



**USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**  
**CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL**  
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

**Issue No. 1081, 27 September 2013**

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Al Arabiya – U.A.E.

## **Russia-U.S. Talks on Syria Chemical Deal ‘Not Going Smoothly’**

Tuesday, 24 September 2013

*Al Arabiya*

Talks between Russia and the United States on the conflict in Syria are not going very smoothly, a senior Russian diplomat said on Tuesday

“Unfortunately it’s necessary to note that in contacts with the Americans, things are not going so smoothly...they are not quite going in the direction they should,” Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said in parliament.

Ryabkov also expressed concern that a chemical weapons deal may have only delayed U.S. military action.

The deal stipulates that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad hand over his chemical weapons arsenal to international control by the middle of next year. He said U.S. officials “always mention that plans to punish Damascus remain in force. We draw certain conclusions from that and assume that the threat of aggression in violation of international law is so far only delayed, not dismissed fully.”

On the topic of a U.N. Security Council resolution on Syria, Ryabkov said it could mention Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter.

Chapter VII allows force or tough sanctions, but only as a measure that could be invoked if an accord on chemical weapons is violated.

“Chapter VII can be mentioned only as an element of the measures against violators... if there is a refusal to cooperate, carry out obligations or if someone, it does not matter who, uses chemical weapons.”

The invocation of Chapter VII in a U.N. resolution has been a point of controversy between the United States and Russia ever since the two Cold War foes forged the landmark agreement in Geneva this month to rid Syria of its chemical weapons, Agence France-Presse reports. Ryabkov expressed satisfaction that U.N. chemical weapons experts would be returning to Damascus “tomorrow, September 25” to investigate a chemical weapons attack outside Damascus in August, the Interfax news agency said, quoting comments in parliament.

*With AFP and Reuters*

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/world/2013/09/24/Russia-U-S-talks-on-Syria-chemical-deal-not-going-smoothly-.html>

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Business News – India

## **Iran's Nuclear Programme 'Poses No Threat to World': Rouhani**

*He said that if Obama rejects the short-sighted interest of warmongering pressure groups, the two countries can manage their differences*

Asian News International (ANI)

September 25, 2013

Washington -- Iranian President Hassan Rowhani has called on his American counterpart Barack Obama to ignore 'warmongering pressure groups' and seek better relations with Iran.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly, Rowhani said Iran poses absolutely no threat to the world.

According to CBS News, Rowhani condemned international sanctions against Iran and also hit out at America's use of drones.

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He said that if Obama rejects the short-sighted interest of warmongering pressure groups, the two countries can manage their differences.

Rowhani spoke a few hours after Obama told the General Assembly that he wanted a "meaningful agreement" with Iran if it acted to end international concerns over its nuclear programme.

Rowhani reaffirmed Iran's position that its nuclear drive is exclusively peaceful.

He said that nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction have no place in Iran's security and defense doctrine, and contradict the country's fundamental religious and ethical convictions.

He added that the international community had to accept Iran's nuclear activity, which Western nations say is an attempt to reach a nuclear bomb capacity, the report added.

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/international/iran-s-nuclear-programme-poses-no-threat-to-world-rouhani-113092500552\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/international/iran-s-nuclear-programme-poses-no-threat-to-world-rouhani-113092500552_1.html)

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Al Arabiya – U.A.E.

## **U.S., France Welcome Rowhani's Overtures, Call for 'Concrete Steps'**

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

*Al Arabiya* with Agence France-Presse (AFP) and Reuters

The United States and France responded on Tuesday to Iran's recent diplomatic overtures with a welcoming note, promising to give diplomacy a chance and calling for "concrete steps" to be taken by the Islamic Republic.

While President Barack Obama said during a speech to the United Nations General Assembly that "the diplomatic path" with Iran "must be tested, he noted that "conciliatory words will have to be matched by actions that are transparent and verifiable."

President Obama said he had instructed U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to pursue a possible new diplomatic opening with Tehran, AFP reported.

Kerry will meet Thursday with his new Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif as well as foreign ministers from Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia at the United Nations headquarters.

It will be the first such minister-level talks on the nuclear issue since the negotiations were launched a decade ago.

It's still unclear if President Obama will meet with Rowhani while at the United Nations. The leaders of the two countries haven't had face-to-face contact in more than 30 years.

A U.S. official said the United States offered to set up "an encounter" between President Obama and his new Iranian counterpart during the U.N. summit but it proved "too complicated" for the Iranians.

Iranians informed the United States that it is "too complicated for Iranians to do at this point," the U.S. official said, according to AFP.

Obama has stressed that Iran must take "transparent" and "verifiable" actions to end international suspicions over its nuclear program.

In the same vein, French President Francois Hollande urged Iran to make "concrete gestures" on its nuclear program before his meeting with Tehran's new leader.

"France expects Iran to make concrete gestures to show that it renounces its military nuclear program, even if it has a right to a civilian program," Hollande told the U.N. General Assembly.

Hollande will meet later Tuesday with Rowhani, a reputed moderate who has called for better relations with the West.

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"The question at hand is to know if these words can translate into actions, especially on the nuclear issue," Hollande said.

"For the past 10 years talks haven't gone anywhere," he said.

Hollande said that he will "stand firm" against the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The West has long suspected that Iran is seeking a nuclear weapon. Tehran has consistently denied the charge.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned that Iran's diplomatic overtures to the West were aimed at allowing Tehran to continue to pursue atomic weapons.

"Iran thinks that soothing words and token actions will enable it to continue on its path to the bomb," Netanyahu said after Obama's speech.

He said Israel would welcome a diplomatic solution that dismantled Iran's capacity to develop nuclear weapons.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/2013/09/24/Obama-diplomacy-must-be-tested-with-Iran.html>

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Bloomberg Businessweek

## **Iran Tries to Shine Light on Israeli Nukes**

By Josef Federman

September 25, 2013

JERUSALEM (AP) — With a few words in a largely conciliatory speech to the United Nations, Iran's new president took aim at an Israeli fear: that international pressure on the Iranian nuclear program could lead to scrutiny of Israel's own secretive nuclear facilities.

Israel is widely believed to possess dozens of atomic weapons under a program dating back more than half a century. But in a major pillar of its national defense strategy, it neither confirms nor denies having these weapons — a policy known as "nuclear ambiguity" meant to keep its enemies off balance.

Iran will likely try to draw attention to the Israeli policy as it prepares to engage the West in a new round of nuclear talks. While Israel does not appear to face any immediate threat of global censure, the issue nonetheless could be embarrassing given Israel's repeated calls for the world to crack down on what it says is an Iranian campaign to develop a nuclear bomb.

Iran, which denies the accusations, has long claimed to be the victim of a "double standard" when compared to Israel — yet it is a double standard the world appears to largely have accepted.

In his address to the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday, President Hasan Rouhani appeared to be referring to Israel when he told the world body that he is ready to resolve the nuclear standoff with the West.

"Iran's nuclear program — and for that matter, that of all other countries — must pursue exclusively peaceful purposes," he said. He did not mention Israel directly.

Israel, along with many Western countries, believes that Iran is developing a nuclear weapon — or at least is aiming to become a "threshold," able to quickly assemble a bomb. Israel says a nuclear-armed Iran would pose a grave danger, citing Iranian calls for Israel's destruction, its development of long-range missiles and its support for hostile Arab militant groups.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed Rouhani's outreach to the West as a ploy to ease international sanctions and gain more time to build the bomb. He has urged the international community to increase, not ease, the pressure, and to maintain a "credible" military threat until Iran dismantles its nuclear program.

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Israeli officials reject Iranian attempts to make Israel part of the debate, calling it a cheap diversionary tactic. Asked about this possible linkage, Netanyahu's spokesman, Mark Regev, would only say that Iran would be judged not by words, but by its actions.

Israel launched its nuclear program around the time of independence in 1948, a time when neighboring Arab countries declared war against the fledgling Jewish state, and it has been an undeclared nuclear power since the mid-1960s, said Shlomo Aronson, an expert on Israel's nuclear program at the Hebrew University. The program is believed to be headquartered at a heavily fortified facility in the southern desert town of Dimona.

The international community has quietly tolerated this arrangement out of an understanding of Israel's unique security needs, he said.

"There is an international acceptance that Israel has no choice but to depend on its nuclear power without talking about it," said Aronson. "In today's power relations, where there are 6 million Jews against 400 million Arabs ... Israel has no choice but to be an undeclared nuclear power."

He said many Middle Eastern countries remain committed to Israel's destruction. "What is stopping them from doing it? Dimona," he said.

Israel says only that it will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. But there is strong evidence that it has a large and sophisticated arsenal.

In 1986, Mordechai Vanunu, a disgruntled technician at the Dimona facility, handed photos of the facility to a British newspaper that led foreign experts to conclude that Israel had the world's sixth-largest nuclear arsenal. Israeli intelligence agents later seized Vanunu in Rome, and he spent 18 years in prison.

In an apparent slip of the tongue, then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert appeared to acknowledge that Israel has nuclear weapons in a 2006 interview with a German TV station. Israeli President Shimon Peres also seemed to admit having nuclear arms in calling for a nuclear-free Middle East in 1995, when he was prime minister.

