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San Antonio Express-News  
September 2, 2003

## **Army Burns Nerve Agent In Alabama**

By Associated Press

ANNISTON, Ala. — The Army destroyed about 530 gallons of sarin nerve agent in the first bulk burn of the lethal chemical at the Army's newest weapons incinerator, and the remaining 270 or so gallons are to be destroyed later this month, an Army spokesman said Monday.

The Army had expected the 15 1/2-hour burn, which began Sunday and ended early Monday, to consume the entire 800 gallons of sarin drained from rockets.

Because it did not, workers will be "fine-tuning" the incinerator during the next burn in about three weeks to make it more efficient, Army spokesman Mike Abrams said.

"In no way would I characterize it as any failure or any problem," Abrams said. "This is what we have characterized as a shakedown period."

Sarin, also known as "GB," is a nerve agent so deadly a drop on the skin can kill. The chemical was drained from 900 M55 rockets that have been chopped up and burned since the incinerator began operating Aug. 8. The burn marked the first time the Army destroyed a large amount of nerve agent near a populated area.  
<http://news.mysanantonio.com/story.cfm?xla=saen&xlc=1048807>

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Birmingham (AL) News  
September 2, 2003

## Sarin Leaks Detected In First Firing

By Katherine Bouma, News staff writer

Two sarin leaks were detected within the incinerator complex at Anniston Army Depot when a furnace was fired up for the first time Sunday, a spokesman for the Army said.

Incinerator officials also now say that another alarm activated two weeks ago, said to be false at the time, also was positive for the deadly nerve gas.

In one of the Sunday cases and the 2-week-old case, the alarms detected the sarin vapor only within confines of a room with no inhabitants, said Army spokesman Mike Abrams. He said he did not know the details of the third alarm, which took place sometime after the Army began burning sarin at 1:55 p.m. Sunday.

Sarin is so deadly that a single drop on the skin can kill a person. The Army has been working since Aug. 9 to empty old, decaying M 55 rockets of sarin and burn the weapons.

This weekend, for the first time, the Army began burning the sarin it had collected.

On Aug. 21, Army officials closed the facility for two days to test the alarm system, saying it had trouble with alarms sounding. Officials said repeatedly since that time that every alarm had been false.

As recently as Friday, Abrams said he could not reveal details or provide the laboratory reports of the alarms only because they were too complicated to explain. But he said he could assure the public all the alarms had been false.

On Monday, he said one of the previous alarms actually was positive. He said he mistakenly gave false information because he failed to ask the correct questions of officials at the facility.

"I did not intentionally mislead you, the public or anyone else," Abrams said. "I don't think the facility misled anyone. I think about the Paul Newman movie ("Cool Hand Luke") more than anything else - a failure to communicate."

He said the Army did not notify the Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency of any of the detected leaks. The Army is not required to release information about the alarms unless they are found to have been indicating leaks of the lethal nerve gas through the exhaust stack, Abrams said.

"Agent contamination is possible and sometimes expected," he said. "This is not unexpected."

Laboratory results from monitors that sound are supposed to be available to incinerator officials within hours.

Abrams said he did not know when officials received word of the leaks.

The 2-week-old leak was detected in the closed room where the blades that chop up rockets were washed, he said.

The system was using water, which was contaminated and set off an alarm in a room near the liquid incinerator.

He said Westinghouse Anniston, the contractor running the incinerator, has begun using a chlorine-based decontaminant to wash the blades and has had no further troubles.

He said Sunday's detection came soon after workers began to pump sarin into the liquid incinerator before a 1:55 p.m. startup of the incinerator. An alarm sounded outside the furnace, within the closed liquid incinerator room.

"It was not a spill; it was not a failure of the system," Abrams said. "There was a little bit of vapor detected and operations were able to continue."

He said he did not know the details of the second positive alarm that sounded on Sunday.

The Army had estimated it would need 10 or 11 hours to burn the 800 gallons of liquid sarin that had been collected. Instead, the facility stopped burning about 5:30 a.m. Monday when workers had spent more than 15 hours on the job and had destroyed a little more than 500 gallons, Abrams said.

In the startup phase of the incinerator, sarin monitors are the only equipment testing the air. There are no air pollution monitors running, although ultimately the incinerator operations will be required to pass tests satisfying the state that it is burning the sarin cleanly.

The Army expects to spend the next decade burning more than 661,000 Cold War-era chemical weapons that have been stockpiled at Anniston Army Depot for 40 or more years.

<http://www.al.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news/1062494603260481.xml?birminghamnews?nmet>

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## Test Vaccine Attacks Anthrax's Cause, Effect

By Associated Press

A new vaccine that launches a two-pronged attack on anthrax — battling both the bacterium that causes the disease and the toxin it produces — is undergoing preliminary tests.

The dual-acting vaccine goes a step beyond the current product that only targets the deadly toxin, according to researchers at Harvard Medical School, who tested it in mice.

Their findings are being published this week in the online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

Interest in anthrax was spurred two years ago when spores of the disease were mailed to news media and lawmakers. Five persons died and the U.S. Postal Service had to shut down major facilities for decontamination. The agency continues to irradiate mail addressed to federal offices to prevent another such attack.

In another sign of progress, researchers say they now know how to diagnose anthrax quickly and efficiently, an advance that could help doctors better deal with a large-scale attack.

In a separate study, scientists report fever and cough are common in both anthrax victims and flu sufferers. But people sickened by anthrax are also likely to suffer from mental confusion, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea and vomiting. Runny noses and sore throats are much more common in people with the flu. The study appears in today's *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

*Bacillus anthracis*, the bacterium that causes anthrax, protects itself in the human body with a coating of molecules that prevents the immune system from detecting it. It can then multiply and produce its deadly toxin.

Current vaccines sensitize the body to that toxin so the immune system can fight it. But the newly developed version also sensitizes the immune system to the coating that protects the bacteria, so it can attack the bacteria.

