



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

Articles & Other Documents:

Featured Article: [Obama's Nuclear Plan Tangled in Election Politics](#)

1. [IAEA Confirms Talks with Iran in Mid-May](#)
2. ['Decision to Hold New IAEA Talks Shows Transparency of Iran's Nuclear Activities'](#)
3. [Iran Skeptical but Open to U.S. Overture on Nuclear Program](#)
4. [Ahead of Nuclear Talks, Iran Vows Never to Halt Uranium Enrichment](#)
5. [US Now Says It's Not Willing to Accept any Enrichment by Iran](#)
6. [Israel Gets Fourth Dolphin-Class Submarine from Germany](#)
7. [Iranian Missile Program 'No Threat to Europe Yet' - Miraillet](#)
8. [Syria Uprising Creates Fear of Chemical Weapons Spread](#)
9. [Iran Dismisses Western Demand to Close nuclear Bunker](#)
10. [Satellite Photos Show Preparations for New North Korea Nuclear Test](#)
11. [Allies to Form Nuclear Attack Contingency Plan](#)
12. [N.Korean Nuclear Test 'Within 2 Weeks'](#)
13. [N.K. Has HEU to Make Up to 6 Bombs'](#)
14. [China Launcher Proliferation](#)
15. [No Clear Sign of N. Korea's Nuke Test: State Dept.](#)
16. [Pakistan Has Developed Tactical Weapons for Battlefields: Experts](#)
17. [Scientists Now Working to Improve Air Defence System](#)
18. [All Active Russian Nuke Submarines to Get New Missiles](#)
19. [Russia Warns 'Point of No Return' Imminent in US Missile Defense Talks](#)
20. [Medvedev: Russia Will 'Still Need' Nuclear Weapons](#)
21. [Moscow Sends Missile Message to NATO](#)
22. [Russia 'Retains Right' to Pre-Emptive Strike on Missile Shield](#)
23. [Defense Minister: Missile Shield Negotiations at Dead End](#)
24. [Russia Sees Missile Defense as 'Space Threat'](#)
25. [Iran, Pakistan, N. Korea May Pose Nuclear Threat to Russia](#)
26. ['AMD Only Illusion' – Rogozin](#)
27. [Congress Wants Broken Laser to Zap North Korea's Broken Missiles](#)
28. [Obama's Nuclear Plan Tangled in Election Politics](#)
29. [China to Actively Promote Nuclear Disarmament: Envoy](#)
30. [China Wants 'Drastic' Russia, U.S. Arms Cuts](#)
31. [Chinese Nuclear Demand](#)
32. [Analysis: Gulf States Struggle to Agree on Missile Shield](#)
33. [Possession Underscores Nuclear Contradictions](#)
34. [India's Agni V Missile: Game Changer? – Analysis](#)
35. [India's Nuclear-Capable Missile](#)
36. [Russia's Last Warnings to Washington](#)

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

Established in 1998, the USAF/CPC provides education and research to present and future leaders of the Air Force, as well as to members of other branches of the armed services and Department of Defense. Our purpose is to help those agencies better prepare to counter the threat from weapons of mass destruction. Please feel free to visit our web site at <http://cpc.au.af.mil/> for in-depth information and specific points of contact. The following articles, papers or documents do not necessarily reflect official endorsement of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense, or other US government agencies.

Reproduction for private use or commercial gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. All rights are reserved.

Issue No.1,001, 04 May 2012

The following articles, papers or documents do not necessarily reflect official endorsement of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense, or other US government agencies. Reproduction for private use or commercial gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. All rights are reserved.



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Press TV – Iran

IAEA Confirms Talks with Iran in Mid-May

Saturday, April 28, 2012

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has confirmed that a new round of talks with Iran will be resumed in mid-May in the Austrian capital, Vienna.

IAEA Spokeswoman Gill Tudor said Saturday that the meeting would take place on May 14 and 15 at the Iranian diplomatic mission in Vienna, Reuters reported.

"The purpose is to continue the negotiations started early this year," Tudor said.

Iran's Ambassador to the IAEA Ali Asghar Soltanieh had announced the date and venue of the talks on Friday.

Soltanieh said the main aim of the talks would be to devise a framework for answering questions about Iran's nuclear energy program, adding that Tehran wants to expand its cooperation with the agency.

On February 21, a high-ranking delegation headed by IAEA Deputy Director General Herman Nackaerts and Assistant Director General for Policy Rafael Grossi visited the Iranian capital, Tehran, to hold talks about further cooperation on Iran's nuclear energy program.

The visit was preceded by another trip to Iran by a team of the agency's inspectors on January 29.

A new round of talks between Iran and the IAEA comes as Tehran and the P5+1 (Britain, France, Russia, China and the United States plus Germany) are preparing to hold another meeting in Iraqi capital, Baghdad, on May 23.

<http://www.presstv.com/detail/238522.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Tehran Times – Iran

'Decision to Hold New IAEA Talks Shows Transparency of Iran's Nuclear Activities'

Political Desk

Sunday, April 29, 2012

TEHRAN - The Iranian ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency has said that Tehran's decision to hold a new round of talks with the UN nuclear watchdog illustrates the transparent nature of the country's nuclear activities.

Ambassador Ali Asghar Soltanieh made the remarks during an interview with the Persian service of the Mehr News Agency published on Saturday.

"In line with the talks that were previously held in Tehran in January (29 to 31) and February (21 to 22), we agreed that another round of talks be held at (the office of) the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic mission to all international organizations, including the agency, in Vienna on May 14 and 15, which corresponds to Ordibehesht 25 and 26, with the aim of drawing up a modality to help answer and address a number of questions and claims and to prove that they (the claims) are baseless and that the country's (nuclear) activities are peaceful," Soltanieh stated.

On Saturday, IAEA spokeswoman Gill Tudor confirmed that the meeting would take place from May 14 to 15 in Vienna, Reuters reported.

"The purpose is to continue the negotiations started early this year," Tudor said in an email.

Soltanieh added, "The decision to hold negotiations with the IAEA deputy director general and head of the Department of Safeguards (Herman Nackaerts) and senior officials of technical, legal, and political departments of the agency in

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Ordibehesht in Vienna is another sign of the cooperative spirit of our country and the transparency of its nuclear activities.”

“Iran has closely cooperated with the IAEA over the past years,” he said, adding, “During numerous inspections over these years, no evidence of diversion to military purposes has ever been found, and this itself proves that the peaceful nature of our country’s nuclear activities cannot be denied.”

The documents proving this fact are on the website of the agency, Soltanieh stated.

“However, unfortunately, certain Western countries have prevented this fact, which is based on documents, inspections, and the agency’s negotiations, from being reported through publishing diversionary reports,” he noted.

“Islamic Iran, as a model, has shown that it will never relinquish its rights to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, such as enrichment activities, while abiding by its commitments,” the Iranian ambassador said in conclusion.

<http://tehrantimes.com/politics/97340-decision-to-hold-new-iaea-talks-shows-transparency-of-irans-nuclear-activities>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Los Angeles Times

Iran Skeptical but Open to U.S. Overture on Nuclear Program

An Iranian Foreign Ministry official says the Obama administration's offer to consider allowing limited uranium enrichment 'would be a good start.'

By Ramin Mostaghim, Los Angeles Times

April 29, 2012

TEHRAN — Iranian officials expressed skepticism Saturday about possible Obama administration support for allowing the country to continue enriching some uranium but said it could be a good start for further negotiations on its disputed nuclear program.

Senior U.S. officials have said they might agree to let Iran enrich uranium up to 5% purity if its government agreed to the unrestricted inspections, strict oversight and numerous safeguards that the United Nations has long demanded.

If the deal was offered by all six nations negotiating with Iran and the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, "it would be a good start," said one official in Iran's Foreign Ministry, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The United States — along with China, Russia, France, Britain and Germany — began talks with Iran on April 14 in Istanbul, Turkey; the discussions are scheduled to resume May 23 in Baghdad.

"One thing I can tell you for sure is that Iran will never, ever close down the Fordow nuclear site," the official said, referring to the enrichment plant.

"But other issues such as 20% enrichment is open to negotiation. I can say Obama's proposal is good provided it is unanimously echoed."

Iran has produced 210 pounds of 20% enriched uranium for what it says are peaceful purposes, according to the IAEA, but it has purified about six tons at up to 5%, the upper end of the range for most civilian uses. The U.S. and its allies are concerned about more highly enriched uranium because it can be used to make a nuclear bomb.

The Foreign Ministry official said the different behavior of representatives of the negotiating countries — the French envoy was rude, while the U.S. one was surprisingly polite at the Istanbul talks, he said — indicated that they would have difficulty coming to a consensus on this issue.

Any proposal would also face strong skepticism and opposition from leaders in both Iran and the United States.

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

"Iran has lost a lot by voluntarily accepting the additional protocol for snap visits to nuclear sites before," said Hamid Reza Taraghi of the Islamic Coalition Party, who has close ties to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "The inspectors of IAEA turned out to be spies and our nuclear scientists were exposed and some of them assassinated."

Only when sanctions on Iran have been lifted and the country's rights as a signatory of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which allows countries to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes, are respected will Iran's parliament be prepared to compromise, he said.

It is improbable that Iran would ever agree to stop uranium enrichment altogether for a nuclear program that enjoys wide support among its people. But both hard-liners and reformists in the country would like to see a reduction in tension with Western countries, which have imposed sanctions on Iran's oil industry and central bank.

Mostaghim is a special correspondent.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iran-nukes-20120429,0,6608880.story>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Ha'aretz Daily – Israel

30 April 2012

Ahead of Nuclear Talks, Iran Vows Never to Halt Uranium Enrichment

Iranian envoy voices hopes that May talks will help resolve 'outstanding issues,' but calls enrichment inalienable right.

By Reuters

An Iranian envoy voicing hopes Monday that talks with the UN nuclear watchdog in mid-May would help resolve "outstanding issues", insisted that Iran would never halt its uranium enrichment program.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Saturday it would resume discussions with Iran on May 14-15 - more than two months after the last meeting over concerns about Tehran's atomic activities ended in failure.

"We hope that this will be a very constructive and successful meeting," Iran's ambassador to the Vienna-based IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, told Reuters. However, the ambassador added that Iran "will never stop enrichment activities in Iran," describing it as an inalienable right.

"The main purpose is to negotiate on a modality and framework to resolve outstanding issues and remove ambiguities," Soltanieh said, echoing language he and other Iranian officials have used before previous meetings that yielded no notable progress.

He suggested that only after such a "framework" for future cooperation had been agreed could Iran consider an IAEA request for access to a military site where the U.N. agency believes nuclear-related weapons research may have taken place.

"Every action will be implemented based on this framework, afterward," Soltanieh said when asked whether the IAEA could visit Parchin southeast of the capital Tehran.

Western diplomats have said Tehran still appeared to be stonewalling over the body's most pressing demand to let its inspectors visit the site.

The IAEA last November issued a report detailing alleged Iranian research and development activities that were relevant to manufacturing nuclear weapons, lending independent weight to Western suspicions based on intelligence soundings.

HIGHER-GRADE ENRICHMENT

The IAEA wants Iran to address the questions raised in the report. Iran has dismissed Western allegations as fabricated.