"Give me peace, we will give up the nuclear capability. That's the whole story," Peres said at the time. Peres is believed to have played a key role in developing Israel's nuclear program in the 1950s and 60s.

Analysts Hans M. Kristensen and Robert S. Norris said in an article published earlier this month that Israel has 80 nuclear warheads.

Israel is among four countries believed to possess nuclear weapons that have not joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a landmark 1970 agreement that tries to stop the spread of nuclear arms. The others are India, Pakistan and North Korea, countries that have all declared their capabilities.

For decades, the Israeli strategy of ambiguity has largely worked. Last week, Israel and its allies fended off an Arab-led attempt to censure its refusal to acknowledge that it possesses nuclear weapons and put them under international oversight. But if international engagement with Iran gains traction, calls for Israel to be held accountable could grow.

While Iran recognizes it is unlikely to make much headway with the West, its strategy is aimed at a more global audience.

It has used its prominent position in the Nonaligned Movement, a grouping of more than 100 developing countries, to bash Israel over its presumed nuclear arsenal. Rouhani told a summit of Asian leaders this month that Iran is committed to the Non-Proliferation Treaty while noting Israel's refusal to join.

But there is probably also a visceral pleasure for Iran to land political punches that could unsettle Israel. Iran led the call for a proposed international conference in Finland last year to declare the Middle East a "nuclear weapons-free zone."

The U.S. helped scuttle the plans, apparently to save Israel embarrassment. But in response to the cancellation, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution 174-6, with six abstentions, calling on Israel to quickly open its nuclear



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program for inspection and join the NPT "without further delay." Resolutions by the General Assembly are not legally binding, but they reflect world opinion and can carry political weight.

Ephraim Asculai, a former official of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, said Israel's precondition to discussing its nuclear program is peace in the region. "As long as there is no peace with our enemies, why should Israel make a step forward on that?" he said.

*Associated Press writers Daniel Estrin in Jerusalem, Brian Murphy in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and George Jahn in Vienna contributed to this report.*

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2013-09-25/israel-minister-criticizes-boycott-of-iran-speech>

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Times of Israel – Israel

## Iran Seeks ‘Phased Actions’ in Nuclear Talks

*Iranian FM, US secretary of state and other envoys to meet later Thursday; follows Rouhani claim he wants resolution to dispute within 3-6 months*

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) AND Times of Israel staff

September 26, 2013

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran’s foreign minister urged step-by-step compromises between his country and world powers to advance negotiations over Tehran’s nuclear ambitions.

Mohammad Javad Zarif’s remarks on Iran’s state TV referred to “phased actions” after reviving stalled talks with a six-nation group — the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and other foreign ministers of the p5+1 countries — US, UK, France, China, Russia and Germany — are scheduled to meet with Zarif on Thursday in New York to discuss restarting the talks.

Zarif did not elaborate in his comments late Wednesday, but it is seen a reference to gradual removal of sanctions by the West in return for a gradual decrease in Iran’s nuclear activities, possibly uranium enrichment.

The West fears Iran could eventually produce a nuclear weapon — a charge Iran denies.

On Wednesday, Iranian President Hasan Rouhani said he would like to see a resolution to the international dispute over his country’s nuclear program within three to six months.

In an interview with the Washington Post, Rouhani said his “choice” would be a three-month timetable, and that six months would still be “good,” but this should be a matter of “months, not years.”

The urgency seems undoubtedly related to the immense pressure imposed on the Islamic Republic through four rounds of grueling economic sanctions. It many also reflect the Iranian leader’s fear a political backlash from his conservative opponents.

Rouhani told the Post that he was willing to offer extensive “transparency” into his country’s nuclear program, akin to the additional International Atomic Energy Agency inspection measures Iran allowed between 2003 and 2005, when he was chief nuclear negotiator.

With respect to rapprochement with Washington, Rouhani was restrained. He stressed his desire to first address the nuclear issue, for which he has been given wide-ranging authority from Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

After that, Rouhani said, the US and Iran can discuss broader issues of normalization. “Once the nuclear file is settled, we can turn to other issues,” he said. “We need a beginning point.”

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-seeks-phased-actions-in-nuclear-talks/>

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Jerusalem Post – Israel

## **Assad: Syria Has more Sophisticated Weapons in its Stockpile than Chemical Weapons**

Hezbollah newspaper Al-Akhabar reports remarks; Assad says Syria no longer needs chemical weapons to deter Israel.

By YASSER OKBI, THE POST CORRESPONDENT

26 September 2013

"We now possess deterrent weapons that are more important and more sophisticated than chemical weapons," Syrian President Bashar Assad told visitors to his palace, emphasizing that he has no need for chemical weapons.

According to the report which was carried by Hezbollah paper *Al-Akhabar*, Assad said that "a smile never leaves his face." He attributed this fact to his assertion that the situation in Syria today "has never been better," because "we created chemical weapons in the 80's as a deterrent against Israel's nuclear arsenal. Today, it is no longer a weapon of deterrence."

"In Syria there are thousands of tons of chemical weapons that have become a burden to us since their destruction costs a great deal of money and could take years to destroy. They also create environmental challenges and others that would need solving. So they (UN inspectors) should just come and take them," Assad said.

"The chemical weapons are not the goal of the United States and their allies, and they never have been," he said. "They wanted to change the balance of power and to protect Israel."

"We turned the tables and sent to the ball into their court. This move embarrassed them in front of the American public, in Europe and even in front of the US government."

Assad praised the "unprecedented collaboration with Russia," and added "we have an agreement with Russia that they will intervene, in a big way, if Syria is attacked," Assad said.

Earlier, during an interview which was broadcast on Venezuelan television Assad said that he would not rule out the possibility of an American attack despite the fact that he agreed to the supervision of his chemical weapons.

Assad added that he transferred evidence to Russia regarding the opposition's use of chemical weapons. He repeated the accusation that the opposition forces used chemical weapons in the August 21 attack in the suburbs of Damascus that killed 1400 people.

Terrorists will also try to attack the UN supervisors that are expected in Syria to dismantle its chemical weapons arsenal.

<http://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Assad-Syria-has-more-sophisticated-weapons-than-our-chemical-weapons-stockpile-327156>

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France 24/7 International News.com

## **Rouhani Says Israel must Join Non-Nuclear Treaty**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

26 September 2013

AFP - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Thursday called on Israel to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty and put its widely suspected nuclear arms under international control.

"No nation should possess nuclear weapons," Rouhani, whose country is accused by western countries of seeking an atomic bomb, told a UN General Assembly meeting on nuclear disarmament.

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"As long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of their use, threat of use and proliferation persist. The only absolute guarantee is their total elimination," Rouhani said.

He called on Israel to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which aims to put nuclear weapons under international controls and prevent their spread.

Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear weapons but has never acknowledged its program, has not signed the treaty, unlike Iran.

"Almost four decades of international efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East have regrettably failed," Rouhani said.

"Israel, the only non-party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty in this region, should join thereto without any further delay," Rouhani said.

The Iranian leader, who generally does not refer to Israel by name, was speaking in his role as head of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Rouhani, a self-described moderate in the clerical regime who swept to power in June, has urged a quick resolution of a standoff with Western powers over Iran's contested nuclear program.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has spearheaded criticism of Rouhani, calling him a "wolf in sheep's clothing" and urging no let-up in pressure on Iran.

Netanyahu has charged that Iran, which says its nuclear work is for peaceful purposes, is seeking a nuclear weapon and has not ruled out an Israeli military strike.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20130926-rouhani-says-israel-must-join-non-nuclear-treaty>

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Al-Akhbar – Beirut, Lebanon

## **IAEA Says Talks with Iran "Very Constructive"**

Friday, September 27, 2013

The UN atomic agency said on Friday it held "very constructive" talks with Iran, announcing a future meeting between the two parties.

Following a flurry of meetings at the UN General Assembly this week in New York, Herman Nackaerts, chief inspector of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said in Vienna that the two sides would come together again on October 28.

"We will start substantial discussions (on October 28) on the way forward to resolving all outstanding issues," Nackaerts told reporters. "The talks were very constructive."

Iran's new envoy to the IAEA, Reza Najafi, said both sides had had "constructive discussions on a variety of issues".

The main focus of Friday's talks was the IAEA's wish for Iran to address allegations that before 2003, and possibly since, it conducted research work into making an actual nuclear weapon.

The agency has failed in 10 meetings since early 2012 to press Iran to grant it access to personnel, sites and documents related to these activities, set out in a major November 2011 report by the IAEA.

The allegations were based in large part on information provided to the IAEA from spy agencies like the CIA and Israel's Mossad, intelligence which Iran rejects and complains it has not even been allowed to see.

The sites include the Parchin military base where the IAEA wants to probe claims that scientists conducted explosives tests that would be "strong indicators of possible nuclear weapon development."

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Western countries have accused Iran of bulldozing evidence at Parchin, and IAEA head Yukiya Amano said in June that heavy construction work spotted by satellites means "it may no longer be possible to find anything even if we have access."

Iran says it is enriching uranium only for civilian energy and medicine, denying any aim to acquire nuclear weapons.

