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Washington Times
November 18, 2003
Pg. 1

Nukes Option By U.S. In Korea

Would use them if needed in defense

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

SEOUL — The United States is committed to defending South Korea from an attack by the North and would use nuclear forces if needed, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told the government here yesterday.

Mr. Rumsfeld, who finishes his first official visit to Asia today, said the U.S. commitment to South Korea includes "the continued provision of a nuclear umbrella" for South Korea, according to a statement issued after joint security talks.

"We understand that weakness can be provocative, that weakness can invite people into doing things that they otherwise might not even consider," Mr. Rumsfeld told a joint news conference with South Korean Defense Minister Cho Young-kil.

The two defense chiefs also discussed transferring some of the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea to two areas south of the demilitarized zone.

The tasks carried out by the U.S. forces will be handed over to South Korean troops, including security for the truce area of Panmunjom at the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas and the development of South Korean antiartillery capabilities.

Mr. Rumsfeld met with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and told him that the United States would like Seoul to send "self-sufficient" troops to Iraq that do not need the protection of U.S. combat forces or help with supplies, said a senior defense official at the meeting.

South Korea has said it will send additional troops in the coming months but did not say whether they will be combat troops or humanitarian forces. The dispatch of humanitarian forces would require protection from terrorist attacks and Iraqi insurgents by U.S. or allied troops.

At the annual defense talks, the two sides agreed that North Korea poses a "global threat," the joint statement said. Mr. Rumsfeld and Mr. Cho share the "grave concern that North Korea's self-acknowledged nuclear-weapons program threatens regional and global security and violates North Korea's commitment to a nuclear-free peninsula." North Korea has not tested a nuclear device, but the CIA stated in a recent report to Congress that Pyongyang has "validated" atomic weapons design to the point of posing a credible nuclear threat.

North Korea is continuing to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and long-range missiles, and poses a danger of exporting the weapons and technologies, the statement said.

The United States pulled out all of its tactical nuclear weapons, including nuclear land mines, in the early 1990s. It was then that Washington promised to use its nuclear forces, primarily missile-equipped submarines, to counter any atomic threats to South Korea.

However, the explicit restatement of that promise was unusual, and appeared intended to pressure North Korea in upcoming nuclear arms talks and to persuade South Korea not to develop its own atomic weapons.

North Korea's deployment of nuclear arms in the late 1990s shifted the strategic balance on the peninsula in Pyongyang's favor.

The United States' willingness to use nuclear arms to defend South Korea is expected to anger the communist North, which has accused the Bush administration of planning a nuclear attack.

Asked later about the nuclear assurances, Army Gen. Leon LaPorte, commander of U.S. forces in South Korea, said he could not comment on operational plans.

"Our concern is to maintain a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula," Gen. LaPorte said in an interview with reporters.

The United States is developing nuclear weapons capable of penetrating deep, rock-hardened bunkers like those housing North Korean weapons, U.S. officials have said.

Both leaders called on North Korea to "completely, verifiably and irreversibly dismantle its nuclear-weapons programs" and halt the testing, development, deployment and export of weapons of mass destruction, missiles and related technologies, the statement said.

North Korea should take the opportunity of the six-party talks to denuclearize, the statement said.

Assistant Secretary of State James A. Kelly is in Tokyo and will visit Seoul later this week. He told reporters that a resumption of six-party talks is expected as early as mid-December.

Mr. Rumsfeld said at the press conference that the 13-year plan to move forces away from the demilitarized zone and consolidate bases over the next several years will strengthen the 50-year-old alliance with South Korea.

The alliance is successful because "we have had the ability to deter and defend and, if necessary, prevail," Mr.

Rumsfeld said. "And that has been well understood. I can assure you it will be well understood in the years ahead, and, needless to say, neither of our governments would do anything that would in any way weaken the deterrent and the capability to defend."

Mr. Rumsfeld and South Korean leaders did not discuss cutbacks in the numbers of troops, but a U.S. official quoted Mr. Roh as saying that weapons upgrades and organizational reform make the number of troops less important than in the past.

"It is not numbers of things, it is capability to impose lethal power, where needed, when needed, with the greatest flexibility and with the greatest agility," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

Defense officials have said they do not want U.S. military forces to be used as a vulnerable "tripwire" in any initial attack by North Korea's 1.2-million-troop army.

Thousands of U.S. Army forces are deployed in camps spread close to the demilitarized zone and would be quickly overrun by invading North Korean forces or forced to make a difficult withdrawal through the urbanized Seoul area during a conflict.

The two sides were unable to reach an agreement on the relocation of some 700 to 1,000 U.S. troops from the military's Yongsan garrison in Seoul. South Korea does not want the troops in the Seoul area to be moved. The U.S. wants them pulled back to areas around Osan air base, located south of the capital.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20031117-115816-2478r.htm>

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New York Times
November 18, 2003

U.S. Intelligence Is Softening Some Judgments on Illicit Arms

By Douglas Jehl

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17 — A broad United States government reappraisal of intelligence about illicit weapons programs around the world is prompting a softening of some earlier judgments about foreign arsenals, according to several American officials.

The reassessment — in two parallel, highly classified reviews by the National Intelligence Council — is based on a review of judgments made on the basis of old intelligence and on new information, when that is available. The reviews, which are still in draft form, are the first since the late 1990's by the council, which reports to George J. Tenet, the director of central intelligence.

In one key new judgment, the officials said, the chemical weapons assessment expresses less certainty than the last one about the status of China's chemical weapons program. While China is still believed to possess chemical weapons, the officials said, the new review concludes that current intelligence is not sufficient to support an earlier firm judgment that those weapons have been deployed with military units.

Other than the reappraisal on China, the officials declined to specify which judgments were being revised. But they said that in the cases of a number of countries, the judgments being reached would reflect less certainty than in the previous review. Virtually all of the changes they had seen in the current draft, they added, reflected a softening of previous judgments.

"The analysts are insisting that the judgments be backed up by hard evidence, not supposition," a government official familiar with the process said.

As an example of the danger of supposition, a second official cited Iraq, saying the absence of evidence that Iraq had destroyed its chemical and biological weapons appeared to have been interpreted by intelligence agencies as evidence that it still possessed them.

In an interview last month at the Central Intelligence Agency's headquarters in Langley, Va., a senior intelligence official acknowledged that the government was reassessing its judgments about chemical and biological weapons programs around the world, but said the exercise was unrelated to the experience in Iraq.

"We've asked them to re-examine what we've said, and make sure they're signing up for what we say, make sure that the information is good," the official said.

Even though officials said changes were not being made as a direct result of the Iraq experience, the emerging conclusions seem to reflect fresh caution by intelligence analysts, whose prewar certainty that Iraq possessed chemical and biological weapons has been cast in doubt by the failure of American investigators to find any evidence of Iraqi stockpiles.

How intelligence agencies do business in the aftermath of Iraq is being watched closely, with some members of Congress and intelligence officials expressing concern that a new wariness about overreaching might leave agencies too timid in their judgments.

At the same time, some Congressional and intelligence officials say that the experience of Iraq has demonstrated the danger of drawing hard conclusions on the basis of limited evidence, and that a new prudence on the part of intelligence agencies would be welcome.

