq still possesses stockpiles of such weapons, and U.S. troops have been vaccinated, trained and equipped accordingly. U.S. intelligence officials say Hussein has already authorized the use of chemical and biological weapons if he is killed or captured, which would put his younger son, Qusai, in charge. The 173-page U.N. report on "Unresolved Disarmament Issues" does not confirm that assessment. But dense with detail, it includes several dramatic new charges suggesting that Hussein's potential weapons arsenal may be larger than previously believed.

Hans Blix, head of the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, delivered the report Friday to the U.N. Security Council. It has not been released to the public, but The Times obtained a copy.

The U.N. report increases the estimate for Hussein's presumed stockpile of anthrax, for example, from 8,500 liters to 10,000.

"Based on all the available evidence, the strong presumption is that about 10,000 liters of anthrax ... may still exist" and could still be viable, it says.

U.N. inspectors also warned that they may have underestimated the danger of Hussein's aging supply of mustard gas, a systemic poison that blisters the skin and is lethal if inhaled. Recent tests confirmed the "high purity" of sulfur mustard stored in artillery shells for 12 years.

In addition, previous U.N. reports stated that Iraq had not accounted for up to 550 artillery shells and 450 aerial bombs filled with mustard gas. "However, based on a document recently received from Iraq, this quantity could be substantially higher," the report notes. Iraqi officials blame the discrepancy on faulty accounting.

Former U.N. inspectors say the report also reveals new details about Hussein's secret plan to launch chemical and biological weapons if Baghdad had been attacked in 1991. The existence of the 75 "special" warheads was revealed in 1995, and they were subsequently destroyed.

The document catalogs every chemical, biological and missile system Hussein's military is known to have produced over the last three decades. It cites tests with donkeys, sheep and monkeys, and describes one curious program that apparently was abandoned.

In the mid-1980s, according to the report, Iraqi military scientists used animals and other tests to experiment with psychoactive drugs, including PCP, a powerful hallucinogen known as angel dust. No evidence shows that Iraq tried to use PCP as a weapon, however.

The report details what was destroyed during and after the Gulf War, and lists what is still unaccounted for. It then proposes several hundred "actions that Iraq could take" to satisfy U.N. disarmament demands.

Both sides on the deeply divided Security Council have cited portions of the report to bolster the case for or against war. Bush administration officials said it vividly records Hussein's "lies and deceptions," and criticized Blix for not highlighting more of the problems when he spoke to the Security Council on Friday.

"I think he could have done a lot more with respect to noncompliance," Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said on "Fox News Sunday." Powell said the report shows how Baghdad has tried "to hide, to deceive, to cheat, to keep information away from the inspectors" over the last 12 years.

"The problems are still there," he said. "The lies are still there."

U.S. officials were especially concerned about the report's revelation that U.N. inspectors recently found a drone aircraft with a 24 1/2-foot wingspan -- about one-half the size of the U.S. military's Predator -- that Iraq had not officially declared. U.N. teams are trying to determine if the pilotless plane can fly more than 93 miles, the limit set by the U.N.

The report notes that in December, U.N. inspectors also found modified aircraft fuel tanks that could be used as spray tanks on a drone.

Iraq has admitted that in the late 1980s, it sought to convert MIG-21 jets into drones to spray chemical and biological weapons, but abandoned the effort. The program, directed by Hussein's older son, Uday, was resumed in 1995, using Czech L-29 jet trainers.

The U.N. report also sharply faults Iraq for refusing to identify its black-market sources for raw materials, equipment and supplies for its illegal weapons programs. It cites 40 cases where Baghdad has supplied "insufficient information" for biological weapons, 70 for chemical agents and nearly 500 for missiles.

"On many occasions, the imports are simply referred to as coming from the 'local market' or from 'Iraq' when it is clear that the items actually originated from overseas," it says. Many of the components of Iraq's drones and missiles "originated from overseas and the supplier has been inadequately identified."

The inspectors express other frustrations as well.

U.N. teams using ground-penetrating radar so far have not confirmed intelligence reports that Iraq is covertly churning out illegal chemical and biological agents in buried bunkers and other underground facilities "at locations throughout Iraq, from the mountains in the north, to buildings in Baghdad, including a Baghdad hospital."

Similarly, inspectors "cannot discount the possibility" that Iraq has secretly built truck-mounted factories for biological weapons. Iraqi officials "seriously considered" building such facilities in the late 1980s but canceled the project as impractical. U.S. officials, citing defector accounts, insist Iraq has built mobile germ warfare factories.

If war does break out, defense analysts say, Hussein is likely to deploy his best-trained, best-equipped and most loyal security forces in three concentric rings for the defense of Baghdad and the ruling elite.

The 70,000-member Republican Guard is expected to protect the city's three main access roads with tanks and armor as the first line of defense. The 26,000-member Special Republican Guard would hold the vital city center.

