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Central Chronicle

Friday September 19, 2003

## **After anthrax, now it's ricin terror**

NEW DELHI: Security agencies are fearing that terrorist outfits operating in India could make use of ricin, which has potency twice that of a cobra's venom, to launch biological attacks.

The Al-Qaeda's recent reference to the Kashmir imbroglio gave strong indication that militants operating in the Valley had strong links with the international terrorist outfit, which possessed the dangerous toxin, a senior official at the Home Ministry said.

The official quoting intelligence reports noted that the Al-Qaeda leadership had previously disseminated information to its mili- tants about the production and employment of ricin.

"Security agencies have been given messages advising them to be on the lookout for terrorists making toxins such as ricin after noticing instructions about how to produce the toxin appeared in materials used to train Al-Qaeda terrorists," he added.

According to the official, easy availability and low technology would make the use of ricin for a biological attack a distinct possibility.

Biological defence experts pointed out that ricin was a potent protein toxin extracted from widely available beans of castor plant *Ricinus Communis*. The plant is commercially used to produce castor oil.

The seeds of this plant produce maximum quantity of ricin than the other parts. Ricin inhibits protein synthesis by acting on the cell surface glycoprotein and leads to cell death.

"Ricin presents a threat not just because of its highly toxic effects in humans, but also because of the wide availability of the castor plant. Furthermore, the techniques for manufacturing ricin are reasonably well known and have often been described in open literature," said Anjali Bhattacharjee of US-based Centre for Non-proliferation Studies, Chemical and Biological Weapons Non-proliferation Programme.

Victims of ricin poisoning experience varying symptoms, including nausea, vomiting, headache, and shock that can lead to death. In cases where ricin has been injected, the poisoning may also produce high fever.

When inhaled in sufficient doses, ricin causes death of tissue in the lungs and airways, leading to severe inflammation and edema.

Death from ricin poisoning often occurs many hours after exposure.

The current wisdom among biological weapons experts is that ricin, which is used in India to kill livestock, is more likely to be a potential tool in assassinations or in a limited space for maximum effect than as a weapon of mass destruction.

B Raman, Director of Institute of Topical Studies, Chennai said, "ricin is more a weapon of mass panic than mass destruction. It is looked upon as an individual and not a mass killer's weapon, unless the terrorists, in their destructive genius, have found ways of using it for mass-killing. Even successful use of the poison by the terrorists against select individuals in key positions could cause mass panic and economic dislocation."

Experts pointed out that the deadly toxin could be used to contaminate water or food. Ricin poisoning is difficult to detect as initial symptoms of its attack are the same as flu. Moreover no antidote is presently available.

Experts felt that several bouts of "mysterious diseases" happening in various parts of the country could be a possible "test" of such biological attacks.

The government had taken the issue seriously and had decided to expedite the purchase of defensive nuclear, biological and chemical equipment from the US, the Home Ministry official said.

According to the official, the government had also decided to train select CISF units for responding to possible attacks using WMDs.

US Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Francis X Taylor during his visit to India in June last had presented a chemical-biological-radiological emergency response trailer to the government as part of the ongoing cooperative effort to strengthen India's emergency response capability.

Modelled on emergency response equipment employed in US cities, the Rapid Response Trailer (RRT) unit is designed for quick deployment to a chemical, biological, or radiological incident site and comprises decontamination equipment, specialised respirators, protective clothing as well as sample evidence kits.

Experts warned that after anthrax attacks, discovery of ricin in unscrupulous hands should make authorities realise that it was a real and an active threat to Indian security that could not be ignored.

<http://www.centralchronicle.com/20030919/1909010.htm>

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New York Times  
September 22, 2003  
Pg. 1

## **Bush Plans Unyielding Stance on Iraq War in Address to U.N.**

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21 — President Bush will tell the United Nations on Tuesday that he was right to order the invasion of Iraq even without the organization's explicit approval, and he will urge a new focus on countering nuclear proliferation, arguing that it is the only way to avoid similar confrontations.