"People have talked about the pendulum theory of intelligence, when you go from one extreme to another, and we don't want that," Representative Jane Harman, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said in an interview on Thursday. Ms. Harman, from California, declined to discuss the classified reviews on biological and chemical weapons programs now under way, but she said, "There were major problems with the prewar intelligence on Iraq that have to be fixed."

Based on the most recent previous intelligence reviews, government officials said, the countries believed by the United States to possess both chemical and biological weapons include China, Iran, Iraq, Israel and Egypt.

Previous reviews have concluded that Syria, too, has chemical weapons and is seeking to develop biological weapons, and that Russia has biological weapons. India, Pakistan, Sudan and Libya have all been listed as nations with suspected biological and chemical weapons research programs or abilities.

The officials said they did not expect changes in some key judgments, including those having to do with the supposed chemical and biological weapons abilities of North Korea and Iran, the other two nations along with Iraq that the Bush administration has listed as members of an "axis of evil."

In a private letter last month to the Republican chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Mr. Tenet said that what was at stake for intelligence agencies included "our willingness to make hard calls on difficult subjects that affect national-security decision making."

Similarly, Representative Porter J. Goss, the Florida Republican who is chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, expressed concern in an interview last month that the Iraq experience was causing intelligence analysts "to become more cautious instead of more creative, more thoughtful."

The government officials who agreed to discuss the reassessment would do so only in general terms and on condition of anonymity. Those who spoke to a reporter said they had been briefed on the status of the review and believed that the public should know that intelligence agencies were holding themselves to strict standards as professional analysts whose judgments were independent of political pressure.

The reviews, expected to be completed this month, are to become formal National Intelligence Estimates, the classified documents that reflect the consensus of intelligence agencies and which then serve as the basis for the administration's public remarks, in this case about chemical and biological weapons abilities of countries around the world.

The review on biological weapons is being headed by Lawrence K. Gershwin, the national intelligence officer for science and technology, officials said. They said the review on chemical weapons was being headed by John R. Landry, a retired major general who is the national intelligence officer for conventional military issues.

The Central Intelligence Agency and its supporters have strongly defended the intelligence judgments about Iraq and its illicit weapons program, even as they have come under strong criticism from members of Congress. In the interview last month at C.I.A. headquarters, four senior intelligence officers said that based on the evidence available at the time, it would have been irresponsible for intelligence analysts to come to any conclusions other than those spelled out in a National Intelligence Estimate in October 2002. That document stated flatly that Iraq had chemical and biological weapons and was seeking to reconstitute its nuclear weapons program.

Those judgments have not yet been upheld by a team of American investigators in Iraq led by David Kay, a special adviser to Mr. Tenet. In the interview last month, all of the senior intelligence official expressed confidence that Mr. Kay would one day find the evidence of such weapons, but they also warned of what they called low morale among intelligence analysts as a result of the widespread criticism about their judgments about Iraq.

"I worry about how much longer they're going to make the tough calls if this is the reception they get," a senior intelligence official said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/18/politics/18INTE.html>

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Washington Times

November 18, 2003

Pg. 19

Plan Would Pay Iraqi Scientists To Stay

Some already in terrorist nations

By Dafna Linzer, Associated Press

The Bush administration is working on a \$16 million plan to keep Iraqi scientists occupied with peaceful research at home instead of taking their expertise to countries or terrorist organizations that could threaten the United States, according to a draft proposal obtained by the Associated Press.

The State Department proposal covers costs for the first year of the program that would rely heavily on unpaid assistance from the American scientific community, according to the 11-page draft.

But with a few top Iraqi scientists already believed to have left for countries such as Syria and Iran — both on the U.S. list of terrorism-sponsoring states — some analysts fear the initiative, which could take at least one year to implement, may be coming too late.

"There's a definite concern that people have already gone astray," said Michael Roston with the Russian-American Nuclear Security Advisory Council. "So the State Department's efforts to get this thing rolling are very important."

Mr. Roston is among a select group of nonproliferation specialists and representatives from the American scientific community who have seen the Nov. 3 draft, which is circulating among outside analysts and within the State Department.

Although the Bush administration said it would count on Iraqi scientists to lead weapons hunters to a suspected cache of chemical and biological weapons, none has helped. No plan was implemented for dealing with those who cooperated, and only now are officials beginning to consider employing Iraqi scientists who have been out of work for eight months.

Modher Sadeq-Saba al-Tamimi, the Iraqi scientist who headed Saddam Hussein's long-range missile program, fled to neighboring Iran, AP has learned from U.S. officers involved in the weapons hunt. Tehran yesterday denied the report. A few other scientists involved in former weapons programs have gone to Syria and Jordan, U.S. officials said.

The State Department initiative hopes to encourage members of the scientific community to feel safe in coming forward and being productive in directing their country's future.

The project is titled the Science, Technology and Engineering Mentorship Initiative for Iraq, and nicknamed Stem II. It was developed by the office of George H. Atkinson, the State Department's special adviser on science and technology, and some of the ideas originated with Rose Gottemoeller, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who was involved in retraining Soviet scientists.

"Right now, the main opportunities are in neighboring states, so we need to try to engage them quickly," Miss Gottemoeller said. "The best way to do that is through reconstruction of their country."

The plan envisions a three-stage approach in which scientists would be paid first to submit research proposals. Each submission will be awarded about \$450 — a huge sum in Iraq. The U.S. occupation currently is paying scientists there about \$50 a month, but they remain unemployed.

Planners imagine that about 750 scientists will submit proposals and estimate that about 75 percent will be viable. <http://www.washtimes.com/world/20031117-092209-3840r.htm>

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Washington Times

November 18, 2003

Pg. 24

U.S. Commander Fears N. Korea Would Sell Nukes

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

SEOUL — North Korea poses a regional danger because the communist regime is likely to sell its nuclear arms and expertise to rogue states or terrorists, the commander of U.S. forces in South Korea said yesterday.

"North Korea is a known proliferator of military technology," said Army Gen. Leon LaPorte in an interview with reporters. "We believe that nothing would prevent them from selling weapons-grade nuclear material to other countries, rogue nations or terrorist organizations."

That could lead to terrorist groups obtaining and using nuclear bombs.

"That's the concern that we have relative to North Korea's nuclear program," Gen. LaPorte said.

North Korea's large military has outdated conventional equipment, but is backed by an estimated 800 missiles and nuclear weapons.

The North Korean military ranks No. 1 in the world in terms of submarine forces, special operations commandos and artillery, he said.

While the North Korean navy and air force are not well-armed, the ground forces are very powerful, Gen. LaPorte said.

North Korea's "asymmetric threat" lies in its 120,000 special forces commandos and its chemical weapons.

"Their doctrine is to use chemical weapons as a standard munition," he said.

A key worry is North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and missiles, the four-star general said.

"And our concern is that they have nearly 800 missiles," he said. "The missiles themselves are a very significant asymmetrical threat. But if that was combined with a nuclear capability, now you have a capability that not only threatens the Korean Peninsula, but the entire region."

Gen. LaPorte and other senior U.S. military leaders took part in military committee talks with South Korean military leaders, coinciding with civilian defense talks.

The key issue discussed at the talks was the relocation of the 7,000 U.S. troops at more than 10 facilities in Seoul. South Korean officials want to keep some of the troops in the city, while Pentagon officials plan to leave a small number and move the rest farther south, a senior defense official said.

"It will be way less than a thousand," said the official referring to the remaining troops.

