



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Issue No. 1032, 09 November 2012

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Tehran Times

Iran Proposes Live Broadcast of Nuclear Talks with 5+1: Mehmanparast

Sunday, November 4, 2012

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast has said that the Islamic Republic's stance in nuclear talks with the six major powers is "crystal clear" and Tehran has even proposed that the talks be broadcast live.

In an interview with the Persian service of the Fars News Agency published on Saturday, Mehmanparast said, "We have nothing to hide."

He added that Iran's proposals on the talks with the 5+1 group (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany) do not give the group any pretext for undermining Tehran's nuclear rights.

Mehmanparast also emphasized that if the disputes over Iran's nuclear program were not politically motivated, they would have been resolved by now.

"The disputes are neither technical nor legal but political," he said, adding that the Iranian nation will never retreat from its nuclear rights under the West's pressure.

Commenting on some remarks that if Iran retreated from its nuclear rights, sanctions imposed on the country would be lifted, Mehmanparast said that the hostile measures of the West against the Islamic Republic over the past three decades are indicative of the fact that Tehran's nuclear program is only a pretext.

During the early years of the Islamic Revolution, Iran did not perform any nuclear activity, but the West had the same stance toward Iran and took hostile measures against the country, Mehmanparast stated.

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/politics/102969-iran-has-proposed-live-broadcast-nuclear-talks-with-51-mehmanparast>

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Press TV – Iran

20% Enrichment Not Halted in Iran: Lawmaker

Sunday, November 4, 2012

An Iranian lawmaker has dismissed reports about the suspension of the enrichment of uranium to the 20% degree in Iran, stressing that the Islamic Republic has made no changes in its nuclear energy policies, Press TV reports.

"The 20-percent [uranium] enrichment has not been and will not be halted in Iran," a member of the Majlis Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy, Mohammad Hassan Asafari, said on Sunday.

"Yet," he added, "as announced previously, Tehran is ready to temporarily supply its need for 20%-enriched uranium for its 5-megawatt Tehran [Research] Reactor from abroad if the sanctions are lifted."

Earlier, certain media reports quoted Asafari as saying that Iran had already suspended 20-percent uranium enrichment as a "goodwill" gesture, hoping that Western countries would lift the illegal sanctions on Tehran.

The lawmaker dismissed the reports.

On October 12, Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast expressed the country's readiness to show flexibility in order to allay international concerns over its nuclear energy program.

"If a guarantee is provided to supply the 20-percent [enriched uranium] fuel for Tehran Research Reactor, our officials are ready to enter talks about the 20-percent enrichment [of uranium]," Mehmanparast said.

However, he said, this does not mean that Iran does not have the right to enrich uranium to the level of 20 percent. "All countries have this right."



Iran decided to enrich uranium to the 20-percent level to provide fuel for Tehran Research Reactor, which produces medical isotopes for cancer patients, after potential suppliers failed to provide the Islamic Republic with the required uranium.

Tehran says that as a committed signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it is entitled to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

The United States, Israel, and some of their allies accuse Iran of pursuing military objectives in its nuclear energy program.

However, the IAEA has conducted numerous inspections of Iran's nuclear energy facilities, but has never found any evidence showing that Iran's nuclear energy program has been diverted toward military objectives.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/11/04/270343/20-enrichment-not-halted-in-iran/>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Syria Pledges No Use of Chemical Weapons - Russia

6 November 2012

AMMAN, November 6 (RIA Novosti) - The Syrian authorities have assured Moscow that there will be no use of chemical weapons against rebel forces, Russia's foreign minister said on Tuesday.

"I rule out the use by the [Syrian] regime of chemical weapons," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told journalists. "We have received the appropriate assurances."

Lavrov said Russia had also asked Syria to make a similar pledge to Western powers.

Syria has not signed the international Chemical Weapons Convention and is believed to possess mustard gas and sarin, an extremely toxic nerve agent. The CIA says Syria has had a chemical weapons program "for years" and that the weapons can be "delivered by aircraft, ballistic missile, and artillery rockets" But Syria has never deployed the weapons, although it warned this summer that they could be used against "foreign invaders."

Western powers have warned Assad that any use of chemical weapons would be unacceptable. US President Barack Obama has told Syria that the movement or use of chemical weapons would have "enormous consequences."

A major who defected from Assad's embattled regime told The Times newspaper last month that the authorities would only use chemical weapons as a "last resort."

"We discussed this as a last resort – such as if the regime lost control of an important area," Major General Adnan Sillu said after arriving in Turkey.

Speaking in the Jordanian capital of Amman, Lavrov, said Russia was winding down arms sales to Assad's regime.

"We will conclude the deliveries of weapons under old contracts," he said.

Russia has been criticized by Western powers over its ongoing arms deliveries to Syria, its sole remaining ally in the Arab world. But Moscow says the weapons are purely defensive in nature and in line with international law.

But Lavrov accused unnamed Western countries on Tuesday of sending weapons, including Stinger ground-to-air missiles, to Syrian rebels. "There are some 50 Stingers on Syrian territory," he said.

Russia's top diplomat also called for the return of UN observers to Syria, where tens of thousands of people have died since the onset of a civil war 18 months ago.

"Part of our position is that the UN observers should return to Syria, and in large numbers," Lavrov said.



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A 300-strong team of unarmed UN observers left Syria in August after their mandate expired. The observers were deployed in April to monitor a UN-brokered truce that failed to take hold.

Russia and China have voted down three attempts by Western powers to impose international sanctions on Assad's regime. Moscow said the proposed resolutions betray an anti-rebel bias and would do nothing to bring peace to the Middle East country.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20121106/177226774.html>

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FARS News Agency – Iran

November 6, 2012

Cairo Urges UN to Inspect Israel's Atomic Facilities

TEHRAN (FNA) - Egypt's New Permanent Representative to the United Nations Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil called on the world body to inspect the nuclear facilities of Israel which pose a great danger to the region and the world's peace and security.

Khalil made the remarks at a UN General Assembly meeting in New York on Tuesday.

He told the General Assembly that any delay in addressing the issue of the Israeli nuclear arsenals "will affect the effectiveness of verification activities in the Middle East" and "the integrity of international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation".

Khalil stressed the importance of holding the NPT Review Conference in 2012, and said, "I would like also to thank the Secretary-General for emphasizing the importance of implementing the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference."

"I wish to highlight the particular importance Egypt attaches to the 2012 Conference on the Establishment of a Zone Free from Nuclear Weapons and All Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Middle East. The outcome document of the Review Conference clearly mandated the Secretary General and the three depositary states of the NPT to take the necessary measures to convene the Conference, in consultation with the states of the region. We reiterate that the achievement of the universality of the NPT remains the basis of the multilateral disarmament regime. I would like to emphasize here that that the final document of the 2010 Review Conference cannot be compared to other documents emanating from other fora with limited participation and less authority," he underlined.

Khalil warned that it could even lead to the failure of the next conference to review the NPT in 2015.

Israel is believed to be the sole possessor of nuclear arms in the Middle East with over 200 ready-to-launch warheads in its stockpile.

During the last three decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has seized every opportunity to make the international bodies aware of the threat posed by the Zionist regime's nuclear weapons to the world community.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9107117480>

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AsiaOne News – Singapore

Iran Not Ruling Out Nuclear Talks with US but In No Hurry

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Thursday, November 08, 2012

Issue No. 1032, 09 November 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
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TEHRAN - Iran, reeling from international sanctions over its nuclear programme and facing four more years with Barack Obama as leader of arch-enemy the United States, does not rule out direct talks with Washington but says they will not come overnight.

Obama's re-election drew an ambiguous response from President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who dismissed the US elections as a "battleground for the capitalists," at a forum on democracy in Indonesia.

Without directly commenting on Obama's victory, he lambasted democracy in the West as having "turned into the rule of a minority over the majority."

But behind the flamboyant rhetoric, senior regime figures have expressed cautious signs of interest in the election of Obama, who four years ago famously "extended his hand" to Tehran and may be preparing to do so again.

An influential cleric among the ruling conservatives, judiciary chief Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani, did not rule out Tehran and Washington coming "to the negotiating table" one day but warned it would not happen "overnight."

Larijani said on Wednesday that "relations with the United States are not simple."

The United States, which Tehran dubs the "Great Satan," severed diplomatic relations with Iran after the 1979 takeover of the US embassy in Tehran, and the two have been in a tense stand-off ever since.

"Four years ago, Obama was elected on a platform for change and said he was extending his hand for cooperation with Iran, but he acted otherwise and unprecedented sanctions were imposed," Larijani said.

Obama has rallied US allies against Iran, toughening sanctions, with Tehran's oil exports and access to world financial systems being key targets.

The United States and other world powers, including Tehran's arch-enemy Israel, accuse Iran of using its nuclear programme to mask a drive for atomic weapons. Tehran denies that, saying it is for purely peaceful purposes.

The last offer called for Iran to cease enriching uranium to purities of 20 per cent - technically not far from the 90 per cent needed for a nuclear weapon. It also wanted Iran to close its Fordo enrichment facility and to export existing stockpiles of 20-per cent purity uranium.

Iran rejected that, saying it did not offer sufficient relief from sanctions that have begun to cause real economic problems.

Talk with Satan in the pits of Hell?

Larijani's brother and international affairs adviser, Mohammad Javad Larijani, reiterated that negotiating with Washington "is not taboo," but any decision to renew contact "is a prerogative of the supreme leader."

"If the interest of the regime requires it, we are prepared to negotiate with the Satan in the pits of hell," he said on Wednesday.

A Western ambassador in Tehran said the regime "gives the impression of being willing to be more realistic in its negotiations with major powers, providing they offer it an honourable way out of the crisis."

This could include, according to many Western diplomats in Iran, the revival of bilateral contact with the United States.

Another European ambassador said "both sides have shown some interest (in such a revival), but the question is what the Iranians are going to ask for, and if Washington is willing to give it."

In recent months, Washington has repeatedly expressed readiness for direct talks with Iran. Tehran has declined, saying its conditions were not met.

Foreign ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast has said Iran "respects the vote of the American people."



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But "the wall of mistrust can only be reduced if the US government respects the will and the rights of the Iranian people and changes its past mistaken policies."

The second European ambassador sees hope nonetheless.

"Whether it's nuclear talks or a possible resumption of dialogue with Washington, the Iranians are insisting on what they call the recognition of their rights as well as mutual respect," he said.

"The wording is vague enough to allow solutions if both parties are open to it," he added. "The re-election of Obama in any case opens a window of a few weeks or months to overcome the crisis."

As it stands, a new round of talks between Iran and six world powers, the first since June, is expected by the end of the year, or in early 2013, analysts say.

Mark Fitzpatrick, nuclear expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, said "it's pretty clear that the United States and its European allies are gearing up to try again for diplomatic engagement.

"But the question is, what will be on the table? Iran won't be making concessions unless it gets some form of sanctions relief," he told AFP.

As put by Mark Hibbs, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, "there is reason for some optimism, but it is guarded optimism because in the final analysis it depends on whether Iran will 'play.' If they won't, all bets are off."

<http://news.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/Asia/Story/A1Story20121108-382337.html>

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Journal of Turkish Weekly – Turkey

Ahmadinejad Wants Direct Talks with US on Iran Nuclear Issue

Friday, 9 November 2012

MOSCOW, November 9 (RIA Novosti) – Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said problems related to his country's nuclear program must be discussed directly with the United States, IRNA news agency reported. The United States, Israel and some of their allies accuse Iran of pursuing non-civilian objectives in its nuclear energy program. Iran rejects the allegations, arguing that it is entitled to develop and acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

"We believe in friendly relations between peoples and governments and Iran hails all relations based on justice and mutual respect," Ahmadinejad said commenting on the possible talks with the United States.

