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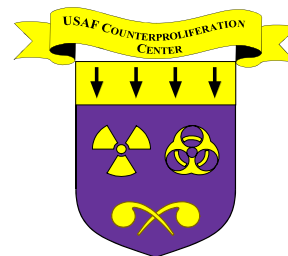
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Washington Times

September 11, 2002

Pg. 1

Bush Aides Press Case For Pre-Emptive Strikes

By Joseph Curl, The Washington Times

White House officials yesterday pressed the case for pre-emptive military strikes against any nation threatening the United States, saying President Bush would not stand by idly as dictators menaced the world with weapons of mass destruction.

"After September 11th, nobody wants to take the risk that when you connect the dots on Iraq, that the first time that you see what that picture really looks like is when there's an attack on American soil or against American interests," said a senior administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, the chief U.N. weapons inspector told the Security Council in New York that it would take as long as two months for him to get a team into Baghdad, assuming the Iraqi government extended a satisfactory invitation. While many world leaders were calling for new U.N. inspections to determine whether Iraq had nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, Bush officials yesterday pushed for a more permanent solution to the problem of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein -- with or without world support.

"We don't want to give him the first chance to hit us, to hit our friends and allies, whether it's the Arab states in the region or Israel," said Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

"We always have the right to go it alone. It is not the preferred option but we will not abrogate our right to act in self-defense," he said.

Said Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz: "This is not something where you can wait until you have clear evidence.

"In fact, one of the fundamental points that September 11 should have brought home to us is that you may not have a clear case after the fact, because the nature of terrorism is that it operates in the shadows, and it could be a way for a country that wants to do us harm to do it in a semianonymous way."

While the senior administration official sought to "disconnect" pre-emptive strikes against potential foes from the current debate about Iraq, the question of how best to handle Saddam was clearly a subtext of the official's comments.

"It is simply not accurate to say that the United States has always said, 'We will wait to be attacked before we attack,' " the official said. "It's just not accurate."

Mr. Bush yesterday vowed to use a speech tomorrow to the United Nations to push the international body to act against Iraq before Saddam could develop nuclear weapons and threaten the world.

"I'm going to the United Nations to give this speech for a reason: because I believe this is an international problem, and that we must work together to deal with the problem," Mr. Bush said at the Afghan Embassy.

The president reiterated his assertion that Saddam has "ignored the United Nations for all these years, has refused to conform to resolution after resolution after resolution, who has weapons of mass destruction." "My job as the American president is to do everything we can to protect the American people from future attack," he said.

In his speech, Mr. Bush will lay out his case against Saddam and ask a simple question: "What more do we need to know?" the senior administration official said.

At a videotaped address to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Vice President Richard B. Cheney yesterday credited U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies with disrupting terrorist plots domestically and abroad.

But he added: "For every bit of progress we've achieved, all of us appreciate that we are still closer to the beginning of this war than to its end."

The president last week pointed to reports from a nuclear watchdog group that determined Saddam was six months away from developing a nuclear weapon when the Iraqi dictator expelled U.N. inspectors in 1998.

Outside analysts and U.S. officials say Iraq probably has stocks of chemical and biological weapons and could make a nuclear bomb if it could obtain enough nuclear material, which Saddam is trying to do.

The administration official noted that the idea of a pre-emptive strike by the United States -- laid out by Mr. Bush in a June speech -- had a long history.

"The idea of pre-emption has been around a very, very long time. It is, in fact, the case that the United States has in the past had doctrines that made clear that it might not wait -- that it would not wait to be attacked before it acted."

Some members of Congress, however, said yesterday they were not convinced Saddam posed an imminent threat.

"I set the mark very high," said House Majority Leader Dick Armey, Texas Republican. "I will need to see a plan before I will cast a vote. I will need to see it is necessary."

Still, Republican lawmakers generally said they favor approving a use-of-force resolution before Oct. 11, the new date for Congress to adjourn for campaigning.

"Things will have to move forward very aggressively in order for the Congress to be properly briefed and have hearings and have a debate and have a vote should one be necessary, and I presume it will be," said Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, Mississippi Republican. But Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, South Dakota Democrat, said he wants to avoid "a rush to judgment."

Mr. Daschle said a vote by the U.N. Security Council on Iraq and further congressional hearings will be "paramount in our decision-making process here in the Senate." Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., Delaware Democrat, and Sen. Richard

G. Lugar, Indiana Republican, yesterday sent a letter to Mr. Bush saying many questions remained unanswered and pushed for the Iraq matter to be handled by the United Nations.

Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barosso, who met with Mr. Bush at the White House yesterday, agreed, telling the president: "At this very moment, where there are some global threats that have to have a global answer, we should act globally."

Several nations have reported indications that the United States is ready to seek a Security Council resolution demanding a quick return of U.N. inspectors to Iraq before undertaking any military action.

But diplomats said chief weapons inspector Hans Blix warned them at a Security Council meeting yesterday that even if Saddam opened his doors unconditionally, it would take a minimum of two weeks to a month to assemble teams of inspectors and analysts and several more weeks to make the other arrangements.

"As soon as we have a green light from Iraq then we can set in motion a lot of things," Mr. Blix was quoted as saying.

"I figure he meant at least two months -- at least," said one diplomat who heard the presentation. Mr. Blix also told the council that his office had no evidence that Iraq was trying to acquire or produce new weapons of mass destruction.

The European Union and the Arab League have called on Iraq to readmit inspectors. They were joined yesterday by Saudi Arabia in demanding that the United States work through the Security Council before beginning a military campaign.

But the White House questioned the effectiveness of the United Nations as a solution.

"People around the world will reach their own conclusions about the importance of the United Nations, given the fact that the United Nations has passed many resolutions that call on Saddam Hussein to disarm, to get rid of the weapons that he has, to abandon the pursuit of the weapons of mass destruction, especially the chemical, the biological and the ballistic missiles," Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

"And that judgment is still out about whether the U.N. has done a good job in enforcing its resolutions."

Dave Boyer on Capitol Hill and Betsy Pisik in New York contributed to this report.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/default-200291112438.htm>

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Washington Times
September 11, 2002
Pg. 15

Arms Inspector Says Organizing Team For Iraq Takes 2 Months

By Betsy Pisik, The Washington Times

NEW YORK — The chief U.N. weapons inspector told the Security Council yesterday it will take as long as two months for him to get a team into Baghdad, assuming the Iraqi government extends a satisfactory invitation.