Mr. Bush's unyielding presentation, described over the weekend by officials involved in drafting it, will come in a 22-minute speech to the United Nations General Assembly. Mr. Bush will then spend the rest of Tuesday and Wednesday meeting with the leaders of France, Germany, Pakistan, India and Afghanistan.

According to the officials involved in drafting the speech, for an audience they know will range from the skeptical to the angry, Mr. Bush will acknowledge no mistakes in planning for postwar security and reconstruction in Iraq.

Privately, however, many officials are acknowledging that the Pentagon was unprepared for the scope and duration of the continuing guerrilla-style attacks against the American-led alliance and the newly appointed Iraqi Governing Council. Since Mr. Bush declared an end to active military operations on May 1, more than 70 American troops in Iraq have been killed by hostile fire.

In the speech, Mr. Bush will repeat his call for nations — including those that opposed the Iraq action — to contribute to rebuilding the country, but he will offer no concessions to French demands that the major authority for running the country be turned over immediately to Iraqis.

"We'll stay on the same schedule" of drafting a constitution and holding national elections, one senior official said in an interview today. Mr. Bush will not discuss a timetable in the speech, but his aides said in interviews over the weekend that completing the process by spring or summer would be, in the words of one, "very ambitious." That assessment is bound to anger European nations that have demanded a far more accelerated transfer of power.

Mr. Bush made clear in a Fox News interview taped today, to be broadcast Monday, that he would define a larger role for the United Nations very narrowly. Asked if he was willing to give the United Nations more authority in order to obtain a new resolution, he said, "I'm not so sure we have to, for starters," according to excerpts released by Fox tonight.

Mr. Bush added that the United Nations could help write a constitution because "they're good at that." He also said that when it came time for elections, the United Nations might oversee the process. "That would be deemed a larger role," he said, but he made clear that he would not allow any resolution "to get in the way of an orderly transfer of sovereignty based on a logical series of steps. And that's constitution, elections and then the transfer of authority."

In final drafts of the speech circulating in the White House, Mr. Bush never mentions North Korea and Iran by name, though those two nations — the other members of the "axis of evil" he first described 20 months ago — are racing to obtain nuclear weapons. Mr. Bush will describe new steps to halt nuclear proliferation as one of the "next big challenges facing the United Nations," a senior official said today.

In recent weeks, some senior government officials had expected Mr. Bush to use his speech to describe a new agenda for strengthening the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, changing provisions that Iran and North Korea exploited to build up their nuclear capacity. But those proposals are not ready — they have not yet reached the desk of Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, officials say — and have been discussed only in general terms in the White House.

"Nobody thinks they are ready for prime time," said one official today, explaining why Mr. Bush will be far less specific about building new rules for disarming other nations than he was a year ago about disarming Iraq. Among the issues that the administration is still grappling with, midlevel officials say, is how to deal with nations, including Israel, that have never signed the nonproliferation treaty and whether it would be possible to prevent signers that have built major nuclear infrastructures from leaving the treaty. North Korea renounced it early this year, after ejecting international inspectors.

Instead of dealing with the broader legal problems, Mr. Bush is expected to focus on his Proliferation Security Initiative. That is an effort to recruit nations willing to interdict internationally transported nuclear supplies, using existing national laws. Several nations just completed the first of 10 scheduled exercises simulating the interdiction of nuclear shipments, in waters near Australia.

By declining to make specific demands about the North Korean and Iranian nuclear programs, Mr. Bush is signaling a very different approach than the one he took last year, concerning Iraq. He has said repeatedly that he wants a diplomatic solution to the North Korean and Iranian problems.

White House officials have claimed some modest progress, including a deadline of Oct. 31 set by the International Atomic Energy Agency for Iran to allow full inspections of sites where it may be enriching uranium. Around the same time, North Korea is expected to meet again with the United States and four other countries — South Korea, Russia, China and Japan — which the Bush administration is trying to organize into a united front to force North Korea to abandon its major nuclear projects.