The Special Security Organization and a presidential protection unit called the Himayat al-Rais would form the innermost ring to shield Hussein and the 50 or so people around him, the officials say.

The Special Republican Guard is the chief concern. Said to be intensely loyal to Hussein, most members are from the same Tikrit region as the dictator.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/la-fg-weapons10mar10.1.399287.story>

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Newsweek

March 17, 2003

Pg. 32

Can Iraq Hit America?

Iraqi agents have a reputation for being ruthless bunglers. But U.S. intelligence analysts have plenty of reasons to worry

By Daniel Klaidman and Christopher Dickey

In the Baghdad prison known as The Palace of the End, in the first years of Saddam Hussein's reign, his torturers sometimes used a crude but effective biological weapon. They'd take an inmate with tuberculosis, who was coughing blood, and force him to spit into the mouths of others. Not all prisoners caught the disease, but all were infected with the terror.

Now, as Washington threatens to bring Saddam's own reign to an end, U.S. officials are afraid he might use such gruesome tactics against Americans. Outgunned on the traditional battlefield, Saddam is looking to fight back on his own terms. That, according to American officials, could mean any number of terror plots, from isolated assassinations of U.S. citizens overseas to biological or chemical attacks in the American heartland.

Does Saddam Hussein have a covert plan to "flush" his weapons of mass destruction out of Iraq and use them against Americans? And can he pull it off in a meaningful way? It's one thing to experiment on prisoners in your own jails. Staging a biological or chemical attack in the United States or Europe would be a far greater challenge. And when the Iraqis have attempted overseas terror operations in the past, they have often been bunglers. "The Iraqis are the Marx Brothers of intelligence services," says Richard Clarke, a former White House antiterrorism czar. (In one of Saddam's most famous ops, the botched attempt to assassinate former president Bush in Kuwait, he hired a bunch of semiliterate smugglers who left a trail right back to Iraq's intelligence headquarters in Baghdad.) Still, a steady stream of fresh intelligence suggests there are reasons to be worried. Last summer the CIA learned that Baghdad had ordered its spies at the Iraqi Embassy in Ottawa, Canada, to begin using female agents to penetrate Canada's Iraqi emigre community. U.S. officials believe the broader scheme was to infiltrate agents into the United States. "Because of its belief that the U.S. is about to attack Iraq, the Iraqi Intelligence Service is now exploring possible retaliatory responses, including conducting terrorist-style attacks against U.S. targets," said an FBI internal report. Last week, recalling the intelligence, a U.S. counterterrorism source wondered aloud to NEWSWEEK whether an "Iraqi femme fatale" might slip across the border with a vial of smallpox and contaminate thousands of Americans.

In the past few weeks, another strand of intelligence spooked officials. The Pentagon picked up "credible information" that Iraqi operatives were planning to use botulinum toxin to poison American food and water supplies. The information, NEWSWEEK has learned, was one of the factors that led the Bush administration to elevate the national threat level to Code Orange last month. Iraqi intelligence has also "indicated interest" in food-service companies supplying U.S. troops in Kuwait. Military authorities weeded out suspicious employees from the companies, and the food and water are being closely monitored for tampering.

For months, CIA and Iraqi operatives have been engaged in a shadowy cat-and-mouse game. Saddam has deployed hundreds of agents in European and Southeast Asian capitals, where they are suspected of laying the groundwork for possible attacks. "They're waiting for the go-ahead signal from Baghdad," says a knowledgeable intelligence official. In some recent cases, CIA officers and fellow spies from friendly liaison services have watched the Iraqis case potential targets. And last week the Bush administration identified some 300 Iraqi agents working under diplomatic cover and called on 60 countries to expel them, a tactic that worked well in 1991, when the Iraqis had been planning several terrorist strikes in Southeast Asia.

But what kinds of attacks would best suit Baghdad's goals? And how would they fit into Saddam's larger strategic calculation? Some intelligence analysts have predicted a "proxy" strike. The Iraqis would hand off weapons of mass destruction to a surrogate group, perhaps Al Qaeda, and Saddam could plausibly deny involvement. The attacks would knock the Americans off stride and distract them from their goal of toppling the Iraqi regime. Recently a small group of analysts at the CIA whose mission is to forecast Saddam's behavior predicted just such a scenario, calling it the "Iraqi deflection strategy." But evidence that Saddam and Al Qaeda have joined in a strategic terror alliance remains murky, at best. And Saddam has always exhibited a need to exert tight control over his agents. Handing over an important operation to subcontractors might be out of character.

Intelligence officials have increasingly focused on the possibility that Saddam would take a more cautious tack: a strike at military or governmental targets with conventional weapons. Saddam's calculus might be that he could hurt the United States while maintaining some legitimacy. Sources tell NEWSWEEK that Iraqi operatives have scouted targets of opportunity, including the barracks at the U.S. naval base in Bahrain and the Radio Free Europe station in Prague.