"Clearly, there is a need for a better anthrax vaccine," said Julia Y. Wang, an assistant professor of medicine who was part of the team. "The bivalent vaccine we came up with is likely to be much more effective at protecting against systemic anthrax because it targets both virulence factors of *Bacillus anthracis* — its toxin and its capsule."

In the Harvard test, mice immunized with the new vaccine then injected with anthrax toxin survived, while nonimmunized mice similarly injected died within hours.

The researchers didn't have access to anthrax bacteria, however, so they used a substitute to test the vaccine's effectiveness.

Blood from the immunized mice was tested with *Bacillus licheniformis*, which coats itself with a protective cover similar to that used by *Bacillus anthracis*. In lab tests, blood from immunized mice coated and killed bacillus *licheniformis*.

Dr. Wang said in a telephone interview that testing are planned of the ability of the vaccine to protect mice from the anthrax bacterium itself.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20030902-121420-6906r.htm>

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## Concessions Possible On N. Korea

*Policy shift seen as way to defuse nuclear issue*

By Bryan Bender, Globe Correspondent

WASHINGTON -- After more than two years of trying to isolate reclusive North Korea, the Bush administration is preparing to offer Pyongyang diplomatic relations, security guarantees, and other concessions if it agrees to dismantle its nuclear weapons program, according to administration officials involved in internal deliberations.

The approach marks a major policy shift toward what President Bush has labeled a member of the "axis of evil." The Bush White House broke with the Clinton administration's carrot-and-stick approach, preferring to stand firm against North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, whom it accused of violating a 1994 agreement to freeze Pyongyang's weapons program.

The administration, however, has little to show for the confrontational approach. North Korea pulled out of a global treaty governing atomic weapons earlier this year and is now threatening to conduct a nuclear test.

Bolstered by new talks last week, a consensus has emerged in Washington that the most effective way to defuse one of its most challenging foreign policy crises is to reemphasize the Clinton approach of possible rewards in return for North Korean cooperation, the officials said.

"Now [the administration] has learned the hard way that the solution to this is going to be negotiation," said a State Department official who asked not to be named. "The approach until now has been terribly inefficient and wasteful. We could have been here two years ago."

It is unclear, however, whether North Korea would agree to declare its intent to end the nuclear program as a basis for a comprehensive agreement. Officials declined to discuss details of the talks, only to say the atmosphere steadily improved after Pyongyang threatened to conduct a test detonation if it did not receive a pledge from Washington that it would not invade.

The three days of talks in Beijing -- involving the United States, Japan, China, Russia, and North and South Korea -- ended on Friday. The United States worked hard to develop a strategy to confront North Korea with what looked like big-power unity against its nuclear ambitions.

The talks, the first involving Washington and Pyongyang since April, had their share of fireworks. At the opening of the Beijing talks, the top North Korean negotiator said for the first time that his country now has a nuclear bomb and is planning to soon conduct a nuclear test to prove it.

North Korea's state-run news agency warned before the meetings that it would respond strongly if the United States refused to meet its longstanding demand for a formal treaty in which Washington would promise not to attack, something the Bush administration says is out of the question because it would be tantamount to blackmail.

Over the weekend, North Korean officials labeled the talks a failure and said there was no need for further meetings. It was unclear whether the statements signaled a change in policy or another ploy to gain leverage in future talks. US officials, however, downplayed the hard-line North Korean stance, with the US envoy, Assistant Secretary of State James A. Kelly, calling the discussions a success.

Rather than calling Pyongyang's bluff, "We were determined not to overreact to anything they said," said an American diplomat who asked not to be named, saying the measured US response was evidence of the shifting tactics.

The Bush administration is willing to make a series of offers to North Korea that would avoid appearing to reward Pyongyang, yet grant concessions as part of a comprehensive settlement in which North Korea agrees to dismantle its nuclear weapons program under international supervision.

"There are things we could still do to get this on a straighter trajectory," said an administration official who asked not to be identified.

He said one leading proposal is to offer to open up a "liaison office" in Pyongyang staffed with US diplomats -- as Washington did with Communist Vietnam -- as a first step to normalizing relations. Washington has no formal diplomatic ties with Pyongyang.

While stopping short of agreeing to a formal nonaggression pact, another proposal is some form of American security guarantee to allay Pyongyang's concerns about a US military attack, officials said. It could include a collective statement from all the parties involved that North Korea will not be threatened if it lives up to its end of the deal, they said.

Other considerations include providing economic incentives, such as resuming fuel oil shipments under the 1994 Agreed Framework negotiated by the Clinton White House to rein in the North's nuclear weapons. Those shipments were suspended last year when Pyongyang said it was continuing to enrich uranium and threatened to separate weapons-grade plutonium from nuclear fuel rods.

The administration official said, however, that the North Koreans must first drop the insistence on a formal US pledge of nonaggression.

"The North Koreans probably asked for the wrong thing," he said.

The official said the starting point for a deal had to be North Korea's agreement to dismantle its weapons program. Despite the policy shift, the debate over engaging the North Koreans is probably far from over. Some hard-liners and conservatives are urging the White House to take stronger action to isolate North Korea. Instead of negotiating a deal, they are urging the administration to take more aggressive steps to force compliance with international norms and a unilateral disarmament on the part of Pyongyang.

The Senate Republican Policy Committee called last week for a United Nations resolution to impose international sanctions against North Korea for its behavior.

"Up to now, it has been the consistent policy of the Bush administration war on terrorism not to negotiate with terrorists or terrorist-sponsoring states," said a committee paper released last week. It warned that negotiating with North Korea would signal "to Iran, other rogue regimes, and would-be treaty violators that they can defy the international community and get away with it."

"Conservatives increasingly are pushing to go to the UN," which has formally condemned the North Korean regime for its nuclear violations in order to punish it, said Henry Sokolski, executive director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center.

"I think it is critically important not to ignore facts on the ground," said Dan Poneman, a former National Security Council official in the Clinton and first Bush administrations. "To the extent that North Korea has separated more plutonium or built additional nuclear weapons, or if they take a step such as testing, it would require the strongest international response."

