



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
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Articles & Other Documents:

Featured Article: [After Early Successes, Obama Struggles to Implement Disarmament Vision](#)

1. [Iran Determined to Continue Uranium Enrichment: Soltanieh](#)
2. [Iran Denies Plans to Show Nuclear Sites to Diplomats Visiting Tehran](#)
3. [Nuclear Agency Establishes Iran Task Force](#)
4. [Iran Will Not Build Nuclear Bomb: Ayatollah Khamenei](#)
5. [Iran's Nuclear-Arms Guru Resurfaces](#)
6. [IAEA: Iran Doubled Nuclear Capacity in 'Major Expansion'](#)
7. [Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Spells out Iran's N-Ambitions](#)
8. [Iran Rejects Latest IAEA Accusations](#)
9. [Iran Makes Little Headway on Key Nuclear Equipment](#)
10. [China Test-Fires New Nuclear-Capable ICBM](#)
11. [S. Korea to Upgrade Preparedness against North's Cyber, Nuclear Attacks](#)
12. [China Continues to Increase Defensive Potential](#)
13. [Inside China: Missile Defense Conspiracy?](#)
14. [N. Korea Vows to Expand Nuclear Deterrent 'Beyond Imagination'](#)
15. [NKorea Makes "Significant" Nuclear Reactor Progress - IAEA](#)
16. [Pakistan against N Weapons Race: Malik Amad](#)
17. [Russia Calls on U.S. to Ratify Nuclear Test Ban Treaty](#)
18. [Russia to Develop Sea-Based Space-Defense System](#)
19. [Lugar, Nunn Honored for Nuclear Security Efforts](#)
20. [U.S. Hails Russia's Readiness for Nuclear Cuts](#)
21. [After Early Successes, Obama Struggles to Implement Disarmament Vision](#)
22. [Nuclear-Weapon States Aren't Created Equal](#)
23. [Inflating the China Threat](#)
24. [Prepare Against Pakistan Nukes](#)
25. [Iran's Nuclear Quest](#)
26. [Iran at the Brink](#)
27. [A Doctrine of No Use](#)

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Issue No.1022, 31 August 2012

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Press TV – Iran

Iran Determined to Continue Uranium Enrichment: Soltanieh

Tuesday, August 28, 2012

Iran's Ambassador to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ali Asghar Soltanieh has reaffirmed Tehran's determination to continue uranium enrichment in accordance with international conventions.

"Iran adheres to all its international commitments, including the NPT (nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) and the Statute of the IAEA, and will continue its cooperation [with IAEA]," said Soltanieh on the sidelines of the first day of the ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in the Iranian capital, Tehran, on Tuesday.

"We will not withdraw from our inalienable rights to peaceful use of nuclear energy and enrichment of uranium, as these rights are undeniable," he added.

Soltanieh pointed to IAEA's unrestricted inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities and noted that the Agency has found no proof of diversion in Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

The world public opinion is entitled to know the realities about Iran's nuclear energy program and Tehran is thus determined to prevent dissemination of false information as it leads to misunderstandings and problems for the public opinion, he add.

Soltanieh referred to the latest round of negotiations between the representatives of Iran and the IAEA in Vienna and noted, "Negotiations continue on the right path and at the meeting held recently some progress was made and certain differences were resolved."

One of the achievements was that the Agency agreed to heed Iran's security considerations, the Iranian envoy pointed out.

Soltanieh noted that some differences are still in place which need further negotiation, adding that the IAEA should provide Iran with the proof of the allegations leveled against the country.

The Iranian envoy pointed out that the NAM member states have repeatedly defended Iran's contention that the Agency should provide evidence for its claims against Iran.

The United States, Israel, and some of their allies accuse Tehran of pursuing military objectives in its nuclear energy program and have used the false accusation as pretext to impose international and unilateral sanctions against Iran and to call for military attack on the country.

Iran argues that as a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and a member of the IAEA, it has the right to acquire and develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/08/28/258624/iran-will-continue-uranium-enrichment/>

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

Ha'aretz Daily – Israel

Iran Denies Plans to Show Nuclear Sites to Diplomats Visiting Tehran

Iranian deputy FM had suggested that the Islamic Republic would allow visiting Non-Aligned Movement officials to tour nuclear installations.

By Reuters

August 28, 2012

Iran said on Tuesday it has no plans to show its nuclear sites to diplomats visiting Tehran for this week's Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit, despite an earlier offer by a deputy foreign minister.

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Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Mehdi Akhoundzadeh hinted on Monday that visiting NAM diplomats might be allowed to tour the Parchin military base, which the UN nuclear watchdog says may have been used for nuclear-related explosives trials.

But Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast appeared to pour cold water on the idea. "We have no specific plans for a visit to Iran's nuclear installations by foreign guests participating in the summit of NAM member countries," state news agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

A Western diplomat had dismissed as a "bad publicity stunt" Akhoundzadeh's tentative offer, made after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) again failed to gain access to Parchin for its inspectors at a meeting in Vienna on Friday.

"It is the IAEA that should have been given access to Parchin," the senior diplomat told Reuters in Vienna.

Iran is hosting the NAM summit, which ends on Friday, at a time when the West is trying to isolate the Islamic Republic over suspicions it is seeking a nuclear weapons capability. Tehran says its atomic program has only peaceful aims.

The IAEA suspects that Iran has conducted explosives tests in a steel chamber at Parchin relevant for the development of nuclear weapons, possibly a decade ago, and that it may have tried to cleanse the site in recent months.

Ali Asghar Soltanieh, Iran's representative to the IAEA, said Iran had "pre-conditions" for an agency visit to Parchin.

"One of our principles is that security issues should be completely observed, and any steps taken should be taken with our management," said Soltanieh, speaking on the sidelines of the NAM summit, according to the Mehr news agency. He did not elaborate, but his choice of words suggested Iran would seek tight control over any IAEA visit to Parchin.

Soltanieh also referred to Iran's demands for access to IAEA documents underpinning the agency's concerns about possible military dimensions to Tehran's atomic activity.

"This has been our most major request, upon which we have insisted and will insist," he was quoted as saying.

Tehran's quest for access to the documents is a sticking point in talks with the IAEA on the agency's stalled probe into suspected atom bomb research in Iran, diplomatic sources say.

The IAEA has received many of the documents from foreign intelligence services on the condition of confidentiality.

Soltanieh also reiterated his country's determination to keep enriching uranium. "We will not suspend enrichment for even one second," the ISNA news Agency quoted him as saying.

Enriched uranium can be used to fuel power stations, or, if processed further, for nuclear weapons.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/iran-denies-plans-to-show-nuclear-sites-to-diplomats-visiting-tehran-1.461204?localLinksEnabled=false>

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

Seattle Times

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

Nuclear Agency Establishes Iran Task Force

The U.N. nuclear agency has created a special Iran Task Force of nuclear weapons experts, intelligence analysts and other specialists focused on probing allegations that Tehran has been - or is - secretly working on developing atomic arms, according to an internal document shared with The Associated Press.

By GEORGE JAHN, Associated Press

VIENNA — The U.N. nuclear agency has created a special Iran Task Force of nuclear weapons experts, intelligence analysts and other specialists focused on probing allegations that Tehran has been - or is - secretly working on developing atomic arms, according to an internal document shared with The Associated Press.



The announcement from the International Atomic Energy Agency says the elite squad started work Aug. 10. Dated Wednesday, the International Atomic Energy Agency statement says the unit will concentrate on implementing IAEA agreements with Iran, allowing it to monitor its nuclear activities as mandated by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

It also says it will focus on "relevant" IAEA and U.N Security Council resolutions on Iran. Both have demanded that Tehran stop activities that could be used to make nuclear weapons and cooperate with the agency's investigation of suspicions Tehran worked on nuclear weapons.

But while drawing together its best experts, the new task force will have no more power regarding inspections of Iran's known or suspected nuclear sites than previous IAEA inspectors did.

Agency attempts to visit a site at Iran's Parchin military complex southeast of Tehran have documented IAEA limitations. For months, satellite images have recorded what the International Atomic Energy Agency suspects is an attempt to sanitize the site of suspected work on explosive charges used to detonate a warhead. At the same time, Iran has repeatedly rebuffed agency efforts for access - including last Friday.

The most recent satellite images now show what diplomats last week said appears to be pink material shrouding buildings apparently linked to the alleged experiments, effectively blinding agency attempts to monitor a site that they have been kept from visiting. The diplomats demanded anonymity because they were not authorized to comment on the IAEA's Iran investigation.

Iran says such allegations are based on evidence fabricated by the United States and Israel and insists its nuclear program is meant only for making reactor fuel, medical isotopes and peaceful research. But it refuses to give up uranium enrichment, which can produce both reactor fuel and the core of nuclear warheads, despite offers of fuel from abroad. And it has stonewalled an IAEA probe into its alleged weapons work for more than four years, increasing concerns that it has something to hide.

Creating a unit focused on only one country is an unusual move for the IAEA, reflecting the urgency the U.N. nuclear watchdog is attaching to Iran amid fears that it is moving closer to the ability to make nuclear weapons, despite its denial. With diplomatic efforts to engage Tehran on its nuclear activities stalemated - and Israel warning that it will not tolerate an Iran armed with atomic arms - concerns are growing that time is running short to defuse tensions peacefully

Israel is particularly worried about a fortified bunker at Fordo, where Iran has begun producing uranium enriched to a level closer to the grade used in nuclear weapons than its main stockpile of fuel-grade material. About 70 kilometers (40 miles) south of Tehran, Fordo has about 800 centrifuges operating so far, enriching to a 20-percent level, and continues assembling others without operating them - diplomats say that close to 3,000 are now fully or partially screwed together, including hundreds over the past three months

In Tehran, Iran's IAEA envoy, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, told reporters Tuesday that his country will "not suspend enrichment activities, even for a second."

Diplomats had told the AP last week that the IAEA was forming a special Iran team. The announcement confirming that information was forwarded Wednesday by a diplomat who demanded anonymity because he was not authorized to share confidential and internal IAEA documents. A phone call seeking comment from Soltanieh went to his voice mail.

Instead of focusing only one country, agency experts up to now have been tasked with following dozens of nations as they look for signs indicating secret attempts to make nuclear weapons.

Some IAEA officials feel that means that they often spend an inordinate amount of time monitoring countries that are unlikely to engage in such activities - Western European nations, for instance - meaning that not enough attention is paid to potential proliferators.

One of the diplomats who spoke to the AP last week said the Iran team will be comprised of about 20 experts drawn from the main IAEA pool.



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The IAEA announcement said the squad will be headed by Massimo Aparo. A nuclear engineer, Aparo is an IAEA veteran who has held numerous senior positions linked to nonproliferation within and outside of the IAEA and was already in charge of the Iran file before the agency revamp.

