



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

**Issue No. 976, 31 January 2012**

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Al Arabiya – U.A.E.

## U.N. Chief Nuclear Inspector Arrives in Iran

Sunday, 29 January 2012

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

TEHRAN - The U.N.'s chief nuclear inspector arrived in Iran on Sunday on a mission to clear up "outstanding substantive issues" on Tehran's atomic program, and called for dialogue with the Islamic state.

Before departing from Vienna airport, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief inspector Herman Nackaerts told reporters that talks were long overdue.

"We are trying to resolve all the outstanding issues with Iran," he said.

"In particular we hope that Iran will engage with us on the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program. We are looking forward to the start of a dialogue, a dialogue that is overdue since very long."

Nackaerts is leading a six-person IAEA team due to meet Iranian officials from later Sunday until Tuesday. The delegation touched down in Tehran early on Sunday morning, the official news agency IRNA reported.

The team also includes IAEA number two Rafael Grossi, an Argentine, and the watchdog's senior legal official Peri Lynne Johnson, a U.S. citizen, according to diplomats.

Nackaerts, who is Belgian, declined to comment on who he would meet during the trip, which is aimed at clearing up what the IAEA called "outstanding substantive issues" on Tehran's nuclear program.

Expectations are low, with the delegation not expected to be given access to any sites mentioned in a damning IAEA report in November that raised suspicions Iran had done work developing nuclear weapons.

IRNA quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi, in Addis Ababa for an African Union meeting, as saying he was "optimistic" about the delegation's visit.

"We have always had a broad and close cooperation with the agency and we have always maintained transparency as one of our principles working with the agency," he said.

The agency added that the team would probably visit the Fordo enrichment site south of the capital Tehran.

Earlier this month, the IAEA said Iran had begun enriching uranium to 20 percent purity deep inside a mountain bunker at Fordo, taking it significantly closer to the 90 percent mark needed for a nuclear bomb.

With Iran repeatedly denying it wants nuclear weapons and dismissing the IAEA report as baseless, the watchdog's chief Yukiya Amano on Friday urged the Islamic republic to show "substantial cooperation" during the visit.

The report, which has led to a substantial increase in pressure on Iran from the United States, the European Union and others, detailed a string of areas in which it said Iranian activities were highly suspicious.

"We have information that indicates that Iran has engaged in activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device," Amano said on Friday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"We are requesting that Iran clarifies the situation. We proposed to make a mission and they agreed to accept the mission. The preparations have gone well but we need to see what actually happens when the mission arrives."

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has insisted that Tehran is not dodging negotiations and was ready to sit down with world powers Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States, and Germany for talks.

The six powers are waiting for Tehran to reply to an October letter sent by EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton that stresses that discussions should focus on the "key question" of the Iranian nuclear issue.

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IRNA said Sunday that Iran's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili will write a letter to Ashton which "will give Iran's views about the time and venue of the (next) negotiations."

The letter "which may be sent soon, in the coming days," it quoted the foreign minister as saying, adding the next round of talks were likely to be a "success since both sides are interested to find a solution for Iran's nuclear issue."

Previous talks held a year ago in Istanbul ended without progress.

U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon, also in Davos, said the onus was on Iran to prove its good intentions.

"There is no other alternative to addressing this crisis than peaceful resolution through dialogue," Ban told reporters.

What makes the international community all the more nervous is Tehran's continued defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions calling on it to stop enriching uranium until the IAEA is satisfied its program is peaceful.

Meanwhile, Iran's top nuclear negotiator will write to the European Union "soon" to discuss a date and venue for fresh talks on Tehran's atomic program, the official IRNA news agency said Sunday.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/01/29/191187.html>

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Monsters and Critics.com

## **LEAD: Salehi: IAEA Allowed to Inspect All Sites; No Hormuz Blockade**

January 29, 2012

By Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA)

Tehran - Officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could inspect all nuclear sites during their visit to Iran, said Iranian Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Salehi on Sunday in Ethiopia, where he is attending an annual African Union summit.

Salehi also said that Iran would not close the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf, which is a vital route for global oil transfer.

'The IAEA officials will be allowed to inspect any nuclear site they request from us,' the official IRNA news agency quoted Salehi as saying in a press conference in Addis Ababa.

He also played down threats by Vice President Mohammad-Reza Rahimi and several generals of the Revolutionary Guards to close down the Strait of Hormuz if oil sanctions were imposed on Iran. The ban was finalized by the European Union last week.

'The Strait of Hormuz is an important route not only for us and the regional states but also for the whole world and we therefore consider ourselves fully responsible for the security of the Strait so that it will benefit all countries,' Salehi said.

IAEA officials started talks Sunday with Iranian officials over Tehran's disputed nuclear programme.

Both sides have so far kept silent on the exact agenda of the talks, but the IAEA team, led by chief inspector Herman Nackaerts, is expected to meet with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Saedi Jalili, and atomic chief Fereydoun Abbasi.

Salehi said that as world powers and the IAEA refrained from providing Iran with the 20-per-cent enriched uranium necessary for Tehran's medical reactor, Iran would within one month provide the reactor with its own home-made fuel.

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Iran had succeeded in making both the 20-per-cent enrichment as well as the fuel rods for the Tehran reactor, he said.

No information has yet been released on the first day of the IAEA visit. Upon arrival early Sunday, the six inspectors were transferred to the city through one of the rear exits of Tehran airport, avoiding contact with local and foreign reporters.

It is also unclear whether the IAEA team would inspect nuclear sites or only discuss with Iranian officials the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear programme.

Iran has for the past 15 years constantly rejected charges by the West that it is developing a covert nuclear weapons programme.

Earlier Sunday, Salehi told the ISNA news agency, 'We have coordinated everything in advance, including inspection of nuclear sites, and are generally very optimistic about the outcome of the IAEA mission.'

He said his optimism was based on the fact that Iran's nuclear programme was transparent and the country 'had nothing to hide.'

Salehi said that Jalili would soon write a letter to EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton to fix a date and venue for the next round of nuclear talks.

Iran wants the resumption of the talks with the 3+3 group - Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States. But Ashton and world powers want a clear agenda prior to the talks, and Iran's agreement to a temporary suspension of its uranium-enrichment programme, until there is certainty that Tehran is not working on a secret weapons programme.

Observers believe that the holding of the next nuclear negotiations depend on the report by the IAEA team.

One of the sites that might be inspected by the IAEA team is the new Fordo uranium enrichment facility, 160 kilometres south of the capital Tehran, which will become operational next month and is capable of enrichment at 20 per cent.

Nuclear experts, however, believe that inspections of nuclear sites will neither help the UN agency nor Iran as all the sites are under the IAEA auspices and equipped with cameras, which are also to be installed in Fordo.

[http://news.monstersandcritics.com/middleeast/news/article\\_1688011.php/LEAD-Salehi-IAEA-allowed-to-inspect-all-sites-no-Hormuz-blockade](http://news.monstersandcritics.com/middleeast/news/article_1688011.php/LEAD-Salehi-IAEA-allowed-to-inspect-all-sites-no-Hormuz-blockade)

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Space War.com

## **Pentagon Chief Sees Iran Bomb Potential in Year**

By Staff Writers

Washington, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

January 29, 2012

Iran could develop a nuclear bomb in about a year and create the means for delivery in a further two to three years, the US defense chief said Sunday, reiterating President Barack Obama's determination to halt the effort.

"The United States -- and the president's made this clear -- does not want Iran to develop a nuclear weapon," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told the CBS program "60 Minutes."

"That's a red line for us. And it's a red line obviously for the Israelis so we share a common goal here."

Panetta maintained that US officials "will take whatever steps are necessary to stop it" if Washington receives intelligence that Iran is proceeding with developing a nuclear weapon.

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Asked if that meant military action, he said: "There are no options that are off the table."

Panetta told the interviewer that "the consensus is that, if they (Iran) decided to do it, it would probably take them about a year to be able to produce a bomb and then possibly another one to two years in order to put it on a deliverable vehicle of some sort in order to deliver that weapon."

In a report issued in November, the International Atomic Energy Agency said intelligence from more than 10 countries and its own sources "indicates that Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear device."

It detailed 12 suspicious areas such as testing explosives in a steel container at a military base and studies on Shahab-3 ballistic missile warheads that the IAEA said were "highly relevant to a nuclear weapon program."

Iran rejected the dossier as based on forgeries.

The Islamic Republic has come under unprecedented international pressure since the publication of the report, with Washington and the European Union targeting its oil sector and central bank.

In his State of the Union message Tuesday, Obama said a peaceful outcome was still possible with Iran over its nuclear ambitions, but he declined to rule out the military option.

"The regime is more isolated than ever before; its leaders are faced with crippling sanctions, and as long as they shirk their responsibilities, this pressure will not relent," Obama said.

"Let there be no doubt: America is determined to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, and I will take no options off the table to achieve that goal," the president declared, triggering a standing ovation.

[http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Pentagon\\_chief\\_sees\\_Iran\\_bomb\\_potential\\_in\\_year\\_999.html](http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Pentagon_chief_sees_Iran_bomb_potential_in_year_999.html)

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Arab News – Saudi Arabia

## Iran 'Very Optimistic' on Nuclear Experts' Visit

By PARISA HAFEZI AND RAMIN MOSTAFAVI, Reuters

January 29, 2012

TEHRAN: Iran said on Sunday it was very optimistic over a visit by UN nuclear inspectors aimed at shedding light on suspected military aspects of Tehran's atomic work but suggested Tehran would curb cooperation if the experts became a "tool" for outside powers.