Providing some hope that some progress might now be made is that under Rohani, Iran has been sounding considerably more conciliatory than under his predecessor Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Friday's meeting was the first IAEA gathering involving Najafi, who arrived in Vienna earlier this month professing a "strong political will" to engage.

"We welcome the recent developments and statements made by Iran about their willingness to engage, to resolve the nuclear issue expeditiously," Nackaerts said as he went into the meeting.

On Thursday new Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif met with counterparts from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany (the so-called P5+1) at the UN General Assembly, including US Secretary of State John Kerry.

Kerry said Zarif's presentation was "very different in tone, and very different in the vision that he held out with respect to the possibilities in the future".

Zarif said the talks agreed to "jumpstart" work on a deal and "move towards finalizing it, hopefully, within a year's time".

The six powers will meet again for talks with Iran on October 15 and 16 in Geneva, the EU's foreign policy chief and P5+1 chief negotiator Catherine Ashton said in New York.

This diplomatic track is separate from that of the IAEA, concentrating more on Iran's current activities, most notably uranium enrichment, with Tehran seeking an easing of painful UN and Western sanctions.

But a deal with the IAEA on probing claims of past weaponization work is a key part of the jigsaw needed to finally peacefully resolve the standoff over Iran's nuclear work after a decade of trying.

"The area where Iran is most willing and able to make concessions is the area of transparency and that means more cooperation with the IAEA," said Mark Fitzpatrick from the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

AFP, Al-Akhbar

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/iaea-says-talks-iran-very-constructive>

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Ha'aretz Daily News – Israel

## **UN Inspectors to Probe Seven Syria Chemical Cases, Some After Aug 21 Attack**

*Global chemical weapons watchdog to discuss Friday a disarmament plan for Syria that calls for inspections of country's chemical arsenal to begin by Tuesday.*

By Reuters and The Associated Press

September 27, 2013

UN chemical weapons inspectors in Syria are investigating seven cases of alleged chemical or biological weapons use, including three incidents around Damascus after the August 21 attack which almost triggered U.S. air strikes.

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The inspectors expect to finalize their work in Syria on Monday and issue a report by late October that will give more details of the August 21 incident which they have already said involved the use of sarin gas, a statement from the United Nations in Damascus said on Friday.

The United States and its Western allies said the initial report showed Damascus was behind the attack, which killed hundreds of people. President Bashar Assad's government has denied the accusation, blaming rebels instead.

The incidents also include an alleged chemical weapons attack in March in the northern town of Khan al-Assal, where authorities say rebels killed 25 people, including 16 soldiers. Rebels said government forces were behind it.

The two other cases from earlier this year both date back to April - one in the Aleppo district of Sheikh Maqsoud and another in the town of Saraqeb in the northern province of Idlib.

The three most recent incidents were in Bahariyeh and Jobar, both east of central Damascus, on August 22 and 24, and Ashrafiat Sahnaya to the southwest of the capital on August 25, the UN statement said. The team returned to Damascus on Wednesday to resume its work and "expects to finalise its activities in the country by Monday," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the global chemical weapons watchdog will discuss Friday a disarmament plan for Syria that calls for inspections of the civil war-torn country's chemical arsenal to begin by Tuesday.

The draft decision of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) obtained by The Associated Press also authorizes the body to inspect "any other site identified by a State Party as having been involved in the Syrian chemical weapons program, unless deemed unwarranted by the Director-General."

That goes beyond usual practice as the organization has only previously inspected sites that have been declared by member states.

The draft, being discussed by the OPCW's executive council Friday night, calls for the organization's secretariat to, "as soon as possible and no later than 1 October, 2013, initiate inspections in the Syrian Arab Republic." And it lays out the target of destroying all of Syria's chemical weapons and equipment by "the first half of 2014."

The chemical watchdog draft to be discussed Friday comes a day after the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council agreed on the text of a resolution that demands that Syria abandon its chemical stockpile and allow unfettered access to chemical weapons experts. But if Syria fails to comply, the council will need to adopt a second resolution to impose measures under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which allows for military and nonmilitary actions to promote peace and security.

The combined OPCW and Security Council action represents a significant breakthrough and rare unity between Russia, which has supported Syrian President Bashar Assad's government, and the United States.

If the OPCW executive council approves the draft decision later, the Security Council could vote late Friday at the earliest on its resolution.

The OPCW plan says the organization should consider reporting any delay or lack of cooperation by Syria to the Security Council. The draft decision also sets out a clear and ambitious timeline for the verification and destruction of Syria's weapons and production facilities.

According to the plan, Damascus must, within a week of the decision being approved, provide more detailed information on its arsenal including the name and quantity of all chemicals in its weapons stockpile including precursor chemicals; the type of and quantity of munitions that can be used to fire chemical weapons; the location of the weapons, storage facilities and production facilities. And the destruction of all chemical weapons production and mixing or filling equipment has to be completed no later than November 1.

The decision calls on Syria to "cooperate fully with all aspects of the implementation of this decision, including by providing the OPCW personnel with the immediate and unfettered right to inspect any and all sites in the Syrian Arab Republic."



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The recent flurry of diplomatic activity was triggered by the August 21 poison gas attack, and President Barack Obama's subsequent threat to use military force.

When U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Assad could avert U.S. military action by turning over "every single bit of his chemical weapons" to international control within a week, Russia quickly agreed. Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov signed an agreement in Geneva on September 13 to put Syria's chemical weapons under international control for later destruction, and Assad's government accepted and quickly signed up to Chemical Weapons Convention that is policed by the Hague-based OPCW.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/1.549254>

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Global Times – China

## **China Slams Japan's Military Deployment**

*Global Times*, September 25, 2013

By Yang Jingjie

China's foreign ministry has expressed concerns over Japan's deployment of advanced military installations two days in a row, slamming Tokyo and Washington for creating tensions and instability in the region.

The ministry's spokesperson Hong Lei Tuesday told a regular press briefing that China has taken note of reports on Japan's plan to deploy Global Hawk unmanned high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft.

The US-made drone is reportedly to be deployed within the fiscal year 2015 to beef up Japan's air surveillance capabilities to deal with territorial disputes.

According to media reports, the Japanese defense ministry also plans to build new monitoring facilities on Iwo Jima, an island 1,200 kilometers south of Tokyo, to collect information about Chinese vessels' activities in the Pacific.

"Some countries try to deliberately make excuses for a push to expand their military role by creating tensions and threats," Hong said, noting China's normal marine activities "are in line with international law and do not pose a threat to any other country."

On Monday, Hong also expressed concerns over US plans to install an X-band radar system in Kyoto, claimed to defend against North Korean missiles.

According to Japan's Kyodo News, Kyoto Governor Keiji Yamada last week endorsed the installation of the so-called X-band radar on the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF)'s Kyogamisaki sub-base in the city of Kyotango. A similar X-band radar has already been set up on the ASDF's Shariki sub-base in northern Japan.

Hong said China believes that unilaterally deploying an anti-missile system or forging an alliance is not conducive to the resolution of the regional nonproliferation issue, or the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

An air force observer, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the deployment of X-band radar in Japan will help expand the US' scope and accuracy for surveillance and will track ballistic missiles launched from multi-directions.

The observer noted that given the number, range and quality of North Korean ballistic missiles, it is not feasible that the radar system was set up to only target the North. "The [aim of] deploying anti-missile radars in South Korea and Japan is similar to that of deploying Aegis destroyers in the West Pacific and a land-based anti-missile interceptor system in Alaska ... They target China and Russia," he said.

"The deployment of a missile defense system in Japan has been advancing south, gradually installing its so-called strategic defense weapon at the door of our country," Wu Huaizhong, a research fellow with the Institute of Japanese Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times.

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An expert on military science, who asked not be named, said that the US' next step would be to deploy the system in the Philippines, so as to turn its anti-missile system in East Asia into a network for full coverage of the region.

"While holding the strongest spear, Washington is building the most solid shield ... There is no doubt that it will push some countries to the opposite side, which would undermine the strategic balance in East Asia," he said, adding that the US is to blame for a dividing Asia-Pacific.

"Compared with China's active implementation of UN resolutions [on North Korea], the US and Japan's acts are not constructive," Wu said.

China's commerce ministry Monday published a list of technologies and goods banned from export to North Korea for their possible use in building nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Separately, Chinese activists Tuesday denied a report by Japan's Yomiuri Shimbun paper, which said the group would set sail for the disputed Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea on Thursday.

Li Yiqiang, secretary-general of the World Chinese Alliance in Defense of the Diaoyu Islands, told the Global Times that the group had decided to postpone the trip due to adverse weather, and will leave for the islands after October 7.

*Xinhua contributed to this story.*

[http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/813721.shtml#\\_UkNm4Ao5Dw](http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/813721.shtml#_UkNm4Ao5Dw)

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Bangkok Post – Thailand

## **N. Korea Nuclear Progress 'Outpacing Sanctions'**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Wednesday, 25 September 2013

North Korea's nuclear weapons programme is developing beyond the international community's ability to rein it in with effective sanctions and export restrictions, regional analysts and nuclear experts warned Wednesday.

