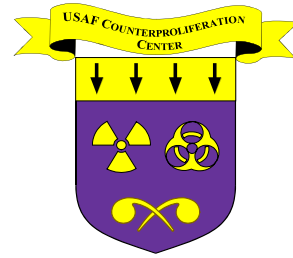


#257

30 April 2003

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.

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CONTENTS

[Egyptian sailor dies in Brazil from anthrax-police](#)
[North Korea's Threats Prod China Toward U.S.](#)
[U.S. Still Has Not Found Iraqi Arms](#)
[Bush Believes Saddam Destroyed Arms](#)
[Regime's Priority Was Blueprints, Not Arsenal, Defector Told U.N.](#)
[Franks Foresees A Weapons Hunt At 'Several Thousand Sites'](#)
[U.S. Military Captures Iraqi Arms Monitor](#)
[Suspicious Discovery Apparently Wasn't Chemical Weapons](#)
[Second Test Positive For Nerve Agent](#)
[U.S. Plans To Add To Teams In Hunt For Iraqi Weapons](#)
[Leading Iraqi Scientist Says He Lied To U.N. Inspectors](#)
[Determination On Iraq Chemical Waits For Analysis](#)
[Truck Is Tested For Biological Agents](#)
[U.S. Accuses Tehran Of Secret Nuke Program](#)
[North Korea Said To Offer Small Nuclear Steps, At A Price](#)
[China Puts North Korea Talks In Brighter Light](#)
[Pentagon Overhauls 'Diffuse' Chem/Bio Defense Management](#)
[Anthrax Suspected In Death On Ship](#)
[U.S. Rejects Demands Made By North Korea](#)
[Report: Iraqi Scientist Says Bioweapons Destroyed](#)
[Army Finishes Johnston Atoll Waste Cleanup](#)
[Anthrax Did Not Kill Seaman](#)
['Peaceful' Nuclear Power Fuels Spread Of Weapons](#)
[Will NY lab shift to terror research?](#)
[TA terror plan: Cut and run](#)

28 Apr 2003 17:06:05 GMT

CORRECTED -

Egyptian sailor dies in Brazil from anthrax-police

In BRASILIA, Brazil, story headlined "Egyptian sailor dies in Brazil from anthrax-police," please read in 3rd paragraph ... said Fernando Sergio Castro ... instead of ... said Castro ... (adds full name)

A corrected story follows

BRASILIA, Brazil, April 28 (Reuters) - A crew member of an Egyptian merchant ship has died in northern Brazil, almost certainly from anthrax, after opening a suitcase suspected of containing the substance which he was taking to Canada.

A spokesman for Brazilian federal police in the Amazon state of Para said on Monday an autopsy of the Egyptian man, whom he named as Ibrahim Saved Soliman Ibrahim, showed that he had died after vomiting, internal bleeding and multiple organ failure.

"He was the victim of anthrax," said Fernando Sergio Castro, adding that police were 90 percent certain that Ibrahim had died of anthrax.

Ibrahim died in the hotel where he was staying on April 11. Several health workers who found his body were taken to a hospital after becoming ill but are now out of danger.

Ibrahim had traveled to Brazil from Cairo to join his ship, the Wabi Alaras, which loaded bauxite in the Amazon to take to Canada.

"We imagine that this is about bioterrorism and Brazil was just used as a point of transfer," said Castro.

Ibrahim died before his ship sailed to Canada, where it was quarantined by authorities last week.

Canada was alerted about the ship through Interpol.

Castro said Ibrahim had been given the suitcase in Cairo by an unidentified person and was due to deliver it to somebody in Canada. But he doubted Ibrahim knew what the content of the bag was otherwise he most likely would not have opened it.

"He opened it because he was curious," Castro said.

After the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, five people died in still-unsolved anthrax mailings.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N28358509.htm>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Washington Post

April 26, 2003

Pg. 1

North Korea's Threats Prod China Toward U.S.

Nuclear Gamesmanship Antagonizes Beijing

By Glenn Kessler and John Pomfret, Washington Post Staff Writers

North Korea's declaration this week that it possesses a nuclear arsenal and might sell some of it to the highest bidder has put new pressure on China to rein in its longtime ally, Chinese and U.S. officials said yesterday.

For U.S. officials, the grim news from three-way talks in Beijing was tempered by the realization that their long struggle to draw the Chinese into a campaign against North Korea might suddenly bear fruit. For months, China has been viewed in Washington as a roadblock, unwilling to engage North Korea and actively thwarting action at the U.N. Security Council. Now, officials said, they hope to go back to the United Nations with Chinese support for demanding an end to North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

The talks in Beijing this week, which the Chinese had actively sought, "turned into a debacle for them," said a senior administration official. "The problem of nuclear weapons in the Korean Peninsula is more concrete than they thought before."

In Beijing, where Chinese diplomats this week were congratulating themselves on their country's new activism in bringing the United States and North Korea together, there was little disagreement with the U.S. analysis. "This is a shock," said Shi Yinong, an international relations expert in Beijing. "China will never allow a nuclear weapon in North Korea."

But experts said China also faced a dilemma as it contemplated its next move. It cannot accept a nuclear North Korea, which poses a risk to its own security, but neither can it press so hard that the North Korean government collapses. That could flood China with refugees and bring U.S. troops now based in South Korea to its border.

Shi and other experts have argued that China needs to consider modifying its strong support for North Korea. "A lot of us are telling the government that we, too, need to support regime change," said a Chinese analyst who has advised the government. "But the government is afraid to change."

China provides 70 percent of the oil that the North consumes and most of its rice and vegetables. While Chinese officials routinely express exasperation that the secretive government of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il refuses to undertake economic reforms, they have continued to help bankroll his government.

Yesterday, Chinese officials were smarting over the North Koreans' behavior at the Beijing discussions. "This was supposed to be China's show," an Asian diplomat said. "They arranged these talks and then the North Koreans show up and ruin the party."

The senior U.S. official said that China had blocked action at the United Nations on the grounds that the best course would be to address the issue outside the U.N. body, which the North Koreans see as hostile. Beijing would be a more suitable venue, Chinese contended.

But during the talks "the Chinese were insulted by the North Koreans," he said, and so that rationale has disappeared.

A Chinese official said Beijing did not understand North Korea's negotiating tactic. "The North has its own logic," he said, repeating a phrase that Chinese officials have used often recently in describing their long-standing ally.

A senior South Korean Foreign Ministry official said China's position at the Beijing talks was awkward from the start. Despite years of close ties, China is not really trusted by North Korea, whose government is steeped in an ideology of self-reliance and during the Cold War years swung back and forth between fealty to China and the Soviet Union.

U.S. officials say that during a break in the talks, a North Korean delegate pulled aside the senior U.S. official and declared that his country has nuclear weapons and might export them or conduct a "physical demonstration."

Though it was not clear whether the North Koreans truly had such weapons, the statement has caused an uproar in Washington; President Bush responded that the North was "back to the old blackmail game."

North Korean officials also asserted they had nearly completed the reprocessing of 8,000 spent fuel rods into weapons-grade plutonium, a fact not yet confirmed by U.S. intelligence.

A statement yesterday by a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman, carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, contained nothing about the country possessing nuclear weapons, but said that the ministry's negotiator at the talks, Li Gun, had "set out a new proposal for the settlement of the nuclear issue."

The statement gave no details, but U.S. officials said that North Korea in effect proposed restoring the 1994 agreement that had frozen the nuclear reactor it restarted this year, a course unacceptable to the Bush administration.

The North Korean statement issued yesterday said that the U.S. delegates ignored the proposal. The United States "repeated its old assertion that [North Korea] should 'scrap its nuclear program before dialogue' without advancing any new proposal at the talks," the statement said. "And it persistently avoided the discussion on the essential issues to be discussed between both sides."

In Washington, advocates of a tough approach to the communist state said North Korea's tactics had strengthened their hand in internal debates. "Powell got his meeting, Rumsfeld got his result," said one official, referring to Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. Of the two, Powell has been more amenable to trying to engage the North Koreans.

"People are questioning whether North Korea is serious about negotiating," he added.

"There have been two strikes now," said another official, referring to a previous meeting with the North Koreans in October. "Who knows if there will be a third meeting?"

But another senior official, from the other side of the administration debate, cautioned that "it is way too soon for anyone to say decisively where the policy is going." He said U.S. officials would spend the next week digesting the talks, "figuring out what is rhetoric and what is real." He described the talks in Beijing as an "initial meeting," adding that "we have not even begun to negotiate."

Representatives of the three countries met together only on Wednesday, the first day of the three-day session. After that, the North Koreans insisted on meeting with the Americans one-on-one before another joint meeting could be held, U.S. officials said. When James A. Kelly, the U.S. representative, called Washington for instructions, he was quickly told to reject any bilateral talks.

Bush has insisted that any talks with North Korea be conducted in the presence of officials from other countries, and one of Kelly's key instructions was to press North Korea to accept South Korea and Japan in any future talks. As a result of the impasse over the talks' form, the Americans did not meet with the North Koreans again until a brief goodbye session yesterday.

Pomfret reported from Beijing. Correspondent Doug Struck in Seoul contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A39308-2003Apr25.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Washington Post
April 26, 2003
Pg. 14

U.S. Still Has Not Found Iraqi Arms

Search Goes On for Weapons Powell Cited

By Walter Pincus, Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States has yet to find weapons of mass destruction at any of the locations that Secretary of State Colin L. Powell cited in his key presentation to the United Nations Security Council in February, according to U.S. officials. Powell's speech on Feb. 5 signaled the end of the Bush administration's support of continued U.N. weapons inspections and set the stage for military action by providing information he said showed Iraq was in continued violation of Security Council resolutions that required it to disarm. The secretary told the council he was sharing "what the United States knows about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction as well as Iraq's involvement in terrorism." Powell said last week he was "reasonably sure" that U.S. forces "will find them [weapons]." In a PBS interview, he added, "I spent four days and nights of my life in the days before my presentation in February with the intelligence community, at the highest levels, going over everything that I was to present to make sure that the entire community agreed on that information, and they did."

In the 38 days since U.S. and British troops invaded Iraq, however, military forces have yet to produce any of the weaponry or chemical or biological agents Powell described, nor have they produced Iraqi scientists with evidence about them, officials said.

They also have not turned up anything to support Powell's claim to the Security Council that "nearly two dozen" al Qaeda terrorists lived in and operated from Baghdad.

President Bush, who less than two months ago said Iraq's deposed leader, Saddam Hussein, "possesses weapons of terror" and was providing "safe haven to terrorists who would willingly use weapons of mass destruction," on Thursday told NBC's Tom Brokaw that "time and investigation" will be needed to prove both allegations. U.S. Central Command, which is running the war, has dispatched special units to search sites where U.S. intelligence agencies said it was highly probable that proscribed weapons would be found. There have been several early published reports from these teams about possible weapons or chemical finds, but each one of them has so far been discounted.

"First reports from the field are almost always incorrect," a senior Defense Department intelligence official said.

"Second reports generally compound the problem and only with the third report do we start to begin to make some sense out of [the find]."

"We are being enormously careful," this senior aide said, recognizing how important it will be to be accurate in showing Hussein did have weapons of mass destruction. He repeated Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's regular statement to reporters that the Iraqis had 12 years to learn how to hide weapons and it is going to take a long time to find them.

One of Powell's most dramatic disclosures was that while the Security Council was debating a resolution authorizing renewed weapons inspections last November, the United States "knew from sources that a missile brigade outside Baghdad was dispersing rocket launchers and warheads containing biological warfare agents . . . to various locations in western Iraq." He went on to say that "most of the launchers and warheads had been hidden in large groves of palm trees and were to be moved every one to four weeks to escape detection."

None of those weapons have been found, a senior administration official said yesterday. Searches have been conducted in western Iraq without any successes. U.S. forces attacked the missile brigade along with Iraqi Special Republican Guard units that Bush administration officials told reporters in the weeks before the war had received chemical weapons. "We don't know where those people are," the official said, but added that U.S. military personnel in Iraq may be looking for them.

Another part of Powell's presentation focused on an electronic intercept of a conversation between two Republican Guard Corps commanders. They were talking to each other "just a few weeks ago," Powell said, and discussed removing the discussion of "nerve agents wherever it comes up" in wireless instructions, in anticipation of U.N. inspectors' arrival.

U.S. intelligence knew the locations of the two commanders and probably their names. "We don't know where they are," one official said yesterday. The sites where they were talking from were on priority lists for searching, another senior analyst said.

Powell detailed Iraq's use of mobile laboratories to produce chemical or biological weapons as a way of avoiding discovery. He displayed diagrams to show their interiors. The information came from an Iraqi chemical engineer who had seen one of them and witnessed an accident in which 12 technicians died from exposure to biological agents. This defector, and three others, presented independent information, Powell said, that proved Iraq had "at least seven of these mobile biological agent factories" and that each of the truck-mounted factories had at least two or three trucks each.

