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## **CDC to Grade States' Bioterror Plans**

**By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Published: November 6, 2003

**Filed at 6:59 p.m. ET**

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The government soon will begin grading how well states are prepared for bioterrorism and other health emergencies, including how many could immediately open mass-vaccination clinics if a single case of smallpox occurred anywhere in the world.

Exactly how to measure public health preparedness is still being worked out, although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hopes to test a scoring system in January and to have full-fledged evaluations under way next summer.

Just how prepared a state is may differ dramatically depending on the threat. Ten cases of smallpox in New York would require a different response than 10 cases scattered across the nation or "one case in outer Mongolia," noted

Dr. Brian Strom of the University of Pennsylvania, chairman of an Institute of Medicine committee that reviewed CDC's plans Thursday.

Indeed, some members questioned how many Americans really would need smallpox vaccinations based on a single report from some remote locale that might not even be the right diagnosis.

But for over a year the CDC has told state health officials to be prepared to vaccinate all their residents against smallpox within 10 days if a terrorist attack ever unleashed the deadly virus. In May, the CDC underscored that by telling states that a single case of smallpox anywhere in the world would trigger the opening of mass-vaccination clinics here.

If smallpox were reported abroad, CDC would verify the diagnosis -- a process that could take three days -- even as states prepared to open inoculation clinics and took other required steps, said Joe Henderson, who heads CDC's bioterrorism preparedness effort. But because smallpox was eradicated from the wild decades ago, any new case could only be caused by terrorism -- either an intentional release or a would-be terrorist who accidentally infects himself, he said.

“Once you see it anywhere, you have to start to ramp up,” he said. “We're committed to this.”

More than 190,000 doses of smallpox vaccine already have been stationed around the country for states to immediately inoculate emergency workers before larger shipments from the national stockpile could arrive, Henderson said.

He praised Florida for storing some of its vaccine allotment in every county for even faster local access.

That's an example of the many things CDC will evaluate in deciding how well states are prepared not just for smallpox but for other bioterrorist attacks and naturally occurring health emergencies like the deadly SARS virus. States are supposed to develop comprehensive programs that include ways to catch early warning signs of disease, track outbreaks, train doctors and communicate with the public.

The CDC will hire an independent group to conduct the evaluations, which in part will account for how states have spent roughly \$3 billion in federal funds for preparedness.

Low-scoring states won't lose their money, Henderson stressed. The main goal is to find gaps that need filling.

Overall preparedness aside, CDC's program to encourage voluntary smallpox vaccination for several million medical and emergency personnel who would be in immediate danger in an attack remains stalled. Just 38,759 people have been vaccinated as of last week. Many health workers resisted getting the shots out of concern over side effects, and very few shots have been given since the war in Iraq officially ended without discovery of any biological weapons.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/health/AP-Bioterrorism-Preparedness.html>

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Washington Times

November 7, 2003

Pg. 1

## **N. Korea Warns Of Nuke Seizure**

*Halt on plants threatens talks*

By David R. Sands, The Washington Times

North Korea yesterday threatened to seize the assets and equipment at a construction site for two new nuclear power plants being built by the United States and its allies if the Bush administration follows through on a threat to kill the project.

A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry said that an expected decision by the United States and its allies to shutter the \$4.6 billion nuclear project could endanger plans for a second round of multilateral talks on Pyongyang's military nuclear program.

The North “will never allow them to take out all the equipment, facilities, materials and technical documents ... until this issue is settled,” the unnamed spokesman said in a statement transmitted by the official KCNA news service.

The nuclear plants, now less than half-built at the remote North Korean coastal village of Kumho, were to be the centerpiece of a 1994 Clinton administration deal to entice North Korea to end its secret drive for nuclear weapons.

A consortium of the United States, South Korea, Japan and the European Union is expected to announce Nov. 21 a freeze in the project, saying the North's new nuclear programs have nullified the 1994 deal.

State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli said the North Koreans must allow the consortium to remove its assets and equipment from the site under the terms of the 1994 accord.

“All of this is happening because North Korea violated its commitments under the [agreement],” Mr. Ereli said.

“That's what started this whole thing.”

South Korea has the most workers at the Kumho site and has invested an estimated \$850 million in the project to date.

“We are seriously concerned and strongly urge the North to withdraw its decision immediately,” a spokesman for the South’s Unification Ministry told reporters in Seoul yesterday.

The dispute throws a new kink into diplomatic efforts to hold a second round of talks on the North’s nuclear programs.

The United States, North and South Korea, China, Russia and Japan held an inconclusive first round of discussions in Beijing in August.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly, the Bush administration’s point man in the Beijing talks, for nearly three hours yesterday at the State Department on a possible resumption of the talks.

Mr. Wang, who meets with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell today, said through an interpreter after the meeting that he saw a “good opportunity” to revive the negotiations following his trip late last month to Pyongyang.

In London, North Korea’s envoy in Britain told Reuters news agency yesterday that Pyongyang had a nuclear deterrent that was ready to use and powerful enough to deter any U.S. attack.

Asked if North Korea had a nuclear bomb, Ambassador Ri Yong-ho said in an interview: “What we are saying is, a nuclear deterrent capability.” He said it would only be used in self-defense.

North Korea said last month it was prepared to demonstrate the existence of its nuclear deterrent “when an appropriate time comes.”

The Bush administration is demanding an immediate end to the North’s nuclear efforts.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il has demanded a security guarantee from Washington and economic aid as his price for cooperating.

Mr. Kelly said the United States continued to work with its partners on the talks, but told reporters there was “no date” to announce yet for new talks.

The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) is expected to announce formally on Nov. 21 that the construction of the two light-water nuclear reactors will be suspended for a year.

U.S. officials have made clear they will oppose any effort to revive the project after that.

“Our view is the project should have no future,” Mr. Erel said earlier this week.

The North Korean spokesman yesterday accused the United States of pressing to kill the Kumho project as a way of undermining the Beijing talks.

“What matters is why Washington is so getting on the nerves of [North Korea] at a time when the resumption of the six-party talks is high on the agenda,” the spokesman said.

Mr. Erel said yesterday the United States did not believe the Kumho project and the Beijing talks should be linked. Pyongyang claimed it had the right to seize the assets at Kumho if the United States and its KEDO partners failed to complete construction.

But a July 1996 protocol signed by KEDO and the North appears to back Mr. Erel’s contention that such a seizure is not permitted.

“The property and assets of KEDO, wherever located and by whomsoever held in [North Korea], shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation, or any other interference,” according to the protocol.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20031106-115235-7083r.htm>

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Washington Post  
November 7, 2003  
Pg. 26

## **Iran Says It Will Abandon Development Of Longer-Range Missile**

By Karl Vick, Washington Post Foreign Service

TEHRAN, Nov. 6 -- Iran will abandon development of a missile that could have carried a conventional warhead as far as Europe or threatened Israel with a heavier nuclear or biological payload, the Iranian government announced.

The declaration that it would not manufacture the Shahab-4 missile came less than three weeks after Iran agreed to suspend uranium enrichment activities and open its mostly secret nuclear program to short-notice inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

By publicly discarding a possible delivery system, Iran's government appears intent on further reassuring an international community alarmed by Iran's nuclear program, whose swift development had taken proliferation monitors by surprise. Iranian officials insist their nuclear program has no military component.

