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24 May 2002

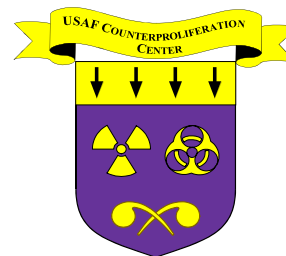
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Nation Left Jittery By Latest Series Of Terror Warnings

By Bill Miller and Christine Haughney, Washington Post Staff Writers

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told a Senate committee yesterday that terrorists will “inevitably” obtain weapons of mass destruction, issuing the latest in a series of warnings from the Bush administration about the likelihood of future attacks and leaving security officials and ordinary citizens wondering what to do.

“In just facing the facts, we have to recognize that terrorist networks have relationships with terrorist states that have weapons of mass destruction, and that they inevitably are going to get their hands on them, and they would not hesitate one minute in using them,” Rumsfeld said.

“That’s the world we live in.”

Rumsfeld expressed similar concerns in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. But his testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee’s defense subcommittee came after several pronouncements from the Bush administration that began Sunday, when Vice President Cheney declared that another terrorist strike was “almost certain.”

On Monday, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III said that suicide bombings like those taking place in Israel are “inevitable.” Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge declared yesterday that additional terrorist attacks are “not a question of if, but a question of when.”

Bush, in an interview yesterday with Italian television before his departure for Europe today, said the warnings by Cheney and Mueller were general. He said that if any specific threat were made, the United States would respond. “The al Qaeda still exists, they still hate America and any other country which loves freedom and they want to hurt us,” Bush said. “They’re nothing but a bunch of cold-blooded killers.”

The FBI also heightened anxiety levels in New York yesterday by advising officials that landmarks there could be terrorist targets. Officials said the advisory was based on the same kind of uncorroborated information that has led to other notices to law enforcement in recent weeks about threats to banks, nuclear power plants, water systems, shopping malls, supermarkets and apartment buildings.

The latest warning came from captured al Qaeda fighters detained at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, officials said.

New York police immediately bolstered security at the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge and other landmarks. Despite the escalating talk about threats, officials have not raised the nation’s level of alert. It is at “yellow,” the midpoint of the five-level warning system established in March, and denotes a significant risk of attack.

Ridge said the stream of intelligence has been vague. He and other officials said they needed corroboration or more details about dates, locations and methods of attack before the warning would be escalated.

The new system gives federal officials the authority to put particular regions or industries on a higher state of alert, but there are no plans to do so at this time, according to administration officials. The next stage up is orange, which reflects a high risk of attack. The top level, red, is reserved for severe risk.

The color-coded system was created after complaints from mayors and police chiefs about the generalized alerts announced in the months after the Sept. 11 attacks, warnings that urged the public to be vigilant while continuing normal activities. Local officials said those warnings were too vague to be helpful. Now, some mayors said, the administration seems to be returning to a failed strategy.

“This was definitely moving in the right direction, and then came Sunday and it’s like, ‘Wait a minute,’ “ said Scott L. King (D), the mayor of Gary, Ind. “I don’t think it’s been good and it’s not useful. I think it represents backsliding.”

King added, “Nobody will ever accuse the vice president or FBI director of being less than intelligent or astute, or, in the vice president’s case, politically savvy. Clearly they didn’t blurt this out. But what were they doing?”

Across the country yesterday, officials and the public were trying to weigh the significance of the new information. It became public days after the White House began facing questions from critics in Congress about what Bush, intelligence officials and the FBI knew in advance of the Sept. 11 attacks.

“It looks totally political to me,” said Cleveland Mayor Jane L. Campbell, another Democrat. “It appears as if the reaction is, ‘Now we’re going to tell everybody every time we’re worried about anything.’ I grew up reading ‘The Little Boy Who Cried Wolf.’ “

In New York and elsewhere, many people said they are growing increasingly jittery. "What can we do besides run?" asked Jose Vazquez, 26, a photographer who comes in New York once or twice a week. "There's not a sense of security. . . . I'm just waiting for something else to happen."

New York's Rent Stabilization Association received a dozen calls about concerns that a tenant could blow up an apartment building. The calls were prompted by an FBI warning over the weekend that terrorists might stage such attacks. The association is setting up a meeting with the FBI, said President Joseph Strasburg.

Others said the latest round of warnings is valuable.

Stephen Push of Great Falls, whose wife, Lisa J. Raines, died on American Airlines Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon, last week criticized federal agencies for not sharing more intelligence with the public before Sept. 11. But now, he said, "I appreciate that the administration is being forthcoming about information about potential threats." He contended that the public isn't being unnecessarily alarmed.

Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg, who leads the National Guard and heads homeland security efforts in the state of Washington, also said the warnings are appropriate.

"I think what everyone is experiencing right now is the frustration that there's nothing more concrete that we can take action on," he said. "But there is a certain value in reminding the American public that this is not a transitory phase. This is part of life in the 21st century. We just have to accept it as part of the environment."

Sue Mencer, a former FBI agent who heads Colorado's homeland security efforts, described the bottom line this way: "Everyone needs to be wary."

In his testimony, Rumsfeld said terrorists have close links to Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria, North Korea and "one or two others" developing weapons of mass destruction. He said terrorists would seek to obtain nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and ultimately would succeed despite U.S. efforts to prevent them.

"We are going to be living in a period of limited or no warning," he added. He said al Qaeda terrorists are in the United States, "and they are very well-trained."

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said the administration's statements in recent days reflect "the generalized level of alert and concern we have that's been out there. And, of course, there has been a recent increase in the chatter that we've heard in the system, and that was reflected in what they said."

Polls indicate that the public's nervousness is rising. A CBS News poll released yesterday showed 33 percent of those surveyed said they believe another terrorist attack is "very likely." A week ago, 25 percent held that view.

Fewer than half of those questioned in a Washington Post-ABC News poll said they are confident that the government could stop attacks -- the first time since Sept. 11 that less than a majority expressed confidence in the government's ability to protect them.

"You have to crank it up to get us to pay attention," said Chris Crandall, a psychology professor at the University of Kansas, who cited studies on human behavior. But doing so also raises the risk that the public will eventually tune out and grow cynical or complacent, he said.

"Information that is not informative does not get paid attention to," he said.

Haughney reported from New York. Staff writers Mike Allen and Vernon Loeb contributed to this report.

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InsideDefense.com

May 21, 2002

Rumsfeld: Fate Of Deactivated Nuclear Warheads Still Undetermined

The Pentagon has not yet figured out exactly what it will do with each of the approximately 3,800 nuclear warheads it plans to deactivate over the next 10 years, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said today.

The Bush administration late last year pledged to reduce the number of deployed strategic warheads from about 6,000 today to 3,800 by fiscal year 2007 (and no more than 2,200 by 2012). Part of those cuts will take place through the retirement of the Peacekeeper (MX) missile and its inventory of 500 nuclear warheads. The administration's intent was further codified in an agreement President Bush will sign next week with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who also pledged to reduce his country's nuclear warheads by a similar number.

"What will actually happen to the warheads is an open question," Rumsfeld said at a hearing today of the Senate Appropriations defense subcommittee. "Some will undoubtedly be destroyed. Some will replace warheads on other

strategic nuclear weapons that we intend to maintain the fleet. Still others will be stockpiled for safety and reliability problems.”

One of the reasons why the administration doesn’t plan to destroy all the warheads outright is the reliability of its remaining stockpile, Rumsfeld said.

“One of the nightmares in this business is that the phone will ring and we’ll be told that a whole class of our weapons are no longer safe or reliable, for whatever reason,” he said. “As you know, they’re looked at and checked from time to time, and the Department of Energy has that responsibility.

“And to the extent that we get that call -- and it happens from time to time that some class of weapon is under question -- then we would need to replace that class of weapons with some other weapons; and so it’s perfectly appropriate to have additional weapons,” Rumsfeld said.

The defense secretary added that while Russia has an open production line for nuclear weapons, the United States does not. “It would take us years to start up our ability to make nuclear . . . warheads.

“Therefore, having additional weapons, to be able to use them in the event of a problem with safety or reliability, it would be mindless not to,” Rumsfeld said, adding that it would be “inexcusable” for the United States to destroy all of the deactivated weapons “and not have them as a backup in the event they’re needed.”

Last week, nonproliferation experts at a press conference sponsored by the Arms Control Association said the new treaty is an “excellent first step” that shows the United States and Russia can work together to rapidly address nuclear issues. However, left unresolved for the time being, they said, is how to deal with tactical nuclear weapons and how to inventory and secure warheads taken out of service but not destroyed. The experts stressed that Russia is not really seen as a threat, but its vast weapons complex represents a tempting target for terrorists seeking a weapon or nuclear materials (DefenseAlert, May 16).

At the hearing today, Rumsfeld readily agreed that the tactical nuclear weapons issue was one that “keeps getting set aside.” As for keeping track of Russia’s non-destroyed warheads, he said the administration was also “worried about their management of their nuclear weapons and the security of them . . . and the risk that they could get loose and be available to people who we would prefer not to have them.”