The agency said he will be reporting to IAEA Deputy Director General Herman Nackaerts, the head of the agency's nuclear inspectors and the agency's point man on Iran.

http://seattletimes.com/html/politics/2019013188_apirannuclear.html

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

International Business Times

Iran Will Not Build Nuclear Bomb: Ayatollah Khamenei

By Maya Shwayder

August 30, 2012

Piling onto the bandwagon of people making strong and controversial statements at the Nonaligned Movement's summit in Teheran, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei said that his country never has and never will pursue nuclear weapons, and that the use of nuclear weapons is "a big and unforgiveable sin."

"Nuclear arms have neither provided security nor boosted political power," he said.

But neither will Iran relinquish its nuclear development program.

"I declare that the Islamic Republic of Iran has never been after nuclear weapons and it will never abandon its right for peaceful use of nuclear energy," he said during the summit's opening session.

Khamenei also singled out the United States for having the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/379150/20120830/iran-ayatollah-khamenei-nuclear-weapons-development-program.htm>

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

Wall Street Journal

August 30, 2012

Iran's Nuclear-Arms Guru Resurfaces

By JAY SOLOMON

VIENNA—The Iranian scientist considered Tehran's atomic-weapons guru until he was apparently sidelined several years ago is back at work, according to United Nations investigators and U.S. and Israeli officials, sparking fresh concerns about the status of Iran's nuclear program.

Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, widely compared with Robert Oppenheimer, the American physicist who oversaw the crash 1940s effort to build an atomic bomb, helped push Iran into its nuclear age over the past two decades. A senior officer in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, he oversaw Iran's research into the construction and detonation of a nuclear warhead, Western officials say.

Mr. Fakhrizadeh complained in 2006 that his funding and nuclear-weapons work had been frozen by Iran's government, according to intercepted email and phone calls, U.S. officials said. The intercepts contributed to a 2007 U.S. intelligence report that concluded Iran had halted its attempts to build a nuclear bomb in 2003.

Today, however, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, believes Mr. Fakhrizadeh has opened a research facility in Tehran's northern suburbs involved in studies relevant to developing nuclear weapons.

Issue No. 1022, 31 August 2012

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The offices include some of the same scientists and military staff active in Iran's previous nuclear-weapons research, said intelligence officials who have seen intelligence on the facility.

A number of Mr. Fakhrizadeh's closest colleagues have risen up the ranks of the Iranian bureaucracy in recent months, placing them in positions to influence the future of Iran's nuclear program. Among them is Fereydoun Abbasi-Davani, who heads the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and is one of the country's vice presidents.

The apparent re-emergence of Mr. Fakhrizadeh comes as international diplomatic efforts to contain Tehran's nuclear program have stalled and as Israel threatens military strikes. It also calls into question the conclusion by the 2007 U.S. National Intelligence Estimate that Iran had frozen its nuclear-weapons program.

A quarterly report by the IAEA is expected this week to conclude that Iran continues to expand the number of centrifuges it has for enriching uranium and is moving more of this equipment into an underground facility near the holy city of Qom. The site, known as Fordow, is seen as largely impregnable to attack. On Wednesday, the IAEA said it was establishing a special task force to investigate Iran's nuclear program, signaling its concern about Tehran's continued advances.

Iran denies it is pursuing atomic weapons, saying its research is just for energy, and has said that much of the IAEA's information is bogus. Efforts to reach Mr. Fakhrizadeh through Iran's mission at the U.N. were unsuccessful. Mr. Abbasi-Davani denies any nuclear-weapons role.

Senior Obama administration officials say the 2007 National Intelligence Estimate remains accurate. They agree some research on atomic weapons development involving Mr. Fakhrizadeh has likely continued but contend it isn't centralized and systematic, as it was before 2003. These officials say the U.S. and its allies still have time to use sanctions and diplomacy to deny Iran an atomic bomb.

Israel and some European nations worry that Mr. Fakhrizadeh's suspected warhead research coincides with steps by Tehran to push ahead with the two other planks of a nuclear-arms program: missile systems and production of more highly enriched uranium. Security officials from these countries say Iran is steadily moving toward a point where its program would be so advanced that diplomacy or military strikes would no longer be able to deny it the bomb or the capability to build one.

"They are moving up all three elements of their nuclear program to the starting line," a senior Israeli official said.

At the center of the IAEA and Western focus on Mr. Fakhrizadeh, believed to be 51 years old, is an institution called the SPND, meaning, in Persian, the Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research. The IAEA believes that Mr. Fakhrizadeh secretly opened SPND in 2011 and that elements of Iran's nuclear-arms research, which they thought were shelved in 2003 and which also have civilian applications, may be taking place there.

Based in the Tehran suburb of Mojdeh, the SPND hosts six directorates that include research labs for metallurgy, chemistry and explosives testing, according to Western officials who have seen the intelligence on the site. The organization reports directly to the Revolutionary Guard.

"We have concerns in various areas that indicate activities that are relevant to nuclear explosive devices," IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano said in a June interview. "This is where we stand now. And if we cannot clarify, we get more concerned."

Mr. Amano has publicly raised his concerns that Iran has done other weapons-related research post-2003. Included in this, according to IAEA reports, was computer modeling in 2008 and 2009 to simulate the detonation of a nuclear bomb. The IAEA also says it has evidence Iran did studies starting in 2006 to develop a neutron initiator, which is placed in the core of a warhead to set off a fissile reaction.

Current and former IAEA officials say the SPND is just the most recent base for Mr. Fakhrizadeh, who has long been on the West's radar. The U.S. and IAEA trace his work back nearly two decades, saying he and the nuclear-weapons research efforts moved through a series of organizations over the years.



"Such projects are good if one wants to maintain the expertise of the scientists in fields related to nuclear-weapons research under different legitimate hats," said Olli Heinonen, former chief weapons inspector for the IAEA. "This is a way you can conceal."

Iran has long done research on nuclear energy, dating back to the shah's rule. But documents obtained by the IAEA and outside groups show the Islamic government began running a separate nuclear program in the late 1980s and '90s under the leadership of the defense ministry. It was initially based in an office called the Physics Research Center, or PHRC, and led by Mr. Fakhrizadeh and a professor at Sharif University.

More than 1,600 of PHRC telexes were obtained this year by the Institute for Science and International Security, a nonproliferation research organization in Washington. They show how the PHRC shielded technology purchases. In a Jan. 1, 1991, telex, the university's purchasing department sought samples of magnets that could be used in developing gas centrifuges from a European engineering company. The return address it gave wasn't the university's, but the PHRC's.

In 2000, according to IAEA officials, Mr. Fakhrizadeh moved to a new defense ministry institute where Tehran conducted some of its most advanced research on nuclear weapons. The institute used a military site south of Tehran called Parchin, where the agency says high-explosives tests required for developing atomic bombs were likely conducted. Much of the IAEA's focus in the past year has been on gaining access to Parchin, which Iran has so far denied.

IAEA inspectors have also repeatedly been rebuffed in efforts to interview Mr. Fakhrizadeh, say current and former IAEA staff members.

Mr. Heinonen, now at Harvard's Belfer Center on science and international affairs, described a 2008 trip to Tehran at which, the Finnish scientist says, he kept asking for access to Mr. Fakhrizadeh but was greeted instead by bureaucrats who deflected his questions.

The U.N. Security Council imposed a travel ban and financial sanctions on Mr. Fakhrizadeh in 2007 for his work, and similar sanctions against Mr. Abbasi-Davani because of his ties to Mr. Fakhrizadeh. Mr. Abbasi-Davani, interviewed that year while working as a rector at an Iranian university, denied playing any role in Iran's nuclear program, saying: "In order to gain prestige...we don't need the atomic bomb."

In November 2010, Mr. Abbasi-Davani was one of two scientists targeted by assassins on motorbikes who placed magnetized bombs on their cars while they were stuck in Tehran traffic. He survived, unlike his colleague. Iran blamed Israel. Israeli officials have never confirmed or denied involvement.

Later, Mr. Abbasi-Davani was promoted to head the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. Last month, he said Iran now has the technology to move quickly toward producing weapons-grade uranium. Such fuel can be used to build the core of an atomic weapon. Mr. Abbasi-Davani said it would only be for fueling a nuclear submarine or merchant vessels.

Mr. Abbasi-Davani emerged on the world stage last September to attend the IAEA's general conference in Vienna, despite the U.N. travel ban. Appearing before reporters, he said Iran wouldn't slow its uranium-enrichment activities but would move them into underground bunkers.

He also tweaked British, Israeli and American intelligence services that, he claimed, had tried to kill him a year earlier.

"Six years ago, the intelligence service of the U.K. began collecting information and data regarding my past," he said. They even "checked into the back door of my room in the university to see whether I have a bodyguard or not."

Siobhan Gorman and Nathan Hodge contributed to this article.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390444230504577615971688458892.html>

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

Issue No. 1022, 31 August 2012

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Jerusalem Post – Israel

IAEA: Iran Doubled Nuclear Capacity in 'Major Expansion'

UN nuclear watchdog report says "extensive activities" at Parchin complex will hamper investigation of possible nuclear weapons development; number of centrifuges "more than doubled" since May.

By JPOST.COM STAFF, REUTERS

August 30, 2012

Iran has doubled the number of uranium enrichment machines it has in an underground bunker, a UN report said on Thursday, showing Tehran continued to defy Western pressure to stop its atomic work and the threat of Israeli attack.

In the weeks and months when Israeli politicians increased their talk of air strikes on Iran's nuclear sites, the Islamic Republic was rapidly increasing the enrichment capacity of its Fordow site, buried deep underground to withstand any such hit.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in its quarterly report on Iran that the number of centrifuges at Fordow, near the holy Shi'ite Muslim city of Qom, about 130 km (80 miles) from the capital Tehran, had more than doubled to 2,140 from 1,064 in May.

The new machines were not yet operating, it said.

Iran's supreme leader repeated this week that Iran's nuclear programme was entirely peaceful. "Our motto is nuclear energy for all and nuclear weapons for none," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told a developing nations summit in Tehran.

But the expansion in enrichment infrastructure and the increasing in stockpiles of potent nuclear material revealed in the report will do nothing to allay fears or reduce the diplomatic and sanctions pressure on Iran.

The report showed that Iran had produced nearly 190 kg (418 pounds) of higher-grade enriched uranium since 2010, up from 145 kg in May.

Iran says it needs this material - which is much purer than fuel needed for electricity generation - for a medical research reactor, but it also takes it significantly closer to making potential bomb material.

The IAEA also expressed concerns about Parchin, a military site south of the capital that it wants to inspect for evidence of past nuclear weapons development.

"Significant ground scraping and landscaping have been undertaken over an extensive area at and around the location," it said.

Five buildings had been demolished and power lines, fences and paved roads removed, the report said, "extensive activities" that would hamper its investigation if granted access.

"The activities observed ... further strengthen the agency's assessment that it is necessary to have access to the location at Parchin without further delay", the IAEA said.

Iran says Parchin is a conventional military facility and has dismissed the allegations about it as "ridiculous".

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi, meeting U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Tehran on Thursday, was quoted by Iranian state TV as saying: "The West has put sanctions on Iran for years, however the Iranian nation continues to resist and make progress." A Western diplomat said the doubling of enrichment capacity at Fordow was a "worrying trend" showing that Tehran continued to expand its programme.