"I believe that if the [missile] experiment were to be carried out, it would not be positive for our politics," said Habibollah Asgarowladi, general secretary of the Islamic Coalition Association, Iran's hard-line conservative political party. "I'm just speaking personally, but I believe that if we want to settle down our politics, it was a good move."

The Shahab-4 was being designed to carry a one-ton payload as far as 1,250 miles, or a heavier warhead—such as a relatively crude nuclear device—a shorter range that would include Israel. Iran has said it has deployed the Shahab-3, which can carry a payload of one metric ton 800 miles.

Experts differed on whether the Iranian missile was a copy of North Korea's No Dong missile or the Russian SS-4. Both countries have shepherded Iranian military missile development in the past. Iran asserted that the Shahab-4 (Shahab is Farsi for "meteor") was intended for satellite launches.

Anthony H. Cordesman, an analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said development of the Shahab-4 had not reached the point of mass production. The Shahab-4, he said, "in a lot of ways is a paper missile," in that it existed mainly in frame designs and possibly engine components.

Cordesman said the announcement that work on the missile was being scrapped appeared to indicate that Iran's usually divided government continues to speak with one voice. But he warned that "it doesn't mean this is something that's permanent." The missile's development could continue secretly, he said, just as a program aimed at producing atomic weapons could conceivably elude inspectors.

The Defense Ministry statement, quoted by the Iran Student News Association on Wednesday, said the announcement that it "does not have any plans for manufacturing Shahab-4 missiles" followed "certain expressions in society."

The statement did not elaborate, but it was published the same day Iran's ambassador to the IAEA was quoted as saying his government within "days" would sign the addendum to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty allowing snap inspections of nuclear facilities. Iran agreed to adopt the addendum under the terms of an agreement signed Oct. 21 with the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Britain, quelling a mounting crisis over Iran's nuclear program.

Davoud Bavand, a law professor and leading analyst in Iran's reform movement, called the Shahab-4 announcement "one more step toward rapprochement with the demands of the major powers."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A9900-2003Nov6.html>

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Washington Post  
November 7, 2003  
Pg. B1

## **10 Post Offices Closed Over Anthrax Scare**

### ***Sensor at Anacostia Navy Base Mail Center Detected Spores***

By Steve Vogel and Thomas E. Ricks, Washington Post Staff Writers

Postal officials announced last night that 10 neighborhood post offices in the Washington area will not open today, calling the move a precautionary measure prompted by the possible detection of anthrax spores in a mail-sorting facility at the Anacostia Naval Station.

The decision by the U.S. Postal Service came hours after the Navy confirmed that a sensor in a mail-sorting machine at the naval station detected the presence of anthrax spores Wednesday. A subsequent analysis done at Fort Detrick also tested positive for anthrax, but a "definitive finding" will not be available for several days, Cmdr. Conrad Chun, a Navy spokesman, said last night.

"We don't know what we've got here," Chun said, emphasizing the preliminary nature of the information. "We're not even sure there is anthrax."

But as a precaution, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that the five workers who were in the facility when sensors went off start taking antibiotics, Chun said.

Aside from closing the neighborhood post offices, the Postal Service last night also closed its facility on V Street NE, which processes government mail. Postal officials also stressed that they were erring on the side of caution.

"We have no reason to believe that anyone is at risk," Gerry McKiernan, a Postal Service spokesman, said. The mail-handling facility at the naval station also is closed.

Local and federal officials said last night that false positive readings are common. Law enforcement sources said the second test, at Fort Detrick, was performed by a contractor and not Army scientists, significantly raising the possibility that it was another false positive.

“Whatever it is, it was a tiny bit of it. The unofficial word is, we don’t think it was anything serious. Maybe it was dead spores. It could have come from somebody’s winter sweater,” said one government official briefed on the investigation.

The sensor at the naval station that triggered the alarms “screens for anthrax and other things,” Chun said. The automated mail sorter shut down as soon as something was detected, leaving whatever set off the alarm still inside the machine, Chun said. It was unknown whether the sensor was set off by a package or an envelope. Officials from several agencies described the suspect spores as being dead, but Chun said no test had been conducted to confirm this. Chun added that there is no indication that workers at the Navy base have been affected. Brian Roehrkasse, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security, said the tests being performed at Fort Detrick, in Frederick, will determine the biological makeup of the substance. “It’s highly unlikely that any individuals were exposed,” Roehrkasse added, in part because the facility at the naval base is highly automated. “Navy officials are evaluating some personnel to determine what steps should be taken.”

The Anacostia mail facility, a free-standing building, handles mail sent to the Washington Navy Yard and the Navy annex, also at Anacostia. It does not handle mail going to Navy offices at the Pentagon, or to anywhere else in the government, Chun said.

The Navy base, which remains open, is located on the southern bank of the Anacostia River and at the northern end of the larger Bolling Air Force Base. The National War College, the Coast Guard’s headquarters and other government facilities are just across the Anacostia, and the U.S. Capitol is about 15 blocks to the north. Postal officials said they handle about 20,000 pieces of mail daily that is destined for the naval station. By the time it arrives, it already has been irradiated in New Jersey. A spokeswoman for the U.S. Capitol Police said there was no threat directed at Congress, and its mail operation was unaffected.

Jean Mitchell, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Secret Service, said that while the agency does process mail for the White House at a facility at Bolling, the alarm yesterday was raised at a separate facility. “There was something that was found in Anacostia. It had nothing to do with our facility. It was a naval mail facility,” Mitchell said. Precautions against anthrax and other deadly agents were put in place after anthrax-laced mailings killed five people and sickened 17 two year ago. Since then, preliminary results of tests like those conducted at the naval station have temporarily closed other government buildings and private offices.

In January, the V Street NE mail-sorting facility, which handles U.S. government mail, was closed briefly after preliminary tests on a package sent to the Federal Reserve Board in Washington indicated possible anthrax contamination. Subsequent tests were negative, and the V Street facility quickly reopened.

Two of the deadly letters containing anthrax spores that were sent in 2001 passed through the Brentwood mail facility in Northeast Washington on their way to Capitol Hill, where a Senate office building was closed and required extensive decontamination. Two Brentwood postal workers—Joseph P. Curseen, 47, and Thomas J. Morris Jr., 55 -- died of inhalation anthrax. The Brentwood plant, which has been renamed in honor of Curseen and Morris, remains closed, and the FBI continues to look for whoever mailed the letters.

The current case is being investigated by several entities, including the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the Postal Service and the FBI, Chun said.

If the anthrax spores turn out to be dead, as some officials speculated last night, they would not pose a threat of infection, said William Patrick III, an authority on anthrax. But he added that standard mail decontamination techniques are unlikely to kill spores inside an envelope or a package unless they are irradiated for a long period. “An envelope would block irradiation unless you let it cook there for 30 minutes,” said Patrick, who led the U.S. offensive biowarfare program until it was dismantled in 1969. “But ordinarily you don’t do that, because the machine surveys the mail, and then it’s gone.”

Patrick said it was impossible to determine how dangerous the incident at Anacostia could become because it was unclear whether the item was a package or an envelope, or whether it had been irradiated or simply sorted in a mail-handling machine.

“A package is a distinctly lower-order threat, because it’s not being squeezed,” he said. “The postal machine knocks hell out of an envelope” and can cause spores to fly into the air, like the pathogens that contaminated postal facilities at Brentwood and in central New Jersey, he added.