While opinion on the current level of the nuclear threat posed by North Korea was divided, a conference organised by the Asan Institute think-tank in Seoul showed consensus on the urgent need for new strategies to keep the threat in check.

Even as Pyongyang's closest ally China announced an export ban to the North of technologies and goods with dual-use potential, experts questioned whether North Korea's weapons programme hadn't already moved beyond its earlier dependence on external equipment and know-how.

"They are not at the start of this process anymore. They've been at it a long time," said Park Jiyong, director of the Asan Institute's Science and Technology Policy Center.

"It's clearly likely that the North will try to go beyond its current nuclear capability ... (and) export controls can't stop that development," Park said.

North Korea has carried out three nuclear tests -- the last, and most powerful, in February this year.

Satellite images suggest it has restarted a plutonium reactor at its main Yongbyon nuclear complex and doubled its uranium enrichment capacity at the same site.

A new study by Washington-based nuclear proliferation expert Joshua Pollack and nuclear scientist Scott Kemp, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, further suggests North Korea is capable of indigenously producing the key components of the gas centrifuges needed to enrich uranium.

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"In which case, the current policy based on export controls, sanctions and interdictions has probably reached its limit of effectiveness," Pollack told the Seoul conference.

"It means we cannot easily stop the expansion of the enrichment program ... or maybe even detect its expansion," he added.

Uranium enrichment carries a far smaller footprint than plutonium and can be carried out using centrifuge cascades in relatively small buildings that give off no heat.

The possibility that North Korea has, or will have, undeclared uranium enrichment facilities squirrelled away across the country would undermine the credibility of any future aid-for-denuclearisation deal with Pyongyang.

As a result, the international community's best strategy, Pollack argued, might be to focus its efforts on preventing a fourth nuclear test.

Li Bin, a physicist and nuclear policy expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said North Korea could be just one test shy of making the crucial leap to miniaturisation -- the ability to fit a nuclear warhead on a missile.

"If they can do more nuclear tests, maybe just one more, they would be able to have a small and more reliable device," Li said.

Asked what steps the international community could take to prevent a determined Pyongyang pursuing a fourth test, Li paused before replying: "I have no idea."

The one area of North Korea's nuclear weapons programme which would appear to require the most work is the development of a reliable delivery system.

In December last year, it put a satellite in orbit with a rocket launch that was widely condemned as a disguised ballistic missile test.

But German missile expert Markus Schiller said he was "very sure" -- despite Pyongyang's recent threats to the contrary -- that the North currently had no inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) capacity.

The Unha-3 carrier used in December's launch "is not a weapon," Schiller said.

The North has smaller missiles capable of reaching South Korea, Japan and China, but Schiller said their technical unreliability made it "highly unlikely" it would risk one of its few nuclear weapons on such a carrier.

The North's nuclear arsenal is variously estimated at between six and 10 bombs.

Technical capabilities aside, Schiller questioned whether the outside world tended to overplay the threat of a North Korean nuclear strike.

A pre-emptive attack would result in "total war" that the North could never win, "and the leadership is well aware of that," Schiller said.

"North Korea's weapons programme is a political tool, aimed at extracting international concessions and showing strength at home," he argued.

"We should see these weapons as what they primarily are. As politics," he added.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/371474/n-korea-nuclear-progress-outpacing-sanctions>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **India to Get Refitted Russian Ship in November – Official**

25 September 2013

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KOCHI (India), September 25 (RIA Novosti) – A Russian-built aircraft carrier is to be handed over to the Indian Navy on November 15, and will reach India by February 2014, a senior official at the Russian arms exports monopoly said Wednesday.

The Vikramaditya carrier, which is already years past its original 2008 delivery date, was supposed to have been handed over to India in December 2012, but last year's sea trials revealed that the vessel's boilers were not fully functional.

"We expect that Vikramaditya will dock at a Mumbai port by February," Viktor Komardin, deputy head of the state-run arms exporter Rosoboronexport, said Wednesday at the NAMEXPO-2013 naval exhibition in India.

Komardin said that the carrier would dock at 14 ports on its way to the final destination.

The carrier, renamed the Vikramaditya for India, was originally built as the Soviet Project 1143.4 class aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20130925/183713349/India-to-Get-Refitted-Russian-Ship-in-November--Official.html>

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Evansville Courier & Press – Evansville, IN

## **Russia to Guard Destruction of Syria Chemical Arms**

By ALBERT AJI and BARBARA SURK, Associated Press (AP)

September 26, 2013

DAMASCUS, Syria — Russia offered on Thursday to provide troops to guard facilities where Syria's chemical weapons would be destroyed, as U.N. inspectors prepared to continue their probe on the use of such agents in the country's civil war.

Also Thursday, a mortar shell slammed into the Iraqi consulate building in central Damascus, killing one person and wounding three, Syrian state media reported.

In Moscow, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Russia is ready to ensure security and help guard facilities, once the chemical weapons are stored for destruction in Syria. He spoke just hours after another Russian deputy foreign minister, Gennady Gatilov, told The Associated Press that the U.N. Security Council is just two days away from agreeing on a resolution that would require Damascus to dismantle its chemical weapons stockpiles.

Gatilov said the resolution will include a reference to Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which allows for military and nonmilitary action in the interest of peace.

The U.S. and Russia have been at odds on how to enforce the resolution after brokering a joint agreement earlier this month on the eventual destruction of Syria's chemical weapons. By agreeing to the accord, Syrian President Bashar Assad's government had narrowly escaped a punitive American strike over an August chemical weapons attack.

Meanwhile, a team of U.N. inspectors was back in Syria to investigate three alleged incidents of chemical weapons use earlier this year. They will also seek information on three other attacks last month that allegedly included chemical agents. The inspectors were seen leaving their Damascus hotel in a vehicle convoy on Thursday afternoon, but there was no immediate indication where they were going.

The U.N. inspectors first came to Damascus last month to probe a March 19 attack and two other incidents in the north when an alleged chemical attack occurred outside the Syrian capital. They returned to Syria on Wednesday.

The Aug. 21 incident in the eastern Ghouta suburb of Damascus became their focus after the United States and its allies said Assad's troops were responsible for the chemical attack that killed hundreds. The U.S. threatened punitive strikes; Assad's government denied the allegations and said the rebels were behind the Ghouta attack.

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Ryabkov spoke to Russian news agencies during an arms exhibition in Nizhny Tagil. He said he hoped other members of a Moscow-led military alliance of former Soviet republics, known as Collective Security Treaty Organization, would also participate in guarding the Syrian chemical weapons facilities. Along with Russia, the group includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said the inspectors will visit the site of the March 19 incident, the village of Khan al-Assal near the city of Aleppo, and two other sites in Saraqeb and Sheik Mahsood.

The mission will also discuss with the Syrian government "information that it may possess regarding allegations it reported on the use of chemical weapons" in incidents on Aug. 22, 24 and 25, Nesirky said Wednesday.

The attack on the Iraqi consulate came a day after Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari warned Western nations that support the Syrian opposition not to send military aid to the rebels for fear it could assist jihadi groups. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

Rebels fighting to topple Assad often fire mortar rounds into the Syrian capital, targeting state institutions, military installations and diplomatic missions of countries that have supported his regime. Syria's civil war has so far killed more than 100,000 people.

According to Syria state news agency SANA, an Iraqi woman was killed and three others were wounded when a mortar shell struck the building that houses the consulate in the upscale Abu Roumanneh district of Damascus. The shell hit the consulate's hallway in which people were waiting to process their documents or visas, SANA said.

On Sunday, a mortar round landed inside the Russian Embassy compound in Damascus. That attack coincided with Moscow's announcement that it was willing to send military observers to Syria as it prepares to surrender its chemical weapons to international control.

Russia is one of Assad's closest allies.

Iraq says it has not taken any side in Syria's conflict, now in its third year. Members of Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government have repeatedly warned that Sunni extremists might dominate ruling structures in Damascus if Assad's regime falls.

*Surk reported from Beirut.*

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2013/sep/26/russia-guard-destruction-syria-chemical-arms/>

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Reuters – U.S.

## **UK Nuclear Arms Backup Plan Urgent Ahead of Scottish Vote-Lawmakers**

*\* Defence Committee says independence threatens nuclear deterrent*

*\* Lawmaker report urges Britain to draw up contingency plans*

*\* Relocating nuclear submarine base would be costly and complex*

By William James

Thursday, September 26, 2013

LONDON, Sept 27 (Reuters) - The British government must urgently draw up a contingency plan for where it can put its nuclear arsenal in case Scotland, where the submarine-based nuclear missile system is now located, votes for independence, a parliamentary study said on Friday.

Scottish separatists have consistently lagged in opinion polls which show Scots have decided against independence by a ratio of 3 to 2. But a large number of voters - up to 28 percent by one poll - are undecided.

With less than a year to go to the Sept. 18, 2014, referendum, the issue of what to do with Britain's nuclear deterrent is urgent, lawmakers said.

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With less than a year to go to the Sept. 18, 2014, referendum, the issue of what to do with Britain's nuclear deterrent is urgent, lawmakers said.

"The possibility of Scottish independence represents a serious threat to the future operational viability of the UK's nuclear deterrent," said one of the conclusions of the year-long Defence Committee investigation into the impact of independence.