Both Iran and North Korea appear much closer to producing a nuclear bomb than Iraq was a year ago, when Mr. Bush used the annual speech at the United Nations to issue a series of demands, and to make clear that defiance would mean war. Even so, an aide said this year's speech at the United Nations was intended to ensure that "we never have to do another Iraq again."

About a third of the speech will discuss initiatives to combat AIDS and human trafficking, particularly for prostitution. "We need to make that globally illegal, like trans-Atlantic trafficking in slaves," said one senior official, adding that Mr. Bush would press for prosecutions of those caught selling people, particularly women and children, into servitude.

Mr. Bush's descriptions of Iraq's future will receive the most scrutiny, and he is expected to give little ground and admit no errors of judgment about the reconstruction of the country. While he will call for international financial contributions and more troops from around the world, he has so far gained little of either since his speech to the

nation two weeks ago when he said it was the responsibility of other nations, including opponents of the Iraq action, to contribute to both security and reconstruction.

Turkey, India and South Korea have expressed deep reluctance about sending troops, saying Mr. Bush's failure to obtain international approval for the invasion makes it politically difficult to help now.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/22/international/22PREX.html?hp>

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Washington Post  
September 22, 2003  
Pg. 16

## **Russia Takes Back Uranium From Romania**

*U.S. Paid for Move to Foil Terrorists*

By Susan B. Glasser, Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, Sept. 21 -- Russia took back control of 30 pounds of weapons-grade uranium from an insecure Soviet-era nuclear reactor facility in Romania today, carrying out a long-planned secret operation that was paid for by the United States in a preemptive strike against the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The uranium -- potentially enough to make a nuclear bomb -- was taken from its storage site at the Pitesti Institute for Nuclear Research, west of Bucharest, Romania's capital, and flown tonight to the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, where it will be converted into a form of uranium that cannot be used to make weapons, according to U.S. officials. U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, whose department provided the \$400,000 necessary for the operation, called it "a major accomplishment" for eliminating a terrorist threat posed by "one of the top sites that needs securing." During an interview on a visit to Moscow, he also welcomed the mission as an indicator of newly cooperative relations with Russia, which built dozens of research reactors in allied countries during the Cold War but had been reluctant to accept responsibility for such Soviet-era nuclear material.

Several outside experts said that today's move, while welcome, also underscored how slowly international authorities have moved to deal with an obvious terrorist threat. Little more than a year ago, the United States and Russia participated in the first such joint operation when 100 pounds of weapons-grade uranium was removed from an aging Soviet-built research reactor in Yugoslavia.

"I give them two cheers," said former Democratic senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, who with billionaire Ted Turner co-founded the Nuclear Threat Initiative group that put up \$5 million last August to remove the weapons-grade uranium from the site near Belgrade. "But we just need to realize that the pace at which we're moving is not nearly rapid enough."

Following the Yugoslav operation last summer, State Department officials compiled a list of 24 other overseas reactors that use weapons-grade nuclear fuel and are considered vulnerable. Despite assurances of quick action, efforts to persuade host governments to surrender the uranium have progressed slowly, according to experts. Also complicating matters has been a U.S. proposal that would spell out terms under which Russia would agree to receive fuel from Soviet-era research reactors built in other countries. Russia has not yet approved the agreement, according to Energy Department officials, and until it is signed each operation like the one in Romania today will have to be negotiated separately.

"Even if we succeed at the current rate of once a year, it would take a quarter-century to get this done. Since 9/11 we don't have that kind of time," said Matthew Bunn, a Harvard University nuclear nonproliferation expert. He said there are more than 130 research reactors in 40 countries that use highly enriched uranium fuel like the kind in Romania -- a serious threat because of the vulnerability to theft. "Highly enriched uranium is the easiest type to make a bomb for terrorists," he said.

Several bills pending in Congress would establish a more comprehensive program to secure weapons-grade uranium at such vulnerable facilities. "If we spend about \$50 million a year for five years, we could eliminate some of the most urgent nuclear terrorism threats we've faced," Bunn said.

In the interview, Abraham said he recognized that some critics would not be satisfied with the pace of cooperation with Russia on nonproliferation. "Naturally, there are going to be people who say, 'It's still not fast enough, you're not moving fast enough.' Sometimes it seems no matter how fast you move, someone will move the goal post."