None of the truck laboratories has been discovered and none of the defectors has come forward. "They are not likely to appear," the senior official said, until Hussein's fate is known. "They and their families still have to fear some retaliation."

Powell and administration spokesmen repeatedly emphasized that Iraq possessed large stocks of chemical and perhaps biological weapons, but those claims were primarily based on weapons and chemical and biological agents that Baghdad had declared it had in 1991, when U.N. inspection teams first began work in Iraq after the Persian Gulf War.

By 1998, those U.N. inspectors, working from Iraq's declarations, supervised or had evidence of destruction of some 80,000 weapons and tons of chemical precursors. But Iraqi officials had not been able to prove they had unilaterally destroyed 550 artillery shells containing mustard gas, 30,000 empty munitions that could be filled with chemical agents, 6,500 bombs missing from the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s and possibly 25,000 liters of anthrax.

Powell told the Security Council about Iraqi scientists who were threatened with death if they told about weapons activities to U.N. inspectors and "a dozen experts . . . placed under house arrest -- not in their own houses." That information came from human intelligence sources, a senior official said, but to date not one of those individuals has been produced in public.

Those scientists may be in U.S. hands, however, since Central Command has not disclosed all the individuals its personnel have met with or the information they have received.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A39011-2003Apr25.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Washington Times

April 26, 2003

Pg. 5

Bush Believes Saddam Destroyed Arms

By Joseph Curl, The Washington Times

The White House said yesterday that Saddam Hussein may have ordered the destruction of some chemical and biological weapons on the eve of the war and suggested that the swift military invasion could have prevented the Iraqi dictator from using what remained of his arsenal.

A day after President Bush said U.S. air strikes early in the war may have killed or severely wounded Saddam, preventing him from using mass destruction weapons or effectively commanding his troops, his spokesman yesterday said there is evidence some weapons may have been destroyed.

"The president says that we have evidence now that we are gathering that shows that they may have destroyed some of them on the eve of the war," Ari Fleischer said. "And just because it happened on the eve of the war, that proves what the president is saying about in the months leading up to the war, that the real cause of insecurity and the threat that Iraq presented was that they had weapons of mass destruction."

The spokesman would not divulge the evidence or reveal what intelligence led the president to assert that some weapons may have been destroyed.

"We can't explain why they may have destroyed some of them. Perhaps over time we will find out what drove them to do that. Perhaps it was the fear of actually being discovered, caught red-handed with the very weapons we said they had," Mr. Fleischer said.

Meanwhile, the White House announced that Mr. Bush will travel on Thursday to San Diego and greet U.S. Marines and sailors returning from the conflict aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier.

A senior administration official said the president may deliver a speech on board the carrier that includes "an element of closure" about the war in Iraq. The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, cautioned that Mr. Bush must first hear the latest status of the war from allied commander Army Gen. Tommy Franks before deciding when to announce the end of the conflict.

The White House said coalition forces in Iraq have searched about 90 sites suspected of producing or holding mass destruction weapons but so far they have found nothing. "There are hundreds more to go," Mr. Fleischer said, "and

as the president made clear again, as we continue to talk to the people who have come into our hands, we continue to gather more evidence, more information that we will act upon."

Mr. Bush on Thursday said there is "some evidence" that U.S. air strikes on the first night of the war in Iraq may have killed or severely wounded Saddam, which would explain why the dictator did not destroy oil wells and dams and why the Iraqi defense of Baghdad was so ineffective and disjointed.

"The people that wonder if Saddam Hussein is dead or not, there's some evidence that says, suggests he might be,"

Mr. Bush told NBC's Tom Brokaw. "We would never make that declaration until we were more certain. But the person that helped direct the attacks believes that Saddam, at the very minimum, was severely wounded."

The president said, "we know he had a weapons of mass destruction program," adding that because of the U.S.-led invasion, "we now know he's not going to use them."

Still, he said, "we will find them. But it's going to take time to find them."

Mr. Fleischer said the evidence that Saddam may have destroyed mass destruction weapons validates U.S. concerns about the threat posed by the regime.

"It actually proves the case, when you think about it, that if Iraq did, indeed, destroy some of them on the eve of war, they had them, they lied to the United Nations about them, they lied to the world about them, they lied to the United States about them, and they fooled the inspectors when it came to having them," Mr. Fleischer said.

"How could they have destroyed them if they didn't have them?"

The spokesman said one explanation for why Saddam and other regime officials didn't use mass destruction weapons or destroy Iraq's infrastructure "may be the successful military campaign that was carried out that prevented them from doing many of the worse-case scenarios that we feared they'd do."

"We're fortunate if they destroyed it, because that means they didn't use it. They certainly could have made a very different decision because they did have it. It could have been used," he said.

"Mercifully, it was not," Mr. Fleischer said.

In the president's wide-ranging interview with the NBC news anchor — his first since the war began March 19 — Mr. Bush said looting and vandalism in Baghdad, particularly in hospitals and museums, was "the absolute worst part" of an otherwise successful military campaign. "It's like uncorking a bottle of frustration," he said.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030426-333004.htm>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Los Angeles Times

April 26, 2003

Regime's Priority Was Blueprints, Not Arsenal, Defector Told U.N.

By David Kelly, Times Staff Writer

AMMAN, Jordan — The phone rang as Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus hurriedly packed a suitcase for his flight to Jordan.

It was Tarik Aziz. The suave, usually unflappable Iraqi deputy prime minister was panicking.

"He was almost hysterical," recalled Ekeus, who then headed the U.N. Special Commission, or UNSCOM, which tracked Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. "He said, 'Please don't go to Amman, come to Baghdad first!' They were hoping to preempt what I was about to hear."

It was August 1995, and a few days earlier a convoy of Mercedeses had sped out of Baghdad under cover of darkness and entered Jordan. Inside were Lt. Gen. Hussein Kamel Majid, his brother Saddam and their families.

Majid was married to Saddam Hussein's daughter Raghda and was the father of his grandchildren. His brother Saddam was married to the Iraqi leader's younger daughter Rana.

Majid oversaw the building and concealment of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and now, disenchanted with the regime, he wanted to talk.

According to a transcript of his sessions with Ekeus released recently by the U.N., Majid said Iraq had built an impressive array of chemical and biological weapons, experimented with the Ebola virus and produced explosive shells that spread biotoxins. He then said that he had ordered all such weapons destroyed but that the plans and expertise to make them remained.

Ekeus, executive chairman of UNSCOM from 1991 to 1997, said many weapons were not destroyed at the time but he thinks Majid may have told what he believed was true. But Ekeus said he would not be surprised if U.S. forces in Iraq never found weapons of mass destruction.

"There should be a few drums or some old artillery shells lying in scrap heaps, but the Iraqis were focusing on production capabilities," he said from Washington this week. "They had it down in cookbooks and on microfiche. It was more important for them to preserve the method of creating these weapons."

So as U.S. troops scour Iraq for vast weapons caches, Ekeus said, they may turn up just documents, many of which could have been destroyed or looted in the regime's last days.

President Bush ratcheted down expectations this week when he said the weapons might have been destroyed by Iraq before allied forces could find them. And Hans Blix, the U.N.'s chief weapons inspector, lashed out at the U.S. and Britain on Tuesday, saying the evidence they used to make their case about Iraq's banned weapons was "very, very shaky." Several experts agree.

"I think it's not only possible but likely that they won't find any actual weapons," said James Sutterlin, a distinguished fellow in U.N. studies at Yale University, who said inspectors had destroyed more than 80% of Iraq's arsenal in the early 1990s.

"I have talked to people and they say, 'So what if we don't find any weapons of mass destruction? That's an old story,'" he said. "That may be the feeling in this country, but it's not true at the U.N. and around the world. It will discredit the U.S. and its intelligence capabilities."

Miriam Rajkumar, an expert on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction who is at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, also said the likelihood of finding weapons on the scale described by Bush and Secretary of State Colin L. Powell appears small.

Majid's defection helped lay the groundwork for the war in Iraq. His descriptions of Iraq's ambitious weapons program years ago put the nation squarely in the American bull's-eye. It also rattled Iraq.

Before Ekeus interviewed the 43-year-old defector, he flew to Baghdad to hear Aziz out. Aziz, who surrendered to allied forces Thursday, insisted that Majid was a rogue operator.

"They gave out a tremendous amount of information and handed over an enormous amount of documents," Ekeus said. "They said they found all these documents on [Majid's] chicken farm. I didn't believe that story at all. They were trying to undermine his usefulness to us."

With the documents as a road map, inspectors destroyed many weapons facilities, but some things, such as biological agents that require little space, were never located. Years later, the Bush administration seized on the missing items to make its case that Iraq was concealing its weapons programs in violation of the 1991 agreement that ended the Persian Gulf War.

After his defection, Majid was living in Amman, the Jordanian capital, as a guest of the late King Hussein.

American, British and Jordanian intelligence agents had all questioned Majid. Ekeus and his weapons inspectors came too.

In the transcript of one three-hour session, Majid said Iraq had put biological agents in fiberglass bombs and shells with timed fuses that exploded overhead, showering those beneath with deadly anthrax and botulism. They also had the nerve agents sarin and VX, as well as mustard gas. He talked about an Iraqi missile designed to fly nearly 2,000 miles. Throughout it all, Majid spoke with grudging respect for the inspectors.

"You should not underestimate yourself," he told them in Amman. "You are very effective in Iraq." Efforts to build long-range missile engines were stopped, he said, because "it was a losing battle" trying to get around inspectors.

"Not a single missile is left, but they had the blueprints and molds for production," Majid said. "All blueprints for missiles are in a safe place."

Despite efforts to acquire these weapons, Majid claimed that there had been no plans to use them against coalition forces during the Gulf War. "They realized if chemical weapons were used, retaliation would be nuclear," he said. Disillusionment with Saddam Hussein's regime and family infighting, especially with Hussein's thuggish son Uday, led Majid to leave Iraq. Those who knew him said he wanted to rule the country someday. He didn't drink or fight and had little respect for the Hussein family members who did both in spades.

Iraqi exiles and Western governments promoted Majid as an alternative to Hussein. But no sooner had his star begun to rise than it started to fade. The visits stopped, the press no longer called, and Majid found himself alone in an empty palace.

"It became clear he had no clout in the exile community," Ekeus said. "He was a man without a future." Then came a summons from Hussein. He promised that if Majid returned with his family, all would be forgiven.

Given the Iraqi leader's record of cruelty to anyone showing the slightest hint of disloyalty, it seems unbelievable that Majid would have accepted the offer. "I think he believed he could return and be given a thrashing by Saddam and that was it. After all, he was the father of Saddam's grandchildren," Ekeus said.

In February 1996, Majid and his brother bundled their families into cars and drove east through the Jordanian desert toward Iraq. Minutes after crossing the border, they were met by armed men who put the women and children in separate cars.

Exactly what happened next is unclear.

The Iraqi media said Majid and the other men in his family were attacked in their home by fellow tribesmen who felt dishonored by their defection. A shootout allegedly ensued, leaving Majid and his brother dead, along with several assailants.

Uday Hussein was rumored to have watched the whole thing. Later, it is said, he attended the funerals of the slain killers.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-war-kamel26apr26,1,4372842.story>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

New York Times

April 28, 2003

Franks Foresees A Weapons Hunt At 'Several Thousand Sites'

By Eric Schmitt

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, April 27 — Gen. Tommy R. Franks, the commander of allied forces in the Persian Gulf, said today that the hunt for unconventional weapons in Iraq would require scouring "several thousand sites," a process that experts said could take months.

"We have about 1,000 sites that we knew about before this point," General Franks told reporters here. "We'll go through all of those. The whole thrust of this is probably going to carry us through several thousand sites up in that country."

The failure of military teams to find evidence of illegal chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, a major reason the United States attacked Iraq, has forced the Bush administration to rethink the scope of the search.

The administration is tripling the number of scientists and engineers assigned to the operation, to about 1,500.

President Bush has also said that Iraqi officials have told American investigators that Saddam Hussein may have ordered some of the illicit weapons destroyed or dispersed before the start of the war.

Military teams have turned up tantalizing prospects, including a dozen suspicious 55-gallon drums found propped up with gravel on Friday in an open field near the northern Iraqi town of Baiji. Tests indicated that one drum might contain the nerve agent cyclosarin and a blister agent that could be mustard gas.

But General Franks warned against jumping to conclusions.

"What we want to do is not come across like Baghdad Bob," he said, referring to Iraq's former information minister, "and say we have it before we have it. But we do believe that it is there, and we're going to continue to get through all the sites."