Several nations have reported indications that the United States is now ready to seek a Security Council resolution demanding a quick return of inspectors to Iraq before undertaking any military action.

But diplomats said Hans Blix warned them at a Security Council meeting yesterday that even if Saddam Hussein opened his doors unconditionally, it would take a minimum of two weeks to a month to assemble teams of inspectors and analysts.

Several more weeks would be needed to contract with laboratories, lease trucks and cars, and arrange for air transport, he said at the closed-door meeting.

"As soon as we have a green light from Iraq then we can set in motion a lot of things," Mr. Blix was quoted as saying. "Getting inspectors in takes a little while."

"I figure he meant at least two months — at least," said one diplomat who heard the presentation.

Mr. Blix, a Swedish diplomat who used to run the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria, also told the council that his office has no evidence that Iraq is trying to acquire or make new weapons of mass destruction.

"If I had solid evidence that Iraq retained weapons of mass destruction or was constructing such weapons, I would take it to the Security Council," Mr. Blix said after the meeting. "However, there are many open questions."

The U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission has on its roster 220 experts from 44 countries. But weapons inspectors have not been in Iraq since December 1998, and officials say their first priority upon returning would be to assess what remains of their own capabilities.

Mr. Blix's remarks could complicate the Bush administration's efforts to convince the world that Saddam's weapons program makes him such a threat that pre-emptive military action is required.

President Bush will address the U.N. General Assembly tomorrow in a speech that is expected to outline Iraq's violations of past council resolutions.

The European Union and the Arab League are among those groups that have called on Iraq to again admit inspectors and comply with resolutions dating from its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. But there is little international support for unilateral military action to oust Saddam.

Saudi Arabia — a pivotal U.S. ally during the Persian Gulf war — joined the European Union and many Asian nations yesterday in demanding that the United States work through the Security Council before beginning a military campaign. The remarks subtly distance the kingdom from the rest of the Arab world, which opposes military action under any circumstances.

"If there is an operation, the decision has to be taken by the United Nations," Prince Saud al-Faisal said in Paris after a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac. He had issued a similar call for a U.N. role the previous day.

In Baghdad, a senior Iraqi official urged the Arab world to "confront" U.S. interests around the world in the event of military action.

"We call on all Arabs and good people to confront the interests of the aggressors, their materials and humans wherever they are because this is a human right," said Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan during a visit to Jordan. He said an attack on Iraq is an attack on all Arabs.

In the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian territory that is largely controlled by the terrorist group Hamas, thousands of Palestinians marched in support of Baghdad and denounced Israel as a terrorist state.

This is all being watched closely at the United Nations, where more than 160 world leaders or foreign ministers have begun to arrive for a two-week annual debate that will be overshadowed by Iraq.

The threat of war against Saddam is the single most divisive issue before the 15-member council, and diplomats yesterday described the atmosphere inside the chambers as tense.

"The mood is really restrained. It's tense under the surface," said one participant. "Once someone does start to speak [about political issues], everyone will."

He said that envoys were waiting to hear Mr. Bush's speech tomorrow before taking up any additional matters, such as strengthening the demands for Baghdad's compliance with existing resolutions or issuing an ultimatum that could lead to war.

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Washington Post
September 11, 2002
Pg. 10

Reporters Given Tour Of Suspected Nuclear Facility

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran, Washington Post Foreign Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Sept. 10 -- Surrounded by fences, walls and what appear to be man-made hills, the Tuwaitha nuclear complex on the outskirts of Baghdad has withstood its share of fighting over the years.

In 1981, Israeli warplanes destroyed a reactor on the site that allegedly could have produced weapons-grade nuclear material. In 1991, during the Persian Gulf War, U.S. aircraft struck the remaining two reactors at the complex, turning several buildings into heaps of rubble. In the mid-1990s, the facility was the scene of sparring between indignant Iraqi officials and irate U.N. weapons inspectors.

Now there's more conflict here, this time the rhetorical kind, as Iraq, the United States and Britain trade accusations about Iraq's weapons programs.

Over the weekend, President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair described satellite images compiled by the International Atomic Energy Agency showing new construction at several suspected Iraqi nuclear facilities, including Tuwaitha. This, the leaders said, was evidence that President Saddam Hussein's government was trying to build a nuclear weapon.

So today, the Iraqis fired back. They took two busloads of foreign journalists to Tuwaitha, about 15 miles southeast of Baghdad, to show what was inside the buildings the IAEA had pointed to as new.

The first stop was a one-story, brown stucco building that appeared to be newly constructed. Officials said it is intended to be used to test medicines on rabbits and mice. "It's an animal house," said Faiz Al-Berkdar, director general of science policy at the Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission.

A brief walk through the building did not reveal any animals, nor was there evidence of anything remotely nuclear. "I would like to assure you that we are dealing with every kind of research except nuclear," he said. "We don't have nuclear facilities anymore. It's impossible for us to work with nuclear materials." Later, he went further, saying the Iraqi government has "no intention to build nuclear weapons."

Some foreign experts have come to different conclusions. The International Institute for Strategic Studies, an independent research group in London, issued a report today stating that developing nuclear weapons is a "core objective of the regime" and that Iraq could produce such a device "in a matter of months" if it acquired nuclear fissile material from an outside source.

Al-Berkdar and other officials said the Tuwaitha facility is now focusing on nonnuclear pharmaceutical and agricultural products. But it was not entirely clear to the journalists today what was going on in the buildings. There were always Iraqi officials around -- journalists were not permitted to wander. This correspondent was escorted away from the group for a few minutes to be shown U.N. identification tags on a chemical drying unit.

The tour was the latest example of the increased aggressivity displayed by Iraq's Information Ministry in putting its case before the several dozen foreign journalists now in Baghdad, many of them from nearby Arab countries, Japan and Europe.

On Monday, officials allowed a small group of television cameramen to accompany former U.N. arms inspector Scott Ritter as he visited Tuwaitha and Salman Pak, a facility near Baghdad that an Iraqi defector claimed was used to train terrorists. Ritter said the site, which included the shell of an aged Iraqi Airways jet, was used to teach commandos hostage-rescue techniques.

If the Iraqis are willing to let journalists visit at least a few contested sites, why not inspectors?

Al-Berkdar gave the government's stock response. "They were spying more than they were doing their jobs," he said.