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education / Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 / Fax: 334.953.7530



Iran has also restarted negotiations with six world powers over the broader dimensions of its nuclear program and the sides have agreed to meet again in Baghdad on May 23.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said last week that he was optimistic that the talks with United States, Russia, China, Germany, France and Britain would make progress.

Washington and its allies believe Tehran is working on developing nuclear bombs. Tehran insists its activities have only civilian energy purposes and has refused to stop enriching uranium, despite a slew of sanctions.

The U.N. Security Council has demanded that Iran suspend all enrichment activity but Western diplomats have indicated the immediate priority is to get it to halt the higher-grade work.

Many analysts say it will only be possible to find a negotiated solution to the long-running row if both sides compromise: Iran would be allowed to continue some lower-level enrichment if it accepts more intrusive U.N. inspections.

"There is a growing recognition that zero enrichment is not a feasible solution," said Mark Fitzpatrick, a director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies think-tank.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/ahead-of-nuclear-talks-iran-vows-never-to-halt-uranium-enrichment-1.427297>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Iran Independent News Service (IINS) – Iran
Wednesday, 02 May 2012

US Now Says It's Not Willing to Accept any Enrichment by Iran

May 2 – In Monday's State Department briefing, spokeswoman Victoria Nuland denied the story and claimed that the United States insists that there be no enrichment of uranium by Iran. "I'm not sure what your assertion is based on.

It might have been based on one poorly reported story that I saw over the weekend," She replied to a question in that regard pointing to a report carried out by Los-Angeles Times.

I would say that our position remains as it has been, that we are – we want to see Iran live up to its international obligations including the suspension of uranium enrichment as required by multiple UN Security Council resolutions, she went on to say.

http://www.iranwpd.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=3493:us-now-says-its-not-willing-to-accept-any-enrichment-by-iran&Itemid=65

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Ha'aretz Daily – Israel
03 May 2012

Israel Gets Fourth Dolphin-Class Submarine from Germany

Foreign reports claim German vessels provide Israel with 'second strike' capability in case of nuclear attack'; IDF official: Submarine has a 'range for everything.'

By Gili Cohen

Israel received a fourth Dolphin submarine from Germany on Thursday. The new sub, called "Tanin," will be put into operation in 2013.

According to a senior Israel Navy officer, the "submarine has a range for everything," adding that it needs to refuel and charge its batteries only once in a long while.



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

"This submarine can stay underwater for longer," he added, saying it had both "visible and invisible" abilities and was meant to operate in the Mediterranean.

In a ceremony in Germany attended by senior members of Israel's Defense Ministry and the IDF, including the Defense Ministry director general Udi Shani, Israel Navy commander Ram Rotberg and German authorities. The officials inaugurated the new ship by s a bottle of champagne on it.

The Navy plans to conduct exercises with the submarine, before putting it into operation around mid-2013.

Israel is preparing to receive a fifth and sixth submarine from the Germans in the near future.

Israel's Navy has had to contend with a serious rise in challenges on multiple fronts in recent years.

"The challenges today are much wider, and the submarines are one import aspect of this," said the officer. "The Middle East has changed – including Egypt and Syria, and Lebanon is the same Lebanon – and we must be able to operate in several arenas and on several fronts at the same time."

According to foreign sources, the German submarines are equipped to carry Israel-made cruise missiles with a range of 1,500 kilometers and the ability to carry nuclear warheads.

The same reports claim that the submarines are meant to give Israel "second-strike" abilities in case of a nuclear attack.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/israel-gets-fourth-dolphin-class-submarine-from-germany-1.428039>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Iranian Missile Program 'No Threat to Europe Yet' - Miraillet

03 May 2012

Iran's ballistic missile program does not yet pose a threat to Europe or the United States, France's Director for Strategy Affairs and Defense Policy Michel Miraillet said on Thursday at a missile defense conference in Moscow.

The Euro-missile defense shield being implemented by NATO is aimed at so-called "emerging threat" nations, in particular Iran, which has developed theater range missiles and testing successor designs.

"Firstly Iran's ballistic missile program threatens neither Europe or the United States," he said. "Secondly, the Iranian nuclear program is developed for civil applications only. Therefore Russia considers Iran is a risk, not a threat to Europe," he added.

It would however be a risk to ignore the fact that Iran is rapidly developing ballistic missile technology, he said.

"Iran is increasing its inventory which includes nowadays more than several hundred missiles. Iran is developing indigenously a new type of two-stage solid-fuel missile called Ashura/Seijil. Its theoretical range is 2,200 km. Iran has proved its capability to shoot multiple salvos of missiles having different ranges," he said.

Iran is developing its program in defiance of UN resolutions, he added.

The U.S. and many Western European nations suspect Iran of developing nuclear weapon capability under guise of its civil nuclear program. Iran has consistently denied the accusations.

In mid-February the U.S. ramped up its sanctions against Tehran, which has four UN Security Resolutions in force against it over its nuclear activities.

MOSCOW, May 3 (RIA Novosti)

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



http://en.ria.ru/military_news/20120503/173198623.html

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Emirates 24/7.com – U.A.E

Syria Uprising Creates Fear of Chemical Weapons Spread

Damascus has big stockpile of undeclared chemical weapons

By Reuters

Thursday, May 03, 2012

With an uprising in Syria loosening the grip of president Bashar Al Assad, world powers are worried that he could lose control of a secret stockpile of chemical weapons, giving militants access to deadly poison gas.

Syria is one of just eight states - along with its arch foe Israel and nearby Egypt - that have not joined the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention, which means the world's chemical weapons watchdog has no jurisdiction to intervene there.

Western countries believe that Damascus has the world's largest remaining stockpile of undeclared chemical weapons - including mustard gas and the deadly VX nerve agent - which Assad maintains as a counterbalance to Israel's undeclared nuclear arsenal.

The Syrian army is trained to use poison gas and, according to US and Israeli intelligence, can deploy it on long-range missiles. In a sign of growing concern, an Israeli factory was refinanced to ramp up production of gas masks to prepare for a possible attack, an Israeli member of parliament told Reuters.

"The arsenal, based on reports, is quite alarming," Ahmet Uzumcu, head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), said in an interview with Reuters.

"If those reports are correct it would really take a lot of resources and efforts to destroy, to eliminate, those stocks." Syrian unrest undermines Assad's ability to secure his arsenal from armed groups - such as Hezbollah, or the militants among his opponents.

In Washington, General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described Syria's stockpile as a major source of concern for the United States, which he said had prepared contingency plans with regional partners.

The main threat, Dempsey told the House Armed Services Committee last month, is Syria's "proliferation or the potential proliferation of chemical and biological weapons - that is to say weapons of mass destruction."

GRAVE CONCERNS

Because it has not signed the chemical weapons ban treaty and the United Nations has not intervened, Syria is under no international obligation to declare its chemical weapons, give them up or allow inspectors to monitor them.

"There is a very odd silence in the corridors of the OPCW about Syria, even though several individual countries have expressed grave concerns," said an OPCW official.

"The silence doesn't mean there is a lack of concern. It is definitely the 800 pound gorilla in the room," he said. "Syria is the overriding source of concern for chemical weapons in the world right now."

With the OPCW's hands tied, the only international forum to discuss Syria's chemical weapons would be the U.N. Security Council, where officials said the issue has not been raised.

In late February, Uzumcu met U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. They "noted with concern the reports on the possible existence of chemical weapons," but took no further action.

Uzumcu said his teams could deploy within 12 hours for an inspection were they given an order by the United Nations.



"That would obviously require some preparedness for some specific cases like Syria...but chemical weapons are chemical weapons, so this is well known to our experts," Uzumcu said.

Syria has joined the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which prohibits first use of chemical or biological weapons, but does not mention production, storage or transfer of them.

The OPCW, the Hague-based organisation founded to oversee a ban on the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, has 188 member nations, but has struggled to bring on board countries in the Middle East, where poison gas has been used repeatedly since the 1960s.

Egypt deployed phosgene and mustard gas against Yemeni royalist forces in the mid 1960s. It has not reported the destruction of chemical agents or weapons to the OPCW.

Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein killed thousands of Iranians and Iraqi Kurds in more than a dozen poison gas attacks during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. In March 1988 Iraq dropped canisters of Tabun, Sarin, VX and mustard gas, killing 5,000 villagers in the Kurdish town of Halabja.

Libya, which developed a chemical weapons program under the late leader Muammar Gaddafi, is set to resume destroying tonnes of ageing mustard gas later this year with the help of the OPCW.

NIGHTMARE SCENARIO

A weakened Assad could have difficulty keeping weapons out of the hands of others, and a desperate Assad might be more inclined to use them or give them to allies.

"The most dangerous possibility is that unrest in Syria degrades the state's capability to maintain security to the point where not all the chemical weapons stockpiles are secure," said Ayham Kamel, Middle East analyst at consultancy Eurasia Group. "The nightmare scenario is that they fall into the hands of al Qaeda."

"Syria could try to break the regional balance of power by supplying Hizbollah with an arsenal that could threaten Western interests," Kamel said.

If the conflict crosses borders, Assad's conventional forces are not as powerful as those of Israel or Nato ally Turkey, "so there is a need to use asymmetrical warfare, and chemical weapons could be used," Kamel added.

Israel, which fought four wars with Syria since 1948, feels most threatened. Israel's premier think-tank, the Institute for National Security Studies, reassessed the risk in a review of the regional security implications of "Arab Spring" uprisings.

"Syria is considered a superpower in the chemical and biological realm...The chemical weapons are stored, protected, and controlled by Al Assad's loyal forces," it said.

If the stockpiles are obtained by organizations such as the Taliban, Hizbollah, Al Qaeda or Hamas, "it will be more likely that such weapons will be used in some scenario in the region."

Those fears prompted Israel to provide 80 million shekels (about \$20 million) in government support to a gas mask factory to secure production until the end of the year.

Roughly 60 percent of Israelis were supplied with the protective gear before the factory ran into financial troubles and was nearly closed, said Zev Bielski, an opposition lawmaker on the parliamentary panel for homefront war-readiness.

"The risk will be greater as violence continues to escalate," said Anthony Skinner, Middle East analyst at Maplecroft, a consultancy firm.

"We are more concerned about opportunistic Islamist militants seeking to exploit the turbulence, get their hands on chemical weapons and smuggle them out of the country."

<http://www.emirates247.com/syria-uprising-creates-fear-of-chemical-weapons-spread-2012-05-03-1.457081>



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Al Arabiya – U.A.E.

Iran Dismisses Western Demand to Close nuclear Bunker

Friday, 04 May 2012

By Fredrik Dahl, REUTERS

VIENNA: Iran said on Friday it will never suspend its uranium enrichment program and sees no reason to close the Fordow underground site, making clear Tehran's red lines in talks with world powers later this month.

Last month a senior U.S. official said the United States and its allies would demand that Iran halt higher-grade enrichment and immediately close the Fordow facility at talks over Tehran's nuclear standoff with the West.

But Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, told Reuters he saw "no justification" for closing Fordow, which he said was under IAEA surveillance.

"When you have a safe place, secure place under IAEA control, then why do you tell me that I should close it?" he said, making clear Iran built the site to better protect its nuclear work against any Israeli or U.S. attacks.