In addition to the mail-handling facility at Anacostia Naval Station and the mail-sorting facility in the 3000 block of V Street NE, the following post offices will be closed today:

In the District, Southwest Post Office, 45 L St. SW; Ward Place Post Office, 2121 Ward Pl. NW; and Friendship Station Post Office, 4005 Wisconsin Ave. NW.

In Maryland, Andrews Air Force Base Post Office, 1668 D St.; Silver Spring Post Office, 8616 Second Ave., Silver Spring; Calvert Distribution Center, 6511 Baltimore Ave., West Hyattsville; and Westlake Post Office, 10421 Motor City Dr., Bethesda.

In Virginia, South Station Post Office, 1210 S. Glebe Rd., Arlington; Eads Street Station, 1720 S. Eads St., Arlington; and Buckingham Station, 235 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington.

*Staff writers Petula Dvorak, Manny Fernandez, Guy Gugliotta, Spencer S. Hsu, Allan Lengel, John Mintz and Robin Shulman and staff researcher Bobbye Pratt contributed to this report.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10041-2003Nov6.html>

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Washington Post  
November 7, 2003  
Pg. 13

## **Nuclear Weapons Lab Loses 12 Keys**

*New Locks Could Cost \$1.7 Million*

By Brian Faler, Special to The Washington Post

Officials at a national nuclear weapons laboratory in California have lost a dozen keys to the facility, according to a report released yesterday by the Department of Energy's inspector general.

Gregory H. Friedman, the inspector general, said officials at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have lost nine master keys and three magnetic key-cards to the facility—and, in some cases, do not know why or how long they have been missing.

The lab will need to replace about 100,000 locks in 526 buildings, according to the IG report. That will cost taxpayers about \$1.7 million—although Friedman noted that some government officials dispute those figures. More broadly, he said the facility did not have adequate measures in place to ensure that such incidents are reported in a timely manner—or to readily identify and address any potential vulnerabilities in its security that may have resulted.

The lab is managed by the University of California under a contract with the Energy Department. The university has already been under fire for security lapses at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which it also manages.

“We regret that the events covered in the report were very unfortunate,” said Livermore spokesman David Schwoegler. “But once we were made aware of this, our senior management acted aggressively to correct both the key and [magnetic] card issues.”

Schwoegler said the lost keys presented only “minimal increased risk to classified information,” thanks to redundant security systems, and that there is no evidence security has been breached.

He said Livermore officials estimate they will have to change only 1,300 locks at a cost of \$330,000. He also said the lab was already in the process of replacing its locks.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A9866-2003Nov6.html>

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Washington Post  
November 10, 2003  
Pg. 26

## **Iran To Halt Uranium Program In ‘Days’**

By Associated Press

TEHRAN, Nov. 9 -- Iran said Sunday that it would suspend its uranium enrichment program in the coming days, a move it has promised to take to prove it is not trying to make nuclear weapons.

It was the firmest timetable Iran has given on carrying out the step, which the International Atomic Energy Agency has been seeking for weeks. Iran has also said that this week it will firm up its promise to allow the U.N. agency to make snap inspections of its nuclear facilities.

“Within the next few days uranium enrichment will be suspended,” said a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hamid Reza Asefi.

Enriching uranium is a process that creates fuel for nuclear plants but also can be used to build weapons.

Iran says it has enriched uranium only to non-weapons levels, as part of purely peaceful nuclear programs meant to produce power. The United States accuses Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons.

Separately, Iranian authorities freed an American university lecturer jailed since July on suspicion of espionage, a prosecutor's office spokesman said.

Dariush Zahedi, an Iranian-born U.S. citizen who lectures at the University of California at Berkeley, was freed after his relatives posted \$250,000 bail, the spokesman said. He gave no further details.

A friend of Zahedi's, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the lecturer was free to leave Iran but was required to return to stand possible trial. He said Zahedi appeared healthy after being released.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A20079-2003Nov9.html>

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New York Times  
November 9, 2003

## **New C.I.A. Concerns On North Korean Weapons**

By David E. Sanger

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8 — The Central Intelligence Agency has told Congress that it now believes that North Korea has mastered the technology of turning its nuclear fuel into functioning weapons, without having to prove their effectiveness through nuclear tests.

The C.I.A. report goes beyond previous public statements suggesting that North Korea built one or two weapons in the early 1990's, a figure many intelligence experts believe has risen in the last few months. Those statements carried the presumption that the North had developed the technology to detonate weapons, but in background briefings, some American and Asian intelligence officials expressed doubts. They said that in the absence of a North Korean nuclear test, there was no way to be certain of its capabilities.

Now those doubts appear to be gone. But the reason why is still a mystery, perhaps buried in a classified annex that the C.I.A. also sent to Congress.

The C.I.A.'s notification to Congress, sent in mid-August, reports that while North Korea could conduct such a test, it was probably refraining from doing so to avoid "precipitating an international backlash and further isolation." For the first time, the agency has publicly stated that the North's technology is advanced enough that a highly visible test — like those conducted in China in the mid-1960's and in India and Pakistan in the 1990's — is unnecessary.

The agency's new assessment, first reported by Reuters, came in a series of written, unclassified responses to questions posed by members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The conclusion, if accurate, would give credence to recent statements by North Korean officials that they already possessed a working "nuclear deterrent," and to their assertion that it was too late for the Bush administration to stop it from becoming a full-fledged nuclear power.

The C.I.A.'s judgment complicates the diplomatic task facing President Bush as the United States moves toward another round of six-nation talks with the North, probably next month. Mr. Bush, who declared this year that he would never tolerate a nuclear North Korea, has said the United States is prepared to offer, with other nations, some form of security guarantees to the North in return for its agreement to disarm.

But even if the North agrees, defining "disarmament" may be very difficult. American intelligence officials acknowledge that they do not know exactly how much weapons-grade fuel North Korea has produced this year, since international inspectors were expelled on Dec. 31.

One senior official said on Saturday that the significance of the C.I.A.'s conclusion was that "we may never know for sure how many weapons they manufactured and then hid away in some tunnel." Even if North Korea agrees to give up both its production facilities and the weapons it has already produced, a step many Korea experts in the administration believe is unlikely, "how would we ever know that we've gotten all of it?" the official asked.

The C.I.A. report was in reply to questions posed by senators in the spring. The answers were submitted on Aug. 18, but were not made public until recently. They are written in the arcane language of nuclear intelligence.

"We assess that North Korea has produced one or two simple fission-type nuclear weapons and has validated the designs without conducting yield-producing nuclear tests," the report to the committee said. The agency appeared to be referring to the kind of basic bomb containing plutonium extracted from North Korea's nuclear power reactors, not to warheads made from highly enriched uranium.

The agency noted news reports that the North had conducted "high-explosive tests since the 1980's in order to validate its nuclear weapons design(s)." Those tests, it suggested, made it unnecessary to stage a full nuclear explosion to be confident that the designs would work.

The full document, and another assessment by the Defense Intelligence Agency, were posted on the web site of the Federation of American Scientists ([www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org)), an independent group that analyzes arms control and other issues. The D.I.A. report also concludes that Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader, appears to have a "secure" hold on power.

It concludes that the chances for the reunification of the Korean peninsula, divided since the Korean War ended a half century ago, are “low” in the next five years, and that if Mr. Kim were displaced, he would probably be replaced by a military official.