The report comes after comments made Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at the Non-Aligned Movement Summit on Thursday that Iran will never try to obtain a nuclear bomb, but will not give up the pursuit of peaceful nuclear energy.

"Iran will never pursue nuclear weapons and will not give up its nation's right to peaceful nuclear energy," Khamenei told the gathering of leaders. "Our motto is nuclear energy for all, and nuclear weapons for none."



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Iran's nuclear program is suspected by the West of being aimed at developing an atomic bomb, an accusation Iran denies.

Late on Wednesday, visiting United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon - also present at Thursday's speech - told Khamenei to take concrete steps to prove the country's nuclear program was peaceful.

<http://www.jpost.com/IranianThreat/News/Article.aspx?id=283278>

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

Times of India – India

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Spells out Iran's N-Ambitions

By Indrani Bagchi, Tamil News Network (TNN)

August 31, 2012

TEHRAN: The NAM summit may try to steer clear of contentious issues and even its outcome document is fairly benign. But Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei more than made up for this in his inaugural speech on Thursday morning. He said that Tehran would not seek nuclear weapons, but would not give up its quest for nuclear energy. But his emphasis on the nuclear issue and silence on the Syrian conflict might be a signal on its own.

In a blood-guts-and-gore speech Khamenei thundered, "The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the use of nuclear, chemical and similar weapons as a great and unforgivable sin. We proposed the idea of 'Middle East free of nuclear weapons' and we are committed to it. This does not mean forgoing our right to peaceful use of nuclear power and production of nuclear fuel. On the basis of international laws, peaceful use of nuclear energy is a right of every country."

Khamenei has maintained this position for a while, which often leads observers to believe that he and the Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmedinejad are at odds with each other. But the battle for Iran's nuclear ambitions has become more than Iran seeking energy. In a country, which has the world's second largest gas reserves and is one of the top oil-producers, the quest for nuclear energy is difficult sell to the outside world. India takes the position that while Iran has the right to nuclear energy as an NPT member; it also has to abide by its NPT obligations. The US and the European Union are convinced that Iran is seeking nuclear weapons and even nations like India are alarmed that this might trigger a domino effect that might be tough to control. It has triggered a slew of sanctions against Iran's energy and financial sectors that is beginning to hurt this country. Iran has been subject to the biggest ever cyber warfare weapons assault with Stuxnet worm, followed by "Duqu", "Flame" and now "Gauss". Iranian nuclear scientists have been mysteriously assassinated, whose bullet-ridden cars are placed as exhibits at the NAM convention centre here.

Iran's big NAM splash is intended as a message to the West that Tehran is yet to be isolated from the rest of the world. About 30 heads of state are attending the summit, apart from high-level membership from all 120 members of the movement. The Iranian government announced that all NAM delegations would be given free access to the Natanz nuclear facility.

Although Khamenei proposed a referendum for Palestine as a solution to the crisis there, he chose to concentrate on the nuclear issue. "I stress that the Islamic Republic has never been after nuclear weapons and that it will never give up the right of its people to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Our motto is: "Nuclear energy for all and nuclear weapons for none." We will insist on each of these two precepts, and we know that breaking the monopoly of certain Western countries on production of nuclear energy in the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is in the interest of all independent countries, including the members of the Non-Aligned Movement."

Khamenei devoted the rest of his speech to haranguing the US, Israel and UN Security Council, reserving special venom for Israel, which he described in colourful language as "ferocious wolves" proposing a referendum of Palestinians which could begin the process of creating a Palestinian state.

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On Wednesday, Khamenei told Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that he had been influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, but a day later, there was no sign of it as latent violence overran his inaugural speech.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/Supreme-leader-Ayatollah-Ali-Khamenei-spells-out-Irans-N-ambitions/articleshow/16029021.cms>

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

Al Bawaba – Jordan

Iran Rejects Latest IAEA Accusations

August 31st, 2012

Iran on Friday rejected a report issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) claiming that the Islamic Republic has doubled the number of centrifuges used to enrich uranium in the underground site of Fordo. In its report, the IAEA noted that Iran is rapidly expanding capabilities of uranium enrichment despite Israeli or American threats of possible military action against site which is located near the city of Qom.

"To publish this report as Iran hosts the summit of Non-Aligned Movement is nothing but a political initiative to overshadow the Tehran meeting", said parliamentarian Kazem Jalili, who was quoted by the ISNA news agency. "It seems that this report is a psychological war scenario because Iran has demonstrated its authority and its place at the top of the international arena," added Jalili, a member of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs.

The quarterly report of the IAEA on Iran states that some buildings were destroyed and earthworks were carried out on in the military site as experts from agency wanted to inspect it. According to the report, Iran has 2,140 centrifuges at Fordo against 1064 in May, but the new centrifuges are yet to be operational.

In its report, the IAEA has also accused Iran of having "carried out activities" at Parchin site "that hinder significantly the ability of the agency to carry out effective inspections," stressing that Tehran has removed suspicious traces. The Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi has denied these accusations: "These statements have no technical basis. Experts know that they are mere pretexts and that we cannot clean even one site."

The French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius lamented on Friday the fact that Iran "has not advanced" on the nuclear issue and felt it was time to "strengthening sanctions." "Currently the facts found do not go in [the] direction [required by the international community]," he added. "I hope Iran decides to change its position, but for now we have absolutely not seen it on the ground. We learned to be vigilant."

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/iran-rejects-latest-iaea-accusations-440224>

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

Reuters – U.S.

Iran Makes Little Headway on Key Nuclear Equipment

Friday, August 31, 2012

- * *Iran doubles uranium enrichment capacity in bunker*
- * *But it may struggle with developing more modern models*
- * *Faster centrifuges could allow quicker atom bomb breakout*
- * *Iran denies nuclear weapon aims, says work peaceful*

By Fredrik Dahl

VIENNA, Aug 31 (Reuters) - Iran may have doubled its uranium enrichment capacity in an underground facility but it seems to be struggling to develop more efficient nuclear equipment that would shorten the time it would need for any atom bomb bid, experts say.



Iran's progress - or lack of it - in deploying a new generation of enrichment centrifuges is closely watched by the West as it could allow it to produce potential weapons-grade material much faster. Tehran denies this is its aim.

"Iran appears to be continuing to encounter problems in its testing of production-scale cascades of advanced centrifuges," a U.S. think-tank, the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), said.

Cliff Kupchan, a Middle East analyst at consultancy Eurasia Group, said: "I note that the real game-changer, the advanced centrifuge programme, still seems to be failing."

Tehran says it is refining uranium to fuel a planned network of nuclear power plants so that it can export more of its oil and gas. The United States and its allies accuse it of a covert bid to develop nuclear bombs.

Iran has sharply increased the number of centrifuges it has in the fortified Fordow bunker, a U.N. report said on Thursday, showing Tehran has continued to expand its nuclear programme despite Western pressure and the threat of an Israeli attack.

Iranian lawmaker Kazem Jalali said the report's publication during a meeting in Tehran of developing countries was politically motivated, the ISNA news agency reported.

The IAEA report also said buildings had been demolished and earth removed at a military site it wants to inspect. The West believes Tehran is removing evidence of illicit nuclear-linked tests, but Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said "such things cannot be cleaned up or removed," ISNA quoted him as saying.

The quarterly IAEA report may strengthen a belief in Israel - which sees Iran's nuclear programme as a threat to its existence - that the West's tougher economic sanctions against Tehran this year are failing to make the major oil producer curb its programme.

But the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report said the newly-installed machines, which are not yet operating, were all so-called IR-1 centrifuges - a 1970s-vintage model which has been prone to breakdowns in the past.

Iran has for years been trying to introduce centrifuges with several times the capacity of the IR-1 version it now uses for the most sensitive part of its atomic activities.

If it eventually succeeded in deploying the newer models for large-scale enrichment, it could significantly reduce the time needed to stockpile refined uranium, which can be used to generate electricity or, if processed much further, nuclear explosions.

LIMITED IRAN KNOWLEDGE

But it is unclear whether Tehran, subject to increasingly strict international sanctions, has the means and components to make the more sophisticated machines in bigger numbers.

The U.N. Security Council has long called on Iran to suspend uranium enrichment and Tehran's failure to comply has earned it four rounds of sanctions, as well much tougher U.S. and European Union measures that take direct aim at its biggest export, oil.

Marking a potential step forward, Iran last year started installing more IR-4 and IR-2m models for testing at a research and development site at its enrichment facility near the central town of Natanz.

But the IAEA report suggested it was not making major progress, saying it was "intermittently" feeding uranium gas into these machines. In addition, the U.N. agency said Iran had yet to install three other models which it had said it would.

The IAEA report "confirms that those machines are still not ready for full-scale use," the Arms Control Association, a U.S.-based research and advocacy group, said.



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The IAEA, which regularly inspects Iran's declared nuclear sites, has little access to facilities where centrifuges are assembled and the agency's knowledge of possible centrifuge progress is mainly limited to what it can observe in Natanz.

Tehran often trumpets technical advances in its nuclear programme, including the development of new centrifuges - machines that spin at supersonic speed to increase the concentration of the fissile isotope in uranium.

Early this year, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Iran had a "fourth generation" centrifuge that could refine uranium three times faster than previously.

"Given the time taken for R&D (research and development) on Iran's second-generation machines, it is probably quite some time before Iran is ready to use these additional models," the Arms Control Association said in reference also to plans for even more sophisticated machines known as IR-5, IR-6 and IR6s.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/31/nuclear-iran-centrifuges-idUSL6E8JV5DP20120831>

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

Hindustan Times – India

China Test-Fires New Nuclear-Capable ICBM

By Press Trust of India (PTI)

Beijing, August 28, 2012

China on Tuesday announced that it has successfully test-fired a new 14,000-km range inter-continental ballistic missile which can carry multiple warheads, providing it with a "first strike capability" to attack targets deep inside the US and round the world.

The Dongfeng-41 was test-fired by People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Second Artillery Corp last month, state-run CCTV reported, showing a rare lengthy footage of its mobile missile units.

"The new missile's mobility, precession and war head yield combined give China a first strike capability," the report said.

As many as 10 nuclear warheads can be put on the missile.

China claims that it will not be the first one to use nuclear weapons and says its nuclear forces are designed for counter attack against nuclear attack on its territory.

Analysts say the missile with multiple warheads also strategic significance to India as it came in the backdrop India's successful test firing of Agni-V which could reach deep into several Chinese cities.

Highlighting the rapid development of China's missile programme which has caused concerns in India, US and other countries, official told CCTV that the Second Artillery Corp has developed since its inception in 1966, several divisions like the ground to ground strategic nuclear missile forces and conventional operational tactical missile forces and support units.

Simultaneously, the state media also announced that China's first aircraft carrier, Varyag has set out for 10th sea trials.

The retrofit carrier, whose hull was bought from Ukraine is capable of carrying 30 fixed wing aircraft and helicopters.

