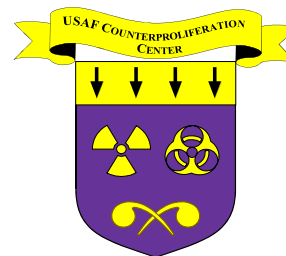


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USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL



Air University

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Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Welcome to the CPC Outreach Journal. As part of USAF Counterproliferation Center's mission to counter weapons of mass destruction through education and research, we're providing our government and civilian community a source for timely counterproliferation information. This information includes articles, papers and other documents addressing issues pertinent to US military response options for dealing with nuclear, biological and chemical threats and attacks. It's our hope this information resource will help enhance your counterproliferation issue awareness.

Established here at the Air War College in 1998, the USAF/CPC provides education and research to present and future leaders of the Air Force, as well as to members of other branches of the armed services and Department of Defense. Our purpose is to help those agencies better prepare to counter the threat from weapons of mass destruction. Please feel free to visit our web site at www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/awc-cps.htm for in-depth information and specific points of contact. Please direct any questions or comments on CPC Outreach Journal to Ann Eddy, CPC Outreach Editor, at (334) 953-7538 or DSN 493-7538. To subscribe, change e-mail address, or unsubscribe to this journal or to request inclusion on the mailing list for CPC publications, please contact Mrs. Eddy. The following articles, papers or documents do not necessarily reflect official endorsement of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense, or other US government agencies. Reproduction for private use or commercial gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. All rights are reserved

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Friday, 4 October, 2002, 10:02 GMT 11:02 UK

Doctors warn of bioterrorism risks

Doctors are warning about the dangers of bioterror attacks.

At a meeting of the World Medical Association in Washington, US, they are warning that health officials need to be on their guard against such an attack - and say terrorists could get hold of biological weapons quite easily.

Professor Donald Henderson, senior advisor on bioterrorism to the US government, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "At the top of the list is smallpox, followed by anthrax, by plague, by botulinum toxin that produces paralysis.

"Getting hold of anthrax organisms is not all that difficult because there are such cases occurring amongst animals in many parts of the world every year.

"Getting hold of smallpox would be much more difficult.

"But we know that there are many people who were formerly scientists in the Soviet Union who are now out of work and many of these people left their laboratories, and they can bring with them a great deal of sophistication to a dissident group or a state to produce these."

'Web of deterrence'

Dr Vivienne Nathanson, Head of Ethics and Science at the British Medical Association, said experts had estimated it could cost just \$1m to buy the equipment needed to make weapons grade material.

She called for closer checks on scientific research.

"Scientists know who's capable of doing this.

"They should be watching who's got the equipment, who's got the machinery, who's doing something they're not publishing, they're not talking about.

"We need what people call a web of deterrence.

"We need every country to have a law that says anyone working on this is guilty of a serious criminal act and that they are liable, therefore, for very long periods in prison."

She warned a bioterrorism attack could claim more lives than last year's attacks on the United States."

"We know the hijackers on the 11 September were prepared to fly their planes into the towers and die.

"If instead they had infected themselves with something like smallpox and walked around a busy airport or station, the chances are they would have killed millions, not the thousands tragically killed on 11 September."

Detection

Doctors say that dealing with a bioterrorism attack would need the same systems as any other infectious disease - and early detection would be the key to minimising its impact.

Professor Brian Duerden, director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, which covers England and Wales, said like other major countries, the UK could be the target of a bioterrorism attack.

But he said: "What you have to have is systems in place to detect any such attempt at the earliest possible opportunity.

"And that needs the same activities that you have to have in place for any communicable diseases - whether that is the next flu epidemic major food poisoning outbreaks, or the legionella outbreaks we saw a few weeks ago."

He said plans to cope with bioterrorism attacks were in place before last autumn, but these were improved and made more publicly available.

Professor Duerden said he did not see the need for a "web of deterrence".

But he added: "What is important is to ensure that people coming for training in Western countries are of an appropriate background and that you're not risking taking people on who want to use the knowledge that they gain in this sort of way."

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/2298573.stm>

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Biotechnology could lead to deadlier bioweapons

By STEVE MITCHELL, UPI MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (UPI) - Although the biotechnology revolution will lead to new treatments for disease, that same technology could be used by terrorists to produce deadlier biological weapons, a biotech expert said Thursday at a World Medical Association meeting on bioterrorism.

Techniques for working with DNA and manipulating genes aimed at treating or understanding disease could be used to modify organisms such as smallpox and anthrax so they are more virulent or resistant to vaccines and antibiotics, said George Poste, chief executive officer of Health Technology Networks of Gilbertsville, Pa., a consulting firm specializing in the impact of biotechnology on healthcare. The technology is "giving raise to entirely new weapons systems," he said.

Poste also said miniature devices being developed to monitor or treat disease within the body - such as tiny robots that could patrol blood vessels - could be used to "maim or kill" people. "This technology will emerge to have sinister importance," he said.

Because such technology is becoming cheaper and more accessible, it will be difficult for intelligence agencies to detect groups or individuals developing devices for nefarious intentions, he said.

D.A. Henderson, principal science adviser to the secretary for the office of public health preparedness, had a similar perspective, noting that biological weapons require only a minimum of equipment and people. This makes it difficult "to know what countries are doing," he said. Because of this and their potential to infect up to hundreds of thousands of people, biological weapons are some of the most feared weapons of mass destruction, he said.

Poste noted biotechnology "will assume an increased importance in national security." This requires scientists and physicians to play a greater role in policy decisions and the debate over how to counter these emerging threats, he told United Press International.

Henderson agreed, saying although physicists with nuclear expertise have played a role in developing national security policies, there are few biologists or physicians involved at this level. "It's important that they play a much larger role," he said.

However, Henderson told UPI federal public health officials do not consider the devious use of emerging biotechnology an urgent threat. "We feel that it is difficult, not easy" to make modifications that result in deadlier biological agents, he said. Any modification to an organism often "has unintended consequences that occur with it" and it is difficult to predict what these might be, he said.

Poste disagreed it would be difficult to modify biological agents to make them deadlier. Manipulating smallpox to evade a vaccine, for example, is "relatively straightforward" and "could be done now," he said.

Even if the threat of new biological weapons is not deemed imminent, it is important to discuss how to handle or prevent this before it becomes commonplace, Poste said. "Closing the barn door after the horse has already left" is futile, he said.

Henderson said the current concern of the government is being prepared to deal with the known threats such as the naturally occurring strains of smallpox and anthrax. At the same time, the National Institutes of Health is conducting the basic research that will entail a better understanding of how the organisms could be manipulated and how to develop effective treatments for modified germs, he said.

On a related note, the Department of Health and Human Services announced Thursday it has awarded more than \$22 million to two biotech companies to develop a new anthrax vaccine that is safer and requires less shots than the existing vaccine.

"These awards represent the first step toward our goal of securing an initial 25 million doses of an improved anthrax vaccine for our emergency stockpile," HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson said in a written statement.

Avecia, of Manchester, United Kingdom, and VaxGen Inc., of Brisbane, Calif., will be charged with testing the vaccine in animals and humans and applying for licensure from the Food and Drug Administration.

<http://newsobserver.com/24hour/science/story/561392p-4418446c.html>

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New York Times
October 4, 2002

Leaders Of U.N. Inspection Teams Agree To Delay Their Return To Iraq

By Julia Preston

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 3 — The leaders of United Nations weapons inspections teams, responding to intense pressure from the United States and Britain, said today that they would delay their return to Iraq until the Security Council gives them new instructions to guide their work.

In a closed meeting with the weapons experts, the 15 nations who sit on the Council moved significantly toward agreement that they should toughen the rules governing the inspections, diplomats said. But even as President Bush warned again, in strong terms, that he would take military action to disarm Iraq if the United Nations did not, the Council came no closer to accord on a strong resolution including an authorization of military force.

"The choice is up to the United Nations to show its resolve," Mr. Bush said in remarks to Hispanic leaders in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington. "The choice is up to Saddam Hussein to fulfill his word. And if neither of them acts, the United States, in deliberate fashion, will lead a coalition to take away the world's worst weapons from one of the world's worst leaders."

The Bush administration, with its full-court press in Washington and world capitals, appeared to have made headway toward persuading the skeptical Council to adopt a new measure requiring Iraq to accept far more intrusive inspections that would include the palaces of the Iraqi president.

But France and Russia, two veto-bearing Council members, dug in their heels against giving the United States and its ally Britain blanket permission in an initial resolution to launch a strike to topple Mr. Hussein.

The Council today heard from Hans Blix, the head of the biological and chemical weapons inspection team based here, and Mohammed el-Baradei, the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, on their meetings in Vienna this week with Iraqi officials.

"It would be awkward if we were doing inspections and then a new mandate with changed directives were to arise," Mr. Blix said after the Council session. Asked if he is planning to delay the teams' departure beyond Oct. 19, the date Iraq has offered, he said, "If the Council puts some new suggestions or directives to us, of course we are in their hands."

Diplomats said Mr. Blix, a seasoned diplomat and veteran arms inspector, had made a practical decision to hold off his trip as he saw how intense the negotiations over the inspections have become.

"We have not purchased air tickets yet," Mr. Blix said. "But we have plans, our readiness is there to go, yes." He said he hoped it would not be a "long delay."

Mr. Blix reported to the Council that there were "loose ends" left over from his talks with the Iraqi officials. The issue of immediate access for the inspectors to Mr. Hussein's compounds was not resolved, Mr. Blix and Mr. Baradei reported. They did not talk about procedures for interviewing Iraqi scientists or for removing items from Iraq for deeper study, he added.

Mr. Blix said he had not reached agreement with Iraq on how the inspectors would be protected inside the no-flight zones over large swaths of northern and southern Iraq, which are patrolled by United States and allied aircraft. The Iraqi officials said they could not guarantee the inspectors' safety in those areas, but Mr. Blix said today that he did not foresee a problem coordinating with the allied forces.

Mr. Blix told the Council he would welcome a new resolution to guide his work. Many of his "loose ends" are addressed in a draft resolution the United States and Britain have drawn up but not yet introduced in the Council. In the meeting, France and Russia said they were ready to clarify the mandate for the inspectors, diplomats said. While the tide seemed to shift in favor of a French proposal for two resolutions — one to set up the inspections and another to authorize military action if they fail — American officials insisted forcefully on their single draft resolution. It calls for "all necessary means" against Iraq if Baghdad makes any move to block the arms inspectors. The resolution has to include "a mechanism to deal with noncompliance," an administration official said. "It's not negotiable."

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell kept up intensive telephone diplomacy today, speaking with the British foreign secretary, Jack Straw, the French foreign minister, Dominique de Villepin, and his Russian counterpart, Igor S. Ivanov.

"The discussions are intricate, but I am optimistic that we will find a way forward in the Security Council," Secretary Powell told a meeting of Russian and American businessmen this morning.

On Friday, Secretary Powell and the national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, are to meet in Washington with Mr. Blix to "talk about his capabilities and ask if he needs anything more from us," a senior Bush administration official said.