The conclusions give little cause for optimism among those in the Bush administration who hope — as the Clinton administration did — that the government would collapse because of North Korea’s deep economic troubles.

On July 1, a month and a half before the report to the Senate, The New York Times reported that American satellites had been studying an advanced nuclear testing site in an area called Youngdoktong, and that the C.I.A. had told allies it believed that the North was working on designs there that would produce a compact nuclear warhead that could fit onto a missile. Since then, a number of officials have said they believe that there is a weapons laboratory adjacent to that facility; it may be there that much of the work the C.I.A. described has been conducted.

The unclassified version of the statements sent to the Senate make no reference to the size of the nuclear weapons that the North can now produce, or whether they could be fitted onto its missiles, including those that can reach Japan and beyond. Nor does it disclose which nations may have helped the North.

Decades ago, the country received early aid on its nuclear program from China, which is now working with the Bush administration to prevent North Korea from going nuclear. Several years ago it reached a deal with Pakistan that swapped North Korean missile technology for Pakistani nuclear aid; many experts believe that it was the Pakistani connection that allowed North Korea to make the final leap.

Pakistan’s president, Pervez Musharraf, has denied that his country is currently helping North Korea, but he has been vague when asked about any past assistance. He repeated those denials last week.

Pakistan’s aid was chiefly related to a second, secret nuclear project in North Korea, involving the production of highly enriched uranium, which intelligence agencies concluded probably had not yet produced a weapon.

It is unclear if Pakistan or other nations have given recent help to the older North Korean project, which involves producing weapons from spent nuclear fuel.

Pakistan and India each conducted nuclear tests in 1998, and the United States responded by imposing sanctions on both. It removed them later, in Pakistan’s case after it offered help after the Sept. 11 attacks.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/09/international/09KORE.html>

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Christian Science Monitor

November 10, 2003

## **A New Way To Handle Nuclear Buildup**

*The US and Russia signed a deal Friday to make Russia a nuclear repository.*

By Scott Peterson, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

MOSCOW – The US and Russia have agreed to collaborate in returning weapons-grade uranium to Russia from vulnerable nuclear reactors throughout the former USSR. Analysts say the deal, signed Friday, could be the first step in a new multilateral strategy for handling the global spread of nuclear technology and material, and deterring terrorist threats.

The plan to repatriate the highly enriched uranium (HEU) coincides with growing efforts to tighten the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), and better control access to nuclear technology. HEU is attractive to terrorists because it can be fashioned into a crude nuclear device with relative ease.

“We need to rethink the entire role of nuclear technology cooperation,” says Charles Curtis, president of the Nuclear Threat Initiative in Washington, which is heavily involved in nonproliferation efforts in the former USSR. “Russia is, on things nuclear, the essential partner.... They have to be part of the solution.”

US Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham lauded the deal, which covers 20 research reactors in 17 countries, as a joint move to “reduce the threat of terrorism and prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction.”

Moscow has proposed creating a long-term repository in western Siberia to help ease the global buildup of spent nuclear fuel. But standing in the way of this and some other US-Russia collaborative efforts is an \$800 million reactor project in Bushehr, Iran. Washington has insisted that Russia stop building the reactor out of fear that the transfer of Russian know-how would boost what it believes is a clandestine Iranian weapons program.

Some 80 percent of non-Russian nuclear fuel worldwide originated in the US. But while the US Department of Energy has helped Russia develop long-term storage plans for it, the dispute over Iran remains an obstacle. Russian environmentalists have also protested.

Iran, meanwhile, is on the verge of signing a fuel services deal with Russia: Moscow would provide all nuclear material to Iran for the Bushehr reactor, and then return all spent fuel. The chief of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, Hassan Rohani, met top Russian officials Sunday in Moscow to hammer out details.



As a way of keeping control of fissile material - and enticing nations to forgo expensive, self-contained nuclear fuel cycles that can also be used to make weapons-grade material - the deal is being seen as a template for the future. Many experts and officials, including Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), want to take this a step further by creating international centers so that just a few nations would provide centralized fuel and waste services for all. "Many countries around the world think that having international centers could be beneficial, because they don't want to have to worry about the nuclear waste," says Rose Gottemoeller, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, who was in charge of nonproliferation policy at the Department of Energy from 1997 to 2000. "And they realize it is more economical for them to buy nuclear services."

For countries like Iran, however, which have already invested heavily in their own enrichment plans - and might also have clandestine weapons ambitions - it might be a tough sell, she says.

US State Department officials were quoted last week suggesting that Russia might halt the reactor project if Iran does not openly declare all its efforts and permit thorough inspections. On Saturday in Vienna, Mr. Rohani reassured Mr. ElBaradei that the IAEA would receive formal notification - possibly by Monday - that Iran will accept intrusive nuclear inspections, sign the Additional Protocol of the NPT, and suspend uranium-enrichment efforts.

"We have been getting satisfactory cooperation from Iran," ElBaradei said. "I hope this is something that will continue." ElBaradei is to provide the IAEA with a fresh report on Iranian compliance soon. Iran has tried to satisfy an Oct. 31 deadline to rectify "failures" found by the IAEA in Iran's reporting of undeclared enrichment activities. The proliferation issues in Iran - as well as in North Korea - have spotlighted NPT weaknesses. Under the umbrella of the NPT, Pyongyang legally developed its own nuclear-fuel cycle - and then withdrew from the treaty when it decided to make its nuclear-weapons program public. The CIA assesses that North Korea has "produced one or two simple fission-type nuclear weapons."

Analysts fear that Iran could do the same thing, as previously undeclared enrichment programs have come to light in recent months. Though Russia has close nuclear ties with Iran, analysts say the Kremlin was shocked at the extent of Tehran's undeclared efforts. Gottemoeller says that several top Russian officials have told her privately of their embarrassment at finding out about Iran's undeclared centrifuge program at Natanz, and the heavy-water reactor at Arak. As information emerged that several European companies supplied the goods, according to a "shopping list" provided by Pakistan, she adds, the result has been a "sea change" in thinking in Moscow.

"What has changed is that Russia is playing an important role in influencing Iran's cooperation with the IAEA," says NTI's Curtis, a former deputy secretary in the Department of Energy.

ElBaradei has suggested a new security framework that restricts processing of weapon-usable material "exclusively to facilities under multinational control," and called for a similar approach to disposal of spent fuel. All countries should "turn off the tap" on producing new material for weapons under the new framework, he said. Rummyantsev echoed the IAEA leader, with a Russia proposal for several international centers to manage global nuclear fuel supply and waste.

Up-to-date technologies and security would strengthen nonproliferation efforts, and help ease risks from 200,000 tons of material that has built up since the beginning of the nuclear industry, and expands by 10,000 tons a year.

"That's where the Russia proposition has resonance," says a Western diplomat in Vienna close to the IAEA. The Russians "should get brownie points for moving toward this process," he says.

Such efforts to centralize nuclear power "are better than the current situation," but will still need work, says Leonard Spector, deputy director of the Monterey Institute's Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Washington. "There are some countries you wouldn't want to have" nuclear energy," Mr. Spector says. "Even if Russia supplies fuel from outside, should Syria have a nuclear power plant?"