It was expected to become operational later this year.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/China/China-test-fires-new-nuclear-capable-ICBM/Article1-920808.aspx>

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

Yonhap News Agency – South Korea

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August 29, 2012

S. Korea to Upgrade Preparedness against North's Cyber, Nuclear Attacks

By Kim Eun-jung

SEOUL, Aug. 29 (Yonhap) -- South Korea will develop a variety of offensive and defensive cyberwarfare weapons and reinforce manpower at the military cyber command, as part of its bid to enhance preparedness against threats of cyberattacks from North Korea's military, the defense ministry said Wednesday.

In a mid- to long-term defense plan reported to President Lee Myung-bak, the ministry also said that it will drastically increase the deployment of surface-to-surface ballistic missiles targeting North Korea's nuclear weapons facilities and missile bases.

Seoul accused Pyongyang of interfering with GPS jamming signals on civilian flights and commercial ships operating near the nations' western border earlier this year as well as hacking government Web sites and banking systems in the last couple of years.

The defense plan calls for the military to secure intelligence assets and double the number of service personnel at the Cyber Command to 1,000. The special unit was launched in January of 2010 in response to the growing threat of cyber attacks from Pyongyang.

"Programs and vaccines will be developed to help the military carry out cyber warfare and secure comprehensive capabilities (to cope with the North's threats)," said a senior ministry official, who is in charge of crafting defense reform policy.

The defense program was first crafted in 2005 under the Roh Moo-hyun administration, and has since been revised several times.

The proposal also calls for drastically increasing the number of surface-to-surface ballistic missiles on the front line to swiftly cope with unprovoked attacks from North Korea's nuclear facilities and missile bases.

"The Air Force and the military's cruise missiles have a clear limit in swiftly countering moves by the North to launch nuclear weapons and missiles," the official explained.

Under the plan, the Navy will establish a submarine command in 2015 and deploy six next-generation destroyers, dubbed "mini aegis" vessels, from 2019 to 2026. The Air Force will set up a 200-man aerospace command to monitor information-gathering satellites above the peninsula.

The ministry asked for an additional budget of 59.3 trillion won (US\$52.3 trillion) to enforce the five-year plan from 2012-2016. It needs parliamentary approval to be implemented.

The military will also expand the number of female service members, filling 7 percent of officer posts and 5 percent of non-commissioned officer posts with women by 2017, three years ahead of the originally planned 2020.

The number of South Korean military troops will be reduced from the current 636,000 to 522,000 by 2022.

Pyongyang has taken a hostile tone with the South since its young leader Kim Jong-un took power in December last year, following the death of his father Kim Jong-Il. Tensions have risen as the North has threatened an "all-out battle" against the South, denouncing the ongoing annual military drill with the United States.

The two Koreas remain technically at war as the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2012/08/29/18/0301000000AEN20120829008600315F.HTML>

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

Pravda – Russia



China Continues to Increase Defensive Potential

29 August 2012

By Sergei Vasilenko

Conflicting information regarding weapons is heard from China. According to some data, missiles "Dongfeng-41", capable of hitting targets in the United States, were successfully tested in China. According to other data, Beijing is just developing an intercontinental ballistic missile that will be able to overcome the U.S. missile defense system in the region.

Information on the development of China's intercontinental ballistic missile capable of overcoming U.S. missile defense system in the region came in response to other news. The world's media spread the news that China has successfully tested missiles "Dongfeng-41" that can hit targets at any point in the United States. But denial does not change the picture as a whole: for many countries it is obvious that China is becoming not only an economic superpower, but also a powerful military state whose interests have to be considered.

According to the Pentagon report released in mid-May of 2012, China's military budget for this year is between \$120 and \$180 billion dollars, while the official Beijing previously reported the amount of \$106 billion. Increased allocations to the military allowed the rearmament of China, so the Chinese army is now capable to carry out military operations abroad. The armed forces there are involved in operations against Somali pirates attacking Chinese ships.

China now has many of the latest weapons systems, which makes the country a pretty powerful military state in the Asia-Pacific region. China is also developing new systems that can compete with the arms of the United States. For example, a Pentagon report says that China is developing anti-ship ballistic missile capable of overcoming the distance of over 1.5 thousand km. In the next couple of years China will create a submarine capable of carrying ballistic missiles. In addition, the country's navy has two nuclear-powered submarines of the third generation, and in the coming years five more such submarines will be put into operation. The Chinese Navy also has 48 diesel submarines. As for the surface fleet, the fleet composition of China has 79 warships, 51 transport ships and 86 patrol boats equipped with missiles.

In the air, China fleet consists of over five hundred attack aircraft and bombers, over hundreds of reconnaissance aircraft, 300 transport aircraft, as well as over a thousand fighters. In addition, China has developed a high-tech fighter Invisible J-20 that will not be detected by potential enemy radars. However, the date of deployment of J-20 is not yet specified.

In the framework of military cooperation with Russia, China bought Russian missile systems S-300 and plans to buy more S-400. Deputy Director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation of Russia Konstantin Biryulin said in May of 2012 that the Chinese have a few S-300 units, and with the acquisition of S-400 China they have a considerable number of these units. The expert did not report the exact number of missile systems purchased from Russia.

China is also producing its own armored vehicles. At the exhibition DSA-2012, Chinese company NORINCO introduced battle tank VT-2, based on the Chinese-Pakistani tank MBT-2000. Only a model of the tank was exhibited, and it has not been announced whether other countries are interested in purchasing these vehicles.

Despite the increase of the military budget and purchase and development of new weapons, the power of the Chinese army and its technical equipment are still far from the armed forces of NATO and the United States. For example, the quality of diesel submarines does not allow a military watch in full. The Chinese Communist Party, aware of this, each year allocates more budget funds to upgrade the military equipment and develop their own military technology.

In total, according to a German resource *Welt Online*, since 1995 the military budget of China has increased 500 -fold. According to a report by the Stockholm Institute for Peace Research (SIPRI), while most of the countries reduce budget spending on defense, China is increasing it, and now occupies the second place - 8.2% of global arms spending (the U.S. is in the first place with 41%), the third place is taken by Russia - 4.1%. The share of military spending in the budget of



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China is approximately 2% (in the U.S. - 4.7%, in Russia - 3.9%). What caused such a huge upgrade of one of the most populated countries in the world? Why does China allocate these impressive funds for the national defense?

The "White Paper" issued by the Chinese Ministry of Defense said in March of 2011 reported that the growing Chinese economy needs to protect their economic interests, including with military means. The money is needed not only for the purchase of new weapons and technology, but also for the production of its own. It is also necessary to increase the pay for the Chinese army that employs 2.3 million people. Who will Chinese military fight against? The Chinese leadership is concerned about the recent increased presence of the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific region, in particular the deployment of a missile defense system in Asia. U.S. missile defense radar in the region uses GPS, as well as air defense systems Patriot PAC-3, and information detection system.

China hopes that the Chinese missile development would negate the efforts of the Americans to dominate Asia. An expert on military affairs Yin Zhuo suggested that the U.S. missile defense system in Asia cannot resist the Russian and Chinese intercontinental ballistic missile with a range of over five thousand miles. At the same time, *The Wall Street Journal* wrote on August 22 that the U.S. plans to deploy new early warning radar systems in the region, and one of the complexes will be located in Japan and another one, apparently, in the Philippines.

The U.S. military bases on the island of Guam also concern the Chinese leaders. In addition, China has its old geopolitical interests in the region: the island of Taiwan that China considers its own. For decades, China has been trying to land on the rebellious island, but so far China's plans do not go further than speculations. Recently, China has begun to aggressively defend its territorial interests in disputes with the neighbors. In the South China Sea, the country is trying to defend its right to a few islands in the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam. China also has territorial claims against Japan - namely, the island Dyaoyudao. It is also in a dispute with India over Arunachal Pradesh - the territory that belongs to the Southern Tibet.

Experts believe that by 2015, China's military spending will rise to \$220 billion, which exceeds the military spending of all the 12 countries neighboring China. The official Beijing calls such numbers a speculation and one more reason for the U.S. to increase its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region. Will China get involved in a big war? Tom Doctoroff in *Huffington Post* said that China's militarily aggressive behavior is no more than a myth. Yes, China is increasing its arsenal, but it will never enter into a serious military conflict with the neighboring countries and will not challenge the United States without a valid reason. After all, China's militarily is far behind the U.S. In addition, the culture of China rejects war and residents are trying in every way to protect themselves from all kinds of dangers.

http://english.pravda.ru/world/asia/29-08-2012/122012-china_defense-0/#

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

Washington Times

Inside China: Missile Defense Conspiracy?

By Miles Yu, *The Washington Times*

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

Rear Adm. Yin Zhuo, a leading Chinese navy official, told his nation Aug. 24 that plans to boost U.S. missile defenses in Asia are a strategic conspiracy to trick other nations in the region into investing vast resources to develop nuclear and ballistic weapons.

Adm. Yin told the People's Daily's flagship online discussion portal "Strong China Forum" that the objective of the U.S. defense effort is to force nations to deplete military budgets that should be used to develop conventional weapons.

"We think that the United States' missile defense system conspires to lead developing countries with nascent nuclear deterrence such as China or India astray," said Adm. Yin, who is in charge of the People's Liberation Army's Naval Information System Commission.

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The admiral went on to state that one of the purposes of U.S. efforts to develop a missile defense system "is to set up a big trap, a trap in fact for all other countries to fall in. That is to say, it aims to force America's opponents to invest huge amounts into developing nuclear and ballistic weapons to drain your limited military resources. While in fact these nuclear and ballistic weapons you developed will not have real use in an actual war, they will leave you with no money for developing conventional weapons."

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/aug/29/inside-china-missile-defense-conspiracy/>

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

AisaOne News – Singapore

N. Korea Vows to Expand Nuclear Deterrent 'Beyond Imagination'

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Friday, August 31, 2012

SEOUL - North Korea on Friday vowed to expand and modernise its nuclear deterrent "beyond imagination" unless the United States changes its policy towards the communist nation.

The North said in a foreign ministry memorandum that it had developed nuclear weapons to defend itself against an alleged US atomic threat.

The memorandum, published by the official news agency, said the North had no choice but to prolong the possession of nuclear weapons "unless the United States makes a right choice".

"Our nuclear deterrent will be modernised and expanded far beyond US imagination," it said.

The North has been developing nuclear weapons for decades. Its official position has been that it needs them for self-defence against a US nuclear threat, but that it is willing in principle to scrap the atomic weaponry.

Under a September 2005 deal reached during six-nation negotiations, Pyongyang agreed to dismantle its nuclear programme in return for economic and diplomatic benefits and security guarantees.

But six-party talks on implementing the deal stalled in December 2008. The North has staged two nuclear tests - in 2006 and 2009.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said Thursday that the North's nuclear programme is "a matter of serious concern".

North Korea's statements about uranium enrichment activities and the construction of a light-water reactor "continue to be deeply troubling", it said.

Pyongyang said it was building a uranium enrichment plant to produce low-enriched fuel for the new reactor to meet the nation's energy requirements.