In the operation today, eight canisters containing the 80 percent enriched uranium were transported to the Bucharest airport and loaded on a Russian IL-76 cargo plane as U.S. technical experts looked on. The Romanian weapons-grade uranium was targeted because there was a significant amount of it and because of the ease with which it could have been transported by a terrorist, U.S. officials said. Spokesmen for the Romanian and Russian governments could not be reached for comment tonight.

"You could throw it in the back of a truck and drive away with it," said Paul Longworth, the Energy Department's deputy administrator for defense nuclear nonproliferation. Because it is "fresh fuel" that has not been irradiated in a reactor, the uranium could be carried off with relatively low risk to handlers, he said.

Longworth said the operation had been planned for the last several months with the Romanians, the Russians and the International Atomic Energy Agency. To seal the deal with the Romanians, the United States agreed to help pay to convert the Romanian research reactor at Pitești to handle non-weapons-grade uranium fuel. The Russians, meanwhile, won the transport contract and will be able to sell the recycled uranium once it is blended down to non-weapons grade at the Novosibirsk Chemical Concentrates Plant, part of the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy.

"It's win-win," said another senior U.S. energy official. "The Russians wanted the [highly enriched] uranium, the Romanians wanted a new [low-enriched uranium] core for their reactor and to be seen as helpful in the nonproliferation world, and we've wanted to get this done for a long time and remove this threat."

But Longworth said Russia's delay in approving a broader agreement on take-backs poses an obstacle to future successes.

"We're really encouraging Russia to approve that agreement. Then we can start doing many, many more operations," he said. Added the other official, "We've been told by the Russians that they're finally at the last hurdle they need to jump over, but each last hurdle is followed by another one."

*Staff writer Joby Warrick in Washington contributed to this report.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A43901-2003Sep21.html>

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Birmingham (AL) News

September 19, 2003

## Army Looks To Get Weapons Furnaces Up To Full Speed

By Katherine Bouma, News staff writer

ANNISTON - Chemical weapons incineration in Anniston has been so successful that the Army believes it is prepared to get the furnaces up to full speed and begin air quality testing by the beginning of November, officials said Thursday.

At a briefing about seven weeks after the incinerator at Anniston Army Depot began burning sarin-filled M55 rockets, project managers said the work is moving more quickly than it did at two previous sites and that there have been no safety problems.

"We have exceeded expectations as far as the other two facilities," said Tim Garrett, the Army's project manager of the incinerator.

In the November tests, an extraordinarily sensitive monitor will be placed in the exhaust stack to test for dioxins, furans, PCBs and other hazardous substances that are byproducts of the incineration of hazardous waste.

Garrett said he expects the site easily to pass its tests since it already has undergone examinations with less-lethal chemicals that are more difficult to destroy. However, the Army's chemical weapons incinerator in Utah recently failed its hazardous air test, held four months after the incinerator began destroying weapons loaded with the deadly chemical VX.

Officials in Utah say they believe the monitoring equipment was contaminated and that they intend to run the test again. The tests are supposed to begin when the incinerator is up to its permitted limit of destroying 40 rockets per hour and 1,000 gallons of sarin an hour.

In Anniston, all four incinerator crews now have destroyed rockets at a rate of 24 an hour, a speed that will be increased until they reach 40 rockets per hour, Garrett said.

After the process is complete, workers will have to start over with the slow "shakedown" period and testing for rockets that cannot be drained of sarin. In some rockets, the sarin has gelled over the years, so the Army plans to burn them at a rate of 14 an hour.

According to incinerator records, hundreds of alarms and monitors have indicated the presence of sarin in the incinerator complex. However, most of them were within the furnace rooms or rooms built to contain the weapons. Officials of the Army, as well as its contractor, Westinghouse Anniston, said none of the alarms exposed workers or required notifying emergency management authorities.

And, they said, no workers have tested positive for exposure to sarin. One worker tested for a low reaction to the chemical after he failed to leave his office when it was sprayed with a pesticide from the same family of chemicals as sarin, Garrett said.