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2003/1110/p06s01-woeu.html>

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Washington Post  
November 8, 2003  
Pg. B1

## **Anthrax Scare Ends After More Testing**

*Post Offices to Reopen Today; Navy Facility Declared Safe*

By Manny Fernandez and Spencer S. Hsu, Washington Post Staff Writers

A brief anthrax alert was declared a false alarm last night, and U.S. Postal Service officials began reopening mail facilities in the Washington area that they had closed as a precaution.

The scare began about 5 p.m. Wednesday, when a routine test of air filters at a mail-sorting facility at the Anacostia Naval Station turned up positive for a biological agent identified initially as anthrax. But Navy officials said last

night that a series of tests conducted yesterday indicated that finding was a “false positive,” with the facility ultimately showing no sign of anthrax spores.

“We call it a nonevent, and we say thank goodness,” Barbara Childs-Pair, acting director of the D.C. Emergency Management Agency, said last night, echoing the relief of many officials and postal workers who feared a replay of the deadly anthrax mailings of fall 2001.

The results announced last night brought a harmless close to a day in which officials from various agencies tested and retested samples from the Anacostia site, the Postal Service disrupted mail delivery to thousands of Washington area homes and businesses, and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention put doctors in several states on alert and prompted regional authorities to gear up for an emergency.

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, which has oversight over the Postal Service and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, praised the quick response by officials but said the scare underscored gaps in biomedical surveillance systems. “The Postal Service took appropriate steps by shutting down certain facilities to safeguard employees,” Collins said. “Unfortunately, this incident also shows how vulnerable we still are to bioterrorist attacks.”

Scientists will continue to monitor cultures taken from the Anacostia facility before declaring an end to the episode. “We’re not going to leave people’s lives at risk,” said one federal official. Homeland Security officials declared that no positive results have been confirmed by the CDC.

The positive readings sparked a widespread response from postal, federal and health officials. The House of Representatives and Senate shut down mail delivery yesterday as a precaution. The U.S. Postal Service closed 11 mail-handling and post office locations in the Washington area, including the facility that processes U.S. government mail, temporarily disrupting mail delivery to 251,000 homes and businesses. Postal officials said they planned to open two facilities last night and said all would be open for business today. Navy officials said they would reopen their mail facility Monday.

Reacting to the episode, the CDC activated emergency response plans, causing states to deploy caches of antibiotics in the Washington area. Medication for 1,500 to 5,000 people was readied for use, Maryland health officials said, with more available if needed. Officials preliminarily planned to provide treatment for about 75 employees at each of the shuttered 11 postal facilities and additional doses for post office customers. Hospitals and health departments were on standby in the Washington area, following Department of Homeland Security conference calls.

Postal officials said they were erring on the side of caution when they ordered their V Street NE mail-sorting facility closed, as well as the neighborhood post offices in the District, Maryland and Virginia. They said they shut the V Street facility because it supplies 20,000 pieces of mail daily to the Anacostia Naval Station and closed the neighborhood offices because they serve as collection points for mail destined for the Anacostia site.

Thomas G. Day, the Postal Service’s vice president for engineering, said he was happy with the swiftness of the agency’s response. “When we were notified of the issue at hand, we were able to respond immediately,” Day said. He added that the disruption affected roughly 100,000 homes and businesses in the District, 45,000 in Virginia and 100,000 in Maryland. Tests for anthrax spores were conducted yesterday and Thursday at the 11 facilities. Those results were not expected until today, but officials said they were confident, after learning that further testing showed no anthrax at the Anacostia site, that they would not find anything.

Several businesses reported no significant disruption by the Postal Service’s actions. The Greater Washington Board of Trade and the DC Chamber of Commerce said they had not heard complaints from members. One of the District facilities closed yesterday, the Ward Place post office, served the downtown commercial area near Farragut Square, leaving hundreds of small shops, restaurants and law offices without mail delivery. Mary Walls, office administrator for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP at 1050 Connecticut Ave. NW, said the lack of mail service was only a slight inconvenience. “If it’s very important, it’s transmitted electronically or overnighted,” she said.

Tests of the air and surfaces inside the Anacostia facility conducted yesterday showed no signs of anthrax, a Navy official said last night. Further testing will be done to verify those results, but, said Cmdr. Conrad Chun, a Navy spokesman, “the guys are confident that there’s no anthrax.” Chun described the tests conducted by the Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring as being “much more refined” than preliminary tests that showed positive results.

The scare started with a routine procedure Wednesday. The afternoon batch of incoming mail at the Anacostia naval site was X-rayed and then placed inside a negative pressure machine and shaken. Filters in the machine were tested and turned up positive about 5 p.m., Navy officials said.

A contractor, the Louisiana-based Shaw Group Inc., screens mail at the processing facility at the station, and the CDC recommended that the company’s five employees who were inside the facility start taking the antibiotic Cipro as a precaution.

The equipment used by Shaw typically registers about one positive reading per month, officials said. In all previous cases, subsequent testing was negative. This time, subsequent testing resulted in a second positive reading. At that

point, the contractors secured the facility and began notifying authorities. Samples were sent out for further testing. The testing, conducted Thursday morning, found negative results in all but one, and that one triggered another set of tests. Eventually, results completed yesterday by the Navy lab for the CDC turned up negative.

Most of the mail that comes to the facility is government mail, addressed to government agencies, in particular Navy and Marine Corps addresses, naval officials said.

Mail processed at the V Street facility arrives at the Navy facility long after it has been irradiated in New Jersey.

Irradiation is designed to kill anthrax bacteria. The Postal Service began irradiating government mail following the anthrax crisis two years ago, shipping D.C.-bound federal government mail to New Jersey.

Postal officials said irradiation has been a significant line of defense in protecting government mail. The irradiation process used by the Postal Service has been approved by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Following the 2001 anthrax crisis, the office convened an interagency technical team to evaluate and validate the irradiation process for government mail, and it offered the parameters under which the mail should be decontaminated. "We know that the process is working," said Lawrence Kerr, the office's assistant director for homeland security.

*Staff writers Chris L. Jenkins, Allan Lengel, Anitha Reddy, Robin Shulman and Steve Vogel contributed to this report.*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A14025-2003Nov7.html>

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## **New C.I.A. Concerns on North Korean Weapons**

**By DAVID E. SANGER**

Published: November 9, 2003

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8 — The Central Intelligence Agency has told Congress that it now believes that North Korea has mastered the technology of turning its nuclear fuel into functioning weapons, without having to prove their effectiveness through nuclear tests.

The C.I.A. report goes beyond previous public statements suggesting that North Korea built one or two weapons in the early 1990's, a figure many intelligence experts believe has risen in the last few months. Those statements carried the presumption that the North had developed the technology to detonate weapons, but in background briefings, some American and Asian intelligence officials expressed doubts. They said that in the absence of a North Korean nuclear test, there was no way to be certain of its capabilities.

Now those doubts appear to be gone. But the reason why is still a mystery, perhaps buried in a classified annex that the C.I.A. also sent to Congress.

The C.I.A.'s notification to Congress, sent in mid-August, reports that while North Korea could conduct such a test, it was probably refraining from doing so to avoid "precipitating an international backlash and further isolation." For the first time, the agency has publicly stated that the North's technology is advanced enough that a highly visible test — like those conducted in China in the mid-1960's and in India and Pakistan in the 1990's — is unnecessary.