General Franks's comments came after he and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld met here with top officials of the United Arab Emirates, including Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan. On Monday, Mr. Rumsfeld is to hold a town-hall-style meeting with troops in Doha, Qatar.

Mr. Rumsfeld is on a weeklong trip to the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan to thank regional allies for their support in the Iraq war, to promise to help guide Iraq through postwar reconstruction, and to consult his senior commanders and regional leaders about America's military commitments after the fall of Mr. Hussein's government. He is also expected to visit Iraq.

Speaking to reporters traveling with him, Mr. Rumsfeld said he told officials here that "the United States intends to do what is necessary with coalition partners to ensure there's a secure environment in Iraq," to nurture an interim Iraqi civilian authority and, ultimately, to support a permanent elected Iraqi government.

The emirates allowed American U-2 spy planes, a Global Hawk reconnaissance aircraft and KC-10 refueling jets to fly from Al Dhafra air base and a second airstrip that was hastily prepared after Turkey rejected the Pentagon's request to use air bases there. The port of Jebel Ali is a major Navy logistics hub.

The oil-rich emirates, a loose federation of seven former sheikhdoms at the southern end of the gulf, have already played an important role in Iraq's reconstruction, Mr. Rumsfeld said. They sent the first relief ship into Iraq, carrying 700 tons of food, medicine and supplies. They are also re-equipping six Iraqi hospitals that were looted and building a plant in Basra that will convert 250,000 gallons of sea water into drinking water each day.

Mr. Rumsfeld and General Franks said American forces were making steady progress capturing Iraqis on the administration's most-wanted list, thanks in large part to Iraqis providing tips. Lt. Gen. Hossam Muhammad Amin, the Iraqi chief liaison to United Nations weapons inspectors, surrendered today.

General Franks said the most well-known Iraqi prisoner, Tariq Aziz, the former deputy prime minister, was answering interrogators' questions, but it was too soon to tell if he was being truthful or helpful. Neither General Franks nor Mr. Rumsfeld offered any new clues about Mr. Hussein's fate. "I'm not sure," General Franks said. "I've seen nothing recently that convinced me he's alive."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/28/international/worldspecial/28RUMS.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Los Angeles Times
April 28, 2003

U.S. Military Captures Iraqi Arms Monitor

By David Kelly and Mark Porubcansky, Times Staff Writers

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military said Sunday that it had captured Gen. Hussam Mohammed Amin, Saddam Hussein's liaison with U.N. weapons inspectors.

The general, No. 49 on the list of 55 most-wanted members of Hussein's regime, was caught west of Baghdad on a road heading toward Jordan and Syria, officials said. U.S. Central Command in Qatar reported that Amin was "now under coalition control."

Amin had led the Iraqi National Monitoring Directorate, which tracked the country's armaments, and he met frequently with U.N. inspectors. He appeared frequently on television, giving news conferences when inspectors were in town. He took every occasion to deny that his country had any banned weapons. He reportedly did so again Sunday as he was being taken into custody.

Two weeks ago, Hussein's top scientific advisor, Gen. Amir Saadi, surrendered to authorities. He also insisted that his country had no weapons of mass destruction.

U.S. Special Forces operating near the northern Iraqi town of Baiji late last week found more than a dozen 55-gallon drums full of chemicals and two mobile chemical labs in a field surrounded by surface-to-air missiles.

The 10th Cavalry Regiment was called in, and preliminary tests showed the presence of cyclosarin, a nerve agent, as well as a blister agent that may be mustard gas, military officials said.

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Charles Owens, a spokesman with the U.S. Central Command in Qatar, said that only field tests had been done and laboratory tests would be needed to make a final determination.

Some past chemical finds have turned out to be pesticides. But coalition forces are hoping Amin will help lead them to the so far elusive weapons that were one of the major stated reasons for attacking Iraq on March 20.

Meanwhile, the retired U.S. general in charge of efforts to rebuild Iraq said in a radio address Sunday that the United States was working to improve security and essential services, and he pledged to leave the country with an open government when U.S. forces pull out.

"I am here to help you rebuild your country and turn your government into one that serves you," Jay Garner said on U.S.-run Towards Freedom radio, one of the few media outlets operating in Iraq since the collapse of the Hussein regime. "You will have an open and honest government. This is your dream, my dream and the world's dream." Garner's first sentence was audible in English; the remainder was dubbed in Arabic. The address was followed by a statement from the U.S. military emphasizing its efforts to crack down on looting and other crimes.

Many Iraqis have expressed mixed feelings about the U.S. occupation of their country. While they are grateful that Hussein has been ousted, they also are angry about the death and destruction caused by the war and are chafing over the collapse of services such as electricity and water.

Angry residents confronted U.S. troops on the southeastern edge of Baghdad on Saturday after an ammunition dump managed by U.S. forces exploded, killing at least six people. Even though it appeared that Iraqi gunfire or explosives set off the blasts, residents blamed the Americans.

In the radio address, Garner repeated his pledge that he would not stay in Iraq long. "My time here will be short, just to make things work properly."

In downtown Baghdad, four members of the U.S. Army's Civil Affairs unit were ambushed Sunday as they were driving to a public health mission, Central Command reported. Four soldiers were shot and wounded, one seriously. "Initial reports indicate they were engaged with small arms fire from an assailant who approached them while they were stopped in traffic," a military spokesman said.

The spokesman did not know whether the attacker was killed.

In Tikrit, Hussein's hometown, one U.S. soldier died and another was hurt when two Bradley fighting vehicles they were traveling in overturned.

The Bradleys, from the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division, were part of a quick-reaction force racing to a checkpoint that was under fire, officials said.

The injured soldier was listed in stable condition. The identities of the dead and wounded were withheld pending notification of family members.

Kelly reported from Amman, Jordan, and Porubcansky from Baghdad.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-war-iraq28apr28,1,7702521.story>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

New York Times

April 28, 2003

Suspicious Discovery Apparently Wasn't Chemical Weapons

By Judith Miller

BAGHDAD, Iraq, April 27 — A military team has tentatively concluded that there are no chemical weapons at a site where American troops said they had found chemical agents and mobile labs.

Earlier today, Lt. Col. Ted Martin of the 10th Cavalry said one of a dozen 55-gallon drums in an open field had tested positive for cyclosarin, a nerve agent, and for a blister agent that could have been mustard gas. He said his soldiers had also found two mobile labs containing equipment for mixing chemicals. The labs had been looted by the time the soldiers arrived.

But in an interview tonight, Capt. Ryan Cutchin, the leader of Mobile Exploitation Team Bravo, or MET Bravo, said that after surveying the site, near the northern Iraqi town of Bayji, his team believed that the earlier reports were wrong.

"Our tests showed no positive hits at all," he said.

The mobile labs were definitely "not labs," Captain Cutchin said. The vehicles MET Bravo found were "probably for decontamination or some kind of fuel filling, consistent with the rockets found at the site," he said.

This was the latest example of a recurring pattern in efforts to track down unconventional weapons in Iraq.

Repeatedly, early reports of discoveries of chemical and biological weapons come to naught after the mobile exploitation teams conduct tests and evaluate earlier reports. By the time MET Bravo arrived at Bayji, for example, journalists who had already been briefed about the findings were already at the site.

Strained by what they have called a lack of resources and poor intelligence information about where Iraqi unconventional weapons might be stored, the MET's themselves have been struggling to keep pace with tips from Iraqis claiming to know where unconventional weapons material, equipment or personnel are to be found.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said last week that the United States Central Command, which oversees the MET teams, had been denied nothing it felt that it needed. If more resources are requested, he said, "they'll get them, because this is an important project."

But team members who asked not to be identified said the MET's lack almost everything. Vehicles to take the teams to suspect sites are in short supply. Helicopters are often grounded by weather and poor maintenance. The teams have repeatedly requested radios to communicate with one another, which they still do not have, and there are no systems through which they can file encrypted reports from the field.

There are also too few MET teams for the number of sites to be investigated, team members argue. The four teams originally assembled to hunt for unconventional weapons have been reduced to two: Alpha and Bravo. Teams Charlie and Delta have been reassigned to investigate Iraqi war crimes and documents of intelligence value.

MET experts say the elaborate system created by Pentagon planners in Washington has not worked out as planned. The four Sensitive Site Teams that have been embedded with maneuvering forces were supposed to be an early warning system and trigger a MET survey of a suspicious site. But the teams' reports have been wildly inaccurate, weapons experts say.

Though the Sensitive Site Teams are highly motivated, they were deployed here before they were fully trained on the expensive equipment with which they were supplied, analysts said.

Earlier this week, a MET Bravo member said his team had gotten word that Tariq Aziz, the former deputy prime minister of Iraq, was living quietly in a residential area of Baghdad. But lacking vehicles to visit the location, all the team could do was pass the tip along to British military and to the American Third Infantry Division, both of which had vehicles to travel to the site. Mr. Aziz was apprehended.

On Saturday, administration officials said they were sending over 1,000 more analysts and weapons experts to Iraq to reinforce the hunt for unconventional weapons. But MET experts said they had not been told that their teams are to be expanded.

Rather, administration officials said, the military is planning to increase the number of Sensitive Site Teams. And what these 1,000 analysts and experts are to do, and how they will be organized, is still unclear, the weapons experts said.

MET members have also been increasingly frustrated by what they said was rigid adherence to a designated list of some 900 suspect sites. Many team members complained that many of their assigned visits are little more than "check the box" exercises.

Rather than being permitted to pursue new leads from Iraqis, they are still being asked to adhere to the intelligence community's original list of suspected facilities.

"This system for continued exploitation of sensitive sites is broke," one weapons expert said. "And that's what being expanded."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/28/international/worldspecial/28CHEM.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Washington Times

April 28, 2003

Pg. 1

Second Test Positive For Nerve Agent

Firms up cyclo-sarin results

By Guy Taylor, The Washington Times

TIKRIT, Iraq — More-sophisticated field tests conducted yesterday on the pile of 55-gallon drums found near a small industrial town in central Iraq came up positive for a chemical nerve agent.

But military officials said it will be two to three days before laboratory tests can show with certainty whether fluid from one of the 14 drums is a chemical agent used to make weapons of mass destruction.

The Washington Times first reported yesterday that U.S. troops discovered the pile of drums near Baiji, about 115 miles north of Baghdad, and that initial tests yielded positive results for the nerve agent cyclo-sarin.

The 4th Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, was sent to secure and investigate the suspicious-looking pile of drums late Friday, after a U.S. Special Forces team discovered it.

The town, home to one of Iraq's oil refineries, is on the west bank of the Tigris River north of Tikrit, the birthplace of Saddam Hussein and a known pocket of his most loyal supporters.

During the weekend, soldiers wearing gas masks and full-body protective suits extracted a small amount of clear fluid from one of the 55-gallon drums. Initial tests were conducted with Army M-8 test paper.

Yesterday, Lt. Col. Valentine Novikov, the 4th Infantry's chemical officer, stressed that M-8 paper is not always accurate, being designed to err on the side of caution to protect soldiers in combat.

He said a special team was sent yesterday with a civilian, "not so militarily rugged" test kit to evaluate the fluid in the drums.

The test with an AP-2C detector, which heats the agent in what is considered a more-accurate test, "came up positive for a nerve agent," Lt. Col. Novikov said.

"With the testing device that they used, you could not tell whether it was cyclo-sarin or sarin," he said. "It could only tell that it was a nerve agent."

Cyclo-sarin is a variant of the lethal chemical used in a gas attack that killed 12 persons and sickened thousands on the Tokyo subway in 1995. Heavy exposure can cause loss of muscle control, paralysis, unconsciousness and death within minutes.

"What's going to happen next is that a mobile exploitation team needs to go out and actually take samples of the fluid, which will go back to a laboratory," Lt. Col. Navikov said.

"The lab will determine whether it really is a positive chemical agent ... which I guess would be a smoking gun then," he said, adding that four samples of the fluid will be taken.

One will be sent to a lab in the United States, one to a lab in Europe and one to a lab in the Persian Gulf war theater. The fourth sample will be preserved for "historical purposes in a library kind of thing," Lt. Col. Navikov said.

In other developments:

- Four U.S. soldiers were wounded yesterday when an attacker opened fire on them in central Baghdad. The soldiers were stopped in traffic in two Humvees when the attacker fired. One of the soldiers was in serious condition, officials said.

- One U.S. soldier was killed and another hurt when their armored vehicles overturned near a checkpoint in Tikrit Saturday. The two soldiers were in Bradley Fighting Vehicles that rolled over.

•A leading Iraqi scientist who worked in the country's biological weapons program in the 1980s said he and his colleagues lied to UN inspectors about biological and chemical weapons. The stories he gave the inspectors "were all lies," Nissar Hindawi told the New York Times. He said Iraq "produced huge quantities" of liquid anthrax and botulinum toxin.

