

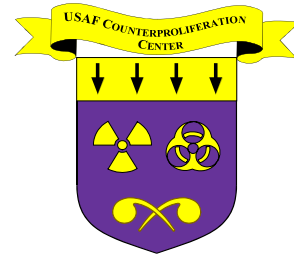
#68

15 May 2001

USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER

CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL

*Air University
Air War College
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 Lt. Col. Michael W. Ritz, CPC Intelligence/Public Affairs or JoAnn Eddy, CPC Outreach Editor, at (334) 953-7538 or DSN 493-7538.

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Statement of Joe M. Allbaugh Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Before the Joint Hearing of the Committees on
Appropriations, Armed Services and Intelligence**

U.S. Senate, May 8, 2001

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members.

I am Joe Allbaugh, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

I thank the distinguished committee members for this opportunity to discuss some of the Federal terrorism related activities.

Today, I am also joined by John Magaw, Acting Deputy Director of FEMA. Mr. Magaw is well known on Capitol Hill for his expertise and service to our country. I am honored that he is by my side....
http://www.fema.gov/nwz01/nwz01_34.htm

Testimony on Counterterrorism before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary Secretary Colin L. Powell

Testimony on Counterterrorism before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, DC
May 8, 2001

SECRETARY POWELL: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is a very great pleasure to be here, and I thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning. And, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman -- all -- and the most distinguished panel you have put together, Senator Gregg, and I do appreciate the opportunity. Mr. Chairman, members of the group, the committee, I am pleased to testify before you on the subject of terrorism and I applaud this initiative to continue the dialogue on how America can improve its response to terrorism. At the Department of State, we welcome your interest and your past work in this area, including creating the concept of the Administration's Five-Year-Plan -- an action to which we have contributed. Let me begin my testimony by talking about the United States' response to international terrorism and the State Department's role as lead federal agency in this effort....
<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2001/index.cfm?docid=2780>

Wednesday May 9 4:50 PM ET

If Terrorists Attack on U.S. Soil, Who's in Charge?

By Tabassum Zakaria

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) has given the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) a lead role in dealing with a terrorist attack, but Attorney General John Ashcroft ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) said on Wednesday his department would be first in charge at the scene.

The Justice Department ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) claimed control over the "crisis" stage immediately after a nuclear, biological or chemical weapon attack on U.S. soil. FEMA would lead the "consequence" stage dealing with the injured and damage to facilities.

If the two stages overlapped, as was likely, Ashcroft said Justice would be in charge until the situation was out of "crisis" stage involving the investigation to find the culprit....

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20010509/pl/congress_threats_dc_6.html

China, Iran oppose ban on biological weapons

Wednesday, 9 May 2001 5:22 (ET)

China, Iran oppose ban on biological weapons TEHRAN, May 8, (UPI) -- China, Iran and seven other countries have urged the international community to scrap a treaty that seeks tighter control on exports of biological weapons technology, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Wednesday. Although already 32 states have endorsed the treaty, the nine nations who met in Geneva described it as discriminatory and favoring the major powers. The move, revealed at an international panel tasked with drafting a verification protocol for the 1972 Chemical Weapons Convention, aims at stalling Western efforts to further tighten the treaty. The convention bans

the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological and toxic weapons but lacks a mechanism to check suspected violations....

<http://www.vny.com/cf/news/upidetail.cfm?QID=184104>

Inside the Pentagon

May 10, 2001

Pg. 1

Key Senator Asks Rumsfeld To Reorganize Army's Chem Demil Program

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has asked Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to work with Congress to restructure the chemical weapons destruction program to ensure the safety of citizens living near stockpiles sites, according to a May 8 letter.

The Army is charged with destroying the eight chemical weapons stockpiles in the continental United States in accordance with an international treaty and continually states that it is on track to do so by the April 2007 deadline. The program completed the destruction of a stockpile on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific Ocean last November.

However, citizen activists repeatedly charge the Army with mismanaging the program and ignoring the safety of civilians.

"I write to express my frustration with the alarming lack of oversight and accountability of the Army's chemical demilitarization program," McConnell wrote. A hearing of the Senate Appropriations defense subcommittee, of which McConnell is a member, demonstrated the Army's "complete mismanagement" of the chem demil program, he asserted.

During the hearing, McConnell said Rumsfeld should include chem demil in his strategic review of Defense Department requirements and strategies (Inside the Pentagon, April 26, p1).

"While the terrific cost and schedule overruns which have resulted are troubling, it is the potential safety implications of this haphazard management which is most disturbing," he wrote this week. "Further, the Army eroded any sense of trust it may have hoped to foster by providing misleading testimony and ignoring the concerns raised by citizens who are directly impacted by this program."

The Army is examining technologies to destroy weapons stockpiled in the senator's home state of Kentucky, including baseline incineration and non-incineration technologies identified by the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment. The program has not selected a destruction technology for its site in Pueblo, CO, but is slated to do so late this summer.

Meanwhile, the Tooele Army Depot, UT, where the program employs its controversial baseline incineration technology, is the only CONUS site with destruction operations under way today. Sites in Anniston, AL, and Umatilla, OR, are set to begin incineration activities this year, and the stockpile site at Pine Bluff Arsenal, AR, is also under construction for the incineration technology. The sites in Newport, IN, and Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, have begun work using alternative technologies to incineration.

Technology selection has been a particular sore point for citizen activist groups like the Kentucky-based Chemical Weapons Working Group, which asserts the Army is committed to burning the weapons at any cost rather than finding an alternative. The CWWG believes incineration is extremely hazardous, while the Army maintains it is a safe and proven technology.

As a witness at the April defense subcommittee hearing, the CWWG presented an internal Army report, "The 2000 Operations Schedule Task Force Report," prepared by the program management, indicating that the Army's incineration facilities will have difficulty meeting projected schedules.

Critics charge that the document is an example of the Army's continued mismanagement of chem demil and its willingness to deceive the public.

An Army spokesman confirmed the authenticity of the report, but downplayed its conclusion as nothing more than an examination of "worst case scenarios," according to McConnell's letter.