The State Department spokesman, Richard A. Boucher, repeatedly played down any suggestion that Washington would try to block the return to Iraq of the United Nations inspectors, for example by refusing to provide logistical and intelligence support.

A senior administration official summed up the situation in the Security Council this way: "It's becoming increasingly clear that even on some days when the Iraqis say yes, people notice the next day when they say no. And people in the Council are realizing we're going to have to specify what the rules are."

"Those who most want to see this settled peacefully are realizing that only with thorough and credible inspections is there any chance this will be resolved peacefully," the official said, "and only when serious and credible consequences are threatened is there a chance of getting cooperation from Iraq."

But French officials continued today to insist on their strategy of two resolutions. Answering questions in the French Senate, Mr. de Villepin reiterated the view that France was "against unilateral preventive action" and believed that "using force can only be the last resort."

Before addressing the Senate, Mr. de Villepin met a group of senators in a closed-door session. Former Prime Minister Édouard Balladur, who attended the closed session, later quoted Mr. de Villepin as saying that while "certain modifications" were possible, they could clearly not include "automatic recourse to military steps, as far as the text of the first resolution is concerned."

Mr. Chirac said Wednesday after meeting with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of Germany that both were "totally hostile" to the idea of a single resolution that would have automatic character.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/04/international/middleeast/04NATI.html>

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Washington Times

October 4, 2002

Pg. 8

Inside The Ring

By Bill Gertz and Rowan Scarborough

Rummy's top 10

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld shows no sign of letting up in his drive to change the way the armed forces budget and fight. He sent a memo to his top aides Sept. 17 giving them direction for bringing change in the fiscal 2004 budget, which goes to Capitol Hill early next year.

"As you develop proposals for the fiscal year 2004 DoD legislative program, you should adopt the perspective that now is the time to change the way we operate," Mr. Rumsfeld writes.

"Every week it seems a senior official in this department tells me we are constrained in our ability to do something by an obsolete legal provision," he adds. "Similarly, I often hear of initiatives we would like to take, but for which we need additional statutory authority."

He concludes: "The war on terrorism does not supplant the need to transform DoD; instead, we must accelerate our organizational, operational, business, and process reforms."

The defense secretary's top 10 priorities: war on terrorism; joint war-fighting; transforming joint forces; improving intelligence; fine-tuning career paths; forming new relationships worldwide; countering weapons of mass destruction; homeland security; shortening acquisition process; and improving policy-making within interagency process.

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20021004-92332157.htm>

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Los Angeles Times

October 4, 2002

New Medium-Range Missile Is Test-Fired

With border tensions between South Asia's nuclear neighbors running high, Pakistan test-fired a new surface-to-surface missile today, its state-run news agency said.

India was given prior warning of the test, according to Associated Press of Pakistan.

The missile is one in a series of medium-range missiles developed for Pakistan's arsenal.

Both India and Pakistan conducted underground nuclear tests in 1998, and both say they have added nuclear weapons to their arsenals, but neither has specified the type or number of nuclear weapons.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-briefs4.7oct04.story>

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New York Times
October 4, 2002

Warren Buffett Moves To Help Group Trying To Reduce Nuclear And Biological Threats

By Judith Miller

In a small but significant philanthropic gesture, Warren E. Buffett is opening his huge wallet to help support a group founded by Ted Turner and former Senator Sam Nunn whose aim is to reduce the threat of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

Calling the threat posed by nuclear and other unconventional weapons "the ultimate problem" confronting mankind, Mr. Buffett said yesterday that he had decided to give the group, the Washington-based Nuclear Threat Initiative, \$2.5 million over five years and become an adviser to its board. His commitment to the group is to be announced on Friday.

"It's not that much money," said Mr. Buffett, American's second wealthiest man, who runs the investment company Berkshire Hathaway. But he said he hoped it would "encourage other businessmen to get involved" in confronting a challenge that "boggles the mind."

"The genie was let out of the bottle in the 1940's," he said, referring to the creation of the atomic bomb. While there was no "putting it back into the bottle," Mr. Buffett said, the "best answer is what Sam Nunn is doing."

The initiative was founded almost two years ago with a pledge of stock that Mr. Turner held in AOL Time Warner that was then worth about \$250 million. Since January 2001, the group has spent roughly \$37 million on projects such as helping secure nuclear material stored in Russia, helping create a revolving fund to respond quickly to infectious disease outbreaks and, most recently, removing highly enriched uranium from a poorly secured reactor in Belgrade to a safer site.

But the group has been hard pressed by the 77.9 percent decline in the price of AOL Time Warner stock. Mr. Turner has told the foundation that he would "do what he can to meet the \$250 million commitment." But Mr. Nunn said in an interview, "There is no binding commitment beyond the number of shares." As a result, Mr. Nunn said, although the group was not cutting its staff of 32 and still planned to spend \$30 million on projects this year and \$25 million in 2003, it would be unable to undertake any expensive new projects. He said he would raise more money.

Given the fragile state of the stock market, Mr. Nunn said, "Warren Buffett's commitment is even more important than it would normally be at this stage."

Mr. Buffett said he had long been concerned about the danger posed by weapons of mass destruction but had not gotten involved because he did not initially believe the danger could be mitigated by money. As he came to know of the group's work through his friendship with Mr. Nunn on the Coca-Cola board, he said he became convinced that the group's projects could make a difference.

"You don't want an Einstein or a Russian biological warrior to be starving," Mr. Buffett said, referring to American and international efforts to ensure that scientists with such deadly expertise are gainfully and peacefully employed. Investments in keeping such people and material out of harm's way, he said, "may increase the probability of getting through the next 50 years."

Mr. Buffett also supported President Bush's stance on Iraq, arguing that limiting the threat of Saddam Hussein's unconventional weapons might limit the danger he posed.

"If I thought the probability was high that a nation of some resources was developing really potent weapons to use against me, and that there was a high probability that he would use them, I think you have to act pre-emptively," Mr. Buffett said.

He declined to discuss what impact a war against Iraq would have on the economy. "People think I know what I'm talking about," he said. "So I have to be careful."

He said he looked forward to being consulted by Mr. Nunn and Mr. Turner as they saw fit. Mr. Nunn said Mr. Buffett's involvement with the initiative would be particularly valuable not only in fund-raising, but also in persuading pharmaceutical companies and other biotech concerns that it is worth investing in research and development efforts that rely on skills of former Soviet scientists.

Mr. Turner called Mr. Buffett to thank him for his gift to the initiative. "Ted comes in technicolor," Mr. Buffett said, adding that he admired him for thinking in terms of "big causes" and committing large sums to them.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/04/national/04BUFF.html>

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Defense Week Daily Update
October 3, 2002

Lugar: Reps Block Disposal Of Chemical Weapons In Russia

By Nathan Hodge

WASHINGTON - An influential senator today complained that House lawmakers have "stymied" efforts to fund the destruction of a vast stockpile of Russian chemical weapons that terrorists might find an attractive target.

Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), a senior member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, introduced an amendment to the fiscal 2003 defense-appropriations bill on July 31 that would pay for the disposal of more than 2 million ground-launched chemical weapons stored at a depot in Shchuchye, in Russia's Kurgan region.

Shchuchye, said Lugar, is "one of seven areas where approximately 40,000 metric tons of chemical weapons are now stored. Shchuchye has approximately one-seventh of that amount. There is a program there of neutralization that is prepared to move if the funds from the United States are forthcoming. They have been stymied . by congressional blocks."

Lugar maintains that Shchuchye is a particularly attractive target for terrorists because many of the munitions stored there-such as 85-mm artillery shells loaded with VX, sarin and other nerve agents-are small and portable.

A House-Senate conference is reconciling differences in the two legislative bodies' respective versions of the fiscal 2003 defense-spending bill. But Lugar says his amendment "is in jeopardy. The conferees on the House side have not accepted the Senate plan."

The senator held out hope, however, the conferees could reach an agreement.

Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), ranking minority member on the Appropriations Committee, "is supportive on the Senate side," he said. "I'm very, very hopeful that we will have success in the conference. But that is clearly where it is, and it's a point, I believe, of vital national interest to the United States people."

Lugar was speaking at a press conference to mark the conversion of 150 metric tons of Russian highly enriched uranium into nuclear fuel through a joint U.S.-Russian program called "Megatons to Megawatts."

Since 1994, Bethesda, Md.-based USEC has purchased \$2.5 billion of converted nuclear fuel from Russia to supply electric utilities. The company's Russian counterpart, Tenex, has converted the equivalent of 6,000 nuclear warheads since the program began.

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Washington Post
October 4, 2002
Pg. 15

2 Companies To Develop New Anthrax Vaccine

By A Washington Post Staff Writer

One year after the anthrax attacks that began in Florida and eventually claimed five lives, federal health officials announced yesterday they had signed a contract to develop and stockpile 25 million doses of new anthrax vaccine. The fast-track proposal, which calls for production to begin by late 2003, reflects the Bush administration's ongoing concerns about bioterrorism.

"There is an urgent need to devise more effective measures to protect U.S. citizens from the harmful effects of anthrax spores used as instruments of terror," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said.

The new vaccine would have two major differences from the vaccine now used, primarily by the military: It would be produced by more modern procedures and could be used as a treatment after exposure.

Made by "recombinant" technology, the new vaccine would consist of a purified version of immune response-provoking protein produced by batches of genetically engineered laboratory bacteria. The approach aims to exclude extraneous substances that don't contribute to the vaccine's efficacy and might cause side effects.

Instead of six shots administered over 18 months, the new contract calls for a vaccine that would be given in three or fewer doses.

Historically, anthrax vaccine has been given as an inoculation to prevent disease. During last year's attacks, the vaccine was offered on an experimental basis as a post-exposure treatment to supplement antibiotics.

Yesterday's two contracts, totaling \$22.5 million, were awarded to the British company Avecia and a U.S. firm, VaxGen, based in Brisbane, Calif.

One year ago, said Julie L. Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an astute clinician in Florida who "literally broke into the hospital lab to" test a sample from a sickened patient discovered the first case of an intentional release of anthrax spores. By December, the bacteria, delivered in a white powder through the mail, had caused 11 cases of inhalation anthrax and at least seven cases of the less serious skin form of the disease. Locally, two postal workers died after inhaling anthrax spores and 28 Capitol Hill staffers were infected. At a symposium on bioterrorism yesterday, several federal officials reflected on lessons learned from the anthrax attacks.

Gerberding cautioned medical professionals to "beware of dogma," noting that many early assumptions about anthrax -- such as how it travels through the air or how many spores can cause illness -- turned out to be wrong. James Hughes, director of the CDC's National Center for Infectious Diseases, said the weakest element of the government's response last year was its public communications.

Although the episode drew attention to 20 years of neglect of the U.S. public health system, Hughes said it has subsequently sparked an unprecedented investment in hospitals, labs, clinics and research.

Officials at the Association of Public Health Labs cautioned that detecting and treating anthrax was relatively straightforward.