"Fordow is a safe place. We have spent a lot of money and time to have a safe place," Soltanieh added.

Iran and major powers resumed talks in mid-April in Istanbul after a gap of more than a year - a chance to ease escalating tension and help to avert the threat of a new Middle East war. They are to meet again on May 23 in Baghdad.

The West says Iran's nuclear work is a cover for developing atomic bombs and wants verifiable assurances to the contrary from Tehran - for example, by accepting much more intrusive U.N. nuclear inspections and limiting its enrichment capacity.

Iran denies having a weapons agenda, saying it is enriching uranium solely for peaceful energy purposes.

"One thing is clear: the enrichment in Iran will never be suspended," Soltanieh said.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/05/04/212103.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

London Telegraph – U.K.

Satellite Photos Show Preparations for New North Korea Nuclear Test

Satellite photographs have shown new preparations for a nuclear test in North Korea.

By agencies in Seoul and Telegraph reporter

28 April 2012

A train of mining carts and other preparations showed on images of the Punggye-ri site, following reports by South Korean intelligence earlier this month of a new tunnel being dug.

Analysis of the photos, taken between March 8 and April 18, indicate that around 8,000 cubic metres (282,500 cubic feet) of rubble has been excavated at the site, where nuclear tests were carried out in 2006 and 2009.

"While it's very clear from looking at these photos that the North has stepped up preparations for a nuclear test over the past few months, it's unclear exactly when the blast will occur," said Joel Wit, editor of the 38 North website, which published the pictures. They were obtained by the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

North Korea already has drawn United Nations Security Council condemnation for a failed, long-range rocket launch April 13 which tried to put a satellite into orbit but was viewed by the US and other nations as a cover for a test of its ballistic missile technology.

Pyongyang could face tougher sanctions if it goes ahead with a nuclear test.

The Punggye-ri site lies in the country's northeast, and the analysis says the images show various activities there since March. The latest photo shows a train of mining carts, which are believed to be used to carry material excavated from within the test site.

The size of the spoil pile appears unchanged in the latest image, and it is unclear whether the test device has been placed in the chamber and the shaft sealed with other material for the final preparation stage before a detonation, the website said.

North Korea's longtime ruler Kim Jong Il died in December and was succeeded by his youngest son, Kim Jong Un. The North has stepped up its tough rhetoric against rival South Korea and the United States since the failed rocket test that blemished its commemorations of the centennial of the birth of the nation's founder, Kim Il Sung.

On Wednesday, a top military chief in Pyongyang said the North is armed with "powerful modern weapons" capable of defeating the US - a claim questioned by experts.

Washington worries about the possibility that North Korea might develop a reliable intercontinental ballistic missile and wed it with a nuclear bomb. Outside experts say the North has enough plutonium for about four to eight "simple" bombs, but does not yet appear to have the ability to make bombs small enough to mount on a missile.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/northkorea/9233298/Satellite-photos-show-preparations-for-new-North-Korea-nuclear-test.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Korea Herald – South Korea

April 29, 2012

Allies to Form Nuclear Attack Contingency Plan

By Choi He-suk

The South Korean and U.S. militaries will develop operational scenarios for possible nuclear attacks by North Korea as part of their efforts to improve the ability to respond to weapons of mass destruction, the Ministry of National Defense said Friday.

The scenarios will be discussed at a bilateral table-top exercise later this year aimed at political and military preparations for the North's nuclear attacks.

The two sides also agreed to cooperate in conducting research and to hold seminars for high-level decision makers in relation to the issue at the first Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue meeting that was concluded on Friday in Washington. The establishment of the Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue, or KIDD, was agreed to last year as a high-level communications channel for overseeing the Security Policy Initiative, or SPI, and Strategic Alliance 2015 Working Group, or SA2015WG. The KIDD also encompasses the Extended Deterrence Policy Committee, or EDPC.

At the talks Seoul's deputy defense minister for policy Lim Kwan-bin and the U.S.'s Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense nominee James Miller also agreed to periodically compile reports on asymmetrical threats such biological weapons, and to increase cooperation in cyber- and space-related issues.

As part of related measures, the two countries would strengthen the functions and roles played by Korea-U.S. cyber communications channel, and push for sign an agreement concerning space defense issues within the year. In addition, South Korean military officers will receive training in space-related programs in the U.S. from next year.

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



Regarding the possibility of North Korea conducting a third nuclear test, Lim said that the two allies were in agreement that such developments were likely.

"There is a high possibility that North Korea will conduct a nuclear test. There are two precedents of nuclear tests being conducted in connection to missile tests," Lim said. He added that although Seoul and Washington are not in possession of concrete evidence that a nuclear test is imminent, a nuclear test is considered likely to be used as a means to shore up Kim Jung-un's regime after the failed long-range rocket launch on April 13.

"There was no talk about the specifics of the timing of the test. Signs of nuclear tests are monitored on a long-term basis, and (Pyongyang) has shown the possibilities. The timing can't be predicted specifically, but it is deemed that it can be carried out at any time."

Concerning the threat of "special military actions" against the South Korea's presidential office and media organizations, Lim said that although nothing has been confirmed Seoul and Washington were in agreement that provocations were highly likely.

On April 23, North Korea's state media Korean Central News Agency reported that a "revolutionary military special action" will take place soon, and that the actions will annihilate the targets in "three to four minutes" or less.

The targets mentioned by the KCNA include President Lee Myung-bak and a number of local news outlets including the broadcasters KBS, YTN and the daily Donga Ilbo.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20120429000289>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Chosun Ilbo – South Korea

April 30, 2012

N.Korean Nuclear Test 'Within 2 Weeks'

North Korea could conduct a nuclear test within the next two weeks, experts warn. "The preparations are done and all it needs to do is to push the button," a government source here said. "There is a strong chance that the North will spend some time considering the timing and conduct the test in early to mid-May."

NBC News last week also cited a U.S. government official as saying the North is likely to conduct a nuclear test in the next two weeks.

AP cited experts at Johns Hopkins University as saying that mining boxcars were spotted moving and piles of soil building up at the North's nuclear test site in Punggye-ri, North Hamgyong Province.

Experts offered similar guesses at the Asan Institute of Policy Studies' Asan Plenum last week, where participants included former nuclear negotiator Christopher Hill and former deputy secretary to the U.S. State Department James Steinberg.

Meanwhile, the ex-IAEA secretary general Olli-Pekka Jalonon said there is a strong possibility that North Korea will test a uranium rather than a plutonium bomb this time. According to Reuters, Jalonon said if North Korea has succeeded in building a uranium enrichment facility, it could have around 3.5 tons of highly enriched uranium.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2012/04/30/2012043000668.html

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Korea Herald – South Korea

May 2, 2012

N.K. Has HEU to Make Up to 6 Bombs'



By Song Sang-ho

North Korea is presumed to have sufficient stockpiles of weapons-grade highly enriched uranium to build three to six atomic bombs, a local nuclear expert said Wednesday.

The communist state is thought to be planning to conduct a third nuclear test soon in what appears to be a move to make up for last month's botched rocket and raise its bargaining power with the West.

As the North claims it has some 2,000 centrifuges in operation, it is believed to have produced some 40 kilograms of HEU a year — enough to produce one or two bombs annually.

Assuming that the North turned its military nuclear program from a plutonium-based one to an HEU one in 2009, the expert, who declined to be named, said that Pyongyang might have developed three to six bombs over the last two or three years.

Taking the world by surprise, the North unveiled its uranium enrichment facility at its main nuclear complex in Yongbyon to American scientist Siegfried Hecker in November 2010.

"We presume that the North began its uranium enrichment research since the late 1980s. The scale of its enrichment facility and the level of nuclear technology have yet to be known," the expert said.

"There is a high possibility that the North uses the technology for military purposes and has centrifuges at a separate third place."

The North has its nuclear test site in Gilju, North Hamgyeong Province. It carried out two nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009. Intelligence authorities in Washington and Seoul believe that Pyongyang is preparing for another nuclear test.

As for its stockpiles of weapons-grade plutonium, the North has accumulated now some 40 kg of plutonium after it reprocessed spent fuel rods at least three times in 2003, 2005 and 2009, according to the expert.

Given some 6 kg of plutonium is needed to build a single bomb, the North is thought to have produced six to seven plutonium-based bombs. With the HEU bombs, the North is presumed to have at least 10 nuclear weapons.

The expert also said that the North has some 3,000 nuclear experts, who are currently working at the Yongbyon complex, college-based research institutes and other state centers.

The North has some 26 million tons of unenriched uranium in reserve and about 4 million tons are minable, the expert said. As of 2010, the world's uranium supply was tallied at around 71,000 tons.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20120502001410>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Washington Times

Inside the Ring

China Launcher Proliferation

By Bill Gertz, *The Washington Times*

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

China Defense Minister Liang Guanglie will visit the United States this week and is expected to face questioning on the presence of a Chinese-made mobile strategic-missile launcher that was spotted carrying a new North Korean long-range missile in Pyongyang on April 15.

Gen. Liang arrives Friday and will meet Monday at the Pentagon with Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta and other U.S. officials, Pentagon spokesman George Little told Inside the Ring. He noted that the visit is part of efforts to "foster closer military-to-military ties with China."



Mr. Little would not say whether the discussions will include the controversial transfer by China of a long-range mobile missile launcher. But other officials said it is expected to be raised in at least some of Gen. Liang's meetings in Washington.

On a related note, Rep. Michael R. Turner, chairman of the House Armed Services subcommittee on strategic forces, issued a statement Tuesday calling on Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner to raise the strategic missile proliferation during talks in Beijing this week.

"I expect that the very top of their agenda will be the apparent material support for North Korea's road-mobile ballistic-missile program provided by state-owned Chinese firms and their subsidiaries," the Ohio Republican said.

"Such support means that China is enabling North Korea to deploy road-mobile ballistic missiles, which could be tipped with nuclear warheads and aimed at the United States."

He added that the cooperation "poses a direct threat to the security of the American people."

Mr. Turner said the administration "must demand an immediate halt to such activity and a guarantee that China will end its support for the dictatorial [North Korean] regime in Pyongyang."

Administration officials have sought to minimize the nuclear-missile launcher proliferation by claiming China's government was not behind the transfer, even though the manufacturer is a state-owned company.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/may/2/inside-the-ring-china-launcher-proliferation/>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Yonhap News Agency – South Korea

May 4, 2012

No Clear Sign of N. Korea's Nuke Test: State Dept.

By Lee Chi-dong

WASHINGTON, May 3 (Yonhap) -- The U.S. government indicated Thursday that it has not detected any clear signs that North Korea's nuclear test is around the corner.

"Nothing to point to, I mean, other than the rumors that we've heard in the press and elsewhere," Mark Toner, deputy spokesman for the State Department said at a press briefing.

He was responding to media reports that Pyongyang seems to be all set for a third nuclear experiment. It conducted underground nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

Toner stressed that North Korean leadership should make a choice between dialogue and isolation.

"North Korea has a clear choice in front of it," he said. "And if it continues its bad behavior, it's just only going to further isolate itself."

Citing unidentified sources, some media reported that the North may detonate a nuclear device as early as this week.