"This response is clearly inaccurate as three experts with over 50 years of chemical weapons-related experience confirmed the findings reported to the committee," McConnell wrote. "This obfuscation is the core of the problem."

McConnell said the internal report never mentions "worse case scenarios, but rather uses data from the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS) and Tooele Chemical Disposal Facility (TOCDF) to better gauge an honest schedule.

"While those results may not be as favorable as the program manager for chemical demilitarization would hope for, they provide the only accurate assessment ever done based on actual operational experience," he said, noting that previous schedules have had to rely on modeling rather than empirical data.

"Hundreds of thousands of citizens live in the immediate danger zone around these weapons," McConnell wrote.

"This is not the kind of program that should be run with an emphasis on public relations in lieu of safety and candor -- too much is at stake."

A program spokesman told Inside the Pentagon that the document is authentic but refuted some of the conclusions "drawn by the [CWWG] from that document and presented as facts to the senators." The program is providing lawmakers with an information paper detailing its position on the internal report and its conclusions, he said.

"It was a working document that is done periodically to identify and examine the risks associated with the destruction of the stockpile," he said. "The Army remains committed to meeting the 2007 treaty obligations. There are challenges to meeting that treaty that we face every day. The Task Force 2000 document was only the first step at identifying these challenges, challenges now recognized through processing totals done at JACADS and TOCDF. Previous assumptions were just that, assumptions. Actual results are now available for analysis."

Acknowledging the schedule challenges facing incineration technology, the spokesman said the method at least comes with some empirical data to assess risks -- something alternative technologies lack because they have not been employed yet.

-- Catherine MacRae

Thursday May 10 8:53 PM ET

Senate Finds Government Maze Handles Terrorism

By Tabassum Zakaria

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Senate hearings that ended on Thursday on whether the United States was prepared to handle a "terrorist" attack on U.S. soil found that a maze of 46 government agencies and multiple congressional committees have jurisdiction over the issue.

Three days of hearings with testimony from top officials from major federal agencies left unanswered the question of who would be in charge in the event of an attack by biological, nuclear or chemical weapons.

Local sheriffs, the Justice Department ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) claimed at various junctures they would be in control in the aftermath of a catastrophe caused by a weapon of mass destruction....

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20010510/pl/congress_threats_dc_7.html

Indian forces test skills against NBC background

Hansera (Thar desert), May 10. (PTI): For the first time, Indian armed forces personnel and warmachines were put through survival drills of nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) warfare as the top Army brass today asserted that any immediate threat to the nation would be of a conventional nature rather than a nuclear strike.

Acknowledging that the nuclear threat had come to the very doorsteps of the country, top commanders said any war in the region could be triggered by a notion on the part of an adversary of some advantage in a particular area which could be exploited by it through largescale manoeuvres elsewhere....

<http://www.the-hindu.com/holnus/02102006.htm>

International Herald Tribune

May 10, 2001

U.S. Team Hears Paris Doubts On Missile Shield

By Reuters

PARIS -- France voiced its doubts on Wednesday about the wisdom of U.S. plans for an anti-missile shield when a senior American delegation struggled to persuade Paris of its benefits.

"Our position and our questions are well known," a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Francois Rivasseau, said after talks with a team led by Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz. "We had the opportunity of reminding the American delegation about them."

Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, meanwhile, came under pressure from within his own Labour Party to dissociate himself from President George W. Bush's proposals a day after the touring U.S. delegation briefed London on the new strategy.

American officials held the talks in Paris and London as part of a global initiative by the Bush administration to try to overcome opposition to the project.

In Paris, the delegation met with Foreign Ministry officials and President Jacques Chirac's adviser on foreign affairs. The U.S. team told a skeptical France that a system capable of intercepting missiles fired by so-called rogue states would be good for world peace and did not mean Washington had lost interest in arms control. Mr. Wolfowitz acknowledged that he had a lot of talking to do to sell the high-tech shield.

"We are certainly not trying to throw arms control aside," he told reporters, adding that if anything, treaties against the spread of nuclear weapons should be strengthened.

Critics say the United States undermined these accords when the Senate refused to ratify a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Mr. Wolfowitz said missile defense would simply be an additional tool alongside nuclear deterrence, reflecting changes in the world order.

"It is not that we want to protect the United States and not protect anyone else," he said after meeting with the French officials. "It is in our interest that Russia, for example, is not vulnerable to that type of limited attack as well." The U.S. diplomats visited Britain and North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters in Brussels on Tuesday for consultations that appeared to lack specifics.

In London, diplomats said the British had gleaned little more than they had heard in Mr. Bush's May 1 speech. There were no details on the type of systems envisaged, the timetable, the legal framework or how Washington planned to deal with Russian and Chinese opposition, they said.

Delegation members are due to visit The Hague, Copenhagen, Berlin, Rome, Warsaw and Ankara this week before a visit on Friday to Russia, which has warned that the plan could fuel a fresh arms race.

Unveiling the project last week, Mr. Bush said it was time to "move beyond" the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Moscow, which he said longer reflected post-Cold War strategic reality. But he stopped short of renouncing it altogether.

Mr. Wolfowitz said no final decision had been made on what to do with the treaty, seen by many as a cornerstone of international nuclear stability over the past 30 years.

President Chirac warned in January that a U.S. anti-missile network could spark a nuclear arms race. Officials in Paris have also questioned the technical feasibility of such a system, citing some test failures.

France toned down its attacks after Germany and Britain expressed interest in the idea, but the concerns remain. Despite this week's U.S. hard sell, opposition remains strong even in some quarters in Britain, Washington's most loyal European ally.

About 100 members of Parliament urged Mr. Blair to distance himself from the Bush plan. Many of the signers came from Mr. Blair's own Labour Party.

Areospace Daily

May 10, 2001

Former Government Scientists Say Missile Defense Is Feasible

Five former leading scientists for the Defense Department and NASA argued May 9 that critics of national and theater missile defenses are misguided to deny the feasibility of deploying such systems.

The scientists told reporters that the technology has already been proven and that all that remains to be tackled is an engineering challenge, a difficult but achievable task.