Pointing to a color photocopy of the satellite image of the complex to indicate the disputed buildings he was showing off, Al-Berkdar led reporters to what he called a drug-production building and then to what by his account was an electronic drafting workshop, before finishing up inside a mushroom farm.

With a dozen television cameras rolling, one of the employees in the mushroom room decided to ham it up. He grabbed a particularly plump white one and announced: "If America doesn't believe us . . ."

Then he took a bite.

"Everything we produce in Iraq," he said, chewing, "is very delicious."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64528-2002Sep10.html>

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International Herald Tribune
September 11, 2002

Cargo Containers As Weapons

By Michael Richardson, International Herald Tribune

Officials fear terrorists could use ocean shipping to hit U.S.

SINGAPORE Last October, barely a month after the terrorist attacks on the United States, the authorities in the southern Italian port of Gioia Tauro made a discovery that alarmed international intelligence agencies and shippers. The Italian officials found a suspected Al Qaeda operative inside a cargo shipping container bound for Canada. The suspect, an Egyptian, later disappeared while on bail, and inside the container were a bed and bathroom for the journey to Halifax, as well as airport maps, security passes and an airplane mechanic's certificate.

Officials in the United States and other countries that fear they might be the targets of new, more devastating, terrorist strikes have expressed alarm that Al Qaeda or a related extremist group, or perhaps another country opposed to the United States, might be planning to use a container to smuggle a weapon of mass destruction. There is also concern that a container could be used to transport a so-called dirty bomb that uses conventional explosives to disperse deadly radioactive particles into one of their ports and detonate it.

"There is growing concern that their next attack may be via ships and shipping containers," Singapore's deputy prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, said recently.

The U.S. Customs commissioner, Robert Bonner, said, "One of the most lethal terrorist scenarios being discussed these days is the use of ocean-going container traffic as a means to smuggle terrorists and weapons of mass destruction into the United States."

He added that it was of "ever-greater concern" to the United States that international terrorists such as Al Qaeda could smuggle a crude nuclear device inside one of the more than 50,000 containers that arrive in the United States each day.

Such an attack would not only cause mass casualties, but it would also halt the flow of shipping trade to and from the United States indefinitely, causing a major disruption to the American economy and global commerce, Bonner said.

Some 90 percent of the world's cargo moves by container, and more than 200 million containers are shipped between major seaports each year.

Many U.S. industries are critically dependent on global supply chains in which containers are a key element. In 2001, the U.S. Customs Service processed more than 214,000 vessels and 5.7 million shipping containers carrying goods worth nearly \$600 billion.

The sea containers amounted to just over one-third of all cargo containers arriving in the United States. The others went by truck, rail and air.

Because of the volume, U.S. Customs officers physically inspect only about 2 percent of the containers, and only after they arrive in the United States.

In a move to improve this shield, the United States has since January sought to enlist the support of major ports around the world to tighten checks on containers with American assistance and carry out inspections of any suspect units in the foreign port, before the cargo leaves for the United States.

So far, some of the busiest ports in the world have agreed to join the U.S. program, known officially as the Container Security Initiative. The cooperating ports include the Canadian ports of Halifax, Montreal and Vancouver, Singapore, Rotterdam in the Netherlands, Antwerp in Belgium, Le Havre in France and Bremerhaven and Hamburg in Germany.

In March, the United States and Canada exchanged customs inspectors at some seaports and on Sept. 2, a team of American customs officers started work in Rotterdam port to target and screen cargo before it is shipped to the United States.

Officials said that under the program, American inspectors in Rotterdam will use U.S. Customs Service automated systems and intelligence information from a wide array of sources to identify containers that may pose a terrorist threat.

Dutch customs officers will then work with U.S. officers using American-approved equipment, including radiation detectors, gamma-ray imaging, and X-rays, to screen the containers.

The United States has also said that it will soon require all ships that want to dock in its ports to provide the U.S. Customs Service with far more detailed cargo manifests than are currently demanded, and to do so at least 24 hours before U.S.-bound containers are loaded on vessels at foreign ports.

The cargo manifest details will include vessel name and registry, originating and intermediate ports, the U.S. port of arrival, a precise description of the container's contents, and all shippers' and consignees' names and addresses.

U.S. officials said that the cooperation with Rotterdam would be a model for U.S. customs checks in other big ports. But Rotterdam and the other ports that have so far signed onto the program account for not much more than 1.7 million of the 5.7 million shipping containers reaching the United States each year. Nearly 70 percent of those containers come from 20 foreign ports identified by the United States, including those that have agreed to join the program. The nonparticipants include ports in China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Italy, Britain, Spain and Thailand.

Some foreign governments, port authorities and shippers are worried that the U.S. program will entail significant costs and delays in the movement of cargo and vessels, and involve unacceptable American interference in what they regard as their internal affairs.

Malaysia operates two of the world's 25 busiest container shipping ports, although they do not figure on the U.S. list, which is based on the volume of sea container traffic destined for the United States. Transport Minister Ling Liong Sik said that Malaysia would join the program "on condition that it will not lead to delays or congestion at the ports."

The United States has been promoting the program as a competitive advantage for ports that take part. It says that the containers it screens abroad will pass through customs more quickly once they reach the United States, while shippers will route their containers through participating ports and bypass those that stay out of the program.

Bonner said in a statement Aug. 26 that the U.S. Customs Service was talking to some other countries in Europe and Asia about joining the program.

"I expect that we will be signing agreements with several other governments covering many more of the world's major ports in the next few weeks," he said.

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Miami Herald
September 10, 2002

Answers In Anthrax Probe Still Elusive

Return to Boca a last-ditch effort

By David Kidwell

Nearly a year after the first man died from a series of anthrax-laced mailings, an army of frustrated federal sleuths has come full circle and is right back where it started -- inside the Boca Raton headquarters of the tabloid publishing giant American Media Inc.

Apparently no closer to an arrest than they were on Oct. 5 -- when Sun photo editor Bob Stevens became the first of five to die from the posted spores -- some federal sources suggest the return to Boca is the equivalent of football's Hail Mary pass, a last-ditch effort in an extensive probe some insiders now compare to the hunt for Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski.

Few hold out much hope they will find the first elusive anthrax-laced letter inside the building that once published supermarket tabloids like The National Enquirer and Weekly World News.

And, sources say, even if they get lucky and do find the missing letter, no one can predict how it might help.