Toner added he "can't speak to any intelligence" that the U.S. might have on the issue.

He also refused to go into details on another sensitive topic _ South Korea's push to bolster its ballistic missile capabilities.

The South's President Lee Myung-bak openly declared a need to develop longer-range ballistic missiles to counter the North's threats.

Under a deal with the U.S., South Korea can't have ballistic missiles with a range longer than 300 kilometers.

Seoul claims that it needs longer-range missiles to cover the whole North Korean region.



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

But the U.S. is more concerned about a regional arms race, according to sources.

"We are strongly in support of the defense of South Korea, and that goes without saying, that we seek to work productively and constructively with South Korea on meeting their security needs," Toner said in reiterating Washington's basic stance.

"But I don't have a particular comment on that story," he added.

He hinted that the U.S. will focus more on implementing U.N.-led sanctions on the North for its recent long-range rocket test, rather than seeking bilateral ones.

"This is a heavily sanctioned country to begin with, so part of the calculus here is to not only seek new entities to sanction, but to also strengthen enforcement of existing sanctions," he said.

Meanwhile, five nuclear powers _ the U.S., China, Russia, France, Britain _ delivered a unified message for North Korea to drop a plan, if any, for a nuclear test.

North Korea should "refrain from further actions which may cause grave security concerns in the region, including any nuclear tests," they in a statement on the sidelines of a non-proliferation meeting in Vienna.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2012/05/04/65/0401000000AEN20120504000500315F.HTML>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Mainichi Daily News– Japan
May 4, 2012

Pakistan Has Developed Tactical Weapons for Battlefields: Experts

ISLAMABAD (Kyodo) -- Pakistan has developed tactical nuclear weapons that can be delivered by short-range missiles, two nuclear experts said Thursday.

Former Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmad Khan told a seminar in Islamabad that Pakistan has developed a tactical nuclear weapon capability and short-range nuclear missiles capable of delivering these weapons, while a Pakistani strategist, Nusrat Mirza, told Kyodo News that Pakistan has developed tactical nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them.

Ahmad said the development of tactical weapons was Pakistan's response to the doctrine of "limited war" he said was given currency by Indian strategists.

Pakistan's Nasr (Victory) missile, with a range of 60 kilometers, is capable of delivering tactical nuclear weapons, he said.

A tactical nuclear weapon is meant for use on a battlefield in a limited radius compared to nuclear devices which cause large-scale destruction in the areas of their impact.

Pakistan test-launched in April 2011 a Nasr missile which Pakistan's Defense Ministry says can be fired from a mobile launcher.

<http://mainichi.jp/english/english/newsselect/news/20120504p2g00m0in009000c.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Times of India – India

Scientists Now Working to Improve Air Defence System

By Tamil News Network (TNN)
May 4, 2012

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



HYDERABAD: Indian defence scientists are developing an air defence system that can intercept ballistic missiles up to a range of 5,000km. The country has demonstrated its ability to develop long-range missiles, now it is working on an air defence system that should be able to neutralize threats arising out of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) directed at it.

India already has an air defence system which can intercept missiles of 2,000km range but the focus has shifted to dealing with ballistic missiles of longer range.

"We are working on it. If we now have an Agni-V for deterrence, we should also have an air defence system that shields us against ballistic missiles. Work on developing such a system has already begun," Avinash Chander, Distinguished Scientist and Chief Controller, R&D (missiles and strategic systems), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), told TOI.

When a ballistic missile is directed at India, the country's air defence system will get activated automatically. Once detected, the incoming missile will first be tracked. According to Chander, the incoming missile would thereafter be destroyed by use of any one of the tactical missiles which are already a part of the country's arsenal. "All of this would happen automatically and it is precision that matters most," Chander said.

Depending on the speed of the incoming missile, its direction and trajectory, the most appropriate tactical missile would be used to counter it, Chander said.

It may be mentioned that India has successfully test fired its 5,000km range ICBM on April 19. While that would probably deter the enemy from getting into any sort of misadventure with India, the air defence system will be India's bulwark against any ballistic missiles that are fired at it.

According to defence scientists, countries like the United States, China, and Russia have also been developing similar air defence systems with the various projects being in their testing phase. While the results of these tests are not available for analysis, Indian defence scientists are going ahead with their objective of protecting the country from any incoming ballistic missiles.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/Scientists-now-working-to-improve-air-defence-system/articleshow/12989527.cms>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Global Security Newswire

All Active Russian Nuke Submarines to Get New Missiles

May 2, 2012

Russia plans to eventually equip all of its active nuclear-armed submarines with the newest generation of the Sineva ballistic missile -- the Liner SLBM, Defense and Security reported on Wednesday (see *GSN*, Aug. 10, 2011).

The Liner missile is a heavily modified variant of the RSM-54 Sineva formally delivered to the Russian navy in 2007. The weapon can carry between six and 12 warheads with explosives yields of 150 kilotons or four higher-yield nuclear weapons, placing it on par with the U.S. Trident 2 D-5 submarine-launched ballistic missile. As of summer 2011, Russia had provided 16 Sineva systems to its Delta 4 submarines, according to earlier reports.

"So far, only the submarines on combat duty in the world ocean are armed with them," Russian naval chief Adm. Vladimir Vysotsky said. "However, in the future all our strategic nuclear submarines in service (projects 667 BDRM and BDR Delfin and Kalmar) will be armed with these missiles" (Defense and Security I, May 2).

Separately, Vysotsky said the first of Russia's Borei-class submarines, the *Yuri Dolgoruky*, is to be inducted into the navy this year alongside the Bulava ballistic missile that would eventually be carried by all vessels of that line, according to Defense and Security (see *GSN*, April 25).



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

"We definitely hope that this year the entire system missile+submarine will be adopted for service by the navy," the commander said (Defense and Security II, May 2).

<http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/new-russian-submarines-receive-enhanced-sineva-missiles/>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RT – Russia

Russia Warns 'Point of No Return' Imminent in US Missile Defense Talks

02 May 2012

By Robert Bridge, RT

The deployment of a US missile defense system in Eastern Europe will demand that Russia takes counteractive measures within the next five years unless an agreement is reached, says Russia's deputy defense minister.

"When the Americans begin constructing the third stage of their missile defense plans in Europe and the effectiveness of our strategic nuclear forces is jeopardized, serious issues will arise regarding Russia's appropriate reaction," Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said in an interview published in the Wednesday edition of Rossiyskaya Gazeta.

According to the General Staff estimations, this may happen as early as 2017, Antonov added.

Antonov's comments come as defense experts from 50 different states prepare to gather in the Russian capital on Thursday to discuss the missile defense system, which threatens to derail the fragile Russia-US reset declared between President Medvedev and US President Barack Obama in 2009.

Moscow and Washington have been at loggerheads over the controversial system, which the United States says is necessary to protect Europe from a missile attack from some rogue state, usually described as Iran. Russia, meanwhile, argues that the construction of the system, just miles from the Russian border, will tip the nuclear scales between the two former Cold War foes.

In November, President Dmitry Medvedev warned that a new arms race could break out in the next decade unless Russia and the West agreed to cooperate on missile defense. Despite early assurances that cooperation was forthcoming, the US and NATO have only offered vague promises that the system will not be used to compromise Russia's nuclear defenses in some hypothetical future situation.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister said the first and second stages of the US adaptive approach to missile defense is also a matter of concern for Russian military planners.

"This is the time the foundation for the modernization of the US missile defense system will be laid," he said. *"Furthermore, no one is saying there will be no fifth, sixth, and seventh stages."*

Whatever the final outcome may be, Antonov assured that Russia is prepared for a worse-case scenario.

"Such a scenario is likely and we are preparing for it," he said. *"The Russian president has spoken in detail about the steps that can be taken in response."*

Moscow continues to hold out hope that things will not get that far. Russian defense experts will present their argument at the international conference, where they will demonstrate *"the danger of the missile defense system in Europe as proposed by the US,"* Antonov said.

<http://rt.com/politics/russia-us-missile-defense-arms-race-iran-406/>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Kyiv Post – Ukraine

Medvedev: Russia Will 'Still Need' Nuclear Weapons

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

03 May 2012
Interfax-Ukraine

MOSCOW - Russia is not going to use nuclear weapons, but nor does it intend to forgo them, said Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

"All of you are absolutely sought-after and successful people in your own way, and I would very much like our people, our young people to follow your example. And then we shall definitely have achievements in the field of literature, art, education and in the field of nuclear weapons that we are not forgoing," Medvedev said in his final speech at a state award ceremony at the Kremlin.

Russia will "still need" nuclear weapons, he said. "We are not going to use them, but let them be there because we are a big country, a complex country, one should be able to appreciate and protect them," the president said.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/news/russia/detail/126979/>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Moscow Sends Missile Message to NATO

03 May 2012

Russia and NATO discussed interceptor missile speeds and rocketry proliferation at a high-profile conference in Moscow on Tuesday, struggling to work out whether the upcoming U.S. missile shield in Europe is a threat to global strategic parity.

NATO is unlikely to give Russia any concessions on missile defense until the U.S. presidential elections in November, but a compromise can be expected in the long run, with practical military cooperation on missile threats replacing the current diplomatic standoff, analysts said.

"Russia has some legitimate concerns," said Sergei Oznobishchev of the Institute of Strategic Studies and Analysis in Moscow. "But so does NATO, because the global regime of non-proliferation [of missile technologies] is in crisis."

More than 50 countries and global organizations sent emissaries to a conference on missile defense organized by the Russian Defense Ministry, which reiterated its fears that U.S. plans to position elements of its missile defense shield in Eastern Europe are aimed against Russia's strategic nuclear forces.

"There are just no targets for the missile defense shield other than Russia," said Nikolai Patrushev, the head of Russia's Security Council.

Virtual modeling done by Russian military and presented at the conference indicated that the U.S. missile shield deployed to defend Europe from launches from south of Russia will also be able to intercept Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

Russia needs binding legal guarantees that the missile shield will not harm the strategic nuclear parity it has with the United States, and reserves the right to retaliate if its concerns are not addressed, said Nikolai Makarov, Chief of the General Staff of the Russian military.

Russia does not even rule out delivering preemptive strikes against missile defense objects in Poland and Romania and shooting down U.S. satellites utilized as part of the shield, Makarov said.

Unsophisticated Missiles

NATO representatives dismissed the allegations and proposed that Russia cooperate on the issue, mainly through pooling data on missile technologies and global risks in jointly run military research and analysis centers.

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

“The NATO missile defense will be capable of intercepting only a small number of relatively unsophisticated ballistic missiles,” said Alexander Vershbow, Deputy Secretary General of the alliance.

Russian virtual modeling is flawed because it posited that the U.S. interceptor missiles are capable of launching immediately after a Russian ICBM is fired, said Madelyn Creedon, Assistant Secretary for Global Strategic Affairs at the U.S. Department of Defense.

In reality, there is a delay before the missile defense shield is activated, Creedon said.

The time lag is enough for a Russian missile to hit Seattle or Washington, though more primitive missiles can still be intercepted, she said.

Meanwhile, the global threat is growing because more than 30 countries worldwide, including Iran and North Korea, are working on their own ballistic missile programs, Vershbow said.