The final scenario could be the most dangerous. Saddam, on the brink of humiliating defeat, lashes out with one final, horrific act of terror—a twisted attempt to place his name in the pantheon of Arab heroes who have fought Western invaders. One grisly possibility, however remote: "human pathogens." A small team of Iraqi operatives could be injected with smallpox and sent to America. All they'd have to do is hang out in crowds and slowly die. That's something even bunglers might be able to handle, if they get the chance.

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/882796.asp>

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Philadelphia Inquirer
March 10, 2003

N. Korea Tests Another Missile; U.S. Officials Reject Direct Talks

By Christopher Torchia, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea test-fired a missile into the sea off its east coast today, the second launch in the last two weeks, South Korea's Defense Ministry said.

North Korea also said its interception of a U.S. reconnaissance plane a week ago was an act of self-defense and warned that Southern support for the United States could return inter-Korean ties to a state of confrontation.

There had been indications that North Korea was planning to fire a missile. The Pentagon earlier cited a North Korean warning to ships to stay out of a sector of the Sea of Japan from Saturday to Tuesday.

Maj. Kim Ki-Beom, of the Defense Ministry, said the missile was believed to be an antiship missile similar to one that North Korea test-fired Feb. 24.

In Tokyo, the chief of Japan's Defense Agency, Shigeru Ishiba, said the missile didn't appear to target Japan, but officials there are monitoring the situation.

Meanwhile, South Korea was trying to determine whether the new test was successful. It had said the earlier one was a failure since the missile appeared to have exploded in midair due to defects.

This latest test adds to escalating tensions surrounding Pyongyang's refusal to abandon efforts to develop nuclear weapons. North Korea says it is willing to discuss the matter with the United States, but Washington says the time is not ripe for one-on-one talks.

Any lasting solution to the problem will need the support of Russia, China and other nations, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said yesterday in separate television interviews.

North Korea opposes multilateral talks.

Powell, on Fox News Sunday, said that during his visit to the United Nations last week, he worked with diplomats to develop a multinational approach to North Korea.

In recent months, North Korea has expelled U.N. monitors, withdrawn from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and moved to restart a nuclear reprocessing facility that could produce bombs within months. It is believed to already have one or two bombs.

After North Korean fighter jets intercepted a U.S. reconnaissance plane last weekend, the Pentagon sent 24 bombers to the region. North Korea yesterday accused the United States of plotting an atomic attack against it.

The North's "army and people will take every possible self-defensive measure to cope with the U.S. bellicose forces' new war moves," the state-run KCNA news agency said.

Rice said talks should be held "in a way that will bring maximum pressure on North Korea to actually, this time, not just freeze its weapons of mass destruction, but begin to dismantle them."

Powell noted that, under a 1994 agreement, North Korea froze its plutonium program, then secretly began a separate uranium enrichment program. "We can't fall into that trap again of paying them off to stop what they're doing, only to discover that they're doing it again at a later time."

The Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun reported yesterday that U.S. and North Korean officials held unofficial talks Feb. 20-21 at the North Korean Embassy in Berlin.

Citing an unidentified former U.S. official who attended the meeting, the newspaper said the U.S. officials demanded that Pyongyang dismantle its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon and called for U.N. monitors to return to verify that North Korea was not enriching uranium for its nuclear-weapons program. North Korea rejected the demands, and the meetings ended in disagreement, the newspaper said. Pyongyang had proposed a visit by U.S. nuclear inspectors, it said.

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/nation/5355286.htm>

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Washington Post

March 9, 2003

Pg. 26

'67 Study Discouraged Use Of Nuclear Weapons In Vietnam War

By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer

A secret 1967 government study on the possible use of tactical nuclear weapons in the Vietnam War that was declassified and released yesterday found that the political cost of using such devices far outweighed its military benefits.

"The use of tactical nuclear weapons [TNW] in Southeast Asia would offer the U.S. no decisive military advantage if the use remained unilateral," say the four scientists who carried out the study. And "the political effects of U.S. first use of TNW in Vietnam would be uniformly bad and could be catastrophic."

Freeman Dyson, professor emeritus at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton University and one of the study participants, said recently that the study concluded "that the United States offers any likely adversary much better targets for nuclear weapons than these adversaries offer to the United States."

Relating the study to today's events, Dyson said, "This is even more true in the fight against terrorism than it was in Vietnam," and "the danger of terrorist use of nuclear weapons will remain serious for the foreseeable future, no matter what we do in Iraq."

Peter Hayes, executive director of the Nautilus Institute, a California research group that got the study declassified, said yesterday, "We hope there are advisers in the current government with the wisdom and courage of these scientists, willing to stand up and speak the truth about nuclear weapons." Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld recently knocked down rumors the Pentagon was preparing to use nuclear weapons in Iraq.

The study was undertaken after nuclear scientists working on governmental scientific analyses as part of the so-called Jason Group heard informal remarks by senior military officers about possible use of tactical nuclear weapons.