"It's a fair assessment," said one senior-level federal law enforcement source familiar with the investigation. "I think many of us are resigned to the fact this could be another Unabomber case."

"The only way we may ever find this guy is if he says the wrong thing to the wrong person at the wrong time," the source said. "That could be next week. It could be eight years. It could be two decades."

Hector Pesquera, special agent in charge of the Miami FBI office, declined to comment, an office spokesman said. The investigation of the anthrax attacks has cost millions and historically, according to the FBI, it ranks second in intensity only to that of the Sept. 11 terrorist hijackings.

Refined Theory

Nearly 2,000 subpoenas have been served, hundreds of polygraphs taken, new science has been developed. Agents throughout the country have attempted to trace every single prescription to antibiotics that could be used to immunize the culprit from anthrax infection. The result: A refined theory of the type of person they are looking for and a wide list of suspects that many in federal law enforcement believe might include the name of their man.

"There is a limited list of suspects," one federal source said. "The thinking is the person could be on that list, and now it's a process of elimination."

The size of the list changes, sources say. At its smallest it was fewer than 50.

Many of the people on it live in the United States. Many are disgruntled former government employees or people who had access to anthrax in private agricultural companies or universities. They are men with some level of scientific knowledge, perhaps even capable of developing anthrax bacteria on their own.

In recent weeks, the FBI has publicly confirmed the name of one person on that list -- Dr. Steven Hatfill, a germ warfare specialist who worked at the Army's biological weapons defense lab in Fort Detrick, Md., for two years ending in 1999. He lost his security clearance two months before the attacks, in part, because of inconsistencies in his résumé.

Hatfill has voluntarily submitted to two FBI searches of his home, and has offered to give blood samples and take lie-detector tests. Since the disclosure of his name as a "person of interest" by the FBI, Hatfill has gone on the offensive.

He held a news conference last month to declare his innocence. Earlier this month, Louisiana State University fired him after the federal government told the school it would bar him from working on U.S. programs.

Sources have acknowledged they have no physical evidence to suggest Hatfill is the anthrax attacker.

But scrutiny has closely followed former employees of two military facilities where the particular strain of anthrax, the Ames strain, was stored and researched -- Fort Detrick and the Dugway Proving Grounds in the Utah desert.

Bearing Similarities

The type of anthrax powder mailed to U.S. Sens. Patrick Leahy and Tom Daschle last fall bears remarkable similarities to anthrax developed and stored in those facilities. But some within the academic community say the

minute biological differences between the anthrax mailings and the military anthrax open a world of different possibilities.

"I don't think it's possible to say beyond a doubt that this anthrax came from those facilities," said Dr. Martin Hugh-Jones, a leading anthrax expert at LSU in Baton Rouge.

Federal authorities also base their prevailing theory that the attacker is domestic on their extensive and failed effort to link it to foreign bio-warfare research. There is no evidence that Iraq, or any other country considered hostile, ever obtained the Ames strain, government sources have told The New York Times.

Looking For Letter

Late last month, the FBI announced its intentions to reenter the AMI headquarters in Boca Raton to once again look for the letter or letters that caused the death of Stevens and the near-death of his colleague, mailroom employee Ernesto Blanco.

Federal authorities theorize that because no anthrax spores were found in garbage receptacles that led out of the building, there is a strong likelihood it remains in the building, although, so far, the searches have yielded no smoking gun.

It is only by happenstance that federal authorities are able to conduct the search. The government released the building back to AMI last year with the proviso that it not be occupied until a thorough clean up approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

AMI executives have been trying to get rid of the building ever since, said company spokesman Gerald McKelvey. He said AMI was unable to find a private company willing or qualified for such a cleanup.

Hugh-Jones said he is not encouraged by the FBI's refocus on AMI after more than 10 months.

"Let me put it this way," the scientist said. "Twenty years from now somebody is going to write a book that says their uncle said something about anthrax just before he shot himself in the head."

"And that is how we are going to solve the anthrax mystery."

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miami/news/4039626.htm>

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U.S. Missions in Europe Get White Powder Letters

September 11, 2002 11:50 AM ET

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. embassies or consulates in Germany, Denmark, Italy and Luxembourg received letters containing white powder on Wednesday, sparking fears of a fresh anthrax attack, a State Department official told Reuters.

"Unidentified white powder was received in local mail deliveries," the official said, citing official information received from the embassies in Copenhagen, Luxembourg and Rome and consulates in Duesseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Leipzig and Munich.

"In each case when the white powder was discovered by mission employees, staff notified local authorities who responded immediately and are now evaluating the substance," he said.

http://www.reuters.com/news_article.jhtml?type=topnews&StoryID=1437292

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Posted on Wed, Sep. 11, 2002

'Radiation' ship ordered back to sea

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWARK, N.J. - A ship detained after traces of radioactivity were detected in its cargo was temporarily ordered back to sea, the U.S. Coast Guard said Wednesday.

The Liberian-flagged container ship, the M/V Palermo Senator, was ordered to stay in a security zone six miles offshore while the inspection continues.

The ship was directed to Berth 92 at the Port Newark/Elizabeth Marine Terminal after a Coast Guard team boarded the vessel Tuesday. Team members heard suspicious sounds in several of the ship's cargo holds, but they could not determine their source.

While no evidence of stowaways was found, they determined that the ship's cargo posed a potential risk to public safety.

Officials would not provide any details about the cargo.

Capt. Craig Bone, the Coast Guard's top official at the port, said in a statement that the boat will remain offshore "until the condition of its cargo can be ascertained and safely offloaded."
<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/nation/4051593.htm>

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New York Times
September 12, 2002
Pg. 1

Bush To Warn U.N.: Act On Iraq Or U.S. Will

By David E. Sanger and Julia Preston

President Bush plans to challenge the United Nations today to enforce resolutions it has passed since 1991 requiring Iraq to "unconditionally accept" the destruction of its chemical and biological weapons and nuclear research facilities, according to administration officials. He will warn that if the United Nations fails to act, the United States will step in to force Iraqi compliance.

Putting muscle behind Mr. Bush's warning, the Pentagon announced that it was preparing to send 600 military staff members from its Central Command headquarters in Florida — which has responsibility for the Middle East — to the gulf state of Qatar in November. While the move will be characterized as a temporary exercise, it could well become permanent and will put a vanguard of American commanders, the core of a battle staff, on Saddam Hussein's doorstep.