Gen. LaPorte said the South Koreans would take over security at the truce village of Panmunjom sometime in the fall of 2005, while they would probably assume responsibility for countering North Korean artillery by October 2004.

As for enhancing U.S. capabilities, the Pentagon is spending \$11 billion over the next several years on new weapons and equipment, including Apache attack helicopters, Stryker combat vehicles and high-speed ships that can move troops quickly.

South Korea, for its part, is buying U.S. surface-to-surface short-range missiles known as the Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMS.

South Koreans also are planning to purchase advanced Patriot PAC-3 antimissile systems.

Gen. LaPorte said the decrease in the 37,000 U.S. troops based in South Korea may be "one of the payoffs" of the multiyear program to realign bases and add new forces.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20031117-104259-1344r.htm>

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International Herald Tribune

November 18, 2003

A Top EU Aide Backs Iran In Feud Over Arms

No UN appearance necessary, he says

By Thomas Fuller

BRUSSELS - Reiterating a policy of engagement with Iran, the European Union's foreign policy chief said Monday that the Iranian government had been honest about its nuclear program and should not be made to appear before the United Nations Security Council.

The comments by Javier Solana highlighted the divergent paths taken by the European Union and the Bush administration, which says Iran has a covert nuclear weapons program.

"They have been honest," Solana said here on the sidelines of a meeting of European Union foreign and defense ministers. "Let's see if they continue all the way to the end."

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell said he disagreed with Solana's assessment.

"I wouldn't have gone quite as far," Powell told reporters in Washington, according to Agence France-Presse. The United States believes that Iran's nuclear development program "had an intent to produce a nuclear weapon," Powell said.

But he also said diplomatic efforts by the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany had been "very, very helpful."

The three foreign ministers visited Tehran last month and secured a promise that the Iranian government would stop enriching uranium.

On Thursday, the International Atomic Energy Agency will decide whether Iran has violated the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and whether it should be referred to the Security Council.

Solana said it was his hope that the agency would not recommend a Security Council appearance for Iran.

Solana's comments were in sharp contrast to testimony on Monday by Meir Dagan, the head of the Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency.

Speaking in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, Dagan said that Iran was now close to the "point of no return" in developing nuclear weapons and that the country's nuclear program represented "the biggest threat to Israel's existence since its creation" in 1948.

The comments were reported by Agence France-Presse.

The European Union has pursued a policy of engagement with Iran and is negotiating better trade and investment privileges for the country - contingent on certain "political" factors such as Iran's human rights record and its policies toward its neighbors.

"We will not conclude the trade and cooperation deal unless we have seen progress on the political side," said Emma Udwin, a spokeswoman for the European Commission.

In a separate development here on Monday, European Union defense ministers announced the formation of a defense procurement agency that will come into effect next year.

The agency will be based in Brussels and is intended to reduce "the waste that has bedeviled things until now," according to Antonio Martino, the Italian defense minister who was chairman of the talks.

The European Union spends half of what the United States does on defense but only has "10 percent of its capacity," Martino said.

The agency would work to avoid duplication among European militaries, he said.

Martino said the agency could also serve as a "venue" for defense ministers, saying that Europe needed "an independent planning capacity."

But it was not clear to what extent this agency would replace the Franco-German plan for an EU military headquarters.

Britain's defense secretary, Geoff Hoon, cautiously welcomed the plan for the procurement agency. "I don't believe it should be projectionist and I don't believe that it should automatically always be a European solution," he told reporters.

At a foreign ministers meeting, most of the 15 EU states and the 10 nations joining next May took the unusual step of expressing dismay that Berlusconi - whose country holds the EU presidency at the moment - was soft on Putin at the EU-Russia summit meeting in Rome on Nov. 6, officials said. The duration of the debate was also exceptional: Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, the chairman of the foreign ministers meeting, had to endure criticism of his boss' handling of Putin for 75 minutes.

The EU has condemned Russia's military actions against Chechen separatists as disproportionate.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/118044.html>

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USA Today

November 17, 2003

Pg. 15E

California Lab's Research Aims Beyond Stockpile Of Weapons

By Michelle Kessler, USA Today

LIVERMORE, Calif. -- In a middle-class suburb about an hour from San Francisco, scientists are building a laser that will generate 500 trillion watts in a single blast.

That's more than 1,000 times the electric-generating power of the entire country. And it can be directed at a target about the size of a BB.

The laser, called the National Ignition Facility, is the latest research project at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory that might have broad implications.

Livermore and its sister site, New Mexico's Los Alamos National Laboratory, are the core labs of the U.S. nuclear weapons program. They were created near the end of World War II to build nuclear bombs.

Livermore's scientists still design nuclear weapons. But a bigger part of their job is caring for the stockpile of older weapons that were never used. To do that, they need to understand the physics that make nuclear bombs work.

Livermore has become a mecca for physicists. Their research has applications far outside the lab's heavily guarded gates, including:

Fusion. Fusion occurs when two atoms join to become a single atom. Under the right conditions, the reaction also releases a burst of energy. If that energy could be harnessed, it could become an environmentally friendly power supply.

But fusion is extremely difficult to create, even in a laboratory. Scientists at Livermore hope to use their laser facility to fuse atoms regularly and understand how fusion generates energy.

The facility will hold 192 lasers when it's finished in 2008. Together, they will fill a building the size of a small basketball arena. Each will shoot a beam the size of a small window.

When the lasers are fired together, they will pass through a series of mirrors and crystals that condense them into two tiny beams. Those beams will simultaneously blast a pellet-sized target -- usually a collection of atoms. To contain the heat generated by the reactions, which can top 100 million degrees, the room where the target sits is made of 1 million pounds of aluminum.

Scientists will use fusion to further nuclear research. But it could also help develop heat for homes. Fusion has few of the messy byproducts that coal and oil do. If energy from a fusion reaction could be harnessed, it would be energy "we can all feel good about," says Bruce Warner, deputy associate director for the ignition facility.

Instant anthrax detector. Anthrax and other toxins travel through the air silently and invisibly. Laboratory tests can detect them, but it takes time to collect air samples and take them to a research center. Livermore scientist Patrick Fitch wants to take the lab to the air.

He's crammed everything you need to test for many different kinds of harmful substances into a black metal box about the size of two filing cabinets. On top sits something that looks like an upside-down bucket. That's an air filter, which constantly collects samples from the atmosphere around the box.

Once inside, particles collected on the filter are dissolved in water. Then they're sent through a piece of modified laboratory equipment that runs simple tests for dangerous substances. It can zip through hundreds of tests an hour. But the machine is not precise enough for officials to cry "anthrax" in a crowded subway. Any suspicious results are fed into a second, more accurate machine, which can process one test about every 20 minutes. If an air sample still tests positive, the machine, which is plugged into telephone and power lines, will send a warning, usually via the Internet, to authorities. Then they can use the information to clear a dangerous area.

The process usually takes an hour, than starts over with a new air sample. Fitch hopes to make the machine faster and smaller. He wants to license his blueprints to an outside company. While the lab has made a handful of machines, an outside firm would have the ability to make and sell hundreds.

An early version of the technology was tested at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics. Newer versions have been in the Washington subway system and on city streets. In most places, "no one even paid attention" to the clunky black boxes, Fitch says. "The only place we got graffiti on them was in New York."

Fitch hopes someday they can be used anywhere an attack might occur, "especially at large events," he says.