Yesterday on CNN's "Late Edition," Gen. Tommy Franks said coalition forces will "probably go through 1,000 sites" where weapons could be stored in Iraq.

U.S. military officials increasingly have felt pressure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, or at least find the agents that could be used to make chemical and biological weapons.

"Our government wants to make sure that when they announce to the world that they've got the smoking gun that nobody, like [U.N. chief inspector for such weapons] Hans Blix, can poke holes in it," said one military official close to the investigation.

Before the war, President Bush aggressively argued the need to strip Saddam of his arsenal of chemical and biological weapons and any remaining elements of a nuclear-weapons program, which he said were hidden from U.N. weapons inspectors.

The U.N. team, led by Mr. Blix, spent months searching for such weapons in Iraq before the war.

Ultimately the inspectors failed to turn up enough evidence to persuade the U.N. Security Council to pass a resolution for war, so the United States established its "coalition of the willing" to disarm Saddam's Iraq.

There have been several reports of possible chemical-weapons finds since coalition forces toppled Saddam's regime this month. So far none has panned out.

The pile of 55-gallon drums at issue near Baiji was stacked into a dirt berm that military officials said appeared at first to blend into the Iraqi countryside.

"It looked like a typical revetment that you see all over this country with munitions in it, except these containers looked different," said Col. Michael E. Moody, commander of the 4th Infantry's aviation brigade.

Before last week no U.S. troops had operated with intensity in the area around Baiji. Such units as the 101st Airborne Division and the Marines bypassed the town on their way to Mosul, about 100 miles to the north.

"I'm pleased that we found bad chemicals and can get them out of circulation; that whatever toxins, if they are weapons of mass destruction, that we are able to take control of it," Col. Moody said.

He said that for him the war in Iraq hasn't been about validating the action by finding unconventional weapons .

"This is really about, to a large degree, Iraqi freedom," he said.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030428-57890184.htm>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

New York Times

April 27, 2003

Pg. 1

U.S. Plans To Add To Teams In Hunt For Iraqi Weapons

By Steven R. Weisman

The Bush administration, concerned about the failure to find unconventional weapons in Iraq, is moving to triple the size of the team searching for scientists and for incriminating lethal materials. Some officials are even saying that they are losing hope of finding actual weapons.

Administration officials, some speaking publicly and some on condition of anonymity, insist that they remain entirely confident that evidence of illegal chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs -- as opposed to the weapons themselves -- will accumulate in coming weeks and months, though perhaps slowly.

But to step up the pace, a military official said, about 1,000 military and scientific personnel will be added in coming weeks to the team trying to interview Iraqis who may have knowledge of Iraqi weapons programs and looking for evidence. Only 500 are doing this job now, with perhaps 150 actually searching and the rest providing backup and support.

"A fairly robust organization is going over there," said a military official. "It will also look for evidence of war crimes, terrorism connections, missing P.O.W.'s -- anything it can find that will help get to the weapons of mass destruction."

Some officials say they think the United States should react more positively to the demand by France that United Nations inspectors certify that Iraq is free of unconventional weapons before economic penalties against the country are permanently lifted. Many United Nations members favor a return to Iraq by Hans Blix as an inspection leader as

soon as the country is secure. Others say that a couple of hundred more experts, with or without Mr. Blix, cannot hurt and could actually help.

But theirs is a decidedly minority view. Even the State Department, which advocated trying to find the weapons using United Nations inspectors last fall, has no tolerance for asking those inspectors to return.

"Forget it," one official said. "On principle, we don't want the United Nations running around Iraq."

One official, discussing the American plans, said that despite some polls indicating that Americans do not care very much whether the weapons are found, White House officials are pressing the United States Central Command to step up the search for them because of worldwide skepticism that the main American rationale for the war was not proving to be true. "There's just a lot of pressure coming from the White House on this," an administration official said. "But Centcom is pushing back because they have other things to do -- like securing the country and guarding its antiquities."

Administration officials and experts say that evidence of Iraq's illegal weapons programs will most likely consist of items like empty shells for chemical or biological weapons, labs that could be used to make arms and so-called precursor chemicals that could be converted to weapons use but could also be used for fertilizers, pesticides and the like.

"People are realizing that Saddam Hussein may not have stored the weapons themselves, in part because when you put chemical or biological agents into weapons, they deteriorate very rapidly," an administration official said. He and others said that if the weapons themselves -- the "smoking gun" that has eluded the United States since United Nations inspectors went into Iraq last fall -- should not turn up, American experts may be forced to base their case for the existence of weapons programs on fragmentary evidence that could be interpreted in different ways.

"The evidence that we do find will be convincing to most experts, but not necessarily to those predisposed to doubt what we say," said an American official.

Another official said: "It may be that the Iraqis poured toxins into the ground, or scoured out their shells, or never filled their shells. There may be weapons, and there may not be."

"But it will be clear," the official continued, referring to weapons of mass destruction by their initials, "that they were pursuing W.M.D. actively."

The increasing possibility of a somewhat ambiguous result on weapons programs has led to a debate in the administration over what to do now that President Bush has decided that there will be no role for the United Nations inspectors in finding or destroying illegal weapons.

Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, like some in the administration, has argued that a United Nations team of some sort may be necessary to ratify a conclusion that weapons programs existed. The point, some officials say, would be to convince skeptics that weapons programs were indeed there. "The big concern is credibility," a military official said. "When we say we have found something, are the media sources in the Middle East and other parts of the world going to believe it?"

While it appears that Mr. Blix's team will not be allowed to return soon, some State Department officials say that some kind of United Nations team might be acceptable eventually to help verify incriminating evidence or to destroy it.

"If there were a role for the United Nations on weapons, it would be different from the one they had before," said an administration official. "It's too early to say what their role would be. It's too early to say that there will be no role." France has threatened to withhold its vote on lifting the permanent sanctions against Iraq until there is some agreement on the role for the United Nations in weapons inspections and destruction. French officials say this is faithful to the United Nations resolutions that were based on a finding that Iraq, in defiance of the world community, had such weapons. "How can we just walk away from what the sanctions were all about?" a French official asked. Americans say there is no room for negotiating with the French on lifting sanctions if the issue is United Nations weapons inspectors. They accuse France of having a hidden agenda: ensuring contracts for French companies in an Iraqi reconstruction program paid for with revenues from Iraqi oil exports.

One problem is that American officials who now say they may not find actual weapons have changed their arguments somewhat. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell told the United Nations that the United States had evidence of actual weapons, not just weapons programs.

Indeed, he suggested that some of those weapons were ordered sent into the field before the war. Now there is some doubt about that because some experts say that if there had been intelligence on their deployment, there should have been intelligence to help Americans find them.

"There are still holes in what Iraq reported it had," said Raymond Zilinskas, director of the chemical and biological weapons nonproliferation program at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California. "The Iraqis always said they destroyed the materials we know they had, but they never offered proof."

But like some experts, Mr. Zilinskas said he doubted that the Iraqis had actually started up weapons programs after a first round of inspections ended in 1998. That does not mean that elements of weapons programs cannot be found now in Iraq, he said, only that the weapons themselves may not be there.

"The British and now the Americans have been changing their tune," said Mr. Zilinskas, who was a weapons inspector in Iraq in the mid-1990's. "Before, they said Iraq had weapons of mass destruction ready to go. The British said they were on the shelf and could have been deployed within 45 minutes."

But in the face of doubts like those expressed by Mr. Zilinskas, an administration official said: "Remember the quagmire that we were supposed to be in during the war? Don't start saying we're in a quagmire on the weapons. We'll find them."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/27/international/worldspecial/27WEAP.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

New York Times

April 27, 2003

Leading Iraqi Scientist Says He Lied To U.N. Inspectors

By Judith Miller

Nissar Hindawi, a leading figure in Iraq's biological warfare program in the 1980's, says the stories and explanations he and other scientists told the United Nations about the extent of Iraq's efforts to produce poisons and germ weapons "were all lies."

Dr. Hindawi, imprisoned during the final weeks of Saddam Hussein's rule, is now free to talk about his experiences in the program, in which he says he was forced to work from 1986 to 1989 and again sporadically until the mid-1990's.

Iraq, as it belatedly acknowledged, he says, "produced huge quantities" of liquid anthrax and botulinum toxin, which it concentrated 5 to 10 times with sulfuric acid and other preservatives.

"There were orders to destroy it," Dr. Hindawi said during interviews conducted today and on Friday. "They destroyed some -- whether all or not, I can't say."

He said that while he worked in the program or was ordered to brief the inspectors on it, Iraq made 8.9 cubic meters of concentrated liquid anthrax, one of the deadliest and most durable germ weapons, and even larger quantities of botulinum toxin, one of the most lethal poisons.

Even so, he added, there is little need for concern if American military teams hunting for unconventional weapons stumble across such stockpiles. The arsenals would have degraded quickly, he maintains.

"Even if it's all kept until now, don't worry about it," he said.

In addition, he said, Iraq was never able to make dried anthrax, a medium that would have made the lethal spores far more durable and easier to disseminate. He thought he had devised a way to turn liquid anthrax into the even more lethal powder, he said, but he did not do it. "I kept the method secret," he said. "History would have cursed me."

Several United Nations inspectors questioned his assertion that Iraq had not made a powdered form of anthrax. They said that in 1989 Iraq imported two drying ovens that could have made powdered anthrax and that at least one other senior scientist in the program appeared to know the required techniques.

But Dr. Hindawi says that if Iraq made such a weapon, it did so after he left the scientific wing of the program in 1989.

Though he no longer had firsthand knowledge of the program after that, he said, he kept up on its progress through his students, some of whom stayed in the program until the war began last month. American officials are hunting for several, including Rihab Taha, the microbiologist who reportedly headed the germ weapons program and is known in the West as Dr. Death, and Huda Salih Mahdi Ammash, a senior scientist and Baath Party regional command member who is the only woman on America's most wanted list.

Although there has been no public word from American authorities on their whereabouts, Dr. Hindawi said that he had been told that both women were hiding in Syria, as other Iraqi scientists, Baath Party members and military officers are said to be. But he said he was not aware of Syrian-Iraqi cooperation on unconventional weapons. Iraqi scientists built their germ warfare program themselves, he said.

Dr. Hindawi, 61, is now in the protective custody of the Iraqi opposition leader Ahmad Chalabi.

He painted a portrait of a biological warfare program that was riddled with bitter personality rivalries, sycophancy and corruption. He said he was originally dismissed in 1989 because he had personally complained to Mr. Hussein about fraud in the awarding of contracts in the program. He said Mr. Hussein appeared to agree with him, but did nothing because his son-in-law, Hussein Kamel, was in charge of the program.

"He was very gentle with me," the scientist said. "He respected me."

Mr. Hussein allowed him to leave the program and return to his teaching and research post at Mustanserieh University, he said. But there was a catch: "He said, 'If I need you, will you be available?' I said yes."

Nevertheless, he seemed bitter about his colleagues and former students in the program. He said he had been paid less than some of his assistants because he was not a permanent staff member and was still attached to the university.

"If you were a director's friend, you got paid more," he said. "If you were an important Baath Party figure, you got more."

Unlike the others, he said, he did not get a car, a house or land. "My salary was the lowest of any senior person in the program," he said.

Dr. Hindawi said he had had grave qualms about his work on germ warfare, despite the fact that Iraq was at war with Iran when he joined the program. He said he had never worked at his full capacity, but at 50 percent of his abilities.

He also says he secretly tried to get information about the illicit program to American authorities in 1994, an assertion that could not be confirmed today.

Some inspectors remain skeptical about whether Dr. Hindawi was really an unwilling participant in the program.

He returned to the program in a different capacity in 1992, when international inspectors from the United Nations Special Commission, or Unsc, were arriving to ensure that Iraqi officials were complying with their country's pledge to give up chemical, germ and nuclear weapons. He said military officials had asked him to tell inspectors that he was the head of a single-cell protein facility. The plant, in fact, had made botulinum toxin and anthrax.

He said he had had no choice but to lie, just as he had no choice but to work in the program. "It was that or else," he said.

Although he continued as an informal adviser, Dr. Hindawi said he was determined to try to leave Iraq for the United States, where, he said, he had spent 12 years at college and doing postgraduate work. To secure a Libyan visa, which he intended to use as a steppingstone, he said he turned over seven scientific papers to the Libyan Embassy to prove his scientific bona fides.

"The work was more than four years old," he said. "Libya didn't even have qualified high school teachers, so they could not have used the papers in a biological warfare program."

The Iraqis, contending that he was trying to share military secrets, imprisoned him for 17 months between 1997 and 1999. The only time he was permitted to leave prison was to meet with international inspectors, who kept asking to interview him.