<http://news.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/Asia/Story/A1Story20120831-368904.html>

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

The Star – Malaysia

Friday, August 31, 2012

NKorea Makes "Significant" Nuclear Reactor Progress - IAEA

By Fredrik Dahl

VIENNA (Reuters) - North Korea has made significant progress in the construction of a light water atomic reactor over the past year, a U.N. watchdog report said, a facility that may extend Pyongyang's capacity to produce material for nuclear weapons.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), citing satellite images, also said "certain activities" had been observed at locations where the reclusive Asian state "reportedly" conducted nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

But "without access to the locations the agency is unable to provide a technical assessment of the purpose of these activities or of whether nuclear material is being used," the annual report, issued to IAEA member states on Thursday, said.

North Korea's nuclear programme is a "matter of serious concern", it said, adding that the country's statements about uranium enrichment activities and the construction of the reactor "continue to be deeply troubling".

North Korea says it needs nuclear power to provide electricity, but has also boasted of its nuclear deterrence capability and has traded nuclear technology with Syria, Libya and probably Myanmar and Pakistan. It is believed to be pushing ahead with plans for a third nuclear test.

It became the first country to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2003 and has denied IAEA access to its atomic sites, renegeing on a February deal to do so after it announced plans to launch a long-range rocket, in defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

In May, website 38North said North Korea had resumed construction work on an experimental light water reactor (ELWR) after stopping in December.

REACTOR WORK "PROGRESSING APACE"

38North - run by the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University and former U.S. State Department official Joel Wit - said the ELWR, when operational, could produce enough material for an additional nuclear bomb each year.

U.S. expert David Albright estimated a higher potential production of about 20 kg of weapon-grade plutonium a year, enough material for four nuclear weapons or more. But he said it could also produce electricity.

"I think they do want to pursue this as an electricity route too, so it is really a question of dual use, and we don't know what they are going to do. North Korea would be able to do both," Albright told Reuters.

A highly enriched uranium programme running alongside this could allow North Korea significantly to increase the number of nuclear devices it could produce, giving it a dual track to nuclear weapons as it has big reserves of uranium.

The IAEA said "significant progress" had been made in the reactor's construction since its previous report a year ago.

Progress included placing a dome on the reactor containment building and indications that some components may have been installed inside the building.

A system for pumping water from a river to the reactor for cooling purposes has also been built, the IAEA report said.

"However, without access to the site, the agency is unable to assess either the design features of the LWR or the likely date for its completion," the Vienna-based agency said.

Earlier in August Albright's think-tank, the Institute for Science and International Security, said satellite imagery from May and June showed construction "progressing apace". It said the reactor could be completed in the second half of 2013.

Editing by Tim Pearce

http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/8/31/worldupdates/2012-08-31T131816Z_1_BRE87UOMO_RTROPTT_0_UK-NUCLEAR-NORTHKOREA-IAEA&sec=Worldupdates

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

Pakistan Observer – Pakistan

Pakistan against N Weapons Race: Malik Amad

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Speakers highlight Pakistan's commitment to peace, Author's work on strategic issues lauded

By Ashraf Ansari

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

Islamabad—At a launch of book by Dr Rizwana Abbasi, Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan, State Minister of Foreign Affairs highlighted Pakistan's security imperatives and its response in the backdrop of nuclearisation of South Asia.

Speaking as chief guest at the book launch ceremony Tuesday, the State Minister recalled Pakistan's consistent efforts at the international level particularly in the forum of UN General Assembly to declare South Asia a Nuclear Free Zone. Pakistan moved resolutions were adopted by huge majority of nations every time but India did not agree.

India carried out nuclear test in 1974, embarked on ambitious N programme and rejected the idea of a Nuclear Free Zone in South Asia. Indian continued building up its conventional military might amid festering disputes with Pakistan. Unfortunately the world powers failed to address security concerns of Pakistan. Pakistan had no option but to restore strategic balance in South Asia by taking the road to achieving nuclear capability.

Nawabzada Malik Amad Khan said that ever since Pakistan attained status as nuclear weapon state, there has been no war in South Asia. The nuclear balance between Pakistan and India has worked.

He regretted that there had been a campaign by certain foreign elements to malign Pakistan's nuclear programme trying to cast doubts about security of its nuclear assets. Pakistan has been assuring the world in the strongest possible terms that there was no danger to its nuclear assets. Pakistan has adopted international standards of command and control system. The State Minister said, Pakistan does not want nuclear race in South Asia, It only wants non-discriminatory nuclear policy on the part of U.S and other world powers. Addressing the function the Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Dr. Javaid Laghari lauded the effort of the author in writing a well-researched book on a sensitive issue relating to Pakistan's security needs. He agreed with the author of the book that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto should be given all credit for launching of nuclear programme in Pakistan for strategic reasons. Laghari stressed the need for Pakistan to build several nuclear power plants to meet a good part of its energy demand. He quoted Father of the Nation Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah who stressed importance of education especially science and technology for Pakistan's progress.

Prof. Dr. Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema in his opening remarks mentioned various phases of Pakistan's nuclear programme saying that the country had no other choice but to take the nuclear option after its efforts for achieving a nuclear free zone in South Asia failed.

Ambassador Tariq Osman Hayder in his speech traced history of nuclearisation starting with U.S moves during the World War II. He said, in the first place it was US who should be held responsible for helping other western countries in their nuclearisation. He criticised discriminatory stance of the Western powers in the realm of peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Prof. Dr. Riffat Hussain Syed commented on contents of the book in academic vein. He agreed with the author that Pakistan should be allowed full partnership in international efforts for non-proliferation and disarmament.

The author of the book 'Pakistan and the New Nuclear Taboo', Dr. Rizwana Abbasi in her brief remarks said she was motivated to write the book in view of Pakistan's unique strategic location, its security concerns and the country's potential to play a positive role in promoting peace in the region and world.

A large number of scholars, intellectuals, politicians, eminent journalists and students participated in the book launching ceremony.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=171326>

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

RIA Novosti- Russian Information Agency

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Russia Calls on U.S. to Ratify Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

29 August 2012

U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) will speed up the document's entry into force, the speaker of the upper house of the Russian parliament said on Wednesday.

"Naturally, we are worried by the lack of progress in the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. We are convinced that the treaty's ratification by the U.S. would significantly speed up the process of the document coming into force," Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko said at a nuclear conference in the Kazakh capital Astana.

She said Russia's proposal on a treaty to ban the deployment of weapons in space "is being blocked by certain Western states."

Adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1996, the CTBT is yet to come into force. It has been signed by 183 and ratified by 157 countries, but major nuclear powers either refused to sign (India) or failed to ratify (U.S. and China). The U.S. Senate rejected the treaty in 1999.

In 2006, the UN General Assembly ratified a resolution supporting the CTBT entry into force.

Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Ellen Tauscher said in mid-February the treaty's ratification remains one of the priorities of U.S. foreign policy.

ASTANA, August 29 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20120829/175496736.html>

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

RT (formerly "Russia Today") – Russia

Russia to Develop Sea-Based Space-Defense System

31 August 2012

Russia is developing a sea-based missile- and space-defense system, which will be deployed in international waters. The system is expected to become an integral part of the Russian Navy.

The construction of the new sea-based missile-defense system has been entrusted to Almaz-Antey, the arms manufacturer that also produces the S-400 'Triumph' missile defense system.

Anatoly Shlemov, the head of national defense orders for Russia's United Shipbuilding Corporation, told RIA Novosti that *"this task has been definitely set for the [Russian] military-industrial complex."*

Almaz-Antey is not working alone on the planned system, Shelmov said, without specifying additional details about the top-secret project.

At the St. Petersburg Economic Forum earlier this year, President Roman Trotsenko of the United Shipbuilding Corporation announced that the USC would begin construction in 2016 of a series of six nuclear-powered destroyers armed with high-tech missile- and space- defense system.

Trotsenko called the warships *"benchmarks of Russian space defense in the World Ocean,"* but refused to comment further on the plans.

As it begins introducing the new S-400 system, Almaz-Antey is also finishing its S-500 'Prometheus' system, which features space-defense capabilities. The S-500 is expected to be deployed in 2017, and will most likely arm the destroyers in project.



Previously, Almaz-Antey created the S-300 system for naval use, developing the S-300 Fort F and Fort FM for the Russian Navy.

The S-500 will supposedly be able to engage targets in low earth orbit flying at speeds of up to 7 kilometers per second – the highest speed achievable by a ballistic missile at its highest trajectory in space.

The S-500's capabilities are expected to exceed those of the US Aegis Combat System, but a point-by-point comparison is impossible until the S-500 is completed.

The backbone of the Aegis Combat System – the Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) – is a closely guarded secret, though the Missile Defense Agency of the US Department of Defense once published information revealing that the SM-3 can intercept targets flying at a speed of 3.7 kilometers per second.

The latest versions of the S-300 can engage targets flying at speeds of up to 2.8 kilometers per second; the S-400 can intercept targets at 4.8 kilometers per second.

A warship equipped with Aegis Combat System has a 190-kilometer range, and can intercept targets in low earth orbit up to 180 kilometers and detect objects at distances of up to 320 kilometers.

The S-400 can hit air targets at distances of up to 400 kilometers, while detecting them from as far away as 600 kilometers.

The Aegis Combat System is currently used by the US, Australian, Japanese, Norwegian, South Korean and Spanish navies.

<http://rt.com/news/russian-space-defense-ocean-053/>

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

Boston Globe

Lugar, Nunn Honored for Nuclear Security Efforts

By Associated Press (AP)

August 29, 2012

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and former Sen. Sam Nunn were honored Wednesday for their role in helping ex-Soviet states secure and dismantle huge stocks of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

The pair became the first recipients of a new prize, to be awarded every two years, to people or groups whose work prevents the proliferation of nuclear weapons and cuts the risk of their use.

The prize was awarded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York philanthropic foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace think tank at a ceremony in the Peace Palace in The Hague. It will now carry the Americans' names — The Nunn-Lugar Award for Promoting Nuclear Security.

The two authored the Nunn-Lugar Act in 1991 which set up the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program that is credited with helping former Soviet republics such as Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan rid their territories of nuclear weapons.

Under the program, the U.S. provided reinforced rail cars to carry nuclear warheads, high-tech security systems for storage sites and help in dismantling mothballed nuclear subs.

Lugar is a Republican from Indiana who lost his re-election bid in May, ending a 36-year career in the U.S. Senate. Nunn is a Democrat who represented Georgia for 24 years until 1997.

In a statement, the Carnegie Corporation said the program the pair helped set up had “contributed to the deactivation of more than 7,500 nuclear warheads, neutralized chemical weapons, safeguarded fissile materials, converted weapons facilities for peaceful use, mitigated bio-threats, and redirected the work of former weapons scientists, and engineers, among other efforts.”



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Lugar called the program “a triumph measured in more than the hundreds of missiles, thousands of warheads, tons of chemical weapons, and scores of biological pathogens now under lock and key or destroyed. It has been the basis upon which the United States has found constructive means to engage former adversaries and new partners, united by a common vision and desire to detect and defeat new threats.”