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team began a three-day visit on Sunday to try to advance efforts to resolve a row about nuclear work which Iran says is for making electricity but the West suspects is aimed at seeking a nuclear weapon.

Tensions with the West rose this month when Washington and the European Union imposed the toughest sanctions yet in a drive to force Tehran to provide more information on its nuclear program. The measures take direct aim at the ability of OPEC's second biggest oil exporter to sell its crude.

### 'Nothing to hide'

The Mehr news agency quoted Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi as saying during a trip to Ethiopia: "We are very optimistic about the outcome of the IAEA delegation's visit to Iran ... Their questions will be answered during this visit.

"We have nothing to hide and Iran has no clandestine (nuclear) activities."

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Iran's parliament speaker, Ali Larijani, warned the IAEA team to carry out a "logical, professional and technical" job or suffer the consequences.

"This visit is a test for the IAEA. The route for further cooperation will be open if the team carries out its duties professionally," state media reported.

"Otherwise, if the IAEA turns into a tool (for major powers to pressure Iran), then Iran will have no choice but to consider a new framework in its ties with the agency."

Iran's parliament in the past has approved bills to oblige the government to review its level of cooperation with the IAEA. However, Iran's top officials have always underlined the importance of preserving ties with the watchdog body.

Before departing from Vienna, IAEA Deputy Director General Herman Nackaerts hoped for the Islamic state to tackle the watchdog's concerns "regarding the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program."

### **Parliament debate**

Less than one week after the EU's 27 member states agreed to stop importing crude from Iran from July 1, Iranian lawmakers were due to debate a bill later on Sunday that would cut off oil supplies to the EU in a matter of days.

Some parliamentarians told Reuters that the debate might be postponed to Wednesday.

By turning the sanctions back on the EU, lawmakers hope to deny the bloc a six-month window it had planned to give those of its members most dependent on Iranian oil — including some of the most economically fragile in southern Europe — to adapt.

The head of the state-run National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said late on Saturday that the export embargo would hit European refiners, such as Italy's Eni, that are owed oil from Iran as part of long-standing buy-back contracts under which they take payment for past oilfield projects in crude.

"The decision must be made at high echelons of power and we at the NIOC will act as the executioner of the policies of the government," Ahmad Qalebani told the ISNA news agency.

"The European companies will have to abide by the provisions of the buyback contracts," he said. "If they act otherwise, they will be the parties to incur the relevant losses and will subject the repatriation of their capital to problems."

"Generally, the parties to incur damage from the EU's recent decision will be European companies with pending contracts with Iran."

Italy's Eni is owed \$1.4-1.5 billion in oil for contracts it executed in Iran in 2000 and 2001 and has been assured by EU policymakers its buyback contracts will not be part of the European embargo, but the prospect of Iran acting first may put that into doubt.

Eni declined to comment on Saturday.

The EU accounted for 25 percent of Iranian crude oil sales in the third quarter of 2011. However, analysts say the global oil market will not be overly disrupted if parliament votes for the bill that would turn off the oil tap for Europe.

"The Saudis have made it clear that they'll step in to fill the void," said Robert Smith, a consultant at Facts Global Energy.

"It would not pose any serious threat to oil market stability. Meanwhile Asians, predominantly the Chinese and Indians, stand to benefit from more Iranian crude flowing east and at potential discounts."



Potentially more disruptive to the world oil market and global security is the risk of Iran's standoff with the West escalating into military conflict.

Iran has repeatedly said it could close the vital Strait of Hormuz shipping lane if sanctions succeed in preventing it from exporting crude, a move Washington said it would not tolerate.

### 'Constructive spirit'

The IAEA's visit may be an opportunity to defuse some of the tension. Director General Yukiya Amano has called on Iran to show a "constructive spirit" and Tehran has said it is willing to discuss "any issues" of interest to the UN agency, including the military-linked concerns.

But Western diplomats, who have often accused Iran of using such offers of dialogue as a stalling tactic while it presses ahead with its nuclear program, say they doubt Tehran will show the kind of concrete cooperation the IAEA wants.

They say Iran may offer limited concessions and transparency to try to ease intensifying international pressure, but that this is unlikely to amount to the full cooperation required.

The outcome could determine whether Iran will face further international isolation or whether there are prospects for resuming wider talks between Tehran and the major powers on the nuclear dispute.

Salehi said Iran "soon" would write a letter to the E.U.'s foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton to discuss "a date and venue" for fresh nuclear talks.

"Iran's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili in this letter, which may be sent in the coming days, also may mention other issues as well," Salehi said, without elaborating.

The last round of talks in January 2011 between Jalili and Ashton, who represents major powers, failed over Iran's refusal to halt its sensitive nuclear work.

"The talks will be successful as the other party seems interested in finding a way out of this deadlock," Salehi said.

<http://arabnews.com/middleeast/article568941.ece>

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London Telegraph – U.K.

## IAEA Nuclear Inspection Gets under Way in Iran

*Iran's foreign minister has expressed optimism that a visit by UN inspectors to Iran's nuclear facilities would produce an understanding, despite world concerns that Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons.*

30 January 2012

The three-day inspection tour by the International Atomic Energy Agency team that started on Sunday comes during spiking tension.

The West is imposing new sanctions to try to force Iran to slow or halt its nuclear programme, and Iran is threatening to close the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil passage, in retaliation.

Visiting Ethiopia, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi appeared to be trying to defuse the crisis.

"We are very optimistic about the mission and the outcome" of the IAEA mission, Salehi was quoted as saying by Iran's semiofficial Mehr news agency.

"We've always tried to put transparency as a principle in our co-operation with IAEA," Salehi said. "During this visit, the delegation has questions and the necessary answers will be given,"



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The findings from the visit could greatly influence the direction and urgency of US-led efforts to rein in Iran's ability to enrich uranium – which Washington and allies fear could eventually produce weapons-grade material. Iran has declined to abandon its enrichment labs, but claims it seeks to fuel reactors only for energy and medical research.

The team is likely to visit an underground enrichment site near the holy city of Qom, 80 miles south of Tehran, which is carved into a mountain as protection from possible air strikes. Earlier this month, Iran said it had begun enrichment work at the site, which is far smaller than the country's main uranium labs but is reported to have more advanced equipment.

The UN nuclear agency delegation includes two senior weapons experts – Jacques Baute of France and Neville Whiting of South Africa – suggesting that Iran may be prepared to address some issues related to the allegations that it seeks nuclear warheads.

In unusually blunt comments ahead of his arrival, the IAEA's Deputy Director General Herman Nackaerts – who is in charge of the agency's Iran file – said he wants Tehran to "engage us on all concerns."

Iran has refused to discuss the alleged weapons experiments for three years, saying they are based on "fabricated documents" provided by a "few arrogant countries" – a phrase authorities in Iran often use to refer to the United States and its allies.

"So we're looking forward to the start of a dialogue," Nackaerts told reporters at Vienna airport. "A dialogue that is overdue since very long."

In a sign of the tensions that surround Iran's disputed nuclear programme, a dozen Iranian hardliners carrying photos of slain nuclear expert Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan were waiting at Tehran's Imam Khomeini airport early on Sunday.

Iranian state media allege that Roshan, a chemistry expert and director of the Natanz uranium enrichment facility in central Iran, was interviewed by IAEA inspectors before being killed earlier this month in a bomb attack that Iran claims is part of an Israeli-led covert campaign of sabotage and slayings. Roshan was at least the fourth member of Iran's scientific community to be assassinated.

In Vienna, the IAEA said it did not know Roshan and never talked to him.

The IAEA team wants to talk to key Iranian scientists suspected of working on a weapons program. They also plan to inspect documents related to nuclear work and secure commitments from Iranian authorities to allow future visits.

It's unclear how much assistance Iran will provide, but even a decision to enter a discussion over the allegations would be a major departure from Iran's frequent simple refusal to talk about them.

Iran also has accused the IAEA in the past of security leaks that expose its scientists and their families to the threat of assassination by the US and Israel.

The visit was set to coincide with a vote in Iran's parliament on a bill that would require the government to immediately cut the flow of crude oil to Europe in retaliation for sanctions. MPs postponed the vote on Sunday to further study the bill, and no date for a vote has been set.

The draft bill is Iran's response to an EU decision last week to impose an embargo on Iranian oil. The measure is set to take full effect in July.

The head of Iran's state oil company said Sunday that pressures on Iran's oil exports – the second biggest in OPEC – could drive prices as high as \$150 a barrel.

"It seems we will witness prices from \$120 to \$150 in the future," Ahmad Qalehbani was quoted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency. He did not give a time frame for the prediction, nor any other details.

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The price of benchmark US crude on Friday was around \$99.56 per barrel. About 80 per cent of Iran's foreign revenue comes from exporting around 2.2 million barrels of oil per day.

Oil prices have been driven higher in recent weeks by Iran's warnings that it could block the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf, the route for about one-fifth of the world's oil. Last week, the American aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, joined by French and British warships, entered the Gulf in a show of strength against any attempts to disrupt oil tanker traffic.

Source: AP

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/9048556/IAEA-nuclear-inspection-gets-under-way-in-Iran.html>

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Times of Oman – Oman

## **IAEA Has Option to Extend Visit to Iran: Foreign Minister**

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Monday, January 30, 2012

Iran: An IAEA delegation visiting Iran can choose to extend its stay beyond the three days originally planned if it wishes, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said on Monday, according to the official IRNA news agency.