Released in 1999, he said he had worked in his own private laboratory until he was summoned in late 2002 by Taha Yassin Ramadan, the Iraqi vice president, because a new group of inspectors asked to see him. He never met with them, he said, and he was rearrested in March.

Dr. Hindawi said he thought that his luck had finally run out when the Iraqi secret police pulled up to his laboratory on March 3, as the American-led war against Iraq was about to begin.

Accused of supporting the opposition, he was imprisoned again. "I was sure I was going to be killed," he said.

So were some of his American associates. Former international inspectors and American officials who monitor Iraq's germ weapons program said they thought that his name was on a list of scientists and others whom the government intended to eliminate in the event of war.

But the war that placed him in jeopardy ultimately saved him, Dr. Hindawi says. The officers guarding him fled when American forces cut communications between Baghdad and his jail. He hitchhiked home.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/27/international/worldspecial/27SCIE.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Washington Times

April 29, 2003

Pg. 10

Determination On Iraq Chemical Waits For Analysis

By Guy Taylor, The Washington Times

TIKRIT, Iraq — Military officials here said they did not know if tests on the contents of a 55-gallon drum found near a small industrial town in central Iraq yielded conclusive positive results for chemical weapons or agents used to make them.

U.S. troops discovered the suspicious drum of clear, odorless liquid among a batch of 14 over the weekend near Baiji, about 115 miles north of Baghdad, military officials said.

Lt. Col. Valentin Novikov, chemical officer of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said initial tests yielded positive results for the nerve agent cyclosarin and a blister agent.

A second round of tests conducted by specialists in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, using an M93-A1 Fox testing vehicle, also turned up positive results for a nerve agent, but it was not clear what type.

On Sunday, Col. Novikov said that a mobile exploitation team would need to go to the site of the drums to take samples that would be sent to four laboratories around the world. Conclusive scientific results, he said, could be expected in two or three days.

But on Sunday night Capt. Brian Cutchin, leader of Mobile Exploitation Team Bravo, told the New York Times that after surveying the pile of 55-gallon drums, his team's tests showed "no positive hits at all" for chemical agents.

Col. Novikov and Lt. Col. Bill McDonald, 4th Infantry spokesman, said they still were waiting for a report from the team.

"I don't know definitively whether the samples were taken yet," said Col. Novikov, adding that the exploitation team "suspects that it might be rocket fuel."

While they stress that initial field tests on chemicals are not always accurate, being designed to err on the side of caution to protect soldiers in combat, both colonels said the tests were positive for a nerve agent.

"All I can tell you is that the test, the very basic tests, came up positive," Col. McDonald said. "The only way that you're going to know for sure is from a lab."

Col. Novikov said Capt. Cutchin's assessment of the scene "could be right."

"They're supposed to submit a report, and my office would get a copy of it," he said.

Nerve agents were developed after World War I for military use as more toxic forms of insecticides. Sarin, for example, is a more powerful version of common organophosphate ingredients in industrial pesticides and industrial chemicals.

Though developed before World War II by Germany, sarin was not used as a military weapon until Iraq used it against Iranian soldiers in the 1980-88 war. Saddam Hussein's government also used blister agents such as mustard gas against Iraqi civilians in rebellious areas.

After the 1991 Persian Gulf war, the Iraqi government claimed that it had produced 795 tons of sarin.

Exposure to a nerve gas, such as the sarin suspected to be in the drums, can incite loss of muscle control, paralysis, unconsciousness and death within minutes, while blister-agent victims experience burning and swelling of the eyes, skin and respiratory tract.

The blister agent of most concern for terrorist purposes is mustard gas. In high concentrations that cause the lungs to fill with fluid, the gas may cause death. Less-severe cases include swelling, burning, blistering, coughing, bronchitis and long-term respiratory disease.

Sarin and the faster-penetrating cyclosarin are G-type nerve agents — identified as the "most toxic of the known chemical-warfare agents" by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

The gas is inhaled or absorbed through the skin and eyes. In small amounts, nerve gas can cause dimmed vision, shortness of breath, nausea and vomiting.

Scientists have determined that blister agents, unlike nerve agents, have long-term effects. The Armed Forces Epidemiology Board found that humans exposed to nerve agents do not suffer delayed or long-term effects. But blister agents may cause respiratory cancer in humans, the Department of Health and Human Services says.

Nerve gas and blister agents are not made in the United States and are held in only a few undisclosed military storage sites.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Web site reports that these highly toxic substances are "not presently used in the United States, except for research purposes, and the U.S. Department of Defense must destroy all remaining stocks of mustard gas by 2004."

Sarah Marcisz contributed to this article from Washington.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030429-81846443.htm>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Los Angeles Times

April 29, 2003

Truck Is Tested For Biological Agents

What looks like a moving van might be a mobile lab for banned weapons, officials say.

By Greg Miller and Bob Drogin, Times Staff Writers

American forces in northern Iraq have seized a truck that U.S. intelligence officials, eager to end a string of false alarms, said they believe could be a mobile biological weapons laboratory.

No significant quantities of suspicious substances were found on the vehicle, officials said Monday. But U.S. teams are said to be testing residue from equipment in the truck. Preliminary results were not known.

Officials noted that troops in Iraq have reported or investigated scores of tips that proved to be false alarms. But initial descriptions of the vehicle are tantalizing enough to have piqued interest at top levels of the State Department and CIA.

If confirmed, the discovery of a mobile bioweapons lab would provide the first solid evidence to support administration assertions that Saddam Hussein's regime had a clandestine effort underway to produce lethal viruses and other germ agents as well as chemical weapons.

In a presentation before the United Nations in February, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said Iraq had as many as 18 trucks used as mobile facilities for making anthrax and botulinum toxin. "They can produce enough dry, biological agent in a single month to kill thousands upon thousands of people," Powell said. He also displayed diagrams of what the United States believed the mobile labs might look like, with fermentation tanks and control panels mounted on beds of trailers.

Powell based the assertion on accounts of at least four Iraqi defectors, including a chemical engineer who claimed to have supervised one of the facilities and been present during production runs of a biological agent.

The U.S. has never been able to confirm the existence of the vehicles, and intelligence officials expressed concern before the war that the mobile labs — with nothing to distinguish them from ordinary trucks — would be exceedingly difficult to find.

Officials said the truck now being analyzed at first aroused little suspicion when it was intercepted by U.S. forces manning a checkpoint on a northbound roadway south of Mosul last week.

"This thing looks like a regular old moving-van truck," said a U.S. military intelligence official. The forces moved to seize the vehicle, he said, after opening the trailer and seeing suspicious-looking equipment.

"We haven't found anything like this before," the official said. He declined to elaborate on the specific equipment found.

Another intelligence official said the discovery of the truck was seen as a potential break because the nature of the equipment found was so suggestive. "It's different from finding a drum of chemicals that you can get a false positive on," the official said. Even so, he cautioned, "it's way too soon" to conclude that the truck was a mobile lab.

Officials said they did not know whether the driver of the truck was still in custody, or why he would have been traveling toward Kurd-controlled territory in northern Iraq.

One official said the driver may have stolen the vehicle and been unaware of its cargo. The military intelligence official said it was also possible that the vehicle was being moved as part of what officials believe is an effort by Iraqis loyal to the Hussein regime to hide or destroy evidence.

The military intelligence official said U.S. forces have recently found trucks loaded with government files "that looked like they were in the process of being hauled away."

U.S. officials believe Iraq developed mobile weapons laboratories in the 1990s in an effort to evade U.N. arms inspections.

In his U.N. presentation, Powell said Iraq was suspected of having mobile labs. Each truck-mounted lab, he said, had two or three trailers of components that would have to be parked alongside one another and connected.

An Iraqi scientist, who claimed to have worked with the mobile labs, described a 1998 accident that killed 12 technicians exposed to biological agents, Powell said.

Arms experts have expressed concern that deadly agents in the labs could fall into the wrong hands unless they were swiftly located by U.S. forces.

The seizure of the truck is not the first time U.S. forces believed they might have found evidence of mobile weapons labs.

U.S. forces thought they had discovered labs near the northern Iraqi town of Baiji. But officials now say no chemical weapons were found at the site — which also had 12 55-gallon drums — and that the "labs" more likely were decontamination facilities or storage containers for other purposes.

Experts cautioned the latest discovery could be another false alarm.

David Franz, a former U.N. bioweapons inspector in Iraq, said experts first need to examine the Iraqi truck to determine if it is "just a truckload of equipment being hauled away from, say, a vaccine facility" or whether the lab equipment is bolted down and "configured with fermenters, centrifuges or whatever to work in a particular way."

Then, he said, the teams should search carefully "behind the O-rings and joints and other out-of-the-way places where [the Iraqis] forgot to use disinfectant" for residue of biological material that contains DNA. The U.S. has the DNA "fingerprints" of various lethal germ agents.

"If you find anthrax DNA, you've still got to make sure it wasn't a contaminant," said Franz, former commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-war-chembio29apr29234423,1,4188649.story>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Washington Times

April 29, 2003

Pg. 13

U.S. Accuses Tehran Of Secret Nuke Program

GENEVA — A senior U.S. official yesterday accused Iran — already under pressure from Washington over Iraq — of violating a key global pact to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

John Wolf, assistant secretary of state for nonproliferation issues, said that Iran had an "alarming, clandestine program" to get hold of nuclear technology as part of an illegal weapons effort.

"Iran is going down the same path of denial and deception that handicapped international inspections in North Korea and Iraq," Mr. Wolf said, addressing a gathering to prepare for a 2005 conference on updating the international nonproliferation treaty.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20030429-31506496.htm>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

New York Times

April 29, 2003

North Korea Said To Offer Small Nuclear Steps, At A Price

By Steven R. Weisman

WASHINGTON, April 28 — Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said today that North Korea had put forward a plan in its meeting with American and Chinese envoys last week under which it would "deal with" its nuclear programs but would "expect something considerable in return."

Speaking to reporters at the State Department, Mr. Powell seemed to be softening the administration's tough talk over North Korea, saying that the North Korean offer would be discussed with other Asian nations and could possibly lead to further negotiations to defuse the crisis.

Mr. Powell declined to provide other details of North Korea's offer, but other administration officials said North Korea had asked for a step-by-step package under which it would receive oil shipments, food aid, security guarantees, energy assistance, economic benefits and construction of a light-water nuclear reactor. In return, they said, North Korea had offered to take very small steps.

The officials said that under its proposal North Korea would dismantle its nuclear weapons only at the end of the process. Moreover, they said, it was not clear that this would affect both its plutonium weapons program, frozen in 1994, and the highly enriched uranium program disclosed last year.

American officials said that North Korea's offer was seen throughout the Bush administration as almost absurdly unacceptable. They said this was the view of both hard-liners, who oppose negotiations with North Korea, and moderates, who favor continued diplomatic contact.

To underscore that view, administration officials described themselves last Thursday as angry and disappointed after it was disclosed that North Korea acknowledged in Beijing earlier in the week that it possessed nuclear weapons and had begun making bomb-grade plutonium.

President Bush, reflecting his own tough view, accused North Korea of going "back to the old blackmail game."

Today the tone was somewhat different. Asian diplomats and American officials said that after the disclosures last week, Mr. Powell was seeking today to present a more positive face because of pressure from China, South Korea and Japan, all of which favor further dialogue with North Korea.

Responding to reporters' questions after a meeting with the Jordanian foreign minister, Mr. Powell said the Beijing session actually "turned out to be quite useful," adding that North Korea "acknowledged a number of things that they were doing and, in effect, said these are now up for further discussion."

The changed tone also reflected the continuing divisions in the administration over how to handle North Korea, with hard-liners favoring more economic, diplomatic and possibly military pressure, and moderates advocating a continuation of diplomatic contacts and a possible negotiated solution.

On the need for future talks, however, a self-described hard-liner said today that all sides actually favored continued efforts to talk, at least for now — if only because they felt that if North Korea continued its intransigence, a tougher approach would be more acceptable down the road.

"There are some people in this administration who argue that there's little point in talking to the North Koreans because they are always going to cheat," one official said. But he added that North Korea's latest proposal was such a "nonstarter" that it was worth pursuing in order to show the futility of negotiating with the North.

Another official said that since the Beijing meeting last week there had been nothing but negative publicity about how unacceptable the North's proposals were. Disclosures that North Korea had effectively ended the three-part discussions on the first day fed an atmosphere of disappointment and dismay.

Mr. Powell, this official said, sought to balance the reporting of the meeting by suggesting that the situation was dire but not hopeless. An Asian diplomat familiar with the administration's thinking echoed that view.

"Like any meeting, the Beijing meeting contained good news and bad news," the Asian official said. "The bad news is that they said they had nuclear weapons. But the good news is that they came with their own bold approach, so to speak, and we didn't have enough time to clarify what they meant."