Ahmadinejad reiterated that all nuclear facilities in Iran are always open for international monitors.

"Official representatives of other countries may inspect Iran's nuclear facilities, since Iran is the only country, which opened doors of its nuclear facilities for world media," the president said.

Speaking further about Tehran's relations with Washington, Ahmadinejad said it is "necessary to launch investigation to determine who and why broke off relations with Iran 33 years ago."

The United States and Iran have had no direct diplomatic relations since April 1980. Ties were cut by Washington some five months after radical Iranian students seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, taking 52 U.S. diplomats hostage for 444 days.

RIA Novosti

<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/144630/ahmadinejad-wants-direct-talks-with-us-on-iran-nuclear-issue.html>

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Chicago Tribune

Iran, U.N. Nuclear Agency to Resume Talks in December

By Fredrik Dahl, Reuters

November 9, 2012

VIENNA (Reuters) - Iran will return to talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency next month, the U.N. nuclear watchdog said on Friday, the latest push to seek a peaceful end to a dispute that has raised fears of a new Middle East war.

The IAEA announcement came days after U.S. President Barack Obama's re-election, which some analysts say may give fresh impetus to diplomatic efforts to end a decade-old standoff with a country the West accuses of working towards nuclear weapons capability.

In a stark reminder of how tensions could escalate, the Pentagon said on Thursday that Iranian warplanes fired at an unarmed U.S. drone in the Gulf last week.

The IAEA said it hoped the talks in Tehran on December 13 would produce an agreement to allow it to resume a long-stalled investigation into possible military aspects of Iran's nuclear program.

The agency says it has "credible information indicating that Iran had carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device" and wants Tehran to give it access to sites, officials and documents to clarify the issue.

Iran denies it wants nuclear bombs and has repeatedly ruled out stopping its atomic activities.

A series of meetings since early this year, the last one in August, failed to make concrete progress.

Israel, assumed to be the Middle East's only nuclear-armed power, has threatened military action if it looks like Tehran is close to getting nuclear weapons capability.

"The aim (of the talks) is to conclude the structured approach to resolving outstanding issues related to Iran's nuclear program," agency spokeswoman Gill Tudor said.

A Western diplomat was skeptical, noting that the talks would only take place after the next meeting of the IAEA's 35-nation governing board.

"So it is the usual scenario: defer criticism now by promising something later. Something that has failed to materialize the last four times," the envoy said.

INITIAL STEP?

The IAEA's talks with Iran are separate from Tehran's nuclear discussions with six world powers - the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany - which resumed in April but have also so far failed to reach any breakthrough.

European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton - who represents the powers in talks with Iran - sees the new IAEA-Iran meeting as long overdue.

It "could be an initial step on the path to resolve outstanding issues," Maja Kocijancic, Ashton's spokeswoman, said, adding that Iran had so far failed to cooperate in substance.

She reiterated concerns about the Parchin military site, which the IAEA wants to visit as part of its inquiry and where Western diplomats suspect Iran is now trying to clean up any evidence of past illicit nuclear-related activity.

The IAEA mission is likely to be headed by Deputy Director General Herman Nackaerts, the chief U.N. nuclear inspector, diplomatic sources said.

Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, was not immediately available for comment.



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Years of talks and sanctions have failed to end the dispute.

But, now assured of a second term, Obama, who has so far resisted calls in the United States and Israel for an attack on Iran, appears free to pursue a diplomatic settlement while threatening yet heavier sanctions if Tehran does not bend.

The United States and its allies want Iran to curb its uranium enrichment program. Iran, one of the world's largest oil producers, says the West must first lift increasingly harsh sanctions.

Additional reporting by Adrian Croft in Brussels; Editing by Robin Pomeroy.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-nuclear-iran-iaebre8a80pw-20121109,0,195459.story>

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Daily Yomiuri – Japan

Missile-Tracking Drones May Scan Skies from FY20

The Yomiuri Shimbun

November 5, 2012

The Defense Ministry plans to develop unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that are capable of detecting ballistic missiles earlier than current systems, according to government sources.

The domestically developed information-gathering drones will be equipped with a supersensitive infrared sensor to detect and track ballistic missiles even at low altitude.

The ministry decided to beef up the nation's surveillance capabilities out of concern for future ballistic missile launches by North Korea and China's accelerated military buildup.

The ministry has earmarked 3 billion yen in its initial budget request for next fiscal year to be spent in the following four years to study the UAVs, which can remain in the air for long periods.

A portion of this amount is expected to be allocated in the draft budget to be decided in December, the sources said.

The ministry currently uses ground radar and Aegis destroyers to detect missile launches, while also relying on data from U.S. forces' early-warning satellites. However, this system can only detect missiles that have reached a certain altitude.

When North Korea fired in April a ballistic missile it claimed was a satellite despite protests by the international community, Japan's ground radar could not locate the missile because the launch failed and it never reached a sufficient altitude.

The planned UAVs will be able to fly at about 13,500 meters and be capable of detecting the movement of low-altitude objects over waters near Japan.

As pilots are not needed to operate the drones, the ministry expects they will be able to patrol the skies for two hours continuously.

The ministry plans to have a design for a prototype UAV ready by next fiscal year. Once the prototype is completed, it will undergo strength and other tests.

The ministry plans introduce the UAVs for deployment in fiscal 2020.

Ministry sources said development of the supersensitive infrared sensor for heat detection is almost complete. "We already have the basic technology," a senior ministry official said.

Deployment of the UAVs would enable launches of ballistic missiles to be detected far earlier than ground radar, making it possible to intercept them at an early stage.

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The UAVs will be able to track missiles after they are launched, something that is difficult for satellites. Even if a missile stalls after launch, the UAVs will be able to detect it.

The ministry expects the UAVs to serve other purposes, too. These include marine surveillance, such as monitoring the Chinese Navy's movements in the East China Sea, and information-gathering activities in areas contaminated with radioactive substances from Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant.

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121104002899.htm>

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The Korea Herald – South Korea
November 6, 2012

N. Korea Threatens War on Korean Peninsula at the U.N. Session

A North Korean diplomat, addressing the U.N. General Assembly, warned Monday that a war can break out any time on the Korean Peninsula due to mounting military tensions.

"The situation on the peninsula is on the brink of explosion and nobody knows when the war will break out," North Korea's deputy ambassador to the U.N. Ri Tong-il said.

He accused the U.S. of continuing to exacerbate the situation with "increased hostilities" against Pyongyang.

Ri said his communist nation is a nuclear state and the six-way talks on its nuclear program have become "almost a dead body." The negotiations have not been held since December 2008.

Ri dismissed a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

IAEA chief Yukio Amano told the U.N. that the North's move is "deeply troubling." He cited North Korea's revelation in 2010 of a uranium enrichment facility in Yongbyon.

Ri stressed North Korea has withdrawn from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and it is not subject to rules set by the IAEA, which he claimed "blindly" sides with the U.S.

North Korean officials have often used the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly for efforts to justify its nuclear program and assail Washington. (Yonhap News)

<http://nwww.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20121106000542>

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Bangkok Post – Thailand

N. Korea Ready to Conduct Nuke, Missile Tests: Minister

8 November 2012

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

South Korea's defence minister said Thursday that North Korea has completed preparations for another nuclear test, and would also test-launch long-range missiles sometime in the future.

"Many preparations have been made for a third nuclear test," Kim Kwan-Jin told reporters, adding the timing would depend on "a political decision".

The communist country carried out nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

Kim also predicted that the North would make another attempt at some time to test-fire a long-range missile, after the failure of its rocket launch in April.



Pyongyang said its intention was to put a peaceful research satellite into orbit, while Washington and its allies saw the exercise as a disguised test of banned ballistic missile technology.

In September, US website 38 North said satellite imagery showed the North had halted work at a site capable of launching intercontinental missiles, possibly setting the project back by up to two years.

The website of the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies said the cause of the work stoppage was unclear, although heavy rain might be a factor.

The new launch pad, being built in the northeast of the country, had been scheduled for completion around 2015, it said.

Even if completion is delayed, Pyongyang could still test longer-range rockets at a northwestern base, the website said.

Satellite images showed "refurbishment" under way on an existing mobile launch pad used to test long-range rockets, it said.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/320239/n-korea-ready-to-conduct-nuke-missile-tests-minister>

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Economic Times – India

China Submarines Soon to Carry Nukes: Draft US Report

8 November 2012

By Reuters

WASHINGTON: China appears to be within two years of deploying submarine-launched nuclear weapons, adding a new leg to its nuclear arsenal that should lead to arms-reduction talks, a draft report by a congressionally mandated US commission says.

China in the meantime remains "the most threatening" power in cyberspace and presents the largest challenge to US supply chain integrity, the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission said in a draft of its 2012 report to the US Congress.

China is alone among the original nuclear weapons states to be expanding its nuclear forces, the report said. The others are the United States, Russia, Britain and France.

Beijing is "on the cusp of attaining a credible nuclear triad of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and air-dropped nuclear bombs," the report says.

China has had a largely symbolic ballistic missile submarine capability for decades but is only now set to establish a "near-continuous at-sea strategic deterrent," the draft said.

The deployment of such a hard-to-track, submarine-launched leg of China's nuclear arsenal could have significant consequences in East Asia and beyond. It also could add to tensions between the United States and China, the world's two biggest economies.

Any Chinese effort to ensure a retaliatory capability against a notional US nuclear strike "would necessarily affect Indian and Russian perceptions about the potency of their own deterrent capabilities vis-a-vis China," the report said, for instance.

ARMS CONTROL TALKS URGED

China is party to many major international pacts and regimes regarding nuclear weapons and materials. But it remains outside of key arms limitation and control conventions, such as the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty signed in April 2010 and the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The United States historically has approached these bilaterally with Russia.



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Congress should require the US State Department to spell out current and planned efforts to integrate China into existing and future nuclear arms reduction, limitation, and control discussions and agreements, the draft said.

In addition, Congress should "treat with caution" any proposal to unilaterally, or in the context of a bilateral deal with Russia, reduce operational US nuclear forces without clearer information being made available to the public about China's nuclear stockpile and force posture, it said.

A spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Washington, Geng Shuang, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

China is estimated by the Arms Control Association, a private nonpartisan group in Washington, to have a total of 240 nuclear warheads. The United States, by contrast, has some 5,113, including tactical, strategic and nondeployed weapons.

CHINA DEPLOYING NEW CLASS OF SUBS

Beijing already has deployed two of as many as five of a new class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine. The JIN-class boat is due to carry the JL-2 submarine-launched ballistic missile with an estimated range of about 7,400 km (4,600 miles).

The new submarines and the JL-2 missile will give Chinese forces its "first credible sea-based nuclear capability," the US Defense Department said in its own 2012 annual report to Congress on military and security developments involving China.

The JL-2 program has faced repeated delays but may reach an initial operating capability within the next two years, according to the Pentagon report, released in May.

The Pentagon declined to comment directly on China's march toward creating a credible nuclear "triad" involving strategic bombers, intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

"We monitor carefully China's military developments and urge China to exhibit greater transparency regarding its capabilities and intentions," Lieutenant Colonel Monica Matoush, a Defense Department spokeswoman, said by email.

Any assessment of China's ability to have a nuclear triad would be an intelligence matter and likely be classified in nature, she added.

The final version of the report is to be released next Wednesday by the US-China commission, a 12-member bipartisan group set up in 2000 to report to US lawmakers on security implications of US-China trade.

The draft, in its section on cyber-related issues, called on the Congress to develop a sanctions regime to penalize specific companies found to engage in, or otherwise benefit from, industrial espionage.

Congress should define industrial espionage as an illegal subsidy subject to countervailing duties, it added.