Smoke mapping. One of the most dangerous features of a nuclear attack or accident is the cloud of radiation-laden fallout that travels across the landscape. Anyone in its path could become ill or die. Not surprisingly, scientists at Livermore have one of the world's best fallout-tracking systems. It receives weather data from thousands of stations worldwide and can plot the path of a fallout cloud within minutes.

But since nuclear accidents don't happen every day, the scientists at the National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center looked for other things to track. They discovered that the technology works for fires, industrial accidents and practically any other junk that can spew into the atmosphere.

From a computer-filled room that looks a lot like NASA's Mission Control Center, NARAC staffers recently tracked smoke from a tire fire in nearby Tracy, Calif., as it spread across the state's Central Valley. In another incident, the system pinpointed the source of a tiny radiation outbreak in Spain -- a trash compactor had accidentally crushed an old X-ray machine, which has radioactive parts.

NARAC also accurately predicted the path of a New Mexico forest fire.

The center is testing an Internet-based mapping system that could allow anyone to look at a fallout map. Operations director Ronald Baskett hopes that someday the service will be available to nearly every fire department, city government and any other organization that needs it.

About the laser

Tidbits about the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory:

* Cost: \$ 3.5 billion.

* Construction: Began in 1997; to be completed in 2008.

* Size: 704 feet long, 403 feet wide, 85 feet tall -- a space that would be about seven stories tall and cover more than two football fields.

* Lasers: 192 that shoot 16-inch square beams. Four have been installed.

* Power: 500 trillion watts, enough power to keep Boise's lights lit for 6.5 million years.

Sources: LLNL, USA TODAY research

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Jerusalem Post

November 18, 2003

Mossad Warns Of Iranian Nuclear Threat

By Nina Gilbert

Iran will continue to develop nuclear weapons, a move that will put it in the position of being an existential threat to Israel for the first time, Mossad chief Meir Dagan told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Monday.

His assessment of Iranian nuclear capabilities did not differ from those held by the international community, which predicts Teheran could have nuclear weapons by late 2004 or 2005. He said nuclear missile capabilities could pose a threat not only to Israel, but also to Europe.

According to Dagan, the Iranians are developing ground-to-ground missiles with a range of thousands of kilometers in addition to developing an aircraft transport capability.

Dagan told the committee that the 100 megawatt reactor is Bashir is too large to be used only for electricity production. The Kashan uranium enrichment facility is close to completion and has the potential of producing material to make 10 nuclear bombs a year, he said.

Labor MK Ephraim Sneh said the United States has the ability to disarm Iran of its nuclear capabilities and should do so.

Dagan said Iran is trying to obtain nuclear weapons to become a nuclear power and to achieve the intimidating status of North Korea.

He also said the Mossad has information regarding "a number" of plans for attacks on Jewish and Israeli targets overseas by worldwide terrorist organizations that are working for the "Islamic cause."

He refused to give details on the current warnings, saying only that the information is given to the pertinent authorities, which decide whether to publish it.

Dagan said the Mossad did not have "a specific warning" of the attacks over the weekend on the two synagogues in Istanbul. Instead, he said there was a "general warning" of a plan to carry out an attack in Turkey. He noted that the vicinity was secured by private guards and Turkish police, and rejected reports that the sites were not protected. Dagan's appearance before the main committee was the first by a Mossad chief in 18 years. Committee chairman Yuval Steinitz (Likud) said he would summon the Mossad chief to brief the committee on a biannual basis, as other senior officials do.

Dagan also discussed the new phenomenon of terrorist groups forming an "elaborate network" to fight against non-Islamic societies.

He noted that the Istanbul attack required extensive organization, planning, and financial support. He referred to the new Islamic network as a "world jihad" organization that is comprised of various Sunni Muslim groups, with al-Qaida being only one of them. Al-Qaida claimed responsibility for the attack in Turkey, but Dagan attributed it to the "world jihad." He said no country has been identified as a "sponsor" of the network. But some countries, such as Egypt, that feel threatened by the groups have begun to operate against them.

According to Dagan, the difficulty in fighting such an organization is the fact that even if one infrastructure is eliminated, there are others. He predicted that if any of these groups obtains chemical or biological weapons that they will not hesitate to use them.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/JParticle/ShowFull&cid=1069129367556&p=1006688055060>

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New York Times
November 19, 2003

Soldier's Death May Be Related To Vaccines

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.

A 22-year-old Army reservist who died in April may have succumbed to a combination of vaccinations, including those for smallpox and anthrax, the Pentagon said yesterday.

But an Army medical expert, calling the death "a rare and tragic case," said the military's vaccination policies would not be changed.

The soldier, Specialist Rachel Lacy, a reservist at Fort McCoy, Wis., died of "a complicated illness, diagnosed as 'like lupus,'" said the expert, Col. John D. Grabenstein of the Army surgeon general's office.

A month earlier, Specialist Lacy had received five shots to protect her against smallpox, anthrax, hepatitis B, typhoid, measles, mumps and rubella. Receiving that many shots at once is not unusual, Dr. Grabenstein said.

"Infants can get five in one day," he said. "It's considered safe practice."

Specialist Lacy had no skin problems or immune system problems that would have excluded her from smallpox vaccine, he added.

She later fell sick with aches and fever resembling the cold that other members of her unit had. When the symptoms worsened, they resembled lupus, in which the body's own immune system attacks it. Eventually, she died from bleeding in her lungs.

The Army said two civilian medical panels that looked into the case agreed that the death was "probably" or "possibly" an adverse reaction to vaccines, though they did not single out one.

Lupus may be touched off by a viral infection, and vaccinations, which use killed or weakened viruses, resemble viral infections, so it was a possible explanation, Dr. Grabenstein said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/19/national/19VACC.html>

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Washington Post
November 19, 2003
Pg. 19

U.S. Soldier's Death Is Tied To Vaccines

By David Brown, Washington Post Staff Writer

A 22-year-old female soldier who died last spring after getting multiple vaccines, including the one against smallpox, succumbed to an immune system disease apparently triggered by the immunizations.

That is the conclusion of a panel of experts reviewing the military's experience with smallpox vaccine, which has been given to about 515,000 troops in the past year. A second panel believes that vaccination "possibly" caused the young woman's death.

The woman received smallpox, typhoid, anthrax, hepatitis B and measles-mumps-rubella vaccine on March 2. On April 4, she died of lung complications caused by an acute attack of the autoimmune disease lupus.

She had never shown symptoms, but analysis of two blood samples stored in the military's 30-million-sample repository showed that she had abnormalities associated with lupus as far back as 1998.

The vaccinations apparently triggered a first "flare" of lupus, which an Army official, Col. John D. Grabenstein, said has been observed a few times in civilians. Neither panel cited a specific vaccine as the cause.

A panel of scientists from the government's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and Armed Forces Epidemiology Board said the evidence "strongly favors" the theory that vaccination led to the death. A committee convened by the Health Resources and Services Administration split on the issue, with three members saying it was "possible" and two that it was "probable."

William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said there are no plans to change the vaccination program.