The Pentagon chief added that “there isn’t any way on earth to verify what people are doing with those weapons.

“To get that kind of transparency or predictability into what they’re doing, you would have to know what their production rates are, how fast they could increase their production rates and make new weapons,” Rumsfeld said.

In the United States, “everyone knows what we do. Goodness gracious, there isn’t anything that the general [Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] or I even think that doesn’t end up in the newspaper five minutes later,” Rumsfeld said.

Russia, however, is different, he added. “We don’t have a good grip on how many theater nuclear weapons they have. We don’t have a good grip on what their production rates are for nuclear weapons in a given year.”

Accordingly, he thinks the new agreement “is a good thing.”

“I think that the country is doing the right thing in attempting to turn Russia towards the west and take steps which will reassure them that we, in fact, intend to do this so that they can reassure those in their country who are doubting,” Rumsfeld said. “And there are some people in their military who doubt these things and wonder if this turning west by Russia is really going to be the right thing for Russia or the permanent thing for Russia. And if a treaty helps in that regard, I’m all for it.”

-- *John Liang*

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Defense Week Daily Update
May 21, 2002

Rumsfeld To Senate: Restore Missile-Defense Funding Cut

By Nathan Hodge

WASHINGTON—In testimony today, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld called on the Senate to restore a Senate Armed Services Committee-passed cut of over \$800 million in missile-defense funding.

Rumsfeld said all the missile-defense funding in the fiscal 2003 budget request is needed to support the development of antimissile systems that, unlike their predecessors, are not constrained by limitations imposed under the 1972 ABM Treaty. The United States will withdraw from the pact next month.

“The ABM Treaty will be behind us,” Rumsfeld told the Senate Appropriations defense panel. “We will for the first time be able to go out and test and experiment with a variety of things that had been inhibited by the treaty in prior periods.”

About half the Senate Armed Services Committee’s \$812 million cut in its fiscal 2003 defense authorization bill would come from systems-engineering contracts, which examine how to integrate various antimissile weapons as a single system, Defense Week disclosed Monday. Some congressional Democrats say the Pentagon has given only sketchy details about how those funds would be used.

“These cuts put at risk our ability to develop and deploy effective missile defenses,” said Rumsfeld’s prepared testimony. “Missile-defense funding represents only 2.1 percent of the overall defense budget. We need all of the president’s request.”

The secretary underscored his remarks with warnings about the proliferation of missile technology and weapons of mass destruction.

Terrorists, he said, “inevitably will get their hands on them, and they will not hesitate to use them.”

Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) concurred, saying the missile-defense funding cuts would leave U.S. troops overseas more vulnerable to missile attack.

“Particularly, I’m concerned about theater programs that are now in the process of the last stages of development and in some cases [are] being fielded to protect troops in the field and assets overseas that are located in areas where there is a very real threat of missile attack,” Cochran said.

Rumsfeld also took the occasion to take a few more shots at the Army’s Crusader self-propelled howitzer, which he recently moved to cancel despite broad congressional support for the program. He mocked suggestions that the Crusader would have been a useful asset in recent military operations in Afghanistan, and said deployment of the gun platform would put maximum strain on the Air Force’s fleet of C-17 Globemaster III airlifters.

“To take a battalion of Crusaders, if it ever were to happen, 18 tubes, and put it into a battle in a landlocked country ... it would take something like 60 to 64 C-17s, according to TRANSCOM, or Transportation Command,”

Rumsfeld said. “That’s half of the entire C-17 fleet to get in one battalion of Crusaders. That assumes you’ve got airports that are safe, and you can unload, and then you’ve got bridges and roads that ... can take that heavy equipment and take it from the safe airport into the battle. That’s a tough task.”

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), the chairman of the subcommittee, chided Rumsfeld for choosing to “ignore” the recommendations of Army leadership to keep Crusader.

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New York Times

May 22, 2002

The Warning Du Jour Comes Via Rumsfeld, But Worriers Abound

By David Johnston

WASHINGTON, May 21 — Each day, another senior Bush administration official has come forward with a dire warning. One by one, they have predicted, with near certainty, that terrorists will strike again in the United States — culminating today with a warning that New York landmarks like the Statue of Liberty might be at risk.

Vice President Dick Cheney began the warnings on Sunday, saying in a television interview that he was “almost certain” of more attacks. On Monday, Robert S. Mueller III, the F.B.I. director, said he feared that suicide bombings in the United States were “inevitable.”

Today, Donald H. Rumsfeld, the defense secretary, said that terrorists would “inevitably” obtain horrific weapons of mass destruction through relationships with their confederates in countries like Iraq, Iran, Libya, North Korea and Syria.

The daily warnings, coming at a time when the White House has been battered by questions about whether it might have missed important signals about Al Qaeda’s intentions in the United States, have prompted speculation that the White House is using the threats to change the subject.

At a news conference, the White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said the messages resulted from an increase in terrorist “chatter” picked up by intelligence agencies.

Counterterrorism officials have said that they first detected a spike in the volume of worrisome reports early this year as Al Qaeda fighters began to regroup after being driven from Afghanistan. But they added that the intelligence, though increasing in volume, has remained vague and fragmentary.

The reports, corroborated by reports from detainees, have suggested that Osama bin Laden's followers wanted to stage a large attack that would be even more devastating than the Sept. 11 hijackings.

But privately, some Democratic strategists say they are suspicious of the motives of the Bush administration. They have said that what has really changed is the political temperature at the White House. Administration officials, they said, have hyped the threats to deflect criticism of Mr. Bush's national security team.

One Democratic official cited a speech by Mr. Cheney last week in which he defended Mr. Bush, calling "incendiary" any suggestion that the White House had advance knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks. Mr. Cheney added, "Such commentary is thoroughly irresponsible and totally unworthy of national leaders in time of war."

The Democratic strategist said, "He was basically suggesting if you dare raise questions about us, we are going to question your patriotism."

Still, few intelligence analysts doubt the reality or seriousness of the reports, nor do they dispute that Mr. bin Laden's terror network will try to launch another attack on American soil.

Administration officials said that the reason threat assessments were once again under discussion was that reporters were asking more questions about the issue.

"It's a natural part of our system when there is an intense focus, people ask questions," one senior administration official said today. "I think if Dick Cheney was on a similar show a month ago he would have said the same thing he said this past Sunday."

In recent days, Mr. Bush's law enforcement team has been subjected to fierce criticism in Congress over the Federal Bureau of Investigation's failure to fully assess a July 2001 memorandum by a Phoenix F.B.I. agent who expressed concern that Al Qaeda followers might enroll at American flight schools to train for terror operations.

As a result of such criticism, several intelligence officials said, F.B.I. and C.I.A. analysts are flooding the government's threat assessment system with reports of possible dangers out of fear of the consequences should they fail to point out even the slightest possibility of danger.

The intelligence, much of it based on intercepted communications, is going up the reporting channels to the political ranks of the administration in raw and often unverified form. Career analysts have complained that politicians are often too quick to react to unconfirmed reports — especially in a climate in which they fear they will face criticism if they fail to alert the public of danger even if the threat is remote.

Law enforcement officials were privately dismissive of the alerts issued regularly by the administration in months after the Sept. 11 attacks. They complained that most of intelligence even when credible was too vague to provide meaningful precautionary advice either to local law enforcement officials or the public.

Some of the alerts, like a warning last year about a possible attack on the Golden Gate Bridge and other West Coast bridges, was never regarded as credible by counterterrorism analysts. But the fear of terrorism prompted local authorities to step up security for days.

After Mr. Cheney's appearance on two television news programs on Sunday, some Democrats toned down their criticism of the administration. Mr. Fleischer was asked if Mr. Bush had detected a decrease in the criticism.

"Well, I think from the president's point of view he understands that there are going to be politics in Washington,"

Mr. Fleischer said. "But he's very grateful — there have been many people in both parties who work diligently, and the president is focused on keeping the country united and winning a war. He understands politics will occasionally flare up, but I think it's come and it's gone, from his point of view."

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Washington Times
May 22, 2002
Pg. 3

Rumsfeld Says Terrorists Sure To Get Nuclear Arms

By Rowan Scarborough, The Washington Times

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld yesterday raised the potential of nuclear attack in America, saying terrorist-sponsoring countries "inevitably" would acquire weapons of mass destruction and "would not hesitate one minute in using them."

But he expressed optimism about the main front in the ongoing war on global terrorism. He told a Senate panel that the U.S.-led coalition was making progress in permanently moving Afghanistan from a haven for al Qaeda terrorists to a more stable nation with its own police and armed forces.

Mr. Rumsfeld's stark comments on nuclear, biological and chemical terror comes in the same week that other senior Bush administration officials have warned of future attacks, perhaps similar to those of September 11.