He added that the "bad news" was disclosed last week, whereas the details of the North Korean proposals had only circulated over the weekend, with the return of James A. Kelly, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian affairs, who had been the senior American envoy to meet with the North.

An administration official added, "There was so much bad news in the last five days that it was decided to tone things down a little."

Administration officials said all three negotiating partners — China, Japan and South Korea — were disappointed by North Korea's response last week. But all three favored a more conciliatory tone and continued discussions to get more details of North Korea's thinking.

The next step in the process, they said, would be for more discussions among the three, possibly meeting together as Secretary Powell did with his Asian counterparts in Mexico last year.

China, several officials said, was embarrassed by the failure of the Beijing meeting, since Chinese leaders had worked hard to set it up and had high hopes. On the other hand, China was described today as still eager to keep the conversation going.

President Bush is known to be highly skeptical of negotiating with North Korea. He has said he loathes its leader, Kim Jong Il, a mercurial and reclusive dictator of a country that is enduring widespread deprivation and starvation. But American officials say that after the Iraq war, they are reluctant to embark on any more confrontations, at least for a while.

Hard-liners, for now, are not pressing for penalties against North Korea, though some in the Pentagon had sought to discourage the last round of talks in Beijing — or, alternatively, to select the envoys or control the agenda.

Should diplomacy fail, Defense Department officials are ready to try to persuade Mr. Bush to seek economic penalties against the North, but Washington has little leverage. It would have to persuade Japan, China and South Korea to cut their considerable ties to the North, which is likely to be an uphill battle by all accounts.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/29/international/worldspecial/29KORE.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Washington Post

April 29, 2003

Pg. 20

China Puts North Korea Talks In Brighter Light

Unusual Briefing Suggests Beijing Is Eager to Keep Talks Between Washington, Pyongyang on Track

By John Pomfret and Glenn Kessler, Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIJING, April 28 -- After four days of negative commentary about talks here last week between North Korea, the United States and China, a Chinese Foreign Ministry official conducted an unusual briefing for 20 Western diplomats that left a far more positive picture of the meeting, diplomats said tonight.

The Chinese official suggested that North Korea offered last week to work out a deal with the United States that included dismantling its nuclear program if the United States would change its antagonistic attitude toward North

Korea. North Korea also offered to suspend ballistic missile tests and halt missile exports, said the diplomats, who asked not to be identified.

While U.S. officials had previously disclosed the North Korea offer, they had characterized it in far more negative terms. According to U.S. officials, North Korea had said it would only give up its nuclear weapons and missiles after the United States fulfilled a long list of conditions, including full diplomatic relations with both the United States and Japan and completion of light-water nuclear reactors. As the United States met its obligations, North Korea offered only to announce its intention to give up its nuclear programs, officials said.

"It basically listed everything they have ever asked for," a senior State Department official said in Washington.

At the talks, U.S. officials have said, North Korea also asserted it possessed nuclear weapons and might conduct "a physical demonstration or transfer" the weapons. President Bush last week labeled the talks as "blackmail" and said he looked forward to hearing how the Chinese felt about being rebuffed by the North Koreans.

U.S. officials are now debating whether to proceed to another meeting with North Korea. But tonight's briefing suggested that China, demonstrating a newly assertive role in the issue, was eager to keep discussions between North Korea and the United States on track.

"The Chinese seemed to think this was a significant offer," said one diplomat who said he agreed with Beijing's views. "The briefing certainly gave us the impression that North Korea came to the table with a pretty significant proposal."

Diplomats said that while the briefing was not rare, it was unusual for China to give such a detailed account of the talks to almost two dozen diplomats from the European Union. One diplomat speculated that China gave such a detailed briefing to counter reports in the United States that the talks, the first between North Korea and the United States in six months, had been a failure.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, asked about the Chinese briefing in Washington, acknowledged that North Korea had made a proposal. "The North Koreans acknowledged a number of things that they were doing and, in effect, said these are now up for further discussion," Powell told reporters. "They did put forward a plan that would ultimately deal with their nuclear capability and their missile activities, but they, of course, expect something considerable in return."

U.S. officials said that while the North Korean proposal might offer some basis for further discussion, it was unacceptable in its current form. "We've made clear we're not going to pay for elimination of the nuclear weapons programs that never should have begun in the first place," State Department spokesman Richard A. Boucher said. "That remains our policy, a very clear policy that we've taken."

The North Koreans also told U.S. negotiators that nuclear inspectors would be allowed back into their country if the Bush administration -- which has labeled North Korea part of the "axis of evil" -- changed its "attitude" toward North Korea, one diplomat said. In exchange, diplomats said, North Korea was seeking a security assurance from the United States, moves toward diplomatic recognition and money.

The diplomats said North Korea believes it should be compensated for delay in the completion of light-water reactors under a 1994 pact in which Pyongyang agreed to freeze its nuclear program.

Last week, U.S. officials leaked word that Li Gun, the senior North Korean at the talks, claimed North Korea has a nuclear arsenal.

But the Western diplomats today quoted the Chinese Foreign Ministry official as saying that publicly Li made no such statements during talks with Assistant Secretary of State James A. Kelly.

Last week, U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, reported that Li had made the remarks when he pulled Kelly aside during a break. At the time, Boucher, the State Department spokesman, refused to confirm the reports.

But today, after the Chinese remarks to the diplomats were publicized by news services, Boucher asserted that at the talks North Korea claimed to possess nuclear weapons. "They said they had nuclear weapons," Boucher said. "They said they were reprocessing [spent fuel rods]."

The diplomats quoted the Chinese Foreign Ministry official as saying North Korea backed down from its previous insistence on bilateral talks with the United States and told Kelly it had no preference for any particular format for negotiations. But, according to the Reuters news agency, which also cited diplomats, North Korea warned of extraordinary measures if the United States played its "usual tricks."

Kessler reported from Washington. Correspondent Doug Struck in Tokyo contributed to this report.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A48359-2003Apr28.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Aerospace Daily
April 29, 2003

Pentagon Overhauls 'Diffuse' Chem/Bio Defense Management

The U.S. Defense Department is moving to simplify management of a \$1.4 billion annual investment in chemical and biological defense resources.

A Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense (JPEO-CBD) is being created to manage centrally all related procurement and research programs.

The department also is streamlining oversight of the system. A clear line of authority will stretch from Army Brig. Gen. Stephen V. Reeves, chief of JPEO-CBD, to Claude Bolton, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, technology and logistics. Bolton, in turn, reports directly to the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, a post held by E.C. "Pete" Aldridge, who is retiring until May 23.

The Chemical and Biological Defense Program spans dozens of research and acquisition programs, ranging from decontamination and protection equipment, to agent detectors and medicines.

The long-awaited reorganization plan, detailed in two documents posted late last week, answers a recurring criticism by the General Accounting Office (GAO) that the military has a "diffuse" management structure for chemical and biological defense.

GAO auditors have warned consistently since 1996 of a "serious gap between the priority given to chemical and biological defense and the actual implementation of the program," according to a GAO report issued last year.

GAO found a management system divided among the services that gave Aldridge's staff little visibility into the military's overall program. The auditors also revealed management lapses over inventory controls for protective suits, as military officials weren't able to account for many of the time-sensitive items in its warehouses.

Aldridge's staff has been working on a new management plan since October 2001 when a task force was set up to assess the proposed formation of a joint program executive office for the program, according to a military documents.

One-fourth of DOD's chemical and biological defense budget is earmarked for contamination avoidance. Another 25 percent is invested in building a technological base of medical and other products. Individual protection suits comprise nearly 17 percent of budget and medical countermeasures account for another 17 percent, DOD budget documents show.

The new management plan also involves other DOD offices for specific roles.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency "will manage the science and technology portion of the program and will perform program financial management functions," the document says.

Meanwhile, regular oversight of the program will be led by Dale Klein, assistant secretary of defense for nuclear, chemical and Biological Defense Programs and Anna Johnson-Winegar, deputy assistant secretary for Chemical and Biological Defense.

-- *Stephen Trimble*

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer
April 29, 2003

Anthrax Suspected In Death On Ship

By Shannon McCaffrey and Kevin G. Hall, Inquirer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - U.S. law-enforcement officials said yesterday that they were monitoring the death in Brazil of an Egyptian seaman bound for Canada who might have been transporting anthrax.

A Brazilian government medical investigator whose office performed the tests said he and federal police suspect that anthrax might have killed Ibrahim Saved Soliman Ibrahim.

Ibrahim had just reached his ship, a bauxite carrier, on April 11 in the port of Porto Trombetas, Brazil, when he told shipmates he felt sick. He had been asked to deliver a suitcase to someone in Canada, he told them, and had opened the suitcase out of curiosity. He died that night, vomiting blood.

Authorities are awaiting the results of blood tests to determine what killed him. Brazilian officials are operating on a theory that a terrorist plot might have been foiled.

Ibrahim's ship and crew of 30 were in quarantine yesterday six miles off Halifax, Nova Scotia. A team of Canadian health officials boarded the ship Saturday and conducted tests. Results are expected by Thursday, Health Canada spokeswoman Tracey Taweel said.

The crew members are in excellent health, she said.

The ship was bound for Port Alfred, Quebec. Interpol alerted Canadian authorities last week.

A rash of anthrax mailings in the United States after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks killed five people. No one has been arrested, and the source of the anthrax has yet to be identified.

An aide to Brazilian Justice Minister Marcio Thomaz Bastos said yesterday that there was a "strong suspicion" that the dead man might have been transporting anthrax.

Luiz Malcher, head of Renato Chavez Forensic Sciences Center in Belem, Brazil, said an autopsy found that bacteria had destroyed Ibrahim's organs. "The bacteria colonies were similar to anthrax," he said. "If it isn't anthrax, it is an extremely virulent bacteria."

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/nation/5740440.htm>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Washington Times

April 30, 2003

Pg. 1

U.S. Rejects Demands Made By North Korea

By Nicholas Kralev, The Washington Times

The Bush administration yesterday rejected North Korea's offer to scrap its nuclear weapons program in exchange for a long list of concessions from the United States, saying the proposal would not lead in the right direction.

President Bush's top national security advisers were said to be divided over whether the outcome of last week's talks in Beijing, where the North Koreans made their offer, justified continuing the dialogue with Pyongyang.

"It is a proposal that is not going to take us in the direction we need to go," Secretary of State Colin L. Powell told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"It's a proposal of the kind we have seen previously from them, and it's something that, because our other friends are interested in, we will study."

On Monday, Mr. Powell said the North Koreans "put forward a plan that would ultimately deal with their nuclear capability and their missile activities," but they "expect something considerable in return."

The list of demands, which a senior State Department official called so extensive as to defy a concise description, included resumption of free shipments of heavy fuel oil, security guarantees and the normalization of relations with the United States.

Meanwhile, after three days of difficult bilateral talks in Pyongyang, South Korea failed to extract a North Korean commitment to scrap its nuclear programs. But both sides agreed to pursue a wide range of cooperation projects.

The inter-Korean meeting, the first since South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun took office in February, was troubled from the beginning on Sunday, with Pyongyang insisting Seoul had no part to play in the nuclear crisis.

"The nuclear issue is a matter to be discussed only between North Korea and the United States," North Korean chief negotiator Kim Ryong-song said in a statement.

The two Koreas, however, agreed to forge ahead with reconciliation and economic cooperation.

During the talks in Beijing, the first between the United States and North Korea in six months, Pyongyang acknowledged for the first time that it had nuclear weapons, Mr. Powell said.

He repeated a line the administration had not used for weeks: "We will not be intimidated by their claims and threats. As the president has said, we will not be blackmailed."

North Korea, meanwhile, said yesterday that future talks would be a waste of time if the United States continues to insist that Pyongyang completely dismantle its nuclear weapons program before discussing economic and diplomatic benefits.

"It is quite obvious that as long as the U.S. maintains such a stand, the two sides will only waste time no matter how frequently they negotiate, and such talks will not be of any help to the settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula," said a statement in Pyongyang's official newspaper, Minju Josen.

"What is urgent for the peaceful settlement of the nuclear issue is for the U.S. to put into practice its will to make a switch-over in its hostile policy toward [North Korea]," it said.

At the White House, Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said Washington would "not reward North Korea for bad behavior."

"What we seek is North Korea's irrevocable and verifiable dismantlement of its nuclear weapons program," he told reporters. "We will not provide them with inducements for doing what they always said they were going to do." Both Mr. Powell and Mr. Fleischer said the president still believes the problem can be resolved through diplomacy. "This is the diplomatic process, and the diplomatic process is a lengthy one. The president is prepared to pursue it at that length. And so if it takes time, it will take time," Mr. Fleischer said.

He also said Mr. Bush discussed the North Korean crisis by telephone yesterday with South Korea's Mr. Roh and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. In both calls, the president reiterated his intention to resolve the issue peacefully, he said.