"There's no science underpinning the proposed missile defense system that is not understood," said Raymond Askew, who was NASA's space station chief scientist. "There are no technological showstoppers."

Of the 31 national and theater missile defense tests conducted by the U.S. since the mid-1980s, 14 were successful, according to the scientists. The success rate is even better - 14 out of 16 - for those tests in which the interceptor could home in on the target missile.

"We're going to have to improve that ... and I think we will over time," said William Davis, former deputy ballistic missile defense program manager.

The scientists also charged that missile defense critics have exaggerated the ability of rogue nations to develop countermeasures. Many of the possibilities thrown out by such critics, such as sophisticated balloon decoys, are "science fiction," said Alan Sherer, who worked on various missile defense programs, including President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. Media accused of bias

Askew, Davis and Sherer were joined at the news conference by Frank Rose, who retired in March as director of the science directorate at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, and Carl Bayer, who was chief of the systems definition division at the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization.

The scientists, assembled by House Armed Services Committee member Curt Weldon (R-Pa.), pledged to be outspoken in the coming months to counter what they see as a largely one-sided debate in the news media. Their comments came eight days after President George W. Bush reiterated his plans to move ahead with fielding a missile defense shield, which could meet resistance from some members of Congress over technological, diplomatic and financial concerns (DAILY, May 2, May 3).

Davis said 15 of the 17 missile defense test failures since the mid-1980s were "random quality control-type failures," such as the unsuccessful separation of the kill vehicle from the launch vehicle in the last National Missile Defense test in July (DAILY, July 11, 2000).

"It says to us that we're going to have to tighten up our quality control," Davis asserted. "But ... it does not bear on the basic feasibility of hit-to-kill" technology.

- Marc Selinger

Washington Times

May 10, 2001

State Split Over Lifting Sanctions

By Ben Barber, The Washington Times

State Department policy-makers are deeply split between those who want to lift sanctions against India to clear the way for a new strategic alliance and those who fear that would send a dangerous signal to potential nuclear-weapons states.

The sanctions, imposed after India shocked the world with a series of nuclear tests in 1998, are seen as an obstacle by a powerful faction that hopes to build an alliance with India, partly as a counterweight to China. U.S.-Indian military ties have quietly resumed, India's ambassador to Washington, Lalit Mansingh, told The Washington Times last week, but U.S. sales of weapons and nuclear power technology still are blocked.

The nonproliferation bureau at State, on the other hand, strongly opposes lifting the sanctions for fear of undermining U.S. efforts to prevent other nations from developing nuclear weapons, said State Department officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage will visit India tomorrow during a tour of Asia aimed at building support for a missile defense system that the Bush administration says it is committed to developing.

He also will try to win some sort of pledge from Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on limiting nuclear weapons development and deployment that could appease the nonproliferation advocates within the U.S. government, sources said.

Later this month, and despite the ban on military relations imposed by the sanctions, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Henry H. Shelton, will visit India, The Washington Times reported last week.

A Pentagon official said yesterday that "the general will talk about military-to-military relationships."

However, discussions about ending sanctions imposed on India and Pakistan after both nations conducted nuclear tests in 1998 depend upon an ongoing review of South Asia issues at the National Security Council, said one official who asked not to be identified.

A powerful pro-India lobby in Congress, bolstered by contributions from Indian-American high-tech millionaires, is pushing to waive sanctions on India, said a source in the office of Sen. Sam Brownback, Kansas Republican and chairman of the Foreign Relations subcommittee on South Asia and the Near East.

"I have been making the case for the last two years that it is time to lift sanctions on India, and I am optimistic that this administration will finally do so," Mr. Brownback told The Washington Times.

"While the situation with Pakistan is different . . . it is logical to lift them on Pakistan as well."

The move to lift sanctions and tighten Indian-U.S. military and trade ties comes as U.S. affection for Pakistan, a Cold War ally, has been diluted by the military coup in Islamabad and that nation's growing tolerance of the Afghan Taliban and domestic militant Islamic groups attacking India in Kashmir and other targets.

The internal policy struggle at State and the National Security Council, amid one of several policy reviews that the new administration is carrying out, came as India began the largest military exercises in a decade on Pakistan's border Monday.

Some 50,000 troops and about 120 combat aircraft are taking part in the five-day war games during which the air force will practice new tactics for shooting down "enemy" planes and end with a display of firepower in the Pokhran range, where India's nuclear blasts were carried out.

"We're trying to create as realistic a battlefield environment as possible, but I must emphasize this is a training exercise and not any demonstration," Air Marshal S. Krishnaswamy, who heads the western air command, was quoted as saying.

The nonproliferation specialists at State say lifting sanctions against India could send the wrong signal to Ukraine, South Africa and other countries that have given up their nuclear weapons programs under the belief that the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty would keep the number of nuclear weapons states at five.

"On the other hand," said a source close to the deliberations, "pure balance-of-power people say, 'Nonsense. Sanctions didn't get a change of behavior and we need to upgrade relations with India.'"

In 1998, Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes said that India considered China, not Pakistan, to be the most important threat to its security.

As U.S.-Chinese relations deteriorate, some American officials see India as a foil to Chinese power in Asia.

Indian officials said last week they would help the United States maintain free navigation of the seas to ensure the flow of Middle East oil to U.S. allies in East Asia such as Japan and South Korea.

Shipping lanes for those oil tankers pass through portions of the South China Sea, which China claims as territorial waters but which the United States maintains are international waters.

It was over those disputed waters that a U.S. surveillance plane collided April 1 with a trailing Chinese jet, destroying the jet and forcing the U.S. plane to land on Hainan island, where it remains.

James Clad, a professor of Asian Studies at Georgetown University, said the United States should lift sanctions against India only after consulting with allies such as Japan, which is hostile to nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Armitage visits Japan and South Korea this week on his trip to Asia.

The United States also must find a way to improve ties and lift sanctions against India that does not alienate Pakistan and does not endorse India's traditional domination of its smaller neighbors in South Asia, Mr. Clad said.