The FBI yesterday issued an alert of potential terrorist attacks aimed at New York City landmarks, including the Statue of Liberty and Brooklyn Bridge.

The warning, based on intelligence data obtained during interviews with Taliban and al Qaeda detainees, was forwarded to New York authorities by the FBI's joint terrorism task force. Authorities said the information was unconfirmed.

Security was increased around the city's major monuments and landmarks.

Although Mr. Rumsfeld did not single out Iraq in his testimony yesterday before the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on defense, he painted a scenario that matched Saddam Hussein's regime.

"We have to recognize that terrorist networks have relationships with terrorist states that have weapons of mass destruction," he testified, "and that they inevitably are going to get their hands on them and they would not hesitate one minute in using them. That's the world we live in."

The administration is contemplating options for removing Saddam. The justification would be that he continues to violate his agreement with the United Nations to destroy his weapons-making materials. The administration's belief is that Baghdad eventually will share weapons of mass destruction with terror groups such as al Qaeda who would unleash them on America and the rest of the Western world.

"The problem I see, and it's a very serious one, is that there has been a proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Rumsfeld said. "The terrorist networks have close linkages with terrorist states, the states that are on the worldwide known terrorist list — Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria, North Korea."

In Afghanistan, about 7,000 U.S. troops are battling al Qaeda and Taliban remnants, while working to stabilize the country. Some Democrats have begun to criticize this phase of the war, claiming Afghanistan is falling into chaos as various warlords vie for power.

"I'm concerned about the reports that there is deterioration in the stability of the establishment of a new government," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, California Democrat. "I'm concerned by the skirmishes that are now taking place, which indicate to me a real resiliency on the part of the Taliban and al Qaeda, that they will in fact try to come back if in fact they can come back."

Mr. Rumsfeld responded that Afghanistan has nearly always been a place of instability, crime, warlords and tribal civil war.

Now, he said, "there is a persuasive indicator that things are more stable there than they were, because refugees are returning. It is nowhere near as stable as here, but it is vastly better place than it was."

On expanding a Kabul-based peacekeeping force to other parts of the country, Mr. Rumsfeld said no country wants the job. "The problem is there's no one stepping up and wanting to do it," he said.

Hours after Mr. Rumsfeld testified, his Afghanistan commander, Army Gen. Tommy Franks, told reporters he wants an initial Afghan national army of 2,000 to 3,000 soldiers put in place in six months to do some missions now conducted by coalition forces.

U.S. Army Green Berets are now training Afghan recruits to form individual units of 600 troops.

"I will not be a 'little Johnny Sunshine' on this thing," Gen. Franks said. "I think we need to be realistic. The desire in building and training an Afghan national army will be to have representation from a great many of these ethnic and tribal groupings in locations in Afghanistan."

Overall, the four-star general said, "There are many signs of positive momentum in the western side of Afghanistan, as there are also up in the north, as well as down in the southwest."

Jerry Seper contributed to this report.

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(Editor's Note: Hyperlink for referenced report follows article.)
International Herald Tribune
May 22, 2002

In Update On Terrorism, U.S. Cites 7 Nations Again

Rumsfeld warns of weapons development

By Brian Knowlton

WASHINGTON--Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, continuing a daily drumbeat of Bush administration warnings, said Tuesday that terrorists were certain to acquire nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and "will not hesitate to use them."

He said that Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea and Syria were developing such weapons. Terrorists with links to those countries, he told a Senate subcommittee, "inevitably will get their hands on them."

Separately, the State Department, in its annual update on terrorism, identified those five countries, plus Sudan and Cuba, as state sponsors of terrorist violence. The same seven countries were named last year.

But in a year defined by the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States by Al Qaeda militants, and the subsequent international crackdown on terrorism, more than 1,000 suspected Qaeda members had been arrested around the world, a department spokesman noted. And two countries, Sudan and Libya, had taken steps - deemed positive but not yet sufficient - to "get out of the business" of terror.

The report said that Iran remained the most active sponsor of terrorism, though its efforts focused increasingly on supporting Palestinian groups that have attacked Israel; Iranian support for terrorism in other areas had waned.

The latest urgent-sounding U.S. warnings of likely new terrorist attacks have not been prompted by specific threats or information, administration officials have said. That fact has raised speculation, denied by U.S. officials, of an effort to shift attention away from pre-Sept. 11 intelligence lapses, while building a case for possible attacks on terror sponsors, above all Iraq.

Tom Ridge, the director of homeland security, said Tuesday in reference to possible new attacks on U.S. targets, "It's not a question of if, it's a question of when."

But he also said that information on terrorist plans was too vague to raise the U.S. security alert above the current "yellow" level, the third-highest of five stages.

Rumsfeld said that discussing the details of the "chatter" that U.S. and other intelligence agencies pick up from terrorist groups - which has swollen recently, the White House said Tuesday - would make no sense. Of hundreds of such intercepts a day, he said, 9 in 10 appeared designed to probe government responses.

"They jerk us around, try to jerk us around, and test us," Rumsfeld said. The administration has faced harsh criticism for not acting more decisively on, or providing more public warning of, tips that might have pointed before Sept. 11 to such an attack. Officials say they are caught between failing to provide timely warnings, even when data lack detail, and causing unneeded panic.

"You can either keep it to yourselves or you can share it," Ridge told the World Economic Forum, a business-executives group meeting here. "Depending on the source and the specificity and a few other circumstances and conditions, we may share it."

The latest blunt warnings are designed to give Americans better notice while protecting Bush against second-guessing should a new attack occur, a senior administration official told The Associated Press.

The State Department, in its report, said that there was no evidence that Iran sponsored or knew in advance of the Sept. 11 attacks. In the weeks afterward, Tehran condemned the hijacked-airplane attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, and offered to help U.S. anti-terror efforts.

But hopes that this might help improve the tense U.S.-Iranian relationship were set back when Bush included Iran, with Iraq and North Korea, in the "axis of evil," supporting terror and seeking weapons of mass destruction. Iran, the report said, continued to supply Hezbollah, the Lebanese-based militant group, and Palestinian groups with funds, haven, training and weapons. Its Revolutionary Guard and security officials actively supported terror groups. Israel, a U.S. ally, was accused of destroying the Palestinians' security apparatus, an assertion Israel has rejected.

Iraq, according to the report, helped train and encourage terror groups, primarily to attack dissident Iraqis opposed to President Saddam Hussein.

Syria and Lebanon cooperated with the United States in the post-Sept. 11 campaign against Al Qaeda militants, the report said. They refused, however, to recognize groups that have attacked Israeli targets, such as Hamas and Hezbollah, as terrorists. The Sudanese were "working very closely with us against the Al Qaeda problem," and Libya was also moving to end links to terror, said Francis Taylor, the State Department counterterrorism coordinator, discussing the report. But neither had taken sufficient steps to be dropped from the list of terror sponsors.

Early moves in that direction by North Korea were halted abruptly, the report said. Pyongyang was angered by the “axis of evil” declaration.

The report offered little evidence to justify inclusion of Cuba on the list, other than its harboring of a score of Basque and Colombian militants and other terror suspects. Although President Fidel Castro denounced the Sept. 11 attacks and has signed all United Nations counterterror conventions, it said, he views use of terror as a legitimate revolutionary tactic.

Overall, terrorist attacks in 2001 claimed a record 3,547 lives, the report said.

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2001 Patterns of Global Terrorism

U.S Department of State

<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/pgtrpt/2001/>

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London Daily Telegraph

May 22, 2002

Pg. 1

Nuclear Threat Over Kashmir

By Anton Le Guardia, Diplomatic Editor and Rahul Bedi in New Delhi

Britain sounded the alarm over the risk of nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan yesterday as the assassination of a moderate Kashmiri leader threw the region into further chaos.

Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, announced that he would fly to the area next week to try to stop the two countries sliding into war.

“The possibility of war is real and very disturbing,” Mr Straw said. “This is a crisis the world cannot ignore. India and Pakistan both have nuclear weapons and a capacity to use them and have talked about a possible nuclear exchange.”

Tensions along the India-Pakistan border rose after a suicide attack by three suspected Kashmiri militants killed more than 30 people at an army base in Jammu last week. India said it would retaliate against Pakistan, which it blames for supporting the rebels.

Further turmoil came yesterday with the killing in Srinagar of Abdul Ghani Lone, a leader of the All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, a conglomerate of 23 Muslim political parties and social groups campaigning against Indian rule in Kashmir.

Witnesses said Mr Lone, 70, was shot dead by two masked men dressed in police uniforms. They said that before escaping, the unidentified gunmen rolled a grenade into the crowd but it did not explode. India and Pakistan blamed each other.

With more than one million soldiers mobilised along the border, and the armies trading artillery and machine-gun fire for the sixth day, British officials said India and Pakistan could go to war “with the click of a finger”. Once started, military escalation would be difficult to stop.

Officials said neither country had a clear nuclear doctrine or established “hotlines” to manage a nuclear crisis. Pakistan fears being overwhelmed by its giant neighbour and has refused to rule out the “first use” of nuclear weapons.