Secretary General Kofi Annan of the United Nations will strike a markedly different tone from that of Mr. Bush, arguing in a pointed speech just before the president's that the United States must act through the United Nations to confront Iraq.

Mr. Annan's office took the unusual step of releasing his remarks last night to underscore his caution that there is "no substitute for the unique legitimacy provided by the United Nations."

The fast-developing confrontation over Iraq hung over a a somber but restorative day of national mourning and commemoration.

Moving between the three sites of last year's terrorist attacks, Mr. Bush consoled survivors in Washington, fought back tears at the Pennsylvania crash site of United Flight 93, and spent two hours in the pit that was once the foundation of the World Trade Center, hugging the families of some of the thousands who died.

Tonight, emotionally drained from the somberness of the day, Mr. Bush spoke to the nation from Ellis Island, saying he had "no intention of ignoring or appeasing history's latest gang of fanatics."

"In the ruins of two towers, under a flag unfurled at the Pentagon, at the funerals of the lost, we have made a sacred promise to ourselves and to the world: We will not relent until justice is done, and our nation is secure. What our enemies have begun, we will finish," he said.

But his United Nations speech this morning is expected to move beyond commemoration to the next phase of his battle against terrorism — a phase in which he plans to turn his attention to what he is expected to term a "decade of defiance."

Heeding the call of allies that he must operate through the United Nations, aides familiar with the speech said Mr. Bush planned to put the onus on Mr. Hussein and the United Nations itself — and to portray the United States as a reluctant sheriff that will step in only as a last resort.

One senior administration official who has been giving advance warning of the message to governments around the world said Mr. Bush "won't set any deadlines," nor will he propose a specific course of action. But just as the president told Congress last Sept. 20 that he was not willing to wait very long for the Taliban to turn over Osama bin Laden, the official said, "he's not willing to wait very long for Saddam to allow the destruction of his weapons."

Mr. Bush has been drafting and re-drafting the speech for weeks, searching for a balance between American support for the authority of the United Nations and an American warning that the organization's legitimacy is at stake.

According to officials who have reviewed the drafts or summarized them for foreign leaders, Mr. Bush will make it clear that he does not plan to allow the United Nations much time to enforce 16 resolutions that have been allowed to lapse.

"The message is pretty simple," the senior official said. "The U.N. is at a crossroads. We have plenty of resolutions about Iraq. Now we have to choose whether the U.N. exists to pass resolutions or make them stick."

Privately, administration officials are talking about starting up inspections in three to four weeks, after the president of France, Jacques Chirac, mentioned a three-week timetable in an interview with The New York Times.

Richard L. Armitage, the deputy secretary of state, told a conference in Washington on Tuesday that Mr. Chirac's statements had been "noted" in the State Department because they indicated that European leaders were coalescing around the thought that Mr. Hussein's actions could no longer be tolerated.

Mr. Bush does not plan to talk about restarting inspections; his references in the speech focus on inspections Mr. Hussein has blocked, and on the forced withdrawal of United Nations inspectors three and a half years ago. But he leaves the door open to a final inspection effort — as long as it is intended to lead to the immediate dismantlement of all weapons of mass destruction.

His message, one aide said, will be that "the only thing he won't abide is inaction."

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell previewed the speech today in meetings at the United Nations with the foreign ministers of Russia, China and Britain. He also met Joschka Fischer, the foreign minister of Germany, the ally most outspoken in opposing expanding the war to Iraq.

According to the text of his remarks, Mr. Annan, using carefully general terms, shares the misgivings of the Germans and others about the United States' acting on its own on Iraq.

Even for a major power, "choosing to follow or reject the multilateral path must not be a simple matter of political convenience," he says.

He adds that "when states decide to use force to deal with broader threats to international peace and security, there is no substitute for the unique legitimacy provided by the United Nations." The "primary criterion for putting an issue on the Council's agenda" should be "the existence of a grave threat to world peace," he says.

At one point Mr. Annan presents the issue in personal terms.

"I stand before you today as a multilateralist," he says early in his comments, "by precedent, by principle, by charter and by duty."

While the White House has kept tight control over Mr. Bush's speech — which was written partly by Karen Hughes, his former counselor, who was seen traveling with him today — the United Nations departed from custom in releasing the advance text.

Mr. Annan's aides said they feared that his comments would be lost as the focus turned today to Mr. Bush's efforts to rally support for a campaign against the Iraqi leader.

While implicitly cautioning the United States, Mr. Annan will also chastise Baghdad for defying United Nations resolutions. He will warn that if its violations continue, the Security Council will have to act to enforce them.

"The leadership of Iraq continues to defy" mandatory Security Council resolutions, Mr. Annan will say. He urges Iraq to comply and appeals to other nations to pressure Baghdad to accept the return of the weapons inspectors, calling this "an indispensable first step towards assuring the world that all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have been eliminated."

His aides say he regards the address as one of the most important he will make as secretary general. He will open the session and President Bush will follow 15 minutes later. Then 22 other government leaders are scheduled to address the General Assembly on the first day of its annual fall debate.

United Nations officials acknowledged that it was unusual for a secretary general to address himself in such clear counterpoint to a speech from an American president here. Mr. Annan's aides sent a copy of the text to President Bush today.

The secretary general's comments echo keenly felt frustrations at the United Nations that the Bush administration has gone its own way on global issues ranging from climate change to the international war crimes court.

But he warns, "If Iraq's defiance continues, the Security Council must face its responsibilities."

United Nations officials said Mr. Annan felt confident that his relations with Washington were warm enough that President Bush would not object to his speech. The president called Mr. Annan earlier this week to discuss Iraq, officials said.

However, Mr. Annan strongly hopes to avoid American-led military action against Iraq, which he fears could destabilize the Middle East, United Nations officials said.

In London, Prime Minister Tony Blair bowed to critics in his Labor Party and agreed to recall Parliament from its summer recess to debate his hard-line stance on Iraq. Parliament is not due back in session till Oct. 15, but Mr. Blair said today that he would schedule a special one-day debate during the week of Sept. 23. He did not, however, accede to his critics' request that there be a binding vote on the issue.

Mr. Blair's spokesman said Downing Street would have made public a long-promised dossier on Iraqi arms buildup by then. The release of the document has been delayed while the British government works out how to produce convincing evidence of the threat from Iraq without compromising sources.