"The UK Government must now give urgent consideration to contingency options in the event of a 'Yes' vote," it said.

Britain is one of only five officially recognised nuclear-armed countries. Four submarines equipped to carry nuclear missiles - the Vanguard, Victorious, Vigilant and Vengeance - are based in deep-water lochs along the west coast of Scotland, and concrete missile storage bunkers are built into the Scottish hillside. At least one of the four is always at sea.

The Liberal Democrats, junior partner in the Conservative-led coalition government, want to reduce the number of submarines when the current class is decommissioned, but Prime Minister David Cameron has called any such plan "naive or reckless".

If Scotland votes to break away, Britain would face a huge, expensive and time-consuming task to relocate the system.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed on Thursday it currently has no contingency plan.

"No contingency plans are being made to move Trident out of Scotland," a Ministry of Defence spokesman told Reuters.

"The scale and cost of any potential relocation away from Faslane would be enormous. We are confident that the Scottish people will vote to remain a part of the United Kingdom."

Defence Minister Philip Hammond said during an evidence session for the report that it was "unhelpful" to speculate over any possible relocation sites, but that ultimately he was confident it could be done.

"I am confident that we would be able to solve this problem, but it would cost a significant amount of money," Hammond told the committee in July.

A Trident renewal decision will not be taken until after the next 2015 general election. Britain's four Vanguard class nuclear submarines reach the end of their service lives in the 2020s.

Keith Brown, a minister in the devolved Scottish government, called the current nuclear programme a "huge waste of money" and said an independent Scotland would focus its military efforts differently.

"An independent Scotland can halt the disproportionate cuts to our defence footprint and deliver the defence jobs, the equipment and the security that Scotland needs," he said.

Trident missiles are built by Lockheed Martin Space Systems and are also used by the U.S. Navy.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/26/britain-scotland-nuclear-idUSL5N0HM2YJ20130926>

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The Los Angeles Times

## **Estimate for Uranium Facility Goes from \$600 Million to \$11.6 Billion**

*It would be one of the largest nuclear weapons investments since World War II. A watchdog group says the work – which may not be needed – can be done for less elsewhere.*

By Ralph Vartabedian

September 24, 2013

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The cost of a proposed uranium processing facility for nuclear weapons in Oakridge, Tenn., has soared as high as \$11.6 billion — 19 times the original estimate — even as critics accuse the Energy Department of overstating the need for spare bomb parts.

Under a proposal unveiled in 2005, the manufacturing plant at the Y-12 National Security Complex would produce new uranium cores for the nation's stockpile of aging hydrogen bombs.

But not long after the plan was disclosed, with an estimated cost of \$600 million, the price tag began to climb. Now, the processing facility would be among the largest investments in the U.S. nuclear weapons infrastructure since the Manhattan Project, which developed the atomic bomb during World War II.

The facility has drawn sharp criticism by the Project on Government Oversight, a Washington watchdog group, which advocates that the plan be scrapped. In a report issued Wednesday, the group cites a little-noticed report by the Army Corps of Engineers that made the \$11.6-billion cost estimate and argued that the work could be done more cheaply at existing facilities.

The Energy Department has not disputed the corps' estimate, although its own official price tag is \$4.2 billion to \$6.5 billion. A spokeswoman at Y-12 said the corps' estimate was the highest of three outside agency reviews of the project.

The escalating cost reflects questions that have troubled the Energy Department's nuclear weapons complex since the end of the Cold War: How long will the Pentagon need a stockpile of nuclear weapons, and how can the massive industrial network needed to maintain the bombs be kept going at an affordable level?

The Y-12 plant is the only U.S. facility that melts, casts and machines bomb-grade uranium. About 7,000 people work there.

The facilities, massive brick structures the size of football fields, were built 70 years ago during World War II. The Energy Department says they are "genuinely dilapidated." Similar problems with aged facilities exist at the Pantex nuclear weapons facility in Texas, Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, among other places.

But Peter Stockton, lead author of the new report and a former Energy Department special investigator, disputes the need to replace so many uranium cores, known as secondaries. The Energy Department delayed its plans for a new plutonium facility in New Mexico after acknowledging that it had overestimated the number of plutonium triggers it would need for weapons, he noted.

The Energy Department has failed to account for reductions in the size of the U.S. weapons stockpile and has underestimated the resiliency of the weapons parts, Stockton said.

"They can't say how many secondaries we will need," he said.

President Obama signed an agreement with Russia to cut each side's weapons stockpile to 1,550 by 2018, down from about 6,000 weapons about a decade ago.

Stockton said the uranium work could be done more cheaply at existing facilities at Y-12 or at Pantex, where nuclear weapons are disassembled and repaired.

The nation's three types of nuclear bombs are slowly undergoing life-extension programs, in which some parts are replaced and updated. Many of the weapons are more than 30 years old; they can no longer be tested under international treaties to determine conclusively that they will work. Some of the parts are virtual museum pieces, such as the B61 gravity bomb's fusing system, which still uses vacuum tubes.

It is generally accepted that the bombs need to be refurbished. But all of the three design types already would be refurbished by the time the new uranium facility is fully operational in 2038, the date cited by the Army Corps of Engineers.

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The corps did not release its cost estimates, but the Government Accountability Office cited them this summer in a briefing addendum.

The GAO, an arm of Congress, found that the Energy Department had made a number of errors in its cost estimates, including pricing a building design with a roof 13 feet too low to accommodate manufacturing equipment. That resulted in a \$540-million increase in the project.

After that, the GAO said it was reducing its confidence in the Energy Department's cost estimates. The GAO also found that the department had anticipated that Congress would provide much higher annual funding than was realistic. In addition, the GAO said, a longer construction schedule would drive up the price.

In another report released Tuesday, the libertarian Cato Institute said the cost of the nation's nuclear force could be reduced by eliminating the historic reliance on delivering bombs by three different systems: submarines, bombers and land-based missiles.

Cato defense analysts Benjamin Friedman and Christopher Preble say that submarine-launched missiles are more accurate than land-based missiles and can provide deterrence by themselves at a much lower cost. Friedman and Preble suggest that the Air Force not modernize its fleet of intercontinental ballistic missiles — part of a plan that, they say, could save \$20 billion without jeopardizing the nation's deterrence against an attack.

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-bomb-factory-20130925,0,6160248.story>

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National Journal

## Think Tank Recommends Cuts to Nuclear Arsenal

By Rachel Oswald, *Global Security Newswire*

September 24, 2013

WASHINGTON -- A think-tank warned on Tuesday that if the Pentagon does not make moderate reductions to its nuclear-weapons programs and related missions, it could be forced to accept undesired changes to its atomic assets because of "sequestration" budget cuts.

The Stimson Center's Defense Advisory Committee updated its proposal for a modified U.S. defense strategy -- a document it calls "Strategic Agility." This plan is intended to help the Defense Department cut tens of billions of dollars in spending from its nuclear mission, weapons programs and other spending areas, and serve as an alternative to the \$500 billion in decade-long sequestration reductions that started in March.

The Stimson Center in its new "Strategic Agility" report suggests changes to the U.S. nuclear stockpile -- including reductions to ICBMs, tactical nuclear weapons and planned purchases of ballistic-missile submarines -- that largely mirror recommendations the Washington-based nonpartisan organization offered last November.

Barry Blechman, chairman of the committee, told reporters that the center decided to update its 2012 recommendations after it "became apparent" this spring that the fiscal 2014 defense budget introduced by the White House and the responding legislation under consideration in the Senate and the House were not going to reverse the automatic, across-the-board sequestration cuts set in motion by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

The new defense strategy "says rather than permit sequester to happen again, it's imperative to operate realistically at the budget level required by the legislation," Blechman said on a Tuesday conference call. By making \$50 billion in strategic cuts to defense spending, sequestration can be avoided "without harming our ability to defend vital U.S. national interests," he continued.

Similar to the 2012 study, the updated spending strategy recommends retiring one-third of the country's ICBM force for a reduction of 150 Minuteman 3 missiles and an estimated yearly savings of \$300 million.

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Tuesday's study also reiterates the suggestion that the Navy order two fewer than the currently planned 12 new Virginia-class ballistic missile submarines, for a projected savings of \$1 billion annually in the near-term and another \$10 billion in the coming decade.

The report authors on Tuesday said President Obama's administration should reconsider its plans to modernize the nation's B-61 nuclear warhead and instead slash to unspecified numbers the stockpile of approximately 500 tactical weapons. Roughly 200 of the B-61 gravity bombs are deployed at the bases of European NATO allies.

"Defense savings from this measure would be roughly \$100 million in 2015, but would grow substantially later in the decades," the study asserts.

The Stimson Center continues to urge the development of theater missile defense over U.S. homeland missile protection. Specifically, the report advises freezing a March 2013 order to purchase 14 additional long-range missile interceptors for fielding in Alaska that would be part of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system.

"Regrettably, the GMD does not work very well. It was successful in only eight of 15 highly-scripted intercept tests and could easily be defeated by a variety of countermeasures that an enemy could place on its ICBMs," the report states.