"Anthrax virtually sat up and told us what it was," said Mary Gilchrist, immediate past president of the group and director of the Iowa public health laboratory. "It's not going to be that easy next time. We could get biological, chemical, radiological or various combined specimens. The possible permutations are infinite."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A40432-2002Oct3.html>

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

U.S. Report Cites Iraqi Threat

Intelligence Survey Projects a Nuclear Weapon in a Decade

By a Washington Post Staff Writer

Saturday, October 5, 2002; Page A17

U.S. intelligence agencies, in a broad assessment of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capabilities released yesterday, have concluded that if left unchecked Iraq will "probably have a nuclear weapon during this decade." The intelligence document added, however, that if Iraq can acquire weapons-grade fissile material from abroad -- which it said Baghdad is actively trying to do -- "it could make a nuclear weapon within a year."

Since the U.N. weapons inspections ended in 1998, Iraq "has maintained its chemical weapons effort, energized its missile program and invested more heavily in biological weapons," the report stated. Although financially strapped by U.N. sanctions, Baghdad diverts \$10 billion worth of humanitarian goods entering Iraq each year to support military and weapons programs, it said.

The report mirrors the findings and judgments of a classified National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq, a survey of U.S. intelligence agencies sent to members of the Senate intelligence committee Tuesday. It is slightly more conservative in its projection of Iraq's future capabilities than a dossier on Iraq's weapons programs released last week by Britain. The document compiles the analysis of several different U.S. intelligence agencies, including the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency and the Energy Department's intelligence unit, which monitors nuclear matters. As such, it is the most extensive intelligence assessment of Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs to be made public in several years.

The report said that Iraq's offensive biological weapons research program is "active and most elements are large and more advanced than they were before the Gulf War" in 1991. Iraq is capable of "quickly producing and weaponizing" a variety of agents, including anthrax, "for delivery by bombs, missiles, aerial sprayers, and covert operatives, including potentially against the U.S. homeland," it said.

Baghdad's biological weapons are well hidden in "highly survivable" facilities, some of them mobile, the report said. "It can exceed production rates Iraq had prior to the Gulf War."

Before its departure from Iraq in 1998, the International Atomic Energy Agency "made significant strides toward dismantling Iraq's nuclear weapons program," the report said. In the absence of U.N. inspectors, "Baghdad's already considerable ability to work on prohibited programs without risk of discovery has increased, and there is substantial evidence that Iraq is reconstituting prohibited programs."

Bent on reconstituting its nuclear program, Iraq has retained the cadre of nuclear scientists, technicians and dual-use manufacturing facilities to make that possible, it said.

Among other key findings in the report:

- Iraq has rebuilt missile and biological weapons facilities damaged during U.S. cruise missile strikes in 1998.
- It has begun renewed production of chemical warfare agents, probably including mustard, sarin, cyclosarin and VX -- all lethal chemical toxins.
- It "probably has stocked a few hundred metric tons" of chemical agents.
- Discrepancies in Iraq's accounting of its Scud missiles suggest Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "retains a covert force of up to a few dozen Scud missiles with a range of 650 to 900 kilometers."

In the area of nuclear weapons, the report notes one area of disagreement within the intelligence community dealing with Iraq's attempts to procure "tens of thousands" of high-strength aluminum tubes, which are needed to enrich uranium used in making a nuclear bomb.

"All intelligence experts agree that Iraq is seeking nuclear weapons and that these tubes could be used in a centrifuge enrichment program," the report stated. "Most intelligence specialists assess this to be the intended use, but some believe that these tubes are probably intended for conventional weapons programs."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45349-2002Oct4.html>

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Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs

October 2002

Key Judgments

[Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs](#)

Iraq has continued its weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs in defiance of UN resolutions and restrictions. Baghdad has chemical and biological weapons as well as missiles with ranges in excess of UN restrictions; if left unchecked, it probably will have a nuclear weapon during this decade.

Baghdad hides large portions of Iraq's WMD efforts. Revelations after the Gulf war starkly demonstrate the extensive efforts undertaken by Iraq to deny information.

Since inspections ended in 1998, Iraq has maintained its chemical weapons effort, energized its missile program, and invested more heavily in biological weapons; most analysts assess Iraq is reconstituting its nuclear weapons program. . .

http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/iraq_wmd/Iraq_Oct_2002.htm

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Atlanta Journal and Constitution

October 3, 2002

Arkansas Seeks Key Smallpox Vaccine Facility

Senator is driving force for rule to expand Pine Bluff Arsenal

By Suzi Parker, For the Journal-Constitution

Pine Bluff, Ark --- Pine Bluff, on the edge of the Arkansas Delta, just south of Little Rock, has been called a lot of things, including "the armpit of Arkansas."

That's because Pine Bluff is home to two paper mills and the Pine Bluff Arsenal. The arsenal houses some of the most deadly chemicals in the country, including 3,850 tons of chemical weapons, until they are disposed of through the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Program.

Because of its extensive military connections, the Pine Bluff Arsenal may also be the ideal place to house the country's smallpox vaccination program --- if such a program becomes reality.

"It is the most logical and perfect place in the nation for this type of program," said Sen. Tim Hutchinson (R-Ark.). "We need to look at the possibility strongly and especially look at the government being involved in the production of vaccinations."

Hutchinson is lobbying for the program to be placed in Arkansas. But he has his work cut out for him.

First, he has to convince Tom Ridge and the planned Department of Homeland Security that it's the government's job, not private industry's, to ensure that Americans are vaccinated against smallpox. Then, he has to persuade them that Arkansas is capable of such mass production.

Last week, Hutchinson filed an amendment to the bill that would create the Department of Homeland Security. The Hutchinson amendment would form an interagency Vaccine Acquisition Council to coordinate the acquisition efforts of the federal government.

It also designates the Department of Defense as the executive agent of the planning, design and construction of a government-owned, contractor-operated vaccine production facility. It requires the Vaccine Acquisition Council to submit a plan that would provide for construction to begin within a year.

"This is definitely an issue that should be examined --- and quickly," Hutchinson said. "We have to be ready for whatever happens in this war against terrorism."

Dangers of smallpox

Hutchinson was preaching about the dangers of smallpox even before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. But now smallpox and the vaccination for the disease have become hot topics in light of a possible attack on Iraq and the risk of biological weapons being used.

The Pine Bluff Arsenal, which once produced the nation's entire supply of biological weapons, refurbishes gas masks, including many used in Operation Desert Storm in early 1991. Hutchinson said that, given the threat troops would face in a war with Iraq, this production is likely to be stepped up.

The arsenal also produces decontamination kits. The arsenal is the U.S. military's sole producer of the M291 decontamination kit, which serves as the soldier's primary means for immediate decontamination of skin following exposure to chemical agents.

Last week, federal health officials issued detailed guidelines for vaccinating the entire U.S. population against smallpox within five days of an outbreak of the dreaded disease.

Recently, D.A. Henderson, who is chairman of the council and serves as top adviser on bioterror to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, said that many American cities are vastly unprepared to deliver lifesaving vaccinations should terrorists attack with smallpox.

Often incurable

Smallpox has not been seen in the United States for decades. The disease was declared eradicated worldwide in 1980. It is perhaps the most feared biological weapon because it is contagious, often incurable and can kill at least one-third of its victims.

Since routine vaccination was halted in this country in 1971, there is little immunity left in the population and little expertise in dealing with the disease or vaccine.

Only the United States and Russia are known to possess stocks of the virus, but security experts fear a hostile nation such as Iraq may have acquired a cache of the virus.

Vice President Dick Cheney has contended the risk of attack may necessitate inoculating every American as a protective measure.

Hutchinson has teamed up with Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee to form a task force to spearhead efforts to locate a national vaccine production facility at the Pine Bluff Arsenal.

"The need for a national vaccine production facility is obvious," Huckabee said. "Our state offers the perfect location for a secure operation of this type. The project would bring hundreds of high-paying jobs to Arkansas, significantly boosting our state's growing biotechnology industry. This fits perfectly with the state's economic diversity strategy."

Huckabee and Hutchinson want to create a research corridor between Little Rock and Pine Bluff. Pine Bluff is also home to the National Center for Toxicological Research, an arm of the Federal Drug Administration.

That center conducts scientific research that supports and anticipates the FDA's regulatory needs.

The Pine Bluff Arsenal is 35 miles southeast of Little Rock. The facility was established in November 1941 as the Chemical Warfare Arsenal. It was renamed Pine Bluff Arsenal four months later. Its original mission was as a manufacturing center for magnesium and thermite munitions.

During World War II, the arsenal's manufacturing capabilities expanded to manufacture, load and store war gases, and to fill smoke and white phosphorus munitions.

The expansion included facilities to manufacture and store various types of chemical-filled weapons. Arsenal-produced conventional munitions were used in the Korean and Vietnam wars. During the war years, the arsenal produced millions of grenades, bombs, and shells, as well as millions of pounds of mustard gas and Lewisite. The stockpile, second largest in the country, behind Toole, Utah, is faced with the prospect of an incinerator meant to destroy 12 percent of the nation's chemical weapons.

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Voluntary Smallpox Vaccination Urged

Offer to General Population Represents a Shift in Policy

By a Washington Post Staff Writer

Saturday, October 5, 2002; Page A01

The Bush administration's top bioterrorism advisers said yesterday they support a voluntary smallpox vaccination program that would begin with 500,000 health care workers, expand to 10 million emergency responders and extend to the rest of the population as early as 2004.

It was the first time high-ranking administration officials acknowledged they are considering offering the risky vaccine to the public prior to an attack and it represented a profound shift in thinking from the June recommendations of a government advisory panel to inoculate about 20,000 medical personnel.

"We live in a society that values individual choice," said Julie L. Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "If we have vaccine and we have data to accurately assess the safety, one school of thought is that informed people may want to have the choice of getting vaccine or not."

In a 90-minute briefing at the Department of Health and Human Services, the group of officials responsible for implementing a bioterror response plan laid out the options before President Bush, stressing that he has yet to make a decision on who could be vaccinated and when. If a smallpox case were detected, officials would assume the nation was under attack and would quickly move to nationwide vaccination.

Developing a "pre-attack" vaccination policy, however, has proven to be "extremely difficult" because of the challenge in balancing the possible risks of the vaccine against the risks of an attack, said Jerome M. Hauer, assistant secretary for emergency health preparedness.

Although they have no way of knowing the likelihood of a smallpox attack, health experts fear such an attack because the virus is so contagious and so deadly. About one-third of people who get the disease die, yet the vaccine itself can cause serious, sometimes fatal, complications.

Concerns that Iraq or another hostile nation may have acquired the virus have added urgency to the vaccination debate. "We need to be mindful that the context of this decision has changed a bit" since the far more conservative June recommendations, Gerberding said.

Vice President Cheney has speculated that the threat from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein may necessitate mass vaccination. Privately, sources said Cheney has vigorously advocated a broad vaccination policy. White House spokesman Scott McClellan said last night the policy "is under review" but he could not elaborate on a timetable or factors involved in the decision.