Mr. Blair has been Mr. Bush's staunchest supporter in the campaign against Saddam Hussein. However, opinion surveys in Britain show that he faces opposition from majorities of the public at large, the trade union movement and the Labor members of Parliament.

On Tuesday, Mr. Blair faced down his critics at the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool, pledging that no military action would be taken without United Nations consideration and full debate in Parliament. But, sticking to his tough line, he said, "Let it be clear there can be no more conditions, no more games, no more prevaricating, no more undermining of the U.N.'s authority." And he warned, "Let it be clear that should the will of United Nations be ignored, action will follow."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/09/12/international/middleeast/12IRAQ.html>

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Bloomberg.com
September 11, 2002

Iraq's Immediate Threat Is Biological Weapons, Pentagon Says

By Tony Capaccio

Washington -- Iraq's immediate threat to the U.S. is its biological weapons and its ties to rogue states and terrorist groups bent on obtaining weapons of mass destruction, the Pentagon says.

An unclassified version of talking points Pentagon officials are using to brief members of Congress downplays Iraq's nuclear threat: Iraq retains nuclear scientists and "probably" some dual-use manufacturing plants; a "key impediment" is obtaining the fissile material necessary to making a nuclear bomb, it says.

President George W. Bush is seeking support at home and abroad for an effort to disarm Iraq and oust President Saddam Hussein. Bush plans to make his case in a speech to the United Nations tomorrow. Vice President Richard Cheney and other administration officials stressed Sunday the U.S. can no longer ignore the threat posed by Iraq's efforts to build a nuclear bomb.

The Pentagon assessment gives more weight to Iraq's "active and capable biological weapons program" and its "knowledge base and industrial infrastructure for quick, large-scale production."

"That suggests to me the Pentagon may have intelligence that Iraq is right now producing" biological weapons, says Kenneth Katzman, a terrorism and military expert for the Congressional Research Service.

"The intelligence community has said Iraq is building facilities that 'could be used' for chemical or biological warfare. This seems to imply that Iraq is producing" biological weapons, he said.

Iraq in 1995 admitted that it had produced about 30,000 liters of biological agents such as anthrax, botulinum toxins and aflatoxins. Iraq also said that during the 1991 Persian Gulf War it deployed and didn't use bombs and missiles with biological warheads. Iraq said it destroyed all these weapons and stocks.

'A Step Back'

The Pentagon's talking points are distilled from its most recent classified assessment of worldwide trends in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The assessment "doesn't in and of itself suggest that's there is an imminent nuclear threat," Katzman said. "I took it in some ways as a step back."

"My assessment is that Iraq is not significantly closer to a nuclear weapon than it was several years ago," Katzman said. "Most of what the administration has put out has suggested a five-year time frame. The only administration comment I've heard differing from that is the vice president's in his recent speeches."

Cheney in an August 26 speech cited Iraq's nuclear arms program as a primary justification for a regime change. Cheney warned that Iraq would "fairly soon" have nuclear weapons.

The Pentagon in a January 2001 primer on proliferation said Iraq "would need five or more years and key foreign assistance to rebuild the infrastructure to enrich enough material for a nuclear weapon."

Iran's Nuclear Potential

The Pentagon's August assessment raises more concern over Iran's nuclear program, saying Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant built with Russian assistance "can serve as a cover for clandestine activities."

Iran doesn't need the Bushehr plant to produce nuclear power for domestic consumption because it is "flaring off six times as much natural gas as any other country and wasting three times more energy than the Bushehr nuclear plant will produce."

Iran is seeking to build uranium conversion facilities that "could be used in any number of ways to support fissile material production," the Pentagon says.

Link to Terrorists

The Pentagon emphasizes the dangers posed by alliances between Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Sudan and North Korea and with terrorist groups intent on obtaining weapons of mass destruction.

"The potential is there" for a terrorist group to receive weapons of mass destruction from a state, Senator Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, told Bloomberg News. "It's something you have to be worried about. Any state that is caught doing that is in the same position as if they used it themselves. They take huge risk in doing that."

"With Iran it's a very strong link: They sponsor terrorist groups," said Levin, a Michigan Democrat, who has received the Pentagon's classified briefing. "With Iraq, the case hasn't yet been made about specific sponsorship." Iran is listed as supporting seven organizations the State Department labels as terrorist groups, including Hezbollah, Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, or PFLP.

The Pentagon says Iraq supports five organizations: the PFLP; Palestine Liberation Front; Kurdistan Workers Party; Mujahadeen al- Khalq, an anti-Iran group; and, the Abu Nidal organization. Abu Nidal, one of the world's most sought-after terrorists, was found dead last month in Baghdad; authorities there said he committed suicide.

Neither Iraq nor Iran is listed as supporting the al-Qaeda terrorist network, which is blamed for the attacks a year ago on the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

'Dangerous Connections'

Still, the Pentagon says al-Qaeda has trained in the "development and small-scale use of biological toxins" that could be used to contaminate food and water, released by aerosols into the air, or delivered by rockets and mortars.

Listed under a category called "Dangerous Connections" was "al-Qaeda links to Pakistani nuclear scientists."

"The Pentagon is attempting to highlight how often terrorism groups have tried to use chemical and biological weapons," Katzman said. "That's something people wouldn't necessarily think of. It's an attempt to show this is not out of the ordinary but habitual."

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New York Times
September 12, 2002

The Terms Of The Debate: What Iraq Has Promised The U.N. On Disarmament

Following are the main provisions of the United Nations Security Council 1991 resolutions on Iraq:

Resolution 687

Adopted 3 April 1991

The Security Council, . . .

CONSCIOUS also of the statements by Iraq threatening to use weapons in violation of its obligations under the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, and of its prior use of chemical weapons, and affirming that grave consequences would follow any further use by Iraq of such weapons, . . .

RECALLING also that Iraq has signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, of 10 April 1972, . . .

AWARE of the use by Iraq of ballistic missiles in unprovoked attacks and therefore of the need to take specific measures in regard to such missiles located in Iraq,

CONCERNED by the reports in the hands of member states that Iraq has attempted to acquire materials for a nuclear-weapons program contrary to its obligations under the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1 July 1968, . . .