Intelligence officials believe North Korea probably has enough material for one or two bombs, but most specialists believe its program is not advanced enough to conduct a nuclear test.

Nevertheless, the United States and its allies in the region fear that the longer the standoff, the greater the prospect of a war with a nuclear-armed Pyongyang, which also has an army 1 million strong. The prevailing view in the administration, officials said, is continued confrontation is not worth the risk.

[http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/244/nation/Concessions\\_possible\\_on\\_N\\_Korea+.shtml](http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/244/nation/Concessions_possible_on_N_Korea+.shtml)

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Philadelphia Inquirer

September 2, 2003

## **N. Korea Says Its Nuclear Weapons Are No Threat**

By Michael Dorgan, Knight Ridder News Service

BEIJING - North Korea yesterday derided U.S. demands that it end its pursuit of nuclear weapons and dismissed as "senseless" U.S. concern that it might sell atomic devices or materials to terrorists or use them to attack neighboring countries.

"It is utterly groundless that our nuclear deterrent poses a 'threat' to somebody," the Rodong Sinmun, the Communist Party's flagship newspaper, said in a commentary, according to North Korea's official KCNA news agency.

"Unless someone provokes the DPRK, its nuclear deterrent will remain unused," said the newspaper, using the initials of the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In a separate criticism, North Korea's Foreign Ministry made fun of U.S. demands that it abandon its nuclear program. "They promise not to shoot and we are supposed to lay down weapons first," said the ministry's statement, released by the North's embassy in Moscow. "It's a game even kids won't play."

Left unclear was what sort of provocation might cause the isolated Stalinist state to use nuclear weapons.

That question is at the heart of international efforts to defuse the crisis, which began 10 months ago with North Korea's claim that it had undertaken a secret uranium enrichment program in violation of a 1994 agreement to scuttle its nuclear-weapons programs.

Three days of six-nation talks aimed at shutting down North Korea's nuclear-weapons programs ended Friday in Beijing with no breakthroughs but with a promise to keep talking.

All six parties - China, Japan, South Korea and Russia, as well as North Korea and the United States - also pledged not to do anything to escalate tensions, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Friday.

The size of North Korea's nuclear arsenal - if it has one - is a matter of speculation. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency says North Korea probably has one or two nuclear bombs, though the North claims to have reprocessed 8,000 spent fuel rods in recent months - enough to yield sufficient plutonium for several more bombs.

South Korea's foreign minister warned North Korea on Sunday that any attempt to increase its nuclear capability after the six-party talks would only increase its isolation.

"If [North Korea] takes measures that would further aggravate the situation, such as continuing developing its nuclear program, such actions would result in loss of trust from the other five countries, and that would isolate [North Korea]," Foreign Minister Yoon Young Kwan told a television station in Seoul.

It remained unclear, however, whether North Korea was abandoning negotiations or merely ratcheting up its belligerent rhetoric in hopes of strengthening its bargaining position.

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/nation/6670928.htm>

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Washington Post

August 31, 2003

Pg. 19

## **N. Korea Retreats From Further Talks On Weapons**

By John Pomfret, Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIJING, Aug. 30 -- One day after an apparent agreement with officials from the United States and four other nations to pursue further talks on its nuclear weapons program, the North Korean government declared today it saw no value in holding more negotiations.

Japan's Defense Agency, meanwhile, announced plans to seek \$1.2 billion for U.S.-designed systems to defend against ballistic missiles, an expression of concern about the nuclear threat from North Korea.

The North Korean and Japanese statements came despite the agreement in Beijing on Friday by the United States, North and South Korea, Russia, China and Japan to avoid actions and statements that other parties to the talks might consider provocative.

A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman told the country's KCNA news agency that U.S. officials had adopted a harder line at the talks and had demanded that the North Korean government "drop its gun first." Diplomats confirmed that the U.S. assistant secretary of state, James Kelly, asked North Korean negotiators on Wednesday, the first day of the talks, to unconditionally end their nuclear weapons program. The talks were the first meeting between U.S. and North Korean negotiators since April.

"How can the DPRK trust the U.S. and drop its gun?" the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, using the initials of North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "Even a child would not be taken in by such a trick."

The spokesman said that the U.S. position led North Korean authorities to question the value of further negotiations. "This made it impossible for the DPRK to have any interest or expectation for the talks, as they are not beneficial to it," he said.

Meanwhile, a commentary in the official North Korean newspaper, Minju Joson, said every country had a right to defend itself and went further than the ministry, declaring that the country already has a nuclear force.

It was unclear whether the North Korean government's statements constituted a rejection of Friday's agreement for more talks or were part of its sometimes obscure negotiating tactics. North Korean officials often make threats or major demands in an apparent attempt to win concessions.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry issued a statement today in response to the North Korean report, saying it hoped talks aimed at defusing the nuclear crisis would continue.

Shi Yinhong, an expert on Chinese security, said the North Korean statement was probably "just bluster" and predicted that Pyongyang would continue to negotiate.

"I think this is another form of classic North Korean brinkmanship, a policy of muddling through to see how much they can get at the negotiating table next time," said Shin-wa Lee, a noted political analyst at Korea University in Seoul. "It could also mean that the North did not feel these talks went so well for them."

Meanwhile, Chinese officials had no immediate reaction to the Japanese missile announcement, but the government opposes such theater missile defense on the grounds that the technology degrades China's nuclear deterrent. The North Korean government would also view such a defense as provocative, analysts and officials said.

*Correspondent Anthony Faiola in Seoul contributed to this report.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A4561-2003Aug30.html>

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New York Times

August 31, 2003

## Europeans Warn Iran On Nuclear Inspections

By Nazila Fathi

TEHRAN, Aug. 30 — Javier Solana, the foreign policy chief for the European Union, today pressed Iran to sign a protocol that would allow more aggressive inspections of its nuclear sites.