Lawmakers also should craft legislation to boost the security of critical supply chains, "particularly in the context of US government and military procurement," the draft said.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/et-cetera/china-submarines-soon-to-carry-nukes-draft-us-report/articleshow/17139313.cms>

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The Korea Times – South Korea
November 8, 2012

Obama Unlikely to Seek 'Creative New Approach' on Pyongyang: Experts

Issue No. 1032, 09 November 2012

United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education / Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL
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USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

WASHINGTON (Yonhap) -- The Barack Obama administration is unlikely to push for major changes in its strategy on North Korea in its second term to begin in January, experts here said Wednesday.

They said Washington is expected to continue to test Pyongyang's seriousness on denuclearization, while concentrating efforts on domestic and other urgent international affairs, including the volatile Middle East.

"So the United States will likely not put much energy into a creative new approach for breaking the nuclear and security stalemate with Pyongyang," Denny Roy, the senior researcher at the Hawaii-based East-West Center, said.

He pointed out that the ball is in North Korea's court.

"Pyongyang will likely try again in early 2013 to gain another round of concessions," he added. "The question is whether they will lead off with a concession of their own, or a provocation."

Roy added the Obama government would remain "receptive to a gesture by Pyongyang."

Alan Romberg, the director of the East Asia program at the Stimson Center, also said no major change in Washington's strategy is expected.

"It may well be that, in close collaboration with the Republic of Korea (South Korea) as well as with others in the Six-Party process, an effort may be made to see if North Korea is willing to re-engage in a serious way on denuclearization," he said. "But I would see that as very much in line with current policy."

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2012/11/120_124213.html

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Deccan Herald – India

Indian Scientists Devise Unique Radiation-Decontamination Wipes

November 4, 2012

By Indo-Asian News Service (IANS)

New Delhi - They look like the facial wipes available in the market, but what makes them different is that they are meant to clean off radioactive material from the body during a nuclear disaster. Developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the unique decontamination wipe is catching the attention of vendors who cater to NATO forces.

Scientists working on it claim the wipe, developed at the DRDO Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) here, can remove over 95 percent of the contamination.

At Rs.10 (20 cents), the 5cm x 5cm wipe - the size of a face wipe - is easy to use and dispose of.

According to the scientists, these decontamination wipes will be useful for people working in nuclear plants and those living around them, as also during any nuclear disaster like what happened at Fukushima in Japan.

"This is one-of-a-kind product not known to have been developed by anyone else," R.K. Sharma of INMAS's CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) division, told IANS in an interview.

"The decontamination procedure with the use of soap and water removes most of the external contaminants. But the accidental release of a number of radio-isotopes in the environment could contaminate water also, thereby limiting its availability or sometimes it may be scarce," he said.

"In view of this, the self-usable skin decontamination wipe has been developed for immediate application after the release of the contaminant," Sharma added.

Named radio-decontamination wipes, the project costs Rs. 495,000 (\$9,200) and INMAS has already initiated the process for patenting the technology.

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"Once we get it patented, we would propose keeping this wipes not just with disaster management forces like NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) but also at Metro stations and with local authorities like the state police," Sharma said.

Following a major earthquake, a 15-metre tsunami disabled the power supply and cooling chambers of three of Fukushima's Daiichi reactors Mar 11, 2011. There were no deaths but over 100,000 people had to be evacuated from their homes to prevent exposure to radiation.

The decontamination wipe causes no skin toxicity and has been found to be safe, effective and non-irritant.

INMAS has already received a request from British-based Branco Diagnostics and an Indian company, Novel, for transfer of technology for mass production of the decontamination wipes.

An email from the Branco Diagnostics in October said: "We understand that you are developing radiation decontamination wipes and have completed efficacy studies and skin safety studies under the Drug and Cosmetics Act 1940."

"We are interested to take this technology from your organisation for commercializing the same. Branco produces reactive skin decontamination lotion (which removes chemical warfare agents), which is used by the US Department of Defense and military forces in NATO countries," the letter said.

INMAS has sent both the requests to the DRDO's marketing wing - the Directorate of Industry Interface and Technology Management (DIITM).

The wipes come in a small packing along with a sealed disposal zipper bag so that the contamination doesn't spread further after wipe is used.

The institute has also published the results of its study in the International Journal of Pharmaceutics in September, the official said.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/290066/indian-scientists-devise-unique-radiation.html>

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International Business Times – New York

Pakistan Rapidly Expanding Nuclear Weapons Arsenal

BY Palash R. Ghosh
November 05, 2012

Pakistan is spending about \$2.5 billion annually to develop nuclear weapons, according to a report the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, a Swiss-based NGO affiliated with the United Nations.

"Pakistan has been rapidly developing and expanding its nuclear arsenal, increasing its capacity to produce plutonium and testing and deploying a diverse array of nuclear-capable ballistic and cruise missiles," said the report entitled "Assuring Destruction Forever: Nuclear Modernization Around the World."

Pakistan is believed to already possess between 90 and 110 nuclear warheads, while its principal rival, India, reportedly has between 80 and 100.

"Pakistan is moving from an arsenal based wholly on HEU [highly enriched uranium] to greater reliance on lighter and more compact plutonium-based weapons, which is made possible by a rapid expansion in plutonium-production capacity," the report adds.

"Pakistan is also moving from aircraft-delivered nuclear bombs to nuclear-armed ballistic and cruise missiles and from liquid-fueled to solid-fueled medium-range missile. Pakistan also has a growing nuclear weapons research, development and production infrastructure."

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The report suggests that Pakistan's drive to accelerate its atomic arsenal is likely motivated by the United States seeking to deepen defense ties with India in order to counteract the growing military might of China.

"This may tie the future of Pakistan and India's nuclear weapons to the emerging contest between the United States and China," the report indicated.

The study estimates that Pakistan may currently boast a stockpile of 2,750 kg of weapon-grade HEU and may be producing about 150 kg of HEU per year.

Pakistan's intense focus on sophisticated military weapons has come at a great cost to the lives of millions of its impoverished people who cannot meet basic daily needs, the report commented.

In an editorial in India's Hindu newspaper, Praveen Swami noted that Pakistan's nuclear ambitions were an obsession of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto more than 40 years ago. Even while languishing in his jail cell prior to his execution in the late 1970s, the deposed PM wrote: "the Christian, Jewish and Hindu civilizations have this [nuclear] capability. The communist powers also possess it. Only the Islamic civilization is without it."

Swami said he believes Pakistan suffers from deep "existential anxieties" and that the "existence of a strategic paranoia at the heart of the Pakistan military's thinking -- a pathology that will, if unaddressed, have huge consequences for India."

A report in Pakistan Kakhudahafiz, an alternative Pakistani newspaper, suggests Islamabad's key ally, Saudi Arabia, has played an influential role in its path toward nuclear weaponry.

"There is speculation in the media and among think tanks in the West that Pakistan's nuclear program was funded by Saudi Arabia in early 1970s," the paper said.

"Saudi Arabia was a major supporter of Pakistan to perform the 1998 nuclear tests in response to India's nuclear tests."

<http://www.ibtimes.com/pakistan-rapidly-expanding-nuclear-weapons-arsenal-859260>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Russia Set to Hand India another Missile Frigate

9 November 2012

KALININGRAD, November 9 (RIA Novosti) – The second of three stealth frigates that Russia builds for India at the Yantar Shipyard in Russia's Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad will be handed over to the Indian Navy on Friday.

Sergei Mikhailov, a spokesman for the Yantar Shipyard, the solemn ceremony of delivering the warship will be held in Kaliningrad and be attended by high-ranking military officers both from Russia and India.

Russia and India signed a \$1.6 billion contract on construction of three modified Krivak III class (also known as Talwar class) guided missile frigates for India in 2006. The first frigate, INS Teg, joined the Indian Navy on April 27.

The last in the series of three frigates, The Trikand, currently undergoes dock trials and after it completes sea trials in the Baltic Sea will join the Indian Navy in the summer of 2013.

The new frigates are each armed with eight BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.

They are also equipped with a 100-mm gun, a Shtil surface-to-air missile system, two Kashtan air-defense gun/missile systems, two twin 533-mm torpedo launchers, and an antisubmarine warfare (ASW) helicopter.

Russia previously built three Talwar class frigates for India - INS Talwar (Sword), INS Trishul (Trident), and INS Tabar (Axe).



http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20121109/177314449.html

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Russia Beyond the Headlines – Russia

Russia Reveals its Navy Development Plans

November 3, 2012

Interfax

Russia has major development plans for its navy, seeking to make it a secure sea-based shield to guard against potential nuclear and non-nuclear attacks by 2030, according to the navy's commander in chief.

"By 2030, the Navy must be able to reliably defend the national interests of Russia in any region of the world ocean and to carry out the tasks of strategic nuclear and nuclear deterrence in a guaranteed way," a Defense Ministry statement that was made available to Interfax-AVN quoted Adm. Viktor Chirkov as saying at a meeting with foreign military diplomats posted in Russia.

"Within the next two decades, the development of the Russian Navy will pursue the goal of creating a navy that is balanced in terms of composition and combat resources and is capable of ensuring ocean- and sea-based military security for the country together with other arms and services of the armed forces and defending the national interests of the Russian Federation in the world ocean," Chirkov said.

Designing new weapons, building sufficient reserves of arms, reforming the navy's command system and integrating it more closely with the command system for the armed forces as a whole, making the navy's logistic system more efficient and making changes to the network of naval bases are some of the measures needed to make this possible, according to the admiral.

Today's arming of Russia's military is based on a program that will be in effect until 2020. The program provides for "all the necessary resources for rearming the Navy," Chirkov said.

http://rbth.ru/articles/2012/11/03/russia_reveals_its_navy_development_plans_19737.html

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Bellona – Norway

Shaky Severodvinsk Nuclear Sub Sets to Sea for Trials – Again

Russia late last week set the Severodvinsk, the most expensive nuclear submarine it has ever produced, to a another round of sea trials in hopes of testing its rickety missile launch systems and seeing if some 2000 other kinks identified in earlier trials have been worked out, Izvestia reported.

By Charles Digges

05 November 2012

The vessel is carrying a crew of 90 and is expected back at port on November 25.

Under construction at the Sevmash shipyard near Arkangelsk for 20 years, the Severodvinsk– designated by the identification number K-329, and the first of the project 885 Yasen Class – the sub was to have been passed to the Russian Navy by in 1998, after first construction began on it in 1993.

Several missed deadlines later, the boat was to be launched in 2010. That was then delayed until 2011 and then 2012. Now, reports in Izvestia, indicate the sub likely will not be ready until summer of 2013.

In this latest round of sea trials, the Severodvinsk will be undergoing winter tests in the Barents Sea, as well as accomplishing deep diving to test the reactor system and ballast tanks, an unnamed naval official told Izvestia.



Most importantly – and perhaps most alarmingly – the submarine will attempt three missile launches to test launch systems that sea trials last autumn, whose results were disclosed over the summer, revealed were untested and outdated, an earlier report from Izvestia indicated.

It remains unclear what kind of missiles the Severodvinsk will be testing, but schematics of the submarine released by the RIA Novosti news agency show it is capable of launching two types of missiles – nuclear capable missiles with a 5,000 kilometer range, as well as anti-ship cruise missiles.

Other reports have said the Severodvinsk is capable of being outfitted with 24 supersonic Onyx anti-ship missiles that can destroy an aircraft carrier in one blow, and 10 torpedo tubes for launching self-guided torpedoes.

The sub is also expected to have an undersea speed of 30 knots and a maximum submersion depth of 600 meters. It is designed to sustain autonomous voyages of up to 100 days.

The price of the submarine, including tests and construction, weighs in at some 70 billion rubles (\$2.2 billion). This puts a heavy strain on Russia's military defense budget, said Bellona's Igor Kudrik, an expert on Russia's nuclear submarine fleet, especially when the Navy is planning on building another seven of the Yasen Class by 2020.