The \$1 billion planned for the purchase of the 14 new interceptors should be re-allocated to efforts to improve the effectiveness of the GMD system, the study said.

The authors called for increasing spending -- to the tune of close to \$2 billion yearly -- on the purchase of new Aegis-equipped missile destroyers in order "to field robust theater missile defenses more quickly."

The new recommendations have the backing of senior retired military officials including former Joint Chiefs of Staff Vice Chairman Gen. James Cartwright, prior Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz and former Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, all of whom serve on the Defense Advisory Committee.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/global-security-newswire/think-tank-recommends-cuts-to-nuclear-arsenal-20130924>

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NBC News.com

## **Report: US Inspects for WMD at only Half of 'High-Risk' Seaports**

By Joel Seidman, NBC News

September 27, 2013

The United States does not have any inspection teams at nearly half the foreign seaports that it considers high risk targets for the shipping of weapons of mass destruction to the U.S., says an upcoming federal report obtained by NBC News.

The Government Accountability Office also found in its report that Customs and Border Protection had not conducted a fresh assessment of risks at foreign ports since 2005, and that because of budget cuts the number of U.S. inspectors at foreign ports had fallen by half -- from 153 to 77 -- in the past five years.

"Although there have been no know incidents of cargo containers being used to transport WMD, the maritime supply chain remains vulnerable to attacks," concluded the report, which will be published next month.

The report also noted that the CBP had failed to meet its goal of inspecting all U.S.-bound cargo at specific ports with radiation detection and electronic imaging equipment by 2012, and that the deadline had been pushed back to 2014. It achieved 100 percent scanning at only location -- Port Qasim, Pakistan.

The U.S. inspects U.S.-bound cargo at 61 foreign ports that handle 80 percent of U.S.-bound cargo as part of its Containing Security Initiative, which began just after 9/11. According to the report, the U.S. has inspection capabilities at 27 of the 50 riskiest ports. Fifteen of the other high-risk ports are in countries that will not cooperate with the CSI program.

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A Harvard professor who is an expert on nuclear weapons said he thinks the millions of cargo containers arriving from foreign ports offer terrorists a “Trojan horse” for a devastating attack on the U.S.

“If a nuclear weapon explodes in New York,” said Graham Allison, who teaches at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. “It’s ten times more likely to be delivered by ship than by ICBM. Why? Because a missile leaves an unambiguous return address, and the certainty that (the sender) will be toast.”

The CBP declined a request from NBC News to comment on the report in advance of its official publication. In a response appended to the report, however, the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees CBP, said it agreed that a new assessment of security risks at overseas ports is needed. DHS said it anticipated that its next assessment will be completed in August 2014.

In addition, according to the report, some of the cuts to inspection personnel have been offset by the ability to examine cargo containers remotely, through electronic imaging. In June, the heads of the Border Patrol and CBP told Congress that they had been able to reduce the number of officers working on the ground at CSI ports “through increased partnership with host country counterparts and advances in targeting in technology.”

<http://investigations.nbcnews.com/news/2013/09/27/20708222-report-us-inspects-for-wmd-at-only-half-of-high-risk-seaports?lite>

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The London Daily Telegraph – U.K.

## **Briton Accused of al-Shabaab Chemical Plot**

*A former care worker from London has been accused of plotting to help al-Shabaab, the African al-Qaeda affiliate behind the Nairobi attack, to develop chemical weapons.*

By Jon Swaine in New York

26 September 2013

Mahdi Hashi, who lived in Camden, appeared in a New York court this week accused of having been a member of an “elite al-Shabaab suicide bombing unit”.

Mr Hashi, a Somali-born 23-year-old, was stripped of his British citizenship in March by Theresa May, the Home Secretary, after being charged by the US with providing material support to terrorists.

A court filing this week alleged that he and two associates, who had their telephones tapped by US spies, have “extensive weapons and combat training” and were plotting to attack American targets.

They are also accused of having “substantial knowledge regarding an al-Shabaab research and development department that was developing chemical weapons for use by that terrorist organisation”. Prosecutors allege that the three men are associates of al-Qaeda leaders in east Africa and were en route to Yemen to “join with” al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula when they were arrested last November.

Mr Hashi faces life in prison if convicted. He denies all charges and has appealed against the removal of his British passport. He is on hunger strike in protest at the restrictions he faces while awaiting trial. Prisoners’ rights campaigners say he is in poor health and is “close to liver failure”.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/kenya/10338183/Briton-accused-of-al-Shabaab-chemical-plot.html>

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Wyoming Tribune-Eagle – Cheyenne, WY

## **Somalis still Leaving Minn. to Join Terror Group**

**Issue No. 1081, 27 September 2013**

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MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

By Steve Karnowski, Associated Press (AP)  
September 26, 2013

MINNEAPOLIS -- Leaders of the nation's largest Somali community say some of their young men are still being enticed to join the terror group that has claimed responsibility for the deadly mall attack in Kenya, despite a concentrated effort to shut off what authorities call a "deadly pipeline" of men and money.

Six years have passed since Somali-American fighters began leaving Minnesota to become part of al-Shabab. Now the Somali community is dismayed over reports that a few of its own might have been involved in the violence at the Westgate Mall in Nairobi.

"One thing I know is the fear is growing," said Abdirizak Bihi, whose nephew was among at least six men from Minnesota who have died in Somalia. More are presumed dead.

Since 2007, at least 22 young men have left Minnesota to join al-Shabab, including two who did so last summer. Unconfirmed reports that two more left earlier this month have deepened concerns.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said Tuesday that initial reports had suggested a British woman and two or three American citizens may have been involved in the attack. But neither Kenyan authorities nor the Minneapolis FBI office had any confirmation.

Minnesota's Somali community, concentrated in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, includes people who fled the long civil war in their east African homeland and children born in the U.S. Many are now American citizens.

The movement of Somalis who've come to be known as "travelers" remains "a priority investigation for the Minneapolis office," FBI Special Agent Kyle Loven said.

At least 18 men and three women have been charged in the ongoing Minnesota investigation. Some went to Somalia while others were accused of aiding the effort mainly by raising money.

Seven men pleaded guilty to various charges. One man was convicted on terrorism-related charges last year. Two women were convicted in 2011 of being fundraisers for al-Shabab. A third woman pleaded guilty last month to lying to a grand jury. The other defendants remain at large, or are confirmed or presumed dead.

Al-Shabab means "The Youth" in Arabic. The group uses a mixture of religion, nationalism and deception to lure young people, said Omar Jamal, a longtime local activist who now serves as the first secretary for the Somali mission to the United Nations.

"They misinform people, and they target young, impressionable kids," Jamal said. "They literally brainwash them. It's a very dangerous cult."

Al-Shabab's local recruitment efforts began in 2007 when small groups began discussing returning home to fight Ethiopian troops who entered Somalia to prop up a weak U.N.-backed government and were seen by many Somalis as foreign invaders. The recruiters aimed their appeal at the young men's patriotic and religious ideals.

Ethiopian troops pulled out of Somalia in 2009, but al-Shabab kept up its fight for power. According to Valentina Soria, a security analyst with London-based IHS Jane's, al-Shabab has increasingly focused in the past three years on the recruitment of western nationals and members of the Somali diaspora in the U.S. and Europe to offset its declining domestic support.

Anders Folk was an assistant U.S. attorney in Minneapolis for several years of the recruiting investigation before leaving for private practice. Al-Shabab's recruiting was at least as effective after the Ethiopians left as before, he said.

"Al Shabab's recruiting technique was essentially a call to jihad, that this is a religious duty," Folk said. "It was a call to jihad to come and fight."

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Internet videos are a major tool for the group. Many feature scenes of men with covered faces firing automatic weapons, marching or practicing martial arts, as well as images of dead bodies and religious documents. Some show English-speaking suicide bombers reciting last wills.

The group often appeals to young men who've had trouble assimilating into American life, perhaps because they are unable to get a job, dropped out of school or got involved in gangs, Jamal said.

He cited a recently released al-Shabab propaganda video that lauded three "Minnesotan martyrs," including the American-born non-Somali Troy Kastigar, a convert to Islam.

Smiling and laughing in the footage, Kastigar called his battle experiences "the real Disneyland" and urged other Muslims to come and "take pleasure in this fun." He was killed in 2009 in Mogadishu, according to the video.

The recruiters masquerade "as people who are there for you at your lowest point," said Abdul Mohamed, a spokesman for Ka Joog, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit whose name means "stay away," which works to provide positive alternatives for Somali youth through education, the arts and mentorship.

"Instead of shying away from this issue and letting it separate us, it's best if we take it on headstrong and steadfast so in the future we can prevent it from happening," Mohamed said. "At the end of the day, these kids are full of potential."

*Associated Press writer Amy Forliti contributed to this report from New York.*

<http://www.wyomingnews.com/articles/2013/09/26/ap/headlines/9bb380707840409f907d450905b9d4ed.txt>

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USA TODAY

## Inside Kenya Shopping Mall, a House of Horrors

*Doctor describes al-Shabab's savagery: 'You find people with hooks hanging from the roof.'*

By Gary Strauss, USA TODAY

September 27, 2013

The al-Shabab terrorists who seized a Kenyan shopping mall for four days tortured, maimed and mutilated some of their 67 victims, leaving a tattered scene of ghoulish, gruesome remains that investigators likened to scenes from a horror movie.