India to go ahead with nuclear weapons

NEW DELHI, India, May 10 (UPI) -- India plans to go ahead with the research, development and manufacture of "minimum" nuclear weapons despite stiff international pressure, India's Department of Atomic Energy said in a report obtained Thursday.

The Press Trust of India said that the DAE annual report does not, however, mention what is the minimum number of weapons New Delhi wants to produce.

The report said that the "Bhabha Atomic Research Center continued implementation of necessary research and development as well as manufacturing activities to meet the national policy of credible minimum nuclear deterrence." ...

<http://www.vny.com/cf/News/upidetail.cfm?QID=184499>

Washington Times

May 11, 2001

Pg. 7

Inside The Ring

By Bill Gertz and Rowan Scarborough

DF-31 test readied

China is preparing another flight test of its new long-range missile, intelligence officials tell us. Preparations for the latest test of the new road-mobile DF-31 were detected by a U.S. spy satellite in the past two weeks at the Wuzhai Space and Missile Center in central China.

The test preparations are another sign the Chinese are rapidly moving ahead with development of the DF-31. It's only the world's second road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile the being deployed by Russia.

China conducted two flight tests of the DF-31 last year. Both were successful. The last flight test was carried out Nov. 4 -- during the first visit to China by Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in what defense analysts said was a calculated political signal.

The DF-31 is believed by U.S. intelligence agencies to be the first Chinese strategic weapon to incorporate stolen U.S. nuclear and missile technology, which was obtained through espionage and illegal technology export.

Wall Street Journal

May 11, 2001

U.S. Delegation Finds Some Allies Receptive To Missile Defense Policy

By Cecilie Rohwedder, Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

BERLIN -- A high-profile U.S. government delegation found an increasingly receptive audience on a tour of European capitals aimed at selling America's allies on Washington's missile defense policy, although it still faced serious concerns and tough questions.

One week after President Bush announced an overhaul of U.S. strategic thinking, officials of his administration arrived here to try to convince Germans that National Missile Defense, or NMD, a broad anti-nuclear-missile "shield," would not be American muscle-flexing but a project in all the allies' interest. After five hours of talks and a dinner at Berlin's brand-new chancellery building, their German hosts still worried that NMD could kill international arms-control agreements and backfire by heightening the very dangers it seeks to prevent.

Yet the information blitz was at least partly successful. Although Europeans still fret about provoking Russia and China, and about their own role in planning and paying for missile defense, their tone on the issue has in general become more conciliatory, and they have come to adopt Washington's basic reasoning on the project. The German government said it agreed with its U.S. visitors that today's threats couldn't be averted with Cold War strategies. Initially dismissive of the threat posed by "rogue" nations such as Iraq and North Korea, Germany and some of its European neighbors now concede those states might present real dangers.

Meanwhile, a European delegation in Washington to discuss another trans-Atlantic irritant, alleged U.S. eavesdropping on European companies, met with a much chillier reception. Two members of the European Parliament in charge of investigating the so-called Echelon eavesdropping system, whose existence the U.S. doesn't formally acknowledge, were denied meetings with the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency. In protest, the delegation cut short its trip and returned to Brussels.

On the missile-defense issue, U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said at a news briefing on Wednesday, "We found openness and a willingness to discuss, but very, very serious questions [were] put to us." Mr. Wolfowitz, whose entourage included Deputy National Security Adviser Steven Hadley, said the group had come for cooperation, not confrontation, and would "factor in" the allies' views in its defense review back home. Mr. Bush has sent teams of officials fanning out around the world this week to advocate NMD and sound out allies and other nuclear states, such as Russia, on their concerns.

The talks in Berlin, following similar meetings in Brussels, London and Paris, continue with stops in Warsaw and Moscow later in the week. A separate delegation is touring Asia.

New York Times

May 11, 2001

Germany's Question: Could U.S. Missile System Be Cooperative?

By Roger Cohen

BERLIN, May 10 — Germany, unconvinced by President Bush's proposals for a missile defense system, today posed what an American envoy, Paul Wolfowitz, called "very, very serious questions" about the project.

After meeting with German officials, Mr. Wolfowitz, the deputy secretary of defense, said the questions centered on whether such a system could be built "in a way that is cooperative, rather than confrontational, in a way that enhances stability rather than generating new tensions and new arms races." Like other allies, Germany has been troubled by the Bush administration's determination to move ahead with what is seen in Berlin as an unproven and potentially destabilizing system of deterrence that would involve the scrapping, or at least the adjustment, of the Antiballistic Missile Treaty with Moscow.

The 1972 treaty banned national missile defense, thus preserving the threat of mutually assured destruction, on which cold-war peace was based. But the Bush administration argues that a new post-cold-war world requires new means to keep the peace. The center-left German government does not dispute this principle. But it is worried that the American plans could anger Russia, thereby destabilizing or dividing Europe once again, and be viewed by China as a direct challenge.

Mr. Wolfowitz and a team of United States envoys held talks at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Tuesday and will arrive in Moscow on Friday. The mission was announced last week by President Bush during a speech in which he tried to calm tensions by saying he would listen to the views of allies on missile defense and "take them into account."

Trans-Atlantic friction has increased in recent months not only because of the adjustment to a new administration in Washington by European governments, but also because European officials have felt out of step with President Bush on issues ranging from the environment to new defense strategies.

Mr. Wolfowitz, referring to the problems, said today that he did not think "there is severe misunderstanding." He also reached out to Moscow, saying that Russia was "no longer our enemy" and promising to "build a relationship with Russia in which strategic nuclear weapons are no longer the centerpiece of that relationship."

In Rome, Marc Grossman, the under secretary of state for political affairs and another member of the mission, said, "We need to think through a new kind of relationship with Russia, one in which we don't need to incinerate each other to get along."

Such words will certainly please Western European governments. But Germany, a country for which cold-war deterrence proved effective and ultimately brought about its unification, is attached to the notion that something that has worked should be left alone unless there is certainty that its replacement will work as well.

Earlier this month, Joschka Fischer, the German foreign minister, said: "The ABM treaty worked well. We want control mechanisms that worked very well in the past, should they be replaced, to be replaced only by better ones or more effective ones. We don't want a new arms race."