Since last fall's anthrax attacks, federal health officials have moved swiftly to build up the nation's smallpox vaccine stockpile. If an attack occurred today, they said they could safely dilute the existing supply to inoculate every American. By the end of next year, they expect to have 209 million doses of new vaccine on hand. None of the vaccine has been licensed by the Food and Drug Administration, but officials expect the first batches will be approved by November.

At the request of the Department of Defense, Hauer said HHS will provide the first 1 million doses of licensed smallpox vaccine to the military within the month. Pentagon spokesman James Turner refused to comment.

For civilians, the HHS team favors a policy of "ever-expanding access to vaccine" that could be phased in as more vaccine is licensed and scientists have time to monitor early reactions to it. Using licensed vaccine would be much easier logistically than administering it as an experimental treatment that involves tricky liability issues.

The approach envisions vaccinating the people considered to be at greatest risk if an outbreak occurs. That would include public health investigators, emergency room workers and even janitors and security guards at local hospitals. The goal in the early stages, Gerberding said, "is to maximize our ability to respond to an attack should one occur." In the second phase, as many as 7.5 million medical workers would be offered vaccine, along with the nation's 3 million firefighters, police officers and rescue workers, Hauer said. Inoculating that many emergency personnel

"would make it even easier to respond" to an attack, Gerberding explained. It is possible Bush would combine the first two phases and opt to inoculate the majority of first responders immediately. At some later date, perhaps in early 2004, vaccine could be offered to every American. "Right now, our thinking is in favor of making vaccine available to the general public," Gerberding said. Federal health officials rejected the advice of its advisory panel to designate certain smallpox hospitals because Hauer said it was unrealistic to think patients would follow those guidelines. America stopped routine vaccination in 1972, which means about 45 percent of the population has never been inoculated. It is unclear how much immunity remains from vaccines given 30 or 40 years ago. Between 30 million and 50 million Americans should not be given the vaccine because they have weak immune systems, said Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. That includes people who have received chemotherapy, have eczema or are infected with the AIDS virus. For every 1 million vaccinated, 15 people are likely to suffer life-threatening complications and one or two would die. Because there is limited scientific data, it is difficult to predict the risks of a person spreading the virus in the vaccine to others. Administration aides are still grappling with the liability issues of reviving a vaccination program. State health officials have until Dec. 1 to file plans for mass vaccination within five to 10 days of an attack, Hauer said. In the event of an attack, he observed, "Five days might be a luxury."
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45549-2002Oct4.html>

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Jerusalem Post
October 4, 2002
Pg. 1

Iran: Shihab Missile Designed To Target Israel

By David Rudge

Iran's long-range rockets were developed to hit Israel in retaliation for any strike on Iran, Ahmed Wahid, head of Iran's missile development program, revealed Thursday, adding that Iran would also soon launch a spy satellite. Wahid, in an interview with the London-based Al-Hayat Arab daily, was quoted as saying that the Shihab rocket, which has a range of 1,300 kilometers, had been developed in response to Israel's Jericho missiles. He also revealed that Iran intends to soon conduct an experimental launch of a satellite, using the Shihab rocket, which would be used for civilian as well as military intelligence purposes. It was not clear whether Wahid was referring to the Shihab 3, or the longer-range Shihab 4 version, which the Iranians have developed amid reports production has run into difficulties. The Iranian announcement follows an agreement being reached between leaders of the US Congress and the White House on the wording of a resolution that would authorize US President George W. Bush to use force against Iraq if diplomatic efforts failed. Some observers said the timing of Wahid's comments was not coincidental in light of the growing prospect of a US assault on Iraq.

"This could be seen as a warning to America and perhaps Israel not to even consider trying to carry out any operations against Iran during a strike on Iraq," said Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor, head of the University of Haifa's National Security Studies Center.

Iran is reportedly concerned about the prospect of the establishment of a pro-Western democratic government in Iraq, if Saddam Hussein were to be ousted in a US and British assault, because of the effect it could have on the Islamic fundamentalist rule of the ayatollahs in Teheran, Ben-Dor said.

"The Iranian regime would be equally concerned if Iraq were to be left in a troublesome form of cantons, which could also be a destabilizing factor from the Iranian standpoint," he added.

Wahid's comments about Teheran's ballistic missile program were made just two weeks after the Iranian defense minister announced speeded-up production of short- and medium-range Fajr missiles to protect Iranian territory. In the Al-Hayat article, Wahid was quoted as saying that the Shihab rocket had been developed to have a range of 1,500 km. because the primary aim was to "hit Israeli targets in the event that Israel fires missiles at Iran."

Wahid rejected claims that Iran is trying to develop a missile with a range of 12,000 kilometers to hit the United States. "This is not true. American territory is not part of our strategic defense targets," he was quoted as saying. Wahid maintained that Iran has no intention of producing nuclear weapons, despite reported efforts by the regime to do so. He said its missiles would be fitted with conventional warheads.

"Everyone knows that Israel has 200 nuclear warheads.... We have no nuclear weapons and we are not trying to obtain them. If there is a strike against us, however, we will respond with all our capabilities," Wahid said.

"The Israelis have many powerful weapons, but they know that they live in a glass house which cannot stand up to the stones of the children of the [Palestinian] intifada," he added.

Wahid maintained that Iran's atomic facilities, being established with the aid of Russia, are designed for civilian purposes only and not for the production of nuclear weapons.

Israel, which struck at Iraq's nuclear facility in 1981, has expressed deep concern over the ongoing work at Iran's atomic energy plant.

Despite the denials, Western intelligence sources are convinced that Iran is trying to attain atomic weapons and that the reactor plant could be part of this program, although experts are unsure about the extent of progress.

"There are differences of opinion among the intelligence services, with some saying that Iran is farther away from attaining nuclear weapons than the Iraqis were at the time of the 1991 Gulf War, and others maintaining that it is more imminent," said Ben-Dor.

"Non-conventional weapons, however, are only one part of the equation. There also have to be means of delivering them, and in this respect it is clear that the Iranians have been working very hard, with considerable assistance from China and North Korea.

"Despite what Wahid says is a purely Iranian project, the impact of Chinese and North Korean assistance and supplies is sizable, and therefore there are ongoing diplomatic efforts to persuade and pressure the two countries to reduce the extent of their involvement.

"There is no way of assessing whether the reports of the imminent launch of a spy satellite are correct. But even if they are premature, there is no doubt that this is what the Iranians are working towards and what they will achieve in the foreseeable future," Ben-Dor said.

He said a spy satellite would be a major asset for the Iranians in terms of gathering intelligence and as an early warning system.

"US sources, for instance, say that Israel's spy satellites make a huge difference in terms of early warning of missile attacks and that Israel is in a much better situation than it was in 1991, when it had to rely entirely on US warnings," Ben-Dor added.

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U.S. News & World Report

October 14, 2002

Shopping Spree

Iraq's pursuit of weaponry, including nuclear technology, knows no bounds or boundaries

By David E. Kaplan

Known for its gold jewelry and cuckoo clocks, the small German town of Pforzheim seems a world away from the caldron of Saddam Hussein's Iraq. But it was from here that Bernd Schompeter shipped to Iraq machinery capable of making large cannons, according to charges filed by German authorities last month. Also on Schompeter's shopping list, officials say: MiG aircraft parts, rocket launchers, and machine guns. Schompeter's connection is said to have been an Iraqi-born American named Sahib al-Haddad, who allegedly sent the goods to Jordan. Police have jailed Schompeter, an engineer, and issued a warrant for Haddad's arrest.

Oddly, quaint little Pforzheim seems to be something of a hot spot for arms traffickers. In late August, police there also arrested a Maserati-driving Canadian, Arthur Andersen, on suspicion of illegal trading in at least \$66 million worth of East European arms, ranging from bazookas and hand grenades to antitank guided missiles. These weapons, too, were headed to Jordan and from there, officials suspect, on to Iraq.

Andersen's attorney says that his client's shipments were legal; Schompeter has yet to enter a plea. For U.S. and German officials, the two cases are but the latest evidence of an extraordinary international effort by Baghdad to rearm itself with the world's deadliest weapons. Schompeter's milling equipment, they say, could make howitzers capable of firing chemical or biological shells. Other evidence suggests that Saddam has re-energized his programs to build ballistic missiles and nuclear warheads.

Before they were thrown out of Iraq in 1998, U.N. inspectors believed they had destroyed much of Saddam's chemical weapons arsenal and had badly disrupted his nuclear and bioweapons programs. But it was left to U.N.

member states to dismantle the arms- and technology-buying network, says a frustrated Tim McCarthy, one of the last inspectors to leave Iraq. "That clearly did not happen."

A worldwide embargo begun in 1990 required Baghdad to get U.N. approval for virtually any item it wanted to import. But such legal niceties haven't stopped the regime from scouring the world's black markets for weaponry. And since 1998, the absence of inspectors and a relaxed U.N. embargo, coupled with Iraq's growing sales of black-market oil, have allowed the regime to accelerate its purchases. "Saddam has a huge network," says Khidhir Hamza, a former director of Iraq's nuclear program, who defected. "He has a hundred front companies just in Jordan and Turkey." Such outfits, analysts say, range from "one man, one fax" offices aimed at getting gas masks to sophisticated spy operations targeting nuclear technology.

Worldwide. To hide its trail, the regime is turning increasingly to independent arms dealers and multiple "cutouts" or fronts, officials say, making the shipments maddeningly difficult to track. Investigators have traced Iraq's contacts to firms in Tunisia, the Czech Republic, and India, to name a few. "It's not just the occasional guy in a bar with a kilo of uranium," says Johan Peleman, a U.N. arms smuggling specialist. "It's organized crime operating in a worldwide black market."

Top-dollar payments don't hurt, either, and the Iraqis can afford them. Once strapped for hard currency, Iraq's earnings from black-market oil sales quadrupled to \$3 billion in the past four years, according to a CIA report released last week. Thus, in recent years, Iraq has obtained rocket-fuel chemicals from India, magnets and high-precision electronic switches from Germany, and fiber-optic cables for air defense from China. Its agents have combed Africa for uranium, landing, among other places, in Niger and South Africa. "Iraq is cooperating with a number of new suppliers in China, India, Russia, Syria, and Eastern Europe," according to an internal German customs report. Even Iraq's old nemesis, Iran, has a cut of the action, officials say.

U.S. customs agents got a firsthand look at Baghdad's methods during a three-year undercover case that ended in 1999. An alert Connecticut manufacturer noted that an order for steam boiler equipment matched the exact specs for an Iraqi petrochemical plant destroyed during the Persian Gulf War. The would-be buyer, agents soon learned, was Fadi Boutros, an Iraqi-American who ran a liquor store in the San Diego area. Boutros, in turn, was working with an alleged Iraqi front company, al Qanater Trading Establishment, in Amman, Jordan, which had given him a rather lengthy shopping list. Approached by agents posing as arms dealers, Boutros asked for machine tools, computers, software for ballistic missile guidance systems, night-vision goggles, and parts for helicopter and inertial navigation systems. Boutros plunked down \$30,000—wired to him from Amman—for five of the night-vision devices, which he tried to ship to Jordan as ophthalmology equipment. For his trouble, he received three years in prison.