8. DECIDES that Iraq shall unconditionally accept the destruction, removal, or rendering harmless, under international supervision, of:

(a) All chemical and biological weapons and all stocks of agents and all related subsystems and components and all research, development, support and manufacturing facilities related thereto;

(b) All ballistic missiles within range greater than 150 kilometers, and related major parts and repair and production facilities; . . .

(a) Iraq shall submit to the secretary general, within 15 days of the adoption of the present resolution, a declaration on the locations, amounts and types of all items specified in Paragraph 8 and agree to urgent, on-site inspection as specified below:

(b) The secretary general . . . shall develop and submit to the Council for approval a plan calling for the completion of the following acts within 45 days of such approval:

(i) The forming of a Special Commission which shall carry out immediate on-site inspection of Iraq's biological, chemical and missile capabilities, based on Iraq's declarations and the designation of any additional locations by the Special Commission itself;

(ii) The yielding by Iraq of possession to the Special Commission for destruction, removal or rendering harmless, taking into account the requirements of public safety of all items specified . . . ;

(iii) The provision by the Special Commission to the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency of the assistance and cooperation required in Paragraphs 12 and 13;

10. DECIDES further that Iraq shall unconditionally undertake not to use, develop, construct or acquire any of the items specified in Paragraphs 8 and 9, and requests the secretary general, in consultation with the Special Commission, to develop a plan for the future ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with the present paragraph; . . .

12. DECIDES that Iraq shall unconditionally agree not to acquire or develop nuclear weapons or nuclear-weapon-usable material or any subsystems or components or any research, development, support or manufacturing facilities related to the above; to submit to the secretary general and the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency within 15 days of the adoption of the present resolution a declaration of the locations, amounts and types of all items specified above; to place all of its nuclear-weapon-usable materials under the exclusive control, for custody and removal, of the agency, with the assistance and cooperation of the Special Commission as provided for in the plan of the secretary general discussed in Paragraph 9 (b): to accept, in accordance with the arrangements provided for in Paragraph 13, urgent on-site inspection and the destruction, removal or rendering harmless as appropriate of all items specified above; and to accept the plan discussed in Paragraph 13 for the future ongoing monitoring and verification of its compliance with these undertakings;

13. REQUESTS the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, through the secretary general and with the assistance and cooperation of the Special Commission as provided for in the plan of the secretary general referred to in Paragraph 9 (b), to carry out immediate on-site inspection of Iraq's nuclear capabilities based on Iraq's declarations and the designation of any additional locations by the Special Commission to develop a plan for submission to the Council within 45 days calling for the destruction, removal or rendering harmless as appropriate of all items listed in Paragraph 12; to carry out the plan within forty-five days following approval by the Council and to develop a plan, taking into account the rights and obligations of Iraq under the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, for the future ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with Paragraph 12; . . .

Resolution 707

Adopted 15 April 1991

The Security Council . . .

3. DEMANDS that Iraq

(i) provide full, final and complete disclosure, as required by resolution 687 (1991), of all aspects of its programs to develop weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometers, and of all holdings of such weapons, their components and production facilities and locations, as well as all other nuclear programs, including any which it claims are for purposes not related to nuclear-weapons-usable material, without further delay;

(ii) allow the Special Commission, the I.A.E.A. (International Atomic Energy Agency) and their inspection teams immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to any and all areas, facilities, equipment, records and means of transportation which they wish to inspect;

(iii) cease immediately any attempt to conceal, or any movement or destruction of any material or equipment relating to its nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or ballistic missile programs, or material or equipment relating to its other nuclear activities without notification to and prior consent of the Special Commission;

(iv) make available immediately to the Special Commission, the I.A.E.A. and their inspection teams any items to which they were previously denied access;

(v) allow the Special Commission, the I.A.E.A. and their inspection teams to conduct both fixed wing and helicopter flights throughout Iraq for all relevant purposes including inspection, surveillance, aerial surveys, transportation and logistics without interference of any kind and upon such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Special Commission, and to make full use of their own aircraft and such airfields in Iraq as they may determine are most appropriate for the work of the commission;

(vi) halt all nuclear activities of any kind, except for use of isotopes for medical, agricultural or industrial purposes until the Security Council determines that Iraq is in full compliance with this resolution and Paragraphs 12 and 13 of

Resolution 687 (1991), and the I.A.E.A. determines that Iraq is in full compliance with its safeguards agreement with that agency;

(vii) ensure the complete implementation of the privileges, immunities and facilities of the representatives of the Special Commission and the I.A.E.A. in accordance with its previous undertakings and their complete safety and freedom of movement;

(viii) immediately provide or facilitate the provision of any transportation, medical or logistical support requested by the Special Commission, the I.A.E.A. and their inspection teams;

(ix) respond fully, completely and promptly to any questions or requests from the Special Commission, the I.A.E.A. and their inspection teams;

4. DETERMINES that Iraq retains no ownership interest in items to be destroyed, removed or rendered harmless pursuant to Paragraph 12 of resolution 687 (1991);

5. REQUIRES that the government of Iraq forthwith comply fully and without delay with all its international obligations, including those set out in the present resolution, in Resolution 687 (1991), in the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1 July 1968 and its safeguards agreement with the I.A.E.A.; . . .

Resolution 715

Adopted 11 October 1991

The Security Council . . .

4. DECIDES that the Special Commission, in the exercise of its responsibilities as a subsidiary organ of the Security Council, shall;

(a) Continue to have the responsibility for designating additional locations for inspection and overflights;

(b) Continue to render assistance and cooperation to the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency by providing him by mutual agreement with the necessary special expertise and logistical, informational and other operational support for the carrying out of the plan submitted by him;

(c) Perform such other functions, in cooperation in the nuclear field with the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, as may be necessary to coordinate activities under the plans approved by the present resolution; . . .

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/09/12/international/middleeast/12UBOX.html>

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Inside The Pentagon

September 12, 2002

Pg. 1

Experts: DOD Vaccine Program Limited By Organization, Not Science

The Defense Department's ability to acquire and keep available sufficient amounts of vaccines to protect troops is hindered more by organizational fragmentation than science, a committee of experts concluded last week.

"This committee strongly believes that a full-fledged reorganization of DOD's priority-setting and vaccine acquisition processes will be required if the department is to fulfill its pledge to protect U.S. warfighters against vaccine-preventable infectious disease," asserts the group in a Sept. 6 report.