The agency's new assessment, first reported by Reuters, came in a series of written, unclassified responses to questions posed by members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

The conclusion, if accurate, would give credence to recent statements by North Korean officials that they already possessed a working "nuclear deterrent," and to their assertion that it was too late for the Bush administration to stop it from becoming a full-fledged nuclear power.

The C.I.A.'s judgment complicates the diplomatic task facing President Bush as the United States moves toward another round of six-nation talks with the North, probably next month. Mr. Bush, who declared this year that he would never tolerate a nuclear North Korea, has said the United States is prepared to offer, with other nations, some form of security guarantees to the North in return for its agreement to disarm.

But even if the North agrees, defining "disarmament" may be very difficult. American intelligence officials acknowledge that they do not know exactly how much weapons-grade fuel North Korea has produced this year, since international inspectors were expelled on Dec. 31.

One senior official said on Saturday that the significance of the C.I.A.'s conclusion was that "we may never know for sure how many weapons they manufactured and then hid away in some tunnel." Even if North Korea agrees to give up both its production facilities and the weapons it has already produced, a step many Korea experts in the administration believe is unlikely, "how would we ever know that we've gotten all of it?" the official asked.

The C.I.A. report was in reply to questions posed by senators in the spring. The answers were submitted on Aug. 18, but were not made public until recently. They are written in the arcane language of nuclear intelligence.

"We assess that North Korea has produced one or two simple fission-type nuclear weapons and has validated the designs without conducting yield-producing nuclear tests," the report to the committee said. The agency appeared to

be referring to the kind of basic bomb containing plutonium extracted from North Korea's nuclear power reactors, not to warheads made from highly enriched uranium.

The agency noted news reports that the North had conducted "high-explosive tests since the 1980's in order to validate its nuclear weapons design(s)." Those tests, it suggested, made it unnecessary to stage a full nuclear explosion to be confident that the designs would work.

The full document, and another assessment by the Defense Intelligence Agency, were posted on the web site of the Federation of American Scientists ([www.fas.org](http://www.fas.org)), an independent group that analyzes arms control and other issues. The D.I.A. report also concludes that Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader, appears to have a "secure" hold on power.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/09/international/09KORE.html>

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New York Times  
November 12, 2003

## Surprise Word On Nuclear Gains By North Korea And Iran

By David E. Sanger and William J. Broad

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11 — Two intelligence reports issued in recent days find that North Korea and Iran have made advances on a variety of technologies necessary to build nuclear weapons that surprised many nuclear experts and Western intelligence officials.

Overall, the reports support the consensus view that North Korea is far ahead of Iran in the production of actual weapons and poses the most urgent proliferation problems for the Bush administration.

Yet Iran's program turns out to have been even broader and deeper than American intelligence agencies suspected. A 30-page confidential report issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency and sent to 20 governments on Monday describes a program that reached back at least 18 years and involved extremely complex technologies, including an exotic program to use lasers to enrich uranium.

In recent weeks, President Bush has declared that his administration is making great progress in its diplomatic effort to disarm both countries, putting together coalitions of neighboring countries to pressure the two surviving governments of what he famously called the "Axis of Evil."

But the essence of the Central Intelligence Agency report about North Korea is that that country is speeding up its weapons production. And Iran's decision to allow the international agency into facilities that were previously closed to inspectors may, diplomats said, blunt Mr. Bush's effort to seek some kind of sanctions in the United Nations, leaving Iran with an advanced nuclear infrastructure that could be restarted at a moment's notice.

Taken together, the reports show that Iran and North Korea have each dabbled in separating plutonium — one path to a bomb — and have each set up centrifuges to enrich uranium. The difference, as the C.I.A. told Congress, is that North Korea has fully mastered the complexities of detonating a bomb, perhaps with the help of some of its nuclear suppliers like Pakistan. There is no evidence that Iran has made that much headway.

"The Iranians did a lot better at this than Saddam Hussein did," one administration official said. "But not as well as Kim Jong Il," he added, referring to the North Korean leader.

The international agency's report is full of examples showing that Iran fooled the global nuclear watchdog for years. It refers to "limited and reactive" cooperation with inspectors and "changing and contradictory" stories. Despite that history of deception, though, the international agency insisted that there is no evidence of a current weapons project in Iran. That conclusion left many experts agape.

"It's dumbfounding that the I.A.E.A., after saying that Iran for 18 years had a secret effort to enrich uranium and separate plutonium, would turn around and say there was no evidence of a nuclear weapons program," said Thomas B. Cochran, a senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington, a private group that tracks nuclear arms. "If that's not evidence, I don't know what is."

A federal intelligence official echoed that assessment, saying, "It's obvious that this is not an atoms for peace program."

But the international agency's report, while detailed, found no actual weapons of the kind that North Korea boasts about.

Paul Leventhal, president of the Nuclear Control Institute, a private group based in Washington, argued that the agency's job of simultaneously promoting and regulating nuclear power had blinded it to Tehran's ambitions. "Iran is an example," he said, "of what happens when you let the rhetoric of atoms for peace take precedence over the hard realities of a nation that supports terrorism going nuclear."

Still, American officials said the 30-page document from the international inspectors included details missing from American intelligence reports. "They may have suspected it," said David Albright, head of the Institute for Science

and International Security, an arms control group in Washington. "But a lot of this stuff would not have been known to the U.S. government."

Private and federal experts said that the most stunning revelation was how Tehran had labored in secret for 18 years to enrich uranium, a main fuel of nuclear arms. Its effort focused on developing centrifuges, a standard method in which fast spinning concentrates U-235, the uranium isotope used in making bombs.

The report said that Tehran acknowledged building two centrifuge plants and finishing a third site, the Kalaye Electric Company, which made centrifuge parts and did extensive centrifuge testing and experimental purification of uranium. Inspectors were blocked from entering the electric company's facilities earlier this year; they now know that behind a false wall of boxes were scores of centrifuges, in what appeared to be a pilot program to produce weapon-grade uranium.

That is exactly the kind of program that North Korea is also believed to be involved in as an alternative to the country's main nuclear weapons development program. The project was discovered a few years ago by South Korean intelligence officials, though its exact location is still a mystery. Inspectors were thrown out of North Korea on New Year's Eve.

While the North Koreans have clearly made more progress, intelligence officials say, the international agency's report indicates that the Iranians have been more technologically daring than most experts expected.

The report reveals that for 12 years Iran developed a program to use lasers to purify uranium. In theory, the exotic technique can be highly efficient in producing enriched uranium. But no country, including the United States, has found a way to make it economical in the production of fuel for commercial nuclear reactors. It is so expensive that experts assume its only usefulness would be for a military program where costs are no obstacle.

"The technology and physics are not easy," said Steve Fetter, a physicist at the University of Maryland. "It's probably the most difficult of all the enrichment techniques to master."

The international agency's report said that three years ago Iran established a pilot plant for laser enrichment and used it between October 2002 and January of this year to conduct experiments on natural uranium. The Iranian authorities said the pilot plant was disassembled in May.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/12/politics/12NUKE.html>

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Los Angeles Times

November 12, 2003

## **North Korea Arms Talks May Resume Next Month**

By Times Staff Writer

SEOUL — Another round of six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear crisis is likely to be held in mid-December in Beijing, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

An official in Seoul who did not want to be identified said that there was an agreement in principle to resume the talks but that a date had not been set.