Wide open. As Western countries have cracked down, Iraq has shifted its buying spree to the former Soviet Union, officials say. Needing spare parts for their aging Soviet weapons systems, as well as missile and nuclear technology, the Iraqis have turned to Ukraine in particular. So wide open is that nation that Iraqis are smuggling parts from other nations for assembly there before shipment to Baghdad, U.S. News has learned. Another worry: evidence that Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma personally approved the sale of an advanced radar system that can detect Stealth aircraft without their pilots' knowledge.

The Ukrainian city of Kharkov, home to a complex of military and aerospace factories, is described by one ex-CIA official as a watering hole for arms traffickers from across the globe. "It's the barroom scene from Star Wars," he says. "Every animal in the galaxy was there." Kharkov is also host to a nuclear research center with 75 kilos of uranium so highly enriched that Washington is quietly trying to buy the load and spirit it out of the country. Worried U.S. officials think it no coincidence that Iraq opened a diplomatic office there in late 2000. Its "honorary consul" in Kharkov until recently was Yuri Orshansky, a politically connected Ukrainian businessman who has reportedly visited Iraq 40 times since the Persian Gulf War. Under U.S. pressure, the Ukrainian government last month stripped Orshansky of his status.

Most worrisome is Saddam Hussein's nuclear appetite. A recent British government dossier reveals a series of covert attempts by Iraq since 1998 to purchase vacuum pumps, specialized magnets, fluorine gas, and unique machines for filament winding and balancing. Considered alone, each item might be explained as a legitimate purchase. But in combination, say former weapons inspectors, they point to the kind of centrifuge-based system that Iraq, for a decade, has tried using to enrich uranium to weapons grade. "It's industrial level," says David Kay, the U.N.'s chief weapons inspector in the early 1990s. "They are after a Manhattan Project-sized program."

Once goods are purchased overseas, the route to Iraq invariably leads through its neighbors Jordan and, increasingly, Syria. Convoys of trucks routinely leave Jordan for the daylong trek to Baghdad, while Syria now has a direct rail link to the country. "It was pretty difficult for Iraq to get completed weapons systems until Syria opened up," says one Iraq watcher. Iraq's money is also flowing through Syria, in the form of oil pumped through a newly repaired pipeline. The Iraqis have sold as much as \$1 billion of black-market oil this way, all of it without U.N. control.

The Syrian oil sales offer one hint of how Iraq pays for its varied purchases. U.S. financial investigators are also looking at the regime's use of underground banking and laundering of money using commodities as varied as dates and cigarettes. "The schemes are unbelievably complex," says former inspector McCarthy, who credits the Iraqis with an ingenuity that dates back to the days of Mesopotamia. "After all," he says, "they've been trading for thousands of years."

With William Boston in Berlin, Mark Mazzetti, Douglas Pasternak, Kevin Whitelaw, Peter Cary, and Brian Whitmore in Prague, Czech Republic

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New York Times

October 6, 2002

Pg. 1

Israel Set To Use New Missile Shield To Counter Scuds

By Michael R. Gordon

PALMACHIM AIR FORCE BASE, Israel — Israel has deployed an operational missile defense and is ready to use it to protect Tel Aviv and other major population centers if they come under fire from Iraq's arsenal of Scud missiles.

Known as the Arrow, the system is designed to avoid the pitfalls of the American Patriot system, which Israelis say had little success in stopping Iraq's Scud missile attacks during the Persian Gulf war in 1991.

The program, which will cost more than \$2 billion, is partly financed by the United States. One battery is already deployed here, and when the final interceptors and radars are installed about two years from now, Israel will be the first nation in the world to have a nationwide missile defense system.

If the Bush administration follows through with its threats to attack Iraq, and Saddam Hussein lashes out at Israel, the Arrow could be put to the test in what would be an important trial of antimissile technology.

"It would be the first time in history that an interceptor that was developed strictly to shoot down incoming missiles is used," a Pentagon official said. "The Patriot used in 1991 was designed to shoot down airplanes and modified to give it some kind of antimissile capability. But from the start, the Arrow was built to intercept ballistic missiles. The whole world will be watching to see what happens, and we will be watching."

At the heavily guarded Palmachim air force base south of Tel Aviv, the Israeli military has been preparing for one of Israel's worst nightmares: a salvo of Al Hussein Scud missiles from Iraq, possibly carrying chemical or biological agents. The flight time for an Iraqi Scud to a target in Israel is only about six or seven minutes.

Wearing gas masks and protective suits, Arrow crews practice reloading the Arrow missile launcher in an environment contaminated with chemical agents. In the fire control center, Israeli officers practice tracking and intercepting incoming Scud missiles under various attack scenarios. Unlike the Patriot system used in the gulf war, whose fire control system was essentially automated, the Israeli system allows military officers to decide when to fire the Arrow interceptor.

At a firing site, huge launchers, each loaded with six Arrow interceptors, stand at the ready while Israel's Green Pine radar scans the skies.

"We did a lot of testing, and most were successful," said Danny Peretz, the program manager for the Arrow at Israel Aircraft Industries, which makes the system. "But we know in our hearts and put it in the design that this weapon will be tested only in war."

The Arrow has its origins in President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. After Mr. Reagan began his "Star Wars" program, Israel joined in the research and development effort. At first there was considerable debate in Israel as to whether it really needed a missile shield, a dispute that was essentially ended during the gulf war when 39 Iraqi Scud missiles struck Israeli territory.

"There were lot of arguments that Israel was so powerful that nobody would launch a missile at us," Mr. Peretz said. "But that all changed in 1991. Would anybody dare launch a missile at Israel? Well, somebody did."

After the conflict, the Israeli government decided that it needed its own antimissile system and that the system needed to do a better job of stopping Scuds than the Patriot did. The Arrow program moved into high gear.

The Arrow is what military experts call a theater defense system, meaning it is designed to intercept medium- and short-range missiles, not ocean-spanning intercontinental missiles. But because Israel is such a small country, the three batteries it plans to deploy will be a true nationwide system, protecting all of Israel's territory.

The primary threats are from the east and north, and they are growing. Iraq has a small covert force of Al Hussein Scuds, according to American and British intelligence. Iran is on the verge of fielding the Shahab-3, which will have the range to strike Israel. Syria is also building up its force of Scud missiles. Israel has used the Green Pine radar to monitor tests of Syria's Scud-D missile. If Libya improves its missiles, Israel will face a potential threat from the west as well.

Operated by the Israeli Air Force, one Arrow battery has been operational here at the Palmachim base for two years. The deployment of the second battery in central Israel was delayed when people who lived nearby complained that the Green Pine radar might endanger their health.

The Israelis are trying to make the second battery operational before any American attack on Iraq. As a stopgap, the Arrow missile launchers from the second battery can be linked to Palmachim battery to improve its effectiveness, an Israeli Defense Ministry official said.

"We can cover the heart of the country and the largest population centers in central Israel and in the north," said Lt. Col. Shohat, who commands the Arrow battery here.

The United States paid about half of the \$1.6 billion cost of developing the Arrow system, a Pentagon official said, while Israel paid the entire several hundred million dollars needed to develop the Green Pine radar, which tracks incoming missiles and guides Arrow interceptors toward their targets.

The Arrow differs from the Patriot in several important respects. During the Gulf War, the Patriot intercepted Iraq's Scud missiles toward the end of their flight. By then, the missiles — purchased from the Soviet Union, modified by the Iraqis to extend their range and called Al Hussein — often fell apart in flight and broke into pieces. This confused the Patriot system, which fired lots of interceptors at the pieces or sometimes was unable to discern which was the warhead and fired no interceptors at all.

So the Israelis did it differently. They designed a system that is intended to intercept the Scud at a higher altitude. Destroying the warhead sooner, and farther from Israeli territory, is also prudent if the missile is carrying a chemical or biological warhead.

"The Iraqi Al Hussein missiles separated when they got inside the atmosphere," Colonel Shohat said, "So if we intercept at a higher altitude, we don't have to deal with separation."

The Arrow is not what the Pentagon calls a "hit to kill" system, meaning it would not destroy the incoming missile by smashing into it. Instead, it would maneuver close enough to the incoming Scud to destroy it with an explosive charge.

Israeli officials said the Arrow had been integrated into the nation's military planning. If Iraq staged an attack, the first warning would come from the Americans, whose spy satellites can detect the heat from rocket plumes as soon as they ignite. The information would be quickly transmitted to Israel.

Soon after, Israel's Green Pine radar would begin to track the Scud, probably in the ascent phase. Using tracking data from Green Pine, Israeli officers would determine the probable launching point. That information could be immediately transmitted to the Israeli Air Force, which could carry out airstrikes on the Iraqi Scud launchers, which are mobile, before they could move or shoot again.

Data from the Green Pine system would also be used to estimate the point of impact. Based on this information, Israel's Home Front Command would sound an alert in the target area. Israeli citizens would have several minutes to go to their shelters and put on gas masks.

Then the Arrow batteries would swing into action. Interceptors would be fired toward the incoming Scuds. The Arrows would be directed toward their target by Green Pine and would then close in using sensors that detect the Scud's heat. Then the Arrow's warhead would explode, destroying the Scud warhead.

But the Israelis are still in a touchy situation. They have a limited supply of Arrows, which cost \$3 million a missile. Boeing is teaming up with Israel to increase the production of interceptors. But the additional interceptors will not begin to become available for about two years, too late if war breaks out soon between the United States and Iraq but in time for possible new threats from Iran and Syria.

So Israel must husband its inventory of Arrow interceptors. That is one reason why the Arrow, unlike the Patriot, does not rely exclusively on computers to make the decision to fire. An Israeli officer can override the computer and decide whether to fire and with how many interceptors.

"The only sure thing in war is that the unexpected is going to happen," Mr. Peretz said. "You cannot build a weapon system that will rely on a computer only. You have to be able to work manually as well as fully automatic."

Any Scud that eluded the Arrow could be attacked by Patriot systems, which work at lower altitudes and are also part of the Israeli arsenal. The United States is also likely to send additional Patriot batteries in the event of war.

They will be under the command of Colonel Shohat, who was trained in air defense at the United States Army base at Fort Bliss, Tex.

Thus, the Israelis now have a two-track capability: a high-altitude defense using the Arrow and a lower-tier Patriot.

The initial Arrow test failed when there was a computer mishap and the interceptor was blown up five seconds into the test by the range safety officer. The two next tests also failed. But Israeli officials said eight of the last nine tests had been successful. Still, officials acknowledge, the real test will be in war.

"If this war is going to emerge it, could be a test case of 14 years of development by a lot of people," Mr. Peretz said.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/06/international/middleeast/06MISS.html>

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Inside The Navy

October 7, 2002

Pg. 1

Pentagon To Require All Personnel Protected Against CBRNE Attack

The Pentagon is launching a new policy to provide all personnel at installations and bases worldwide -- including persons who are not deemed essential to the performance of military missions -- protection against chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive attack.

The new policy, outlined in a Sept. 5 memo signed by Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, includes a multipart "action plan" to supply the necessary training and equipment to "ensure installations are able to continue critical operations during an attack and resume essential operations after an attack."