The work is plodding, but development of missile defense is slower than for offensive technologies, which means that potential threats need to be anticipated, said Rudiger Wolf, State Secretary in Germany’s Federal Ministry of Defense.

Message for Chicago

Most proposals voiced in Moscow on Tuesday were a reiteration of positions that Russia and NATO have been discussing for years.

The missile defense shield in Europe has been in the works since 2001, and, in its current form, envisages four-stage implementation that started in 2011 with deployment of Aegis cruisers in the Mediterranean and interceptors for short-range missiles in Europe and is to reach beyond 2020.

The conference in Moscow was a message for the NATO summit in Chicago on May 20, when the alliance is planning to announce that it achieved interim capability to intercept missiles in Europe, analysts said.

NATO will not budge in the coming months, said Oznobishchev of the Institute of Strategic Studies.

“The West’s capability for compromise is limited by the election campaign of [U.S. President Barack] Obama,” he said. “Any limitations on missile defense will be a big issue in the Congress.”

Join the Forces

However, if Obama wins reelection in November, the countries are likely to begin cooperating on missile defense in earnest, especially by developing joint centers on missile threats, said Pavel Zolotaryov, who is deputy head of the Moscow-based Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies.

The standoff over nuclear deterrence is really a non-issue, because a full-scale nuclear war between Russia and the United States is unimaginable, Zolotaryov said.

Moreover, in the unlikely case of such conflict, the U.S. missile shield in Europe would remain incapable of staving off a mass missile attack even after receiving final upgrades in 2020, he said.

“Meanwhile, missile technologies are proliferating across the globe,” Zolotaryov said. “Something needs to be done about the risks of single launches.”

MOSCOW, May 3 (RIA Novosti, Alexey Eremenko)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20120503/173200447.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RT – Russia

Russia 'Retains Right' to Pre-Emptive Strike on Missile Shield

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



03 May 2012

Russia is ready for a pre-emptive strike on European missile defense systems if the US refuses dialogue, stated Russia's senior military official. Washington has responded by saying it does not rule out giving Russia legal binding guarantees on AMB.

"Considering the destabilizing nature of the [American] ABM system, namely the creation of an illusion of inflicting a disarming [nuclear] strike with impunity, a decision on pre-emptive deployment of assault weapons could be taken when the situation gets harder," Chief of General Staff Nikolay Makarov said at the Moscow ABM conference.

The NATO delegation present at the conference rushed to disagree with the Russian general, saying that the ABM system would never target Russia.

NATO Deputy Secretary-General Alexander Wershbow said that Russia's arguments do not convince him.

Among other measures, Russia already promised to deploy short-range Iskander missiles in the Kaliningrad Region if NATO fails to reach agreement with it on missile defense.

Russia has concerns that the ultimate aim of America's global ABM shield in the works is the gradual depreciation of Russia's nuclear arsenal. Moscow says no country possesses any militarily significant quantity of nukes to pose a vital nuclear threat to the US other than Russia.

Political analyst Vladimir Orlov thinks that missile threats against Europe, which the shield is supposedly designed to counter, are *"very much exaggerated."*

"Missile threats by those countries which Americans and Europeans claim develop long-range missiles, it is just not credible. Europe should not feel vulnerable and the issue is that Russia instead of Europe now feels vulnerable," he asserted.

Moscow's proposition to develop a joint European missile defense system has been turned down.

Also, the Obama administration refused to give cast-iron guarantees that the new ABM is not going to be deployed against Russia.

The Russian Defense Ministry has organized a representational international conference called "Missile Defense Factor in Establishing New Security Environment" on May 3-4 in Moscow to correlate positions of many interested states on the burning issue of missile defense.

Over 200 experts from military departments of 50 countries, including 28 NATO states, have gathered in the Russian capital to share opinions.

Opening the conference, Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov stated that so far no mutually-acceptable solution to the issue of ABM has been found.

"The situation is practically heading towards a dead end," acknowledged Serdyukov.

At the same time, the Russian president sent an address to the conference, sharing hope that a solution can be found.

"I believe we can find a formula which could help us avoid the division into those who win and those who lose," President Medvedev insists.

The conference consists of several working groups. Russia's Ministry of Defense is going to present a computer model of how the American ABM in Europe is going to influence Russia's forces of nuclear containment.

Besides Russia and NATO member countries, experts from China, South Korea, Japan and CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) member states will participate in the Moscow conference.

As a goodwill gesture, Russia wants to make an excursion for the delegates to the heart of Moscow's A-135 ABM system near the Russian capital.



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

No official documents are going to be signed as a result of the ABM conference in Moscow.

<http://rt.com/news/russia-pre-emptive-strikes-abm-488/>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

The Moscow Times – Russia

Defense Minister: Missile Shield Negotiations at Dead End

03 May 2012

The Moscow Times

Speaking Thursday at an international conference on missile defense in Moscow, Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov cast doubt on the future of missile defense negotiations, saying they were leading nowhere.

"We have not been able to find mutually-acceptable solutions at this point and the situation is practically at a dead end," Serdyukov said, cautioning that Russia might be forced to deploy strategic missiles positioned to destroy elements of a Europe-based missile shield.

Russia has been outspoken in its resistance to NATO-backed U.S. plans to deploy a system of missiles to protect its European allies from potential attacks from states like Iran, saying it could neutralize Russian military capabilities.

"We're not talking about introducing any restrictions on the specifications of the missile shield. Only one condition — the zone of possible interception for current and future missile defense weapon systems should not cross the border of Russia," General Staff head Nikolai Makarov said at the conference, Interfax reported.

Makarov renewed threats about placing short-range Iskander missiles in south and northwest locations in Russia to check missile systems in Europe and called such systems "destabilizing."

"A thorough analysis by the defense ministry's research organizations showed that once the third and fourth stages are deployed, the capability to intercept Russian inter-continental ballistic missiles will be real," Makarov said.

NATO officials countered by saying that the Europe-based missile system would be too weak could not possibly intercept Russian missiles.

"We have no desire to undermine global strategic stability. On the contrary, the missile defense system will be able to intercept only a small number of relatively weak ballistic missiles. They do not have the capacity to neutralize Russia's deterrent force," NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow said, RIA-Novosti reported.

Russia has not said whether it will attend next month's NATO summit in Chicago, at which the formal deployment of the missile system is set to be announced. President-elect Vladimir Putin has said he will not attend the event.

An eight-member Washington delegation is in Moscow this week to meet with Russian officials on missile defense. The delegation will also visit sites for the A-135 missile defense system that protects the Russian capital.

In March, U.S. President Barack Obama was caught in a hot microphone gaffe telling Medvedev he could negotiate concessions on the missile system after the U.S. presidential election in November.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/defense-minister-missile-shield-negotiations-at-dead-end/457953.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Russia Sees Missile Defense as 'Space Threat'

03 May 2012

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

*United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530*



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

A European missile defense system may threaten Russian satellites, Space Defense Forces chief Lt. Gen. Oleg Ostapenko said on Thursday.

“Ground- and sea-based missile defense systems can be used not only as anti-missile but also anti-satellite weapons,” he said at a missile defense conference in Moscow.

The deployment of missile defense components in different parts of the world will make it possible to intercept spacecraft at any point of their orbit.

“In this context we regard the creation of effective air and space defense systems as a key element of modern warfare,” the general said.

MOSCOW, May 3 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.ria.ru/world/20120503/173197831.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Iran, Pakistan, N. Korea May Pose Nuclear Threat to Russia

04 May 2012

A nuclear-armed Iran, Pakistan and North Korea could potentially trigger regional chain reactions that ultimately threaten Russia's security, the former director of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, Vyacheslav Trubnikov, said.

“Even if Iran, Pakistan and North Korea are not Russian adversaries, their current and projected nuclear potential could destabilize the regional situation. It could trigger a chain reaction of proliferation (Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan) that gives rise to a new missile threat for Russia,” Trubnikov said in an article included in the digest for an international conference on missile defense in Moscow.

History shows that relations with unstable states and radical regimes can rapidly deteriorate and their nuclear potential could become a real threat to Russian national security, Trubnikov said.

That is why Russia needs to work toward mutual understanding with the United States and NATO on the issue of missile defense, he said.

MOSCOW, May 4 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/mlitary_news/20120504/173217926.html

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

RT – Russia

‘AMD Only Illusion’ – Rogozin

04 May 4, 2012

Russia will never let any country create an anti-missile system which could potentially threaten the strategic balance, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin stated on Friday.

“AMD is actually – and will remain – an illusion regardless of the money being invested in it because we’ll never allow them to build such a system...which would give one country an impression of impunity,” he said while visiting a military-industrial corporation near Moscow.

A day earlier, chief of the Russian General Staff Gen. Nikolay Makarov announced that Russia is developing a weapon based on the new physical principles that will allow it to disable elements of a missile defense system without destroying it.

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Makarov reiterated that Moscow will have to retaliate if its concerns about the deployment of the AMD elements close to the Russian border are not taken into account.

Earlier, President Dmitry Medvedev said that the current situation creates "preconditions for confrontation and a costly arms race."

<http://rt.com/politics/amd-illusion-rogozin-country-576/>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Wired.com

Congress Wants Broken Laser to Zap North Korea's Broken Missiles

By Noah Shachtman

April 30, 2012

North Korea's missile program seems to be moving backwards, with its latest failed launch crapping out earlier than its 2009 dud. Yet House Republicans still want a flying, missile-zapping laser cannon to stop Pyongyang and its ballistic "threats."

Back in February, the Missile Defense Agency announced the final test flight of the Airborne Laser, the ray gun-equipped 747 that became a symbol of wasteful Pentagon weaponeering. Despite 16 years and billions of dollars in development, the jet could never reliably blast a missile in trials. And even if it did work, the thing would cost \$92,000 per hour to fly, and would have to be just about over the missile site to do its blasting. So the jet was finally ordered to the Air Force's "Boneyard" in Arizona, where it would join thousands of other aircraft the U.S. military didn't want or need.

Or at least, that was the plan. Now the House Armed Services Committee's Strategic Forces panel is saying: not so fast. In its markup of next year's Pentagon budget, the subcommittee is directing the head of the Missile Defense Agency to tally up "the costs involved with returning the Airborne Laser aircraft to an operational readiness status" so it can continue to be tested, and so it could "be ready to deploy in an operational contingency, if needed, to respond to rapidly developing threats from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

The provision, first noted by InsideDefense.com, is yet another sign of the degree to which magical thinking has crept into the missile defense debate. In the same markup, the strategic forces panel called for the military to start work on an interceptor system for America's East Coast — even though the Missile Defense Agency says it's not needed. And the subcommittee called for a discarded and famously fragile radar (sometimes known as "the Giant Golf Ball of Death") to be ready for duty as well.

The topic has always inspired some starry-eyed thinking, of course. Newt Gingrich floated the idea of laser strikes to stop North Korea's 2009 missile launch. (And let's not even bring up the thousand mad schemes hatched during the Strategic Defense Initiative of the 1980s.) But with Washington in the midst of an austerity push, and with more than \$274 billion already spent on anti-missile tech, the disconnect between missile defense dreams and missile defense reality appears particularly acute.