"We are very optimistic on the results of the IAEA trip. They are here for a three-day trip, and if they want, it (the mission) could be extended," Salehi was quoted by IRNA as telling Turkish broadcaster TRT in an interview in Addis Ababa, where he was attending an African Union summit.

Salehi also urged the European Union and the United States to "replace their policy of sanctions with interaction" with the Islamic republic.

A six-person team of senior inspectors and officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog, began their visit to Iran on Sunday amid high international tensions over Tehran's nuclear activities.

The visit, led by IAEA chief inspector Herman Nackaerts and including the agency's deputy director general, was due to wrap up on Tuesday.

It was not known which Iranian officials the IAEA team was speaking with, nor was it confirmed whether it was carrying out inspections of suspect sites.

The visit is seen as an opportunity to defuse tensions between Iran and the West that have soared since a November IAEA report that strongly suggested Tehran was researching nuclear weapons. Iran has dismissed the report as biased.

Iran's government has repeatedly denied that its nuclear activities are other than peaceful, and it has asserted its rights to uranium enrichment and atomic energy as a signatory of the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that the IAEA oversees.

Salehi underlined that stance to reporters in Addis Ababa.

"No one has the right to tell us to halt enrichment. Enrichment is our right based on the NPT and our being an official member of IAEA, and no one has the right to ask us to stop this legal activity," he said, according to IRNA.

The minister said Iran "fully adheres" to IAEA regulations and would maintain "transparency" in its activities.

"The inspection delegation can visit any of our nuclear sites it requests to visit," he said.

<http://www.timesofoman.com/innercat.asp?detail=54211>

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Sydney Morning Herald – Australia

## Iran Nuclear Bid Tipped to Provoke Saudi Bomb

By Ben Doherty

January 30, 2012

THE arrival yesterday of a senior United Nations team in Tehran has raised hopes that Iran may be in the mood to talk about its nuclear program. But there are growing fears that neighbouring Saudi Arabia will turn to Pakistan for its own bomb if Iran develops nuclear weapons.

The two nations' military officers train together, Saudi Arabia has reportedly bought Pakistani missiles and the Saudi air force was created using Pakistani training, aircraft and pilots.

When Pakistan tested its first nuclear device in 1998 and was placed under sanctions by an outraged US and Europe, 50,000 free barrels of oil a day from Saudi Arabia helped it survive.

Throughout the 1980s and '90s, hundreds of millions of Saudi dollars were poured into Pakistan's efforts to build nuclear weapons, funding as much as 60 per cent of the program.

That money was given, it is widely believed, on an understanding that Pakistan would offer Saudi Arabia nuclear protection, or, at some future date, the chance to buy weapons or the technology to make them.

Europe joined the US last week in imposing sanctions on Iranian oil, after an International Atomic Energy Agency report said Tehran had "carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device".

Specifically, Iran has begun work at a new facility - an airstrike-resistant bunker at Fordo, near the city of Qom - seen as a step towards producing weapons-grade uranium. Analysts believe Iran could have a bomb as soon as next year.

The agency's latest delegation to Iran includes two senior weapons experts - Jacques Baute, of France, and Neville Whiting, of South Africa - suggesting Iran may be prepared to address weapons allegations. Saudi Arabia has warned that if its long-standing regional rival succeeds in building a bomb, it wants one too.

Prince Turki al-Faisal, a former head of Saudi intelligence, reportedly warned US and Britain that Iran gaining nuclear arms "would compel Saudi Arabia ... to pursue policies which could lead to untold and possibly dramatic consequences".

"If our efforts, and the efforts of the world community, fail to convince Israel to shed its weapons of mass destruction and to prevent Iran from obtaining similar weapons, we must, as a duty to our country and people, look into all options we are given, including obtaining these weapons ourselves."

Most analysts are convinced the Saudis will turn to Pakistan.

"For all its wealth, Saudi Arabia does not have the technical and scientific base to create a nuclear infrastructure," Pervez Hoodbhoy, a nuclear physicist at Islamabad's Quaid-e-Azam University, told the *Herald*. "Too weak to defend itself and too rich to be left alone, the country has always been surrounded by those who eye its wealth."

But despite being "enormously indebted" to Saudi Arabia, Islamabad cannot simply sell bombs "off the shelf" to Riyadh, Professor Hoodbhoy said.

"Deterrence becomes effective once you advertise you have a weapon in hand," he said. "But if a country buys weapons surreptitiously, it cannot flaunt them as a nuclear deterrent because of the obvious question, 'Where did you get them from?'"

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Saudi Arabia, a close ally of the US, cannot be seen to be buying nuclear weapons from Pakistan, and Pakistan, already a nuclear pariah, cannot afford to be cast, again, as a proliferator of arms.

A secret weapons program would put Saudi Arabia in breach of a memorandum of understanding with the US that promises American assistance for a civilian nuclear program in return for the Saudis not pursuing "sensitive nuclear technologies".

Even with assistance, building nuclear weapons would take Saudi Arabia 10 to 15 years, Professor Hoodbhoy said.

*With Associated Press*

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/iran-nuclear-bid-tipped-to-provoke-saudi-bomb-20120129-1qo21.html>

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Christian Science Monitor

## **IAEA Visit: It's Showtime for Iran's Nuclear Denials**

*The IAEA team's three-day visit marks the first opportunity for Tehran to rebut allegations of a covert Iranian nuclear weapons program that were made public in November.*

By Scott Peterson, Staff writer

January 30, 2012

Istanbul, Turkey -- With top United Nations nuclear inspectors on a three-day trip to Iran, Tehran is sending mixed messages of cooperation and defiance.

The high-profile visit from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presents Iran with the first formal opportunity to rebut specific allegations of past weapons-related work since they were made public in an agency report in November.

The Islamic Republic has for years dismissed the documents those allegations are based upon as forgeries created by hostile intelligence agencies, aimed at besmirching a peaceful energy program. But now that talk of a US-Israeli war against Iran has gained momentum, in concert with an array of crippling sanctions, Iran says it will address those allegations.

"We are very optimistic about the outcome of the IAEA delegation's visit to Iran.... Their questions will be answered during this visit," Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said yesterday.

"We have nothing to hide and Iran has no clandestine [nuclear] activities," he said. "Of course I do not mean that a miracle will happen overnight, but you know a long journey starts with the first step."

Officials sought to reinforce that positive message today, by stating that the IAEA mission was there at Tehran's invitation, and was "in fact a proof of Iran's good intention," said senior lawmaker Parviz Sorouri, according to Fars News.

The stakes are high for the inspectors' visit. The next IAEA report is due within weeks, and in the past month the US and European Union have both imposed unprecedented sanctions on Iran that target its central bank and the lifeblood of its economy, its oil exports, in a bid to curb Iran's nuclear work.

### **Protesters turn out for IAEA arrival at Tehran airport**

The head of the IAEA team in Iran says their aim is to "resolve all the outstanding issues with Iran." Those include weapons-related studies – their "systematic" nature apparently halted in late 2003, according to the IAEA – which range from high-explosives testing to reengineering the warhead of a Shahab-3 missile to fit a specific, possibly nuclear, payload.

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"In particular we hope that Iran will engage with us on our concerns regarding the possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program," the IAEA deputy director for safeguards, Herman Nackaerts, said before leaving Vienna on Sunday.

A group of Iranians – of a type often associated with pro-regime *basiji* ideologues, a few covering their faces and carrying placards in English which read "Nuclear energy is our right" – turned out at the Imam Khomeini airport for the IAEA team's arrival Sunday.

They held portraits of Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, the latest of at least four nuclear scientists assassinated in Iran over two years. Senior figures in the regime accuse Israel's Mossad of the killings, and the IAEA of divulging information about its nuclear specialists that resulted in their deaths.

Ali Larijani, the speaker of parliament, on Sunday told the IAEA to conduct its work in a "logical ... technical" manner.

"This visit is a test for the IAEA. The route for further cooperation will be open if the team carries out its duties professionally," said Mr. Larijani. "Otherwise, if the IAEA turns into a tool [to pressure Iran], then Iran will have no choice but to consider a new framework in its ties with the agency."

Formal nuclear talks between Iran and world powers broke down a year ago in Istanbul. Both sides now say they want them to resume them, but no date or even agenda has been established.

#### **What is known about Iran nuclear program**

The November IAEA report was billed as a "game changer" before it was published. Based on more than 1,000 pages of data acquired from the United States in 2005, the nuclear watchdog agency said it had "serious concerns" about Iran's work – especially some modeling and other critical design work it says may have continued at least until 2009.

But former IAEA inspectors have questioned the veracity of the documents, saying that some once dismissed as unreliable appear to have been recycled to step up accusations against Iran.

The IAEA report confirmed – as has every quarterly IAEA safeguards report on Iran for nearly a decade – that the agency detected no diversion of nuclear material for military purposes, and that Iran's known nuclear facilities and uranium enrichment remain under strict IAEA watch.

Separately, two US National Intelligence Estimates on Iran, the latest in February 2011, have concluded that Iran halted weapons-related work in late 2003, and has so far neither resumed such work, nor made a decision to do so.

"Are they trying to develop a nuclear weapon? No," Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told CBS earlier this month.

Speaking again to CBS yesterday, however, Mr. Panetta said the US was watching Iran closely, suggesting that Iran could develop a nuclear weapon in a year if it chose to do so – though it might be another two or three years before Iran had a missile or other delivery vehicle for such a bomb. "If ... we get intelligence that they are proceeding with developing a nuclear weapon, then we will take whatever steps are necessary to stop them," he told 60 Minutes.