"We will have bad news for Iran if it refuses to sign the additional protocol," said Mr. Solana, who came to Iran to meet with officials here, during a news conference with the Iranian foreign minister, Kamal Kharazi.

"Let me say this openly: no one should expect a reward for signing it," he added. "The issue is not for bargaining; it is a matter of a friend advising another friend, and Iranian authorities are politically mature to hear a friend's advice."

Iran has come under mounting pressure to sign the protocol to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

The United States has repeatedly accused Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons. The European Union warned last month that it would review its economic ties with Iran if it refused to sign the protocol.

Iran took a step toward signing the protocol this week after a report disclosed that the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspectors had found traces of highly enriched uranium in environmental samples taken at the country's Natanz facility. Iran announced its willingness in a letter to the agency to begin negotiations on the issue.

Mr. Kharazi said today that Iran's good will was evident in its willingness to let the agency's inspectors take samples from its nuclear facilities and in its talks on the protocol.

Iran, which has always maintained that its nuclear power program is for peaceful purposes, has so far refused to sign the protocol, and demands technical cooperation in nuclear science from other signing nations in return. It also wants a guarantee that inspectors will not be given complete freedom to move inside the country to gain access to and expose military secrets.

In response to the report about enriched uranium, Iran said the equipment had been imported and had arrived with the traces of the substance.

The International Atomic Energy Agency will meet on Sept. 8 to review the protocol issue and could send the case to the United Nations Security Council if the agency concludes that Iran's nuclear activities pose a threat.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/31/international/middleeast/31TEHR.html>

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Baltimore Sun

September 2, 2003

## **Iran Is Setting A Condition On Fuller Atom Inspections**

TEHRAN, Iran -- Iran said yesterday that it will not allow unfettered inspections of its nuclear facilities until the U.N. atomic agency recognizes its right to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said Saturday that Iran was ready to begin talks on signing an extension to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty that would strengthen international inspection powers.

But before signing the protocol, the country wants "the recognition of Iran's right of peaceful use of nuclear energy. This is not something we can bargain about," government spokesman Abdollah Ramezanzadeh said yesterday.

<http://www.sunspot.net/news/printedition/bal-te.world02sep02.story>

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Washington Post

September 4, 2003

Pg. 5

## **U.S. Seeks Extension On Chemical Arms Deadline**

The United States cannot meet an international deadline next April for destroying at least 45 percent of its chemical arms stockpile and is seeking an extension, to 2007, for reaching that milestone, the Pentagon said.

Citing "political and operational issues" that have caused delays at some domestic destruction sites, the Defense

Department said the international Chemical Weapons Convention allowed signatory states to seek such delays. The six-year-old agreement calls for member states to completely destroy their chemical stockpiles by December 2007.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A23159-2003Sep3.html>

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Washington Post

September 4, 2003

Pg. 16

## **U.S. Flexibility Sought On N. Korea**

By John Pomfret and Anthony Faiola, Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIJING, Sept. 3 -- China expressed dissatisfaction today with the U.S. position on North Korea's nuclear weapons program at six-party talks that ended last week in Beijing and said the next round of negotiations would depend on the United States.

A Chinese official elaborated on statements made by Wang Yi, China's vice foreign minister and the host of last week's talks, who told reporters Monday in Manila that he considered the United States the "main obstacle" to settling the nuclear issue peacefully.

South Korea -- one of the closest U.S. allies at the talks -- also suggested that all parties involved, including the United States, would have to compromise.

In interviews, the Chinese and South Korean officials praised the North Koreans for showing flexibility and for offering a detailed proposal at the talks. The Chinese official said his country was still unclear whether the Bush

administration supported negotiations and wanted to participate in another round of talks. U.S. officials and other participants said last week that they had agreed to hold further negotiations.

"We are in the process of trying to find a new consensus," said a high ranking South Korean official close to the talks. "But for us to come to an agreement . . . all the countries at the table will need to compromise."

"It depends on the United States," a Chinese official close to the talks said on condition of anonymity. "It depends on if the United States can have a more unified position and more specific proposals to induce North Korea back to the negotiating table."

At the talks, Assistant Secretary of State James A. Kelly demanded that North Korea unconditionally end its nuclear weapons program before any benefits -- such as a U.S. security guarantee or economic aid -- would be considered. For its part, North Korea demanded a nonaggression treaty with the United States in exchange for halting, but not dismantling, its nuclear program.

The Chinese official said he believed that the Bush administration would have to consider modifying its demand for a complete and total dismantling of all of North Korea's nuclear programs.

The Chinese official rejected a view held by some members of the Bush administration that North Korea's main goal was to possess nuclear weapons. He said North Korea's primary objective was to normalize relations with the United States.

The official said China had asked the United States to postpone or scale back military exercises off the coast of Australia planned for later this month. The exercises are part of the Proliferation Security Initiative, a program that aims to set up an air and naval net around North Korea to stop it from exporting weapons of mass destruction. China also wants the Bush administration to state clearly that it supports negotiations as a way to solve the crisis on the Korean Peninsula and to come up with a proposal for North Korea.

The official said China has also appealed to North Korea to avoid taking any provocative actions, especially in light of concerns that it might carry out some type of weapons test on its national day, Sept. 9.

After the talks ended on Friday, North Korea criticized the negotiations and said it doubted that such forums were useful. But South Korean officials insisted that North Korea had been misunderstood. They argued that North Korean officials were merely echoing their opposition to the tough U.S. stance.

"When North Korea said it was not interested in the talks, that was first said during the summit and after they heard the U.S. posture . . . it was nothing new," said a South Korean official close to the talks. "They got the impression that the talks would not be useful, but that doesn't mean they would not negotiate, just that they were showing their disapproval" of the U.S. position.

Commenting on the apparent gaps surfacing between the United States and the other nations that participated in the talks, a senior Western diplomat said, "You can't expect everybody to get the line right every time. . . . But I do not think this is serious. There was a general agreement on where things need to go, and the stress was put on what North Korea needs to do."