The next scheduled for production in the Yasen line is the Kazan, with an estimated price tag of 110 billion roubles – nearly twice as expensive as the Severodvinsk, a naval official told Izvestia. The Kazan is of a different design than the Severodvinsk, thus accounting for the price difference, noted Thomas Nilsen, an expert on Russia's Northern Naval Fleet and editor of the Barents Observer news portal in Kirkenes, Norway. Prices for serial production of the remaining Yasen Class subs are then expected to stabilize at 70 billion roubles.

Why all the firepower?

Russia is jealously guarding its claim on the arctic for many reasons, and over the summer, President Vladimir Putin, in a visit to northern shipyards stumped for submarine protection of enormous untapped oil and gas reserves beneath Arctic waters.

The Northern Sea route is also another source of revenue for Russia, halving the time it takes to transport loads from the West to the Far East that it takes to do so via the Suez Canal.

But Russia clearly has a view to turning the Northern Sea Route into a sort of toll road, with Rosatom insisting that its nuclear icebreaker fleet accompany convoys for rates only slightly less expensive than the Suez route. Increased sub patrols, some in the Russian Navy have suggested, could also offer a sort of sub-sea police service.

“President Putin loves toys with price tags surpassing the size of Russia's wallet. But this is the problem of Russian taxpayers who should draw certain conclusions when they cast their votes,” said Kudrik. “Our concern is planned militarization of the Arctic which not only is not going to make it safer, but pose additional dangers with respect to the environment as well.”

Catalogue of earlier flaws

The Severodvinsk's missile system is not the only concern that has earlier been cited by the navy. Sea trials over the summer revealed the vessel's operation was noisy – which is far from ideal for the stealth conditions under which subs operate – and that the new generation reactor was simply not powerful enough for the sub's water displacement of 13.8 tons.

For comparison, that makes the Severodvinsk twice as large as its biggest US competitor the US Navy's Virginia Class attack submarines, the first of which was commissioned in 2004.

The Severodvinsk, whose blueprints were laid during Soviet times, therefore represents something of a return to large-scale Cold War displays of might – costs be damned.



Navy's deputy commander uneasy

Last week, First Deputy Commander of the Russian Navy, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, expressed concern over the sea trials to the English-language Voice of Russia radio station, saying imperfections remain within the missile launch systems of the Severodvinsk.

He also said that the launch of the strategic nuclear missile submarine, the Yury Dolgoruky, would be delayed as well. Originally scheduled for launch in 2001, the Yury Dolgoruky, the flagship of the Borei Class of project 995, is now scheduled to launch in 2013 as well.

"After years of construction and sea trails, some systems in both subs have significantly deteriorated," Kasatonov told the radio station, referring to the Severodvinsk and the Yury Dolgoruky.

"The subs cannot be commissioned until all problems of this kind have been fixed."

Kasatonov reported that the Severodvinsk returned from its autumn sea trials last year with some 2,000 design defects that were identified by the crew. Should all of these defects have been addressed, the submarine can put to sea by 2013, the Barents Observer reported.

When construction for the Yury Dolgoruky began at the Sevsmash shipyard in 1996, its building began by taking the four-year-old hull of an Akula Class submarine and adding to it to enlarge it, said the Barents Observer.

The second submarine of the Borei Class of submarines under construction is the Alexander Nevsky – also built on the foundation of an old Akula hull – is expected to be complete by 2014, said the portal.

A total of three Borei Class subs are supposed to be launched by 2015.

High cost of delays

Both the Alexander Nevsky and the Yury Dolgoruky were initially scheduled for deployment in Russia's Pacific Fleet. Infrastructure construction delays at their prospective Pacific port, however, have changed those plans, said the Barents Observer, noting that at minimum, the Yury Dolgoruky would be stationed temporarily at the Northern Fleet's Gadzhievo based Northwest of Murmansk.

Kudrik did not expect the new round of sea trials would lead to expedited launch dates, especially for the Severodvinsk, which as the chief representative of a new sub class, is already past its prime.

"Soviet and Russian submarines have always being noisy due to the poor quality of building materials," said Kudrik. "The reactor plant installed on this submarine is of newer design and it seems to be suffering from not being properly tested. Russian industry has been in shambles ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union and recovery is protracted and painful," he said, adding, "This new submarine is an example of how bad things are."

http://www.bellona.org/articles/articles_2012/severodvinsk_more_delays

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Russia's 'Nuclear Briefcase' Handed over to Shoigu

07 November 2012

MOSCOW, November 7 (RIA Novosti) - Anatoly Serdyukov has handed over Russia's "nuclear briefcase" to Sergei Shoigu, who replaced him as Russia's defense minister on Tuesday, a high-ranking defense ministry source told RIA Novosti on Wednesday.

Shoigu "has started to assume the duties and responsibilities of defense minister," the source said.



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"Yesterday he received the device to communicate with combat units of the strategic missile troops - the 'nuclear briefcase,'" he said.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said that Shoigu took office on Wednesday. He was reinstated into military service with the rank of Army Gen. by presidential decree.

"At the moment he is meeting with the top brass of the Russian armed forces, during which he is familiarizing himself with the current state of affairs in various spheres," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin relieved Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov of his duties on Tuesday, and appointed Sergei Shoigu as his replacement. He said the move was intended to provide for an unbiased investigation into a high-profile corruption case.

Russia's Defense Ministry has recently become embroiled in a scandal over alleged real estate scams involving nearly \$100 million.

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20121107/177264480.html>

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Russia Beyond the Headlines - Russia

A Mushroom Cloud on the Horizon for the Arctic

November 7, 2012

By Dmitry Litovkin

Russia's military and political leaders are planning to beef up security at the country's last remaining nuclear test site on the Novaya Zemlya archipelago. Through 2013, the region will see the deployment of MiG-31 supersonic interceptors, while the Northern Fleet will be on permanent combat duty just off the coast. In Soviet times, such measures were always a sign that full-scale nuclear testing was about to be underway.

In 1963, the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States signed a treaty banning nuclear tests in three environments: the atmosphere, outer space, and under water. Restrictions were also imposed on the strength of test devices. When the agreement was signed, Novaya Zemlya in the Arctic Ocean switched exclusively to underground testing, which rules out the possibility of radioactive contamination.

Tests on Novaya Zemlya have been suspended indefinitely since the early 1990s. At the time, the government sought to implement a set of unilateral peace-building measures and signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The Kremlin hoped that this step would not only get its former Cold War adversaries to sit down at the negotiating table and begin the process of reducing their nuclear arsenals, but also make them partners in other political and economic issues. But Washington refused to join Moscow's initiative, although it did declare a moratorium on nuclear testing.

"A nuclear arsenal is a living organism," says a specialist at Rosatom (Russia's nuclear regulatory body) responsible for the nuclear weapons sector. "The processes that take place inside the core require constant monitoring. The mechanical and electronic components also need to be watched carefully.

"In 1996, as part of CTBT compliance, our department was tasked, without undermining the treaty, to confirm the reliability and security of storage and operation, as well as the compliance of the nuclear arsenal with its performance characteristics. Technology was developed for so-called subcritical experiments, to guarantee with high accuracy the combat readiness of the nuclear weaponry at hour X and its complete safety during storage," said the specialist.

The technology for non-nuclear (hydrodynamic or subcritical) explosions was like a safety valve for the nuclear powers: it is largely to thank for modifying the stance of the U.S. and the U.K. in relation to international treaties banning

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nuclear tests. In the U.S., experiments on the new technology were conducted using the LYNER underground installation at the Nevada National Security Site. Russia opted for Novaya Zemlya.

Experiments with model nuclear devices are carried out in the same shafts and using the same technology as full-fledged nuclear devices. The crucial (and only) difference is that a model nuclear device uses a non-critical mass of fissile material, releasing no more than 0.1 micrograms of TNT equivalent.

The model is placed in a special container encased in bentonite clay, and the entrance to the drift is sealed with concrete. The experiments are environmentally safe. The container removes all risk to the environment and people outside – even those at Rosatom's "internal" test sites. The safety of the experiments is evidenced by the fact that the testers themselves stand only 100 feet away from the explosion site. Every year, the technology is tested on Novaya Zemlya with four to six control explosions. As a result, Russia can say that its nuclear arsenal is completely safe and combat-ready.

Russia's program to maintain the operational safety of its nuclear stockpile costs around 2 billion rubles (\$63.6 million) and occupies a separate line in the national budget. Of this money, only 30-40 million rubles go directly toward the tests themselves; most of it is spent on preparatory work in the laboratory and on maintenance of industry facilities. The field employs tens of thousands of people. Of the initial four enterprises directly involved in the assembly and disassembly of nuclear devices (each nuclear weapon is returned to the manufacturer once every three years to be completely dismantled and diagnosed), only two remained by 2003. In actual fact, Russia's nuclear arsenal has long fallen from tens of thousands to just 2,679 warheads. These were the figures for December 2010, given on the Strategic Nuclear Forces of Russia website.

"In previous years, we laid the groundwork for developing and testing nuclear weapons," said rocket engineer Gerbert Yefremov, "so currently there is no need to resume full-scale nuclear testing."

He says that Rosatom will continue to develop, test, utilize, and maintain nuclear weapons under the CTBT, as it did before. The military's task remains the same: to ensure the safe storage, transportation, and operation of nuclear weapons. This includes the strict non-disclosure of information about the latest nuclear tests at Novaya Zemlya. As for the deployment of additional forces in the region, that has less to do with the restoration of the test site, and more to do with Russia's economic claims to the Arctic shelf.

http://rbth.ru/articles/2012/11/07/a_nuclear_mushroom_on_the_horizon_for_the_arctic_19879.html

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RT (Russia Today) – Russia

‘We Don't Take Americans on Trust’ - Rogozin on AMD

8 November 2012

Moscow does not trust Washington's statements that the US missile defense system in Europe is not aimed against Russia, says Russian Vice-Premier Dmitry Rogozin.

However, Russia expects that after his re-election, US President Barack Obama will show more flexibility and take into account Russian and other country's opinions on the configuration of the American-backed NATO defense shield.

"At least we hope so," Rogozin said at a Moscow conference on nuclear disarmament on Thursday.

Obama secured a second term in the White House by defeating Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney in Tuesday's vote.

In March this year, Obama was accidentally caught on an open microphone at a summit in Seoul telling the then Russian President Dmitry Medvedev that he would have "more flexibility" on the missile defense issue after the November election.



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The two powers have been at odds over the fortification NATO builds in Europe to intercept ballistic missiles. Russia fears the system deployed close to its borders would pose a threat to its national security. The US keeps assuring that it is not the case, but has so far failed to provide any legally binding guarantees.

"As for public statements that US missile defense is not aimed against Russia – we don't take them at their word. [Soviet President] Mikhail Gorbachev did trust words, but we don't," stressed Rogozin, who oversees the Russian defense industry. *"We're bad guys,"* he added.

Perhaps, the missile system is not targeted *"against us, but it's definitely not for us,"* the senior Cabinet member observed. *"There's small choice in rotten apples,"* he added, as cited by Itar-Tass.

Later, the Vice Premier noted that his comment about "bad guys" was a joke.

"In fact, we're good guys," Rogozin wrote in his Twitter micro-blog.

Meanwhile, the US maintains it cannot provide legal guarantees because of the unpredictability of the threat coming from Iran.

"It has nothing to do with Russia. We can't constrain our military forces against a threat because the threat is a variable, it is not a constant," American Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul told Interfax on Wednesday. *"We have to protect the American people and we are not going to restrain ourselves in that regard."*

According to the diplomat, legal guarantees are one thing, while "transparency, cooperation and trust" that can exist without signing treaties is completely another. Such a thing is very common in the business world, he added.