The IAEA chief Yukiya Amano has said that in 2012, Iran is "the most important" issue on his agenda.

"I am fully committed to working constructively with Iran and I trust that Iran will approach our forthcoming discussions in an equally constructive spirit," Mr. Amano told the IAEA board in Vienna on Jan. 19.

#### **Higher-enriched uranium to be used in 'coming months'**

Despite the increasing pressure, it has been largely business as usual for Iran, which is planning to unveil new military equipment in ceremonies leading up to the 33-year anniversary of the Islamic Revolution on Feb. 11.

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And although UN Security Council resolutions require Iran to halt all enrichment activity until it resolves IAEA concerns, Salehi on Monday said that Iran in "coming months" would turn its growing stockpile of 20 percent enriched uranium into fuel for its small medical reactor in Tehran – a difficult step that would mark significant technical know-how.

Though still far from the 90 percent required for any weapon, the material is higher than the 3.5 percent low-enriched uranium which makes up the bulk of Iran's efforts.

Today, Iran's English-language PressTV made little mention of the IAEA team in Iran, instead topping its news with video footage of heavy-handed police arrests of hundreds of Occupy Wall Street protesters in Oakland, CA.

Those protesters "burned the American flag," PressTV reported. It began another news item about Mr. Panetta's statement yesterday, that all options were on the table regarding Iran's nuclear program, with the words: "The US has once again threatened Iran...."

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2012/0130/IAEA-visit-It-s-showtime-for-Iran-s-nuclear-denials>

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Global Times – China

## **Russia Says N.Korea Talks Could Restart by Summer**

29 January 2012

By Agencies

North Korean nuclear talks could restart by the summer, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told Japan's NHK television in a Saturday interview whose transcript was released by the ministry Sunday.

"It is absolutely realistic to do this not just this year but in the first half of the year, concentrating on the main task of ensuring the Korean peninsula's non-nuclear status," Lavrov said. "If we act in this way and at the same time do not create provocative situations, it's fully likely that we will achieve a result."

He spoke ahead of a visit to Moscow by Washington's special representative for North Korea, Glyn Davies, who is due to arrive tomorrow to discuss continuing efforts to achieve North Korea's nuclear disarmament.

Lavrov said he believed North Korea was moving toward stabilization after the death of leader Kim Jong-il in December and the appointment of his son Kim Jong-un as the new leader.

"As far as the situation in the country after the death of Kim Jong-Il goes, we have a feeling that it is developing in the direction of stabilization," Lavrov said.

Russia, China, South Korea, Japan and the US are part of the Six-Party Talks, which stalled after North Korea quit the forum in April 2009, a month before staging its second nuclear test.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/NEWS/tabid/99/ID/693698/categoryId/52/Russia-says-NKorea-talks-could-restart-by-summer.aspx>

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Yonhap News – South Korea

January 30, 2012

## **N. Korea Accuses U.S. of Seeking to Create Crisis on Korean Peninsula**

SEOUL, Jan. 30 (Yonhap) -- North Korea accused the United States Monday of seeking to create crisis and maintain tension on the Korean Peninsula in an attempt to keep the Asia-Pacific region under its control.

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North Korea routinely denounces the U.S. over its policy on the divided peninsula as well as its regular joint military exercises with South Korea. The latest criticism came weeks after Washington unveiled a new defense strategy that called for a bigger role for U.S. troops in Asia despite a planned troop reduction due to budget constraints.

U.S. President Barack Obama stressed earlier this month that Washington's commitment to the Asia-Pacific region will not be affected, calling it a "critical region."

"The U.S. is trying to act as the emperor of the world" by dominating the Asia-Pacific region, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said in a commentary.

The commentary claimed the purpose of the U.S. defense strategy is to strengthen its military invasion and engagement in the region by fostering tension on the peninsula.

North Korea has frequently said U.S. joint military drills with South Korea are a rehearsal for a northward invasion, a claim rejected by both Seoul and Washington.

The U.S. has recently said it will maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula by effectively working with allies and other regional states to deter and defend against provocations from North Korea.

The U.S. has around 28,500 soldiers in South Korea to help deter possible North Korean aggression.

The communist country has a track record of military provocations against South Korea. In 2010, the North torpedoed a South Korean warship and shelled a South Korean border island, killing 50 people and driving bilateral relations to their lowest point in decades.

The North's commentary asserted that the U.S. is eventually seeking to keep the Asia-Pacific region under its control and maintain its global hegemony by applying military pressure on China, the growing military power in the region, the commentary said.

North Korea also blasted the U.S. for exaggerating threats from the North, claiming U.S. military adventurism poses a grave threat to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2012/01/30/9/0401000000AEN20120130009300315F.HTML>

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Mainichi Daily News – Japan

## **New Regime in N. Korea to Maintain Nuclear Ambitions: Seoul Official**

January 31, 2012

HONG KONG (Kyodo) -- North Korea's position on its nuclear weapon program is unlikely to change under the new leadership, but the resumption of the six-party talks is much needed to address the issue, a South Korean foreign affairs official said Monday.

Hahn Choong Hee, South Korean spokesman for the biennial Nuclear Security Summit set for Seoul in March, said North Korea has not committed to denuclearization, a condition for Korean peninsula talks mooted by South Korean President Lee Myung Bak toward the North's late leader Kim Jung Il who died last month and was succeeded by his son Jong Un.

The country's nuclear ambition remains unclear, but "I don't think (North Korea) will change drastically their position or insistence on nuclear weapons, but we have to continue to discuss among members of six-party talks what is the best way to handle the North Korean nuclear weapons program," Hahn said at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Hong Kong.

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The six parties are China, Japan, Russia, the United States and South and North Korea, who started meeting in 2003 to broker a deal for denuclearization.

Hahn said nuclear issues regarding North Korea and Iran are not on the agenda of a two-day nuclear security summit in Seoul, but the 50 participating states could use the opportunity to raise those concerns, apart from focusing on nuclear proliferation, security and safety issues.

"The summit itself will give a serious message to North Korea on the importance of denuclearization. The North Korean nuclear issue should be resolved as early as possible and also once and for all," Hahn said.

In addition to occasional missile testing, North Korea is blamed for the sinking of a South Korean warship and the shelling of a South Korean island in 2010, apparently with the aim of gaining negotiation leverage.

The first nuclear security summit was held in 2010 in Washington, and the focus for this year's Seoul summit will be on nuclear security and safety in view of the post-Osama bin Laden era, the Arab Spring-led regional instability and the Fukushima nuclear fiasco.

"Fukushima gave us certain implications from nuclear safety to nuclear security. What if that particular situation, like the malfunction of a pump, or malfunction of the cooling water system and backup electricity could be done by a terrorist (with) malicious intentions? We have to tackle this issue," Hahn said.

(Mainichi Japan) January 31, 2012

<http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/international/news/20120131p2g00m0in071000c.html>

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Boston Globe

## **US Diplomat Sees 'Hope in Diplomacy' with NKorea**

By Foster Klug, Associated Press

January 31, 2012

SEOUL, South Korea—A senior U.S. diplomat on Tuesday expressed "hope in diplomacy" for settling differences with North Korea, but he reassured ally Seoul that a lasting U.S.-South Korea military presence will back up any talks.

Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell, the top U.S. diplomat for East Asia, also said that Pyongyang must improve relations with rival Seoul before it can have better relations with the world.

"I share with South Korean friends that there is hope in diplomacy, but I must be very clear that that hope of diplomacy rests on the reality of a very strong deterrence and military commitment, and that will be unwavering," Campbell said during a speech at a dinner hosted by The Korea Society in Seoul.

Many are closely watching U.S.-North Korea ties for clues about the direction North Korea will take as a young new leader, Kim Jong Un, works to consolidate power over a nation that proudly trumpets its efforts to build nuclear weapons and has a history of aggression against its southern neighbor.

Shortly before the Dec. 17 death of Kim Jong Un's father, longtime leader Kim Jong Il, Washington and Pyongyang appeared close to a deal on food aid. The North, in turn, was expected to suspend uranium enrichment, which could give Pyongyang another possible route to making nuclear bombs and is a crucial hurdle to restarting six-nation aid-for-nuclear disarmament talks that have been stalled since early 2009.

South Korean Prime Minister Kim Hwang-sik, in remarks ahead of Campbell's speech, said Seoul is ready for cooperation "if North Korea shows sincerity."

"North Korea should be denuclearified as soon as possible," Kim added.

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North Korea has repeatedly pressed for the resumption of nuclear talks, but Washington and Seoul have said Pyongyang must first follow through on previous nuclear commitments.

As Kim Jong Un extends his family dynasty into a third generation, there has been uncertainty about whether North Korea will lean toward provocation or reconciliation -- and how tightly Pyongyang will cling to its nuclear program.

Pyongyang conducted nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009 and has developed missiles with the potential to attack its neighbors and possibly reach the United States.

North Korea's state media said Monday the United States was working to establish a stronger presence in Asia in order to become an "emperor of the world."

"The U.S. unlimited imperialist greed and military adventures are posing a grave menace to peace and stability in the region," the North said.

Despite the harsh rhetoric, however, North Korea has also suggested it is open to suspending its uranium enrichment program if it can get the food it wants from the United States.