*Faiola reported from Seoul.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A22738-2003Sep3.html>

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Washington Times

September 4, 2003

Pg. 15

## **Powell Says U.S. To Ignore Threats**

*Kim backed anew as military leader*

By David Sands, The Washington Times

The United States will not be bullied by threats from North Korea to give up its demand that Pyongyang end its nuclear weapons programs, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell said yesterday.

Mr. Powell met with South Korean Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan to discuss the next steps in the diplomacy following inconclusive six-nation talks in Beijing last week to address the Korean Peninsula nuclear crisis.

"The way forward is not helped by threats and truculent statements that are designed to try to frighten the international community," said Mr. Powell.

"We will not be frightened nor will we be caused by such actions to take steps that we do not believe are in our interests or the interests of our partners," he said.

In Pyongyang, North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament yesterday unanimously endorsed the government's tough stance in the Beijing talks, saying in a resolution that the American position left the country with no choice but to pursue a nuclear deterrent.



The North's nuclear program is a "just self-defensive means to repel the U.S. pre-emptive nuclear attacks and ensure peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and the region," the Supreme People's Assembly resolution said. The body's 670 lawmakers also unanimously endorsed North Korean leader Kim Jong-il to another term as supreme military leader of the Communist regime.

According to the North's official news agency, the news of Mr. Kim's endorsement set off a spontaneous celebration in the capital, with women in colorful dress and children wearing red scarves singing and dancing in the streets.

Mr. Powell said yesterday it was not clear if the North's reference to renewed nuclear development and missile tests in Beijing last week was "a promise or a statement," but said the Bush administration was committed to a diplomatic solution working closely with South Korea and other Asian allies.

South Korea, Japan, China, Russia, the United States and North Korea participated in last week's negotiations.

Mr. Powell also said another round of six-party talks was possible before the end of the year, adding that Chinese diplomats "are certainly anticipating another round of talks in the not-too-distant future."

Illustrating the high level of interest in the wake of the Beijing talks, South Korea's Mr. Yoon held a brief meeting with President Bush at the White House yesterday in addition to his talks with Mr. Powell.

In remarks to reporters after their discussions, Mr. Powell said he had also assured the South Korean minister that the United States would fully consult with its ally before considering any shifts or redeployment of the 37,000 U.S. troops currently stationed in South Korea.

He said the United States was also committed to an international effort to control weapons proliferation, with North Korea seen as one of the world's biggest proliferators.

Weapons experts from the United States and 10 other countries were meeting in Paris in a bid to beef up the Proliferation Security Initiative, a U.S.-backed program to halt the sale of weapons of mass destruction.

Northeast Asia has seen a flurry of diplomacy since last week's talks.

Bush administration officials after the meeting said North Korea had shown no flexibility in dealing with questions about its nuclear arsenal, at one point even threatening to begin missile testing if its demands were not met.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20030903-095329-8069r.htm>

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Las Vegas Review-Journal

September 2, 2003

## **Pilots, Ground Forces Search For Scud Missiles Near Nellis**

By Keith Rogers, Review-Journal

Months before the war in Iraq began, a U.S.-led team of coalition pilots and special ground forces practiced hunting for Scud missiles hidden in the sprawling training range north of Nellis Air Force Base.

The plan, said a chief training officer from Air Combat Command in Langley, Va., was to ensure the fighter jets, bombers, spy planes and ground troops could locate any Scuds that might be hidden in western Iraq.

The effort was to avert a scenario like the one that occurred a decade ago in the Persian Gulf region when Iraq fired 90 Scud missiles, mostly at Israel and Saudi Arabia. One hit a barracks in Saudi Arabia, killing 28 U.S. soldiers.

"Our primary training objective was to allow crews to positively identify a Scud," said Col. Jerry Dillon, deputy chief of training of the command's Flight Operations Branch.

In the exercises, which lasted from August 2002 until January, three months before the war began, as many as four Scud missiles were moved around the Nevada range for the team to find using reconnaissance, intelligence and targeting systems.

"We also put together some realistic ground targets, simulated decoy-type targets," Dillon said by telephone last week. "We knew if we found them, we could kill them, but the basic premise was to find them."

The Nellis range, with its desert terrain and similarities to western Iraq provided a unique opportunity for the rehearsal. "I can't think of anywhere else in the world we could have trained as effectively," he said.

Dillon provided the first details about the Scud exercise since Air Force Secretary James Roche last month noted the essential role of the Nellis range in preparing for the war. Until Roche's comment, the existence of the Scud maneuvers remained under wraps.

With as many as 24 Scud systems unaccounted for after the first Persian Gulf War, the effort to find any that might remain was paramount to preventing a possible attack on U.S. forces and allies in the region, particularly in light of their potential to deliver chemical or biological warheads.

But none of these long-range Scuds was launched during the recent war, which began March 20.

"The launches that did happen weren't actual Scuds. They were shorter-range missiles," he said, declining to comment on specifics about targets the team did engage.

"Our strategic objective was to keep our Western allies safe, and that's what we did."

Dillon said the team began with table-top exercises before the first "live fly" in October. Aircraft and pilots from the United States and the United Kingdom worked with special ground forces, which included Australian troops. "All those players were part of the team from the day we met to the last live fly," said Dillon, a strategist on the overseas team.

About a dozen aircraft would fly the Nellis range, and remote-controlled Predator spy planes would scan the desert with near-real time video-imaging cameras. All players in the air and on the ground could communicate on a dedicated radio frequency.

The ground forces, too, were charged with seeking out and destroying Scuds.

Their job, after training at Nellis, was to occupy the western Iraqi desert, find possible launch sites and equipment and destroy them using anything from small arms to shoulder-launched missiles.

Some had the capability to shine lasers on targets that could be used to guide bombs or missiles from strike aircraft, a technique known as "buddy lasing."

Gen. Tommy Franks, who was commander of the U.S. Central Command during the war, has said that these Special Forces teams and special operations units from Australia and the United Kingdom deployed in western Iraq before the start of major combat operations on March 20.