The 36-year-old study also disclosed the United States was trying to develop a "research earth borer," an air-dropped nuclear bomb that could dig into the ground to a certain depth before exploding.

Designed to create a crater twice the size of a surface burst, the earth borer was described as "a useful weapon for dealing with the deep Viet Cong tunnel systems" that were resistant to conventional bombing.

The United States has a low-yield earth-penetrating bomb in its current nuclear arsenal and is seeking to develop a high-yield "robust earth penetrator" designed to go after deeply buried nuclear or missile production facilities such as those North Korea has in hills and mountains.

Dyson said "the adversary could easily counter their effectiveness by digging a little deeper underground."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A63433-2003Mar8.html>

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Washington Times

March 11, 2003

Pg. 1

Blix Left Out Data From U.N. Testimony

His report cites germ-war assets

By Rowan Scarborough, The Washington Times

The White House yesterday questioned why chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix omitted from his public testimony that Iraq is developing combat drones and cluster bombs capable of unleashing chemical and biological agents.

Those details were contained in Mr. Blix's new written report to the U.N. Security Council that was released yesterday. The report also says Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein continues to deceive inspectors about the fate of chemical and biological weapons, including deadly anthrax.

The head of an anti-Saddam group said Mr. Blix's only motive for leaving out the data in his public testimony Friday was to defeat a pending U.S. resolution to authorize an invasion of Iraq.

"It is hard to believe that Blix's Friday statement was based on this devastating written report," said Randy Scheunemann, president of the Committee for the Liberation of Iraq, a Washington-based group of current and former U.S. government officials.

"He managed not to mention a new missile type, and a drone, which are clear smoking guns, and he ignored pages of evidence with dozens of examples of Iraqi noncompliance in every facet of their [weapons of mass destruction] programs."

He added: "Blix's only agenda can be enabling Saddam's defense lawyers in Paris to thwart the U.S. in the Security Council."

At the White House, Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said, "There are outstanding questions, and all members of the Security Council, I think it's safe to say, look forward to hearing the answers."

Asked whether the Bush administration believed that Mr. Blix had deliberately left important items out of his testimony, Mr. Fleischer said, "That's why there are questions, and I'm sure those questions will get answered." His comment came the same day that agency led by Mr. Blix, the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (Unmovic), released a 173-page report to augment the chief inspector's highly publicized statement before the Security Council.

The Swedish diplomat did not mention the drones or the bombs, both of which are banned under a U.N. cease-fire agreement with Baghdad 12 years ago.

Mr. Blix said in a statement last night that the existence of the pilotless aircraft is not a "smoking gun" and said nothing yet showed that the drones are linked to illegal weapons programs.

"We are investigating what the drones are," he said.

U.S. officials said in private yesterday that the developments show that Iraq is violating U.N. resolutions and perhaps represent the "smoking gun" that might persuade more nations to back President Bush on an invasion of Iraq to topple Saddam.

But the administration remained diplomatic in public, refusing to specifically criticize Mr. Blix.

Outside analysts who support overthrowing Saddam to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction were not as diplomatic.

"The single most devastating discovery that the inspectors have come across was omitted from Blix's verbal discussion at the U.N.," said retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Buster Glosston, who designed the Operation Desert Storm air war during the 1991 Persian Gulf campaign and has written a book, "War with Iraq: Critical Lessons."

"They hid it in the back pages of their report, that being the drones and bombs that have the capacity of dispensing biological and chemical weapons."

On the drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles, the written report said, "Recent inspections have also revealed the existence of a drone with a wingspan of 7.45 [meters] that has not been declared by Iraq."

Iraq contends its L-29 drone can travel only 30 miles. But Unmovic says the system can fly more than 95 miles, in violation of U.N. resolutions, and is designed to carry tanks that can spray biological and chemical weapons.

"Here are the inspectors now finding a whole new system of pilotless vehicles that Iraq could be developing for dispersal of chemical and biological weapons, another indication they're still working on that," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

On the cluster munition, the written report said that video at a test center, Haidar Farms, "shows ... personnel conducting tests of a cluster bomb that appears to utilize submunitions based, in part, on 122-mm warhead components.

"Iraq has been vague as to exactly how many field tests with 122-mm rocket warheads occurred and the number of warheads involved," the report says.

It also disputes Iraqi assertions, such as the following:

*It destroyed thousands of gallons of anthrax.

Baghdad did not return biological agents to their home facilities after deploying them in the 1991 war.

"It ... seems highly probable that the destruction of bulk agent, including anthrax, stated by Iraq to be at Al Hakam in July/August 1991, did not occur," the report says. "Based on all the available evidence, the strong presumption is that about 10,000 liters of anthrax was not destroyed and may still exist."

*It destroyed 15 biological warheads.

The report says Iraq's assertions conflicted with physical evidence collected at the supposed destruction site.