North Korea also set an apparently conciliatory tone in its New Year's editorial, which provides a major signal of its policy priorities, by omitting the usual glorification of its nuclear ambitions and harsh criticism of the United States.

[http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2012/01/31/us\\_diplomat\\_sees\\_hope\\_in\\_diplomacy\\_with\\_nkorea/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2012/01/31/us_diplomat_sees_hope_in_diplomacy_with_nkorea/)

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Bellingham Herald – Bellingham, WA

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

## **US Expects NKorea to Continue Proliferation**

Associated Press (AP)

WASHINGTON -- U.S. intelligence expects North Korea's new young leader Kim Jong Un to continue Pyongyang's policy of attempting to export its weapon systems.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper told the Senate Intelligence Committee Tuesday that the North's export of ballistic missiles and associated materials to countries including Iran and Syria illustrated the reach of its proliferation activities.

He also cited North Korea's assistance to Syria in building a nuclear reactor, destroyed by Israel in 2007.

Clapper said it was too early to assess the extent of Kim's authority. Kim took power after his father died in December.

But Clapper said senior regime leaders would probably remain unified for now to prevent instability.

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2012/01/31/2373799/us-expects-nkorea-to-continue.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Russia to Modernize 30 Tu-22M3 Bombers by 2020**

31 January 2012

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About 30 Tu-22M3 strategic bombers from Russia's Long Range Aviation fleet will be modernized by 2020, Russian Air Force spokesman Col. Vladimir Drik said on Tuesday.

"We plan to upgrade about 30 strategic bombers to the M3M standard," Drik said.

Tu-22M3 (NATO reporting name Backfire-C) is a supersonic, swing-wing, long-range strategic bomber that Russia uses mainly to patrol the skies over its southern borders, Central Asia and the Black Sea region.

The Tu-22M3 has a flight range of 6,800 km (4,300 miles) and can carry a 24,000 kg (52,910 lb) payload, including nuclear bombs and cruise missiles fitted with nuclear or conventional warheads. Aircraft of the M3M standard can be equipped with a wider range of weapons.

As of 2008, the Russian Air Force had at least 141 Tu-22M3 bombers in service.

Maj. Gen. Anatoly Zhikharev, commander of Long Range Aviation, earlier said that Russia's strategic aviation fleet will undergo extensive modernization while Russia's next generation strategic bomber, the PAK DA, is being developed by the Tupolev Design Bureau.

He said the modernized aircraft will be equipped with new equipment, communications systems, cockpits and avionics.

MOSCOW, January 31 (RIA Novosti)

[http://en.rian.ru/military\\_news/20120131/171049406.html](http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20120131/171049406.html)

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Space Radiation Blamed for Phobos-Grunt Crash**

31 January 2012

Space radiation triggered a glitch in the on-board computer system causing the recent crash of Russia's Mars probe, Federal Space Agency head Vladimir Popovkin said on Tuesday.

"Two components of the onboard computer system were spontaneously rebooted and it switched into a standby mode," he said.

"The most likely reason [for the glitch] is the impact of heavy charged space particles," he said.

Another possible cause could have been defective microchips imported from abroad, he said.

"The use of imported microchips is not only our problem," he said, adding that NASA and the U.S. Defense Department were also concerned by illegal imports of those products.

A government commission has ruled out any "external or foreign influence" on the spacecraft, including alleged electromagnetic emission from a U.S. radar in the Pacific Ocean.

Phobos-Grunt, Russia's most ambitious planetary mission in decades, was launched on November 9 but it was lost due to a propulsion failure and fell back to Earth on January 15.

Popovkin previously suggested that certain forces in the Western Hemisphere, which is a shadow zone for Russia, might be shooting down Russian spacecraft.

According to NASA, Russia has failed in all 17 of its attempts to study the Red Planet close-up since 1960. The most recent failure before November 2011 occurred in 1996, when Russia lost its Mars-96 orbiter during launch.

VORONEZH, January 31 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.ria.ru/science/20120131/171047665.html>



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Plymouth Herald – U.K.

## **N-Subs 'to Stay in Scotland'**

Saturday, January 28, 2012

NUCLEAR submarines will stay in Scotland in the short-term, even if the country declares independence, Ministry of Defence sources suggest, writes Graeme Demianyk.

Plymouth could still be home to the UK's nuclear deterrent and submarine fleet if a referendum sees the United Kingdom split. The Scottish National Party has already said Trident nuclear missiles would be removed from the Clyde under independence.

MoD insiders believe that, after an independence vote, ministers in London would be forced to strike a deal with Scottish leaders allowing the Navy to go on using Coulport, where missiles and warheads are stored, and Faslane, where the subs are based, until an alternative was ready.

That would give Scotland's new government huge bargaining power.

One source was quoted as saying: "Berths would not be a problem – there are docks on the south coast that could be used without too much fuss.

"But there simply isn't anywhere else where we can do what we do at Coulport and, without that, there is no deterrent."

Any move south would cost billions of pounds. Devonport Naval Base is an alternative as it is currently home to three nuclear-powered submarines and is the UK's only base capable of maintaining the current and future submarine fleet.

<http://www.thisisplymouth.co.uk/N-subs-stay-Scotland/story-15061503-detail/story.html>

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London Guardian – U.K.

## **Trident Nuclear Deterrent 'At Risk' if Scotland Votes for Independence**

*Defence chiefs examine consequences of a future Scottish parliament voting to get rid of the Coulport and Faslane bases*

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Sunday, 29 January 2012

There is no alternative base for the UK's nuclear deterrent than its existing sites in Scotland, leaving it with the prospect of having nowhere to go should Scots vote for independence.

That is the conclusion of a detailed study to be published on Monday on what is emerging as a huge question for defence chiefs. They are only now beginning to face the consequences of a possible future Scottish parliament voting to get rid of the Trident nuclear weapons bases at Coulport and Faslane.

Asked during the referendum debate in the Scottish parliament last week whether the government of an independent Scotland would do a deal to keep Trident, the first minister Alex Salmond replied: "It is inconceivable that an independent nation of 5.25m people would tolerate the continued presence of weapons of mass destruction on its soil."

His comments seemed to be directed at senior British defence officials figures who have suggested that they could negotiate a treaty allowing the Trident missiles, warheads, and submarines, to remain in Scotland.

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The study, by John Ainslie of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, concludes that there are no viable alternatives. Possible sites including Devonport, Barrow (where the submarines are built), Portland, Falmouth and Milford Haven were all discounted in a secret study by the Ministry of Defence in 1963 when the government was searching for sites to base its Polaris nuclear fleet, Trident's predecessor, the study shows. They are even less viable now for environmental, cost and other pragmatic reasons, Ainslie says.

Moving Trident to the US or France would not be viable, because the nuclear non-proliferation treaty would prevent the UK from using existing facilities there and new ones would have to be built.

Philip Hammond, the defence secretary, has suggested that Scotland would be forced to pay towards the costs of relocating Trident. "These are idle threats," says the report. "Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan found themselves as independent countries with large numbers of nuclear weapons. It is ridiculous to suggest that these three countries should each have paid Russia to build new nuclear silos."

Kate Hudson, the general secretary of CND, said: "Trident is at a dead end, strategically and economically. Now we can add 'geographically' to the list too, as Ministry of Defence sources have confirmed CND's analysis: that there 'simply isn't anywhere else' for Trident to go. This detailed report, based on previous government assessments of alternative locations for Trident, comes to the same logical conclusion."

Alex Salmond yesterday rejected suggestions that voters should be asked in the referendum on Scottish independence if they want to leave the UK. The Scottish first minister said it would "confuse the issue" because the country would still retain the Queen as head of state if it were to break the political union.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/29/trident-nuclear-deterrent-scotland-independence?newsfeed=true>

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Albany Times Union – NY

## **US Weapons for Future Include Key Relics of Past**

By ROBERT BURNS, Associated Press (AP) National Security Writer  
Sunday, January 29, 2012

WASHINGTON (AP) — The lineup of weapons the Pentagon has picked to fit President Barack Obama's new forward-looking defense strategy, called "Priorities for 21st Century Defense," features relics of the past.

They include the Air Force's venerable B-52 bomber, whose current model entered service shortly before Obama was born. There is the even older U-2 spy plane, which began flying in 1955 and burst into the spotlight in May 1960 when Francis Gary Powers was shot down over the Soviet Union.

When Obama went to the Pentagon on Jan. 5 to announce his new defense strategy he said that as the U.S. shifts from a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan it will "get rid of outdated Cold War-era systems." He was not specific. But when the first details of the Pentagon's 2013 budget plan were announced Thursday, it was clear that some prominent remaining Cold War-era "systems" will live on.

That includes not just the B-52 bomber and the U-2 spy plane, but also the foundation of U.S. nuclear deterrence strategy: a "triad" of nuclear weapons that can be launched from land, sea, and air. That concept, credited by many for preventing nuclear conflict throughout the Cold War, is now seen by some arms control experts as the kind of outdated structure that the United States can afford to get rid of.

Some think the U.S. should do away with at least one leg of that "triad," perhaps the bomber role. That would not just save money and clear the way for larger reductions in the number of U.S. nuclear weapons — an Obama goal in line with his April 2009 pledge to seek the elimination of nuclear weapons.

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Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said recently that maintaining the current structure of American nuclear forces was "not in keeping with the modern world." He and like-minded lawmakers argue that nuclear weapons play no role in deterring threats such as global terrorists.