The Institute of Medicine formed the committee in April 2000 to advise U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) on the management of its vaccine research programs. The institute is an arm of the National Academies of Science. USAMRMC is responsible for developing solutions to medical problems facing U.S. forces. The study focused on how the Army's Military Infectious Diseases Research program has performed in making new vaccines available.

The program's "major limitations" relate to inadequate funding as well as problems in its organization and management, the committee concluded. The technology base and research efforts in DOD are also narrower than they used to be, adding to the experts. The technology base is a matter of "national concern," at the heart of DOD's ability to meet its force protection requirements, and its decline "must be reversed through a sustained commitment of budget and personnel," states the report.

Committee members included individuals with experience in pharmaceutical research, development and production. All members were required to be retired from the industry to minimize conflicts of interest; however, three own

"significant stock" and options in pharmaceutical companies that manufacture vaccines, according to the report. Their expertise was nevertheless considered "invaluable."

A DOD distinction between vaccines for naturally occurring diseases like Yellow Fever and vaccines for weaponized biological agents is scientifically and organizationally "unsound," the committee said. The challenges of the two efforts are similar, experts said. The group recommends consolidating infrastructure, personnel and funding for both areas under a single authority.

The committee made recommendations in four broad acquisition areas: organization, authority, and responsibility; program and budget; manufacturing; and regulatory status of special-use vaccines.

The report advises that DOD centralize all vaccine acquisition under a single authority responsible for the entire process -- "from potential threat definition through research and development, clinical trials, licensure, manufacture, procurement, and continued maintenance of manufacturing practice standards and regulatory compliance." DOD should also create a senior advisory board to regularly assess program goals and achievements.

In addition to a bigger budget, and better ties to other public and private entities involved in vaccine research and production, DOD should work toward manufacturing agreements that ensure steady production over the long term, including "predictable volumes and prices," and seek a "new paradigm for the regulation of special-use vaccines" still labeled "investigational new drug" (IND), the committee recommends. USAMRMC manages 14 vaccines under its Special Immunization Program, which inoculates laboratory workers and others whose professions put them at increased risk of exposure to disease. Nine of the 14 vaccines remain unlicensed and available only in IND status, making their long-term availability uncertain, according to the report.

This list includes Eastern equine encephalitis vaccine; Q fever vaccine; and Rift Valley fever vaccine. Licensed vaccines used by the program include Anthrax Adsorbed, Hepatitis B, Rabies and Yellow Fever.

-- Catherine MacRae

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

Christian Science Monitor

September 12, 2002

Nuclear Plants 'Unready' For Attack

Despite tightened security, a new study shows vast gaps in training, tools, and staff.

By Peter N. Spotts, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Since last September's terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the US nuclear industry has undergone the most intensive security crackdown in its history.

But significant chinks in the armor remain.

Security guards at several commercial facilities complain that they are undertrained: In some cases, training exercises consist of little more than facing mock adversaries with rubber guns and whistles. Some security personnel say they practice with weapons once a year for two or three hours to requalify. Few have experience shooting at moving targets. Others admit that they are uncertain whether they can use deadly force to prevent an attack, because deadly-force rules and permissible-weapons regulations are set at the state level.

And, unlike federal nuclear facilities, no commercial plant has undergone mock attacks designed to field test security improvements in more than a year.

Compounding the problem: Guards at several plants say they're underpaid and driven to exhausting amounts of overtime by plant owners unwilling to hire extra security personnel.

These concerns are highlighted in a study released Thursday by the Project on Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog group in Washington. It concludes that, given the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the potential threat nuclear plants are faced with is far greater than the one they are presently prepared for.

"If you equate the Department of Energy to the NFL" on nuclear security preparations, many of the plants in the study "are junior high school," says Peter Stockton, an author of the report, who was a special assistant for nuclear security under former Energy Secretary Bill Richardson.

The results suggest that a significant number of plants "have done the least amount required to protect the American public from a suicidal terrorist attack" on a plant, says Danielle Brian, executive director of the group.

Hiring more personnel

But the industry hasn't been idle. It has spent millions on security. In addition, 1,000 security officers have been added to 103 reactors nationwide, bringing the total to around 6,000, according to Steve Kerekes of the Nuclear Energy Institute, which represents nuclear facilities.

Indeed, the problems the report cites are not universal, Mr. Stockton acknowledges. The scope of the report is limited: Twenty-two guards from 24 commercial reactors at 13 sites across the country, including a member of the National Guard protecting one plant, stepped forward to share their concerns. They were prompted to speak out following the publication of a report by the Project by Government Oversight in October that dealt with security concerns at Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear facilities.

A top concern for many guards in this new report is that they fear they lack the firepower to deal with terrorists armed with automatic weapons or sniper rifles. Indeed, in some states, they would not be allowed to use deadly force against someone planting explosives. And many states prohibit the use of automatic weapons on site.

All too often, Stockton says, training exercises degenerate into arguments over who did and didn't get hit, because they don't train with the high-tech laser-tag equipment used by DOE security personnel in training exercises.

Last line of defense

The effectiveness of a nuclear plant's security is crucial: All too often, exercises have shown that attacks end – one way or the other – before outside help arrives. That realization led Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to reconstitute an in-house SWAT team it had disbanded for budget reasons.

"We found at least two sites that have ramped up security significantly. They've tripled their guard forces," Stockton says. The key differences in these instances are plant managers that have hired highly qualified staff – people with backgrounds in the Special Forces, "not just former bomber pilots."

Community concerns

The report's release comes at a time of heightened interest in nuclear-plant security.

On Monday night, legislators in New York's Westchester County unanimously backed a resolution asking that the reactors at the Indian Point nuclear power plant along the Hudson River north of New York City be shut down, citing fears of terrorist attacks. There is also activity on Capitol Hill – driven in no small part by President Bush's acknowledgment last January that US forces in Afghanistan had uncovered Al Qaeda documents highlighting potential targets in the US, including nuclear plants.

A bipartisan bill before the Senate, sponsored by Harry Reid (D) of Nevada, would require that the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission set hiring and training standards for plant security staff. The measure would also mandate that a federal security coordinator be posted at each plant. Additionally, it calls for the use of deadly force against intruders at all plants, as well as allowing the use of automatic weapons by nuclear-plant security officers.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/0912/p02s02-usmi.htm>

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Nuclear Power Plant Security: Voices from Inside the Fences

September 12, 2002

<http://www.pogo.org/p/environment/eo-020901-nukepower.html>

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