Hostages were left hanging and had their eyes gouged, others were dismembered. Others had their throats slashed or were castrated and had fingers amputated, according to media reports quoting soldiers, medical personnel and investigators sorting through the rubble of the collapsed mall.

Kenya's *The Star*, quoting a forensics doctor, who said all of the victims were mutilated. Britain's *Daily Mail* reported children in refrigerators with knives in their bodies.

"You find people with hooks hanging from the roof. They removed eyes, ears, nose. Actually if you look at all the bodies, unless those ones that were escaping, fingers are cut by pliers, the noses are ripped by pliers," said the doctor who declined to give his name.

Some of the terrorists' bodies also appeared to have been burned by fellow extremists to protect their identities.

Allegations that hostages had been raped and others beheaded could not be verified, although those claims have circulated since Kenyan military forces ended the four-day mall siege earlier this week.

More than 70 people remain missing, but it could take up to a week before the mall is thoroughly searched.

Investigators says evidence showed the Somali-based al-Shabab planned the attack for some time, moving weapons and supplies inside the mall up to weeks before last weekend's attack.

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Up to 15 terrorists are believed to have conducted the attacks. Five were killed at at least 10 were arrested.

There's speculation that Samantha Lewthwaite, a Brit dubbed the "white widow," was involved in the attack, although Kenyan authorities say there's no evidence she was in Nairobi. Interpol had earlier issued an arrest warrant for Lewthwaite based on prior terrorist attacks.

Al-Shabab is warning Kenya could be hit by more bloodshed if its military isn't withdrawn from southern Somalia. Kenyan troops entered the country in 2011 to help the Somali government's fight against al-Shabab.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2013/09/27/mall-victims-tortured-maimed-in-al-shabab-attacks/2882299/>

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The London Guardian – U.K.

OPINION/Comment is Free

## **Trident: This £100bn Armageddon Weapon Won't Make Us One Jot Safer**

*The consensus among the three main parties on Trident merely illustrates that the defence lobby scares politicians stupid*

By Simon Jenkins

Wednesday, 25 September 2013

It must rank as the daftest, costliest question in British politics. How many Trident submarines does Britain need? Medieval schoolmen sharpened their brains by counting angels on pinheads. British policymakers sharpen theirs by counting warheads on missiles. They know it is irrational but the money, the language, the whiz-bangs, the uniforms turn their heads and dazzle their minds. Ordinary guns and soldiers they can understand. They slash their costs with ease. But cut nuclear weapons? That would be risky.

Every time I dip into the Trident debate I am reminded of Great War generals gulping on chateau champagne while the trenches filled with blood. David Cameron was confronted with a bold option on taking office: whether to cut back on Labour's glamour sea and air projects, many already out of date, and invest in the army instead. He flunked it. In the case of Trident, he muttered that his "real concern" was a threat from North Korea. It was mad.

Last spring there were signs that Labour's Ed Miliband might summon up the guts at last to challenge the "independent deterrent", given that its submarine replacement would consume a third of defence procurement for a decade. The press was briefed that he was "set to scrap Trident strategy". He too flunked it. There was no mention of the most expensive project on the Treasury books in his speech yesterday.

Earlier this month the Liberal Democrats mooted a scheme to keep submarines, but with their warheads locked up ashore. The idea had emerged to cut costs from within the Ministry of Defence, where a former minister, Nick Harvey, spoke of the "frankly almost lunatic mindset" among nuclear strategists. The idea was crushed by the union of former defence secretaries and service chiefs, led by Lords (George) Robertson and (Michael) Boyce. They dismissed it as "hare-brained".

The entire debate is hare-brained. Nobody can explain when, where or how these terrible weapons would be deployed and used, despite the essence of deterrence being credibility. (Yet we want to bomb Syria for using far less drastic chemical ones.) They bear no reference to any plausible threat to Britain that could possibly merit their use. Meanwhile their possession by Britain is a blatant invitation to nuclear proliferation, making opposition to an Iranian bomb hypocritical.

Yet Labour, like the Tories, is supporting a Trident renewal programme that is set to consume £20 billion and rise to a reputed £100bn over 20 years. Even current defence chiefs have been careful to excuse themselves from this debate, saying it is "for politicians to decide" on the deterrent, and for the Treasury to pay for it outside the defence budget (which the Treasury refuses).

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The mesmerising effect of "the bomb" on Labour recalls the party's ancient fear of being thought weak on defence. It was seen in Nye Bevan's shift from "no first use" to deriding disarmament as an "emotional spasm" that would send Britain "naked into the conference chamber". Labour's defence establishment ever since has striven to be more hawkish than any. In 1997 Tony Blair duly bought fighters, frigates and carriers in the greatest splurge of uncontrolled defence spending in peacetime.

Seven years ago Chatham House published a debate on the deterrent by a distinguished group of British and US strategists, soldiers and historians. They calmly took apart the bombast and rhetoric, delivering a message of extreme scepticism. It was highly unlikely that the Soviets were deterred from attacking Britain during the cold war. Egypt's Gamal Abdel Nasser was certainly not deterred from seizing Suez, or General Galtieri from seizing the Falklands.

Even Margaret Thatcher's favourite nuclear strategist, the late Michael Quinlan, pondered the then forecast £10bn renewal cost for Trident. He questioned "the continuing effort and expenditure" and doubted whether a British deterrent "would still have worthwhile credibility". The former head of US strategic air command was equally baffled. The British deterrent relied on US supplies and maintenance. Yet its use was predicated on America proving unreliable in deploying its deterrent against some putative attacker. The British deterrent had to be credible when America's was not. It made no sense.

Reading the Chatham House study today is to realise how deaf politics can be to reason. Gordon Brown justified Trident as merely supplying "Scottish jobs". Blair wanted to be "at the top table", as does Cameron. Yet the New York Times reported in April that the US was pressing Britain to face financial reality, and "either be a nuclear power and nothing else, or a real military partner". If Britons wanted to police the world, they should sustain a well-equipped army, not posture as a nuclear power.

Debates on defence are a miasma of fear, ignorance and fantasy. The cry of the defence lobby, that "you can't put a price on security" is rubbish. There is a price on every sort of security. What makes Trident peculiar is the tendency of the costs involved to rise, and the obscurity of its justification.

The old maxim was never more true – that soldiers prepare for old wars not future ones. They are obsessively conservative. As a result, when not spending on Trident (a cold war weapon), they have induced the government to spend on old-fashioned carriers and manned fighter planes, just when long-distance drones are the weapon of the future.

Yet the wars Britain is expected to fight, wars of political choice, demand equipment and tactics from not just past wars but past centuries. Enemies are immune to nuclear weapons and heavy armour, enemies who hurl grenades and wield Kalashnikovs made in 1947. In today's wars, as in Iraq and Afghanistan, Cameron's expensive procurements are an irrelevance.

Nuclear deterrence is rooted in a balance of terror established briefly during the cold war. In the improbable event of those days returning, the west would stand together under America's nuclear umbrella or it would be doomed. The idea that Britain is made one jot safer by a £100bn Armageddon weapon floating in the Atlantic is absurd.

Yet not absurd to everyone. The idea is the mental construct of a powerful lobby, the British navy, its cheerleaders and its suppliers, with their hands on stupefying amounts of public money and an ability to scare politicians into pandering to their interest. It is that interest, not Great Britain, that they are defending so vigorously. As a result the one policy on which all parties seem to agree is that Britain needs its own nuclear deterrent, which is nonsense.

*Simon Jenkins is a journalist and author. He writes for the Guardian as well as broadcasting for the BBC. He has edited the Times and the London Evening Standard and is chairman of the National Trust.*

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/sep/25/100bn-armageddon-weapon-wont-make-us-safer>

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Los Angeles Times

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OPINION/Op-Ed

## **U.S. Needs Action, Not Words, from Iran**

*As charming as new Iranian President Hassan Rouhani sounds, his deeds during his first 100 days in office are what matter.*

By Ed Royce and Eliot Engel  
September 25, 2013

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's visit to the United Nations this week is being analyzed in excruciating detail for signs that the long-stalled negotiations over Iran's nuclear program can finally gain traction. What exactly did Rouhani mean when he talked about peace and moderation? The media blitz has been interesting, but what really matters is what Rouhani does with his first 100 days in office.

Although a new leader's first 100 days is admittedly an arbitrary marker — the Iranian president's U.N. speech punctuated the halfway mark — in Rouhani's case, it will be a reasonable test of whether he can match his words with actions. Will Tehran show any willingness to end Iran's nuclear weapons program?

For starters, Rouhani needs to make it crystal clear whether Iran is prepared to accept President Obama's long-standing offer to establish direct, substantive and meaningful negotiations between the U.S. and Iran. Does he have the political courage to take this step? More important, does he have the abiding blessing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader?