"The Department will begin providing all personnel at installations and facilities with CBRNE protection, based on appropriate procedures, equipment, and training," states the memo. "This includes protection for military personnel, DOD civilians, other persons who work on the installations and facilities, and family members assigned overseas or who work or live on our installations and facilities worldwide."

The requirement to protect non-military assets marks a significant change in policy and is expected to have an immediate impact on installations and bases worldwide, according to defense sources.

In the memo, obtained by Inside the Navy, Wolfowitz says the terrorist attacks against the United States highlighted vulnerabilities in the military's ability to safeguard personnel and infrastructure from CBRNE attack. He acknowledges that while past DOD efforts have focused on enhancing protection and response capabilities to high-yield explosive attacks, measures to protect against other potential attacks have not been fully explored.

"The Department must develop DOD-wide concepts of operations for the preparedness of military installations and DOD-wide owned or leased facilities against CBRNE attacks. The concepts of operations must address how to deter CBRNE attacks, and if deterrence is not successful, to detect the CBRNE incident, warn and protect personnel from such attacks, avoid any contaminations, and respond appropriately to mitigate the impact of the attack."

The new concept of operations will be derived from recommendations made by each military department's secretary, defense agency's director, and region's combatant commander. The recommendations will address deterrence, contamination avoidance, detection, warning, protection, and mitigation as well as identify requirements for executing the plans. In terms of protection, Wolfowitz says the suggestions should "identify, with rationale, the categories of personnel to be protected and the purpose for which this protection will be provided to the various categories of personnel." The recommendations are due Dec. 15 to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who will then refine them into an integrated, DOD-wide concept of operations with "corresponding requirements for personnel, equipment, and training" and submit them for Wolfowitz's approval no later than March 1, 2003.

The action plan also accounts for budgeting funds for CBRNE detection and emergency response enhancements in fiscal years 2004 through 2009. Pentagon comptroller Dov Zakheim will ensure "the rate of implementation be addressed during the program/budget review," Wolfowitz writes, "taking into consideration cost and potential programmatic impact on other departmental priorities."

Impact on naval forces

The Pentagon's plans will change how the Navy prepares for a war, according to Capt. Greg Steele, the Navy's deputy director of antiterrorism and force protection (N34). "It will change how we think about and prepare for covert attacks in [the continental United States] and how we will see our support for civilian agencies in declared emergencies," he explained.

Currently, most Navy CONUS installations are part of "the local emergency response plan, which includes CBRNE incidents," Steele said. The Navy is under mandate from Congress to have equipment that is compatible with its civilian counterparts.

Steele expects the change in policy to immediately affect naval bases and installations, adding that "OPNAV and other staffs are coping with these issues right now."

Installation commanders "have to start planning now for input to the budgeting cycle to meet the resource needs. Also, training is needed at every level for all the new people that we must protect," he told ITN. Among other changes, Steele said security forces and installation support agencies would need to adjust their missions to these new requirements. Furthermore, "resource implications are major," Steele said.

Vice Adm. John Grossenbacher, commander of the Atlantic Fleet's submarine force, told ITN he is aware of Wolfowitz's memo but unsure what specific steps might be taken to meet the guidance.

"I really don't know," he said. "I'll have to worry about it. It's a recently issued guidance and we're going to have to look at it from a very high level." Grossenbacher said he is not an expert on defending against chemical and biological weapons and could not say what technologies are needed, which are in place and which are not.

"My primary focus has been on force protection, to make sure we have the material and the training in place to prevent a successful attack against one of our ships," he said. But, the admiral said "a lot of work" could be required to meet the new guidance. "My instincts are that achieving these things is not going to be trivial," he said. The admiral spoke to ITN in Virginia Beach, VA, following an appearance at a conference sponsored by the U.S. Naval Institute.

Retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Paul Van Riper told ITN this new requirement "is probably overdue." While he acknowledged it might take years -- if it is even possible -- for naval forces to meet these requirements at all installations worldwide, he concluded, "You can't have a perfect defense, but stepping up is clearly better than leaving them in the state they are in today."

-- *Malina Brown*

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New York Times

October 5, 2002

Pg. 1

Smallpox Vaccine Backed For Public

By Lawrence K. Altman and Sheryl Gay Stolberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4 -- The nation's top public health officials said today that they favored offering smallpox vaccine to the public, even in absence of a bioterror attack, but only after up to 10 million health care workers are immunized and after a vaccine is licensed for general use, which is not likely until 2004.

It was the first time federal officials have said that the public should have access to the vaccine, which carries significant risk of serious side effects. But the final decision rests with President Bush, and a White House spokesman said the issue was still under review.

The health officials, who included Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, outlined a strategy that could go far beyond what they were considering just a few months ago, when they were talking about offering the vaccine to 500,000 health care workers facing the greatest risk of handling a smallpox case.

"Right now our thinking is in favor of making the vaccine available to the general public after we have insured that we can adequately" immunize health care professionals, Dr. Gerberding said.

She cautioned that the officials were not recommending that Americans take the vaccine, but rather that they have the option of weighing the risks and benefits for themselves.

"No one believes we should make it available to the general public right now," Dr. Gerberding said.

At a news conference, officials also announced that one million doses of smallpox vaccine will be provided to the military.

The recommendations were presented to President Bush by the secretary of health and human services, Tommy G. Thompson, the officials said. A spokesman for the White House today declined to discuss the issue. "It is under review," said Scott McClellan, the president's deputy press secretary. "There are still a number of issues that need to be addressed before any final decision is made."

The government halted routine vaccinations in 1972 as the disease was being eradicated from the world. But the terrorism attacks last year and the possibility that Iraq or other hostile nations might have the virus have caused health officials to consider a new battle against the disease.

Last week, officials gave guidelines to the states on how to be prepared possibly to vaccinate the entire country in the event a case of smallpox appears. Today's briefing focused entirely on vaccinations before such a case occurs. "We are still in an environment where we have no imminent threat," Dr. Gerberding said. "But there are countries with weapons of mass destruction that probably include smallpox."

Smallpox vaccine, which is made from a live virus related to the one that causes smallpox, is considered the most dangerous immunization. The government owns all American stocks of smallpox vaccine, and because none are licensed now, all are classified as "investigational."

When the vaccine was used, "life-threatening complications" occurred at a rate of 15 per million among those who received their first smallpox vaccination, and the number included about one to two deaths, said Dr. Gerberding. The rates would be lower among those who were re-vaccinated, Dr. Gerberding said. But, she added, "how much lower, we don't know."

The vaccine can also cause many non-life-threatening complications such as blindness.

Thirty to 50 million Americans might be disqualified from getting the vaccine because their immune systems have been weakened by cancer, AIDS or other diseases, or because they have two common skin conditions, eczema and atopic dermatitis, which increase the risk of complications.

The comments from Dr. Gerberding and other officials were made in what was meant to be a background briefing on various aspects of smallpox. The participants often had to clarify confusion that they had created in their remarks. Much of the confusion centered on which people would get vaccinated.

One option, the health officials said, is a plan whereby vaccinations would expand to a growing number of health and emergency workers. Under one plan, health officials would start by offering vaccinations to about 500,000 workers who would be most at risk of encountering any smallpox cases in hospitals.

Another option would be to consider expanding the 500,000 vaccinations to all the nation's estimated 10 million health care and emergency workers, said Jerome M. Hauer, an assistant secretary of health and human services and director of the department's Office of Public Health Preparedness.

After that, and following licensing of what health officials hope will be a safer smallpox vaccine, they would offer it to the public.

In interviews after the briefing, officials outlined how their thinking had evolved since June, when a panel of outside experts recommended against vaccinating all Americans.

The panel, known as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, rejected a proposal to offer smallpox vaccinations to the general public. It recommended limiting vaccinations to health care and emergency workers who were likely to be "first responders" to a bioterror attack. The panel's chairman estimated 15,000 people would be inoculated.

It fell to Mr. Thompson's bioterrorism advisers, including Mr. Hauer, Dr. Gerberding and Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, to review the panel's report and then make their own recommendations.

They began, Mr. Hauer said, by convening a series of meetings with state health officials, doctors and hospital executives. Those meetings, he said, led them to decide that they should present the president with options to expand vaccinations to all health professionals and law enforcement people, and eventually to all Americans who want the vaccine.

"Our recommendation was that a phased approach be used, starting with 500,000 and then moving in steps to 10 million," Mr. Hauer said. But if necessary, he added, the 10 million could be given in one step.

Dr. Gerberding said, absent a smallpox attack, or the imminent threat of one, she still felt the vaccine's benefits do not outweigh its risks for the general public. But, she said: "We recognize that individual citizens feel that if they understand the risks and benefits of the vaccine, they may choose to have it."

Dr. Gerberding, Dr. Fauci and Mr. Hauer said they met with Mr. Thompson several times over the summer to discuss the various options. But Mr. Hauer declined to discuss what was said.

Mr. Thompson has had additional meetings on the issue with Mr. Bush, the last about two weeks ago, according to an official who asked not be identified.

According to another administration official, Vice President Dick Cheney favors a mass vaccination approach, while Mr. Bush favors a more moderate approach.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/05/health/05SMAL.html>

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Washington Post
October 5, 2002
Pg. 9

New Set Of Potential Risks

Experts Say Vaccine Would Kill Some, Injure Others

By a Washington Post Staff Writer

As the White House studies making smallpox vaccine available to the general public to guard against a terrorist attack, experts are struggling to quantify the risks it may pose.

The vaccine has not been used in civilians in this country for 30 years, so the experts are hobbled by antiquated data. Moreover, the population has changed significantly since the last good studies were done in the late 1960s, and today it includes many more people whose immune systems have been compromised by cancer, infection or organ transplant, or who have had certain serious skin conditions such as eczema.

Those people are at special risk from the vaccine, and estimates of their number run as high as 50 million, or 17 percent of the population. Attempts would be made to screen them out and vaccinate only those at relatively low risk of complications.

Even so, the vaccine would kill some people and injure more. That's because smallpox vaccine is made from a living virus, cowpox, that is closely related to smallpox. Vaccination works because the immune response the body mounts against cowpox primes it to resist a later infection with smallpox. The cowpox in the vaccine usually doesn't reproduce in the body enough to cause illness, but in a few people it can get out of control.

These are the best risk estimates of experts at universities and the Department of Health and Human Services:

* For every 1 million people receiving the vaccine, 15 would suffer life-threatening complications such as encephalitis, or brain inflammation, and one or two would die, studies suggest. If 200 million of the nation's 288 million people got the vaccine, that would translate into 3,000 people suffering life-threatening complications, and 200 to 400 deaths. Experts are relatively confident of this estimate.

* A far larger, harder-to-estimate group of people would suffer side effects that were serious but not life-threatening. These could range from blindness in one or both eyes to disfiguring skin ailments. If 200 million people got vaccinated, this number could be as high as 160,000 people, studies suggest, but the large majority would be expected to recover without permanent disability.