The U.S. now has about 5,000 operational nuclear weapons, about half as many as a decade ago. They can be launched from ballistic missile submarines, from underground silos housing intercontinental ballistic missiles, and from B-52 and B-2 bombers at air bases in Louisiana, North Dakota and Missouri.

The Air Force, which provides the land and air legs of the triad, argues for preserving that Cold War-era configuration.

"It remains our conviction that as you go down (in numbers of nuclear weapons), the triad actually becomes more important," Gen. Norton Schwartz, the Air Force chief of staff, told reporters Friday. "The diversity, the variety, the attributes associated with each leg of the triad reinforce each other to a greater degree."

Both the B-52 and the B-2 are capable of doing more than carrying nuclear weapons. The B-52 has been modernized many times and is now used in a variety of roles, including close-air support of troops in conflict and can carry missiles, bombs and mines. The first of the current H models entered service in May 1961.

The land-based intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) force dates to 1959. Ballistic missile subs, known as "boomers," were first launched in 1960; the current Ohio-class fleet dates to 1981.

The administration is nearing completion of an internal review of how many nuclear weapons are required to meet today's security needs; that process will lead to decisions on whether to reshape the nuclear arsenal. That effort is linked to consultations with NATO allies on whether to withdraw the remaining U.S. nuclear weapons from Europe, an arrangement that also is rooted in the Cold War. Also at play is how to set the stage for a new round of nuclear reduction talks with Russia.

The only move the Pentagon is making on the nuclear weapons front in the 2013 budget is a proposed two-year delay in development of a new generation of submarines to replace those now equipped with Trident nuclear missiles.

The Arms Control Association, which favors cutting nuclear weapons, estimates that the new fleet of ballistic missile submarines would cost \$350 billion to build and would last for 50 years. It advocates shrinking the number of subs to eight, which it says would save \$27 billion over 10 years.

Laicie Olson, senior policy analyst at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, said in an interview Friday that she was surprised, given Obama's commitment to reducing the number of nuclear weapons, that the administration is not using its 2013 defense budget to take substantial steps in that direction.

"All of these things are sticking around," she said, referring also to the U-2 spy plane, which was to have been retired in 2015 and replaced by a high-tech successor, the Global Hawk, which is flown without a pilot aboard.

Preserving such Cold War-era weapons "actually seems like the opposite of what the president set out to do," she said.

The Pentagon announced Thursday that the Global Hawk turned out to be a disappointment and no cheaper to use, so it is being canceled. As a result, the Air Force is extending the lifespan of the U-2, nicknamed "Angel" by Kelly Johnson, the Lockheed engineer who helped design the high-altitude spy plane.

Since 1994 the Air Force has spent \$1.7 billion to modernize the U-2, whose claims to fame include the October 1962 flights over Cuba that confirmed the presence of Soviet nuclear missiles, touching off the Cuban missile crisis.

<http://www.timesunion.com/news/article/US-weapons-for-future-include-key-relics-of-past-2769289.php>

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The Nation – Pakistan

## **US 'Bunker-Buster' Not Powerful Enough Against Iran's Tough N. Sites: Report**

By Special Correspondent

January 30, 2012

NEW YORK - The United States has intensified efforts for a more powerful bomb after acknowledging that the it's largest conventional bomb is not capable of destroying Iran's most heavily fortified underground facilities, according to a media report.

The 13.6-ton "bunker-buster" bomb, known as the Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP), was specifically designed to take out the hardened fortifications built by Iran and Northern Korea, The Wall Street Journal said in a report on Monday.

In an interview with the Journal, Defence Secretary Leon Panetta, while acknowledging, the bomb's shortcomings against some of Iran's deepest bunkers, said more development work would be done and that he expected the bomb to be ready to take on the deepest bunkers soon.

"We're still trying to develop them," Panetta was quoted as saying.

The efforts for boosted "bunker busting" capability have been speeded up as part of contingency planning for a possible strike against Iranian nuclear sites, the newspaper said, quoting US officials.

But early tests indicated that the bomb as currently primed was not fully capable of destroying some of Iran's facilities, because Tehran had added new fortifications to protect them.

Doubts about the MOP's effectiveness prompted the Pentagon this month to secretly submit a request to Congress for funding to enhance the bomb's ability to penetrate deeper into rock, concrete and steel before exploding, the officials said.

Within the president's new defence budget plan is funding for an intriguing new item: a floating drone base that also could be used as a launching pad for commandos.

The Defence Department has spent about \$330 million so far to develop about 20 of the bombs, which are built by Boeing Co. The Pentagon is seeking about \$82 million more to make the bomb more effective, according to government officials briefed on the plan.

Some experts question if any kind of conventional explosives are capable of reaching facilities such as those built deep underground in Iran. But U.S. defense officials say they believe the MOP could already do damage sufficient to set back the programme.

President Barack Obama has made clear that he believes U.S. and international sanctions can curb Iran's nuclear program if they are given more time to work. At the same time, however, Obama has asked the Pentagon to come up with military options.

In Tuesday's State of the Union address, Obama said: "Let there be no doubt: America is determined to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, and I will take no options off the table to achieve that goal." Iran denies it is trying to develop atomic weapons.

The U.S. has sought in recent weeks to tamp down tensions with Iran, but the Pentagon is at the same time pushing ahead with contingency planning.

"The development of this weapon is not intended to send a signal to any one particular country," Pentagon press secretary George Little said. "It's a capability we believe we need in our arsenal and will continue to invest in it."

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Officials said the planned improvements to the MOP were meant to overcome shortcomings that emerged in initial testing. They said the new money was meant to ensure the weapon would be more effective against the deepest bunkers, including Iran's Fordow enrichment plant facility, which is buried in a mountain complex surrounded by anti-aircraft batteries, making it a particularly difficult target even for the most powerful weapons available to the U.S.

Developing an effective bunker-buster is complicated in part because of the variables, experts say. Penetration varies depending on factors such as soil density and the types of stone and rock shielding the target.

Boeing received a contract in 2009 to fit the weapon on the U.S.'s B-2 Stealth Bomber. The Air Force began receiving the first of the bombs in September, a time of growing tensions with Iran. The Air Force has so far contracted to buy 20 of the bombs, and more deliveries are expected in 2013, after additional tests are made.

Should a decision be made to use the MOP as currently configured, it could cause "a lot of damage" to Iran's underground nuclear facilities but wouldn't necessarily destroy them outright, Panetta said.

"We're developing it. I think we're pretty close, let's put it that way. But we're still working at it because these things are not easy to be able to make sure that they will do what we want them to."

Panetta added: "But I'm confident, frankly, that we're going to have that capability and have it soon,"

The decision to ask now for more money to develop the weapon was directly related to efforts by the U.S. military's Central Command to prepare military options against Iran as quickly as possible, according to a person briefed on the request for additional funds.

A senior defence official said the U.S. had other options besides the MOP to set back Iran's nuclear program. "The Massive Ordnance Penetrators are by no means the only capability at our disposal to deal with potential nuclear threats in Iran," the official said.

Another senior U.S. official said the Pentagon could make up for the MOPs' shortcomings by dropping them along with other guided bombs on top of a bunker's entry and exit points—provided the intelligence is available about where they are all located.

Successful strikes on bunker entry and exit points could prevent an enemy from accessing such a site and could cause enough damage to stop or slow enrichment activity there.

"There is a virtue to deepness but you still need to get in and out," the senior U.S. official said.

The Pentagon was particularly concerned about its ability to destroy bunkers built under mountains, such as Iran's Fordow site near the Shiite Muslim holy city of Qom, according to a former senior U.S. official who is an expert on Iran.

The official said some Pentagon war planners believe conventional bombs won't be effective against Fordow and that a tactical nuclear weapon may be the only military option if the goal is to destroy the facility. "Once things go into the mountain, then really you have to have something that takes the mountain off," the official said.

The official said the MOP may be more effective against Iran's main enrichment plant at Natanz but added: "But even that is guesswork."

The Pentagon notified Congress in mid-January that it wants to divert around \$82 million to refine the MOP, taking the money from other defense programs. The decision to sidestep the normal budget request process suggests the Pentagon deems the MOP upgrades to be a matter of some urgency.

Panetta said Iran wasn't the only potential target. "It's not just aimed at Iran. Frankly, it's aimed at any enemy that decides to locate in some kind of impenetrable location. The goal here is to be able to get at any enemy, anywhere," he said



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Panetta and former Defense Secretary Robert Gates have argued that a military strike would at best delay Iran's nuclear development for a few years. Advocates of a strike say such a delay could be decisive by buying time for other efforts to thwart the program.

According to Air Force officials, the 20.5 foot-long MOP carries over 5,300 pounds of explosive material. It is designed to penetrate up to 200 feet underground before exploding. The mountain above the Iranian enrichment site at Fordow is estimated to be at least 200 feet tall.

Israel has large bunker-buster bombs but the U.S. hasn't provided the MOP to any other country.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/international/30-Jan-2012/us-bunker-buster-not-powerful-enough-against-irans-tough-n-sites-report>

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USA TODAY

January 31, 2012

## **Panel: Biologists Face Bioterror Risk "Crossroads"**

By Dan Vergano, USA TODAY

A federal advisory panel Tuesday warned microbiologists that their research now raises bioterror dangers akin to the proliferation risks faced by the early atomic scientists.

"We are in the midst of a revolutionary period in the life sciences," says the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity in a statement released by the journal *Science*. "However, there is also a growing risk that the same science will be deliberately misused and that the consequences could be catastrophic."