The subcommittee wants nearly \$75 million set aside "to preserve the skilled workforce that was involved in the Airborne Laser Test Bed program and to accelerate experimentation with next generation directed energy system development." (That's Washington-speak for ray guns.) The experimentation is supposed to include the "planned testing of the Phantom Eye system" — a seemingly-odd choice, since the experimental, hydrogen-powered drone has been introduced as a flying spy, not an attack craft. But the missile defense world has a way of encouraging seemingly strange choices. Putting a laser on the Boeing-built aircraft, designed to stay in the air for days at a time, would hardly even qualify as weird.

<http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2012/04/broken-laser-broken-missiles/>

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education / Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Boston Globe

Obama's Nuclear Plan Tangled in Election Politics

April 30, 2012

By Bryan Bender

WASHINGTON - A review of President Obama's promised plan to substantially reduce America's nuclear arsenal is nearing completion, triggering a new phase of the deliberations: how to deal with the political consequences and whether the unveiling should wait until after the November election.

Senior officials are engaged in an internal debate over how and when to reveal the results of the secret review by a national security team, according to several current and former advisers who have been involved in the discussion.

The president and his team strongly believe the nation can adequately deter nuclear attacks with a much smaller and less expensive weapons stockpile - which now costs about \$50 billion a year to maintain.

The White House is said to be weighing a variety of election-year factors. One is the inevitable criticism from probable Republican rival Mitt Romney, who has said he opposes any reduction in nuclear arms. Another is the concerns of Democrats in Congress whose states do not want to lose the economic benefit of having nuclear silos and air bases, or of building ships and submarines armed with nuclear weapons.

Even some backers of steeper reductions worry that the political risk may be too great to release the details in the heat of an election.

"I see the tensions" in internal discussions among the president's advisers, said a senior Obama campaign adviser.

Another adviser, a former senior White House official who has been directly involved in the discussions, said the Obama team is devising arguments to counter any GOP accusations that the president is soft on national security.

"One of the questions [that is being debated] is how does he communicate these decisions," said the former official. "The Republicans are going to try to paint the president as weak and naive and hit these old talking points."

Both advisors asked not to be identified because of the sensitive nature of the private discussions.

The White House review is just one step in a multiyear endeavor. Any reductions would almost certainly be pursued along with Russia, the second-largest nuclear power after the United States, in the form of a new treaty, the officials said. That would require approval from the Senate. The House and Senate also would have to sign off on any scaled-down budget for nuclear arms.

Arms control advocates argue that a smaller arsenal would still guarantee US security and that of its allies, while helping reduce the spread of nuclear weapons around the world and saving the government billions of dollars each year for other priorities.

Various assessments of nuclear strategy since Obama took office have supported that view. For example, in April 2010 the Pentagon's Nuclear Posture Review more narrowly defined the mission of the nuclear arsenal to deterring nuclear attacks, rather than its Cold War mission of prevailing in a nuclear war or acting as a hedge against conventional armies and chemical or biological weapons.

More recently, the Pentagon published a strategy that stated "it is possible that our deterrence goals can be achieved with a smaller nuclear force."

According to officials who have been consulted by the White House, the president will probably decide to keep about 1,000 strategic nuclear weapons on alert, down from the 1,550 the United States plans to maintain under its latest treaty with Russia.



“Almost certainly that is what he is going to decide, but whether he announces it is unclear,” said Joe Cirincione, president of the Ploughshares Fund, an arms control group that has recently discussed the issue with White House officials.

The White House declined a request for an interview, and calls to Obama’s reelection campaign in Chicago were not returned.

“The study is still underway,” said a White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly. “We do not have a specific timeline.”

But speculation about how Obama will handle this touchy subject is increasing as lawmakers from both parties pressure the president - for and against reductions.

“The problem with the president’s approach is that he has stated we are going to go lower even before this study is completed,” said Robert G. Joseph, a former senior State Department official now advising Romney on nuclear strategy. “It still is a very dangerous security environment, and we need to be prudent and realistic. Russia is increasing its nuclear arsenal. China is modernizing. Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons and long-range missiles. And many expect North Korea to conduct yet another nuclear test in the days ahead.”

Joseph was mainly referring to Russia’s efforts to modernize its weapons.

The Romney camp is particularly skeptical of the claim that reducing America’s arsenal will drive other countries to do the same.

“If we lead by example and no else is following we can do real harm,” said Joseph, who served in President George W. Bush’s administration. “The last thing we want is to signal to adversaries and friends that our nuclear deterrent is no longer credible.”

The White House also has to consider the political fortunes of some key Democrats - especially if they want to maintain their majority in the Senate this fall.

A particularly wary block of lawmakers represents the three western states - Wyoming, North Dakota, and Montana - that are home to the nation’s 450 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles.

In Montana, where Malmstrom Air Force Base has 150 nuclear missile silos, Democratic Senator Jon Tester is locked in a tough reelection fight. His ability to protect his state’s military assets is seen by voters as a plus.

Tester joined a number of Democrats and Republicans last month in urging Senate colleagues to safeguard the missile force from significant cutbacks.

“Montana is less than a million people, so the revenue that a place like Malmstrom brings into the state is substantial,” said Adam Lowther, a professor at the Air Force Research Institute at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama and a specialist in nuclear weapons studies. “A senator who is representing his constituents is going to fight to maintain that.”

The nuclear weapons lobby extends to other regions of the country. In New England, for example, where shipbuilding is a key part of the industrial base, there are concerns about potential cuts to the fleet of 14 ballistic missile submarines.

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman, a Connecticut independent who is retiring this year and whose seat Democrats hope to win, wrote a letter recently to the Democratic and Republican leaders of the Armed Services Committee advocating that cuts be postponed until the White House provides a detailed funding plan for how it is going to upgrade the reliability of older weapons systems.

Others, meanwhile, believe the president has a real opportunity this year to advance the issue.



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

“There is a pretty powerful case than can be made for nuclear cuts,” said Representative Edward J. Markey, a Malden Democrat who has proposed legislation to slash \$100 billion from the nuclear weapons budget over the next decade. “It’s wasted money that should be spent on grandma’s nursing home bed because she has Alzheimer’s. I think the public would understand it if it was explained to them.”

Senator John F. Kerry, who as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee would oversee the ratification of any nuclear treaty, said he believes the discussion about the future of the nuclear arsenal must take place, especially in an election year.

“These debates are healthy and in many ways overdue.”

http://articles.boston.com/2012-04-30/nation/31477692_1_nuclear-weapons-nuclear-arsenal-nuclear-arms

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Xinhua News – China

China to Actively Promote Nuclear Disarmament: Envoy

April 30, 2012

VIENNA, April 30 (Xinhua) -- China will actively push forward the nuclear disarmament process, a Chinese envoy said here on Monday.

The complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and establishing a world free of nuclear weapons were the common aspiration of all the peace-loving people from all countries of the world, said Cheng Jingye, China's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna.

Speaking at the First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Cheng said China was firmly committed to a nuclear strategy of self-defense, and therefore would keep its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for national security.

He said China had adhered to the policy of no-first-use of nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstance, and made the unequivocal commitment that it would unconditionally not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states or nuclear-weapon-free zones.

China had never deployed any nuclear weapons on foreign territories or taken part in any nuclear arms race in any form, and would never do that in the future, Cheng said.

The Chinese envoy also said that all nuclear-weapon states should fulfill in good faith the obligations under article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and publicly undertake not to seek permanent possession of nuclear weapons.

He added that countries with the largest nuclear arsenals should continue to make drastic reductions in their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable and irreversible manner. Other nuclear-weapon states, when conditions are ripe, should also join the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament.

To earnestly reduce the risks of nuclear weapons, nuclear-weapon states should abandon the nuclear deterrence policy based on the first use of nuclear weapons, Chen stressed.

The nuclear-weapon states should unequivocally undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and negotiate and conclude the Treaty on Mutual No-First-Use of Nuclear Weapons, he said.

Nuclear-weapon states should also unequivocally undertake unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states and nuclear-weapon-free zones, he said.

He also emphasized that nuclear disarmament is closely linked to the global strategic stability. The development of missile defense systems which disrupt global strategic balance and stability should be abandoned.

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education / Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Furthermore, multilateral negotiation process to prevent the weaponization of and arms race in the outer space should be vigorously promoted, so as to foster a favorable international strategic security environment for nuclear disarmament, he said.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2012-04/30/c_131561182.htm

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

The Moscow Times – Russia

China Wants 'Drastic' Russia, U.S. Arms Cuts

01 May 2012

Reuters

VIENNA — China called on the United States and Russia — which hold the vast majority of the world's nuclear warheads — to make further "drastic" cuts in their atomic arsenals.

A senior Chinese diplomat also told a meeting in Vienna that the development of missile defense systems that "disrupt" the global strategic balance should be abandoned, a possible reference to U.S. plans in Europe that have angered Russia.

The U.S.-Russian New START arms reduction treaty will cut long-range, strategic nuclear weapons deployed by the two Cold War-era foes to no more than 1,550 on each side within seven years after it came into force in February 2011.

But they still have by far the most nuclear arms — a fact stressed by the Chinese representative on Monday, the opening day of a two-week conference to discuss the Non-Proliferation Treaty, a 1970 pact to prevent the spread of atomic bombs.

China, Britain and France are the other three recognized nuclear weapons states. But the size of their arsenals are in the low hundreds, well below those of the United States and Russia, which have thousands of nuclear warheads.

Ambassador Cheng Jingye, head of the Chinese delegation, said all nuclear weapons states should publicly undertake "not to seek permanent possession" of atomic bombs.

"As countries with [the] largest nuclear arsenals, U.S. and Russia should continue to make drastic reductions in their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable and irreversible manner," he said, according to a copy of his statement.

"Other nuclear weapons states, when conditions are ripe, should also join the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament," Cheng added, apparently referring to the five recognized nuclear-armed countries.

India and Pakistan — which also have nuclear arms — are not part of the NPT. Israel, widely believed to have weapons, is also outside the treaty, as is North Korea, which is believed to be preparing for a third nuclear test.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/china-wants-drastic-russia-us-arms-cuts/457811.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Washington Times

Inside the Ring

Chinese Nuclear Demand

By Bill Gertz, *The Washington Times*

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

China's communist government this week publicly called for the United States and Russia to make further cuts in their nuclear arsenals.

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

The statement in Vienna comes at a time when U.S. officials say Beijing's secrecy surrounding a large-scale nuclear arms build-up has never been greater.

Chinese Ambassador Cheng Jingye said in Vienna on Monday at a conference on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty that the United States and Russia have the largest nuclear arsenals.

Washington and Moscow must "continue to make drastic reductions in their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable and irreversible manner," he added.

U.S. officials say the Chinese call for nuclear cuts comes amid years of Chinese stonewalling on its current strategic nuclear modernization.

Officials said China refused a request from then-President George W. Bush in 2006 to hold nuclear talks, rejected an appeal in January 2011 from then-Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to hold nuclear talks, and has refused to disclose how many warheads are in its arsenal.

The Pentagon also has said China is the sole member of the U.N. Security Council that is still increasing the number of warheads in its arsenal. China also has rebuffed calls to join an international effort to cut off fissile material production.

Internal Chinese documents obtained by the Pentagon also suggest that Chinese leaders have a concerted strategy to conceal warhead numbers as part of efforts to force deeper cuts in U.S. warheads below those thought to be held by China.