If we get to this point, Rouhani must bring something new and meaningful to the table. Until now, the Iranian negotiators have offered minimal nuclear concessions in exchange for maximum financial and oil sanctions relief. Since his election, the only nuclear-related action taken by Rouhani has been to announce that his foreign minister, Javad Zarif, a veteran Iranian diplomat known to many in the West, will represent the country in upcoming nuclear negotiations. It remains to be seen though how much authority Zarif will have.

And neither Zarif nor Rouhani has shown a willingness to commit to a freeze in Iran's nuclear program, as called for in successive U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Although the U.S. should engage in negotiations if the opportunity presents itself, we must make clear that, absent a concrete, comprehensive deal, Iran's economy will continue to suffer. The economic sanctions imposed on Iran over the last half-decade have shaken the government, and inarguably contributed to the Iranian people's discontent with hard-line rule.

To show our seriousness, the Senate should pass and Obama should sign our comprehensive Iran sanctions legislation that overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives in July. And we must continue to make clear that all options remain on the table to prevent Iran from achieving a nuclear weapons capability.

In nuclear negotiations, the U.S. should pursue a deal in which significant and verifiable steps by Iran to dismantle its nuclear weapons program are met with gradual and limited concessions. To be clear, such a deal could only go into effect after Iran takes substantial and verifiable steps, and allows for better monitoring and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Although the new Iranian president speaks the language of conciliation, we must not allow ourselves to be fooled. According to the most recent IAEA report, the Iranian government continues to move full speed ahead with its nuclear weapons program, installing advanced centrifuges and building a heavy water reactor that could eventually produce plutonium. Iran also continues to engage in a range of other odious and destabilizing activities, including its support of Hezbollah and Bashar Assad's slaughter in Syria.

By the end of Rouhani's 100 days — in mid-November — we will be in a better position to judge whether there truly is an opening for a workable diplomatic solution. The House Foreign Affairs Committee will hold a hearing as that approaches to assess this possibility.

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Our current Iran policy reflects more than 30 years of violent and destabilizing behavior from Tehran, and there will not be support in Congress for an easing of sanctions absent a significant and lasting change in Iran's behavior. Such a change cannot be demonstrated by soothing words alone, but must be proved through concrete action.

*Rep. Ed Royce, a Republican from Fullerton, is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Rep. Eliot Engel, a Democrat from New York, is the committee's ranking member.*

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/commentary/la-oe-royce-engel-rouhani-nuclear-negotiation-20130925,0,134229.story>

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Eurasia Review – Spain  
OPINION/Analysis

## **Entanglement of Tactical Nuclear Weapons in South Asia – Analysis**

September 26, 2013

By Usman Ali Khan

International Institute of Strategic Studies, a London based think tank recently published a report citing Pakistan's development of short-range low yield nuclear missiles (TNWs) as a particular cause of concern regarding the proclivity of a nuclear exchange on the subcontinent. However, Pakistan's rationale for the TNWs is that these are instrumental to deter India from taking a major military adventure or contemplating a limited war under nuclear threshold. Unlike what some presume TNWs are meant to deter war at the tactical and operational level of operations rather than war fighting. Pakistan has developed a capability that India would be naïve to ignore and factor in before initiating a limited war. So the onus of starting a war lies on New Delhi and not Islamabad.

TNWs are necessary to restrain India's aggressive posture towards Pakistan, especially the Cold Start Doctrine (CSD) that is now called Pro-Active Operations. The CSD aims at making land incursion into Pakistan's territory through forward mobilization of eight integrated battle groups with the support of navy and air force in facilitating Indian army to conduct tactical maneuvers. Such adventurous doctrine has compelled Pakistan to devise a response in shape of the TNWs.

Nuclear deterrence can possibly be directed in two ways i.e. narrow and broad. If the intent is to deter a particular type of military operation, this would be called "narrow deterrence" and if the objective is to deter war in all its forms can be categorized as a spectrum of "broad deterrence."

Significant shifts in Indian nuclear posture have always altered the Pakistan's security calculations just like the introduction of CSD which changes the strategic landscape altogether. The emerging Indian military posture of developing CSD or Pro-active operation doctrine has forced Pakistan to develop technology and weapons that would ensure a Full Spectrum Deterrence. The recent enunciation of the policy of Full Spectrum Deterrence by Pakistan's Nuclear Command Authority seems to point out that war at tactical, operational and strategic level of operations is unacceptable. This policy, however, brings up the notion of low intensity conflict into question. Indians have often posited that they have developed CSD in order to preclude the possibility of another Mumbai type militant attack on Indian soil. Likewise, New Delhi has signaled that it would massively retaliate with nuclear weapons in case Islamabad uses TNWs against Indian attack. Both propositions are dangerous and bespeak brinkmanship.

While the jury is still out on Pakistani-patronage of Mumbai attack, there is some evidence that points out that Indian government enacted the Mumbai carnage and the attack on their parliament. Also Indians have been involved in sponsoring insurgency and militancy inside Pakistan. During an investigation, a member of a Special Investigating Team (SIT) of India's Central Bureau of Investigation had accused incumbent governments of "orchestrating" the terror attack on Indian Parliament and the 2008 Mumbai attacks, The Times of India reported on 15th July 2013. Likewise, in 2011, the current U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel had stated that, "India had been using Afghanistan as a second front against Pakistan, has over the years financed problems for Pakistan on that side of the border, and you can carry that

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into many dimensions.” These two evidences indicate that Indian rationale for launching CSD and massively retaliate to defensive use of nuclear weapons by Pakistan even is founded on wrong premise.

Lt General Khalid Kidwai, the head of Strategic Plans Division, described Pakistan’s rationale for making TNWs that of restoring “the strategic balance by closing the gap at the operational and tactical level,” thus contributes to “preserving peace in South Asia.” Some Western observers have considered Pakistan’s development of these short-range ballistic missiles akin to “pouring cold water on Cold Start.”

For many reasons, given in the above discussion, it could be scrutinized as of today Pakistan faces a number of challenges, which if unaddressed could cause a severe damage to the safety and security of its national interests. So in the interest to preserve peace and stability in this South Asian region, Pakistan has nuclear deterrence that rests on clarity not ambiguity. The introduction of tactical nuclear weapons like Nasr is not to create war but to make sure that, If India thought that it could win the war without crossing the nuclear threshold through surgical strikes or CSD, then they need to re-think it many times. In the end, the way forward is to address the issue that lie at the root of both countries security predicaments and the regions nuclearisation.

Usman Ali Khan, Researcher  
Department of Defence and Strategic Studies  
Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/26092013-entanglement-tactical-nuclear-weapons-south-asia%E2%80%8F-analysis/>

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The Harvard Crimson – Cambridge, MA  
OPINION/Presentation

## **Professor Suggests Nuclear Weapons Potentially Beneficial**

By Andrew Ma, CONTRIBUTING WRITER  
September 26, 2013

Nuclear weapons might actually have widespread beneficial effects, especially in states with lower national defense capabilities, suggested Ahsan I. Butt, assistant professor of government and politics at George Mason University, during a presentation at Harvard Kennedy School’s Belfer Center Library on Thursday.

At the presentation, entitled “The More Things Change? Nuclear Sustainability and Pakistan’s Conventional Doctrine After Nuclear Acquisition,” Butt acknowledged that nuclear weapons are a matter of great controversy because they have the potential to “equalize strengths between strong and weak countries, as well as negate the advantages of conventional superiority.”

Still, he argued that nuclear deterrence—a defense mechanism that reinforces one state’s protection against another by threat of nuclear retaliation—is considerably stronger than conventional deterrence, which involves the use of non-nuclear weapons.

Weak states, then, would benefit the most from nuclear weapons, Butt said. He added that by developing nuclear warheads, smaller states could bypass the conventional spending schedule of bulky ground and air units and instead spend more on infrastructure, education, and national development—a phenomenon he called the “nuclear substitution effect.”

During the open discussion period, Sunjar Singh, a researcher at MIT who studies international security, noted that Butt’s thesis is not very different from the usual arguments against nuclear proliferation. “It’s common knowledge that if you have nuclear weapons, you have a basic right to exercise the agenda that you want,” Singh said.

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Butt challenged the idea that security and nuclear proliferation are always complementary. He cited Pakistan as an anomaly to the nuclear substitution effect because the country has bolstered its conventional arms instead of focusing on a nuclear arsenal and infrastructural development.

“Pakistan is a premier case study for nuclear substitution. It is a weak state, significantly weaker than its main rival India, and destined to lose any conventional arms race. Pakistan has much more to gain from nuclear weapons,” Butt added. “So why hasn’t it happened?”

HKS National Security Fellow Kevin P. Landers offered an answer to Butt’s question. “Countries like Pakistan still need to have conventional national defense. Nuclear weapons are limited in their capabilities in that they can’t be used for on-the-ground warfare, a critical part of any country’s military,” Landers said to explain Pakistan’s development in both the conventional and nuclear weapons sectors.

In closing his presentation, Butt noted that nuclear discussions usually take place behind closed doors, making definitive reporting on the topic very difficult. It’s not clear, he said, whether states truly have aggressive intentions or are just trying to maintain the status quo. “We really need a deeper understanding of what nuclear weapons do to state security,” he said.

<http://www.thecrimson.com/article/2013/9/26/belfer-center-nuclear-weapons/>

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