A senior British diplomat said: “One scenario is that the Indians will attack and will get a bloody nose from the better-trained Pakistani army. They will throw in a bigger force and the Pakistanis could use nuclear weapons.”

British and US officials are shuttling between the two sides to try to ease tensions and, should war break out, to improve communication to stop use of nuclear weapons.

Mr Straw’s trip to Islamabad and New Delhi is part of a diplomatic relay designed to maintain an almost permanent presence of high-level envoys in the region.

Christina Rocca, America’s assistant secretary of state, was there last week and Chris Patten, an EU commissioner, is visiting at the moment. Mr Straw will be followed by Richard Armitage, the US deputy secretary of state.

Mr Straw said he would not carry “a pre-cooked peace plan” to resolve the core dispute over the status of Kashmir, a mainly Muslim state divided between India and Pakistan since the partition of British-ruled India in 1947. British officials said they would discuss the issue privately, but their role would “fall short of mediation or intervention”. India has resisted all outside involvement in Kashmir on the grounds that it is an internal issue. Mr Straw placed the main responsibility for ending the crisis on Pakistan. He said President Musharraf had more to do in restraining Pakistan-based militant groups. “There is a pressing need for an end to terrorism.”

However, some British ministers believe that without early international involvement, Gen Musharraf would not be able to turn his back on the “jihad” for Kashmir. “If he is to give up the policy of infiltrations he needs an alternative,” said one.

India’s prime minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, who was visiting Kashmir, said Mr Lone’s death “will have an impact, but it should not hurt peace moves”. He added: “Stronger efforts should be made to bring peace. He was working for peace which is why he was killed.”

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New York Times
May 22, 2002

Anthrax Scare At Bank; Lie Tests At Army Labs

By David E. Rosenbaum

WASHINGTON, May 21 — Still looking for clues about who sent deadly anthrax through the mail last year, federal investigators plan to give lie detector tests to workers at two Army laboratories that handle anthrax, a spokeswoman for the Federal Bureau of Investigation said today.

There have been no confirmed anthrax attacks for more than six months, but tests conducted this week detected anthrax in the mail at the World Bank and at the International Monetary Fund here. Officials suspect that these results are false positives, but the mail was sent for further tests.

The F.B.I. spokeswoman said the lie detector examinations would be given to workers at laboratories at Fort Detrick in Maryland and the Dugway Proving Ground in Utah. Capt. Amy Hannah, an Army spokeswoman, said soldiers and Army employees were expected to cooperate.

The plans for tests were first reported by ABC News.

Law enforcement officials have said they have no prime suspect in the anthrax crimes. Five people died and more than a dozen others became ill from anthrax spores that apparently leaked from letters.

Experts in microbiology have advanced the theory that the culprit is a scientist, technician or contractor who gained expertise in anthrax from working in a military laboratory.

At the World Bank, Caroline Anstey, the chief spokeswoman, said that all mail is routinely tested and that a preliminary test on Monday came up with a positive result. A more sophisticated test was negative, but as a precaution, the mail was sent to a private testing laboratory, she said. Results are expected on Wednesday or Thursday.

Thousands of workers who have offices that share an air-conditioning system with the mail room were told not to go to their offices until the matter was resolved. They are working elsewhere, Ms. Anstey said.

At the monetary fund, mail that tested negative on Friday was retested on Monday before it was distributed inside headquarters here because the fund is so closely linked in people’s minds to the World Bank, Francisco Baker, a spokesman, said. The new tests had a positive finding, and that mail was sent with the World Bank mail for further tests, Mr. Baker said.

The officials said workers were not being advised to take antibiotics.

Early this month, mail at the Federal Reserve Board tested positive for anthrax. Follow-up testing is not complete, but no other evidence of anthrax has been found, David Skidmore, a spokesman, said.

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How Safe Are We?

The U.S. remains haunted by the threat of terrorism. Ex-CIA chief R. James Woolsey assesses our fears

In the eight months since Sept. 11, Washington has channeled \$ 10 billion into emergency efforts to protect the U.S. from another terrorist assault. Yet in February a confidential Transportation Department memo obtained by USA Today reported that undercover agents slipped knives past airport checkpoints 70 percent of the time they tried and carried guns past screeners 30 percent of the time. Another review by the Office of Homeland Security concluded that unchecked cargo rolling off ships at U.S. ports puts many major cities at risk of chemical or biological attack. And all it takes is an FBI alert, like the recent one warning of possible attacks on American soil, to make us wonder: Just how safe are we now? PEOPLE asked R. James Woolsey, 60, one of the country's foremost experts on terrorism. A head of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1993 to '95, Woolsey, now a partner with the Washington, D.C., law firm Shea & Gardner, continues to serve on advisory boards at the Pentagon, C.I.A. and Department of the Navy. Security has an even greater resonance for Woolsey and his wife, Suzanne, 60, chief information officer at the National Academy of Sciences, since 9/11. That day the youngest of their three sons, Benjamin, 24, narrowly escaped death at the World Trade Center. The hopeful news, Woolsey recently told PEOPLE Washington contributor Rose Ellen O'Connor, is that "we're finally awake to the threat of terrorism. But we've got to increase security by leading our lives more sensibly, rather than just going around being afraid all the time."

How vulnerable is the U.S. to a terrorist attack right now?

I'm afraid we're still substantially vulnerable. We have all these sophisticated networks--from the Internet to oil and gas pipelines to the electricity grids--and we've now seen two of those, civil air transport and mail delivery, turned into instruments to kill Americans. The networks were put together to be able to deal with random accidents. They're not designed to deal with terrorists deliberately exploiting their weaknesses to kill people.

Which of our networks is most vulnerable?

Our electrical system. We don't have enough power lines. We don't have enough small electricity generators. And it's hard to move power from one part of the country to the other. In order to be resilient to a terrorist attack we are studying ways to remedy all of these deficiencies.

How vulnerable are we to nuclear attack?

I think if it happened it's far more likely that a state, such as Iraq or Iran, would be involved than a terrorist group by themselves. We don't believe that Iraq has nuclear weapons yet, but a number of intelligence services believe that they may be only a very few years away. They might not be able to attack us with a missile, but a nuke might be put on a freighter and sailed into a U.S. port.

What about a so-called "dirty bomb"?

A dirty bomb would use less potent but more widely available radioactive materials, such as those from hospitals. If you take these materials and scatter them using a conventional bomb they can contaminate a large area, increasing the risk of cancer, for example, in the downtown area of a major city for a very long time. They are very, very hard to clean up and, unfortunately, considerably easier to deliver than an actual nuclear weapon.

What's the state of airport security?

Well, I've now lost about a half a dozen of those three-quarters-of-an-inch-long nail files on fingernail clippers at airports, so they've dealt with the nail-file threat. Seriously, I think the government has begun some improvements in aviation security, such as trying to get more qualified baggage checkers. But clearly there are some big gaps. The X-ray machines at the airports have serious deficiencies, and we need to start focusing on individuals, rather than trying to search everyone mechanically in some politically correct way.

Should we be focusing on young Arab men?

I certainly don't favor racial or ethnic profiling. But we still ought to be able to concentrate on more serious risks, such as young men from countries that have harbored terrorists or have loose control of passports, such as Belgium.

How vulnerable are we to bioterrorism?

A number of the basic techniques that are needed for rapid diagnosis and even rapid production of the vaccines and antibiotics we would need to defend ourselves exist, but some of them are not fully developed. The government has just begun funding some of these efforts, but much more needs to be done.

So a bioterror attack would be catastrophic?

It would depend on the agent. If we were hit by a regular strain of smallpox, we might well have enough vaccine. But we know that the Soviets were working on genetically modified bacteria and viruses that cause some of these diseases, and there's a strong suspicion that the Iraqis might be too.

Are there any areas of progress in our war on terrorism?

I think the most important progress has been made overseas--in the extraordinary speed with which we ousted the Taliban and most of the Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. Even though we're still searching for Bin Laden, we've deprived them of their headquarters and their laboratories for making weapons of mass destruction. We've done a great deal and we've probably bought ourselves some time. The important thing now is to use that time to reduce our vulnerabilities at home.

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Washington Post
May 22, 2002
Pg. 35

Conferees Agree On Bioterror Bill

Legislation Calls for Vaccine Stockpiles, Increased Research

By Helen Dewar, Washington Post Staff Writer

House and Senate negotiators agreed yesterday on the final version of legislation meant to ensure a sustained, comprehensive effort to shore up the nation's defenses against a bioterror attack.

The bill, likely to win swift approval from Congress and prompt signature by President Bush, includes provisions calling for the stockpiling of drugs and vaccines and other initiatives to help prevent, detect and treat terrorism-related health threats.

It also would expand the program through which pharmaceutical companies pay large fees to the Food and Drug Administration to review their new drug applications. Drugmakers support the higher fees because they enable the agency to speed up the process of moving new products to the marketplace. Some critics, however, say the higher fees will make the FDA more dependent on an industry it regulates.