They knocked out roughly 100 enemy observation posts near Iraq's borders with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan.

[http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj\\_home/2003/Sep-02-Tue-2003/news/22052007.html](http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2003/Sep-02-Tue-2003/news/22052007.html)

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Newsweek

September 8, 2003

## Rumors Of Bin Laden's Lair

*Some believe life on the run has made it impossible for Osama bin Laden to control and lead Al Qaeda. In Afghanistan's Kunar province, people tell a different story*

By Sami Yousafzai and Ron Moreau

Gray-bearded and almost toothless, Khan Kaka lives in a mud house with a weather-beaten pine door beside a little plot of corn and vegetables. But to his neighbors in this corner of Afghanistan's remote Kunar province, the gangling, tobacco-chewing old man is one of the most respected figures in the Pech River valley.

It's all about connections: since 1996 Kaka's son-in-law, an Algerian named Abu Hamza al Jazeeri, has been a special bodyguard to the man Kaka calls loar sheik--"big chief"--Osama bin Laden.

Every two months or so, al Jazeeri comes down from the mountains to visit his wife and three sons, who live with Kaka. "He appears and disappears like lightning," Kaka says. "I never know when he's coming or going." The old man and his neighbors listen eagerly to the latest news from the Qaeda leader's hideout. On a visit in January al Jazeeri reported that one of bin Laden's daughters-in-law had recently died in childbirth, and that bin Laden spoke at her funeral, blaming America for her death. Only a few dozen mourners could attend, not the thousands who would ordinarily pay their last respects. Bin Laden blamed America for that, too. "I had enough riches to enjoy myself like an Arab sheik," bin Laden said, according to al Jazeeri's account. "But I decided to fight against those infidel forces that want to sever us from our Islamic roots. For that cause, Arabs, Taliban and my family have been martyred." Kaka and his neighbors have memorized the eulogy. Asked where bin Laden is now, Kaka grins and waves without a word toward the 12,000-foot peaks surrounding the valley: up there.

No one seems to have a better answer. Two years after the September 11 attacks, the world's Most Wanted terrorist remains free. "We don't know where he is," says U.S. Army Col. Rodney Davis, spokesman for America's forces in Afghanistan. "And frankly, it's not about him. We'll continue to focus on killing, capturing and denying sanctuary to any anti-Coalition forces, whether they are influenced by bin Laden or not." Some U.S. officials speculate that life on the run has made it impossible for bin Laden to communicate with his followers, effectively turning him into a figurehead. "Bin Laden's operational role is not as important as it was to Al Qaeda and the Taliban," says a senior U.S. diplomat in Kabul. "But symbolically he is still very important."

He's more than that, according to senior Taliban officials contacted by NEWSWEEK in Pakistan and Afghanistan. They say bin Laden remains directly engaged as a strategist and financier for Al Qaeda, the Taliban and related groups. In April, shortly after the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, the Qaeda leader convened the biggest terror summit since September 11 at a mountain stronghold in Afghanistan. The participants included three top-ranking representatives from the Taliban, several senior Qaeda operatives and leaders from radical Islamic groups in Chechnya and Uzbekistan, according to a former Taliban deputy foreign minister. He got the details from a Taliban colleague who was there. Bin Laden, in a fiery mood, appointed one of his most trusted lieutenants, Saif al-Adil, to be Al Qaeda's chief of operations in Iraq. The leader handed the Egyptian-born al-Adel a letter of

introduction, asking all religious leaders, businessmen and mujahedin to give him any support possible. Al-Adel left Afghanistan immediately. A few weeks later he was reported to be in neighboring Iran, where he is said to be under house arrest. The Taliban official nevertheless insists, contrary to American intelligence assessments, that al-Adel made it to Iraq and is organizing anti-U.S. operations.

At the same meeting bin Laden said he was working on "serious projects," another ranking Taliban source tells NEWSWEEK. "His priority is to use biological weapons," says the source, who claims that Al Qaeda already has such weapons. The question is only how to transport and launch them, he asserts. The source insists he doesn't know any further details but brags: "Osama's next step will be unbelievable." The plan was reportedly delayed and revised after the March capture of Al Qaeda's operations chief, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. U.S. intelligence officials say no one disputes bin Laden's interest in germ warfare. Nevertheless, they argue, his main priority is to kill Americans by any means readily at hand--and most bioweapons are harder to get and use than many of the alternatives.

No one but bin Laden himself knows exactly what he's planning. So where is he? "Up there," says Pashtun Momand, the police major in charge of Kunar province's counterterrorism office. He's pointing at the thickly forested mountains east of the tiny provincial capital. A few people deny that bin Laden is living there. The province's governor, Said Fazel Akbar, insists that U.S. and Afghan forces are in hot pursuit. "He may come to Kunar," Akbar says, "but he can't stay for long." His opinion is not widely held.

Bin Laden seems to be in good health, according to both the former Taliban deputy foreign minister and an Afghan named Haroon, who claims to have visited the Qaeda leader in June. Three of bin Laden's sons are said to be with him, sworn to kill their father rather than let him be captured alive. Two of his wives are said to be living nearby in the mountains, but not with him; he visits them when security allows. Taliban sources say the Qaeda leader communicates with his friends and followers via handwritten letters and computer disks delivered by relays of messengers. Each carrier knows only where to find the next link in the chain. The system is slow, but it keeps the Americans from using electronic intercepts to find him.

Bin Laden could hardly ask for a better hiding place. Even some American officials agree that Kunar is a likely refuge. The sparsely populated province isn't big--less than two thirds the land area of Connecticut--but it offers more comfort and protection for bin Laden than any other part of Afghanistan. "There is no effective central government control in the mountains beyond the capital," says Kunar's chief of police, Col. Abdul Saffa Momand (no relation to the major). The mountain roads are almost impassable; his men have no radios, and their families barely survive on their monthly salary of \$14--when the paychecks come at all. "A soldier on patrol at night is risking his life for nothing," the colonel says. "It's impossible to access the areas where Al Qaeda is hiding," he adds. "Even from a helicopter you only see mountains, rocks and trees." Unlike the desert ranges that are typical in Afghanistan, Kunar's mountains are covered with evergreens and shrubs, and the terrain is crisscrossed with smugglers' trails leading over the border into Pakistan.