A study published last summer reported 18 nonfatal cases of myocarditis, or inflammation of the heart muscle, among troops getting smallpox vaccine.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A59188-2003Nov18.html>

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Volunteer Gets Experimental Ebola Vaccine

By Rick Weiss

Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, November 19, 2003; Page A01

Steve Rucker, a registered nurse at the National Institutes of Health, broke with his lunchtime routine yesterday, forgoing his usual visit to the cafeteria and opting instead to roll up his sleeve for a shot filled with the biological essence of Ebola -- one of the world's deadliest and goriest diseases.

Surrounded by a gaggle of doctors and scientists, Rucker stepped into medical history at 12:10 p.m., becoming the first person ever injected with an experimental vaccine designed to protect against Ebola, the disease that was highlighted in the real-life thriller "The Hot Zone" and that continues to take a bloody toll in Africa.

"I've had better lunches," Rucker quipped as the shot's 100 trillion strands of synthetic DNA began to make their way into the cells in his arm.

Rucker is a pioneer in a high-tech effort to beat Ebola. If the vaccine works in people as it has in monkeys, it could fell one of the world's most horrid infectious scourges.

Alas, health officials say, despite weeks of advertisements and other pleas, only two people have volunteered to be part of the effort.

"People freak out about Ebola," said Margaret McCluskey, the director of nursing at the NIH's vaccine research center, where the new vaccine -- the first for Ebola -- awaits 25 more people to participate in initial safety tests.

When the NIH started testing an experimental vaccine for AIDS, many people with friends or lovers affected by that disease stepped forward. When it was for smallpox -- a disease feared these days as a weapon of bioterrorism -- a mix of patriotism and self-interest drew even more volunteers.

This time, however, the telephones are eerily silent. Almost no one, it seems, wants to get an Ebola shot. Indeed, the only volunteer so far other than Rucker is a landscaper who works in McCluskey's Silver Spring neighborhood.

"I basically raked him in," she conceded.

It is not surprising that people would hesitate about getting injected with anything labeled "Ebola." The disease is notoriously lethal, rapidly killing 50 percent to 90 percent of its victims. Just the thought makes people irrational.

Already, the landscaper has been asked by some clients whether he is going to be bringing the disease to the neighborhood.

The irony, scientists and doctors lament, is that this first Ebola vaccine is probably the safest and most sophisticated vaccine ever made, without a single component coming from the virus itself.

Indeed, the product spray-blasted into Rucker's arm (no needle necessary) is by any standard a marvel of biotechnological engineering. It was designed to rally the immune system even more than a real Ebola infection would, without causing any symptoms of the disease itself.

"It's remarkably sophisticated technology," said Gary Nabel, the virologist who is leading the Ebola effort in a fast-track program that has catapulted his basic research from the lab bench to the clinic in just three years.

Inexplicably, the frequency of Ebola outbreaks in Africa has been increasing. But it is not just Africans who will benefit, said Anthony S. Fauci, chief of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which oversees NIH's vaccine research center. Like the smallpox virus and the bacterium that causes anthrax -- for which vaccines, though imperfect, at least exist -- Ebola virus, too, is a potential bioterrorism agent.

"In its natural form it's not the best," Fauci said. "You need close contact for it to spread. . . . But an aerosolized form would be extremely treacherous. And from a psychological terror aspect, you don't need a lot of people bleeding to get enormous terror in the population." The virus causes clotting abnormalities and tears holes in blood vessels, causing victims to bleed to death from multiple sites, including eyes, mouth and nose.

A vaccine, Fauci said, might deter those who would think about using such a weapon and would be "a big cause of comfort" for citizens, who would know that protection is available.

Rucker, 36, said he got religion about the importance of vaccines while living in medicine-deprived parts of South America.

"It sounds funny to say I'm excited about an Ebola vaccine, but this really is an exciting trial," he said. "It's so rare in research that you get to help with something that's so promising. And the pharmaceutical industry would never do this. There's no profit in this."

He has looked at the animal safety data and studied the informed-consent document that spells out the risks -- which are largely limited to soreness around the injection site.

"There's nothing in there about 'You could end up bleeding to death,' " he said. "It's not like the polio vaccine," one version of which causes polio in rare cases instead of preventing it.

In fact, the Ebola vaccine is made of laboratory-synthesized strands of DNA designed to preclude that possibility and other side effects.

With nearly atomic precision, researchers at Vical, a biotechnology company in San Diego, made the strands to mimic those found in the Ebola virus -- but with key components removed, including the part that triggers illness and the part that might allow the DNA to recombine with the DNA of some other virus to make a new and potentially disease-causing bug.

Volunteers will get three shots over three months. Blood tests will track their immune-system responses for a year. The DNA enters subcutaneous skin cells, which use it to make Ebola proteins. Immune-system cells attack those proteins and then are primed forever to fight a real Ebola infection even more vigorously.

The long-term plan is to follow the DNA shot with a booster made of an adenovirus engineered to contain Ebola DNA. In a test of four monkeys given that one-two punch, all four were unfazed by an Ebola attack, while four monkeys given dummy shots all died, said virologist Anthony Sanchez of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which helped develop the vaccine.

Because it would be unethical to expose humans to Ebola to test the vaccine's efficacy, scientists will simply compare their immune responses with those that proved effective in monkeys and other animals. Much larger human studies will eventually be conducted to provide final proof that the vaccine is safe for large populations.

But first things first. To get 25 more volunteers, McCluskey is starting to focus her efforts on groups that might have a special appreciation for Ebola's African toll -- employees at the World Bank, for example, and Peace Corps people.

"When people read in the newspaper a few years from now that we're on a plane stopping an outbreak, they'll know they helped," McCluskey said.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A59364-2003Nov18.html>

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Tooele depot destroys last VX nerve rocket

By Dawn House

The Salt Lake Tribune

Workers at Deseret Chemical Depot in Tooele County have destroyed the last chemical-agent-filled M55 rocket. The destruction this week of the final rocket containing VX eliminates the single greatest risk involving the release of chemical agents from the storage stockpile, depot officials said in a statement Tuesday.

"It's a milestone for our nation," said Col. Peter Cooper, depot commander. "It shows the world we're serious about eliminating the U.S. stockpile of chemical weapons and protecting Americans from an aging chemical stockpile."

The depot, about 45 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, began destroying the nation's largest stockpile of chemical weapons in 1996. The chemical weapons are being destroyed under international treaties signed by more than 200 countries.

About 7,510 tons of the original 13,617 tons of nerve and blister agent in the stockpiles remain to be destroyed, said depot spokeswoman Alaine Southworth, with an expected completion date of 2007.

VX is a nerve agent so powerful that a single drop on the skin can result in death within about 15 minutes. It works by disrupting the nervous system and causing breathing to stop.

"Rockets were destroyed first in both the VX and GB agent campaigns because of concerns about the stability of the propellant in these munitions," said Dale Ormond, the depot's site project manager.

Jason Groenewold, director of the public-interest group Families Against Incinerator Risk, said the Army "has attempted to burn everything before the final emissions data has been submitted to the state. In this case, the Army failed part of their rocket trial burn and were asked to redo some of those tests. We're concerned."

<http://www.sltrib.com/2003/Nov/11/192003/utah/112364.asp>

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

Report Chides Governments on Stockpiles

By REUTERS

Published: November 19, 2003

LONDON, Nov. 18 — Western governments and Russia are moving far too slowly to stop terrorists from acquiring deadly ingredients to build unconventional weapons, a major international report concluded Tuesday.

Of a total of \$20 billion pledged by the Group of Eight last year to secure stockpiles of nuclear, chemical and biological materials, "only a tiny fraction" has been spent or even allocated to specific projects, it said.