<http://www.boston.com/business/technology/2012/08/29/lugar-nunn-honored-for-nuclear-security-efforts/N2JPgO4NiTR1VmryK9kcXP/story.html>

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

U.S. Hails Russia’s Readiness for Nuclear Cuts

29 August 2012

The United States welcomes Moscow’s willingness to further reduce nuclear weapons and reiterates that American missile shield in Europe is not aimed against Russia, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of State said.

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country is ready for taking further steps to reduce and limit the arsenal of strategic offensive weapons, but on condition that the United States also changes its stance on the missile shield in Europe.

“As you know, we are interested in continuing arms control talks going forward. That said, we reject any linkage with missile defense. As we always say, these are defensive systems; they are not directed at Russia; they’re primarily directed at the threat from Iran and from rogues, et cetera,” Spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told a daily press briefing.

She said U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will possibly discuss Putin’s statement in more detail next week during the 2012 APEC summit that will be held in Vladivostok, in Russia’s Far East.

“Well, obviously the stop in Vladivostok, where we’ll get a chance to see a Russian leaders will give us an opportunity to explore in a little bit more detail what might have been behind those comments,” she said.

Nuland added that the United States will “continue to try to encourage Russia to be more open-minded about missile defense cooperation, not only with us but with NATO as well.”

Negotiations between Russia and NATO member states on the U.S.-led missile defense project have deadlocked over the West’s reluctance to give Moscow such guarantees.

The United States scrapped plans in September 2010 for an anti-ballistic-missile defense system in the Czech Republic and Poland. Moscow welcomed the move, and then-President Dmitry Medvedev said that Russia would drop plans to deploy Iskander-M tactical missiles in its Kaliningrad Region, which borders NATO members, Poland and Lithuania.

Last year, however, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced Washington’s plans to deploy a missile interceptor site in Poland by 2018.

WASHINGTON, August 29 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20120829/175489270.html

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

Chicago Tribune

After Early Successes, Obama Struggles to Implement Disarmament Vision

August 31, 2012

By David Alexander, Reuters

Issue No. 1022, 31 August 2012

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WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Less than three months after his inauguration, President Barack Obama stood before a cheering throng in Prague's historic Hradcany Square and outlined an ambitious vision of a world without nuclear arms.

In remarks recalled later by the Nobel Peace Prize panel, Obama promised to negotiate a new strategic arms treaty with Russia, strengthen safeguards against the spread of nuclear weapons and engage Iran and North Korea to stop proliferation.

"I state clearly and with conviction America's commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons," he said to applause.

"This goal will not be reached quickly - perhaps not in my lifetime. It will take patience and persistence."

Three years later, as the president enters the final stretch of his re-election bid, Obama has yet to truly stamp U.S. nuclear policy with his own imprint, experts say.

The document that would define how deeply the United States is prepared to cut back its nuclear arsenal - perhaps to 1,000 warheads or less - and how radically to alter U.S. nuclear doctrine is still awaiting Obama's final approval.

Like other unfinished business, from a federal budget deal to immigration reform, key nuclear weapons decisions apparently have been delayed until after the November 6 election. Arms control advocates fear they might never happen if Obama loses.

A White House spokesman declined comment on the status of the highly classified document, known as the Nuclear Posture Review implementation study.

Obama took office with a major focus on the perils of nuclear proliferation and scored early successes. But after a burst of energy that led to the New START treaty with Russia, measures to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty and a new effort to secure nuclear materials worldwide, the administration's push has flagged in the face of political realities and competing national interests.

His vision of a world without nuclear arms is at best a work in progress.

Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney has said little during his campaign about U.S. nuclear weapons policy. But his rhetoric on Russia has been harsh, and two years ago he criticized the New START treaty Obama negotiated with Moscow, saying the president had given away too much.

DIFFICULTIES

Eliminating nuclear weapons was never going to be easy, but Obama ran into unanticipated difficulties from the outset.

Ordinarily when a president takes office, he issues guidance to the defense secretary on the purpose and use of nuclear weapons. The Pentagon then translates that guidance into detailed military plans, including how many warheads and delivery systems - bombers, ballistic missiles and submarines - it needs. The process takes 18 to 24 months, officials said.

"We didn't have that luxury. When we came into office, we had a number of challenges left on our plate," said a former administration official with insight into the process.

The most pressing was the looming expiration, in December 2009, of the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

START's oversight and verification mechanisms were the foundation for most U.S. insight into what the Russians were doing with their nuclear weapons, and the United States did not want to lose that precious knowledge.

While later treaties have reduced the limits on deployed warheads from 6,000 under START to no more than 2,200, all of them relied upon the verification measures approved in START.

Issue No. 1022, 31 August 2012

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"Every onsite inspection, every piece of telemetry, every visit ... was all based on agreements embodied in START," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The administration also faced a review conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and needed international cooperation to deal with Iran's nuclear program. Obama and his aides felt all of those issues would be advanced by rapidly replacing the START treaty, the official said.

"So the decision was made very early on in the administration ... that for the New START treaty we would rely on the old Bush administration guidance," the official said. "We would basically swallow hard, even though we wanted to have our own imprint."

NEW START

With that decision made, things moved quickly.

Three months after the Prague speech, Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a framework agreement to negotiate a new arms treaty that would further cut arsenals of strategic nuclear warheads.

But then talks dragged on. Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev did not sign the New START pact until April 2010, almost a year to the day after his Hradcany Square speech.

The delay foreshadowed the difficulties to come.

"The reason why it took as long as it did is the Russians thought we wanted it more than they did, particularly after Obama got a Nobel Peace Prize for the Prague speech," said Clark Murdock, an expert on nuclear issues at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank.

Under the accord, the two sides agreed to reduce their numbers of deployed nuclear warheads to no more than 1,550 within seven years.

The United States, based on the Bush administration guidance, had been prepared to go below the 1,550 figure, the former administration official said, but the Russians resisted.

Even with the higher number, the administration had difficulty winning ratification in the Senate.

Early on, Obama and his aides had been surprised by the poor state of aging U.S. nuclear weapons facilities that manufacture plutonium and uranium components for warheads.

He told his Prague audience he was committed to maintaining a safe, secure and effective U.S. nuclear arsenal as long as the weapons existed. And he committed to investing a substantial amount of money in upgrading the nuclear weapons complex.

During Senate debate over New START, Republican Sen. Jon Kyl wrested a pledge for another \$4.1 billion for nuclear modernization, drawing criticism from arms control groups that questioned why Washington would spend more on the nuclear complex when it aimed to eliminate the weapons.

Obama has pledged "as much as \$214 billion to modernize that complex as well as the delivery systems, you know the submarines, the bombers and what have you," said Hans Kristensen, director of the nuclear information project at the Federation of American Scientists.

"It's somewhat of a schizophrenic nuclear policy."

Six weeks after the treaty's passage, Obama wrote to the Senate promising to modernize the triad of nuclear delivery systems and "to accelerate to the extent possible" work on the plutonium and uranium production facilities at Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee.



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Months later, amid rising Republican pressure to curb government spending, he essentially reneged on the deal, offering budget plans that funded the uranium facility work while pushing the plutonium plant beyond a 10-year planning horizon.

SUCSESSES AND SETBACKS

Obama made significant progress on other nuclear fronts. He won adoption of a plan to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and stepped up funding and efforts to secure nuclear materials worldwide.

But there were major setbacks as well.

Diplomacy and covert action have failed so far to stop Iran's suspected quest for the bomb, and denuclearization talks with North Korea are in a deep freeze.

Nuclear-armed Pakistan withdrew its backing for talks on a Fissile Materials Cutoff Treaty, effectively blocking negotiations to halt production worldwide of fissile material for nuclear arms.

Obama promised in Prague to aggressively pursue U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which prohibits nuclear tests. But there was little chance of getting Senate Republicans to back another arms accord after New START.

Most of Obama's successes in advancing his nuclear agenda occurred during his first two years in office and were, relatively speaking, easy compared with more fundamental arms reductions the president proposed in Prague.

The question remains: How many nuclear warheads, and nuclear bombers, submarines and missiles, does the United States need to achieve its strategic aims, which call for reduced reliance on atomic weapons?

The answers are supposed to come from the Nuclear Posture Review implementation study, which would finally stamp U.S. nuclear policy with Obama's vision.

Retired Marine Corps General James Cartwright, a former head of U.S. Strategic Command and former deputy chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has argued 900 nuclear warheads in total - both deployed and in storage - is enough for deterrence.

Many observers believe the administration ultimately will settle on a figure of between 900 and 1,000 deployed warheads. Whatever the figure, the decision is Obama's best opportunity to influence U.S. nuclear policy going forward.

"If he is committed to the vision that he outlined in Prague, what he should be doing here is telling the Pentagon that the role of nuclear weapons shall be restricted to deterring nuclear attack on the United States or its allies," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association. "To do that we only need a nuclear force in the hundreds of deployed nuclear weapons, not the thousands."

Reporting By David Alexander; editing by Todd Eastham.

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-08-31/news/sns-rt-us-usa-nuclear-armsbre87u06b-20120830_1_nuclear-weapons-new-start-treaty-world-without-nuclear-arms

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

Wall Street Journal
OPINION/Commentary
August 27, 2012

Nuclear-Weapon States Aren't Created Equal

America with the bomb poses no threat to world peace. Ditto Britain and Israel. Iran is another story.

By WARREN KOZAK

Issue No. 1022, 31 August 2012

*United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education / Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
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For the past 67 years, the United States has been criticized for being the only country to drop atomic bombs on another sovereign nation. But while the anniversaries of Hiroshima (Aug. 6, 1945) and Nagasaki (Aug. 9, 1945) rarely pass without comment or controversy, another crucial date is completely ignored: Aug. 29.

Between July 16, 1945, the day the U.S. tested the first atomic device in New Mexico and realized that it actually worked, and Aug. 29, 1949—when the Soviet Union exploded its first atomic bomb—the U.S. held a nuclear monopoly.

No country has ever held a greater strategic advantage over the rest of the world—not Rome under Caesar, France under Napoleon, or Germany under Hitler. Yet between 1945 and 1949, America's friends and enemies lost very little sleep. Why not? Because the idea of the U.S. using its great advantage to take over the world with nuclear bombs was ludicrous to all but the most irrational minds.

Instead, the U.S. spent the late 1940s focusing on other things. It upgraded its consumer economy, rebuilt its former enemies with the Marshall Plan, and actually downgraded its military.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union took control over all of Eastern Europe and provoked a confrontation with the West when it broke all previous agreements and denied the U.S. access to Berlin. The Chinese Communist Party defeated the Nationalists and Mao Zedong declared the People's Republic on Oct. 1, 1949. And Kim Il Sung began his preparations to drive his North Korean army across the 38th parallel. Clearly a nuclear U.S. didn't seem to frighten its enemies from doing whatever they desired.

Similarly, in today's greatest danger zone—the Middle East—it has been widely speculated that Israel has had a nuclear monopoly over all of its sworn enemies for perhaps half a century. In that same period, much larger Arab armies (the combined militaries of Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Iraq, with help from the Saudis) have threatened Israel's very existence in 1967 and again in 1973. That doesn't include the continued terror attacks across Israel's borders since the United Nations partitioned the territory in 1948, or the missile attacks now coming from Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Southern Lebanon. Israel's response, like that of the U.S., has always been a strong defense with conventional weapons.