Kunar's population is, likewise, congenial to bin Laden. In recent decades the province has become home to more than a thousand Arab men, many of whom--like bin Laden's bodyguard al Jazeeri--have intermarried with local Afghans, gaining strong family ties in the region. At the height of the war against the Soviets in the 1980s, the CIA effectively ceded Kunar to the Arab volunteers who were pouring in to join the mujahedin. "We preferred that they operate in their own fief, and out of our way," says Edmund McWilliams, a retired State Department officer and Congress's special representative to the mujahedin during the late 1980s. In the last two years the mujahedin veterans have been joined by hundreds of Qaeda members and supporters uprooted from other parts of Afghanistan. Bin Laden and his followers are living in relative comfort, officials in Kunar believe. Some may be huddled in the caves that honeycomb the mountains, but Major Momand's intelligence sources say others live openly in stone and mud houses built against the steep slopes, hidden by the trees and underbrush. Many of the dwellings have been renovated in the last two years. The Arabs share the mountains with Afghan nomads whose flocks of sheep and goats graze there. Shali Khan, together with his wife and two children, tends a herd of 150 sheep and goats, and often encounters columns of heavily armed Arabs traveling on horseback or on foot. He says he's glad to see them. "These Arabs are good people fighting the jihad," says Khan, who takes evident pride in his pointed mustache, despite his tattered clothes and mended sandals. "They pay me well for my animals and milk."

Bin Laden apparently feels safe enough to receive visitors--with precautions. In May an Afghan named Haroon asked permission to see the Qaeda leader. The young man is active in the Taliban's anti-U.S. resistance, and he had guided bin Laden from the besieged cave complex at Tora Bora to safety in the Shahikot Valley during the U.S. bombing in late 2001 ("How Al Qaeda Slipped Away," Aug. 19, 2002). The month after sending his request, Haroon got a message directing him to a place in the mountains north of his home in Paktia province. From there, he was taken higher into the mountains by a series of guides, each one greeting the next with a whispered password. After three days he was turned over to a group of Arabs. They strip-searched him, placed his ring, watch and shoes in a bag and closely inspected the buttons on his shirt.

He spent the night barefoot in a nearby cave. At sunrise two armed Arabs, their faces covered by scarves, escorted him to an old mud-and-rock house and told him to sit there and wait. Haroon says he felt afraid. Suddenly bin Laden arrived and spoke in Arabic, slowly and quietly, urging the young man to keep fighting. "The deserts of Afghanistan are being irrigated with the blood of mujahedin," he told Haroon. "But the jihad will never dry up." After about 15 minutes the visit ended. "Please don't try to see me again," bin Laden said.

Will he ever be caught? For more than a year, Afghanistan has been sinking deeper into poverty, chaos and despair while the White House focuses on Iraq. Al Qaeda and the Taliban have not wasted the chance to regroup. Now the administration is promising to double Afghanistan's reconstruction aid to \$1.8 billion. Even loyal Republicans fear that it's not nearly enough. They know what happened the last time America ignored Afghanistan. The anniversary is next week.

*With Mark Hosenball in Washington*

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/959544.asp?0dm=s11Ak>

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## Atomflot Deputy Director Arrested on Suspicion of Smuggling of Nuclear Materials

**Alexander Tyulyakov, deputy director for administrative issues of the Russian state-owned Atomflot, which carries out repair work and spent nuclear fuel storage for Russian nuclear icebreakers and nuclear submarines, was arrested last week amid a swirl of gossip that he was trafficking in guns and radioactive elements.**

Charles Digges, 2003-09-01 13:12

After the announcement of Tyulyakov's arrest on Thursday, Northwestern European news services picked up the story and reported that Tyulyakov had been arrested as an international nuclear materials smuggler and arms dealer. But a host of other rumours in the air in Murmansk—including ones regarding nuclear smuggling—suggest the deputy director's alleged crimes may lie within simple and poorly concealed "white collar" embezzlement from Atomflot.

However, Murmansk region police and the Murmansk branch of the Federal Security Service, or FSB—the KGB's successor—say they can link Tyulyakov to a weapons trafficker who had received an order for what police presume is a radioactive substance for a buyer in one of the Baltic states. Tyulyakov is now in police custody and it is not clear with what or when he will be charged.

According to a spokesman for the Murmansk regional Ministry of Internal Affairs, or MVD, who declined to be identified, Tyulyakov was arrested after a search of his home allegedly revealed "an arsenal" of guns. A frisk of Tyulyakov carried out during his arrest on a Murmansk street turned up an unknown "strategic" substance that police are saying could be radioactive. This version, though it seems dubious, given that carrying radioactive substances presents a risk of radioactive contamination of the alleged thief, may well turn out to be the truth: Cases of radioactive theft in Russia are quite numerous.

Other charges rumoured to have been behind the Tyulyakov arrest, according to Murmansk newspapers, were: his alleged plans to sell fuel assemblies from a nuclear icebreaker for \$50,000; that he was supposedly caught red-handed with nuclear waste from Atomflot, and that emissaries of a former Murmansk gubernatorial candidate tried to buy radioactive materials from him.

### **Rumours Confirmed as False**

All of this gossip, said the MVD spokesman, was untrue, though he refused to elaborate on what, in fact, was the truth behind the arrest—including the confiscated weapons and the investigation of the substance found on Tyulyakov. He also declined to comment on whether or not the supposed embezzlement scenarios were part of the charges being drawn up against Tyulyakov.