"This suggests that some special warheads were retained for a period and, if so, it would be logical to assume that some missiles and associated propellant might also have been retained," the report states.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/default-20033111737.htm>

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New York Times

March 11, 2003

U.S. Says Blix Played Down Details Of Banned Weapons

By Steven R. Weisman

WASHINGTON, March 10 — The Bush administration, pressing its campaign on Iraq at the United Nations Security Council, voiced concern today that the United Nations weapons inspectors had not done more to highlight their findings about banned weapons during the current round of inspections.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and others in the administration said weapons inspectors had found evidence of a pilotless drone aircraft and cluster bombs that could spew chemical and biological agents.

Information about those weapons was in a report released by Hans Blix, one of the two chief inspectors, on Friday night but not highlighted in his oral report. Some of the information, and the administration's view that it is incriminating against Iraq, was reported in The New York Times today.

Although some American officials admitted to being skeptical about what the report proves, some administration officials expressed frustration with Mr. Blix for, in their view, playing down this material.

"I think we should be concerned," Mr. Powell said. He added that "this information on the drones" was available only last week "and should be of concern to everyone."

A fact sheet put out by the State Department this evening said Mr. Blix's inspectors discovered a drone aircraft with a wingspan of 24 feet and containing a "drop tank system," or spraying mechanism that could be used to spread lethal germs.

The inspectors said that Iraq's explanation of the spray tanks raised suspicions about their purposes and that their use for chemical and biological arms "may still exist."

Ari Fleischer, the White House spokesman, said there was concern in the administration that drones with chemical or biological weapons could be used against American troops in coming weeks.

The State Department also cited the existence of more R-400 bombs, which could carry chemical or biological agents, than Iraq had at first declared. Iraq said it had 1,200 and then increased the number to 1,550. But the administration says it has not fully accounted for its stockpile.

Mr. Blix briefed members of the Security Council on those and other findings at the United Nations today. After the consultations he said that Iraq should have declared the drone but that his team still had to determine whether it was permitted, Reuters reported today. Asked about American criticism of his stance, he said, "Everyone tries to squeeze us to get as much mileage as they can."

It was hard to tell today what effect the new information would have on the difficulties encountered by the United States in rounding up votes for a Security Council resolution that would threaten Iraq with war if it does not disarm. On one hand, administration officials said Mr. Blix's 173-page report, which contained the information cited today, clearly indicated that President Saddam Hussein was trying to conceal his weapons.

On the other hand, some at the United Nations said the report demonstrated the wisdom of letting Mr. Blix continue the inspections on the ground that his team was actually finding the banned arms.

A State Department official disputed that notion. "The inspections are actually finding things that are prohibited," the official said. "But it also shows that they're finding that stuff only by luck, tiny piece by tiny piece. That's not the way this was supposed to work. We don't want to take another 50 years to accomplish this task."

How the Blix document became the focus of the administration's new drive was a complicated story itself, the administration officials said.

The document, they said, was never intended to be published and functioned as a kind of "working paper" for Mr. Blix and the other chief inspector, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei.

A few weeks ago, France, Germany and other Council members who favor extending the inspections began agitating for Mr. Blix to come up with a series of "tasks" or "benchmarks" by which to measure progress in inspecting and disarming Iraq. Mr. Blix responded by preparing a paper that clustered those tasks into 29 categories. At first the United States feared that the document would become "a handy-dandy little tool" to contend that disarmament had taken place when it had not.

Then late last week, American officials began perusing the document and, they say, found evidence in it of the points they were trying to make — that Iraq possessed banned weapons and that it had made great efforts to conceal them. Mr. Blix, in their view, spoke of those efforts in dry language that effectively concealed the evidence of concealment.

Administration officials have become openly vexed with Mr. Blix, though some acknowledge he is just doing his job by speaking about the evidence in a neutral way. But they said a more explicit acknowledgment of Iraq's efforts to evade its obligations to disarm would make it easier to secure votes at the United Nations for a possible war.

There is also skepticism about how much the document proves. A defense official said the drones described in the report might not be an effective means to deliver biological or chemical agents because they are too small and must carry a large amount to be effective. "They're just a lousy way to do it," he said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/11/international/middleeast/11DRON.html>

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Iraq Drone Scrapped After U.N. Inspection

Chemical-Delivery Aircraft Not Divulged

By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer

Iraq tried to dismantle an undeclared new drone aircraft last week after it was discovered by inspectors from the United Nations, according to U.N. and U.S. officials.

Inspectors from the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) first discovered the remote piloted vehicle, or RPV, at the Samarra East flight-test facility north of Baghdad in mid-February, officials said. With a wingspan of almost 25 feet, the RPV could have a range far in excess of the 150 kilometers (93 miles) allowed by U.N. regulations.

The inspectors raised questions about the drone last Tuesday when they visited the Ibn Farnas Center in northern Baghdad, where RPVs and other unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are developed and produced. When they returned to the flight-test site the next day for another look at the large drone, they found two such RPVs -- and found the Iraqis dismantling one of them, as well as two smaller RPVs, according to a senior administration official. "They apparently did not expect the inspectors," the official said.