The idea is that once those levels are reached, China would announce in 2020 that it is the world leader in both strategic nuclear power as well as economic power.

Michael Pillsbury, a former Reagan administration senior Pentagon policymaker, said the Chinese assertiveness in Vienna appears to be a sign of the growing debate in Beijing among communist and military leaders about whether to continue following dictum of the late leader Deng Xiaoping, who told China to "bide our time [and] build our capabilities" without provoking fears in the international community.

"There's been a debate for two years now," Mr. Pillsbury told Inside the Ring.

"It now appears that some in China are no longer following Deng's policy of biding time and building capabilities."

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/may/2/inside-the-ring-china-launcher-proliferation/?page=3>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Chicago Tribune
OPINION/Analysis

Analysis: Gulf States Struggle to Agree on Missile Shield

April 30, 2012

By Mahmoud Habboush, Reuters

ABU DHABI (Reuters) - Distrust among Sunni Gulf Arab states has scuppered the installation of a joint missile shield which Washington has long urged as the best means of defense against any strike by Iran.

The oil-exporting states have spent billions on U.S.-built anti-missile platforms but have fallen short of building a unified umbrella and an early warning system, despite their expressed intention to do so.

Analysts say that although they belong to the same political and military alliance, the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members remain uneasy about sharing data. Nor can they decide on the location of a central command and are struggling to find ways to work together in case of an emergency.

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education / Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 / Fax: 334.953.7530



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

"The question is not only about trust among Gulf states but also trust in the Americans," said Mustafa Alani, a Middle East defense analyst. "The central command is going to be controlled by a powerful state (Saudi Arabia) and the Americans and the small states will be sandwiched between the two."

U.S. officials say the missile shield is part of a global plan that includes deployment of sea and land-based systems in Europe, the Middle East and Asia to counter the threat of ballistic missiles from states like Iran and North Korea.

Iran is at odds with its Gulf Arab neighbors and the West over its nuclear program. The United States and its allies say Iran is seeking nuclear weapons capability under the cover of a civil program, which Tehran denies.

The Islamic state has threatened to target U.S. interests in the Gulf, including military bases, and to block oil tanker lanes in the Strait of Hormuz if it is attacked.

THORNY ISSUE

U.S. officials have been talking for years to the GCC members - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - about building the shield but have done so with more urgency in recent months.

The site of the central command room is a thorny issue because the Gulf states have a long history of disaccord. In 2009, the UAE pulled out of a planned GCC monetary union after Saudi Arabia was voted as the host of a common central bank. Saudi Arabia also hosts the GCC headquarters.

"We have to have a location," Lt Gen David Goldfein, the U.S. Air Force commander for southwest Asia, told a security conference in Abu Dhabi

The UAE and Saudi Arabia are likely to vie for hosting the headquarters. Heavyweight Saudi Arabia is also home to the Peninsula Shield, a GCC force set up in 1986 to defend Gulf countries against any potential threat.

It has been called upon three times since its foundation - in the 1990-91 Gulf War, during the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 and in March 2011 when Saudi Arabia and the UAE sent 1,500 soldiers to Bahrain during anti-government Shi'ite protests.

Theodore Karasik, a Dubai-based security analyst, said the UAE would be the favored host because "this is where the push for integration has started from."

Experts suggest the best short-term solution is for Gulf states to acquire compatible systems that can be, as one official said, "plugged" together in case of emergencies.

But U.S. officials say a "plug and play" approach is too risky, suggesting that it is no alternative to a central command which allows for a much faster decision-making process.

In this case, commanders would be sitting in one room controlling the entire network rather than having to coordinate between six different commands.

Goldfein said that despite each country's individual defense plans and bilateral defense arrangements with the United States, a multilateral security approach was still needed.

WARY OF INFORMATION SHARING

Analysts say the Gulf states are not only wary of sharing information among themselves but also with the United States because the oil exporters fear direct U.S. involvement in the shield could mean that it would link its systems to GCC radars without sharing back data collected by its own assets.

GCC Secretary-General Abdullatif al-Zayani was among those at the Abu Dhabi conference who questioned the bloc's dependence on foreign allies, mainly the United States.

"What are the defense capabilities that the GCC needs to become less dependent on their allies?" he asked.

Alani said another obstacle to regional cooperation was related to finances and sovereignty.

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

"Many countries either don't have the money or don't want to relinquish national control," he said.

Smaller countries are concerned that states who would contribute more to the system such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE would have more control over it.

Despite a closing of ranks during the 1990-91 crisis over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Gulf states belonging to the Saudi-dominated GCC have tended to guard their sovereignty jealously. Long-running border disputes have slowed security coordination.

"The GCC is overall a fractious organization. They weren't able to agree on a common currency and it's rare they have real consensus among themselves," Robert Jordan, the U.S. ambassador to Riyadh from 2001-03, told Reuters.

"The Saudis are viewed by the others as the 800lb gorilla in the region and are perceived to throw their weight about."

Any pan-Gulf defense shield would have to be supervised by the Americans, which makes some countries, especially Saudi Arabia, have second thoughts about taking part, a Gulf-based diplomat said.

"The Americans want the system for their own reasons and defense assessment, but yet they want the Gulf to pay for it and host it," he said.

The missile defense buildup in the Gulf began under former U.S. President George W. Bush and accelerated under President Barack Obama, whose administration introduced tougher sanctions against Iran.

A shared early warning system could be integrated with U.S. Navy cruisers and destroyers equipped with the Aegis ballistic missile defense system in offshore waters.

The Gulf states have individually acquired some advanced defense systems, including the latest versions of the Patriot Air and Missile Defense System. UAE has spent billions in recent years to protect its cities and oil installations against missile attacks.

The latest deal was signed in December with Lockheed Martin Corp for a \$3.6 billion Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) - the only system designed to destroy short- and intermediate-range ballistic missiles both inside and outside the Earth's atmosphere.

A company official told Reuters he expected other Gulf states to buy the THAAD as a result of tensions with Iran.

Besides Lockheed Martin, the biggest U.S. missile defense contractors include Boeing Co, Raytheon Co and Northrop Grumman Corp. Even without a central command system, much of the Gulf would be covered within a few years with the deployment of new systems in the region.

Writing by Mahmoud Habboush; Additional reporting by Raissa Kasolowsky; Editing by Angus MacSwan.

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-04-30/news/sns-rt-us-gulf-missile-defencebre83t0qb-20120430_1_missile-shield-gulf-states-gcc-members

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Japan Times – Japan

OPINION

Monday, April 30, 2012

Possession Underscores Nuclear Contradictions

By RAMESH THAKUR

CANBERRA — Can the differing world reactions to India's missile test and North Korea's attempted "satellite launch" be explained by the familiar saying that success has a thousand fathers while failure is an orphan? The more likely explanation is that the two tests are forcing the international community to confront implicit assumptions and contradictions with respect to the threat posed by nuclear weapons.

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



When the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was signed in 1968, it had a three-way bargain. It was drafted and negotiated by some of those within the nuclear club. Not surprisingly, therefore, it embedded their interests and priorities. The nonnuclear countries were permitted access to technology and material to harness nuclear energy for civilian and development use if they forswore forever any plans to get the bomb. In return, the nuclear haves promised eventually to give up their own nuclear weapons.

But there was a marked imbalance of obligations, privileges and benefits. The nonproliferation requirement was precise, legally binding, verifiable by the International Atomic Energy Agency as the U.N. nuclear watchdog, and enforceable by the U.N. Security Council. The disarmament promise was vague, voluntary, not subject to verification, and not enforceable.

Since 1968, the imbalance has worsened as the NPT has been treated essentially like a nonproliferation rather than a prohibition regime. And additional conditions have crept into assistance with nuclear power for peaceful purposes as well, to ensure they are indeed peaceful.

That is, originally the bargain was nuclear power essential, proliferation bad, disarmament good: Let's aim for convergence. The new equation is nuclear power troublesome, proliferation terrible, and disarmament perhaps good, but be careful what you wish for.

This has come about because the rhetoric is at odds with reality. The assumption behind the NPT is that nuclear weapons, owing to their very destructiveness, are uniquely evil and should be banned for everyone. Those who had them were given time to transit out of national security depending on the bomb. Those who did not have them were prohibited from ever getting them.

The different reactions to India and North Korea demonstrate the hollowness of this assumption. When Pyongyang announced the planned "peaceful satellite launch," it was roundly condemned in the region, around the world, and by the United Nations. Japan even made preparations to shoot it down if it flew over Japanese airspace. The April 13 test failed miserably, with the only real surprise being that Pyongyang admitted the failure openly to its own people.

India's April 19 test was fully successful. More, it tested a 5,000-km ICBM capability that puts Beijing, Shanghai and parts of Europe within range of Indian nukes for the first time. Hailed by most Indian analysts as a game-changer, the Agni-V was dubbed the China killer by some of the more excitable commentators.

A big collateral benefit for India is that international analysts are for the first time being forced to recognize that the prime driver of India's nuclear policy is China. The added complications in bilateral relations with Pakistan is an acceptable collateral cost of gaining a deterrent capability vis-à-vis China that gives practical meaning to the no first use policy. For the range, mobility and "MIRVability" of Agni-V guarantee a survivable, second-strike retaliatory capability even if India is hit by a surprise nuclear attack. Incidentally, the Agni-V test came shortly after the commissioning of the nuclear-powered attack submarine the *INS Chakra*.

Another possible gain for India might be the added weight given to its claims to join the global nonproliferations regimes like the Nuclear Suppliers Group (ironically, set up in response to India's 1974 test), the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

Washington responded by urging all nuclear-capable states to "exercise restraint" but also praised India's "solid nonproliferation record" and noted the "very strong strategic and security partnership" between India and the United States. A NATO spokesman said India was not considered a threat. Parts of the Chinese media warned India against overestimating its strength.

The public rhetoric is never matched by private concerns. In purely national security terms, of the nine nuclear armed states, Britain and France have the least justification for continued possession of the bomb. But when pressed in private, away from the cameras and an audience, no one claims that the bomb in British and French hands represents a serious threat to anyone else, whereas 100 to 200 bombs in North Korean and Iranian hands would indeed be cause



for grave anxiety by others. It is just as clear that Middle Eastern states are far more acutely worried by a possible Iranian bomb than an actual Israeli bomb.

So, does the rhetoric-reality gap result from international political correctness?

The varying reactions to the two tests do not negate the argument that the logics of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament are essentially the same. The possession of nuclear weapons by some is the biggest stimulus to their proliferation to others. If they did not exist, they could not proliferate. Because they do, they will.

Their possession by a few is a sufficient guarantee of their proliferation to others; the only details to be worked out are by when and to how many. Conversely, nuclear disarmament by all is a necessary condition for nonproliferation.

The challenge is not *if* nuclear abolition, but *how* and *when* so that we do not tip into fatal nuclear or conventional major-power wars during the transition from a world that relies on the bomb to one freed from its nightmare. The related challenge is to make sure that the 30 or so countries that shelter under the nuclear umbrella of others do not feel so alarmed at the idea of nuclear disarmament by their protectors that they get the bomb directly themselves.