McFaul is pretty optimistic that the missile defense issue will stop being a stumbling block in relations between Russia and the USA.

<http://rt.com/politics/rogozin-missile-defense-obama-221/>

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Voice of Russia – Russia

US Nukes Threaten Russian Security - Defense Ministry

November 8, 2012

US tactical missiles deployed in Europe threaten Russia's security while Russian nukes pose no danger to the US, the country's deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov stated at the Nuclear Weapons and International Security conference in Moscow Thursday.

He also urged the US not to be afraid to discuss the issue and called for talks.

Russia is ready to revive negotiations on nuclear arms reduction after the US heeds some of its concerns regarding the European missile shield, among others, Russia's Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said at the international nuclear conference in Moscow Thursday.

He said any further nuclear nonproliferation talks were out of the question unless the both nations agreed on several defense issues.

Mr. Antonov stressed these negotiations must be multilateral and include all major nuclear powers. One of the conditions for such talks is legal safeguards that Russia won't be targeted by the US anti-missile shield.

Moscow hopes that the US will take into account Russia's anti-missile interests after Obama's reelection, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin stated at the Nuclear Weapons and International Security conference in Moscow.

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Rogozin added that Moscow wants legally binding guarantees not pledges as “the times of Gorbachev have passed”. Russia wants written guarantees that US short and medium range missiles don’t target the country and its heavy missiles.

Earlier, US Ambassador to Moscow Michael McFaul claimed that such guarantees are impossible due to Iranian threat.

Russia opposes the expansion of the so-called Nuclear Weapons Club, Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said Thursday.

“We have never violated the terms of export control of fissile materials and nuclear weapons since we believe that the Nuclear Club should stay as it was once founded,” Mr. Rogozin said at the international conference on nuclear weapons and global security in the 21st century.

The Russian deputy premier stressed only nations that recognize the catastrophic consequences of a nuclear war could possess these weapons.

“Those who are contemplating the implementation of nuclear weapons are insane,” he said, underscoring that mass destruction weapons were too serious a threat to be entrusted to military-obsessed people. “Nuclear weapons are political weapons,” Mr. Rogozin pointed out.

Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin has said there is an urgent need to forge military and technical cooperation between Russian and Western defense companies.

He stressed however that the EU’s export control bodies effectively blocked any attempts to establish cooperation with Moscow.

Speaking at the Conference titled “Nuclear Cooperation and International Security in the 21st century,” Mr. Rogozin said that such cooperation would act as a safeguard of a political breakthrough in the relations between the EU and Russia because “you don’t trade weapons with an enemy.”

Moscow is concerned by NATO forces' acting outside their "sphere of responsibility," Russian Deputy PM Dmitry Rogozin said Thursday at the international conference on nuclear weapons and global security in the 21st century.

The conference has been convened in Moscow to tackle the issue of nonproliferation.

Mr. Rogozin said the expansion of NATO military activities beyond their original sphere of influence is in violation of both the UN Charter, international laws and the fifth article of the Washington agreement was hindering the Global Zero initiative, aimed at securing a nuclear-free future.

Dmitry Rogozin stressed NATO’s military expansion could push some nations to acquire mass destruction weapons in an attempt to defend themselves.

Voice of Russia, TASS, RIA, Interfax

http://english.ruvr.ru/2012_11_08/US-nukes-threaten-Russian-security-Defense-Ministry/

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RIA Novosti –Russian Information Agency

Chemical Weapons ‘Indestructible’ Russia Warns

8 November 2012

MOSCOW, November 8 (RIA Novosti) - Chemical weapons cannot be completely thrown out of the stockpiles of the world’s leading powers even though they are banned, the head of Russia’s Radiation, Chemical, and Biological Defense Forces, said on Thursday.

The Chemical Weapons Convention, in force since April 29, 1997, has been joined by 188 of 195 UN member states.

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“This type of weaponry cannot be completely excluded from the arsenals of warfare because analysis of the multi-billion spending, both in the United States and other Western countries, on the development of new combat agents, which fall under the provisions of the Convention, shows that this work is ongoing,” force commander Maj. Gen. Yevgeny Starkov said in an interview with *Rossia 24 TV*.

New means of protection against biological agents are being developed in the world, which are essentially dual use technology that can be used to produce new agents, he said.

Some of these developments, especially in the area of genetic engineering, can hinder or neutralize the efforts to counter new agents, the general warned.

He offered no indication of whether that could affect Russia’s obligation to destroy 100 percent of its chemical weapons.

As of May this year, Russia destroyed about 25,000 metric tons of its chemical weapons, or 62 percent of its stockpile. In 15 years Russia has destroyed about two-thirds of its 40,000-metric-ton stockpile, which had been the world's largest. The goal is to destroy 100 percent of the chemical weapons in Russia by 2015.

Russia and the United States have 40,000 and 27,000 metric tons of chemical weapons, respectively. The US said it has destroyed about 90 percent of its chemical weapons. The Department of Defense, however, postponed the deadline for destroying the remaining 2,000 metric tons first until 2021 and then until 2023.

As of January 31, 2012, more than 50,000 metric tons of chemical weapons, or 73 percent of the global stockpile, had been destroyed.

Myanmar and Israel have signed the Convention, but are yet to ratify it. Only Angola, North Korea, Egypt, Somalia and Syria are still outside the Convention. The countries that have officially admitted to having chemical weapons are Albania, Libya, Iraq, India, Russia, the United States and South Korea.

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20121108/177303963.html

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EuroNews.com – France

U.S. Stations First Permanent Military Unit in Poland

9 November 2012

By Dagmara Leszkowicz, Reuters

LASK, Poland (Reuters) – The United States launched its first permanent military presence on Polish soil on Friday, an air force detachment to service warplanes, in a move long sought by its NATO ally Warsaw.

President Barack Obama announced plans to station air force personnel at Lask air base near Lodz, central Poland, during a visit last year after Warsaw pressed for what it sees as a security guarantee in the face of a more assertive Russia.

From next year, the 10 resident U.S. staff will service four annual aircraft rotations, mainly of F-16 fighter jets and C-130 Hercules transport planes. Up to 200 uniformed personnel and civilian contractors will also be temporarily on the base.

“This is a very important and symbolic moment for our relations,” said Polish Defence Minister Tomasz Siemoniak at an opening ceremony.

“This is not just rhetoric, but a very tangible example.”

The increased presence of U.S. military in Poland is certain to complicate relations with Russia, already concerned about Washington’s plans to station part of a missile shield system on the soil of a former Soviet satellite.



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Warsaw, one of the most pro-American countries in Europe, had looked sceptically at Obama's efforts to "reset" relations with Moscow.

Many Poles were concerned that early on he appeared indifferent to central Europe and its security concerns.

Obama has modified the shield plan, which envisions stationing SM-3 missile interceptors in Poland, but it continues to be opposed by Russia.

"President Obama is absolutely determined to form a (missile shield) base in Redzikowo in 2018," said U.S. Ambassador Stephen Mull, who took up his post in Warsaw earlier this week.

Washington already rotates a Patriot missile battery through Poland, one of its most loyal NATO allies. Polish soldiers took part in missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

U.S. firms are also involved in the exploration for shale gas in Poland, which Warsaw hopes will help reduce its reliance on polluting coal and Russian energy sources.

Writing by Chris Borowski; editing by Andrew Roche.

<http://www.euronews.com/newswires/1720806-us-stations-first-permanent-military-unit-in-poland/>

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Stars and Stripes

Billions More Needed to Refurbish B61 Nuclear Bombs

By John Fleck, Albuquerque Journal, N.M.

November 4, 2012

The National Nuclear Security Administration, already under fire for billions of dollars of cost overruns, has underestimated by billions more how much it will cost to refurbish the nation's stockpile of B61 nuclear bombs, according to an independent cost assessment commissioned by the agency.

Already juggling its budget to cope with existing problems, the agency will likely need to come up with another \$1 billion per year for the next few years if the project is to go ahead as currently envisioned, according to a summary of the assessment obtained by the Journal .

Among the biggest shortcomings is a significant underestimate of the amount of systems engineering work to be done at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque.

According to the independent assessment done by the Pentagon, NNSA has failed to explain how it will handle the need for additional staff to carry out the highly skilled work needed to redesign and build the refurbished bomb.

Sandia has estimated it will need more than 600 people working on the project by 2014, but the independent assessment says that number probably is too low.

In 2010, the agency estimated it would cost \$3.9 billion to refurbish the bombs, built to be carried aboard U.S. aircraft to counter Russia's military arsenal. Since then, the agency has repeatedly refused to release a new project cost amid reports that its internal estimates have soared.

According to the project assessment, the NNSA's internal agency bottom line for the project in July had risen to \$6.8 billion.

But the Pentagon cost assessment team brought in to provide a second opinion criticized that number as far too low, concluding it is likely to cost \$10.4 billion and take three years longer than the NNSA's current planning estimate.

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Critics say a big part of the cost is an overly ambitious refurbishment project, which involves redesigning and manufacturing nearly all the components inside the bombs. Official numbers are classified, but nongovernment experts estimate there are 400 B61 bombs that require refurbishment.

The 29 major components included in the project represent essentially throwing out nearly all of the old bombs and for all practical purposes building new ones from scratch, said Bob Peurifoy, a retired Sandia labs vice president. Peurifoy said there is no evidence such wholesale remanufacturing is needed, and that the project could likely be done for far less.

The independent assessment team from the Department of Defense didn't review whether the planned changes are needed, focusing instead on the cost of doing the project as currently envisioned by the NNSA.

The team criticized NNSA's cost estimates as too optimistic and challenged the project schedule, given the agency's history of performance on similar projects in the past.

The independent assessment also concluded that NNSA's own cost estimates lack the necessary "detailed technical and programmatic definition" to realistically estimate the project cost and schedule — even though \$300 million has already been spent on the project.

NNSA responds

The independent cost assessment was conducted by the Defense Department's Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation team, also known as CAPE.

"We've worked with CAPE to study how we meet the requirements for the B61 while ensuring that we're being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars," NNSA spokesman Josh McConaha said in a statement to the Journal. "We're currently doing the required engineering and design work on the B61 which will allow us to make key decisions that we can then use to inform a wellresearched and validated cost baseline. All of the information we've gathered, including the CAPE study, will help us check any final conclusions against a long list of variables so that we're certain we have a cost baseline that is as accurate as possible."

The B61's cost and schedule problems compound increasing difficulties the agency faces as a result of repeated instances of similar problems on other major nuclear weapons projects.

In February, the agency was forced to indefinitely defer work on a new plutonium laboratory after its estimated cost ballooned from \$800 million in 2007 to an estimated \$4 billion to \$6 billion, too much for the agency's budget.

Last month, agency officials acknowledged they had to redesign a similar multi-billion dollar building they are trying to build to do nuclear weapons work in Tennessee after realizing the current design is too small to hold the equipment needed.

Also last month, the agency acknowledged that a new \$213 million security system at Los Alamos National Laboratory's most sensitive nuclear facility did not work, forcing the lab to spend significant extra money to add the necessary guards to keep a major stockpile of nuclear weapons-usable plutonium safe while the agency figures out how to finish the project.

In September, the agency acknowledged that the \$5 billion National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, built for \$5 billion over more than a decade to support nuclear weapons research, had failed to achieve its goals in simulating the fusion blast of a weapon.

<http://www.stripes.com/news/us/billions-more-needed-to-refurbish-b61-nuclear-bombs-1.195938>

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Nature – U.K.

Laser Lab Shifts Focus to Warheads

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US ignition facility will devote less time to energy research.