The last round took place in August and ended in disappointment, with the U.S. and North Korea unable to come up with any mechanism to proceed.

The other parties to the talks — China, Japan, Russia and South Korea — want the North Koreans to dismantle their nuclear weapons program and want the United States to offer in return a guarantee that it will not attack the communist country.

President Bush said last month that he would be willing to give North Korea some sort of security assurance short of a formal nonaggression treaty.

The North Koreans have since issued conflicting statements about whether they would return to the negotiating table.

Last week, an international consortium in New York agreed to suspend construction of a light-water reactor in North Korea, in effect killing a 1994 accord under which the North Koreans were to receive energy assistance in exchange for freezing their nuclear efforts.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-korea12nov12,1,5626096.story>

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Baltimore Sun

November 12, 2003

## **N. Korea Demands U.S. Pay 'Penalty' Over Power Plants**

### ***North says decision to halt work violates agreement***

By Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea said yesterday that it will seize equipment for two nuclear power plants being built in the impoverished state until the United States pays a "penalty" for its decision to stop their construction. Last week, the United States, South Korea, Japan and the European Union tentatively decided to suspend work at Kumho, a remote northeastern coastal village where they have been building two light-water reactors to generate badly needed electricity for North Korea.

They say that halting the \$4.6 billion project is inevitable because North Korea has violated a 1994 agreement by secretly building nuclear weapons.

North Korea claimed again yesterday that the United States had first violated the 1994 agreement, in which two power-generating reactors were promised in return for a freezing of the North's Soviet-designed reactors, suspected of being used for weapons development.

"The U.S. should pay damages for the breach of contract without delay," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told the official news agency, KCNA. "We will never allow the U.S. to take out facilities, equipment and materials for the light-water reactor construction and technical documents now in the Kumho area unless the U.S. pays a penalty." North Korea made a similar threat last week. Yesterday's statement came after Washington urged the North to permit the removal of equipment from Kumho.

A standoff over North Korea's nuclear ambitions began a year ago, when U.S. officials said the country admitted running a secret nuclear program based on enriched uranium.

North Korea has denied having such a program. It says Washington created the nuclear crisis to stifle the isolated country and demands that Washington compensate it for economic losses caused by delays in building the nuclear power plants.

China is optimistic that another round of six-nation talks on the North Korean nuclear crisis will be held before the end of the year, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The first round, held in Beijing in August, involved the United States, China, the two Koreas, Japan and Russia.

That summit ended with an agreement to meet again, but no date was set.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said, "If everything goes smoothly and differences between the various parties can be narrowed, we are positive there is hope to see the six-party talks within this year."

<http://www.sunspot.net/news/nationworld/bal-te.nkorea12nov12.0,2219303.story>

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Washington Times

November 12, 2003

Pg. 1

## **U.S. Urges 'Appropriate Action' On Iran's Nukes**

By Tom Carter, The Washington Times

The Bush administration, citing the latest U.N. report on Iran's nuclear program, said yesterday it would prod other nations to take "appropriate action" against Iran's ability to make nuclear weapons.

"Iran's nuclear-weapons program and its now well-documented pattern of nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty safeguard violations are deeply troubling," said a senior State Department official. "The report reinforces our concerns."

"The United States will work with other IAEA board members to ensure that the Nov. 20 board meeting in Vienna takes the appropriate action," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The comments came a week before a crucial session of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is to decide whether to refer Iran's nuclear program to the U.N. Security Council.

"Iran has no peaceful need for uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing," the official said.

The IAEA, the United Nations' nuclear monitoring agency, circulated a new report on Monday that concluded Iran had made small amounts of enriched uranium and processed plutonium, in violation of international conventions.

Uranium or plutonium can be used to build atomic bombs.

The report also detailed decades of Iranian subterfuge and secrecy regarding its program. However, the report found no evidence that Iran was trying to build nuclear weapons.

Michael Levi, a physicist and nuclear-weapons expert at the Brookings Institution, said the IAEA finding that there is no evidence of an Iranian weapons program is a "red herring."

"The difference between civilian nuclear material and material for a nuclear-weapons program is largely one of intent. The IAEA is not in the business of assessing intent," he said. "We've pretty much reached the end of the road scientifically, technically. It is now up to the policy-makers to determine intent."

Mr. Levi said that the report reached two conclusions: first, that Iran has enriched uranium and processed plutonium in violation of international accords, and second, Iran has engaged in two decades of "systematic deception and illegal activity."

The United States has been pushing for months to refer the Iran nuclear matter to the U.N. Security Council, where Iran could face sanctions.

Iran is loath to come under the kinds of international sanctions that crippled Iraq, especially since the hard-line Islamic government is facing enormous pressure for democratic reform from its population.

On Oct. 21, the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Britain cut a deal in which Iran agreed to suspend its uranium-enrichment program and to sign a protocol allowing intrusive international inspections on short notice.

On Monday, coinciding with the IAEA report, Tehran said it had fulfilled its promises.

If Iran is found in noncompliance by the IAEA board of governors at the Nov. 20 meeting, the problem would be automatically referred to the United Nations.

"We will be consulting intensively in the coming weeks with other members of the board to ensure that the board takes decisive action aimed at ensuring full Iranian compliance with its safeguards obligations," State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said last week, in anticipation of the IAEA report.

But some analysts say that the Oct. 21 deal made with the three European nations makes a finding of noncompliance unlikely.

There was no official reaction from Germany, Britain or France to the report yesterday. However, the foreign ministers of the three nations plan to speak in a conference call in the next few days regarding the Iran report, according to a German government official.

*Marc Hujer contributed to this article, which is based in part on wire service reports.*

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20031111-113139-4265r.htm>

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Washington Post

November 12, 2003

Pg. 13

## **U.S. Fails To Certify Many Labs That Use Pathogens**

By John Mintz, Washington Post Staff Writer

The federal government has failed to perform required security reviews on hundreds of U.S. laboratories and thousands of scientists researching biological pathogens such as anthrax spores and plague bacteria, according to Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (D-Conn.), who helped pass a 2002 law mandating the probes.

In a letter last week to three Cabinet secretaries, Lieberman, who is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination, said that "it appears that the administration has not acted forcefully and expeditiously" to carry out provisions in the 2002 law that required the background and security investigations to be finished by today.

Agencies given the job of carrying out 2002's Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act had set today as the deadline by which the nation's hundreds of laboratories needed to have been certified to do research using biological materials that U.S. officials fear could be diverted by terrorists.

Last month, as the deadline approached and almost no labs or employees had been certified as being in compliance, leading scientific groups representing microbiologists and university labs wrote administration officials warning of possible disruptions in their work, or even shutdowns, unless the government extended the deadlines.

Last week, U.S. officials issued "provisional" certifications allowing those labs that had filed proper paperwork to continue operating, even though they had not been approved under the law.

As of last week, U.S. agencies had not certified any laboratories or researchers as being fully in compliance with the law, and 5,400 of 9,000 of the more limited security reviews of scientists had been completed, Lieberman's letter said.

He also wrote that it appears the departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture, which are supposed to oversee separate groups of labs under the act, have not assigned adequate staff to perform the checks. The same goes for the FBI, Lieberman staff members said.

An administration official said the delays resulted in part because so many agencies are involved.