Professor Ramesh Thakur is director, Center for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, Australian National University.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/text/eo20120430rt.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Eurasia Review – Spain

OPINION/Analysis

India's Agni V Missile: Game Changer? – Analysis

April 30, 2012

By Rajesh Basrur

Synopsis

India's Agni V missile is said to have profound implications for its security. But its strategic significance is complex and the picture is at best a mixed one.

Commentary

INDIA'S LAUNCH of the Agni V, an intermediate-range missile close to intercontinental range, has been widely hailed as a "game changer" and a "milestone" in India's quest for security. Now that the applause has died down, it is worth looking a little more closely at the claim.

In fact, at least three "games" can be identified and the performance is mixed: the first and most touted game is irrelevant, the second is a winning game, and the third a losing one.

Deterring China: Inconsequential Game

The main achievement of the Agni V is said to be its enhanced reach. With a range of 5,000 km, it is capable of targeting all of China (read Beijing and Shanghai) from deep inside Indian territory. But the notion that Beijing and Shanghai must be targeted in order to deter China is questionable. It involves the untenable assumption that Chinese leaders will be willing to dispense with smaller but still large cities that are closer to India. Kunming, with a population of over five million is less than 1,500 km from Kolkata. Guangzhou, with a population of over 10 million is about 2,500 km from Kolkata. In both cases, existing intermediate-range missiles with ranges of 2000-3000 km (Agni-II and Agni-III) fired from the Indian northeast would suffice to cover the distance.

One need only consider whether the Indian government would be willing to disregard the targeting of Ahmadabad or Jaipur or Patna in a confrontation with China to appreciate the point. The standard riposte would be to point out that



missiles deployed in the northeast would be “vulnerable” to a first strike. But that does not stand up to scrutiny. No one contemplating a first strike can be certain of eliminating all of an adversary’s forces, especially when they are in mobile basing mode. In short, the Agni-V does not change the deterrence game vis-à-vis China.

Strategic Politics: Winning Game

Ironically, the erroneous notion that the Agni V is a “game changer” does change, though not radically, another game – that of the US-China-India strategic triangle. It does so because much that goes by the name of “strategy” boils down to a combination of perception and interests. Notwithstanding the admonitory finger wagging that followed India’s 1998 tests, both the United States and China accommodated India. A key landmark was the changing of US domestic law and the rules of the international cartel, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, to allow nuclear civilian trade with India. The twin changes in effect recognised the reality of India’s nuclear weapons status because the agreements incorporated the formal classification of Indian nuclear facilities into civilian and military. It is hard to imagine that this would have happened without India having crossed the testing threshold.

The Agni V test has already evoked a similar reaction. Washington and Beijing, in contrast to 1998, have responded mildly with peace-oriented murmurs. Leading American experts have welcomed the test as a “major step” in deterring China and noted that the US is “comfortable with Indian progress in the nuclear and missile fields”. The Chinese response has been varied, from a foreign ministry spokesman’s call for cooperation between “emerging powers” to a Global Times commentator’s assertion that China’s nuclear power is “stronger and more reliable” and that “India would stand no chance in an overall arms race with China”. Either way, India’s strategic profile has been enhanced. For better or worse, it will play a more significant role in global strategic politics.

Security and Deterrence Strategy: A Losing Game

India started down the path of nuclear weapons capability as a reluctant nucleariser. China’s 1964 test triggered only a relatively limited and low-key research and development programme; a single test in 1974 was not followed by the building of an arsenal; and warhead development made a slow, covert beginning circa 1989. Following the 1998 tests, India announced it would not test again, opted for a “recessed” non-deployed posture, and foreswore arms racing with its rivals. Since then, a gap has opened up between its still minimalist posture and a widening programme of weapons development. The source of this gap is the uncritical adoption of basic strategic principles from American nuclear-strategic orthodoxy.

In the early years of the Cold War, American nuclear strategy came to rest on the notion of “assured second-strike capability” enunciated by the RAND analyst Albert Wohlstetter. The centrepiece of his position was that the United States had to be certain of responding with a massive retaliatory strike after absorbing a surprise Soviet attack. This meant building an arsenal characterised by varied capability, high accuracy and short response time revolving around a nuclear “triad” of land- air- and sea-based weapons systems. With the Soviet Union adopting a like approach, both powers entered into an accelerating and wasteful arms race fuelled by fears of vulnerability to each other.

On the ground, the reality was the opposite. No leader saw an advantage in having more and better weapons in confrontations with a rival: Washington had a 10: 1 advantage during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, Moscow an even bigger one during the Sino-Soviet Crisis of 1969. President Kennedy’s primary thought in 1962 was: how do I avoid the dropping of a single bomb on a single city? In other words, the real-life working of deterrence rests on the unacceptability of the low probability of a high level of mass destruction within a short space of time.

What deters a potential first striker is the unknown (and unknowable) risk of a nuclear reprisal, not the certainty of massive retaliation. To put it plainly, ‘second-strike capability’ is strategically meaningless. It follows that the Agni V, the much-anticipated submarine-launched ballistic missile, and planned multiple-warhead missiles are already redundant.

India today is doing precisely what the US and the Soviet Union did during the Cold War: consuming precious resources on an ever-expanding capability that will not add to security. The fundamental reason for this commitment to a losing game is intellectual: policymakers do not seem to know what “minimum deterrence” means.



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Rajesh Basrur is a Senior Fellow and the Coordinator of the South Asia Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/30042012-indias-agni-v-missile-game-changer-analysis/>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

The Australian – Australia
OPINION/Editorial

India's Nuclear-Capable Missile

The Australian
April 30, 2012

INDIA'S arms build-up, dramatically underlined by its achievement in launching an ICBM capable of carrying nuclear warheads between 5500km and 8000km, will understandably raise concern among those who believe that with hundreds of millions of its people living in abject poverty, the country has got its priorities wrong.

Such criticism is easy to make, especially given the enormity of its defence spending, which last year amounted to \$49 billion, and its new status as the world's largest weapons purchaser, with an inventory including an aircraft carrier and a nuclear-powered submarine. It should be seen, however, in the context of what is happening across the wider Asia-Pacific region, as China which last month announced a double-digit increase in its defence spending strongly asserts its rising military clout as a means of expanding its influence and the Obama administration forcefully seeks to counter Beijing's new strength by making a number of major strategic moves, including the deployment of US marines in Australia.

That the new Indian ICBM, the Agni V, has targets in China rather than in traditional rival Pakistan has been made clear. India has long had nuclear-capable missiles able to strike across Pakistan. With an ICBM, India joins a handful of countries that have this long-range capability, the others being China, Britain, France, Russia, Israel and the US. Beijing and Shanghai will be within range. Significantly, the Agni V is a so-called MIRV capable of carrying several nuclear warheads rather than the single warhead capability of China's ballistic missiles. Unsurprisingly, China's close ally Pakistan has responded to the Agni V by test-firing a nuclear-capable missile of its own, the Shaheen-1A. This follows its earlier launch of the short-range Abdali. With 100 nuclear warheads, Pakistan's military potency should not be underestimated, but it is clear India's latest advance has everything to do with China and little to do with Pakistan.

India has an impeccable democratic record apart from then prime minister Indira's Gandhi's temporary aberration when she declared an authoritarian state of emergency in 1975. A nuclear power, it has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty but, importantly, is pledged to follow a policy of no first nuclear strike. Following the signing of its civil nuclear agreement with Washington, it is now a key Western ally. It has a crucial role to play in containing China's military assertiveness. It is not alone. The deployment of US marines in Darwin is another aspect of the containment policy. So, too, is a range of other initiatives by Washington, including reinvigoration of military ties with The Philippines, weapons worth \$6bn destined for Taiwan and overtures to China's close ally Burma as it changes course towards democracy. Even Bangladesh is being courted as a regional security partner.

In different circumstances, it might be valid to criticise India for its build-up. With China stridently on the offensive in the region, however, seeking to use its military clout to spread its influence, it is not. India has a crucial role to play in containing that offensive, and its Agni V should be seen as part of that rather than a manifestation of some mistaken priority. China must not be allowed to use its rising military power to have things all its own way in our region. Containment is the right policy, and India is an essential part of it.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/opinion/indias-nuclear-capable-missile/story-e6frg71x-1226342107068>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

The Moscow Times – Russia
OPINION/Editorial

Russia's Last Warnings to Washington

04 May 2012
Editorial

On the eve of this week's international conference on missile defense in Moscow, the Defense Ministry promised to present "irrefutable evidence" to the world's 200 leading security experts in attendance that U.S. missile defense systems to be deployed in Europe will undermine Russia's strategic nuclear deterrent by 2020.

Few were convinced.

To be fair, the giant-screen computer graphics showing a massive barrage of U.S. interceptors shooting down Russian intercontinental missiles in flight was an impressive video presentation. The last time we saw such dramatic imagery was in the late 1980s, when the U.S. Defense Department unleashed a massive PR campaign to convince both U.S. taxpayers and the Soviet Politburo that the Star Wars program could provide complete protection against an attack by the Soviet Union's huge nuclear arsenal.

Little did the Kremlin know at the time that it was only a bluff orchestrated by President Ronald Reagan.

Strangely enough, now the Kremlin is doing all the bluffing, trying to convince the world that an advanced U.S. missile defense system poses a major security threat to Russia. But Russian officials aren't doing a very good job at it.

First, given that Russia will have 1,550 deployed strategic nuclear warheads by 2018, according to the terms of the New START treaty, the United States would have to deploy more than 15,000 GBI interceptors in the United States to weaken Russia's nuclear deterrent.

According to most independent experts, the 10:1 ratio is the minimum required given the fact that Russian decoys and advanced multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles make hitting an oncoming warhead difficult at best.

Although the proposed U.S. missile defense system would be effective against a few primitive missiles launched from a pariah state, some critics believe that it would be useless against Russia's modern arsenal of strategic missiles, decoys and maneuverable warheads — like trying to hit an oncoming bullet with a bullet.

Second, in terms of the European installations of the U.S. missile defense system, the same 10:1 ratio applies. The 200 advanced SM-3 Block IIB interceptors that are planned to be deployed during the fourth phase after 2020 would, in the best of circumstances, be able to take out no more than 20 Russian strategic warheads — and only if they were to be deployed in a forward position, such as in the Baltic Sea, along the missile trajectory from Russia to the United States. These interceptors deployed in rear positions, such as Poland or Romania, would not have the speed to reach Russian ICBMs already in flight — even if the interceptors were able to reach a speed of 4.5 kilometers a second, which Moscow considers critical.

Nonetheless, on Thursday at the missile defense conference, General Staff head Nikolai Makarov repeated President Dmitry Medvedev's stern warning in November that if Russia believes that U.S. missile defense systems poses a threat to the country, it may launch preemptive strikes against U.S. radar and interceptor installations that are located close to Russia's borders.

But few in Washington take Makarov's or Medvedev's "last Chinese warnings" seriously, if for no other reason than everyone — including among Russia's leaders and top brass — understands perfectly well that missile defense poses no threat to Russia.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/opinion/article/russias-last-warnings-to-washington/458047.html>

[\(Return to Articles and Documents List\)](#)

Issue No. 1,001, 04 May 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
Phone: 334.953.7538 | Fax: 334.953.7530