Sarin is an extraordinarily deadly chemical that has been stored inside M55 weapons at the Anniston Army Depot since the beginning of the Cold War. In August, the incinerator began destroying the rockets as well as more than 600,000 other chemical weapons in the stockpile.

Anniston is one of eight sites where the Army is destroying weapons to meet the terms of an international chemical weapons treaty.

By mid-day Thursday, the incinerator had destroyed 3,000 rockets and about 833 gallons of sarin in a separate liquids incinerator.

<http://www.al.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news/1063963205180600.xml?birminghamnews?nstate>

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USA Today

September 22, 2003

Pg. 6D

## **Plan For A Quick-Response Bioterrorism Force Under Fire**

By Steve Sternberg, USA Today

A Bush administration plan to turn the nation's uniformed branch of the public health service into a ready-response force to defend against bioterrorism has provoked a backlash from officers who say the plan could set back public health.

Although few dispute that change is overdue, opponents say that routinely sending key scientists on bioterror missions could thin the ranks of experts needed to combat health threats, among them SARS, AIDS and West Nile virus.

Mandatory deployment, the plan's opponents say, also could discourage talented young scientists from joining the organization, called the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

One of the oldest branches of the military, the corps has evolved into the backbone of crucial health agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration. The corps not only promotes health programs, but it also responds to national and international emergencies with physicians, dentists, nurses and veterinarians.

Tommy Thompson, the U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services, says the corps' 6,000 members are ideal shock troops in the war on terrorism. In July, he announced that he would turn the corps into a force that could be quickly dispatched worldwide.

Officials are still haggling over the plan's details, including yardsticks for promotion. Among them: Scientists and public health experts would have to meet new fitness requirements. And no junior officer would be promoted unless he or she signs up for immediate deployment in emergencies. Many officers now volunteer.

The surgeon general — the corps' leader since 1871 — would be replaced as the corps' commander by a civilian deputy to the secretary of health.

"This is a complex issue, and it's evolving," Surgeon General Richard Carmona says. "My opinion is that the surgeon general needs to be in control."

Playing out mainly behind the scenes, the debate has divided the ranks — and, to a degree, Thompson and his key lieutenants, pitting him against Carmona, Julie Gerberding of the CDC, and FDA Commissioner Mark McClellan, among others.

All have expressed concern about provisions in the secretary's plan.

McClellan advised Thompson in a letter Aug. 15 that the deployment mandate "may well end up reducing participation and thus availability of officers."

The proposals have prompted countless closed-door gripe sessions. "The plan is a work in progress, and the dialog is robust," the CDC's Gerberding acknowledges.

Thompson aides referred questions to Carmona, who defended his boss and called the transformation necessary to meet "the new threats before us."

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2003-09-21-bioterror-plan\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2003-09-21-bioterror-plan_x.htm)

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Washington Post

September 20, 2003

Pg. 26

## **Defying U.S., 3 European Nations Engage Iran On Nuclear Program**

By Paul Taylor and Louis Charbonneau, Reuters

BRUSSELS, Sept. 19 -- Britain, Germany and France defied the United States last month by suggesting to Iran that it could receive Western technology if it stopped its nuclear fuel enrichment program and accepted tougher U.N. inspections, according to officials here and in Vienna.

Western diplomats said a letter by the foreign ministers of the three European countries was delivered to Tehran in early August despite intense opposition from Washington.

The move highlighted the widening gulf between the Bush administration and its West European allies on whether to engage or isolate Iran.

In the letter, the foreign ministers urged Iran to sign, implement and ratify a protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that provides for intrusive inspections on short notice. The protocol would also require Iran to halt a uranium enrichment program that the Western nations fear could be used in the development of a clandestine nuclear arms program.

In return, the letter raised the prospect of some cooperation on technology, without specifically pledging help with a civilian nuclear energy program, the sources said.