Today, after a meeting with Mr. Wolfowitz, the chief diplomatic aide to Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, Michael Steiner, said: "We have a number of questions to which we need answers and we don't have them yet. That is why the German position is that we say neither 'Yes' nor 'No.'"

Korea Times
May 11, 2001

Washington Asks Seoul To Boost Understanding On Missile Defense

By Son Key-young and Seo Soo-min, Staff Reporters

A U.S. delegation, headed by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, requested South Korean officials to squarely look at the changing international security environment and boost their understanding on the U.S. missile defense plan, which is one element of the "strategic framework" envisioned by the Bush administration, at a roundtable session here yesterday.

Armitage arrived here from Tokyo on Wednesday as one of the three high-level U.S. delegations touring the world to explain and seek support for Bush's new security vision based on smaller nuclear arsenals and stepped-up defenses capable of intercepting missiles.

From the U.S. side, the roundtable session was attended by Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly, National Security Council nonproliferation director Richard Falkenrath, Air Force Brig. Gen. Kevin Chilton, and others. Among the participating South Korean officials were Deputy Foreign Minister Yim Sung-joon and Deputy Foreign Minister for Policy Planning and International Organizations Choi Young-jin.

According to Armitage, the strategic framework, under formulation by the Bush administration, consists of four elements: nonproliferation, counterproliferation, missile defense and the unilateral reduction of nuclear arsenals below the level envisioned by START II.

Officials here said that nonproliferation refers mainly to diplomatic efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, while counterproliferation might involve military strikes to stop proliferation.

Armitage stressed that his visit is aimed at briefing South Korean officials on the concept and receiving their questions, instead of presenting a final U.S. decision and wooing its support.

He also expressed willingness to discuss the matter with any interested parties, including North Korea, which is regarded as one of the target states of the missile defense (MD) scheme.

In particular, he stressed that the strategic framework was not designed to counter threats from North Korea, but to cope with the change of the global security environment.

Armitage didn't rule out the possibility of deploying the Aegis-guided cruisers in this part of the world, as the missile defense, genuinely a multi-layered system, could involve the deployment.

Officials here are concerned that the U.S. plan might touch off criticism from North Korea and China, which are already responding hysterically to the U.S. missile shield plan.

Already, North Korean leader Kim Jong-il told Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson that his nation will abide by a moratorium on missile tests until 2003 in a gesture regarded as an olive branch, as Washington is in a final stage of reviewing its policy on the North. However, he made it clear that Pyongyang will continue to export missiles, as it is a form of trade between nations.

During the session, Armitage stressed that the Bush administration had not yet come up with a complete structure on the missile defense scheme.

While expressing understanding on the U.S. efforts, meanwhile, Seoul stopped short of giving it any clear backing. Before entering into the roundtable discussion, Armitage and his entourage members met Defense Minister Kim Dong-shin and Unification Minister Lim Dong-won.

Armitage told reporters that the North's lack of hard currency is believed to have driven it to sell missiles to other countries despite the extension of a moratorium on missile tests until 2003.

“Regarding the continued sales, it seems to suggest to us the desperate financial straits North Korea is in,” he told reporters prior to a meeting with Minister Lim.

North Korea's National Defense Commission Chairman Kim Jong-il told the visiting EU delegation last week that he would keep the missile moratorium until 2003, but also said that his country would go on selling missile technology to other countries.

“At the meeting with Minister Lim, Armitage agreed with our view that the North's indication to extend the missile moratorium is an expression of its willingness to resume talks with the U.S.,” said Deputy Unification Minister Rhee Bong-jo in a briefing.

At the one-hour meeting, Lim reiterated that North Korea-U.S. talks and South-North dialogue are closely linked, while calling for the swift resumption of Washington's talks with Pyongyang.

Korea Herald

May 11, 2001

Seoul Remains Noncommittal On U.S. Missile Defense Initiative

By Hwang Jang-jin, Staff reporter

Senior South Korean officials expressed their "understanding" of Washington's new missile shield plan yesterday, but avoided offering a clear position on the issue, fearing they could further complicate inter-Korean relations.

South Korean Defense Minister Kim Dong-shin and Unification Minister Lim Dong-won met with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, who left later in the day after a two-day trip.

One of the purposes of his South Korean trip was to explain President George W. Bush's plans to build a new missile defense system.

The Korean ministers welcomed the willingness of the U.S. to resume talks with Pyongyang on curbing the North's missile programs as well as supporting President Kim Dae-jung's engagement policy toward the Communist nation.

On Wednesday, Armitage told reporters he expects Washington to reopen negotiations with the North "in the near future" after the review of its North Korea policy is wrapped up "in a few weeks."

The U.S. official also said he delivered Bush's letter to Kim, which stated the new U.S. policy on North Korea will strongly support the South Korean leader's initiative to engage Pyongyang.

Before Armitage left the hotel for talks with the Korean ministers, anti-U.S. activists threw eggs at his car, accusing the United States of starting a new arms race and deterring South-North reconciliation.

Some 50 protesters later held a rally and clashed with the police outside the Defense Ministry as Armitage arrived for talks with Minister Kim.

Ministry officials said the U.S. official told Minister Kim that Washington will continue to uphold the Geneva Agreed Framework.

The United States signed the agreement with the North in 1994 to freeze Pyongyang's nuclear programs in return for providing light-water nuclear reactors.

Armitage outlined Washington's new "Strategic Framework" for defense, which consists of four elements - nonproliferation and counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missile defense and a unilateral reduction of nuclear weapons.

Armitage said Washington is considering cutting down its nuclear arsenal to a level lower than the one promised in the START II, Seoul officials said.

The U.S. officials stressed that the proposed missile defense, that is intended to counter attacks from "rogue states," will contribute to world peace by curbing their missile development programs.

Minister Kim was quoted as telling Armitage that South Korea understands the U.S. plans to tackle the proliferation of ballistic missiles and wants the United States to keep consulting with its allies.