The panel of 22 senior scientists made headlines last month by requesting that the journals *Science* and *Nature* withhold details of two bird flu transmission studies from publication. The studies dealt with strains of the deadly flu able to transmit among ferrets, the closest animal models to humans. In the statement, the NSABB explains their decision, made at the request of the federal government:

*"Our concern is that publishing these experiments in detail would provide information to some person, organization, or government that would help them to develop similar mammal-adapted influenza A/H5N1 viruses for harmful purposes. We believe that as scientists and as members of the general public, we have a primary responsibility "to do no harm" as well as to act prudently and with some humility as we consider the immense power of the life sciences to create microbes with novel and unusually consequential properties," says the statement.*

The heads of the two study teams recently announced a two-month halt to their research for a World Health Organization symposium on the risks and benefits of the research. The NSABB panel compares the current moment in biology to ones faced before by atomic scientists and recombinant DNA researchers in the 1970's.

"The life sciences have reached a crossroads. The direction we choose and the process by which we arrive at this decision must be undertaken as a community and not relegated to small segments of government, the scientific community, or society. Physicists faced a similar situation in the 1940s with nuclear weapons research, and it is inevitable that other scientific disciplines will also do so."

In a separate commentary, NSABB chief Paul Keim of Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, further explained the panel's reasoning, calling for the scientific community as an international endeavor to decide on steps for controlling "dual-use" microbiological research. "What is gratifying and essential is that the debate is occurring; it is occurring on an international stage, and it is occurring rapidly," Keim said, in the statement released by the *mBio* journal.

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<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/sciencefair/post/2012/01/panel-biologists-face-bioterror-risk-crossroads/1?csp=34news>

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TechJournal South

## More than Half of Global Security Experts Say Cyber Arms Race Is Underway

January 31st, 2012

More than half of global security experts interviewed in a new study say a cyber arms race is already underway, and more than a third believe cyber defense is more important than missile defense.

So says McAfee and the Security & Defence Agenda (SDA) in the findings from a report; *Cyber-security: The Vexed Question of Global Rules* that paints, for the first time, a global snapshot of current thinking about the cyber-threat and the measures that should be taken to defend against them, and assesses the way ahead.

The SDA, the leading defense and security think-tank in Brussels, interviewed leading global security experts to ensure that findings would offer usable recommendations and actions. The report was created to identify key debate areas and trends and to help to governments and organizations understand how their cyber defense posture compares to those of other countries and organizations. "Until we can pool our data and equip our people and machines with intelligence, we are playing chess with only half the pieces."

### Here are some noted findings:

- 57% of global experts believe that an arms race is taking place in cyber space.
- 36% believe cyber-security is more important than missile defense.
- 43% identified damage or disruption to critical infrastructure as the greatest single threat posed by cyber-attacks with wide economic consequences (up from 37% in McAfee's 2010 Critical Infrastructure Report).
- 45% of respondents believe that cyber-security is as important as border security.
- The state of cyber-readiness of the United States, Australia, UK, China and Germany all ranked behind smaller countries such as Israel, Sweden and Finland (23 countries ranked in report).

McAfee asked the SDA, as an independent think-tank, to produce the most informed report on global cyber defense available. The SDA had in-depth interviews with some 80 world-leading policy-makers and cyber-security experts in government, business and academia in 27 countries and anonymously surveyed 250 world leaders in 35 countries.

As the only specialist security and defense think-tank in Brussels, SDA has become one of the world's leading forums for the discussion of international defense and security policies.

The methodology used for rating various countries' state of cyber-readiness is that developed by Robert Lentz, President of Cyber Security Strategies and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber, Identity and Information Assurance.

<http://www.techjournalssouth.com/2012/01/more-than-half-of-global-security-experts-say-cyber-arms-race-is-underway/>

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New York Times  
OPINION/Editorial  
January 30, 2012

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## New Strategy, Old Pentagon Budget

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The \$259 billion in budget cuts over the next five years announced by the Pentagon may sound like a lot. But they are mainly a scaling back of previously projected spending — the delights of the Washington budget games.

This year, Pentagon spending will total \$531 billion. In 2017, it will rise to \$567 billion. Factoring in inflation, that amounts to only a minuscule 1.6 percent real cut. (Both numbers exclude war spending — \$115 billion this year.)

After a decade of unrestrained Pentagon spending increases, President Obama deserves credit for putting on the brakes. The cuts are a credible down payment on his pledge to reduce projected defense spending by \$487 billion in the next decade. They are not going to be enough. In the likely absence of a bipartisan budget pact, a further automatic across-the-board 10-year cut of nearly \$500 billion is to take effect starting next January.

Even if a last-minute deal heads that off, the country needs to find more savings. And there is still plenty of room to cut deeper without jeopardizing national security.

Early in January, President Obama outlined a new, more pragmatic defense strategy. Republicans predictably claimed he was hollowing out the force — but a smarter, more restrained use of force is just what the country needs to secure its vital interests.

Much of the savings will come from cutting the size of the Army and Marine Corps by almost 13 percent and stretching out purchases of planes and ships. At the same time, the military will buy more unpiloted drones, add special operations units, equip submarines to carry more cruise missiles and expand its cyberwarfare capacities.

That makes sense in a world where terrorism and unconventional attacks are a primary threat. Any plan to downsize ground forces must be matched by a credible plan to quickly build them up, if necessary.

The Pentagon also proposes a new round of domestic base closings, a less generous formula for military pay raises after 2015 and higher health insurance premiums for military retirees (families of working-age retirees now pay \$500 annually), all of which we strongly support.

Unfortunately, that new thinking has been dragged down by some old-style budgetary inertia. Mr. Obama needs to push the Pentagon to do better. Here are some additional cuts that make sense:

**SHRINK THE F-35 PROGRAM** The total order of stealth fighters should be reduced to 1,000, from 2,440, saving more than \$150 billion. The F-35 was designed as a low-cost, supercapable aircraft. It has become the costliest Pentagon procurement project ever and its performance has been disappointing. The Air Force, Navy and Marines need to cut their losses. Most of the savings would not come until the 2020s. Over \$20 billion could be saved this decade by canceling the troubled Marine Corps variant.

**CUT THE NUCLEAR BUDGET** Mr. Obama has declared his commitment to arms control, but there is no reflection of that in the budget plan. He needs to back it up with significant cuts in the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons, ballistic missile submarines and intercontinental ballistic missiles. Senator Tom Coburn, a Republican, offers a sensible plan to do that, and estimates that it could save \$79 billion over the next decade.

**GO TO 10 AIRCRAFT CARRIER GROUPS** The Pentagon could save \$4 billion to \$8 billion over a decade by revisiting the president's unwise decision not to eliminate one of the 11 aircraft carriers with associated ships and aircraft. Ten would provide more than enough surge capacity to support naval air operations anywhere in the world.

We know that it is politically easier to continue programs that outlive their usefulness or outrun their cost estimates — especially when Republican politicians are so eager to promise the Pentagon a blank check. And especially when the defense industry and its lobbyists are spreading so much cash around on Capitol Hill. But the country cannot afford to continue on this way. And there is no strategic argument for doing so. The era of hard choices at the Pentagon has barely begun.



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<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/30/opinion/new-strategy-old-pentagon-budget.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency  
OPINION/Analysis

## The Pentagon Tightens its Belt

30 January 2012

By RIA Novosti military correspondent Konstantin Bogdanov

The plan that the U.S. Defense Department has published will allow the Pentagon to save about half a trillion dollars and will reduce the country's armed forces by 100,000 people. The Pentagon claims the plan will not diminish the U.S. army's capabilities but this seems to be an effort to put a good face on the matter.

On Monday let's start living within our means, or How to issue the need for virtue Defense Secretary Leon Panetta presented the plan on restructuring the armed forces and cutting related expenses, which is entitled "Defense Budget Priorities and Choices."

The preface to the document is full of eloquent verbiage designed to reassure the public and Congress. Emphasizing the need to cut expenses and withdraw hardware from the armed forces, the Pentagon is trying to prove that these changes, in particular better control and new technology, will only make its military potential more effective, flexible, modern and dynamic.

The experts that drafted the document along with Panetta share this opinion. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said: "Capability is more important than size," and that this "is a military that can win any conflict, anywhere."

Assessing the plan in general, it's worth outlining certain details. First, this is obviously not the final document in the Pentagon's strategy. This is not just a plan for urgent cuts in spending – certain points make it clear that the U.S. armed forces await restructuring.

Second, the document's rhetoric and its real content are reminiscent of the principle of "issuing the need for virtue." One can talk endlessly about innovation technology and "flexible dynamism" but it is hard to dispute the fact that all these reductions and delays in the implementation of programs have become a reality only because of the extreme shortage of funds during the financial crisis.

If Washington had even the slightest opportunity not to touch its armed forces (which have been rushing all over the world in the last decade) it would have done so and would even have allocated additional funding towards its defense programs – just as it has done so well since the late 1930s in order to stimulate the economy.

### Cut the troops to run faster

Saying nice words about the preservation and expansion of the "projection of force" (the expeditionary potential of the armed forces), the Pentagon lashed out against its military transport aviation. It set the task of reducing the difference in types of aircraft in order to make their service simpler and less expensive.

As a result, almost a hundred C-5A Galaxy and old C-130 Hercules will be withdrawn. At the same time the U.S. Air Force has decided against any further purchases of the new C-27J Spartans, originally needed for "general considerations" and now declined, allegedly due to the lack of proper runways in Afghanistan. Now the Pentagon is confident that the few difficulties that remain can be overcome with upgraded C-130s.