Under last November's U.N. resolution, Iraq was required to declare UAV and RPV aircraft because Baghdad had experimented with them in the 1980s and 1990s as delivery vehicles for chemical or biological agents. The RPV being dismantled had been fabricated from the fuel tank of one of those vehicles, an L-29 Czech-made small airplane. Hans Blix, UNMOVIC's executive director, reported Friday to the Security Council that his inspectors had raised questions with Iraq about its unmanned aircraft. But U.S. officials yesterday took public issue with his failure to disclose the problem encountered last week, calling it an example of Iraq's refusal to cooperate and disarm.

In a closed Security Council meeting yesterday, Blix defended his handling of the issue, saying he does not report on all new findings by inspectors. Although the newly designed RPV should have been declared, he said, it was not certain it would be proscribed since it still may be just a "prototype."

The first public indication of the new RPV came yesterday when UNMOVIC put on its Web site the 173-page document Blix gave privately to Security Council members last Friday, which was entitled "Unresolved Disarmament Issues, Iraq's Proscribed Weapons Programs."

In that document, Blix outlined dozens of other unresolved issues involving Iraq's weapons, and possible ways the Baghdad government could solve outstanding issues.

Iraq considered RPVs as potential delivery vehicles for biological warfare agents as early as 1988, but the idea was rejected at the time because it was believed the drones could not carry enough of the agent to be effective. Hussein Kamal, the son-in-law of Saddam Hussein who defected from Baghdad in 1995, told U.N. inspectors and U.S. interrogators that he had looked at long-range RPVs as a way to slowly distribute chemical or biological agents on Israel.

In its Dec. 7, 2002, declaration to the U.N. of its weapons of mass destruction, Iraq reported it had developed two RPVs that could fly only up to an hour. More recently, it discovered another RPV that was not declared with the 7.45-meter wingspan, which inspectors were told had been test-flown.

In its recent document, UNMOVIC said Iraq should provide "credible evidence" for the purposes of the RPVs. That includes names of the Iraqis who worked on them and foreign suppliers involved in the project, along with details of importation of the engines, guidance systems and airframes.

That information, the document says, could assist in determining whether Iraq plans to make the RPVs "capable of carrying chemical or biological agents."

Iraq declared in its 2002 statement that it had done test work on a drop tank -- an external fuel tank -- that could be used for spraying chemical or biological agents in early 1990 and 1991. In its declarations to previous U.N. inspectors, Baghdad asserted it destroyed the tanks after the Persian Gulf War, stating they were never deployed or used.

In 1998, Iraq admitted to the previous U.N. inspectors it earlier had attempted to use a drop tank with a remotely piloted fighter plane, either a Russian-made MIG or a French Mirage. UNMOVIC in its new report said spraying devices modified for chemical weapons "may still exist in Iraq," along with a large number of drop tanks. In addition, Iraq has many agricultural aircraft spray systems identical to those modified in the 1990s to dispense biological agents.

UNMOVIC is calling upon Iraq to provide documentation on spray devices for use with the RPVs, along with all procurement records for such devices.

During yesterday's closed council session, John D. Negroponte, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nation, called the new-design drone a "linear development" in Baghdad's pursuit of chemical and biological weapons, and a potential "serious violation" of the U.N. resolution.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7824-2003Mar10.html>

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Washington Post

March 11, 2003

Pg. 16

Iranians Assert Right To Nuclear Weapons

Issue Unites Conservatives, Reformers

By Karl Vick, Washington Post Foreign Service

TEHRAN -- While maintaining that their country is not developing nuclear weapons, Iranians argue strenuously and with rare unanimity that they have a right to such weapons, to balance Israel's arsenal and as a manifestation of national pride.

Iran's defense of its right to obtain nuclear arms cuts across the country's deep political divide, recent interviews here showed, uniting the conservative clerics who occupy powerful appointive offices and the elected reformers who challenge the conservatives on most topics. Leading theoreticians at opposite poles find common ground articulating a national ambition that diplomats warn could hold the seeds of a crisis if it is realized.

"Are nuclear weapons bad?" asked Amir Mohebian, an unofficial adviser to Iran's supreme leader, the conservative Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "Why don't you make the same protest against Israel?"

"It's basically a matter of equilibrium," said Mostafa Tajzadeh, a leading theorist in the reform movement that controls Iran's parliament. "On the one hand Israel says, 'If I don't have it, I don't have security.' And we say, 'As long as Israel has it, we don't have security.'"

"We believe the way to deal with Israel's expansionism is to democratize the region," Tajzadeh said. "But while things are the way they are, public opinion in Muslim countries, and in Iran, is not going to be against having nuclear weapons."

U.S. officials have expressed surprise and alarm at the rate Iran has been developing its nuclear capabilities, after they were briefed by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency following inspections last month. The U.N. inspectors toured new nuclear facilities that Iran had revealed "only when asked about them," said a foreign diplomat in the Iranian capital. "If they had peaceful intentions, there's no reason why they shouldn't declare them from the start."