"The threat is outpacing the response," Sam Nunn, a former United States senator, said in an interview here. Mr. Nunn leads the Nuclear Threat Initiative, an antiproliferation watchdog that largely paid for the study by 21 security research groups.

Mr. Nunn said the war in Iraq had distracted the United States and diverted resources from securing unconventional weapons materials in regions like the former Soviet Union.

According to the study, there are some 100 poorly protected research reactors, spread across 40 countries, containing weapons-usable uranium.

"The global community remains alarmingly vulnerable to catastrophic terrorism," it said. "Around the world, and particularly in the former Soviet Union, materials and weapons of mass destruction are insecure, often protected only by a padlock or an unpaid guard."

"To construct a nuclear bomb, terrorists would need to steal only a small amount of nuclear material, about enough to fit in a suitcase," it added.

Mr. Nunn said terror groups were less likely to acquire unconventional weapons from a government than to get the materials from ill-secured research sites.

"The most likely source of terrorist weapons probably does not come from a state that has spent 10, 15, 20 years trying to get their own weapons — they're not likely to turn around and give it to Al Qaeda," he said.

Apart from money, the report said, "Russian bureaucratic foot dragging" is also hampering progress.

Mr. Nunn said the rate of success in securing such sites was too slow. "At the pace we're going, you're talking about 20 years," he said. "I don't think we've got that long."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/19/international/europe/19SECU.html>

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No.2

Global Partnership Update

Interparliamentary Conference Edition

http://www.sgproject.org/publications/GP_update_2_&Supplemental.pdf

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Nuclear Board Said To Rebuff Bush Over Iran

By David E. Sanger

VIENNA, Nov. 19 — The board of the International Atomic Energy Agency appears prepared to approve a resolution on Iran's 18 years of secret work on a nuclear program that will stop short of recommending United Nations Security Council action, a setback to President Bush, senior officials from several countries said here Wednesday.

Only hours after Mr. Bush, in Britain, declared that the agency must hold Iran to its obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, officials here said that the board was likely to adopt a European-sponsored resolution that was being strengthened on Wednesday to include wording that would likely "deplore" Iran's deceptions and declare that they amounted to a "breach" of its obligations.

But Secretary of State Colin L. Powell was unable to persuade more than three of the board's 35 member countries — Canada, Australia and Japan — to vote for a formal censure of Iran. Even the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair, Mr. Bush's host, sided with France and Germany and said that the best way now to deal with Iran is to encourage its sudden conversion to openness.

"What I would like to see is a resolution that strengthens my hand," the director general of the atomic energy agency, Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, said in an interview in his office here on Wednesday, without discussing specifics. Dr. ElBaradei sided with Mr. Powell in urging a strengthening of the language of the proposed resolution but stopped short of recommending any sanction against Iran. Dr. ElBaradei angered Bush administration officials last week when he issued a report that described in great detail Iran's deceptions, including its attempt to use an exotic laser technology to enrich uranium, but concluded there was not sufficient evidence to prove that the country was seeking a nuclear weapon. Mr. Powell said he believed the evidence inevitably led to the conclusion that Iran intended to build a weapon, even if it had not yet succeeded.

"I told him I cannot verify intentions," Dr. ElBaradei said on Wednesday, as representatives of some of the countries on the agency's board met nearby to work out compromise language. The formal session begins on Thursday.

Iran has maintained that its nuclear work has been for peaceful purposes, and President Mohammad Khatami has said the report showed that his nation has complied with the Nonproliferation Treaty.

Turning to Iraq, Dr. ElBaradei said that based on what he has read and heard since Mr. Bush declared in May that major combat operations had ended, American inspectors have been unable to contradict his conclusion before the war that there was no evidence that Iraq had an active nuclear weapons program.

At the time, those statements enraged some hawkish members of the Bush administration, and they directly contradicted statements by President Bush and Vice President Cheney. It was the international atomic agency that first concluded that the evidence Mr. Bush cited in his State of the Union speech in January, saying that Saddam Hussein had tried to obtain nuclear material in Africa, was based on forged documents.

"We were right after all" to declare to the United Nations that the Bush administration was overstating the evidence, Dr. ElBaradei said. "We said there was no evidence, and it turned out to be true."

He said his agency, which has been blocked from returning to Iraq, should be allowed to "go back and finish this," and he added that the United States was spending a billion dollars on a search effort his staff could do more efficiently.

Officials here note that the budget for the international agency's operations to safeguard nuclear programs around the world is about a tenth of what the United States is spending on the search.

The argument over how to handle Iran's nuclear revelations has echoes of the debate in the United Nations earlier this year about confronting Iraq — though in this case, the administration appears to be working toward building diplomatic pressure rather than moving to military action.

The question is whether Iran will open up more fully if it feels the constant pressure of threatened United Nations sanctions or whether that threat would be counterproductive, undercutting the country's recent announcement to freeze the enrichment of uranium and open itself to full inspections.

Mr. Powell has argued that Iran only revealed details of its nuclear program because the pressure on it was overwhelming. Other senior officials around Mr. Bush said that the agency had a statutory responsibility to report breaches of the Nonproliferation Treaty and that failure to go to the Security Council would send a message around the world that there is little penalty for secretly working on nuclear weapons. But the Europeans and Russia and China argued that Iran should not be punished for finally telling some part of the truth.

The first draft of their proposed resolution played down the 18-year-long covert program and congratulated Iran for its recent turnaround. Dr. ElBaradei objected, as did the United States.

But the drafts circulating Wednesday night included stronger proposed language, including a statement that Iran was in "breach of its obligations."

The last time the board referred a country to the Security Council for action was this year, when North Korea threw out the agency's inspectors and announced it would withdraw from the Nonproliferation Treaty and restart the production of bomb-grade plutonium. The Security Council has not acted, keeping the issue in abeyance until the outcome of six-nation talks on the issue scheduled to reconvene in Beijing in December.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/20/international/middleeast/20IRAN.html>

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Washington Times
November 20, 2003
Pg. 17

Draft 'Deficient' On Nuke Rebuke

U.N. agency sides with U.S.

By Tom Carter, The Washington Times

The leader of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog agency sided with the United States yesterday by calling a European resolution on Iran's nuclear-weapons program "deficient," while stopping short of backing U.S. efforts to involve the U.N. Security Council.

In Vienna, Austria, where the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is located, diplomats said the agency's chief, Mohamed ElBaradei, called a proposed resolution by France, Germany and Britain too weak.

"Dr. ElBaradei has expressed his concern that the draft resolution as it stands does not sufficiently support the agency," a Western diplomat told Reuters news agency.

The European resolution reportedly praises Iran for agreeing to halt its efforts to make weapons-grade nuclear material and for agreeing to let international inspectors into the country.

Earlier this month, the IAEA issued a report that found Iran had been involved in a covert nuclear program, including processing uranium and plutonium, in violation of its nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty obligations for at least 18 years.

However, the report also found no evidence that Iran's nuclear program was a covert weapons program. The IAEA board of governors will consider the report today.

A diplomat familiar with Mr. ElBaradei's thinking said he was looking for "a strongly worded report" but one that stops short of asking for Security Council involvement.