The House could take up the legislation as early as today. The Senate may act on it before this Friday's start of Congress's week-long Memorial Day recess or shortly after Congress returns June 3.

While funds to finance first-year operations were approved late last year, lawmakers said the bioterrorism authorization bill was needed for regulatory and other legal mandates and to establish a framework for allocating the money.

The legislation resulted from separate but largely similar bills passed last year by both chambers after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington and subsequent anthrax spore-tainted letters that were received on Capitol Hill and elsewhere in the country.

"Because of this bipartisan legislation, Americans will be able to sleep better at night in the knowledge that our nation is taking the steps necessary to protect them and their families against the deadly threat of bioterrorism," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.). Kennedy co-sponsored the Senate version of the legislation with Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.). The House bill was sponsored by Reps. W.J. "Billy" Tauzin (R-La.) and John D. Dingell (D-Mich.). The Senate and House bills anticipated spending about \$3 billion annually on anti-bioterrorism efforts, roughly the sum that has been appropriated for the current fiscal year. But the final version refers simply to "such sums as necessary" to pay for programs prescribed by the legislation, according to a Senate aide.

In addition to providing for stockpiling of vaccines and antibiotics to protect against biological and chemical weapons, including the possibility of a smallpox epidemic, the legislation authorizes substantial new spending to help state and local health officials prepare for bioterrorism attacks. Grants would be made available to help hospitals prepare for treatment of victims. Funding for research on prevention and treatment also would be increased.

The bill calls for tighter regulation of laboratories and people who work with materials that could be used in bioweapons to target individuals or the food supply.

Additional steps would be taken to protect the food supply, including new authority for the FDA to bar unsafe food from entering the country and grants to states to strengthen food inspections and deal with outbreaks of food-borne illnesses. New registration and record-keeping requirements would be imposed, and safety improvements would be ordered at animal research labs.

The bill would require community water systems serving more than 3,300 people to conduct vulnerability assessments and prepare emergency response plans, and calls for a review of current and future precautions. In case of an attack on a nuclear power plant, expanded supplies of potassium iodide would be made available to communities near the plants as a step to handle contamination.

Staff writer Marc Kaufman contributed to this report.

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Diffuse Security Threats: Technologies for Mail Sanitization Exist, But Challenges Remain.

GAO-02-365, April 23.

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-02-365>

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Christian Science Monitor

May 23, 2002

Mothballed Warheads Pose Continuing Threat

Russian missiles decommissioned under the new nuclear treaty are likely to land in poorly guarded storage depots.

By Fred Weir, Special to The Christian Science Monitor

MOSCOW - To terrorists trying to lay their hands on the stuff of atomic weapons, Russia's nuclear nerve center is a daunting fortress.

High, video-monitored concrete walls, bomb-proof steel gates, and hundreds of military guards protect the 247-acre site of Moscow's Kurchatov Institute, birthplace of the USSR's first atomic bomb and still a beehive of research on fusion and on methods for storing radioactive materials left over from the cold war.

But experts say the institute is the Russian nuclear program's best face. Flung across Russia's vast hinterland are 52 military storage depots for the enriched uranium and plutonium from which nuclear warheads are made. At those sites, security is often lax and weapons-grade materials are not closely accounted for.

"Active-duty nuclear weapons are well protected, but there are serious security problems with stored warheads and other highly dangerous materials," says Sergei Yushenkov, deputy head of the State Duma's Security Committee.

"The key problem in Russia, which will not be resolved by the current Russia-US dialogue, is that we have no civilian oversight in the nuclear sphere. The glimpses we have are very worrisome, but even in the Duma [Russia's lower house of parliament] we cannot get a full picture."

In addition, at the hundreds of civilian facilities around Russia, where thousands of tons of spent reactor fuel and other nuclear wastes are stored, security is often nonexistent. While these materials might not be easily fashioned into atomic weapons, they could provide the ingredients for a so-called "dirty bomb" – radioactive substances wrapped around a conventional explosive.

"Control over low-level nuclear wastes in this country is very weak," says Dmitry Kovchegin, a nuclear-safety specialist at the independent PIR Center for policy studies in Moscow. "Terrorists could easily acquire the means to make a dirty bomb in this country."

Last winter a group of Duma deputies, environmental activists and a TV crew dramatized the danger by climbing through a broken fence and walking into a medium-security nuclear- waste storage center in Siberia, where they spent six hours beside a building housing 3,000 tons of radioactive spent reactor fuel.

"I was amazed at how easy it was," says Sergei Mitrokhin, one of the deputies. "No one challenged us. Guards walked past us, and never asked who we were or what we were doing."

Since the collapse of the USSR, the United States has spent an average of \$400 million a year to fund a range of measures known as the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. Among other things, the money has gone to upgrade storage, oversight, and security at storage sites, and to supplement the meager salaries of thousands of Russian physicists and nuclear engineers who might otherwise be tempted to peddle their skills to third-world countries or terrorist groups.

Even at the Kurchatov Institute, where the average paycheck hovers around 2,000 rubles (about \$65) monthly, the subsidies have made a difference. "We have some of the world's top nuclear specialists here, earning less than what Americans spend on their lunches in a month," says Andrei Gagarinsky, Kurchatov chief of research and development. "Without extra sources of income, like those from Nunn-Lugar, we just wouldn't be able to continue." Washington is pushing for an additional \$20 billion, that would be funded by the US and fellow G7 nations, to help Russia neutralize the danger posed by its nuclear materials.

So far, only about 40 percent of Russia's bomb-grade materials and less than a seventh of enriched uranium stocks have been secured, according to a report issued by Harvard University this week.

One major area of concern is the Russian Navy's nuclear-submarine fleet, most of which was hastily decommissioned following the Soviet demise. At the Kurchatov Institute, specialists are trying to devise ways to quickly dismantle and store the reactors and fuel rods from more than 100 nuclear subs, many of which are rusting away in open harbors on Russian naval bases.

About five years ago, Gagarinsky says, a group of sailors in the northern naval base of Severodvinsk actually hijacked an entire reactor unit – complete with fuel rods – from a disabled submarine, hoping to sell it on the black market. "Of course they failed," says Gagarinsky. "But there's no doubt this area needs a lot of attention."

No one is offering a guess at how much nuclear material may already be missing. The former USSR had more than 20,000 strategic and tactical nuclear weapons and as much as 650 metric tons of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium, experts say. Russia still deploys about 6,000 strategic and 8,000 smaller tactical warheads. Thousands of others have been safely dismantled over the past decade, and their materials stored, with major help from Nunn-Lugar funds. "The United States has paid for just about everything that has been done to dismantle Russian nuclear weapons," says Alexander Goltz, a military expert who writes for the weekly *Ezhenedelni Dzhurnal* newsmagazine. Meanwhile, some observers worry that Russia's Ministry of Atomic Power, which oversees both civilian and military nuclear programs and is a key recipient of outside funding, may be diverting the money to other purposes. Russia's State Accounting Chamber, a government watchdog that answers to parliament, charged in a report last year that \$270 million given to MinAtom by Norway and Sweden between 1998 and 2000 to help process radioactive wastes simply disappeared. "That is the tip of the iceberg," says Maxim Shingarkin, a former major in the Russian Defense Ministry's department of nuclear forces who now advises environmental groups. "We know that US aid is sometimes being used by MinAtom to fund new nuclear research rather than retire old weapons ...," he says. "In the future there must be much tougher control over the disbursement of such funds."

Mr. Yushenkov agrees. "Arms agreements are all very well," he says. "But the most urgent need is to enforce transparency and public accountability over Russia's nuclear establishment."

Ironically, the arms-control deal to be signed by Presidents Vladimir Putin and George Bush on Friday will greatly increase pressure on Russia's dilapidated and insecure storage facilities.

Experts say Russia would probably scale back its strategic nuclear forces to about 1,500 warheads within a few years, with or without an agreement. "The delivery systems are old and must be retired," says Mr. Goltz. "Russia can't afford to replace them, so the warheads must be stored."

Russia will need massive assistance if it is ever to process the disassembled warheads into forms that cannot be refashioned into weapons one day. "These materials must be immobilized by being mixed with concrete or glass, and then safely stored, or they must be burned in breeder reactors," says Gagarinsky. "At the present time, we lack the means to do either."

Vladimir Chuprov, a nuclear expert with Greenpeace-Russia, warns: "Stocks of plutonium in storage will skyrocket in the next few years. No one should imagine that Putin and Bush have brought this under control. The dangers are not receding, they are multiplying every day."

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Miami Herald
May 22, 2002

Report Mum On Bio-Threat

U.S. omits reference to Cuba

By Tim Johnson

WASHINGTON - In a surprising announcement in early May, the Bush administration charged that Cuba maintains a "limited offensive" biological warfare capability. By Tuesday, the administration seemed to have forgotten about the matter.