By Geoff Brumfiel

07 November 2012

After an unsuccessful campaign to demonstrate the principles of a futuristic fusion power plant, the world's most powerful laser facility is set to change course and emphasize its nuclear weapons research.

For the past six years, scientists and engineers at the US National Ignition Facility (NIF) have been working flat out to focus 192 laser beams on a gold-lined 'hohlraum' capsule, just a few millimetres long, containing a pellet of hydrogen isotopes. As 500 terawatts of laser power hits the capsule, it generates X-rays that blast into the pellet, causing the atoms of deuterium and tritium inside to fuse. The fusion converts a tiny amount of their mass into a burst of energy.

The goal of the National Ignition Campaign (NIC) is reflected in its name: 'ignition', in which the fusion reaction generates as much energy as the lasers supply. Success, NIF officials say, could pave the way to developing a power plant that would implode nearly 1,000 pellets a minute (see *Nature* 483, 133–134; 2012). But unexpected technical problems left the NIF well short of its goal when the campaign finally ended in September.

Now federal officials and the US Congress are preparing to set a new direction for the US\$3.5-billion facility at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. A series of reports commissioned by the government, Congress and the University of California, which administers the lab, are all due later this month. They are expected to outline plans to cut its time for ignition research from 80% to 50% and to give the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), which is responsible for maintaining the US nuclear arsenal, a more central role in determining the NIF's priorities. The NNSA is planning to emphasize experiments that mimic conditions inside nuclear weapons, generating data to validate the computer codes used to check that the nation's warheads remain viable — essential work, given the voluntary moratorium on underground testing that began in 1992.

Nobody has given up on ignition, declares Donald Cook, deputy administrator for defence programmes at the NNSA. But a new programme for generating net energy will take a slower, more methodical approach. "We're now going to get right into the science of what issues are preventing ignition and work through them," he says. "But we believe that's going to take a fair amount of work."

Significant progress has already been made towards ignition, according to physicist Robert Byer at Stanford University in California, who is leading the University of California's review of the NIF. "The laser itself has been quite remarkable," he says. One shot can deliver 1.85 megajoules of energy, roughly what the lab originally promised. The instruments used to study the pellet are also performing well, he says.

Yet on the basis of data obtained from the imploding pellets, researchers think that they are still far from reaching the conditions necessary for ignition. One problem seems to be that too much of the laser light is scattering back out of the capsule. Another is that the pellet is being squeezed asymmetrically, which lowers the pressure at its centre. The asymmetry also causes the isotopes to mix unevenly, lowering the temperature in the pellet. "Nature pushes back: that's my shorthand version of what's going on," Byer says.

Nature isn't the only one pushing back — the NIF's funders in Congress also want answers. "We're disappointed," says one congressional staff member, who spoke to *Nature* only on condition of anonymity. Critics say that the lab's enthusiastic promotion of the idea that laser fusion could generate electrical power led many in Congress to believe that they were funding an energy project, when in fact laser fusion is decades from producing electricity. "The lab overemphasized and oversold the energy aspect of the NIF, at the expense of the very important and successful work it was doing in stockpile stewardship and basic science," says a senior scientist familiar with the NIF programme.

The NIF's current director Ed Moses bristles at accusations that ignition was overemphasized. "I don't think it was oversold or undersold. It just was." Moses insists that "remarkable progress" has been made in the past 16 months, since the NIF began working with hydrogen-pellet targets. "The goal was to do the initial exploration of the ignition conditions and see where we were, which is what we've done."



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But there is likely to be less time for ignition experiments in the coming year, says Cook. Livermore will still control the programme's day-to-day operation, but the NNSA's headquarters in Washington DC will set priorities as the facility expands its stockpile stewardship work. Already, the NIF has been able to address crucial questions about how energy passes from the fission stage of a nuclear weapon to its much more powerful fusion stage. Future research will assess the 'boost phase' of the weapon — during which a small quantity of deuterium and tritium at the centre of the first stage is used to boost the initial fission phase of the explosion.

The shift in priorities worries Riccardo Betti, a laser fusion researcher at the University of Rochester in New York. "They have to make sure that the ignition effort doesn't become subcritical," he warns.

Keeping momentum in the ignition campaign may be crucial, because many in Congress still believe in the energy-research mission being pushed by the lab. Lawmakers have mandated that a new plan for reaching ignition be delivered to them by the end of the month. Politicians are ready to accept that it may take longer than originally stated, but they need to see evidence that it is on course, the congressional staff member says: "It can't just be an open-ended: 'Just give us money, we promise we will do good science'." And if the NIF fails to reach its ignition goal in a few more years? "Then we'll have to evaluate whether it's worth continuing to fund the facility."

<http://www.nature.com/news/laser-lab-shifts-focus-to-warheads-1.11745>

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Daily Yomiuri – Japan

Nuclear Disarmament Resolution Adopted

November 7, 2012

NEW YORK (Jiji Press)--The First Committee of the U.N. General Assembly has adopted a Japan-proposed resolution calling for joint action among member countries toward eliminating all nuclear weapons.

The resolution was voted for Monday by 159 countries, including the four nuclear powers of the United States, Britain, France and Russia. China, the other major nuclear nation, abstained together with 11 countries such as India, Pakistan and Israel. Only North Korea opposed the resolution.

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/world/T121106004000.htm>

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James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS)

OPINION/WMD Junction

Plotting the Trajectory of Turkey's Ballistic Missile Program

Why does Turkey want to build an ICBM, and what does that mean for the Middle East?

By Yiftah Shapir and Gallia Lindenstrauss

4 November 2012

Recently, Turkish media reported that Turkey intends to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).[1] Since long-range ballistic missiles capabilities (especially intercontinental missiles) are usually associated with nuclear weapons, such a report raises concerns of a possible nuclear arms race between Iran and Turkey. This new report comes several months after a similar report in February 2012 of Turkey's plans to develop a ballistic missile with a range of 2,500 kilometers (km).[2] While reports on the subject are still vague—they include data that are confusing and probably exaggerated by speakers or writers who have little technical understanding of such weapons—given the current context of rising tensions in the Middle East, the intentions and consequences of such reports merit serious consideration.

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The current media attention on the subject began last December, when Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan called upon Turkey's defense industry to develop the capability to produce long-range missiles. Comparing Turkey to Iran, he noted that Iran has missiles with a range of over 2,500 km, whereas Turkey's missiles are limited to a range of 150 km.[3] Two months later, it was reported that Turkey began developing a missile with a range of 2,500 km. Though this report gave no details about the missile, it did mention that experiments on a 1,500 km missile will be conducted by the end of 2012, and that the development of the 2,500 km missile will be completed by 2015. Compared to missile development in other countries, this compressed schedule seems somewhat optimistic.

Turkey views its defense industry as an important component of its security, economy, international status, and technological standing. Several government agencies are responsible for encouraging and promoting domestic procurement. At times, these agencies have come into conflict with officials in the army who prefer to acquire advanced systems "off the shelf" from abroad.[4]

Turkey has been working to produce rockets and missiles since the mid-1980s. In the early 1990s, it developed two types of artillery rockets: the T-107, a 107 millimeter (mm) caliber rocket for infantry and commando units, and the T-122 Sakarya, a 122 mm caliber rocket (developed with the assistance of Yugoslavia). At the time, Turkey had tried to reach an agreement with the United States on joint production of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and the Army Tactical Missile System, a tactical ballistic missile with a range of about 130 km launched from the MLRS launcher. Once it became clear that the United States was not prepared to transfer this particular technology, Turkey turned to China. Together with Chinese companies, Turkey developed two systems based on Chinese missiles. The first is the T-300 Kasirga, a 302 mm artillery rocket with a range of about 100 km. The second system is the J-600T Yildirim, a guided ballistic missile that has a range of about 150 km. Both systems are operational in the Turkish army. Turkey has also started thinking about a number of other projects to develop heavy artillery rockets, but they have not reached the stage of serial production.[5]

Future Developments

While the need for artillery rockets and ballistic missiles with a range of approximately 100-150 km makes sense as a tactical-operational necessity (to support ground forces and destroy an enemy's air defense systems) it is harder to understand Turkey's need for an intermediate-range ballistic missile with a 2,500 km range, much less a need for an ICBM. Strategic ballistic missiles help regional states with limited conventional capabilities ensure "strategic balance." Syria and Iran are good examples of such countries. By contrast, Turkey's ability to deter rests on having the biggest army and navy in the Middle East, and on being a NATO member.[6] It has an advanced air force, and also hosts US nuclear tactical bombs on its territory.[7]

The inflated reports of an ICBM may relate to another matter. Reports of a meeting on July 17 between Erdogan, the Turkish Army chief of staff, and the Defense Industry Executive Committee, have also conveyed the intention to develop an independent satellite launch capability.[8] Such a development would benefit both military and civilian needs, as well as help bolster technological progress and national prestige. Of course, a rocket that can launch a satellite into orbit several hundred kilometers above the earth can also carry one or more warheads for a range of several thousand kilometers.

Reports of Turkey's long-range ballistic ambitions are surfacing against the backdrop of growing tensions between Turkey and Iran, including, but not limited to, Iran's advancing nuclear program. In December 2011, Iranian officials threatened to strike the radar system stationed in Turkey (a component of NATO's missile defense system) if Iranian nuclear facilities were attacked.[9] Most recently, Iran threatened Turkey to deter it from intervening militarily in Syria.[10]

While it is very important to address Turkey's intentions, there are questions about whether Turkey will succeed in developing significant long-range ballistic missile capabilities. Beyond the technical challenges and costs (which Turkey's defense industry can most likely meet), independent development of intermediate-range and intercontinental ballistic missiles will be opposed by Turkey's main ally, the United States, especially if it ensures a nuclear strike capability.[11] While developing an ICBM may be intended as insurance against future threats or preparation for a



distant future scenario in which NATO dissolves, if Turkey believes it can no longer rely on US cooperation, other more immediate factors may be involved. It is possible to view Turkish statements as a reaction to the threats made by senior Iranian officials. In addition, some of Turkey's official statements may be aimed at preventing Iran from crossing the nuclear threshold. In this context, it is worth noting that Turkish Foreign Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu declared in late 2010 that if Iran will not respect its obligations under the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, "...we, before the US, would oppose it...."[12]

Moreover, Turkey also periodically examines NATO's commitment to its defense. For example, as a result of the civil war in Syria, Turkey invoked Article IV of the NATO Charter regarding the right to call for consultations, and it considered invoking Article V that calls to its allies to come to its assistance.[13] It is possible, then, that statements about developing advanced ballistic missile capabilities are part of a plan to pressure allies (primarily the United States) to provide more reliable guarantees, or at least not to retreat from previous commitments.

In summary, while the report of Turkey's intention to develop an ICBM should be treated with skepticism, there are new advances in Turkey's ballistic missile program that have implications for Middle East stability. It is still difficult to assess how Turkey will pursue this program, in light of likely objections from its NATO partners, especially the United States. However, the timing of some of the recent declarations is tied to tensions between Turkey and Iran, and thus these tensions should be closely monitored.

Yiftah Shapir is a senior research associate at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), Tel Aviv University, and the director of the Military Balance Project at the INSS. Gallia Lindenstrauss is a research associate at the INSS.