In a related development, an Iranian opposition group that helped expose clandestine efforts to make weapons-grade uranium and plutonium released documents yesterday purporting to show that Iran is on the verge of assembling its first atomic bomb.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) said the documents demonstrated that Iran could have weapons capability in as little as two months.

NCRI also said that a site previously inspected by the IAEA was a fake.

"Information from within the clerical regime made it clear that they had been taken to a site, similar to the site in question and that they were not shown the actual site," said NCRI documents released yesterday in Vienna and Washington.

"The whole thing is a weapons program. In two months to two years, the Iranian regime will have the capability of building a bomb," a NCRI spokesman said by telephone yesterday.

In August last year, the NCRI exposed Iran's secret nuclear program, revealing that the regime was building an underground uranium-enrichment plant at Natanz, 150 miles south of Tehran, and a heavy-water-production facility at Arak, about 120 miles southwest of Tehran.

The exposure forced Iran to open these sites to the IAEA, leading to Mr. ElBaradei's visit in February to Tehran.

The NCRI has been branded a "terrorist" organization by the U.S. State Department, forcing it to shut down its extensive Washington lobbying organization.

This article is based in part on wire service reports.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20031119-092701-5884r.htm>

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Iranians Wary Of Program To Build Nukes

By Borzou Daragahi, The Washington Times

TEHRAN — Just out of jail, a dissident Iranian intellectual has an urgent message for Europeans compromising with Iran on its nuclear ambitions: Don't do it.

"We Iranians see the nuclear program not as a way of ensuring the security or future of our nation, but as insurance to maintain the political power of the clerical government," he said, asking that his name not be used.

"We see the potential for nuclear weapons as weapons against [the people], rather than weapons against other countries."

Iran's nuclear ambitions have come under increased international scrutiny in recent months, with the United States and Europeans both pressuring the country to come clean on its attempts to develop nuclear weapons.

Today, the United Nations' atomic-watchdog agency meets in Vienna, Austria, to discuss Iran's failure to disclose elements of its nuclear program.

Iran insists its program — begun in the 1970s under Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, who was deposed in a 1979 Islamist revolt — is a peaceful one. It recently admitted, however, that it had enriched small quantities of uranium, a step toward developing nuclear weapons.

The nation of 70 million remains far from united about the prospect of obtaining nuclear power, much less the nuclear weapons prohibited under international agreements.

Even within Iran's fractious government — where a weak, reform-minded elected body led by President Mohammed Khatami is overwhelmed by hard-line clerics who control the judiciary, intelligence and military branches — a classic guns-vs.-butter debate has raged.

"On the one hand, some were saying, 'No way. We won't accept these conditions and will continue our efforts at nuclear development,'" said Muhammad Reza Dehshiri, a professor of international relations in Tehran.

"On the other hand, there were others who were saying it's better to concentrate on ameliorating living conditions of ordinary Iranians instead of spending the public budget on nuclear development. The latter group won the debate."

Among Iranians, too, there remain differences of opinion. Some, such as the dissident intellectual, see Iran's nuclear ambitions as an effort to gain international legitimacy.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20031119-092652-8283r.htm>

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November 14, 2003

Agencies criticized for lack of bioterrorism strategy

By Chris Strohm

cstrohm@govexec.com

Participants at a Heritage Foundation forum on Friday in Washington criticized federal agencies for not working together to develop an adequate national strategy to counter bioterrorism attacks, and for not having a clear strategy to educate the public about potential threats and responses.

"There is a fundamental lack of coherent organizational systems, structures and chains of command," said Elin Gursky, senior fellow for biodefense and public health programs at the ANSER Institute for Homeland Security in Arlington, Va.

The ANSER Institute will release a report next week arguing that agencies need to work together to develop standards for a national bioterrorism strategy, Gursky said. The report is based on interviews with federal, state and local organizations, and will make recommendations affecting the operations, funding and personnel of multiple federal agencies.

"What is worse than having 3,000 local health departments without computers?" asked Gursky. "Having 3,000 local health departments with computers that don't talk to each other."

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the federal government has handed out \$6 billion in grants to first responders.

This month, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge announced that first responders would get \$2.2 billion in fiscal 2004. Another \$725 million will be distributed in the form of "urban-area security grants," which will go to 30 large cities roughly in accordance with the security risk that each faces.

But homeland security spending practices are coming under increasing scrutiny in Congress. Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., chairman of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, recently [unveiled new legislation](#) that would award first-responder grants solely on the basis of how likely a given location is to be attacked by terrorists.

Gursky acknowledged the political sensitivities of criticizing the federal government for doling out money, but said practices have to change. "Clearly we need a consistent stream of funding, but we have to have standards and build systems nationally," she said.

For example, Gursky said the report will recommend that Homeland Security work more closely with the Defense Department and private industry to develop standards and initiatives.

Gursky said the interviews conducted for the report revealed widely varying health practices and systems across agencies, showing the nation suffers from the lack of a long-term vision and strategy to prevent, deter and manage biological attacks.

"Unless we do a better job of envisioning the threats and the consequences, we will not be able to adequately prepare," Gursky said.

But developing a fully capable national system to deal with bioterror attacks could take five to 10 years, said Robert Clerman, vice president for corporate mission initiatives at Mitretek Systems, a nonprofit research and engineering organization. He outlined the characteristics of a such a system, saying it would consist of detecting syndromes, depicting current patterns, projecting future trends, and activating responses.

Participants at the forum also criticized the federal government for lacking a clear and effective public education strategy.

"Will the government make a decision to go into the public policy forum well in advance of an incident?" asked retired Army Maj. Gen. William Moore, who is a consultant on homeland security and homeland defense issues for Computer Sciences Corp.

Unfortunately, he said, administrations have been reluctant to inform the public about potential terrorist attacks and their consequences.

"Administrations don't want to be purveyors of bad news, even though it may be for the benefit of the many," he said. "As a component of our biodefense preparedness, we have to have a deliberate policy with regard to informing people about the severity of a threat and what they should do."

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1103/111403c1.htm>

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Los Angeles Times
November 21, 2003

Are Iran's Nuclear Promises Real?

Hard-line factions in the regime are still determined to acquire at least the capability to develop atomic weaponry, experts say.

By Azadeh Moaveni and Douglas Frantz, Times Staff Writers

TEHRAN — Influential factions within the Iranian regime remain intent on acquiring at least the capability to develop atomic weapons, raising concerns that Tehran might continue to conceal parts of its nuclear program, diplomats and analysts here say.

The powerful Revolutionary Guards and military strategists are convinced that only a nuclear Iran can assume its place as a major regional power and adequately deter a possible attack from the United States or Israel, said the policy advisor to a senior conservative cleric, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Officials in the capital said the country's leaders were shocked by the tough deadline for disclosing atomic activities that the United Nations nuclear watchdog agency imposed in September and that they agreed to cooperate only because of the international community's united stance.

The questions about whether Iran intends to fully comply contrast with public statements by Iranian leaders that they have no intention of developing nuclear weapons and with their promises to cooperate fully with inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The issue of Iran's credibility is being considered at a meeting in Vienna of the 35 nations on the IAEA board of governors. The board is debating whether tough new measures are warranted against Tehran over past concealment of nuclear activities.

The United States is pushing to refer the matter to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanctions, but a European-led faction on the IAEA board wants to give Iran more time to come clean.