A sweeping, 177-page State Department report on trends in global terrorism summed up Cuba in 47 lines, omitting any reference to its reported biological warfare research.

Officials seemed flustered when asked about the omission.

"It doesn't mean that it's something we're not concerned with," State Department counterterrorism coordinator Francis X. Taylor said.

Reich Questioned

On Capitol Hill, Otto Reich, the department's top diplomat to Latin America, appeared initially confused when asked why the report made no mention of Cuba's bio-weapons research.

"Is it an oversight?" asked Sen. Byron Dorgan, a North Dakota Democrat.

"I do not know who publishes that particular document," Reich said moments later when asked about the report, which Dorgan held in his hand.

"It's your department that publishes it," Dorgan said. "This is a State Department publication, and we just received it on Capitol Hill."

Reich countered: "It must be incomplete."

Focus Of Paper

The U.S. government considers Cuba and six other countries state sponsors of terrorism, and they were the focus of much of the new report, Patterns of Global Terrorism 2001.

The document said Cuban leader Fidel Castro "has vacillated over the war on terrorism," and has criticized U.S. counterterrorism actions as "worse than the original attacks, militaristic and fascist."

Castro allows 20 Basque separatists to reside in Cuba "as privileged guests," and offers "some degree of safe haven and support" to Colombian rebels who engage in terrorism, it said. It noted that Cuba hosted an Irish Republican Army explosives expert, later arrested in Colombia, and helped protect fugitives of a Chilean extremist group, the Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front.

Also, numerous U.S. fugitives continue to live on the island, the report says.

Few Details

In a headline-grabbing speech May 6, John Bolton, the undersecretary of state for arms control, charged that Cuba is researching biological warfare means and has shared such technology with "rogue states."

He offered few details, however.

Last week, Secretary of State Colin Powell clarified that the Bush administration doesn't believe Havana has such armaments: "We didn't say it actually had some weapons, but it has the capacity and capability to conduct such research."

President Bush made no mention of the bio-weapons threat Monday, a day focused almost exclusively on his administration's Cuba policy. Bush offered a policy speech at the White House in the morning, reaffirming the U.S. embargo of Cuba, then cheered on Cuban Americans at a rally in Miami in the afternoon.

In Cuba, National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcón ridiculed Bush for meeting with "terrorists" in Miami and said the U.S. president shouldn't talk about transparent elections.

"To go to Miami to talk about clean and honest elections and speak against what [Bush] calls electoral fraud, one has to be very brave," Alarcón said during a round table Monday night, referring to the 2000 election, which Bush won by a slight margin.

Former Senators

In a new sign that the White House faces significant domestic opposition outside of Florida to its Cuba policy, a bipartisan group of 48 former U.S. senators sent a letter to the White House calling for normalization of relations with Cuba.

"We are the only nation in the world to have an economic embargo and boycott of Cuba," the letter read, "and the clear lesson of recent history is that if economic sanctions are to be successful, they must have strong international support."

Among the signers were several former senators considered hawks on foreign policy matters, including Republicans Malcolm Wallop and Alan Simpson, both of Wyoming, and Jake Garn of Utah. Democrats included Sam Nunn of Georgia and Lloyd Bentsen of Texas.

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Baltimore Sun
May 22, 2002

Iran Denies Cuba Gave It Germ War Aid

By Associated Press

HAVANA - Iran's ambassador denied U.S. allegations that Cuba transfers technology to his country for germ warfare uses, insisting yesterday that the countries' scientific agreements are for lifesaving technology such as hepatitis vaccines.

Ambassador Seyed D. Salehi held a news conference to deny allegations made this month by Undersecretary of State John Bolton that Cuba has at least a limited offensive biological warfare research and development effort. Bolton said Cuba has provided dual-use biotechnology to rogue states that could support biological weapons programs. Washington typically identifies Iran and Libya as rogue nations.

"I fully reject the allegations made by State Undersecretary John Bolton," Salehi said yesterday.

Under a 1998 agreement, Cuba has provided technology allowing Iran to vaccinate a large percentage of children against hepatitis B, Salehi said.

That agreement also calls for Cuba to transfer interferon for treating hepatitis, AIDS and cancer, and other medicines for heart attacks, blood circulation and kidney ailments, he said.

Although Iran could have obtained some of those vaccines from commercial pharmaceutical firms, it decided to work primarily with Cuba because it also belongs to the Group of 77 developing nations, Salehi said.

Salehi's news conference was held the same day the State Department released its annual report to Congress on state sponsors of terrorism. The report named Iran the world's most active sponsor.

The remaining countries on the list were Cuba, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria. At least 20 Basque militants and several other terror suspects are given haven in Cuba, the report said.

Cuban President Fidel Castro insists he opposes terrorism of all kinds, and officials here made a point of ensuring they signed all 12 United Nations counter-terror conventions after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

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New York Times
May 24, 2002
Pg. 1

Sailors Sprayed With Nerve Gas In Cold War Test, Pentagon Says

By Thom Shanker with William J. Broad

WASHINGTON, May 23 — The Defense Department sprayed live nerve and biological agents on ships and sailors in cold war-era experiments to test the Navy's vulnerability to toxic warfare, the Pentagon revealed today.

The Pentagon documents made public today showed that six tests were carried out in the Pacific Ocean from 1964 to 1968. In the experiments, nerve or chemical agents were sprayed on a variety of ships and their crews to gauge how quickly the poisons could be detected and how rapidly they would disperse, as well as to test the effectiveness of protective gear and decontamination procedures in use at the time.

Hundreds of sailors exposed to the poisons in tests conducted in the 1960's could be eligible for health care benefits, and the Department of Veterans Affairs has already begun contacting those who participated in some of the experiments, known as Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense, or SHAD.

"We are committed to helping every veteran who took part in these tests," said Anthony J. Principi, the secretary of veterans affairs. "If we find any medical problems or disabilities we can attribute to Project SHAD, we'll ensure these veterans receive the benefits they deserve."

Of the six tests, three used sarin, a nerve agent, or VX, a nerve gas; one used staphylococcal enterotoxin B, known as SEB, a biological toxin; one used a simulant believed to be harmless but subsequently found to be dangerous; and one used a nonpoisonous simulant.

Michael Kilpatrick, a medical official in the office of the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said it was unclear whether sailors had been intentionally exposed to the germ and chemical agents without the benefit of

protective masks and gear. Also uncertain, he said, was whether any had given their permission to become human guinea pigs in medical experiments with the deadly substances.

"When you read the overarching plans for the testing, people were to be protected," he said in an interview. "But when we get to individual reports, we do not see things like informed consent or individual protection. We don't have the records for what, if any, protection was given to people."

The implication, he said, is that in some cases sailors may have been exposed to the chemical and germ dangers.

"To me," Dr. Kilpatrick added, "the important thing now is that the Defense Department and veterans affairs are cooperating for the benefit of the veteran."

The Department of Veterans Affairs has notified 622 of about 4,300 military personnel, mostly from the Navy, identified as participants in Project SHAD. The process of identifying the veterans who participated in the program began in September 2000 under pressure from Representative Mike Thompson, Democrat of California, who was responding to claims by veterans that they had suffered health damage from the tests.

"This information is significant since we now know that our military personnel were exposed to sarin gas and VX nerve agent, which are both highly lethal, and other agents that are known carcinogens," Mr. Thompson said.

While noting that the documents made public today by the Pentagon were the third installment of fact sheets on Project SHAD, bringing to 12 the number of tests that had been declassified, he demanded that the Defense Department release additional information on the 113 secret SHAD tests believed to have been planned.

"It is only fair to inform service members, some of whom may not even know of their exposure, of the specific harmful agents used in SHAD tests," Mr. Thompson said.

Leonard A. Cole, an expert on biological weapons at Rutgers University who wrote "Clouds of Secrecy," a book on the government's germ testing program, said the new disclosures were troubling but grimly logical.

"They're important because they add to a whole pool of knowledge about what the military was doing," he said. "But they don't shock me. We've known that the Army had exposed human subjects to biological agents," though always with permission.

"If there was no informed consent," Dr. Cole added, "that would be a big deal. I know of no large-scale testing on human subjects with chemical or biological weapons that was performed without some level of informed consent."

A number of the SHAD tests used harmless simulants that were meant to mimic and trace the dissemination of real agents. But others used deadly chemicals and germs.

One test, named "Fearless Johnny," was carried out southwest of Honolulu during August and September of 1965.

The George Eastman, a Navy cargo ship, was sprayed with VX nerve agent and a simulant to "evaluate the magnitude of exterior and interior contamination levels" under various conditions of readiness, as well as study "the shipboard wash-down system," according to the new documents.

VX gas, like all nerve agents, penetrates the skin or lungs to disrupt the body's nervous system and stop breathing. In small quantities, exposure causes death.

A 1964 test named Flower Drum Phase I, conducted off the coast of Hawaii, sprayed sarin and a chemical simulant onto the same ship and into its ventilation system while the crew wore various levels of protective gear. In phase 2 of the test, VX gas was sprayed onto a barge to examine the ship's water wash-down system and other decontamination measures, according to the documents.