Armitage met with Unification Minister Lim Dong-won to discuss the U.S policy on North Korea. Minister Lim was quoted as saying that both inter-Korean relations and Washington-Pyongyang ties should move ahead in parallel and complement each other. Lim also said North Korea's pledge to maintain a missile moratorium until 2003 is a strong sign for its willingness to talk with the United States. Armitage was quoted as telling Lim that the North's stance on the sale of its missile technology shows the desperate financial situation it is faced with. In the afternoon, Armitage and other U.S. officials including James Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, held a roundtable discussion with working-level Korean officials on Washington's plan for the Strategic Framework.

Washington Times

May 11, 2001

Pg. 5

Chinese Believed Preparing For A Nuclear Weapons Test

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

China is stepping up preparations for an underground test at its Lop Nur nuclear weapons testing facility, according to U.S. intelligence officials. A test could be carried out in the next several days, they said.

Vehicle activity at the test site in the remote western province of Xinjiang was detected by spy satellites last week, said officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Intelligence reports of the upcoming test coincide with the resumption Monday of U.S. reconnaissance flights near China, which could be used to detect intelligence related to the test, the officials said.

The officials said they did not know if the RC-135 Rivet Joint flight on Monday was looking for electronic signals in eastern China that may be related to the test, but RC-135s have collected nuclear testing information from the Chinese in the past.

China is believed to be working on development of a new small warhead based on the design of the U.S. W-88 nuclear warhead. China obtained secret design information on the W-88 through espionage in the United States, according to U.S. intelligence reports.

Asked about the upcoming test, Sen. Richard C. Shelby, Alabama Republican and chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, would not comment directly.

"It's my judgment the Chinese will benefit immensely from what went on at Los Alamos and Livermore," Mr. Shelby said of Chinese espionage activities at U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories.

"In the years to come, you will see a modernization of their nuclear weapons and a lot of it will be based on our models, including the W-88," he said, noting that when the Chinese succeed in developing their nuclear arms it will be a "quantum leap" in their strategic power.

Test preparations at Lop Nur were first reported by The Washington Times on April 9, after U.S. intelligence agencies detected the first signs of an impending nuclear test in March.

Officials said the upcoming test, which could take place before the end of the month, may be a "subcritical" nuclear test -- a small explosion designed to simulate a nuclear blast.

Other officials suspect the Chinese will carry out a small nuclear test despite their pledge to have stopped all nuclear testing in 1996.

U.S. intelligence agencies suspect China is engaged in covert nuclear testing that relies on small, low-yield underground blasts. The suspicions are based on intelligence reports indicating Beijing's agents purchased special containment equipment from Russia several years ago that masks the effects of underground nuclear tests. The last Chinese nuclear-related test took place in 1999, shortly before a senior State Department official delivered an apology to Beijing for the accidental bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, during the NATO aerial bombing campaign.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government yesterday defended its use of aircraft to intercept U.S. surveillance flights near its coast and said they threaten its security.

The surveillance is "a grave threat to China's security," Foreign Ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi told reporters in Beijing.

Chinese jet fighters did not challenge the RC-135 flight Monday, but Mr. Sun said sending jets to monitor the planes is "necessary and very reasonable." He said the United States should "learn from the past" to avoid further incidents. U.S. surveillance flights were halted after the April 1 collision between a U.S. EP-3E aircraft and a Chinese F-8 interceptor. The F-8 crashed and its pilot was killed after the collision. The EP-3E made an emergency landing on China's Hainan island and the crew was held 12 days before being released.

Mr. Sun said again yesterday that China will not allow the U.S. aircraft to be repaired and flown off.

"Due to the nature of the plane, it will not be allowed to fly back from Hainan to the United States," he said. "The specific means of transporting the plane will be talked about by the sides."

China's Deputy Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said Wednesday that returning the aircraft by allowing it to fly out of China would "further hurt the dignity and sentiments of the Chinese people" and cause "strong indignation and opposition from the Chinese people."

This article is based in part on wire service reports.

Aerospace Daily

May 11, 2001

Commercial Satellite Systems At Risk From Nuclear After-Effects

Despite ongoing Department of Defense efforts to alert industry to the danger, commercial satellite systems remain undefended from the effects of nuclear explosions in space, according to specialists in nuclear threat deterrence.

The radiation effects from even a single low-yield detonation in orbit could produce major disruptions in communications capability that could last for months.

"I think that it would have a significant impact to our communication systems, and a significant economic impact as well," said Richard Gullickson, chief of the Nuclear Technology Branch of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA).

When a nuclear weapon goes off above Earth's atmosphere, high-energy electrons become trapped in the Earth's magnetic belts and can remain in orbit up to a year. The effect is similar to what occurs after a coronal mass ejection from the Sun, although much more intense.

Radiation trapped in the magnetic field

As commercial satellites in low-earth orbit pass through this environment, they receive repeated high doses of radiation. Commercial systems, which are not sufficiently radiation hardened, will soon fail as a result.

Such an event is not without historical precedent. In 1962, the Pentagon's "Starfish" nuclear test detonated a 1.4 megaton device 325 nautical miles above the Earth. The beta electrons that were injected into the earth's magnetic field destroyed seven satellites within seven months, primarily from solar cell damage.

"Fortunately, at the time [of Starfish] very few satellites were in orbit," Gullickson told The DAILY. "Now the concern is that we have many commercial satellites in orbit, and they would be susceptible to this radiation."

The Nuclear Technology Branch at DTRA manages programs that relate to the survivability of military systems in the event of nuclear attack, including satellites, ground-level systems, submarines, and buried structures.

RHOC to stimulate funding

To help commercial satellite builders prepare for the possible dangers faced by their hardware, the DoD has formed the Radiation Hardness Oversight Council (RHOC).

"RHOC is trying to stimulate funding of hardened electronics activities in industry," said Gullickson. "So our view is that we can get them more interested by trying to make their business areas more viable." RHOC has already helped stabilize funding in radiation hardening and has increased it in some areas, Gullickson said.

RHOC includes participation from the Air Force, the Army, the Navy, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO), and DTRA. Dr. Delores Etter, acting director for Defense Research and Engineering at the Pentagon, chairs the council.