* A large proportion of those vaccinated would be likely to suffer symptoms like fever or malaise, with 15 to 20 percent of vaccinated children running fevers high enough to keep them out of school for several days.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A45826-2002Oct4.html>

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Christian Science Monitor
October 7, 2002

World Looks For Ways To Thwart Terrorist 'Dirty Bombs'

Last week, experts from 26 countries met in London to tackle the radiological threat.

By Mary B.W. Tabor, Special to The Christian Science Monitor

LONDON - After the cold war ended in 1991, the specter of rogue states using portable nuclear devices, or "suitcase nukes," helped spur cooperative efforts to seal up Russia's old nuclear factories, destroy existing weapons, and find peacetime work for jobless bombmakers.

But now a new kind of threat looms.

Earlier this year, the arrest of an alleged Al Qaeda operative in the US on suspicion of plotting to build a radiological dispersal device, or "dirty bomb," highlighted growing concerns that these improvised bombs, not nukes, present more immediate danger. Because they spread quickly over a wide area and are relatively easy to make – just a few grams of highly enriched uranium or plutonium mixed with conventional explosives – they are more likely to be used by terrorists.

Last week, some 240 delegates from 26 countries gathered in London for a three-day conference to boost international cooperation in securing nuclear and radiological materials and fighting nuclear terrorism. Cohosted by the US Department of Energy and Moscow's Kurchatov nuclear institute, the meeting drew lawmakers, scientists, atomic-weapons experts, and security officials from nations as diverse as Kazakhstan and Japan. Closed-door sessions revolved around topics of radiological threat reduction, trends in illicit trafficking, materiel protection, control and accounting, and the challenge of preventing nuclear and radiological terrorism.

This challenge was made clear in a Balkan delegate's comments after the conference. Aleksandar Cvetkov, head of interior affairs for the Republic of Macedonia, said that his country does not produce nuclear materials but that such dangerous materials are smuggled through the country, using illegal drug and arms trafficking routes.

He said that while information on arrests involving nuclear materials at Macedonia's borders is confidential, the occurrence of such smuggling had risen noticeably since the attack on the World Trade Center.

"Our control of certain border points is not so strong," Mr. Cvetkov said through an interpreter. "We want directions on how to work; how to locate the fragile points. And then we hope to get some help with equipment and training. Our aim is to be part of a more global system so that we can help prevent another September 11."

Unlike nuclear stockpiles, which are based in only a handful of countries, radiation sources are ubiquitous, and it is nearly impossible to keep track of them all. About 375 sources of radioactive material, which can be used to treat cancer, preserve food or check for welding errors in pipelines, are reported lost or stolen in the US each year. In other countries, the exact amount of unaccounted for, or "orphaned," radioactive material is unknown. Officials say they often do not know material has been lost until it is found.

The US Department of Energy has joined with Russia's Ministry of Atomic Energy, or MinAtom, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to try to secure some of Russia's orphaned radioactive sources. Russia and the newly independent states of the former USSR are believed to have about 600 metric tons of weapons-usable material – "enough to produce more than 41,000 nuclear devices," according to a 2001 report by the department's Material Protection, Control, and Accounting Program. About a third of that material has not been officially secured, officials said.

Last month, the G-8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction pledged up to \$20 billion toward new and expanded projects on nuclear security.

Nonproliferation efforts include finding ways to put bomb ingredients to commercial use. Sen. Richard Lugar, (R) of Indiana, announced last Thursday that more than 6,000 nuclear warheads worth of Russian bomb material has been eliminated by converting it into fuel to make electricity.

Among other developments:

- The US and Russia have agreed to dispose of 68 metric tons of surplus plutonium – enough material for over 10,000 nuclear weapons.
- Security upgrades will expand from four to 21 border sites in Russia and Ukraine – an important contribution to efforts to curtail nuclear smuggling.

In addition to a database that helps track and account for the nuclear and radiological material, the US has provided portal monitors to countries in the former USSR and Europe and X-ray vans at airports to detect radioactive sources and possible shielded sources in luggage. But Kenji Murakami, director of the Department of Safeguards at the IAEA in Vienna, noted that only 70 nations are members of the voluntary database. The system "needs to be more timely and more accurate," he said. "Much has been done. But it isn't enough."

Conference recommendations also included enacting tougher laws to deal with weapons smuggling and setting up telephone and Internet-based "hotlines" to help countries improve regulation and disposal of nuclear and radiological materials.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2002/1007/p07s01-wogi.html>

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London Sunday Times
October 6, 2002

Revealed: Radioactive Material For Dirty Bomb Is Just A Phone Call Away

By Justin Sparks and Peter Conradi

Highly radioactive material that could be used by terrorists to make a "dirty bomb" can be bought on the open market in Europe and shipped across international borders, a Sunday Times investigation has revealed. Reporters posing as representatives of a bogus British company identified only as CMI reached agreement with a Czech manufacturer to buy a cancer radiotherapy machine containing 70 grams of radioactive cobalt-60. Packed into a 500kg bomb, the material could contaminate up to a square mile of any city, experts say. The undercover reporters said they wanted to send the machine to Nigeria under an aid project. They were assured both by Skoda-UJP, its manufacturer, and by Czech nuclear authorities that they would face no problems in obtaining export clearance.

On the basis of a single fax from CMI, a senior civil servant in the Nigerian health ministry promised to help with the "acquisition of documents" necessary to import the machine into the country.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which monitors the spread of nuclear materials, said the investigation showed how easily terrorists could get their hands on the components of a dirty bomb.

"I'm shocked," said Gordon Linsley, an expert on nuclear safety at the IAEA, which is affiliated to the United Nations. "The message of September 11 has clearly not filtered through enough to these sorts of commercial companies to convince them to change their practices."

Nuclear experts said a bomb made from the cobalt-60 of a single radiotherapy machine could render a significant area of central London uninhabitable.

John Eldridge, a former British army specialist on measures to counter weapons of mass destruction, said: "In dust form it would be enough to contaminate the whole of Oxford Street and other adjacent streets if that was the centre of the blast."

Security experts said Al-Qaeda, which is believed to have its own ships, would have little trouble in transporting such a device by sea from Nigeria if it acquired cobalt-60 by similar means. The bomb could then be smuggled into Britain or any targeted country.

Concerns about the risks of a dirty bomb were raised in June after US authorities announced the arrest at Chicago airport of Jose Padilla, an American alleged to have links with Al-Qaeda, on suspicion of planning an attack. Padilla has denied the charge.

A reporter from The Sunday Times first approached Skoda-UJP soon after Padilla's arrest. Posing as a representative of CMI, he said the company was interested in buying machines for Medihelp Africa, a fake aid project, to supply medical equipment to Africa.

Skoda-UJP, based in Zbraslav, near Prague, proposed a model known as Teragam, costing between £240,000 and £270,000. Each machine contains a source of cobalt-60 that generates 8,000 curies, a few minutes' exposure to which could cause cancer or death. The company has no connection with the car maker of the same name.

In a fax dated July 11 and addressed to the London office of CMI, Zdenek Bezdek, head of Skoda-UJP's sales department, said his company had exported machines to a number of countries including Hungary, Moldova, Kazakhstan and Belarus.

"There would be no obstacle for us to get this permission for one machine," Bezdek wrote. "We have experienced in this sense no bureaucracy from the part of the Czech Office for Nuclear Safety."

The Office for Nuclear Safety, a Czech government body that regulates sales of radioactive materials, foresaw no obstacles when approached directly by CMI. "They (SkodaUJP) have a licence to distribute, produce and export their machines," said Otta Kodl, head of the organisation's licensing department. "As long as you come to an agreement with them, that's okay."

Bezdek said the machine's radioactive source would be transported on a normal commercial flight, with the rest of the machine shipped by sea. Asked if he was concerned about the risks of transporting such radioactive material, he replied: "It is so dangerous that nobody would dare to do anything with it."

No attempt appears to have been made to establish the bona fides of CMI, whose letterhead bore a fictitious address. Initial inquiries in Nigeria suggested importing the machine could be fraught with bureaucratic problems. Officials from the nuclear energy ministry said they would need to inspect the hospital where it would be installed.

However, a single fax on CMI headed notepaper was sent to the Nigerian health ministry, briefly outlining the nature of the project and boasting of the company's close links to the British government.

In his reply, dated August 26, Shehu Suleiman, permanent secretary at the ministry, promised help with "the acquisition of documents, which are considered necessary for the importation of medical equipment". He added: "The Federal Ministry of Health . . . would be prepared to assist your company."

IAEA officials welcomed the investigation for exposing the relative ease with which radioactive materials could be obtained. The agency warned after Padilla's arrest that dozens of countries, including America, were unable to account for significant amounts of radioactive material — much of it used in medicine — that could be placed in a dirty bomb.

British authorities have also been concerned about the threat from a possible "dirty bomber" and have secretly installed a cordon of devices capable of detecting radioactive or fissile materials at several British ports. Questioned by The Sunday Times, Bezdek denied Skoda-UJP had been negligent in failing to check up on the bogus purchaser. Checks would have been made on CMI before the machine was shipped, he insisted.

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Washington Times
October 6, 2002
Pg. 6

Chemical Labs Show Al Qaeda Still Active

By Ralph Joseph, The Washington Times

KARACHI, Pakistan — Three small chemical labs found in terrorist hide-outs in Karachi in recent weeks indicate that al Qaeda's bid to build chemical, biological and perhaps even nuclear weapons did not end with the destruction of its bases in Afghanistan.

The labs, in which undisclosed quantities of cyanide and other toxic chemicals were stored, were found in safe houses used by local cells of the Lashkar-i-Jhangvi group, whose operatives trained in Afghanistan before the September 11 attacks. The local terrorists have been working with al Qaeda in Pakistan since the fall of the Taliban. Officials speaking on the condition of anonymity said the discovery of the makeshift labs in July came as a surprise to Pakistani authorities, who had believed that al Qaeda had moved some of its weapons-making operations from Afghanistan to other points in the Middle East, but not to Pakistan.

Pakistani intelligence officials now say Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, whose operatives are not sophisticated enough to build even a car bomb themselves, probably received help from al Qaeda members in the labs.

Earlier arrests made during a raid on a smugglers' village near Karachi led the authorities to believe that al Qaeda had moved much of its lab equipment to other countries in the region with the help of gold smugglers who had been operating for decades between Pakistan and several Middle Eastern countries.

The al Qaeda shipments, which reportedly also included several sacks of gold, were made just before the U.S.-led coalition forces began bombing Afghanistan last year. The terrorists had foreseen the bombing operations and made full use of the smugglers' services.

By the time the Pakistani authorities swooped down on the smugglers' village, called Ibrahim Hyder, the entire operation was over. Much of the gold reportedly went to Sudan.

Meanwhile, attempts to locate other weapons labs could be a challenge for the Pakistani intelligence community. Al Qaeda and its local allies, including Lashkar-i-Jhangvi and the Jaish-i-Mohammed group, have now reorganized into small cells of three to five persons, each charged with a specific operation.

Lt. Gen. Javad Ashraf Qazi, a former Pakistan military intelligence chief, says trying to find a group of three to five persons in a city of more than 10 million "is next to impossible."