Another experiment, Deseret Test Center Test 68-50, was intended to determine the casualty levels from an F-4 Phantom jet spraying SEB, a crippling germ toxin. The test was done in the Marshall Islands in September and October of 1968. The jet sprayed the deadly mist over part of Eniwetok Atoll and five Army light tugs, the documents said.

SEB, a report added, "is not generally thought of as a lethal agent" but instead as an incapacitating agent that can knock out people for one or two weeks with fever, chills, headache and coughing. The SEB came from a bacteria that causes a common type of food poisoning.

Deseret Test Center Test 69-32, done southwest of Hawaii from April to June 1969, used two germs that were thought to be harmless, *Serratia marcescens* and *Escherichia coli*, the germ of the human gut. But *Serratia marcescens* in time turned out to be dangerous.

"It is an opportunistic pathogen," the report said today, "causing infections of the endocardium, blood, wounds, and urinary and respiratory tracts."

The documents said the Pacific test of the two germs, which were meant to simulate dangerous biological agents, was meant to see how sunlight influenced their survival. A military aircraft sprayed the germs on five tugs, "each converted to serve as an oceangoing sampling platform and laboratory," the documents said.

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Bush Will Press Putin To Stop Iran Nuclear Aid

By Bill Sammon, The Washington Times

MOSCOW — President Bush yesterday vowed to urge Russian President Vladimir Putin to end nuclear assistance to Iran during a summit that begins today, although Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said Mr. Bush's concerns are "groundless."

"If you arm Iran, you're liable to get the weapons pointed at you," Mr. Bush said before flying from Berlin to Moscow. "Russia needs to be concerned about proliferation into a country that might view them as an enemy at some point in time."

"And if Iran gets a weapon of mass destruction, deliverable by a missile, that's going to be a problem," he added.

"That's going to be a problem for all of us, including Russia."

But Mr. Ivanov insisted that Russia is providing civilian, not military, assistance to a nuclear power plant under construction in Bushehr, a small town in southwestern Iran.

"Sometimes, quite often, we hear what I want to stress are groundless statements that Russia is supposedly helping Iran, in particular, and some other countries develop nuclear and missile programs," Mr. Ivanov told state-owned ORT television.

"This is not true," he said. "Russia sticks firmly to its international obligations, and we have repeatedly told the United States this."

Mr. Ivanov's assertions were disputed by a senior administration official aboard Air Force One, who suggested that the power-plant project is a pretext for obtaining nuclear material that can be used for weapons.

"It's the single most important proliferation threat there is," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "We've not seen eye to eye with the Russians on what they're doing and what potential that gives for the development of Iranian nuclear weapons."

Although Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham has had some "promising discussions" with his Russian counterpart, Moscow has continued its nuclear-assistance program, the official said.

"We think it's extremely worrying," the administration source said. "We think that we do have a closed, nontransparent country like Iran that is clearly bent on getting weapons of mass destruction and particularly nuclear weapons. When you have a country like Iran that clearly sponsors terrorism, Hezbollah and Hamas, that talks about the destruction of Israel, that's not a state that you want to be sharing anything that may have implications for nuclear technology."

The official said Russia has given the United States "a variety of responses" when asked to explain its nuclear assistance to Iran.

But the response Washington hears most, according to the official, is: "'This is a civilian nuclear reactor, and there are civilian nuclear reactors in a lot of places.' Of course, Iran is very oil-rich, which makes one wonder about the need for civilian nuclear power."

Mr. Bush said he would raise the issue during his fifth meeting with Mr. Putin, which begins today.

"That's going to be a topic," he said. "I'm going to make the case. We've got a lot of work to do with Russia."

He added: "I have brought that subject up ever since I've started meeting with Vladimir Putin."

Mr. Bush hopes the highlight of his latest summit will be today's signing of the Treaty of Moscow, which slashes the nuclear arsenals of Russia and the United States by two-thirds during the next decade.

He also wants to sign an agreement on broader principles, including Russia's acquiescence to America's development of a missile-defense shield.

Anti-Bush demonstrations were much smaller in Moscow than in Berlin. While tens of thousands of protesters swarmed the streets of Berlin, about 300 staged a rally in Moscow, burning an American flag before the president's arrival.

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Senate Approves Biological Controls

Measure prepares nation for attack

By Stephen Dinan, The Washington Times

The Senate yesterday unanimously passed a bill authorizing \$4.6 billion to enhance controls on dangerous biological material and prepare the country for a biological attack.

The House already passed the bill Wednesday, and the measure now heads to President Bush, who is expected to sign it.

"This bill will take away one of the most formidable weapons in the terrorist arsenal — our own vulnerability," said Sen. Bill Frist, Tennessee Republican, one of the chief champions of the bill.

The bill, which passed 98-0, would set aside \$1.6 billion for grants to states to prepare for a biological attack, and would spend \$1.1 billion to stockpile vaccines, including enough smallpox vaccine to protect every American. It would enhance federal agencies' checks of people and labs that work with dangerous biological material, and it would pay for risk assessments of potential targets like local water supplies.

"Because of the initiatives we approve today, American families can go to sleep tonight knowing that their security will be enhanced," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat and the bill's other chief sponsor.

Senate Democratic leaders yesterday also tried to begin debate on their \$31 billion emergency military spending bill, but Republicans objected, arguing that the measure just came out of committee Wednesday and that the expedited process didn't allow enough scrutiny of the bill.

Meanwhile, the House remained deadlocked on its \$29.4 billion version of the spending bill, with Democrats stalling floor action, arguing that Republicans are trying to duck a fair debate on increasing the government's debt limit.

The provision they oppose was added through a procedural move.

It would allow House and Senate negotiators later in the process to raise the government's debt ceiling by \$750 billion, but the way the provision was added to the bill means the House never has to vote specifically on raising the ceiling.

Democrats say the need to borrow stems from last year's \$1.3 trillion tax cut, and they say Republicans are hiding their vote on the debt ceiling to conceal the effects of the tax cut.

Republicans, though, said the provision is just a place holder for possible action later, and any eventual agreement between the House and Senate would require a final vote. They also chided Democrats for delaying a bill to fund the war on terrorism.

As of late yesterday, Republican leaders had sent a committee back to draw up new rules for debate that would expedite matters and limit the amount of opportunities for Democrats to delay the vote.

They expected final approval of the bill sometime early this morning.

About half of the bill's spending would go to defense — lawmakers said the Army is already borrowing operational funds from the next fiscal quarter, and needs that money replenished. Another quarter of the funds would go to domestic security. The bill also makes the final installment on the president's promise to spend \$20 billion rebuilding New York City.

Republicans say they have the votes to pass the bill, and many Democrats would feel obligated to vote for it or risk being seen as opposing funding for troops in the field.

Given that, Democrats resorted to delaying the bill, hoping rank-and-file Republicans, eager to get home for the Memorial Day recess, would force their leaders to come back with a different bill or different rules for debating the current version.

"If we cannot get that kind of agreement, we're willing to stay here all weekend," Rep. David R. Obey, Wisconsin Democrat, said to applause from his Democratic colleagues.

"I don't know about you, but I brought a change of clothes and several shirts."

But Republicans were adamant about getting the bill through as written.

"We are going to move this bill to completion," said committee Chairman C.W. Bill Young, Florida Republican. "It may only pass by one vote, but it's going to pass."

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Biodefense Team Develops Faster, Safer Method Of Detecting Anthrax

Tampa, FL (May 22, 2002) — The University of South Florida Center for Biological for Defense has developed a new method to more safely and rapidly detect anthrax in powders and on surfaces.

The technique makes anthrax spores harmless to handle without destroying the spore-protected DNA needed to identify the deadly bacterium — which means more laboratories could test samples and rule out negative results if another anthrax outbreak occurs.

The method will be reported today at the annual meeting of the American Society of Microbiology in Salt Lake City, UT.

"We found a way to speed up the turnaround of test results," said pathobiologist Vicki Ann Luna, PhD, a research associate at the USF Center for Biological Defense. "It would help alleviate the backlog of specimens and the long wait for results that can produce fear and anxiety."

The new sample preparation method reduces the time needed to detect even traces of anthrax from three or four days to six to eight hours, Luna said.

Last year, after inhalation anthrax killed a South Florida man and anthrax spores were found in letters, public health laboratories were inundated with "suspicious" powders and environmental swabs. In Florida, the job of testing hundreds of samples daily was limited to three of the state's public health laboratories — facilities with the protective equipment and clothing needed to work with potentially deadly samples.

It quickly became obvious that a faster method was needed to safely test for the presence of anthrax spores.

Ideally, work in a Bio-Safety Level 3 facility should be limited to the initial sample preparation, and subsequent evaluation, which requires more labor and space, could be performed in a Bio-Safety Level 2 lab, said Andrew Cannons, PhD, scientific director for the USF Center for Biological Defense. This would speed up sample processing and prevent bottlenecks in workload during outbreaks, Cannons said.