Notes

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- [3] "Erdogan Cites Iran for Turkish Missile Program," *Hürriyet Daily News*, December 30, 2011.
- [4] See, for example, "Babaoglu Set to Diffuse [sic] Military Tensions over F-16," *Today's Zaman* January 18, 2008.
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- [6] Institute for National Security Studies, "Middle East Military Force Database—Military Balance Files."
- [7] "Nuclear Weapons of US in Turkey Decreased," *Hürriyet Daily News*, December 1, 2011.
- [8] "Turkey Begins Work on ICBM."
- [9] "Iran Renews Threat to Attack Turkey," *Hürriyet Daily News*, December 12, 2011.
- [10] "Iran Warns Turkey Against Military Intervention in Syria: Al-Watan Newspaper," *AhramOnline*, July 30, 2012.
- [11] With regard to previous US objections to Turkish advances in the nuclear realm see Leon Fuerth, "Turkey: Nuclear Choices Among Dangerous Neighbors," in Kurt M. Campbell, Robert J. Einhorn, and Mitchell B. Reiss, eds., *The Nuclear Tipping Point: Why States Reconsider Their Nuclear Choices* (Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2004), pp. 160-65.
- [12] "Davutoglu Blames Israel for Failure to Mend Ties," *Today's Zaman*, December 27, 2010.
- [13] "Turkey's Turns to NATO after Syria Downs Jet," *Reuters*, June 25, 2012; "PM: Turkey may Invoke NATO's Article 5 Over Syrian Border Fire," *Today's Zaman*, April 11, 2012.

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The News International – Pakistan
OPINION/Op-Ed

Pakistan's Nuclear Compulsions

By Dr. Maleeha Lodhi

Tuesday, November 06, 2012



Much alarm has been raised in the West about Pakistan's enhancement of its nuclear capability and the position it has taken at negotiations in Geneva on a treaty banning the production of bomb making fissile material. Western analysts have often depicted this as a mindless, irrational drive motivated by the unbridled ambitions of the nuclear scientific-military lobby.

This is far from true. To understand the strategic rationale for Pakistan's fissile material needs – achieving credible nuclear deterrence at the lowest possible cost and level – the issue must be placed in a proper, broader perspective. It means taking into account the chain of rapid developments that have undermined the region's strategic equilibrium and affected Pakistan's nuclear threshold. They include the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal, exemption for India by the Nuclear Supplier's Group, India's conventional military and strategic build-up, enunciation of offensive doctrines involving 'Proactive Operations' and efforts to develop a missile defence capability.

Many of these developments were aided and abetted by the international community in pursuit of their strategic and commercial interests. Pakistan's warnings were repeatedly ignored that discriminatory nuclear actions would be consequential for the region and oblige Islamabad to act to preserve the credibility of nuclear deterrence and ensure strategic stability.

The interplay between a changing strategic environment – Pakistan's perception of increasing regional asymmetry in both nuclear and conventional capabilities – global non-proliferation efforts and technical compulsions help to explain why Pakistan has been building fissile stocks.

The historical context is important. The nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan in 1998 helped to establish strategic balance and provided Pakistan the reassurance of possessing a strategic equaliser to India's conventional military preponderance.

The nuclear relationship between them of course needed to be clarified and remains a work in progress. Towards that goal, Pakistan proposed a Strategic Restraint Regime to India in 1999 to stabilise the strategic equation. This had three elements – measures for nuclear restraint and risk reduction, conventional military balance and resolution of disputes. The interlocking concept did not find acceptance even though some elements remained the subject of sporadic bilateral dialogue at Pakistan's insistence.

Soon after, the Kargil conflict intervened, bringing the dialogue to a halt. This was followed by the 2001-02 military standoff, triggered by a terrorist attack on India's Parliament. These developments led to dangerous thinking among India's strategic community about how to neutralise the strategic balance and engage in limited conventional war below the nuclear threshold. This was to produce a doctrinal transformation and culminate in the 'Cold Start' doctrine (the name may have been dropped but not the notion) and plans for its operationalisation.

This doctrinal shift and consequent military posture had significant security implications for Pakistan. The notion of a war-fighting option in a nuclear environment was questioned by Pakistan, which insisted that however 'limited,' war between two nuclear states would heighten the risk of nuclear escalation, whether intentional or not. As Army Chief General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani was to later warn, proponents of the "use of conventional force in a nuclear overhang" were charting a dangerous course whose consequences could be both "unintended and uncontrollable".

Meanwhile, other developments unfolded at the global level to transform great power relations and strategies. These shifts saw the emergence of an implicit 'contain China' strategy by the US. Although this never became declared policy and Sino-US relations were marked by cooperation and competition, Pakistan's security planners perceived the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal of 2005 and NSG waiver as evidence of this contain China strategy.

These actions significantly enhanced India's ability to expand its strategic arsenal and capabilities and accelerated its quest for ways to overcome the strategic deterrence established after 1998. India was enabled to increase its fissile material stocks qualitatively and quantitatively with Pakistan left to fend for itself. This reshaped Pakistan's threat perceptions and determined its position on Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty negotiations in the Geneva based Conference on Disarmament.



Meanwhile Pakistan's nuclear thinking was evolving independently along another track. This was the need to pursue the plutonium route because of the evident limitations of highly enriched uranium in miniaturising nuclear weapons. This led to plans to establish four reactors to produce plutonium, and reprocessing facilities to master the whole nuclear fuel cycle. These plans were however speeded up and plutonium production expanded (with three additional reactors) by the nuclear exceptionalism accorded to India as well as by US diplomatic efforts to conclude an FMCT. Until 2009, Washington had itself blocked negotiations for over a decade. The Obama administration changed this position, opening prospects for serious negotiations.

Pakistan then went on a fast track to build its fissile stocks. In ten years it constructed four plutonium reactors and three reprocessing plants. The plutonium route was thus completed in the decade that Pakistan held up negotiations at Geneva on the grounds that a treaty banning future production and not covering existing stocks would freeze the prevailing asymmetry between Pakistan and India. Pakistan's nuclear diplomacy, effectively conducted by Ambassador Zamir Akram at Geneva, evolved in tandem with the strategic rationale and technical developments to address an evolving threat.

Meanwhile, India's proactive doctrine aimed at a rapid deployment war-fighting strategy impelled Pakistan to look for a response. Seeking space for limited conventional military engagement on the assumption that India's vast conventional asymmetry would prevent Pakistan from threatening to use its strategic capability obliged Pakistan to seek an appropriate 'solution' to fill the perceived gaps in the nuclear domain.

While Pakistan's capability for a tactical response was already under development, the emerging Indian military posture constrained Pakistan to take the decision to develop delivery systems for Full Spectrum Deterrence. By trying to call Pakistan's nuclear bluff and evolving 'proactive' doctrines, India's moves pushed Pakistan to develop Tactical Nuclear Weapons to deter Cold Start and re-establish nuclear stability. In April 2011, the test of the surface-to-surface multi-tube Nasr introduced a new weapon system. Capable of carrying conventional or nuclear warheads this added "another layer to the country's deterrence capability". Lt General Khalid Kidwai, the head of Strategic Plans Division, described Nasr as restoring "the strategic balance by closing the gap at the operational and tactical level", thus contributing to "preserving peace in South Asia."

The aim of this was not to induct weapons of use, but "weapons of deterrence" to counterbalance India's move to bring conventional military offensives to a tactical level. Its purpose is to plug the gaps evident to Indian planners and achieve Full Spectrum Deterrence. But introduction of a battlefield nuclear weapon system has also sparked an inconclusive debate about deterrence stability, with implications for war fighting and command and control.

India's plans to induct Ballistic Missile Defences (BMD) in the region, even if such systems are as yet unreliable, is also regarded as destabilising by Pakistan. Acquisition of BMD capabilities will accentuate fears that an offensive pre-emptive strike could be undertaken behind this shield. This capability in the context of Cold Start could increase the risk of military adventurism by providing an illusion of impunity from retaliation.

To hedge against this, Pakistan will likely multiply its missile numbers, including cruise missiles, and increase operational readiness to avert the destruction of its strategic assets in a pre-emptive strike. This too has a bearing on the amount of fissile material Pakistan would want to acquire.

These are the principal factors driving Pakistan's fissile material requirements. The purpose is not to match the quantities or stockpiles that India has – which it can enhance if it wants to by diverting indigenous production for weapons use because of the nuclear fuel supply guaranteed by the US and similar agreements with other nations. Pakistan's aim is not to engage in relentless production but to attain sufficiency for a spectrum of nuclear weapons, strategic, operational and tactical and to assure a second-strike capability.

As Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to persuade India to establish a strategic restraint regime have yielded nothing, it has had to evolve a force development strategy at home and an effective negotiating position in Geneva to secure its national security interests.

Dr. Maleeha Lodhi is a special adviser to the Jang Group/Geo and a former envoy to the US and the UK.



<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-141314-Pakistan%E2%80%99s-nuclear-compulsions>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency
OPINION/ Features & Opinion

Kremlin Power Struggle Flares with Minister Ousting

MOSCOW, November 6 (Alexey Eremenko, RIA Novosti)

The public sacking of Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov, a member of President Vladimir Putin’s inner circle, was an unprecedented outburst of turf war in the Kremlin, Russian analysts said.

But it is too early to say whether the power struggle among Putin’s allies is intensifying, or whether the minister’s fall will remain an isolated incident, said Mikhail Vinogradov, the chairman of the St. Petersburg Politics Fund, a think-tank.

Serdyukov is credited with launching ambitious reforms of Russia’s military, but his initiatives lacked direction and largely fell through, while corruption allegations gradually eroded his public image, experts said.

On Tuesday, Putin replaced Serdyukov with former Emergency Situations Minister and incumbent Moscow Region governor, the charismatic Sergei Shoigu.

Putin cited the five ongoing criminal cases against Serdyukov’s subordinates as the reason for the snap reshuffle, which caught even Shoigu off-guard, as he admitted. A ministry-owned company is accused of sapping 3 billion rubles’ (\$95 million) worth of the army’s money through real estate fraud.

Serdyukov, 50, was a furniture store manager in St. Petersburg, Putin’s home turf, for more than a decade. In 2000 he moved to the Federal Tax Service, becoming its head in 2004. He was appointed Defense Minister in 2007.

Putin’s team is made up mostly of old associates from his St. Petersburg times. Keeping them in office despite their professional shortcomings, as long as they display loyalty, was considered a staple of his staffing policy. This is why the very public sacking of Serdyukov – who is also married to the daughter to another Putin ally, ex-First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov – was viewed by most analysts as humiliating and unusual.

The blow to Serdyukov’s reputation was softened by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, who praised the outgoing official for being an “efficient minister” on Tuesday.

Not About Graft

Serdyukov antagonized too many people in Putin’s inner circle, including his predecessor Sergei Ivanov, now head of the Kremlin staff, and Dmitry Rogozin, a Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the defense industry, said Anatoly Tsyganok, head of the Moscow-based Military Forecasting Center.

A standoff with the defense and allied industries prompted an exasperated Serdyukov to begin purchasing arms abroad, an “unpatriotic” practice decried by many army officers and Rogozin, a firebrand nationalist. The stakes are high, because the government allocated 20 trillion rubles (\$635 billion) for new military equipment through 2020.

Corruption allegations alone were not enough to cause the minister’s downfall because “the entire system is corrupt, starting from the very top” of the country’s leadership, said Anatoly Khramchikhin of the Institute of Political and Military Analysis.

Russia was ranked 143th out of 178 countries in the Corruption Perception Index by Transparency International last year. Corruption in the military was estimated at 3 billion rubles (\$95 million) in 2011, according to the Military Prosecutor General’s Office.

Serdyukov’s PR campaigns presented him as an anti-corruption crusader parachuted in to crack down on rampant graft among the generals.



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But his affiliates have rather rerouted corruption patterns for their own benefit, as the ongoing criminal cases indicate, alleges Alexander Perendzhiyev, a member of the Association of Military Political Scientists.

Much Hate, Little Result

Serdyukov's main task in office was army reform, accelerated after the 2008 war with Georgia, which shed a spotlight on the Russian military's shortcomings, such as its lack of unmanned reconnaissance drones (UAVs), a staple of modern the modern combat theater.

Serdyukov revised the chain of command and army structure, reformed the military education system and tried to tackle the army's copious social problems, including the ubiquitous hazing of new recruits, low salaries and housing problems.