"Washington did not consider it very helpful at all," a diplomat familiar with the exchanges said. "They were worried it ran the risk of splitting Europe and America on this issue, and they talked to their friends and colleagues in Europe about that and attempted to dissuade them from sending the letter."

British and French officials confirmed the letter had been sent with the knowledge of the United States, but said Tehran had been offered no direct quid pro quo.

However, a British official said that if Iran complied fully with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, "that would bring certain rights with it."

European diplomats said they were disappointed that there had not yet been a more specific reply from Tehran.

On Aug. 18, President Mohammad Khatami of Iran sent a broadly worded letter to European leaders pledging that Iran would never divert its civilian nuclear program for military purposes and had decided to enter immediate talks on the so-called additional protocol.

But that message offered no commitment by Iran to sign or ratify the protocol, and European diplomats question whether Khatami, who is locked in a power struggle with hard-line clerics, has full control of the nuclear program.

In a vote that united Americans and Europeans, the governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency issued an ultimatum last week requiring Tehran to prove by Oct. 31 that it has no secret weapons program or be reported to the Security Council for possible sanctions.

But a diplomat from one European country stressed that the joint British, French and German initiative remained valid.

Diplomats said the United States and Russia were both involved in preliminary discussions on the letter but Washington opposed offering Iran any incentive. Moscow said the wording was too harsh and sent its own letter instead.

The Russians, who are helping Iran build a nuclear power plant at Bushehr, said today that talks on supplying fuel for the 1,000-megawatt plant may take a long time.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A37181-2003Sep19.html>

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New York Times  
September 20, 2003

## **Iran Cleric Suggests Nation Quit Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty**

By Nazila Fathi

TEHRAN, Sept. 19 — An influential cleric suggested today that Iran opt out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, adding to signs that the difference over Iran's nuclear policy was increasing among the authorities here.

The head of Iran's nuclear energy agency, Gholamreza Aghazadeh, said at an International Atomic Energy Agency meeting this week that Iran would continue working with the agency and was fully committed to its obligations within the treaty.

But Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, the head of the powerful Guardian Council, which is responsible for approving parliamentary bills before they can become law, said the demand by the international agency to allow unrestricted access to its inspectors was "extra humiliating."

"What is the problem with withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty?" asked Ayatollah Jannati during Friday Prayers. "North Korea withdrew from the treaty. Many other countries have not even signed it."

Reuters reported, meanwhile, that Britain, Germany and France defied the United States last month by offering Iran the prospect of sharing technology if it stopped its disputed nuclear fuel enrichment program and accepted tougher United Nations inspections.

Western diplomats said a joint letter from the three countries was delivered to Tehran in early August despite intense lobbying by Washington.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said he could confirm that a letter had been sent to Iran, but he said it did not include any offer to cooperate on other issues.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/20/international/middleeast/20IRAN.html>

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(Editor's Note: Hyperlink for highlights of classified report follows article.)

USA Today

September 23, 2003

Pg. 8

## **Report: Military In Need Of Protective Suits**

The Pentagon doesn't have enough protective suits to keep troops safe from chemical or biological attacks, congressional investigators said. A summary of the General Accounting Office report said the problem is compounded by the use of thousands of the suits during the war in Iraq and the looming expiration dates of some older suits. The full report was classified. The summary said the Pentagon agreed with recommendations to consider stockpiling parts of the suits and to better determine how many of the suits are needed. The military had about 4.5 million protective suits before the war in Iraq and says it needs a stockpile of 7 million, the report said.

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## **Chemical and Biological Defense: U.S. Ability to Meet Protective Suit Inventory Requirements Faces Risk.**

(Highlights of a classified report.) GAO-03-889C, September 15.

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03889chigh.pdf>

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(Editor's Note: Hyperlink for referenced report follows article.)

Bloomberg.com

September 22, 2003

## **Missile Defense Radar Not Adequately Tested, GAO Says**

By Tony Capaccio

The missile defense the U.S. plans to deploy in October 2004 to track long-range North Korean ballistic missiles will rely on radar that's not been adequately tested, the General Accounting Office says.