The Navy is also subject to cuts, but these are not so profound. The withdrawal of seven cruisers is the most blatant reduction but it is worth remembering that it is impossible or inexpedient to adapt these ships to the deployment of missile interceptors.

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At the same time the Pentagon emphasized that it must keep 11 aircraft carriers by all means. The document explains that the Navy's role has substantially increased, with the United States renouncing its large-scale ground presence in key regions (the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific region).

It seems the United States is prepared to stake its bet on deterring its potential enemies with mobile attack units deployed around aircraft carrier groups and supplemented by the expeditionary Marine Corps.

The Pentagon is planning to decrease the strength of its armed forces – the army will cut at least eight combat brigades and 80,000 troops. In addition the Marine Corps will reduce another 20,000 troops.

The document makes a point that this decision does not boil down to army cuts. It is a return to the past, to the position of 2001 before the start of the “war on terrorism” and the ground operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, for which the army and the Marines had to obtain 125,000 troops. Apart from the need to reduce costs, the decision was made in view of the troop pullout from Iraq and gradual withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Afghan campaign.

### **Cheap imperialist policy**

The most instructive story with military budget implications revolves around air reconnaissance drones. The Air Force planned to purchase RG-4 Global Hawk block 30 series, because it would pay less for the production and service of these drones than the legendary U-2 spy aircraft.

However, the expenses for the program were growing and gradually became equal. And it now transpired that if these drones were purchased in late 2011 as planned, their service would cost more than that of the antiquated U-2 reconnaissance aircraft the older brother of which was downed by the Soviets over the Ural Mountains in May 1960.

There are many stories like this in the history of the U.S. military-industrial complex. It is easy to see that prices and costs are a major concern not only for Moscow's Znamenka but also for the Pentagon on the Potomac River.

The term “cheap imperialist policy” comes from the period between the two world wars. It was usually applied to the deep cuts in the British navy following the 1922 Washington conference. The British Empire had to achieve the same goal – that is, to make sure that the sun never sets over it – by much smaller forces and funds.

In effect, we can apply this term to what is happening with the Pentagon's policy in similar conditions (and amid the global financial crisis – the worst since the Great Depression, which only further underscores this similarity). For the British Empire this policy resulted in an unsuccessful war and the ultimate loss of global leadership.

*The views expressed in this article are the author's and may not necessarily represent those of RIA Novosti.*

<http://en.ria.ru/analysis/20120130/171028060.html>

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Eurasia Review – Spain

OPINION/Analysis

## **Difficulties for Terrorists to Fabricate Nuclear RDD/IND Weapons – Analysis**

By Muhammad Jawad Hashmi

January 30, 2012

It could be guessed that the interest by terrorists in manufacturing a nuclear weapon of an IND (Improvised Nuclear Device) is a challenging task for them based on the expertise and technological support. It is quite clear that even if terrorists get the fissile material and blueprints, the making of an IND (Improvised Nuclear Device) would be a demanding technical task.

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Although the obstacles to manufacturing a gun-type IND are clearly smaller than those for an implosion-type, they must not be neglected. To make the uranium parts of the IND (Improvised Nuclear Device), metallurgical experts and equipment are required. The following are some of the practical obstacles they would have to overcome:

- Uranium ignites spontaneously in the air at 150-175° C;
- Uranium is chemically toxic and radioactive. Highly enriched uranium exhibits more than 100 times as many disintegrations per time unit as natural uranium;
- When cooling down from its melting point (at 1132.2° C) to room temperature, uranium undergoes two phase transitions. The density thereby increases by more than 8.5%. A change of 8.5% in density results in a change of approximately 18% in the critical mass;
- It is not possible to check whether or not the two subcritical masses fit together;
- Reflector materials and isostatic presses suitable to form reflectors are subject to export controls.

When discussing a stolen nuclear weapon or buying or self manufactured one by terrorists' organization, it is clear that these are difficult to operate if not impossible. Nuclear weapons are located at well protected and guarded weapons emplacements or in nuclear weapon storage facilities. So in such a situation a theft of nuclear weapon would involve many risks and great efforts in terms of personnel, finance and organization.

It is a fact that this kind of theft is inconceivable without the support of insiders and local knowledge. This kind of theft has not been witnessed so far anywhere in the world. Several types of safety and security systems exist around a nuclear facility, so that under any circumstances, no unwanted nuclear explosion takes place. These are some of them:

- Inertial switches and acceleration sensors allow priming only after a threshold level has been reached;
- Certain types require a high energy electrical impulse;
- Environmental sensing devices monitor the trajectory and switch on only at a distinct ratio of the longitudinal to lateral acceleration;
- A barometric switch activates the electric circuit only at a distinct height above ground;
- A so-called permissive-action link (PAL) is needed, consisting for instance of several number codes with up to 12 digits and allowing a limited number of tries. The code has to be entered by more than a person, i.e. each person concerned knows only part of the entire code.

Many believe that these threats of nuclear terrorism are inflated and have been overstated because technical hurdles still prevent terrorists from acquiring or building a nuclear device.

Brain McNair argues that the threats of nuclear terrorism have been exaggerated by the world. As the matter stands today, the possibility of nuclear terrorism remains more a fantasy than fact. Furthermore, Shireen Mazari argues that Nuclear weapons would not be a weapon of choice for terrorists. Instead, she claims that "terrorists already have access to enough destructive capabilities with in conventional means, so their need for nuclear weapons is simply not there."

Analysts have endorsed the assessment that the threat of nuclear action by terrorists appears to be exaggerated. Similarly, religious cults and left-wing terrorists with their beliefs of certain prohibitions against mass murder are less likely by many estimates to use WMDs in a terrorist activity, even though there is not any guarantee that terrorists will use WMDs.

It has also been witnessed that no terrorist group is known to have developed or deployed a nuclear explosive device, and the severity of the threat of nuclear terrorism remains disputed amongst international scholars. So it becomes too early to conclude that how grave the threats of nuclear terrorism are. James kitfield concludes in an interview from security expert that:

*Seven years after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, experts and presidential candidates continue to put nuclear terrorism atop their lists of the gravest threats to the United States. Yet Brian Michael Jenkins, a longtime*



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*terrorism expert with the Rand Corp., says that the threat lies more in the realms of Hollywood dramas and terrorist dreams than in reality. There has never been an act of nuclear terrorism, he notes, yet the threat is so potentially catastrophic that it incites fear — and that fear fulfills a terrorist's primary goal.*

In nutshell, we can say that it takes much more than knowledge of the workings of nuclear weapons and access to fissile material to successfully manufacture a usable weapon. Current safety and security systems help ensure that the successful use of a stolen weapon would be very unlikely. Meaning, it remains, thankfully, an incredibly challenging task for terrorists to practice their idea in a successful way to meet their objectives.

*Mr. MJ Hashmi is M.Phil in Defence and Strategic Studies. He is an Author of a book entitled as "Nuclear Terrorism in Pakistan: Myth of Reality?" His Area of interest is Nuclear Terrorism, Nuclear Safety and Security issues in Pakistan, Arms Control and Disarmament, Nuclear Non-Proliferation.*

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/30012012-difficulties-for-terrorists-to-fabricate-nuclear-rddind-weapons-analysis/>

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Global Times – China

OPINION/Editorial

## **US Should Abandon Zero-Sum Mentality**

31 January 2012

By Global Times

An article recently published in Foreign Policy bluntly stated that the rise of China is a zero-sum game and not a win-win for both China and the US.

These remarks may resonate with many Americans.

It is natural to see the US, which is used to being No.1 in the world, feel uncomfortable and even uneasy about China's rise. But they should first realize that the rise of China is inevitable as long as China can maintain a peaceful development environment. In this sense, the most effective way for the US to contain its development is to damage the peaceful environment in China and bring it into chaos.

But if it really does so, the risk it has to shoulder will be much larger than if it accepts China's rise as a natural trend without resisting it. A chaotic China will bring only harm to the following generations of Americans. And the US should be clear that China is not easily brought to chaos, despite the Internet being full of diverse opinions and mass incidents continually happening in China. Memories of turmoil are still fresh in Chinese people's minds. For a very long time, maintaining unity and stability will continue to be the overriding wish of Chinese society.

It is very possible for the US to share the rise of China, which in truth might not really bring an absolute win-win situation. But it will not be a zero-sum game either, unless both China and the US desperately want to go back to the 20th century.

The world has moved on from the age of empires. The rise of China is not a sinister national political goal. Rather, it is the natural international political consequence of the Chinese people's desire to live a good life of dignity. At least, for a considerable time, Chinese people will have no interest in using their national power to do what previous empires did. The direction of China's rise is not the pursuit of world hegemony.

Furthermore, Chinese people sincerely hope that China's rise will benefit the entire world. They don't want to hoard the fruits of development. They are very willing to share their benefits with neighboring countries, including the US. And China is doing just that.

China and the US are growing increasingly interdependent, both economically and culturally. The facts show that, as some experts from both countries hold, the two countries are actually entering a positive-sum game, as long as the US does not escalate its containment policy in treating China as a rising threat.

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It is not easy to walk out of the shadow of the geopolitical competition of the past. But globalization is profoundly changing the rules and nature of competition between nations, which will accelerate with time. Americans should not keep their old mindset in a new age. They should keep pace with the times, as the Chinese always say.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/NEWS/tabid/99/ID/693872/US-should-abandon-zero-sum-mentality.aspx>

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