Few people lost a wink of sleep over the American nuclear monopoly in the 1940s—and when the Saudis or Syrians or Egyptians have turned off their lights over the past half-century, the last worry on their minds has been being blown to bits by an Israeli nuclear bomb.

In spite of a world-wide chorus of detractors accusing Israel of everything from apartheid to genocide, the sound mind understands that this nation, the only stable democracy in the Middle East, is also one its few rational actors.

Israel has never threatened the existence of its neighbors or threatened to wipe another country off the map. It has never slaughtered its own population. It has never held large "Death to (fill in the country) rallies" in its public squares. In fact, Israel's public demonstrations have consisted of peace rallies, musical concerts, gay-pride rallies and public mourning of its victims of terror.

More to the point—when its very existence has been threatened, Israel has never resorted to its real or imagined nuclear arsenal.

So as the debate continues this August on how to contain an Iran run by a totalitarian theocracy, the world also notes that the regime in Tehran doesn't just threaten its opponents but has repeatedly acted on those threats—taking over embassies (1979-81), killing hundreds of American Marines in Lebanon (1983) and Jews in Argentina (1992 and 1994), killing even more Americans in Iraq and Afghanistan (2003 to the present), and killing its own citizens who dared to protest a fraudulent presidential election (2009).

Iran's response to sanctions? It turns up the speed of its nuclear accelerators, test-fires its rockets and raises the volume of its threats.

The plain truth is that people don't lose sleep over nuclear weapons in the hands of rational actors. A British bomb? No one says boo. But people rightly grow anxious when the irrational mind with greater and greater global ambitions



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takes control of this deadly weaponry. And this anxiety increases further when those irrational minds have proven time and again their determination to create havoc.

As the world heads toward some sort of confrontation with an Iran bent on gaining the technology that can destroy millions of lives instantly, it ponders what to do. Those who sit by will be the loudest to criticize those who will act. They will also be as relieved as everyone else when that threat disappears.

Mr. Kozak is the author of "Presidential Courage: Three Speeches That Changed America," an eBook to be published in October.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390444914904577615331538288616.html>

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

Foreign Policy

OPINION/Blog

Inflating the China Threat

Posted By Stephen M. Walt

Monday, August 27, 2012

If you were focusing on Hurricane Isaac or the continued violence in Syria, you might have missed the latest round of threat inflation about China. Last week, the *New York Times* reported that China was "increasing its existing ability to deliver nuclear warheads to the United States and to overwhelm missile defense systems." The online journal *Salon* offered an even more breathless appraisal: the headline announced a "big story"--that "China's missiles could thwart U.S."--and the text offered the alarming forecast that "the United States may be falling behind China when it comes to weapon technology."

What is really going on here? Not much. China presently has a modest strategic nuclear force. It is believed to have only about 240 nuclear warheads, and only a handful of its ballistic missiles can presently reach the United States. By way of comparison, the United States has over 2000 operational nuclear warheads deployed on ICBMs, SLBMs, and cruise missiles, all of them capable of reaching China. And if that were not enough, the U.S. has nearly 3000 nuclear warheads in reserve.

Given its modest capabilities, China is understandably worried by U.S. missile defense efforts. Why? Chinese officials worry about the scenario where the United States uses its larger and much more sophisticated nuclear arsenal to launch a first strike, and then relies on ballistic missile defenses to deal with whatever small and ragged second-strike the Chinese managed to muster. (Missile defenses can't handle large or sophisticated attacks, but in theory they might be able to deal with a small and poorly coordinated reply).

This discussion is all pretty Strangelovian, of course, but nuclear strategists get paid to think about all sorts of elaborate and far-fetched scenarios. In sum, those fiendish Chinese are doing precisely what any sensible power would do: they are trying to preserve their own second-strike deterrent by modernizing their force, to include the development of multiple-warhead missiles that would be able to overcome any defenses the United States might choose to build. As the *Wall Street Journal* put it:

"The [Chinese] goal is to ensure a secure second-strike capability that could survive in the worst of worst-case conflict scenarios, whereby an opponent would not be able to eliminate China's nuclear capability by launching a first strike and would therefore face potential retaliation. As the U.S. Defense Department's Ballistic Missile Defense Review points out, "China is one of the countries most vocal about U.S. ballistic missile defenses and their strategic implications, and its leaders have expressed concern that such defenses might negate China's strategic deterrent."

Three further points should be kept in mind. First, hawks are likely to use developments such as these to portray China as a rising revisionist threat, but such claims do not follow logically from the evidence presented. To repeat: what

Issue No. 1022, 31 August 2012

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China is doing is a sensible defensive move, motivated by the same concerns for deterrent stability that led the United States to create a "strategic triad" back in the 1950s.

Second, if you wanted to cap or slow Chinese nuclear modernization, the smart way to do it would be to abandon the futile pursuit of strategic missile defenses and bring China into the same negotiating framework that capped and eventually reduced the U.S. and Russian arsenals. And remember: once nuclear-armed states have secure second-strike capabilities, the relative size of their respective arsenals is irrelevant. If neither side can prevent the other from retaliating and destroying its major population centers, it simply doesn't matter if one side has twice as many warheads before the war. Or ten times as many. Or a hundred times....

Third, this episode reminds us that trying to protect the country by building missile defenses is a fool's errand. It is always going to be cheaper for opponents to come up with ways to override a missile defense. Why? Because given how destructive nuclear weapons are, a missile defense system has to work almost perfectly in order to prevent massive damage. If you fired a hundred warheads and 95% were intercepted -- an astonishingly high level of performance -- that would still let five warheads through and that means losing five cities. And if an opponent were convinced that your defenses would work perfectly -- a highly unlikely proposition -- there are plenty of other ways to deliver a nuclear weapon. Ballistic missile defense never made much sense either strategically or economically, except as a make-work program for the aerospace industry and an enduring component of right-wing nuclear theology.

Stephen M. Walt is the Robert and Renée Belfer professor of international relations at Harvard University. He is also a member of the editorial boards of FOREIGN POLICY, Security Studies, International Relations, and Journal of Cold War Studies, and coeditor of the Cornell Studies in Security Affairs, published by Cornell University Press.

http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/08/27/inflating_the_china_threat

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

New Indian Express – India

OPINION

Prepare Against Pakistan Nukes

By Satish Chandra

28th August 2012

The rapidity of Pakistan's nuclear weaponisation in recent years has been under constant scrutiny in the United States and has been well-documented in articles in the 'Bulletin of Atomic Scientists and the Nuclear Threat Initiative' as well as in numerous reports of the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Regrettably, this does not appear to have been the subject of as much independent analysis and comment in India as in the US despite the fact that Pakistan's nuclear weapon programme is clearly India-centric. Accordingly, the CRS' latest report of June 26, 2012 titled 'Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation and Security Issues' merits attention.

Addressing widespread apprehensions, particularly in the US, about the possibility of Pakistani nuclear weapons falling into the hands of jihadi elements, the report tends to suggest that Pakistan has put in place adequate security systems to obviate such a development. It, however, concedes that 'the collapse or near-collapse of the Pakistani government is probably the most likely scenario in which militants or terrorists could acquire Pakistani nuclear weapons'. It may be recalled that much the same point had been made by former president Prevez Musharraf. The attacks by jihadi forces with inside help on Pakistani military bases, most notably at the Mehran Naval Base in May 2011 and recently at Kamra, would suggest that the possibility of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of militants is much higher than the CRS report would have us believe.

Significantly, the report places the Pakistani nuclear warhead stockpile at 90-110 as against 60-80 for India and suggests that vigorous moves are underway in order to effectuate a 'quantitative and qualitative improvement in Islamabad's nuclear arsenal'.

Issue No. 1022, 31 August 2012

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These assertions echo those made in a 2011 Hans Kristensen and Robert Norris report published by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists which inter alia said that Pakistan has the world's fastest growing nuclear stockpile and at current rates of expansion its 90-110 warheads could, over the next 10 years increase to 150-200 warheads; its stockpile of highly-enriched uranium and weapons-grade plutonium, as estimated by the International Panel on Fissile Material in 2010, were sufficient to produce 160-240 warheads; its current rate of production of fissile material is sufficient to produce 10-21 nuclear warheads annually. This capability will be enhanced as it is building two new plutonium production reactors and an additional plutonium reprocessing facility; its two squadrons of F16 A/B aircraft with a range of 1,600 kms have for long been earmarked for delivery of nuclear bombs. In March 2011 a new squadron of F16 C/D was also acquired for this role; it has three operational ballistic missiles: the Ghaznavi (Hatf-3, range under 400 kms), the Shaheen (Hatf-4, range over 450 kms) and the Ghaury (Hatf-5, range over 1,200 kms). In addition, it has three other ballistic missile systems likely to see early induction notably the Shaheen II (Hatf-6, range over 2,000 kms), the Abdali (Hatf-2, range 180 kms) and the Nasr (Hatf-9, range 60 kms). Pakistan is also developing two nuclear capable cruise missiles namely the ground launched Babur (Hatf-7, range 600 kms) and the air/sea launched Ra'ad (Hatf-8, range over 350 kms).

Unlike India, Pakistan does not have a 'no-first-use' policy and not only is its nuclear arsenal India-specific but also the threshold for its use is disturbingly low. This is corroborated by Pakistan's focus on short range nuclear capable ballistic and cruise missiles. One may also refer to the interview given to the Landau Network, an Italian arms control organisation, in January 2002, by General Khalid Kidwai, the director general of the Strategic Plans Division of the National Command Authority of Pakistan wherein he indicated that Pakistan's nuclear weapons were 'aimed solely at India' and would be used against it if India attacked Pakistan and conquered a large part of its territory, or if India destroyed a large part of either its land or air forces, or if India sought to strangle Pakistan's economy or if India attempted to destabilise Pakistan's polity or created large-scale internal subversion.

The rapidity of Pakistan's India-centric nuclear weaponisation, the low threshold at which it is likely to resort to a nuclear attack, its propensity to military adventurism, and its readiness to act as China's cats paw, makes it incumbent upon us to ensure that the credibility of India's nuclear deterrent is never in doubt. This calls for speedily undertaking a host of measures. India should think of enhancement and upgrade of its nuclear weapon arsenal with a view to inflicting unacceptable damage simultaneously on both Pakistan and China as they may well act in collusion. This would call for a nuclear warhead arsenal running at least into the low hundreds that can be launched from air, land and sea both by surface craft and submarines. Land-based missiles should be mobile and located in camouflaged and hardened shelters. A sufficiently large, diverse, and survivable nuclear arsenal is essential in order to deter an enemy from contemplating the resort to a nuclear attack.