The board met in Vienna on Thursday and will continue its discussions today. The director-general of the IAEA, Mohamed ElBaradei, in comments to the opening session of the board, cited Iran's recent pledges to cooperate.

"The situation has changed significantly since the middle of last month, when a new chapter of implementation of safeguards in Iran seems to have begun, a chapter that is characterized by active cooperation and openness on the part of Iran," he said. He characterized it as a "good start," but added that the agency needed to stay the course on Iran to ensure compliance.

In a report leaked this month, the IAEA said that Iran had concealed elements of a potential nuclear weapons program for as long as 18 years. But the agency said that Iran had demonstrated a new openness and that its inspectors had found no proof of efforts to develop nuclear weapons.

Some diplomats and analysts in Tehran, both foreign and Iranian, said they expected the regime to continue its covert weapons development program while making a commitment to open its facilities to inspections.

"The regime will pursue getting the know-how," said a prominent Iranian political analyst, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. "They'll stretch the letter of the agreements to the extent possible."

The recent IAEA report documents a series of attempts by Iran to conceal its nuclear activities, some as recently as last summer. In one instance, the government refused to allow inspectors access to a suburban Tehran complex until the facility, which the Iranians say is a watch factory, had undergone extensive renovations.

Renovations at the Kalaye Electric Co. included laying 3 feet of new concrete on the floors in what a European diplomat in Tehran called "a very transparent attempt to prevent inspectors from successfully discovering what had happened there previously."

Despite the effort, inspectors discovered traces of weapons-grade enriched uranium at Kalaye. Iranian authorities then admitted that they had conducted extensive enrichment tests there. They said, however, that machinery at the site was contaminated with enriched uranium when it was purchased overseas on the black market.

That discovery and others prompted the IAEA board in September to impose a tough deadline on Tehran, demanding that it permit more intrusive inspections and reveal all of its past nuclear activities by Oct. 31.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and other senior officials were furious about the deadline, and some hard-liners called for the nation to pull out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. However, the more moderate Foreign Ministry and Iran's representative to the IAEA lobbied in favor of complying.

A senior Iranian official said that in a crisis session of the Supreme National Security Council, the regime concluded that the international community was too united for Iran to sustain a policy of minimal, calibrated cooperation. The council's secretary, Hassan Rowhani, brokered a consensus that in the short term, fuller cooperation best served Iran's national interest, the senior official said.

"We should have accepted the additional protocol much earlier," Vice President Mohammed Ali Abtahi, referring to an agreement that would open Iranian facilities to broader IAEA inspections, said in an interview.

The debate in Tehran now centers on the extent of Iran's compliance with IAEA demands. Iran claims that its October agreement with the British, German and French foreign ministers to more fully cooperate brings it into full compliance with the agency's September resolution. In return, to remain in compliance, it is demanding an easing of international pressure, and the transfer of civilian nuclear technology.

"If the European side does not keep its word, all of Iran's commitments will be null and void," Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the powerful Guardian Council, said three weeks ago.

Although they have no formal role in making foreign policy, the Revolutionary Guards and their supporters in the hard-line religious establishment wield enough power to act independently of the Foreign Ministry and other government departments.

The longer-term question is whether the regime is trying to acquire only the capability to develop nuclear weapons, or aiming to ultimately build one. Both goals enjoy backing in various quarters of Iran's fractured polity.

Analysts in Tehran say Iran's shift toward cooperation with the international community only postpones the debate over the regime's goal.

Moaveni reported from Tehran and Frantz from Istanbul, Turkey.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iran21nov21,1,3783017.story>

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Washington Times

November 21, 2003

Pg. 19

Russia, Pakistan, China Had Supplied Nukes

By George Jahn, Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — The U.N. atomic agency has identified Russia, China and Pakistan as among the probable suppliers of equipment that Iran used to conduct suspected nuclear programs with weapons potential, diplomats said yesterday.

The diplomats spoke to the Associated Press as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) weighed how harshly to censure Tehran for two decades of covert nuclear activities, which Iran says were aimed at peaceful purposes.

The IAEA's 35-nation board is debating the wording of a resolution that would satisfy both U.S. calls for strong condemnation of Iran's past cover-ups and European desires to keep Iran cooperating by focusing on its recent openness.

Mohamed ElBaradei, the IAEA director-general, said agency delegates were discussing a "quite strong" resolution. The talks, which broke off yesterday after less than two hours, are to continue today.

Although Iran has acknowledged nearly two decades of concealment, it recently has begun cooperating with the agency in response to international pressure. To that end, it has suspended uranium enrichment — an activity that had raised U.S. suspicions of a nuclear-weapons agenda.

Iran says it enriched uranium only to produce power. Although admitting that some of its enrichment equipment had traces of weapons-grade highly enriched uranium, it insists those traces inadvertently were imported on material it purchased abroad.

However, Tehran says it cannot identify the countries of origin because it bought the centrifuges and laser-enrichment equipment through third parties.

The Vienna-based IAEA must know where the equipment came from if it is to ascertain whether Iran is telling the truth about the source of trace uranium.

The diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, declined to say how the agency established the probable origin of the equipment.

Pakistan, suspected from the start, repeatedly has denied any involvement.

Russia likewise denied that it was a willing participant in providing enrichment technology to Iran for the purpose of a nuclear-weapons program.

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Washington Times

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Pg. 12

House OKs Bill To Sanction Syria About Terrorism

Bush's economic prod optional

By Stephen Dinan, The Washington Times

Syria faces economic sanctions until it expels terrorists and ends its programs to develop weapons of mass destruction under a bill that cleared Congress yesterday.

The House voted 408-8 to approve the bill, the final step before it reaches President Bush. The president is expected to sign the bill, which gives him a broad waiver if he deems the sanctions contrary to national security.

The legislation would prevent U.S. firms from selling Syria technology with both civilian and military uses. It also requires that the president impose two other sanctions of his choice from among a list that includes prohibiting trade other than food or medicine, restricting diplomatic contacts, preventing Syrian airlines from entering U.S. airspace and prohibiting U.S. firms from operating in Syria.

The bill has been boosted by recent reports that Syria knowingly has issued visas to terrorists traveling to fight U.S. forces in Iraq.

"The Syrian regime has the blood of Americans on its hands, and they must be held responsible for the deaths," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Florida Republican.

To end the sanctions, Syria would have to show it has expelled terrorists, withdrawn troops from Lebanon, ended its missile, chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs, and ceased supporting insurgents in Iraq.

Two Republicans and six Democrats in the House voted against the measure yesterday. The vote was to accept the Senate version of the bill, which passed that chamber last week, 89-4.

The bill that initially passed the House had restricted the president's waiver authority, preventing him from exempting dual-use technology from the prohibition.

Both senators and House members have said, though, they hope the president will not use the waiver.

Yesterday, lawmakers said the bill sends the right message to Syria.

"This bill is an important step in saying to Syria: 'Enough is enough. No longer are you going to get away with supporting terrorism. No longer are you going to get away with developing weapons of mass destruction,'" said Rep. Eliot L. Engel, New York Democrat and the bill's chief sponsor.

The Syrian Embassy in Washington did not return a call for comment, but Syrian President Bashar Assad has said on several occasions that the bill will hurt U.S. interests in Syria more than Syrian interests.

U.S. government figures show that trade with Syria is relatively small. Syria imports about \$275 million in American goods and exports about \$150 million to the United States.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20031120-104909-1332r.htm>

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