Total-dose radiation hardening is standard for military systems that must survive such environments, but it still won't necessarily protect satellite systems from another dangerous byproduct of nuclear explosions - X-rays.

The X-ray threat

In an effort to learn more about this threat, DTRA has built the \$100 million Decade Radiation Test Facility (DRTF) at Arnold Air Force Base in Tennessee. Decade is specifically designed to test 21st century space and missile systems and their components against nuclear weapons effects.

The Air Force operates DTRF, while DTRA maintains ownership and assumes responsibility for upgrades. Industry players are welcome and encouraged to bring their equipment to DTRF for testing, according to Gullickson.

The newest and largest simulator at DRTF is the Decade-Quad. Decade-Quad can test entire satellites against the effects of fast, intense flashes of X-ray radiation such as those that occur immediately after a nuclear blast.

The simulator stores a large amount of energy over a few minutes and then quickly discharges it, exposing test objects to short X-ray pulses for several billionths of a second. Hot and cold running X-rays

Nuclear weapons generate a variety of X-rays when they detonate, which have different effects on different aspects of space systems.

"We talk about [X-rays] as being 'cold,' 'warm,' and 'hot,'" said Gullickson. "The cold stuff is what affects the outside of space systems - things like optics or solar arrays on satellites - because it doesn't penetrate very far." Hot X-rays, however, can penetrate all the way through a satellite, significantly disrupting its electronics. During a hot X-ray test, Decade-Quad charges capacitors to levels of up to 100,000 volts in order to blast targets with a 10 terawatt-pulse electron beam.

Decade-Quad was recently fitted with 'cold' X-ray capability. Qualification tests are taking place now, and the first test article to be subjected to cold X-rays will be the telescope on the Exoatmospheric Kill Vehicle, part of the National Missile Defense Program.

The telescope serves as the "eye" for the vehicle, allowing it to home in on infrared light from targets such as re-entry vehicles. The test is scheduled for September.

By 2005, DTRF will be further upgraded to produce what Gullickson calls "delayed environment" simulation.

"Decade right now simulates the prompt part of a nuclear weapon output, which happens in a small fraction of a second," he explained. "The delayed radiation simulators [will] simulate the effects of trapped electrons in orbits," such as those that linger after a nuclear blast.

In light of the Bush Administration's prioritizing of missile defense systems, Gullickson and his colleagues expect increased funding for their efforts in the future.

"We're waiting to see what the new schedule for developing [missile] interceptors might be," Gullickson said.

"When we know that better, we may go back and argue that they should give us the money more quickly."

-- *Jefferson Morris*

Aerospace Daily

May 14, 2001

GAO: U.S. Not Fully Aware Of Ex-Soviet Union Weapons Scientist Activities

In a report released May 10, the General Accounting Office (GAO) determined that the U.S. State Department is not fully tracking the outside activities of former Soviet Union weapons scientists doing U.S.-sponsored research.

Through research centers in Russia and Ukraine, the U.S. sponsors peaceful research projects for scientists who previously worked on the Soviet Union's programs to create weapons of mass destruction.

These efforts are intended to reduce the chance that the scientists might be tempted to sell their expertise to terrorists or "countries of concern" such as Iran, Iraq, and North Korea.

However, the State Department knows little about what the scientists are doing outside the office, GAO says.

"While the monitoring process helps the State Department oversee the activities of the senior scientists working on U.S.-funded projects," the report says, "the terms of the project agreements do not allow auditors to track what the scientists are doing while they are not working on the projects."

"This is particularly relevant since, for example, in 2000, 75 percent of the senior scientists worked 4 1/2 months or less on U.S. funded projects," the report continues. "Some senior scientists worked as little as a few days on U.S. funded projects over the course of the entire year. Consequently, the Department knows little about the scientists' activities outside the program."

New York Times

May 14, 2001

Talks Inching Ahead On Monitoring '72 Germ Warfare Pact

By Elizabeth Olson

GENEVA, May 13 — Lengthy negotiations to fashion a verification scheme for the 29-year-old treaty banning biological weapons are edging closer to agreement, although some important issues are yet to be resolved, the talks' chairman says.

With one more round to go, in July, the six-year negotiations have zeroed in on a half-dozen core areas where disagreement remains, the chairman, Tibor Toth, a Hungarian diplomat, said late last week.

The 1972 biological weapons convention, ratified by 143 countries, bans the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological and toxin weapons. Although the pact on biological weapons was the first to eliminate a category of arms, no enforcement scheme was provided.

Finding common ground on setting up a system to detect and deter those who would use biological agents as weapons of mass destruction has proved to be a complex process.

Negotiations to add provisions for enforcement started in 1995 after it became clear during the Persian Gulf war that Iraq had developed stocks of biological weapons, including anthrax, even though it had signed the convention.

Also, in 1992, it was disclosed that the former Soviet Union had made biological arms secretly. Germ warfare research is also suspected in a dozen countries, including China, Iran, Libya, North Korea and Syria. Israel, which has not signed the convention, is also believed to have such research.

In an effort to overcome the draft treaty's 1,400 brackets indicating points of disagreement, Mr. Toth introduced a 210-page compromise text, along with 500 pages of explanation, when the current session opened last month. He said the countries have been able to focus better on the disputed issues, and that the negotiations should shift from technical issues to the necessary political decisions in the July session.

Asked whether countries will ultimately agree to a new \$25 million to \$30 million regime to control biological agents, Mr. Toth replied, "What I'm getting is an overwhelming yes."

He said that countries that had never before spoken up, which he called the "silent majority," had expressed their views in recent weeks and that most had indicated that they would go along with his proposals.

However, the United States' position is unclear. When asked, through the United States mission in Geneva, its delegation declined to comment.

A coalition of private groups said the lack of active American participation in the talks is "an indication that Washington has quietly withdrawn its support of the process."

"The United States knows that countries will be hesitant to open their biotechnology facilities to mandatory inspections if the U.S. doesn't agree to do the same," said Edward Hammond, of one private group, the Sunshine Project. "So the U.S. hopes that silence is all that is necessary to kill the protocol."