Mr. Bush's top national security aides, known as "the principals," held a meeting yesterday at the White House to discuss the administration's North Korea policy for the first time since the Beijing talks.

The administration, which has been deeply divided on the issue since it came to office more than two years ago, appears split on whether the dialogue with Pyongyang should continue.

Mr. Powell, who has been a strong proponent of multilateral talks, is said to favor another round. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, however, is more skeptical, administration officials said.

Mr. Rumsfeld, who is traveling in the Middle East, was represented at the meeting by his deputy, Paul Wolfowitz. The principals also include National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and CIA Director George J. Tenet.

North Korea reportedly admitted in October to having a secret uranium-enrichment program, violating a 1994 deal known as the Agreed Framework.

After the United States responded by ending shipments of fuel oil, Pyongyang reopened its nuclear complex in December and expelled weapons inspectors from the United Nations. In January, it withdrew from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Today, North Korea is set to open its first embassy in London. It established diplomatic relations with Britain in 2000 and since then has had a mission and a charge d'affaires but not an ambassador.

British Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell, who is to meet with visiting Vice Foreign Minister Choe Su-hon, said: "I would urge North Korea to ... demonstrate either that they don't have nuclear weapons, or if they do, that they are prepared to visibly and verifiably dismantle them."

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20030430-675448.htm>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

New York Times on the Web
April 30, 2003

Report: Iraqi Scientist Says Bioweapons Destroyed

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A scientist who helped to pioneer Iraq's germ warfare program said that to his knowledge all Iraqi biological weapons were destroyed and no such weapons have been in the Iraqi arsenal recently, ABC's "Nightline" reported on Tuesday.

Nasser Hindawi admitted his role in the creation and production of biological weapons but insisted he had no choice when Saddam Hussein sought his expertise in the 1980s during Iraq's war with Iran, ABC reported.

"We have to work as we are ordered, as soldiers in the battlefield. You cannot say no," Hindawi said in an interview.

Saying no to the fallen Iraqi president was not an option, said Hindawi, who spoke of being tapped to supervise the production of weapons, including anthrax.

Asked what he thought would have happened to him had he refused Saddam's request, Hindawi responded:

"Heaven knows. I couldn't imagine. But I couldn't do it -- not only for myself, but for the sake of my family."

Hindawi is now under the protection of pro-American Iraqi National Congress leader Ahmad Chalabi and has spent several days at Chalabi's Baghdad headquarters conferring with American weapons experts, ABC reported.

Hindawi, who has two sons living in the United States, was detained in 1998 while trying to flee the country, an Iraqi source said at the time. The source said the scientist had violated travel laws and was accused of carrying reports from Iraq's past biological program. Visiting U.N. inspection teams had met Hindawi "tens of times," the source said.

Hindawi left the weapons program in 1989 but was recalled by Saddam to work as a consultant when U.N. inspectors arrived after the 1991 Gulf War.

Hindawi told ABC that he and other bioweapons scientists were coached on how to lie to the inspectors.

The report said the scientist was also ordered to conceal how an animal feed protein factory that he had helped to build could also be used to make anthrax.

“I would try to convince the inspectors that nothing other than the protein was produced in that center. But I was lying to them, and they knew it,” Hindawi said.

He also told ABC that he never made powdered or dried anthrax, the most dangerous form -- although he said that he could have.

“There is a way in my mind how to derive such spores, but luckily I did not mention that method,” he said. “If I did, history would curse me. It could have been tragedy.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/news/news-iraq-usa-scientist.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

April 27, 2003

Army Finishes Johnston Atoll Waste Cleanup

By David Briscoe, Associated Press

First, they had to clean up the mess. Then they had to clean up the mess they made cleaning up the mess.

Disposing of chemical weapons can be dirty business, but the Army says all secondary waste from a decade of chemical weapons disposal on Johnston Atoll has been safely incinerated on the isolated Pacific island about 825 miles southwest of Hawaii.

This includes plastic, paper, wood, sludge, charcoal, concrete, hoses and aluminum left over from destruction of some of the most dangerous chemical weapons ever produced.

"This is a significant accomplishment towards the elimination of chemical weapons," said site manager Gary McCloskey, quoted in a news release from the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, which is responsible for safely storing and destroying America's aging chemical weapons stockpiles on the atoll and at other sites.

McCloskey announced that the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System reached an "important milestone" as it "completed the safe thermal processing of the stored secondary wastes that were generated from the destruction of the chemical agents and weapons."

The material was packed into 4,300 drums and thermally treated in the metal parts furnace on Johnston Atoll, the Army said.

The next step is final closure of the facility and return of the island to its more natural role as a refuge for birds and sea creatures, probably by next year.

McCloskey said the success of the operation shows that similar methods can be used at other chemical weapons stockpile sites on the U.S. mainland, including one near Tooele, Utah.

The Army says independent scientists, Dr. Phil Lobel of Boston University and Elizabeth A. Schreiber of the Ornithological Council, have determined that the environment around the atoll remains healthy, with marine life, seabirds and shorebirds all thriving.

"Extensive monitoring of the individual existing native wildlife species and soil sampling will continue throughout the JACADS closure process," McCloskey said.

The island, considered a key Pacific bird-nesting site, once served as storage facility for rockets, bombs, artillery shells, and mines filled with a nerve agent so powerful that a drop on the skin can kill a person.

Over nearly a decade ending in November 2000, the Army destroyed more than 400,000 chemical munitions and 2,000 tons of chemical agents on the island, unincorporated U.S. territory.

Federal health and environmental agencies are monitoring the closure operations, which are expected to be completed early next year.

The Army plans to turn over the atoll with its remaining structures to the U.S. Air Force, which now owns the island. The Air Force would, in turn, hand it over to the Interior Department to become part of the Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, established by Congress in 1926, long before the island became home to the deadly arsenal.

By the time chemical weapons disposal began, the 1-square-mile island held about 6 percent of the U.S. chemical weapons arsenal, stored in concrete igloos.

<http://starbulletin.com/2003/04/27/news/story9.html>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Philadelphia Inquirer

April 30, 2003

Anthrax Did Not Kill Seaman

By Shannon McCaffrey, Inquirer Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - Canadian authorities let a Brazilian ship that had been quarantined off the coast of Nova Scotia continue to Quebec yesterday after tests showed that anthrax did not kill one of its sailors.

The test results ended speculation that the dead Egyptian seaman had been trying to smuggle anthrax into Canada as part of a terrorist plot. Crewmen on the ship said Ibrahim Saved Soliman Ibrahim became violently ill and vomited blood after opening a suitcase that he was carrying to an unidentified Canadian friend. Brazilian officials had said Monday that they suspected anthrax.

Officials in Brazil say they do not know what killed Ibrahim but have ruled out anthrax. He was found dead in his cabin April 11, days after arriving in Brazil from Cairo.

Letters containing anthrax killed five people in the United States in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. No one has been arrested, and the source of the anthrax has not been identified.

<http://www.philly.com/mld/philly/news/nation/5747119.htm>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

Cleveland Plain Dealer

April 27, 2003

'Peaceful' Nuclear Power Fuels Spread Of Weapons

By Stephen Koff, Plain Dealer Bureau Chief

Washington - North Korea announces it has nuclear weapons and could make more, and analysts say South Korea, Japan and Taiwan could follow.

Iran is building a plant to enrich uranium, possibly for a bomb, and experts say Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Syria and even postwar Iraq, depending on its new government, could be next.

The world is teetering on the brink of a new nuclear arms race. Countries are seeking to get the deadliest of weapons as it becomes clear their neighbors and regional rivals are already doing so, CIA Director George Tenet recently told Congress.

The "domino theory of the 21st century may well be nuclear," Tenet said.

A major way such a dangerous arms race has become possible is the ready availability of a source of weapons material - ordinary nuclear power reactors.

Insecure nations are taking the nuclear technology provided for peaceful civilian purposes by the United States and other countries and using it to make military bombs.

The spread of nuclear weapons in unstable regions has become big news.

Only last year, India and Pakistan, both armed with atomic bombs and the missiles to deliver them, alarmed the world when they massed armies on their common border.

More recently, Iran and North Korea - spokes in what President Bush called the "axis of evil" - have kept the world wondering about their true intentions. Iran is using civilian nuclear energy technology that can be converted for nuclear weapons, and North Korea on Thursday said it already has weapons.

Now, in a world threatened by terror, the prospect of nuclear material from rogue regimes falling into terrorist hands has given new urgency to the problem.

Jon Wolfsthal, a former proliferation official at the Energy Department, cautions that just knowing how to operate a nuclear reactor doesn't mean you can build a bomb.

But having a base of knowledge and an infrastructure to create electricity establishes a "dual use" technology.

With knowledge gained from building and operating a civilian power reactor, you get closer to the technologies you need for a weapon, says Wolfsthal, now at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. And some countries, India in particular, "have used a peaceful power program as a cover to develop their nuclear weapons program."

Ace in the hole

Many of these developing nations are exploiting the message sent indirectly from North Korea, Iran and even Iraq: Build a nuclear weapon, and not even a superpower can tell you what to do.

"A lot of countries in this climate in the world would want you at least to wonder whether they had them," says William Hartung, a senior fellow at the World Policy Institute at the New School in New York, where he directs the Arms Trade Resource Center.

Two processing technologies are the key to getting bomb material. One is enriching uranium, a process normally used to concentrate uranium ore sufficiently to make nuclear reactor fuel. If you keep the process going, you can enrich the uranium enough to make a bomb.

That's what authorities fear will happen in Iran, which says it merely wants an enrichment program so it can produce its own low-enriched reactor fuel for electric power plants.

The other route is reprocessing - taking spent fuel rods from conventional reactors and, in an elaborate and expensive process, extracting the 1 percent of plutonium that is a byproduct of the fission process. Collect enough plutonium for a lump the size of a baseball, and you have the core of a Nagasaki-sized weapon.

Based on reprocessing a decade ago of spent fuel rods from a research reactor that also generated electricity, the North Koreans "probably have one or two plutonium-based devices today," the CIA's Tenet said in February. It was not certain these were the same weapons North Korea was referring to in its acknowledgment late last week. But the country also said it had started reprocessing its remaining spent fuel rods to extract their plutonium, and it is believed to be working on uranium enrichment as well - both with the potential to make new bombs.

By extracting plutonium through reprocessing, a nation with only a single, moderate-sized reactor could make 3 or 4 dozen bombs a year, says Richard Garwin, former chairman of the State Department's Arms Control and Nonproliferation Advisory Board. Garwin, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, has concerns about nations stockpiling plutonium.

Experts have few doubts that some non-nuclear nations could quickly arm themselves if they felt threatened. Japan has tons of plutonium from its spent reactor fuel and can already reprocess on a small scale. It is building a much larger reprocessing capability to create more reactor fuel, but politicians there have discussed whether it's time to start a nuclear weapons program. Other countries are assumed to be years away but would be likely to accelerate their programs if their neighbors got the bomb.

Much of the blame for the proliferation of nuclear knowledge can be laid at the feet of the United States and other Western countries.

Starting nearly 50 years ago, the United States encouraged the development of nonmilitary nuclear programs under President Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace project "for the benefit of all mankind."

But formerly classified documents from the Atomic Energy Commission, obtained by Greenpeace, show the U.S. government and the nuclear industry understood then that, if needed, weapons-grade material could be made available from commercial reactors. In interviews, authorities including several former government officials said the United States was overly enthusiastic in spreading nuclear technology.

U.S. was encouraging

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Javad Zarif, recently noted with irony that in 1974, the United States suggested that Iran build 10,000 megawatts of nuclear energy plants to cope with growing energy needs. That was before fundamentalists toppled the shah, before Iran held Americans hostage and relations turned hostile.

Iran now says it wants to produce 6,000 megawatts. But the Bush administration questions why an oil-rich Middle Eastern country would want to diversify its energy sources, and why it would want to build an expensive enrichment plant rather than buy nuclear fuel from Russia. The Russians are now completing Iran's first big reactor for electric power.

Can commercial nuclear power exist without inevitably spreading nuclear weapons?

The Nuclear Control Institute gathered prominent experts in April 2001 to ask that question. Their answers, both in debate and in papers that the institute later published in a book titled "Nuclear Power and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons," showed wide disagreement.

"The potential connection between nuclear power and nuclear weapons is real, and very troubling," Robert Gallucci, a former U.S. ambassador for proliferation issues, told the conference. Gallucci is now dean of Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. Other speakers noted that countries could have secret nuclear weapons programs without a civilian nuclear power program.

The picture is not all gloomy.

In the last 15 years, more countries have given up nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons programs than have acquired them, says the Carnegie Endowment's Wolfsthal. "Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan gave up thousands of nuclear weapons. South Africa gave up six. Argentina and Brazil gave up programs. So you've had a positive trend."