The inspections determined that a new complex in the central desert town of Natanz could be producing enriched uranium in three years, and experts say the material could be diverted to make nuclear bombs. Independent experts said satellite photos show a facility under construction near the town of Arak that appears to be a heavy water reactor. Another reactor at Bushehr, on the Persian Gulf, being built with Russian help and fuel, is scheduled to go on line this year, Iranian officials have said.

Iran maintains that its ambitious nuclear program is geared only toward energy. As a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, officials note, Iran can rely on nuclear power to supply 20 percent of its energy needs under IAEA guidelines, despite its vast natural gas and petroleum reserves.

"We do need nuclear energy," said Mohebian, an editor at the conservative newspaper Resalat. "Because of an incorrect distribution of people around the country, we do have certain problems."

But during interviews, he and others moved quickly to other explanations. "The Americans say, in order to preserve the peace for my children, I should have nuclear weapons and you shouldn't have them," Mohebian said.

"It's a double standard," said Shirzad Bozorgmehr, the reformist editor of Iran News, an English-language daily. "If a signatory of the non-proliferation treaty is subscribing to the so-called community of civilized nations, then why has Israel not been sanctioned?"

"I hope we get our atomic weapons," Bozorgmehr said. "If Israel has it, we should have it. If India and Pakistan do, we should, too."

Hostility toward Israel, which is widely understood to have nuclear weapons, is a touchstone of Iranian politics. It is also an impediment to restoring diplomatic relations with the United States, severed after the 1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

The United States has put Iran on its list of nations that support or sponsor terrorism. But U.S. officials say it was pursuit of weapons of mass destruction that assured Iran a place on President Bush's "axis of evil," along with Iraq

and North Korea. The designation infuriated and dismayed Iran's political establishment, coming just weeks after the two governments had cooperated in the campaign against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

"It's interesting to see Iranian reactions," said the foreign diplomat. "I think it's just sinking in now that 'axis of evil' was as much about weapons of mass destruction as about terrorism."

To Iranians, however, joining the nuclear club is also about pride. The country known through most of its 2,500-year history as Persia has the self-regard of an empire.

"Iran is a unique country," said Sayed Asadullah Maryan, an adviser to the Defense Ministry. "No country in the region has our history and culture and civilization. If the Americans understood us, they would know, as with India and Pakistan, how difficult it is to live under the nuclear shadow of Russia and the nuclear shadow of Israel."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7694-2003Mar10.html>

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Boston Globe
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Pg. 7

Cautious Kuwaitis Prepare For Chemical, Biological Attacks

By Thanassis Cambanis, Globe Staff

MISHREF, Kuwait -- There's one nightmare scenario that drives Kuwaiti residents like Ibraheem Nader and Kerry Sellers to consider fleeing their home ahead of a possible US-led invasion of Iraq: Saddam Hussein, with nothing left to lose, launches missiles loaded with nerve gas or blister agents onto this gleaming city, sowing panic and leaving a trail of disfigured and dead Kuwaitis.

But like many Kuwaitis who can afford to, they have chosen to stay equipped with thousands of dollars in gas masks and chemical protection suits they bought in December in the United States. In fact, the masks they ordered nearly two months ago finally cleared customs here over the weekend.

"It's basically the end for Saddam, so he's going to go out with a bang," Nader said. "Our only fear is of a chemical attack."

Their anxiety underlies a problem taken as seriously by the Kuwaiti government as by the 130,000 American and British soldiers stationed in Kuwait. Heavily equipped military specialists began high-visibility chemical detection patrols in downtown Kuwait City yesterday.

Coalition forces stand at permanent alert for a chemical or biological attack, gas masks hanging ready in hip pouches.

And under the auspices of the US-led Consequence Management Joint Task Force -- the military term for coping with the aftermath of such a nuclear, biological, or chemical attack -- a battalion of Czech and Slovak specialists has set up shop in a fairground here to patrol residential areas and military installations.

Their mission is to look for early signs of any chemical or biological attack, and immediately decontaminate affected areas and treat victims. And while much of their efforts have been geared toward reassuring jittery Kuwaitis, the battalion plans to deploy some of its assets to Iraq in the event of war to help military personnel and civilians vulnerable to a chemical or biological attack.

The Kuwaiti government originally invited the Czech battalion as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, America's global operation against terror following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. They have recently augmented their forces, adding 70 soldiers from Slovakia in anticipation of a conflict in the Gulf.

"With the military concentration in Kuwait, and the importance of Kuwait for coalition forces, I believe it is a possible target," said Colonel Dusan Lupuljev, the Czech commander of the elite detection and decontamination unit that has begun aggressive patrols in Kuwait City and around coalition bases in recent weeks.

"I think the threat from terrorists and other sabotage groups is real and high," Lupuljev said.