The creation of a chief of defence staff in order to provide 24/7 leadership, guidance and oversight to our strategic forces command and to ensure the speedy development of an effective nuclear force must be done. Fail-safe procedures for the effective deployment and operation of our nuclear deterrent in all situations should be established. Alternative chains of command should be made fully functional so as to ensure an element of automaticity in the effectuation of a prompt and devastating retaliatory nuclear strike in the event of decapitation of our nuclear command authority.

Importantly, our 'no first use' policy needs to be tweaked by suggesting that if India is subjected to a nuclear attack by a country aided by a nuclear weapon state it would not merely react with nuclear weapons against the country, which initiated the attack, but may also do so against the abetting nuclear weapon state. Hopefully such a move may cause China to refrain from such collusive action with Pakistan and perhaps even induce it to act as a restraining influence on it.

Finally, the fact that India's nuclear arsenal is being assiduously nurtured and that India has the political will to use it needs to be clearly signalled. The former can be achieved by holding regular meetings of the nuclear command authority and publicising the same as also the upgrade of our nuclear arsenal. The latter would be automatically signalled if we are uncompromising in addressing all security-related issues with firmness and despatch.



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<http://newindianexpress.com/opinion/article597371.ece>

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

New York Times
OPINION/Editorial

Iran's Nuclear Quest

August 28, 2012

Page – A22

Iran appears to have installed a few hundred more centrifuges at its deep underground site known as Fordow, thus enhancing its ability to produce uranium enriched to 20 percent, a purity that can be converted relatively quickly to bomb-grade fuel.

This is unsettling news. But the Obama administration sensibly says “there is time and space” to keep working toward a diplomatic solution, despite growing pressure for military action from Israel and its supporters.

Iran's continuing activity violates United Nations Security Council demands to halt enrichment, but as one official said, it is “not a game-changer.” The disclosure about the centrifuges is in a report expected soon from the International Atomic Energy Agency. Tehran's nuclear ambitions are clearly dangerous to Israel and the region. But the administration argues that Iran is not on the verge of producing a weapon and that the United Nations inspectors will provide warning before it gets to that point.

Washington's caution is well-placed, especially when set against the overheated statements of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, that time is running out. He has never warmed to the idea of negotiations between Iran and the United States and other major powers. The speculation now is that he is escalating his warnings before the United States election in a cynical gambit to get President Obama's agreement to act against Iran soon.

An attack in this case might well make things worse. A sustained air campaign would most likely set Iran's nuclear program back by only a few years. Moreover, the talk about using force has become a distraction, shifting attention to the Israeli-United States dispute rather than keeping it squarely on Iran.

It is disappointing that recently toughened sanctions and several rounds of negotiations have not produced positive results. If there is to be any chance of that, the world is going to have to stay united in enforcing sanctions and isolating Iran. That is why this week's meeting in Tehran of the Nonaligned Movement was a major blow. Nations truly interested in peace should have boycotted the meeting. Instead, 120 of them sent senior representatives, including heads of state.

Some of them, like the Persian Gulf states, no doubt hedging their bets, are buying billions of dollars in new American weapons because they fear a nuclear-armed Iran. Worst of all, Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations secretary general, chose to participate even though Iran has been thumbing its nose at Security Council resolutions for nearly six years. The meeting gave Tehran the perfect propaganda opportunity to play the victim and defend a nuclear program that is indefensible.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/28/opinion/irans-nuclear-quest.html>

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

Washington Post
OPINION/Editorial

Iran at the Brink

By the Editorial Board

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FOUR MONTHS AGO, the Obama administration radiated optimism that a deal could be struck curbing the most dangerous parts of Iran's nuclear program. What's followed has been a dismal summer. Not only has Iran not agreed to stop its production of higher-enriched uranium, but it has increased its stockpile by 30 percent since May, according to a new report by international inspectors. Not only has it rejected proposals from the United States and five partners that it close an underground production facility near the city of Qom, but it has doubled the number of centrifuges installed there.

Rather than negotiate with the international coalition — the last formal talks were in June — Tehran this week is hosting a meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement at which it is defiantly reasserting its right to uranium enrichment, despite multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions ordering it to stop. Meanwhile, terrorist attacks by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and Lebanon's Hezbollah have targeted Israeli diplomats and tourists in half a dozen countries.

What's particularly striking about Iran's behavior is that the nation's leaders seem to ignore the possibility that it will provoke Israel into launching a military strike on the nuclear facilities in the coming weeks. Perhaps supreme leader Ali Khamenei doesn't take the Israeli threat seriously, though clearly he should; perhaps he might welcome such an attack as a way to rally domestic and international support, bust out of tightening economic sanctions and justify a unqualified race for a bomb.

Whatever the case, Iran's behavior has pushed the Obama administration into an awkward position. Most U.S. diplomacy now appears to be directed at persuading Israel to hold off on a strike at least until next year, though that could mean allowing Iran's nuclear capabilities to advance to the point where only U.S. military action would be effective. Last week, the White House, anticipating the new report by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, insisted there was still "time and space" for diplomacy.

That's probably correct. Despite its advances, Iran still is at least a year or two away from a bomb. It is making only slow progress, at best, on constructing the more advanced centrifuges and missiles it would need to complete an arsenal. Israel and the United States agree that the supreme leader has not yet made a decision to pursue a bomb, and U.S. officials say any such "breakout" move would probably be detected. Meanwhile, the regime is likely to grow steadily weaker, especially if its closest ally, the Syrian dictatorship of Bashar al-Assad, is overthrown.

Tehran's refusal to negotiate seriously and its continuing buildup of nuclear capacity is nevertheless steadily increasing the danger that the Middle East will be engulfed by a new war — one that could interrupt oil supplies, damage the global economy and exacerbate the sectarian conflict already underway in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. An optimistic view would be that Iran is playing a familiar game of brinkmanship. If so, there may not be much more time to step back.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/irans-deadly-game-of-brinkmanship/2012/08/30/33b171f2-f209-11e1-892d-bc92fee603a7_story.html

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

Deccan Chronicle – India
OPINION/Op-Ed

A Doctrine of No Use

Friday, August 31, 2012

By Arun Kumar Singh

India is a "status quoits" power that will never venture strategically beyond its borders. But threat to national security in the 21st century encompasses, in addition to conventional war, asymmetrical warfare, cyberspace war, demographic changes due to illegal immigration and rare earth elements (REEs) scarcity. To deal with these challenges, India needs a revamped higher defence management (HDM) and a new holistic strategic approach.

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Demographic changes in the Northeast due to the influx of an estimated 20 to 25 million illegal Bangla-deshi migrants has led to ethnic clashes in recent weeks. These were followed by the use of hate SMSes and morphed photographs, which caused mass panic and the movement of Northeast students from South India back to the Northeast. China's repeated cyber attacks on the Indian government and military security systems and websites are well known. In addition, the Pune bomb blasts on July 1 and bomb blasts in Manipur on August 15, along with Abu Junda's revelations on August 11 about Lashkar-e-Tayyaba's plan to carry out attacks on Indian cities, indicate that our homeland security apparatus too needs drastic upgrade.

The two North India power blackouts from grid collapse on July 30 and 31, 2012, were rectified within a few hours. While the electric trains came to a grinding halt, other critical services managed to operate on standby emergency generators. A prolonged power blackout has massive security implications since power may not be available to our command, communications and weapons systems while management of airspace (including civilian flights) and coastal surveillance (both relying on radars and other electronic communications devices) would be disrupted. Terrorist sleeper cells can utilise such opportunities to wreak havoc. Energy security is vital for India's economic growth, and it is even more so for national security.

While the issue of energy security is easily understood, very few are aware of the emerging global crisis of REEs security. REEs, comprising 17 rare elements (difficult to locate, mine and process), are crucial for numerous industries and defence applications. Today, the global annual demand is about 136,000 tonnes, while production till 2010 was 133,600 tonnes. China, which holds 97 per cent of the world's REEs, had by 2011, reduced its annual global export to about 31,000 tonnes, as compared to its original 65,000 tonnes, leading to a massive (estimated to be over 2,500 per cent) increase in REEs prices. India, which has an estimated 3.1 million tonnes of REE reserves, has belatedly tied up with Japan to export REEs to Japan and also to set up facilities for mining, production, recycling and reprocessing of REEs in India.

Our two nuclear-armed neighbours are aware of India's shortcomings. To-day Pakistani and Chinese nuclear capable ballistic and cruise missiles can target the whole of mainland India as well as Laksha-dweep & Minicoy islands (China can additionally target our Andaman and Nicobar islands also). India has not responded to Vietnam's offer, made in 2011, for establishing a naval base in its territory. Recently, when Vietnam again offered India an oil exploration block in its waters in the South China Sea, China promptly put up the same block for international bidding. In end-August 2012, China conducted an "air-ground" exercise in Tibet, which was aimed against India, a "defensive enemy".

India is the only nuclear weapon state in the world with a "no first use" (NFU) doctrine. China has a doctrine of "NFU against non-nuclear powers". Pakistan has an India-centric "first use" doctrine. Pakistan also has a policy of using low-yield Tactical Nuclear Weapons (TNWs) on conventional battlefields. Such weapons are in the one to five kilotonne range, and cause "limited damage" (within a two-km radius).

As is well known, 70 per cent of India's energy (oil and gas) is imported. Most of these imports come by sea from West Asia to Vadinar, Gujarat, in the Gulf of Kutch. If Vadinar and its facilities are destroyed in a terrorist or conventional military attack, it will have very serious repercussions on our economy and war-fighting ability. To deter such an attack, should India declare that it would retaliate with nuclear weapons if its core national interests are attacked?

India needs a transparent debate on whether it needs to make changes to its NFU nuclear doctrine so as to provide calibrated response options for different scenarios. Should we emulate China's nuclear doctrine of "NFU against non-nuclear weapon states"? Should we induct TNWs, with adequate safeguards against accidental use, and with the proviso that "TNWs may be used against enemy troops on Indian soil if our 'red lines' are crossed"? This will address the issue of providing deterrence, despite the asymmetry, against a combined Chinese-Pakistani conventional attack, along with threats of using TNWs against us.

India's higher defence management needs changes, as suggested in May 2012 by the Naresh Chandra Committee. Their proposals reportedly include the creation of a permanent four-star Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee, integration of Service Headquarters with MoD, shifting strategic focus from Pakistan to China, preparing for asymmetric war, border management, measures to ensure energy security and REE security, among others.



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The damage done by annoying a friendly neighbour like Sri Lanka, due to compulsions of domestic Tamil Nadu politics, is evident in the Sri Lankan Navy repeatedly firing on Indian fishermen (the last such incident was in early August 2012). The focused Chinese have replaced India as Sri Lanka's "trusted friend".

Also, if Vietnam's offer of a naval base in the Asia-Pacific region is politically unacceptable, then the only viable alternative is for the Indian Navy to induct additional tactical nuclear submarines (SSNs) which can operate at great distances without base support and do not cause "diplomatic ripples" in the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific region. India should be prepared for the worst-case scenario, for a situation may quickly and seamlessly transition from a terror attack to a conventional war, to a nuclear conflict.

National security and prosperity are two sides the same coin, and need the same top priority.

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<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/editorial/op-ed/doctrine-no-use-406>

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

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