The Pentagon says it lacks money to integrate the radar in at least two missile intercept tests planned before the system is deployed and hopes to test it using data from test flights of foreign missiles such as from Russia, the agency says.

The audit is the non-partisan agency's latest to question the system's pace of deployment, adequacy of testing and the maturity of key technologies, such as the warhead, boosters and communications. The radar technologies "are the least mature," GAO says in the unreleased report obtained by Bloomberg News.

The Pentagon estimates it will spend \$21.8 billion between 1997 and 2009 on the ground-based system. It's spent \$6.2 billion so far. "If the radar does not work, the system will not be able to intercept incoming missiles," said Senator Daniel Akaka, a Hawaii Democrat who requested the report.

Ten missiles designed to intercept ballistic missiles before they can hit the U.S. are to go on alert at Fort Greeley, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. An expanded test range encompassing parts of Alaska, California and the Pacific Ocean will also be set then to allow continued testing of air-, ground- and sea-based parts of the defense system.

**Defense Against North Korea**



The radar system is to be the primary means for tracking intercontinental ballistic missiles like those being developed by North Korea. The Central Intelligence Agency says the Stalinist state is developing missiles that can reach Alaska, Hawaii and the western U.S. mainland and may eventually have nuclear warheads.

North Korea agreed in 2000 to suspend its flight tests of long-range ballistic missiles. It has abided by that pledge even as it often threatens to resume activity.

Ground testing of the long-range Taepo Dong-2 ballistic missile program continues, the Central Intelligence Agency says. The missile is capable of hitting the U.S. and "it may be ready for flight testing," the CIA said last year.

The two-stage missile could carry a several-hundred kilogram nuclear payload. A three-stage missile similar to one unsuccessfully flight tested in 1998 could reach anywhere in the U.S., the CIA said.

#### **Radar in Question**

Boeing Co. is the lead systems integrator on the ground-based network of missile interceptors and command-and-control stations. Raytheon Co., Northrop Grumman, Orbital Sciences Corp. and Lockheed Martin Corp. are the top subcontractors. They are designing and building the warhead, command-and-control system and the booster rockets, respectively.

Raytheon produced the radar at issue, known as the Cobra Dane system. It's based at Shemya, Alaska and provides 120-degree coverage of a 2,000-mile corridor spanning the eastern Russian peninsula and northern Pacific Ocean. Its mission now is to gather data on Russian missiles for U.S. intelligence.

The Cobra Dane has never been used in an exercise to gather data and transmit it in real time to processing stations that launch interceptors, GAO says.

The Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency with Raytheon is developing new software to improve the radar's ability to detect and track. Still, "the MDA does not plan to demonstrate through integrated flight tests whether the radar's software can process and communicate data on the location of enemy missiles in real time," GAO says.

#### **Find the Money**

The GAO recommends the Missile Defense Agency find money to incorporate the radar into its intercept tests. The agency said it's reevaluating test plans in light of GAO's concerns but that adding both radar and targets for it to track would require "considerable time," Mark Schaeffer, principal deputy for defense systems, wrote in remarks published in the report.

"Accomplishing such testing before September 2004 would be very challenging," Schaeffer wrote. "Consequently, targets-of-opportunity and ground testing may provide the best avenue for demonstrating the radar in the near term." Akaka, a member of the Senate Armed Services and Governmental Affairs committees, disagrees.

The MDA "hopes it will get advance notice of a foreign missile test," said Akaka, a skeptic of missile defense plans. "Even that type of test will not demonstrate the radar's capability under stressful, 'operational' conditions. Relying on North Korean or Russian missile development to test our defense is a new approach to operational testing."

#### **Sea-Based Radar**

The Cobra Dane radar is to be joined in late 2005 by a sea-based radar that hasn't been built. In addition, it would be inaccurate to imply the current ground-based system is now totally dependent on the Cobra Dane system, MDA spokesman Rick Lehner said.

The system also uses a less sophisticated early warning at Beale Air Force Base, California, sea-based radar on Aegis Class vessels, ground-based Army missile battery radar and the current constellation of 1960s-era early warning satellites, he said.