The technique devised by the USF group would render the anthrax spores safe enough for any laboratory (Bio-Safety Levels 2 and 1) to test, Luna said.

The technique combines three simple processes — germination, sonication and autoclaving — to prepare a sample for molecular identification and confirmation of *Bacillus anthracis*. Germination causes the dormant anthrax spores to sprout, exposing the germ contained within the protective shell. Sonication breaks up the bacterial spores with high frequency sound waves. Finally, autoclaving destroys with heat the spores' ability to cause disease, but leaves the germ's genetic material intact so that it can be identified by PCR.

"This method detects less than 10 anthrax spores per sample and may even detect as few as 1 or 2 spores," Luna said. "There may be a few false positives, but you'd rather have a false positive result for anthrax than a false negative. You definitely don't want to miss anything."

Luna and her colleagues Debra King, Mike Robeson and others at the Center for Biological Defense developed the new method with the guidance of Jacqueline Cattani, PhD, center director; Philip Amuso, PhD, laboratory director for the Florida Department of Health; and Cannons.

The Center for Biological Defense is a joint project of the University of South Florida College of Public Health and the Florida Department of Health. Funded by the U.S. Department of Defense since October 2000, the center conducts biodefense research and provides education and training aimed at protecting the nation from the threat of bioterrorism.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2002/05/020523075632.htm>

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World Bank: Final Test Shows No Anthrax In Mail

Thu May 23, 8:15 AM ET

(This article was originally published Wednesday)

WASHINGTON -(Dow Jones)- The World Bank ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) has asked more than 1,000 employees who had been working at home because of an anthrax scare to return to their offices, saying it has determined conclusively that live anthrax was not present in mail sent to the bank.

In a statement Wednesday, the bank said it conducted a "definitive culture test" of a batch of mail that had been thought to be contaminated with anthrax Monday. It showed that the "mail was not contaminated by live anthrax," the bank said.

"As a result of this finding, the air-conditioning in the Bank building located at 18th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue is being restored, and Bank staff from that building who have been working at home will return to their offices on Thursday morning," the bank said.

On Monday, the bank shut down the air-conditioning system of a building just across the street from its headquarters at 1818 Pennsylvania Ave. after a preliminary test indicated the possible presence of anthrax. It asked 1,200 employees to work from their homes and ordered two additional tests of the mail. It also asked four employees to begin taking antibiotics.

That caused a scare that irritated city health officials. The International Monetary Fund ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), also located across the street from the bank, decided to retest a batch of mail that had previously shown no evidence of anthrax. The new test indicated the possible presence of anthrax.

So the IMF provided antibiotics to more than 50 employees and ordered a more conclusive test, a spokesman said Wednesday. Results of that test are due Thursday, said Francisco Baker, an IMF spokesman. He said the IMF expects it to show, like the final World Bank test, that anthrax was not present in its mail.

In its statement, the World Bank defended its actions: "Management believes it took the necessary steps to provide for the health and safety of Bank staff during this period."

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/dowjones/20020523/bs_dowjones/world_bank_final_test_show_s_no_anthrax_in_mail

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U.S., Russia Sign Landmark Treaty

Fri May 24, 1:21 PM ET

By TOM RAUM, Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) - President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) and Russian President Vladimir Putin ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) signed a landmark nuclear arms reduction treaty in a gilded room of the Kremlin on Friday, and proclaimed it would help cement vastly improved relations between the former superpower rivals.

"Russia's a friend and that's the new thinking. That's part of what's being codified today," Bush said after he and Putin put ink to a pact that slashes nuclear arsenals by two-thirds.

Putin said, "This is a serious move ahead to ensure international security." Even so, the two nations struggled to close their divide over Russia's continued nuclear assistance to Iran, with some progress reported.

The arms accord would limit the United States and Russia within 10 years to between 1,700 and 2,200 deployed strategic nuclear warheads, down from about 6,000 apiece now — a two-thirds cut.

"Friends really don't need weapons pointed at each other, we both understand that," Bush said. "But it's a realistic assessment of where we've been. Who knows what will happen 10 years from now? Who knows what future presidents will say and how they'll react?"

Putin said there were legitimate reasons for keeping a smaller nuclear arms supply. "Out there, there are other states who possess nuclear arms," he said. "There are countries that want to acquire weapons of mass destruction."

Specifically, Bush expressed concern about Russia's nuclear assistance to Iran. "We spoke very frankly and honestly about the need to make sure that a non-transparent government, run by radical clerics, doesn't get their hands on weapons of mass destruction," Bush said.

The United States has branded Iran as a sponsor of terror and part of an "axis of evil" alongside Iraq and North Korea ([news](#) - [web sites](#)).

But Putin gave little ground, defending the assistance as largely energy-related and pointing out that the United States has similarly helped North Korea build a nuclear power plant.

U.S. officials said Iran recently conducted a successful flight test of its Shahab-3 ballistic missile and intends to develop missiles that could reach targets in Europe.

Russia is helping build a nuclear reactor in Bushehr and scientists have contributed missile expertise to Iran. U.S. officials question Russia's assertion that the Bushehr facility is simply a civilian reactor.

The U.S. assistance to North Korea was part of an agreement under which North Korea said it would abandon its own nuclear program in exchange for U.S. reactor technology.

Two senior administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the White House is willing to offer Russia economic and other incentives to cooperate on the Iran issue. They said that idea, in the early stages of development, coupled with Putin's assurances that the technology is strictly energy-related could be the start of a plan to resolve the issue. Officials said they don't expect immediate results.

Another administration official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said later that Putin told Bush flatly that Russia had no intention of helping Iran's nuclear weapons program. Furthermore, Putin suggested that the issue be studied by a panel of experts — or even by the new NATO ([news](#) - [web sites](#))-Russia council expected to be created in the coming days.

Bush also raised the touchy issue of Chechnya ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), where Russian military operations continue, during a meeting with religious and community leaders at the U.S. ambassador's residence.

"The experience in Afghanistan ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) has taught us all that there are lessons to be learned about how to protect one's homeland and, at the same time, be respectful on the battlefield," he said.

During the day, Bush and Putin talked to media and business executives, lunched at a palace at the Kremlin and took a walking tour of the sprawling grounds with their wives.

The two also signed a "strategic framework" document laying out political and security challenges remaining between the two countries, including future cooperation on missile defense.

That was a concession to Putin, who had opposed the U.S. decision to bail out of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty to pursue such a system.

The presidents also issued a series of statements, agreeing to improve economic ties; work more aggressively for peace in the Middle East; allow more people-to-people contact; and cooperate closely on energy and counterterrorism.

Bush expressed sympathy with Russia's long-standing efforts to win repeal of the 1974 Jackson-Vanik law, which denies normal trade to communist states that restrict emigration — in Russia's case, Jewish emigration — resulting in far higher tariffs on the goods they produce.

Legislation to lift the restrictions is bogged down in Congress. "I hope they act," Bush said. He praised Russia for improved treatment of its Jewish community.

Russia also wants the United States to declare it a "market economy" to help ease its entry into the World Trade Organization ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), the Geneva-based body that sets and polices international trade policy. WTO membership would make Russia a more predictable place for Western investment.

Bush said it was in U.S. interests for Russia to join the WTO. But, during questioning, he said "it's hard for me to predict a timetable" for that to happen.

Putin said Russia needs every obstacle lifted so its economy can flourish. He joked that the United States could make airplanes cheaply if Russian steel could be imported without tariffs, a reference to stiff tariffs that Bush slapped on imported steel in March.

Bush and Putin signed the arms pact in the ornate, golden St. Andrews Hall at the Kremlin — a site once targeted by U.S. intercontinental ballistic missiles. The three-page treaty represents the biggest-ever cut in strategic nuclear weapons, but it may be the last.

Bush administration officials said they did not intend to negotiate further arms control pacts with Russia, citing the end of the Cold War and a changing economic and military paradigm.

The treaty says both countries want to pursue a "path of new relations for a new century." It states that each country shall determine for itself how to meet the reduction targets, and does not say whether removed warheads should be destroyed, as Russia wanted, or stored, the U.S. position.

That the agreement was even put on paper was a concession to Putin, who wanted formal language to be ratified by both the U.S. Senate and the Russian Duma. Bush wanted a handshake agreement.

Ratification was expected in both countries.

The cuts in long-range nuclear weapons will leave enough firepower to destroy major U.S. and Russian cities many times over. But it will bring arsenals down to about a tenth of what they were at the height of the Cold War.

Bush and Putin agreed to the levels last November.

Russia was the second stop on Bush's six-day, four-country tour of Europe. He also will travel to France and Italy. While in Russia, Bush will also visit St. Petersburg, Putin's hometown.

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=514&ncid=716&e=1&u=/ap/20020524/ap_on_re_eu/us_russia_21

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