The talks on an enforcement scheme for the biological warfare treaty have been stalled over contentious issues such as inspecting laboratories and protecting commercial secrets. Mr. Toth said there are also sharp differences over access to technologies. Developing countries generally are pushing for unrestricted access, while industrialized countries wanted to make sure there were legitimate reasons for such technology transfers.

The governments involved have set a deadline to come up with a new inspection system by the time they are due to hold their fifth review conference in Geneva.

Among arms control issues, Mr. Toth said, biological arms had received relatively scant attention from governments. But he said that he hoped the destructiveness of biological agents like foot-and-mouth disease, would make the public more aware of the importance of strengthening the pact.

Chicago Tribune

May 14, 2001

Money Woes Delay Destruction Of Chemical Weapons In Russia

Accidents feared as efforts put off

By Judith Ingram, Associated Press

MOSCOW -- More than a year after American and Russian officials festively opened a laboratory to fine-tune techniques for destroying Russian chemical weapons, the building stands empty of all but its sophisticated scientific equipment and a security guard who warily monitors the rare visitor.

The inauguration of the lab 13 months ago at a scientific institute in southern Moscow was supposed to mean progress in Russia's efforts to destroy its chemical weapons arsenal, the world's largest, in line with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The international treaty, which Russia ratified in 1997, requires the elimination by 2012 of all stockpiles of nerve gases and compounds used in weapons of mass destruction.

But Moscow is nowhere near meeting the deadline. It has yet to start destroying the 44,000 tons of nerve and blister agents piled up in storage depots at the seven plants where they were produced.

The depots are poorly protected, and the chemicals, some from World War II, are deteriorating and putting the surrounding regions at risk of severe toxic accidents.

The \$21 million lab, jointly U.S.- and Russian-funded, had to close its doors soon after the opening because construction problems cropped up, Russian auditors had to inventory the building's contents and the Russian side ran short of funds.

As to why it opened in the first place, officials insisting on anonymity indicated that it was necessary to demonstrate to the U.S. backers that Russia was making progress.

The lab's deputy director, Vladimir Sitnikov, says it is set to reopen this month, which may augur a revival of efforts to destroy chemical weapons after a prolonged standstill.

The delays have frustrated and alarmed arms control experts.

"Sooner or later there could be an accident, and with time the probability of that happening will grow geometrically," said Gennady Khromov, a veteran arms control negotiator.

In 1992, President Boris Yeltsin approved a plan to destroy the weapons, but fierce public opposition and bureaucratic wrangling thwarted it.

Russian legislation banning transport of the deadly substances further complicated the project, because destruction facilities would have had to be built near each of the seven storage sites, at a cost of roughly \$1 billion each.

Most local people have gradually accepted that leaving the stores in place is riskier than removing them.

"Now public opinion is turning toward accepting the principle of disarmament," said Vladimir Leonov of the Russian Green Cross, an environmental advocacy organization.

Last year, responsibility for the program switched from the Defense Ministry to the newly formed Munitions Agency whose chief, Zinovy Pak, is thought to have wide authority to cut bureaucratic squabbles.

But cost remains an obstacle. Russia has appealed repeatedly for foreign aid to supplement its meager budget for the plan, and it has won some pledges and grants from the U.S. and European governments to build two destruction facilities.

The United States has released funds slowly, attempting to ensure that the destruction will be carried out in the safest way possible.

The European-funded site would be a pilot plant for destroying blister agents, Russia's oldest chemical weapons. But the United States has urged Russia to direct its funding to a plant under construction that would handle more sophisticated nerve agents.

New York Times

May 15, 2001

U.S. Diplomat In Beijing To Calm Fears On Antimissile Project

By Erik Eckholm

BEIJING, Tuesday, May 15 — An American diplomat is meeting skeptical Chinese officials today in an effort to convince them that President Bush's plans to build a missile defense will not undermine China's power and security. The diplomat, Assistant Secretary of State James A. Kelly, said he was here to begin a "dialogue with China on security and stability that reflects today's world."

The visit is part of a worldwide campaign by American diplomats to reassure allies and convince other nations with nuclear weapons that the missile defense is a necessary part of what Mr. Bush has called a "new framework" for global security, in which total nuclear arms would be reduced.

The plan has caused widespread unease in other nations, including many allies, who fear that it may leave the United States feeling invulnerable and better able to dominate world affairs. Nowhere is the opposition stronger than in China, which believes that its small nuclear deterrent force may be neutralized by the American system.

In a longtime strategy, China never tried to compete with the United States and Russia in the nuclear arms race, instead maintaining a minimal force, estimated at perhaps 18 intercontinental missiles.

With American and Russian missile systems severely restricted under the Antiballistic Missile Treaty, Beijing planners were said to have felt that if their nation was threatened with attack, they could credibly argue that at least one of their nuclear-tipped missiles could reach an enemy city in return, thereby deterring an attack.

American officials insist that the new missile defense is aimed at so-called rogue states like North Korea or Iraq that might try to field a few weapons. But the officials want to largely scrap the ABM Treaty. The systems under discussion would be large enough to counter China's small current forces. Many officials here apparently suspect that the proposal is secretly aimed at China.

China is developing improved missiles, and officials have said that if the American plan moves ahead, China may offset it by greatly expanding its nuclear forces and by developing decoys and other countermeasures. But the officials warn that regional and global arms races could be set off.

China also fears that the so-called theater missile defenses that the United States is developing to protect its forces in Asia could be extended to Taiwan, blocking Beijing's drive to reunite the island with the mainland.

In Singapore on Monday, Mr. Kelly suggested that the American missile defense plan would not be as extensive as China feared. "Part of the dialogue we will be having with China will be to allay the concerns they've expressed about something much grander than we have in mind," he said before departing for Beijing.

Some experts in Washington and Beijing have suggested that a compromise is possible if Washington strictly limits the number of interceptors and tacitly accepts China's right to increase its arsenal and maintain a credible deterrent. But hawks in the Republican Party seek an advantage over what they see as a China that increasingly threatens American interests, and it may be politically difficult for President Bush to agree to such limitations.