Officials initially had estimated 1,653 labs and 20,000 researchers would register as doing this type of research, meaning they needed certification. But with many scientists abandoning the field because of onerous security rules after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, only 513 labs and 9,000 individuals have applied for approval.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A27978-2003Nov11.html>

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## **DIRTY-BOMB ALARM OVER LOST NUKE GEAR**

November 11, 2003 -- WASHINGTON - Sealed radioactive material has been lost, stolen or misplaced more than 1,300 times in the United States over the past five years - and federal investigators concluded terrorists could cobble enough together to create a dirty bomb.

But closing the gaps in security could take years, the Energy Department's Los Alamos laboratory and the General Accounting Office found.

The studies cited examples such as how a North Carolina hospital discovered in March 1998 that 19 sealed sources of radiological material, including the highly dispersible cesium-137, were missing from a locked safe.

They have not been found.

The congressional investigators found that many of the 114 universities that possess plutonium-239 have tried unsuccessfully to return it to the government.

The department doesn't have enough secure storage space, the investigators said.

The Los Alamos report concludes that the threat of a so-called dirty bomb that could disperse radiological materials across a wide area "appears to be very significant, and there is no shortage of radioactive materials that could be used."

Security improvements under way "are unlikely to significantly alter the global risk picture for a few years," it added.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokeswoman Beth Hayden said the agency recognizes the potential dangers of such materials and al Qaeda's interest in them - "There are millions of sources," she said.

But she added most of the 1,300 lost radiological sources were subsequently recovered.

The Los Alamos analysis specifically cited concerns about the transportation of large shipments of radioactive cobalt from industrial sites, as well as lax security at hospitals that use radiological devices to treat and diagnose patients.

The GAO detailed how terrorists could abuse the legal method for obtaining radiological sources because the NRC takes as long as a year to inspect facilities after it mails them a license for such materials.

"Because the process assumes that the applicant is acting in good faith and it can take the NRC as long as 12 months before conducting an inspection, it is possible that sealed sources can be obtained for malicious intent," the GAO told the Senate recently.

NRC Commissioner Edward McGaffigan Jr. said his agency has been taking steps for months to more securely ship and store high-risk sources.

"We honestly think we are doing a very aggressive and excellent job in this area, but we have obviously more to do," McGaffigan said in an interview.

He said the government was undertaking a first-ever inventory of who possesses radioactive materials and how much they possess.

*Post Wire Services*

<http://www.nypost.com/news/worldnews/10503.htm>

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New York Times

November 11, 2003

## **Russia Ready To Help Iran With Nuclear Plant**

By Seth Mydans

MOSCOW, Nov. 10 — Russia and Iran appeared to draw closer on Monday to an agreement that would clear the way for the completion of a nuclear power plant that Russians are building in Iran.

On a visit here, Hassan Rowhani, leader of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said Iran had halted its uranium-enrichment program and was ready to sign a protocol that would be a safeguard against having Iran develop nuclear weapons.

"I can see no obstacles to nuclear cooperation with Iran in this situation," President Vladimir V. Putin said after meeting Mr. Rowhani, although he did not say specifically that construction would proceed.

Mr. Rowhani also said Iran was prepared to agree to more intrusive inspections of its nuclear plants on short notice by the International Atomic Energy Agency. These assurances were similar to those given last month to the foreign ministers of France, Britain and Germany.



The United States has opposed Russia's program to build nuclear reactors at Bushehr, on the Persian Gulf, arguing that Iran, a major oil producer, does not need nuclear energy and that the reactors could indirectly help a nuclear weapons program.

In an interview last month with The New York Times, Mr. Putin said that the American concerns were justified and that Russia was seeking a stipulation that spent fuel must be returned to Russia.

But he said, "This doesn't imply that without agreeing upon the principles of our cooperation in this sphere, we're going to suspend all of our programs."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/11/international/europe/11RUSS.html>

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## Siberian challenges beckon to bioscientists

By [Sue Vorenberg](#)

Tribune Reporter

The University of New Mexico is hoping to ship some of the nation's top biological scientists off to the far reaches of Siberia.

This isn't a forced exile. Rather, it's part of a program by the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency designed to help biological weapons scientists in the former Soviet Union work on nonweapons projects and bring them into the international scientific community.

"Russian biological weapons laboratories are run-down, but they're still terrific high-level containment facilities," said Al Zelicoff, a biological weapons expert and UNM professor. "When the Soviet Union collapsed, the Russian government stopped funding those labs. The thing of it is, if we don't fund them, somebody else will."

That somebody else could be a terrorist or foreign country with dubious intentions toward the United States, Zelicoff said.

Instead of leaving the situation to deteriorate, UNM officials asked the Defense Threat Reduction Agency if they could create a scientific collaboration program. They will work with officials from New Mexico State University and Penn State University on the project, said Roger Hagengruber, director of UNM's Office for Policy, Security and Technology.

"We want to help these former bioweapons researchers convert to other types of work, and we want to bring them into the larger scientific community," Hagengruber said.

"Obviously the people best suited to do that are from universities. UNM is in a wonderful position to offer that sort of support because we have a very strong bioscience and medical science programs."

NMSU and Penn State add to that package, through their expertise in agriculture and animal sciences, he said.

The former Soviet Union's weapons labs are spread out in some of the far reaches of its territory, including Siberia, Kamchatka and Russia's neighbor, Kazakhstan.

Living conditions won't be ideal, but the labs will offer American scientists opportunities to work on projects that aren't feasible in the United States, Zelicoff said.

"The problem (in the United States) isn't containment or lax regulations; it's public perceptions," he said. "Take smallpox. It's a window on the human immune system - it interferes with every component of the immune system. There's a lot left to study about it, but most Americans would be pretty upset if they found out the college down the street had a supply of it."

Other possible projects include studying the SARS virus, looking at different strains of anthrax and how symptoms vary with each strain, and investigating new ways to fight diseases such as Ebola virus or even West Nile virus.

"These projects will use Russian biological expertise to give their scientists a future that can help mankind," Hagengruber said. "In the process, we hope it also helps their economy and leads to the formation of new companies. Those are very good things to do."

Americans working in Russia, under U.S. law, must follow the same safety precautions required in the United States, even if they are in a foreign country with fewer restrictions, Zelicoff said.

"Even if they're sloppy over there, we can't go to Russia and be sloppy," he said. "Another benefit is the Russian health system is much quicker to approve research than the U.S. health system is."

The program is somewhat similar to previous efforts aimed at nuclear scientists in the former Soviet Union. Those have been very successful in preventing Russian nuclear expertise from leaving the country, Hagengruber said.

"In biology, you could argue the need for a program like this is even greater," Zelicoff said. "It's hard for a nuclear scientist to build a bomb. That takes a lot of large, hard-to-find equipment. A biological weapon doesn't take much space, and the equipment is available everywhere."

The university group plans to start recruiting scientists from all over the country - not just the three main universities - in the spring. Those that choose to go will be fully funded for a year or two and can get post-Ph.D. college credit for their work, Hagenruber said.

"To start off, we'd like to get somewhere between 12 and 24 researchers to go," he said. "The ideal thing, because of the remote location, would be to get a husband-and-wife team that wants to be in Russia for a year or more." Funding for the program will come from Defense Threat Reduction Agency's \$400 million budget, although the specific amount dedicated to it hasn't been released yet. It will probably be \$4 million or more during the next three years, Zelicoff said.

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