Proponents say nuclear technology led to cleaner air in many countries. Nuclear power does not pollute like coal, and nuclear research has led to developments in medicine and food, notes Marvin Fertel, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer of the Nuclear Energy Institute, the industry trade group. "We use it from everything to making sure the runways at airports are the right thickness, to beer cans are filled to the right level."

But the events of Sept. 11, 2001, prompting fear of nuclear terrorism, and the recent revelations about North Korea and Iran changed the weapons outlook.

Unfortunately, Wolfsthal says, he now foresees not a reduction but "a spiral of escalation."

Genie is out

The bottom line is that, "There is no way to put this genie back in the bottle," says Charles Yulish, vice president of the United States Enrichment Corp., which supplies low-enriched uranium for commercial reactors.

Rogue nations will get hold of the material "one way or another."

So what to do about it?

All eyes are on three powers: The U.S. government, the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency and the U.N. Security Council.

The IAEA has the right to inspect member states - those that agree under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty not to use peaceful nuclear technology to produce weapons. But the IAEA has no enforcement power, and North Korea announced it is leaving the treaty and is no longer covered by the IAEA. Neither, for that matter, are India, Pakistan and Israel, which never signed.

Iran did sign - but as long as it doesn't take the final steps to put highly enriched uranium in weapons, it can be within weeks of having a weapon and still be in compliance, says Henry Sokolski, a nonproliferation adviser in the Defense Department during the first Bush administration.

For the IAEA to get significantly more power, it would require changing the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Roald Sagdeev, a Russian physicist who advised Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, says that's unlikely.

When he raised the subject last October at a nonproliferation conference in Moscow, other attendees strongly objected, saying it could lead to a "chain reaction of conflict, erosion and mismanagement," says Sagdeev, now a professor at the University of Maryland.

That puts matters, then, in the hands of the United Nations. But just as the Security Council could not reach consensus on military force in Iraq, so far it has not agreed on applying pressure to North Korea.

As for the U.S. government, the Bush administration has laced diplomacy with not-so-subtle hints about its international policing powers.

The Bush administration is not publicly threatening Iran militarily, but the president said Thursday that "we're not going to be threatened" by North Korea.

Despite the tensions and uncertainties, Sokolski, now executive director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, can envision a happy ending.

It starts, he says, with the United States pressuring China to stigmatize North Korea and cut off its cash, giving the money-starved, secluded North incentive to zip up its weapons plans.

It continues with a friendly government in Iraq, and with security guarantees to neighboring Iran - once Iraq's enemy - and others in the region. "And Iran not only goes democratic, it turns into the South Africa of the Middle East," embracing reforms and giving up its weapons ambitions.

Meantime the United States leans on Israel to stop its nuclear weapons production and recognizes Egypt for its restraint in not starting a bomb program in response to Israel's.

"And we get a U.N. resolution passed that says we can go after folks who go offshore with nuclear weapons activity and do a cleanup operation when it comes to people transiting and materials transiting and the like," Sokolski says.

"No war. You'll notice, no war."

Is it realistic?

"Why not?" he says. "What's the point of being a world leader if you can't have happy endings?"

But if that doesn't work, says Garwin, the former arms control adviser, there's always the threat of force. He wants to put more teeth into the IAEA and decide what the consequences would be for nations that go back on their word not to make nuclear weapons.

They would include war by the Security Council or a coalition of many states.

"The way you solve the problem is to put your money and your brains where your mouth is. And you solve it in a multilateral way. And you make it unpleasant for people who want to get nuclear weapons."

<http://www.cleveland.com/search/index.ssf?base/news/105143744226000.xml?nnfor>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

April 29, 2003

Will NY lab shift to terror research?

By Dee Ann Divis and Nicholas M. Horrock

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

WASHINGTON, April 29 (UPI) -- The Bush administration is considering testing deadly biological substances at a laboratory on an island in Long Island Sound located near several of the nation's most densely populated areas. On June 1, the new Department of Homeland Security takes over Plum Island, an 840-acre wooded landmass, one-and-a-half miles off the coast of Long Island, but has made no public announcement of its plans.

The island, only about 100 miles from both New York and Boston, has for 45 years been the site of a top security department of agriculture laboratory for studying animal diseases.

According to congressional sources, who asked not be identified, the department is considering upgrading the facility -- which would allow it to conduct research on some of the world's most dangerous biological terror weapons including smallpox, anthrax, tularemia and ricin.

Asked why homeland security officials wanted the island, one Capitol Hill staffer said, "There are very few places in the United States where you can handle very dangerous substances. Plum Island because it is not part of the contiguous United States is one of those very few places."

The sources said the homeland security department and the White House had discussed upgrading the facility on Plum Island from biosafety level 3 to level 4.

"The reason you would want to move to biosafety level 4 is if you are potentially looking at zoonotic diseases that might be able to infect and affect humans," one source told United Press International, "you'd be talking about animal diseases that affect people." He gave the example of West Nile virus, the mosquito born fever that has killed hundreds in the United States.

Under law, another congressional aid said, homeland security department must notify Congress 180 days before it upgrades the safety level of the laboratory. "The existing researchers do not transfer (from Agriculture), but if the (department) wishes to add its own researchers it may," he said.

The United States has not developed biological weapons since 1969 under an international treaty, but the Department of Defense has maintained facilities that produce biological weapons in small amounts to test defenses against them.

Even before the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, or the creation of the new department, there were proposals dating back to 1998 to use the island to test bioweapons.

These proposals caused a furor in communities along Connecticut and Long Island coastlines and now present the Bush administration with a major political fight with senators and representatives from both states.

"For years they studied animal diseases," said Gwen Schroeder, an official of the North Fork Environmental Council "now we learn that they want to switch to anthrax, tularemia and plague. Plum Island is between the Millstone Nuclear Reactor Complex in Waterford, Connecticut, and the Brookhaven National Laboratories. This is a major security danger."

Schroeder said citizens for years have been suspicious about experiments on the island and whether deadly animal diseases were leaking out.

A former scientist at the island told UPI that in 1978 a large hole in a laboratory wall allowed dreaded hoof and mouth to infect a herd of animals on the island. It did not spread to the mainland, he said, but deer and other animals swim back and forth all the time. He said the government hushed the incident up.

The two New York Senators, Hillary Clinton and Robert Schumer, both of whom are Democrats, oppose the placing of a bioweapons research facility on the island. An amendment was proposed to the Homeland Security Act to prevent that, but it was overridden and the notification requirement substituted.

Last December, Clinton told a forum on Long Island she feared moving the island to the new department's control "could be a precursor to raising the bio safety level at the facility. This could allow research on life threatening exotic animal diseases and these harmful materials could be transmitted through the air," she said.

"This is too great a risk and I will strongly oppose any efforts to raise the bio safety level at Plum Island."

The concerns over safety have been intensified by an eight-month strike between a private contractor that provides maintenance on the island and some 76 members of the International Operating Engineers Union. On Plum Island the vital systems needed to contain deadly animal maladies are run by the maintenance workers.

Though the strike continued in April, the union has been largely defeated. It ended its picket line and many members have sought other employment.

During the course of the strike, the contractor, LB&B Associates, Inc., of Columbia, Maryland, hired replacement workers to try to carry out the maintenance. Among those replaced were crucial staffers who operate ventilators and other environmental security equipment that keep the deadly animal diseases from entering the air and possibly spreading off the island.

Union lawyer, Marty Glennon, said that there were several incidents that show the replacement workers LB&B hired posed a security risk. He said a computer technician turned out to have an arrest record, yet he was given control of all the containment areas ventilation systems and took a laptop computer off the island with the plans in it.

He was fired by LB&B and the laptop was reprogrammed, a spokesman for the Department of Agriculture said. Glennon said another replacement worker lost his job for taking a panel truck to Queens, New York, without permission and yet another replacement worker was found by a urine test to have been using crack cocaine. Lily Brandon, President of LB&B Associates, Inc. said in a telephone interview she had no comment. She declined to listen to several questions about the strike from UPI.

Sen. Clinton charged that inept handling by replacement workers caused an accident involving the ferry that moves workers to and from the island. There was also a loss of water service on the island in August. The water is particularly critical for workers to cleanse themselves and equipment of dangerous substances. The FBI later accused a union member of turning off the water valve. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor.

Last fall, Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, asked the General Accounting Office to investigate whether, under LB&B and the agriculture department, the security arrangements on the island are adequate. The investigation is ongoing.

Union leaders charge that the agriculture department provided LB&B \$45,000 a week during the strike allowing it to operate without a loss and robbing the union of its most important weapon, economic pressure.

"We know for a fact that the USDA is reimbursing LB&B for the strike," Glennon told UPI, "and there's something very wrong about this new contract. We want a full investigation into why they seem to be bending the rules for LB&B."

During the course of contract offers and counter offers, LB&B seemed bent on getting union members out of the jobs and replacing them with non-union workers. In December, for instance, the union agreed to accept the wage levels that existed before they struck for more wages -- but found that they were barred from going back to work. A South Carolina legal counsel for LB&B, Benjamin Thompson, said the union misunderstood the company's proposal and that it did not include bringing many striking workers back to work.

Sen. Schumer charged, "It's an outrage that in return for withdrawing their demands settling the strike ... the union members are now faced with having their jobs taken by replacement workers with less qualifications and less experience. That not only violates their rights -- it could pose a great risk to our security." He called for a Department of Labor investigation.

The union chose to strike last August at the very time that there was a major battle in the Senate over whether the Department of Homeland Security would permit its 180,000-plus employees to be union members. When the Homeland Security Act passed in November, it stated that if an agency had a union workforce it could remain union, but unions could not organize places where there was no representation.

"I think our guys became the poster child of the Republicans trying to keep the unions out," Glennon said.

Glennon thinks that explains why when the DHS set a schedule for taking over the 22 federal agencies that would make up the new department, all came under it on March 1, but Plum Island will not be taken over until June 1.

<http://www.washtimes.com/upi-breaking/20030429-025505-6903r.htm>

[\(Return to Contents\)](#)

TA terror plan: Cut and run

Warning from union

By LISA L. COLANGELO, KERRY BURKE and ROBERT INGRASSIA

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Subway workers are being trained to "cut and run" - leaving panicked riders behind - if terrorists unleash a chemical attack, the transit union warned yesterday.

Transit supervisors told employees during recent chemical-attack training sessions to don gas masks - and get out of trains and stations, Transport Workers Union Local 100 told a City Council committee.

"What they expect our members to do in the event of a nuclear, biological or chemical incident would be to ... get out of your cab and leave the public behind," said Jimmy Willis, the union assistant to the president.

"My question to them when they explained it to me was, 'Are you asking us to cut and run?' And I asked it again, 'Are you asking us to cut and run?' and the answer I got was, 'Yes, cut and run.'"

Last night, a Transit Authority official disputed the union's contention that workers are being instructed to leave passengers to fend for themselves in a chemical or biological attack. "We want them [the workers] to be able to identify what's going on, notify our command structure and yes, we want them to leave," said TA spokesman Paul Fleuranges. "But we don't expect them to leave anyone behind."

The union's charges come amid heightened concerns that the subway system is considered a prime terror target.

Cops have beefed up their presence at stations, National Guard teams check for chemical and biological agents - and riders are told to report suspicious activity.

But the union said the Transit Authority hasn't made security a priority and charged it isn't ready for a terror attack. Willis said employees have only been given pamphlets and a brief course that essentially tells them to save themselves.

"Lives are at stake," said Willis, a train conductor for 15 years. "If the MTA does have a sound, coherent and effective program to cope with the next terrorist event, we need to know about it now. Not on game day."

Before Willis testified, transit officials defended the TA's actions in preparing for biological, chemical and other possible terror attacks. They said workers are being trained to recognize a gas attack, notify authorities and help evacuate the system.

Many subway employees also have been issued escape hoods that will protect them for 15 minutes, transit officials testified.

But some Council members weren't satisfied. "To instruct anyone to cut and run is an outrage. We need our people properly trained to stand and protect, not cut and run," said Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Queens), chairman of the Public Safety Committee.

At one point, he pressed Willis to say who told workers to cut and run. Willis pointed to Rocco Cortese, the Transit Authority's assistant vice president for operations training, who had testified at the hearing earlier.

Riders who were told yesterday about the union's charges expressed outrage.

"It's just horrible, absolutely horrible," said Juanita Peele, 38, a customer service representative from the Bronx, riding the No. 7 train. "They're going to just leave us to whatever happens, while raising the fare."

But Shirley Parker, 40, a Police Department administrative aide from Brooklyn, said she doubts subway workers would be much help anyway during a chemical attack.

"I would run too," said Parker, riding a downtown E train in Manhattan. "What can they do in a gas or biological attack?"

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[\(Return to Contents\)](#)