The arrest, the spokesman said, was the result of a joint investigation—which had been going on for some weeks—between the MVD and the Murmansk branch of the FSB. FSB officials reached in Murmansk confirmed this, but would give no further details, saying that "the case is still under investigation and we are not allowed to discuss it."

### **'Strategic' Material Still Unverified**

The material that was seized from Tyulyakov was sent to a laboratory in Apatity, a city in the Murmansk region, for analysis. As of Friday, the lab had not determined whether the substance was radioactive. A spokesman for the laboratory would comment no further on the case.

Atomflot's chief, Alexander Sinyayev, in an interview with the Murmansk-based newspaper Nord-Vest Kuriyer on Thursday, was quick to say that the arrest had nothing to do with Tyulyakov's activities for the company, which presumably means Sinyayev does not think the arrest has to do with embezzlement. He added, however, that his

knowledge of the arrest, and the charges being filed against his deputy director, were sketchy. He told the paper that Atomflot is working at a “normal pace” in the wake of the arrest. Despite several attempts by Bellona Web, Sinyayev could not be reached for further comment on Friday.

One member of Atomflot’s top management, who requested anonymity, said that investigators had not even questioned representatives of Atomflot about the origin of the unknown substance. According to this source, there are actually no “strategic” substances to be found in Atomflot’s possession.

### **The ‘White Collar’ Connection**

But another anonymous source, who asked not to be identified in any way, said Tyulyakov responsibilities at Atomflot—as its administrative oversight manager—made him the constant source of attention from local authorities, presumably because there were broad opportunities for skimming and embezzlement in his duties. If, in fact, Tyulyakov was perpetrating any sort of fraud, said the source, then it was poorly concealed. Among Tyulyakov’s personal assets were reportedly a luxurious summer home, a well-appointed apartment, and a foreign car—all of which raised eyebrows among law enforcement agencies.

As deputy director for administrative issues, Tyulyakov’s duties, according to the source, were purchasing oil for the Atomflot’s boiler system, selling scrap metal, organisation and purchasing of supplies, food and beverages for the management cafeteria—which featured an open buffet that sold hard liquor.

Workers at Atomflot who were interviewed by Bellona Web said they thought Tyulyakov’s arrest was not surprising, and many thought his activities for the company were poorly executed smokescreens to bilk cash from Atomflot.

One source who is familiar with the situation said, “I expect some things will get clarified after [the Nord-Vest] publication.”

### **1999 Nuclear Theft From Atomflot**

If Tyulyakov is charged with harbouring the weapons allegedly discovered at his home, and the “strategic” substance he was allegedly caught with turns out to be radioactive, he faces up to 10 years in prison.

This possible scenario would be reminiscent of a 1999 theft of 5 grams of the radioactive element californium 252 and 17 kilograms of mercury from Atomflot by a group of specialists who had worked with these materials—a technician from nuclear support ship Imandra, a reactor decontaminator from the nuclear icebreaker Rossiya, and his son, a programmer in a St. Petersburg military installation.

According to police documents obtained by Nord-Vest and confirmed to Bellona Web by St. Petersburg police, the Rossiya crew member was approached in Murmansk by a black market customer offering \$100,000 for the five grams of californium 252, which the Rossiya crewman knew would soon be arriving at Atomflot. The delivery of the material, however, happened to be late, and the deal fell through.

The californium 252 eventually arrived, and the Imandra technician, the Rossiya crew member, and his son, contrived to try again to find customers for their loot—this time in St. Petersburg. By then, they had already stolen the mercury, too. They loaded the radioactive materials into the trunk of a car and covered them with paraffin. However, despite the paraffin and plenty of water the three brought along on the 800-kilometre journey to help reduce the impact of the radioactivity, the radiation dosages within five metres of the car trunk exceeded healthy norms by 350 times.

By the time the three arrived in St. Petersburg, agents from the Anti-Organised Crime Unit, as well as the FSB, had been tipped off on the case. Undercover investigators arranged a meeting with the Murmansk trio, and agreed on a price of \$50,000 for the container of californium, and \$10,000 for the mercury. When the group met the undercover agents with the substances, they were arrested.

### **The Effects of Californium 252**

The health of the three nuclear black market dealers is unknown, according to an official with the St. Petersburg Anti-Organised Crime Unit. But according to experts who consulted the official, who was involved in the arrest, their condition is not likely to be good.

Californium 252 is suitable for the dirty bombs so feared after September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001. It can also be successfully used for murder as an instrument of slow poisoning. Even in small quantities, if placed within proximity of the intended victim, said the official from the Anti-Organised Crime Unit, californium 252 can kill over a period of several days. *Bellona’s Murmansk office contributed to this report.*

<http://www.bellona.no/en/international/russia/icebreakers/31049.html>

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Yahoo! News Thu, Sep 04, 2003

U.S. National - AP

## **Biodefense Hubs to Be Set Up at 8 Sites**

WASHINGTON - Seven U.S. universities will receive government grants totaling nearly \$350 million over five years to establish biodefense research centers, the Department of Health and Human Services ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) said Thursday.

The centers will be clustered around Duke University, Harvard Medical School ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), the University of Chicago, the University of Maryland, the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, the University of Washington and Washington University in St. Louis. Another center will be based at the New York State Department of Health.

The eight centers will form a key element of the nation's biodefenses, studying infectious diseases and developing new vaccines, antibiotics and approaches to combat potential agents of terrorism including anthrax, smallpox and plague. Each center comprises a lead institution to work with affiliated institutions in the same geographic area. The research facilities will also be open to approved investigators from government agencies and biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

"These new grants ... will not only better prepare us for a bioterrorism attack, but will also enhance our ability to deal with any public health crisis, such as SARS ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) and West Nile virus ([news](#) - [web sites](#))," HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said.

The grants will be administered by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), a part of HHS' National Institutes of Health ([news](#) - [web sites](#)).

[http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&u=/ap/20030904/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/hhs\\_biodefense&e=1&ncid=](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story2&u=/ap/20030904/ap_on_re_us/hhs_biodefense&e=1&ncid=)

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