"For all flight tests, we have the ability to replicate and inject the exact same data that would be received from Cobra Dane into the GMD tracking and fire control system," Lehner said.

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## Missile Defense: Additional Knowledge Needed in Developing System for Intercepting Long-Range Missiles.

GAO-03-600, August 21.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-600>

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# Iran To Curtail Support To U.N. Nuclear Agency

By Combined Dispatches

TEHRAN — Iran will scale back cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog in response to the agency's Oct. 31 deadline for Tehran to prove that its atomic programs are peaceful, Iran's representative to the agency said yesterday. Ali Akbar Salehi said on state television that Iran had been allowing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) more oversight than required under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) "to show our good will and transparency. On the strict orders of President Mohammed Khatami, we allowed IAEA inspectors to take environmental samples and visit non-nuclear sites.

"This has been beyond our obligations, but from now on we will act according to the current regulations," Mr. Salehi said.

The United States has said that Iran, North Korea and the former Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq constituted an axis of evil and has accused Tehran of running a clandestine nuclear weapons program.

It has also sought to have the IAEA declare Tehran in violation of the NPT and has appealed repeatedly to Russia to stop helping Iran build a nuclear power plant, fearing it could be used in efforts to build nuclear weapons.

A recent report by IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei to its board of governors noted that traces of highly enriched, weapons-grade uranium were found at an Iranian nuclear facility, and that tests run by Iran make little sense unless the country is pursuing nuclear weaponry.

Tehran insists its nuclear programs are designed to generate electricity, and that its equipment was "contaminated" with enriched uranium by a previous owner.

The IAEA has pressed Iran to detail its nuclear program and sign an Additional Protocol letting agency inspectors conduct in-depth checks of nuclear facilities.

IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said the agency did not yet have an official response to Iran's announcement. He, however, stressed that the agency still hopes Tehran will cooperate.

However, a Western diplomat, speaking on the condition of anonymity, conceded that Iran's announcement indicates that it is not prepared to give the agency greater access to nuclear sites, and that it could become even more difficult for the IAEA to get answers.

"If Iran has decided to do only the minimum, it doesn't sound like the accelerated cooperation the IAEA had called on it to provide," the diplomat said.

In the interview yesterday, Mr. Salehi said Iran will continue talks with the IAEA on signing the protocols concerning inspections.

Iran has maintained that it would agree to unfettered inspections if granted access to advanced nuclear technology as provided for under the NPT. Tehran says Washington is keeping Iran from getting that technology.

On Sept. 12, the IAEA board decided on the Oct. 31 deadline on the basis of Mr. ElBaradei's report.

Yesterday, Mr. Salehi criticized the decision to set a deadline but did not say whether Iran would try to meet it.

"Many members of IAEA were surprised that despite Iran's very good cooperation with the agency, some countries were pushing for a deadline," he said. "Irrespective of whether we oppose or agree to the deadline, setting a deadline from the logical point of view is unacceptable. Mr. ElBaradei was also opposed to the deadline," he said.

Also yesterday, Iran paraded six of its newly deployed medium-range missiles, which military analysts say could reach Israel or U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf.

It was the largest number of Shahab-3 ballistic missiles put on display since Iran announced in July that it had finished testing the weapon and had deployed it to the Revolutionary Guards.

Television pictures showed one of the missile carriers displaying a defiant message in bold letters on a giant yellow banner facing Mr. Khatami. "We will stamp on America," it read.

The Shahab-3s, towed to the accompaniment of rousing military music, were the climax of a lengthy parade to commemorate the start of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Khatami, however, said the show of strength should not be read as saber rattling.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy is based on detente," he said at the parade, which was led by disabled war veterans.

"We are opposed to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons, but we insist on our absolute right to be powerful in the scientific and technology areas."

Based on the North Korean No Dong-1 and modified with Russian technology, the Shahab-3 is thought to have a range of 810 miles.

Hard-liners in Iran say the country should follow North Korea's example and pull out of the NPT rather than cave in to international pressure.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20030922-115105-7624r.htm>

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