Nevertheless, investigations over the past few months indicate that al Qaeda fighters have taken shelter mainly in eight or nine suburbs of Karachi where the group's Pakistani and Afghan sympathizers are concentrated.

Most of the arrests in Karachi so far came with assistance of FBI agents using equipment that enables them to monitor cell-phone traffic and to pinpoint where specific calls originate.

Thousands of al Qaeda members hiding in Pakistan use cell phones to keep in touch and seem to communicate mainly in Arabic, but recognizing who is who is often tricky.

However, Ramzi Binalshibh, a key al Qaeda leader arrested last month, apparently slipped when he allowed himself to be interviewed on tape by a reporter working for Al Jazeera, the Qatar-based television network. The voice pattern obtained from the broadcast gave investigators something to work with in Karachi.

A neighbor of Binalshibh in Karachi said Pakistani intelligence agents began watching the terrorist's safe house after the interview was broadcast, but commandos "did not move in until September 11, to coincide with President Pervez Musharraf's trip to New York."

None of the numerous cell-phone calls intercepted in Karachi gave police any hint of the presence of al Qaeda chemical labs there.

<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20021006-9707730.htm>

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New York Daily News
October 6, 2002

Iraq's Dr. Germ - The Deadliest Woman Alive

By Helen Kennedy, Daily News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - She is a middle-aged mom, a cultured woman with a British accent and doctorate who married well, to a general.

In a rare picture, she has chipmunk cheeks, thick gray-streaked black hair and cradles a handbag as she squints at the camera from under carefully plucked half-moon eyebrows.

Dr. Rihab Taha, 47, is said to be the most dangerous woman in the world.

Dubbed Dr. Germ by the press, Saddam Hussein's biological weapons chief has made enough doses of enough lethal germs to kill every human on the planet. Her handiwork is a large part of the reason America is planning to go to war again.

Taha, widely described as shy and unassuming, has spent most of the last two decades spinning a web of horrors: bugs that make eyes bleed, bacteria that peels skin off the body, viruses that cause fever and pox and lingering, agonizing death.

Little has been heard of Taha since the United Nations Special Commission weapons inspectors left Iraq in 1998. She may be there to greet them if they go back in the next few weeks.

Popular student

The product of a well-heeled family, Rihab Rashida Taha graduated from the University of Baghdad and went to England in the late 1970s to study microbiology.

She spent five years studying plant diseases at the University of East Anglia and received her doctorate in tobacco pathogens in 1984.

Though quiet, she was well liked by fellow students and brought back gift-wrapped boxes of Iraqi dates from trips home. She went to the theater, read poetry and never joined political discussions in the lab. As the Iran-Iraq war dragged into its third year, she rented a flat with two Iranian girls.

Her mentor and friend, chief of East Anglia's biology department John Turner, remembered her as shy, hardworking and not markedly gifted.

Taha returned to Baghdad in 1984 and became the protege of top microbiologist Abdul Nassir Hindawi, who was urging the government to relaunch its long-defunct bioweapons program.

With the war against Iran going badly, the government decided it wanted germ weapons and put Taha in charge of making them.

The United States sent Taha her first bugs in April 1986.

Back then, secular Iraq was an ally against Iran's Islamic fundamentalists, and the Reagan administration okayed the mailings of dozens of samples of anthrax, botulinum toxin, E. coli, a gangrene-causing bacteria and West Nile virus. Five years later, when UN weapons inspectors first arrived in Iraq after the Persian Gulf War, Taha told them only a tiny number of biological weapons had been produced and all had been destroyed.

They didn't believe her, and when they pressured her, she frequently turned to theatrics, bursting into tears, and storming out of rooms, inspectors reported.

(One of these stormy meetings took place in 1993 in New York, where Taha and Iraqi oil minister Amer Rashid spent time discussing UNSCOM (the now-defunct inspection agency) problems with the UN. Romance apparently bloomed, because Rashid subsequently left his wife to marry Taha. They have an 8-year-old daughter.)

In a bold stroke in March 1995, Taha took a group of Western reporters to the al Hakam plant to show them it was just a chicken farm.

But a few weeks later, Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, Gen. Hussein Kamel, defected and told Western intelligence what Taha and her research counterparts were really up to.

Iraq then gave the UN 600,000 pages of documents outlining its weapons program. It turned out the Iraqis had made thousands of gallons of toxins.

Iraq also admitted that during the Persian Gulf War, 166 bombs and 25 long-range missile warheads had been loaded with biological agents, ready to rain agonizing death on U.S. troops. They were never used because Iraq feared nuclear retaliation.

Still, UNSCOM was skeptical that the whole truth was being told and they didn't believe Iraq's claims that all the biological agents were destroyed in the summer of 1991.

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Washington Times

October 8, 2002

Pg. 3

U.S. Says Al Qaeda Exploring Russian Market For Weapons

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

U.S. intelligence agencies are concerned that terrorists are working hard to acquire small nuclear weapons and nuclear material for bombs from Russia.

The problem was highlighted by recent intelligence reports indicating that representatives of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda terrorist network have discussed buying nuclear weapons and nuclear material from members of organized crime groups in Russia.

Russian authorities also raised concerns recently when saying they suspect the murder of a nuclear chemist in August may have been linked to a clandestine effort to steal the country's nuclear technology.

Sergei Bakhvalov, a leading specialist in the extraction of plutonium, may have been killed by terrorists seeking to obtain nuclear expertise, material or equipment, according to Russian press reports quoting sources within the Federal Security Service, Moscow's domestic spy agency.

Asked about the terror network's attempt to obtain nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, a senior U.S. defense official said recently: "I can't tell you here that I have evidence they've made use of them. I know that they are working on them; the documentation is there."

The senior official said there are cases where al Qaeda has had contacts to inquire about purchasing weapons of mass destruction on the black market.

Russia's government says its weapons are strictly controlled.

"A theft or a leak from our nuclear weapons storage facilities is absolutely impossible," Col. Gen. Igor Volynkin, head of the Defense Ministry's 12th main department in charge of nuclear security, told reporters in Moscow on Sept. 4.

"The Defense Ministry's 12th department is reinforcing and is capable of resisting any terrorist attacks," he said.

A U.S. intelligence official said there are no indications that the al Qaeda has acquired small nuclear arms. However, the official noted, "It is something that cannot be dismissed completely."

There are fears that Iraq, which is seeking to rebuild its nuclear weapons development capability, will share the know-how with such terrorists, according to a senior defense official.

"There is a close correlation between those states which are sponsoring terrorism and those which have weapons of mass destruction programs — chemical, biological and nuclear programs," the official told reporters during a briefing on terrorism and unconventional weapons.

In February, the CIA sent a report to Congress on Russia's nuclear arsenal and material security that concluded Moscow's nuclear weapons are protected from external threats but have become vulnerable to insider theft since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, U.S. officials said.

Many of Moscow's security measures are outdated and "are not designed to counter the pre-eminent threat faced today — an insider who attempts unauthorized actions," the report states.

Russia has 300 buildings at more than 40 facilities across the country that contain nuclear weapons material, and security there is considered poor, the report said.

CIA Director George J. Tenet told Congress in February that "one of our highest concerns is [al Qaeda's] stated readiness to attempt unconventional attacks against us."

"As early as 1998, bin Laden publicly declared that acquiring unconventional weapons was 'a religious duty,'" Mr. Tenet said.

U.S. intelligence believes that prior to allied military operations in Afghanistan, which began Oct. 7, bin Laden "was seeking to acquire or develop a nuclear device," he said. "Al Qaeda may be pursuing a radioactive dispersal device — what some call a 'dirty bomb.'"

Documents obtained by U.S. military and intelligence officials in Afghanistan indicate that al Qaeda terrorists were working on chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

"These diagrams, while crude, describe essential components — uranium and high-explosives — common to nuclear weapons," the CIA report in January said.

There also have been persistent reports that bin Laden attempted to purchase covertly a tactical nuclear weapon in Kazakhstan several years ago.

Bruce Blair, a nuclear weapons specialist, said the threat of terrorists acquiring nuclear weapons is going to remain an "uncertainty" because of the problem of keeping track of material, equipment and scientists.

"[T]he concern extends to such areas as cyber-terrorism, such as hacking into the early warning systems and nuclear command and control networks, with a view to triggering false alarms or circumventing electronic safeguards against unauthorized launch," said Mr. Blair, director of the Center for Defense Information.

Mr. Blair said a Pentagon study found that cyber-terrorists could enter the Navy's nuclear command system and send a launch order to Trident nuclear missile submarines. The study led to a tightening of submarine missile launch procedures.

"The point of this last story is that the nuclear security problem in Russia has been too narrowly conceived," Mr. Blair said. "There are other scenarios besides the loss of a weapon or materials that fall into the wrong hands."

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/national/20021008-95898602.htm>

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10/08/2002 - Updated 06:32 AM ET

Pakistan test-fires second missile

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — With border tension running high in South Asia, nuclear-armed Pakistan test-fired a medium-range surface-to-surface missile Tuesday, its second in less than a week, an army statement said.

The launch of the nuclear-capable Shaheen missile was part of a series of tests that began Friday, the army said in a statement. State-controlled Pakistan Television said Tuesday's test completed the series.

Nuclear-armed rivals Pakistan and India conducted tit-for-tat missile tests on Friday.

With more than 1 million soldiers deployed along the disputed Kashmir border, where there have been daily gunbattles, the continued missile testing threatens to escalate tensions in a region that is already one step from the brink of war.

Tuesday's test was conducted in Pakistan's sparsely populated southwestern Baluchistan province. The missile had an estimated range of 510 miles, according to Pakistani defense reports, making it capable of reaching most targets in India.

India appeared unconcerned by the latest test.

"They are a sovereign country, they have tested their missiles, good luck to them," Indian Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha said in Berlin, where he was on a state visit. Asked what India would do in response to the Pakistani test, Sinha replied: "Nothing."

In a statement carried on state television, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf congratulated the scientists who worked on the missile.

"The successful test fire of the indigenously developed shaheen weapons system is the culmination of years of hard work, dedication and professional excellence of Pakistani scientists and engineers," the statement said.

Pakistan tested a similar missile Friday. Within hours, New Delhi tested its most sophisticated surface-to-air missile, meant to bolster its air defense.

In the past, the countries have notified each other when they were planning to conduct missile tests. Pakistani officials did not immediately comment on whether India was told a test would be conducted Tuesday.

Both Pakistan and India claim to have nuclear weapons in their arsenals, although neither country is believed to have acquired the technology to attach nuclear warheads to their missiles.

Pakistan and India have gone to war three times since they were separated in 1947, twice over the Kashmir region.

They came dangerously close to a fourth confrontation after militants attacked the Indian Parliament in New Delhi last December.

India accused Pakistani intelligence of masterminding the attack, a charge Islamabad denied.

Both India and Pakistan claim a united Kashmiri as their own. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training militants who are demanding an independent Kashmir or a Kashmir aligned to Pakistan. Pakistan denies the charge.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2002-10-08-pakistan-missile_x.htm

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