The 465 soldiers under his command circle sensitive areas in armed vehicles rigged with sensitive equipment that can "sniff out" and identify radioactivity and chemical and biological agents.

The noncombatant battalion's main mission will be to provide treatment and decontamination if a nuclear, biological, or chemical attack is unleashed in Kuwait. However, the Czech Republic, a member of NATO, has also authorized the unit to enter Iraq and aid victims in the event of a chemical attack there.

"If people start dying and we don't know why, then we go there," said Czech Ambassador Jana Hybaskova, who has worked closely with the Kuwaiti government to prepare for a possible attack on civilians here.

Standing ready at the fairgrounds south of downtown Kuwait City are the battalion's nearly 100 specialized vehicles, including mobile laboratories and trucks that can decontaminate 1,000 people an hour.

To quell fears, the US command has produced a commercial for Kuwaiti public television advertising the chemical detection patrols.

Kuwait's Interior Ministry has been running civil defense drills, accustoming people to the sound of warning sirens. In recent weeks, they've also sent text messages to all cellphone users, with instructions like: "The safety and security of our country is your responsibility. Be prepared to protect it."

There's also a free hot line with instructions on how to respond to a nuclear, biological, or chemical attack.

At the Sultan Center, an upscale supermarket in Kuwait City where Cuban cigars and Alaskan smoked salmon line the shelves along with local fruits, vegetables, and kitchenware, a display went up this week offering Dupont Chemical Warfare Suits. Advertised as a "best buy" at five dinar -- about \$17 -- the suits attracted immediate attention from nervous shoppers.

During the last Gulf War, Nader was away on vacation, but Sellers spent six harrowing weeks in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait City before being evacuated. Still, she refuses to leave now in anticipation of a war she expects to begin any day, despite her husband's encouragement.

Sellers and Nader spent about \$5,000 equipping their extended family with chemical protection suits. They got a special gas mask fitted for their 9-month-old daughter, Faye, and learned how to build a positive pressure tent, which forces air out of an enclosed space to prevent chemical contamination.

"It's like insurance," Sellers said.

Scott Bernard Nelson of the Globe staff contributed to this article.

http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=0F9B2786B4A28091&p_docnum=2

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Philadelphia Inquirer

March 11, 2003

Global Talks Seek To Prevent Dirty Bomb

By Charles J. Hanley, Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria - Scientists, police commanders and government officials from more than 100 countries are converging on Vienna for the world's first "dirty bomb" conference, searching for ways to head off the threat of simple weapons that spread radiation and chaos.

Governments are concerned. A recent U.S. experts' report concludes that tens of thousands of the most dangerous radiation sources worldwide - used to treat cancer, find oil deposits, disinfect food - may be insufficiently protected.

A so-called dirty bomb - conventional explosives combined with radioactive material - has yet to be detonated anywhere. But the al-Qaeda terror network is reported to have been interested in trying such a weapon.

When it comes to safeguarding cesium, strontium and other radiation sources, "what may have been sufficient in the past may or may not be now," U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said in an interview ahead of today's conference opening.

A global defense

His deputies acknowledge the dirty-bomb threat was rarely even thought of before the Sept. 11 attacks.

The worry is not that a large number of people might die immediately but that the spread of radiation might cause panic because of fear of long-term illness, making sections of cities uninhabitable for years.

The three-day gathering of world experts, sponsored by the U.S. and Russian governments, has an ambitious agenda in laying plans for a global defense against the bombs, known technically as radiological dispersal devices.

The more than 600 technical specialists, customs, and other law-enforcement officers, regulatory officials and others will explore ways to identify the most threatening forms of radiation sources.

They also will discuss how to find abandoned radioactive material, keep track of sources in use, combat smuggling of such material, and respond to the detonation of a dirty bomb in a congested city.

A prime concern is the former Soviet Union.

The United States, Russia, and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency in June announced a joint effort to trace and secure unknown numbers of radiation sources left in former Soviet states a decade ago after that union collapsed.

Thousands of sources

These include, for example, highly radioactive strontium-90 batteries used for remotely placed aviation beacons.

Abraham and his Russian counterpart, Atomic Energy Minister Alexander Rumyantsev, are expected to discuss what progress has been made when they appear at the conference today.

The recent experts' report, which said "several tens of thousands" of sources may be at risk worldwide, also noted problems in the United States, particularly lack of controls on U.S. exports of radioactive material.

Researchers of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies, at California's Monterey Institute of International Studies, said such isotopes could be shipped from the United States to such terrorism-afflicted nations as Afghanistan and Colombia without any certification that the end user is legitimate and will protect the material from theft or misuse. Such export controls in the United States and other nations "could rapidly ensure that the considerable majority of high-risk radiation sources in use around the world are properly protected against misuse," said the 73-page report issued in January.

The U.S. government reported last year that nearly 1,500 such items were believed lost or stolen in the United States since 1996.

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/nation/5361968.htm>

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