These radical reforms, along with the corruption allegations against a hand-picked staff comprising civilian specialists, many of them female, made Serdyukov a despised figure in the army, where many officers view him as an incompetent civilian. Perendzhiyev, a retired army officer, dismissed his team as "ladies with lapdogs."

As for his reforms, they were a mixed bag, experts said.

Only the revisal of the command chain was successful, said Tsyganok. The education reform was botched, stripping the country of its "military intelligentsia," while housing shortages remain as acute as ever, he said.

Russia's new Defense Minister Shoigu will also likely have to cancel structural reforms of the army blindly based on foreign templates, said Perendzhiyev. He conceded the abuse of recruits has decreased, though it has not been eradicated, under Serdyukov.

Fellow analyst Khramchikhin was more ambivalent. "This radical reform gave highly controversial results, mainly because nobody – including its authors – seemed to grasp what its goals were," he said.

"Only a war can show whether any of the innovations worked," Khramchikhin said.

<http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20121106/177233437.html>

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Pakistan Tribune
OPINION/Op-Ed

Pakistan's Internal and External Challenges

08 November, 2012

By Sohail Mahmood

Pakistan faces multirole challenges, internal as well as external, of complex dimensions not easily resolvable. Internal challenges include a fractured state and society, bad governance, weakened institutions, extremism, weak economy, and visionless political leadership. Unprecedented corruption in Pakistan's government institutions with no end in sight. Institutions corroded from within and bad governance the norm, not the exception.

Pakistan has been weakened from within. It is facing an existential challenge from all sorts of extremist ideologies ranging from rightist Islamic radicalism to leftist ethnic identities assertions. Meanwhile, the global war on terror continues to haunt the country.

Politics in Pakistan now a criminalized phenomenon and money matters the most. As the country approaches general elections you will see more propaganda on all sides and money will direct it. This election will be singularly different in that aspect. More money will be spent on media campaigns and party gatherings, than ever before. The signs are clear.

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The foremost external challenge is the United States and India and in that very order. The nation sacrificed to build a nuclear arsenal which is now threatened from outside. These are perilous times for Pakistan. The United States and India combined are breathing down our necks, so to speak. More about our nuclear dilemma next.

Nuclear arsenals are the ultimate weapons meant to safeguard national security. The role of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is to also provide a deterrence effect. Unlike others, Pakistan's nuclear strategic nuclear posture was India specific and also meant for augmenting national self-esteem. Pakistan's nuclear doctrine of a minimum credible deterrent was designed to dissuade India from attacking Pakistan. Given the considerable superiority of India's conventional weapons, the nuclear arsenal was even more important for Pakistan's defense. It was the ultimate effort to deny India an opportunity for launching an aggression against Pakistan. Thus, the nuclear arsenal was for defensive purposes only and was widely recognized as such.

It is important to note that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal was developed in a historical context which was centered on India. This context needs to be understood clearly to comprehend the current strategic situation. The perception that India is a formidable enemy is widespread in Pakistan including its military. However, Pakistan's military leadership believed that the nation was facing an existential threat from India. The civilian leadership is less convinced. Historically, India had indeed been Pakistan's arch rival and the two countries had fought several wars. It is widely believed that the loss of East Pakistan (Now Bangladesh) in 1971 was the primary reason for Pakistan's secret nuclear weapons program then. Later, India acquired a nuclear capability and Pakistan responded. Kashmir remained a lingering dispute between the two neighbors. Kashmir being a territorial issue was difficult to solve because of its very nature. Given the political uncertainty in both India and Pakistan, the Kashmir conflict was not going to be solved in the near future.

More importantly, such was the level of distrust between India and Pakistan that a grave territorial matter like Kashmir couldn't be solved easily. There are other disputes with India: Siachen, Sir Creek and support of terrorism. India is supporting the on-going insurgency in Baluchistan by assisting the Baluchistan Liberation Army fighting cadres in neighboring Afghanistan. India accuses Pakistan of supporting the Lascar-I Taiba involved in the recent Mumbai terrorist incident. In sum relations are sour. However, some improvement has been made in Pakistan-India relations mainly in the business and the trade sectors. Overall, relations between the two nuclear neighbors remain frosty. No breakthrough in relations is imminent. Suffice to state here the nature of continuing rivalry with India had made Pakistan very cautious about its national security and safety of the motherland.

Today, Pakistan possessed a formidable nuclear arsenal which included some 100 nuclear weapons and an advanced ballistic missile capacity. Pakistan's strategic nuclear posture is clearly formulated around a threat framework emanating from India. Continuing tensions with India are pushing Pakistan It is making some additions to its fissile production facilities and its nuclear warhead deployment capabilities. It has developed cruise missiles for carrying nuclear warheads and even small tactical nuclear weapons.

Given the considerable attention, Pakistan is on the path of making significant qualitative and quantitative improvements to its nuclear arsenal. Some Western scholars give the impression that Pakistan was a weak state, even a failing state, and was therefore incapable of handling its nuclear arsenal. Some in the United States are very worried about Pakistan's nuclear capacity. There are many reports about Pakistan increasing production of nuclear weapons. The general perception is that this is a very negative development in the volatile region.

Given the deep anti-American sentiments in the country after the May 2, 2011 Osama raid, there is a great suspicion and distrust of the United States in Pakistan. Ironically, Pakistan is still an ally of the United States in the on-going Global War on Terror and receives billion in assistance from it. Perceptions matter and the widespread distrust on both sides are to be acknowledged and dealt with in an open frank manner. The United States and Pakistan are hardly allies anymore.

Today, there is widespread belief in Pakistan that the most immediate threat to the country's nuclear assets comes from the United States. The American media had been exaggerating the threat of an Islamic radical takeover of the nuclear weapons and therefore there was a secret contingency plan to seize or destroy them in that eventuality. The



Pakistani military was aware of such a plan and was very concerned about it. However, the Obama Administration continued to also express confidence in controls over Pakistan's nuclear weapons.

In the past during the Musharraf era, the ongoing efforts of the Pakistani military to improve security of its nuclear weapons had included some cooperation with the United States. Ironically, the two countries have entered into a period of mutual distrust and suspicion in recent times. United States is continuing surveillance of Pakistan's nuclear weapons from the air as well as space. Obviously, the Pakistani military establishment is very anxious about the safety of its nuclear weapons and is doing whatever is humanly possible towards this end. This is acknowledged by many, including arch rival India. Meanwhile, the American media has continued to express concerns about the safety of these weapons.

Notwithstanding security concerns about Pakistani nuclear warheads, they are placed under strict command and control systems where operational security is a high priority. Safeguarding the nuclear arsenal from external threats is a national responsibility taken very seriously by Pakistan military. The country's formidable Strategic Command organization has a three tier structure: National Command Authority, Strategic Plans Division, and Strategic Forces Commands. About 20,000 people are involved in the production deployment and service maintenance of these nuclear warheads and the related deployment vehicles. Pakistan military is doing whatever it takes to preserve the credibility of its nuclear deterrence.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has taken steps to protect its nuclear assets from external threats. The nuclear weapons have been dispersed sufficiently. The military is moving nuclear weapons more frequently around the country through its road network. Pakistan is also pursuing a second-strike capability by utilizing concealment measure for its nuclear warheads, deploying air defenses around strategic assets, and constructing deeply buried storage and launch facilities.

The Pakistani military must give a clear signal to the United States that any attack on Pakistan's nuclear assets would be met by an appropriate response. It has to clearly threaten immediate retaliation against United States assets in Afghanistan. The nation would surely support this boldness against America. Meanwhile, it has to be prepared for the worst case scenario and undertake immediate measures to secure the nuclear warheads. The Pakistan military has to guarantee the safety of the nation's nuclear assets in any way possible. Clearly stating that it will act is the first and necessary step. Preparing for any eventuality, no matter how stark, is the prime responsibility of the Pakistan military and the Government of Pakistan must be on board fully.

However, it is easy saying this action is problematic for obvious reasons. Pakistan has indeed weakened from within not only because of a weak economy and poor governance, but also a weakened society given to intolerance, extremism and violence. We had wished otherwise. It is an irony that Pakistan is one of the strongest nations in the world as far as military might is concerned yet considerably weak as far as societal and economic development indicators are concerned.

It is to the credit of the military that it still commands respect in the eyes of the nation primarily because of Pakistan's impressive nuclear arsenal. It is hoped that the country's nuclear assets will remain protected and safe. The nation expects nothing less from its military leadership. Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is still the pride of the nation and has across-the-board support from all segments of society. The nation is justifiably proud of its nuclear weapons. Their protection from external threats needs the support of the entire nation for the military's current efforts in achieving the goal. Will it be it is soon enough? It shall be certainly worth it.

Pakistan has achieved a lot in the military field and needs to consolidate its technical accomplishments in building an awesome nuclear arsenal quickly enough. Meanwhile, Pakistan's enemies beware. Nuclear weapons have to be protected at all costs no matter how high. Their safety is not just a concern for the country's military but the entire nation. Time is running out. Will our political and military leadership rise up to meet these challenges? Only time will tell.

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<http://paktribune.com/articles/Pakistans-Internal-and-External-Challenges-242989.html>

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The Korea Times – South Korea

OPINION/Editorial

November 8, 2012

Time for New Diplomacy

Seoul must be more positive in deciding own fate

Koreans might have found it somewhat disappointing, but this peninsula was seldom mentioned during the just-ended U.S. presidential campaigns. Little strange about it, given elections usually put diplomacy on the back burner. President Barack Obama could find neither time nor reasons for bothering about inter-Korean affairs except for going along with a South Korean leader who was “pro-American to the bone.”

As far as North Korea’s nuclear crisis is concerned, the past four years were a stationary period when most parties involved were content with just keeping it from going worse. That may — and should — change during the next four years of the reelected U.S. leader.

This is less because the protracted stalemate will strengthen Pyongyang as a nuclear power. Rather, the repeating habit of world history is once again turning Northeast Asia into a clash point of global powers.

Despite diplomatic euphemisms in both Washington and Beijing, China’s emergence as a G2 power will inevitably lead to a hegemonic battle in this part of the world more than anywhere else. Nor does Vladimir Putin’s Russia seem to be happy to sit back and watch the two countries steal the show on global control. Even Japan is no longer focusing on only economic revival, trying to restore its past reputation as a global force in political and military matters.

Having won another four-year term, Obama is hoped to show better diplomacy than just resorting to the old American strategy of checking a present rival with the help of former rivals. Washington is also advised to conduct smart diplomacy armed with cultural and diplomatic superiority rather than military browbeating.

The U.S. President’s “strategic patience” of a do-nothing policy on North Korea’s dangerous ambitions also runs squarely counter to his own key nonproliferation initiative. So with renewed mandate, he is advised to take a new “two-track” approach, which breaks away from the previous “pressure and dialogue” tactics toward resuming both the multilateral process of the six-party talks and encouraging bilateral contact between the two Koreas to discuss nuclear and other issues to break the current deadlock.

All this is, of course, based on a precondition of changed policies and attitudes in Seoul, which adds importance to upcoming elections here.

To the relief of most Koreans, all three major presidential candidates here are likely to take more forward-looking approaches toward the communist regime in the North. Even conservative Park Geun-hye has gone as far as proposing representative offices in both capitals, although the realization of such a pledge will need to overcome many obstacles to become a reality, including the assurance from her party.

The biggest mission for the next Korean leader will be to persuade his or her U.S. counterpart why Washington needs not be too concerned about the possibility that closer ties between Koreas means the entire peninsula becoming closer to China rather than America.

All this shows why the first few months of 2013 will be crucial for the two new leaders in Seoul and Washington in reframing their diplomatic cooperation.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinon/2012/11/202_124260.html

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