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

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Chicago Tribune

U.S. and Russia Cap "Reset" in Ties with START Treaty

February 5, 2011

By Andrew Quinn

MUNICH (Reuters) - The United States and Russia formally inaugurated their new START nuclear arms treaty on Saturday, capping two years of work to "reset" the sometimes strained ties between the former Cold War enemies.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov exchanged the final START documents at the Munich security conference, where two years ago U.S. Vice President Joe Biden launched the Obama administration's push for better relations with Moscow.

"Two years ago we all laughed about the translation of the ceremonial 'reset' button I gave to the Foreign Minister," Clinton said, referring to a diplomatic gaffe in which she presented Lavrov with an oversized button on which "reset" was mistranslated into the Russian for "overcharge."

"But when it came to the translation that mattered most, we turned words into action to reach a milestone in our strategic partnership."

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama signed the deal in April after a year of tough negotiations, committing the world's top two nuclear powers gradually to reduce their atomic arsenals.

The START treaty has been at the center of Washington's effort to improve ties with Moscow, which hit a low with Russia's 2008 war against pro-western Georgia and were further strained by disagreements on trade and U.S. concerns over Russia's record on human rights and free speech.

U.S. officials say the "reset" has delivered results on a number of fronts including efforts to rein in the nuclear ambitions of Iran and North Korea, cooperation on the halting Middle East peace process and growing ties between Russia and NATO.

The START treaty itself is also seen as an important step toward Obama's goal of nuclear disarmament -- though analysts say there are much higher hurdles ahead if further progress is to be made.

FACING DOWN OBJECTIONS

Obama faced down sharp objections from some Republican senators, who said the new treaty gave too much away, to win Senate ratification late last year in a major political victory.

The START treaty commits the two nations, with 95 percent of the world's nuclear weapons, to ceilings of 1,550 deployed strategic warheads in seven years, up to 30 percent lower than in the 2002 Moscow treaty.

It will limit each side to 700 deployed strategic missiles and bombers and establish verification rules, absent since the U.S.-Soviet Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) expired in 2009, enabling them to keep tabs on each other's arsenals.

Now the treaty has taken effect, the two nations will begin exchanging information about the status of their nuclear forces and, within weeks, hold the first on-site inspections of each other's nuclear arsenals in nearly two years.

U.S. officials say the treaty is an important step toward Obama's broader goal of nuclear disarmament, but analysts say higher hurdles loom ahead.

The United States and Russia have already signaled differences over further cuts, including on tactical nuclear weapons that many analysts regard as a more immediate danger.

The U.S. Senate has asked Obama to seek negotiations on tactical nuclear weapons within a year after START enters into force. But Russia, which has a stockpile several times larger than that of the United States, has resisted, saying talks should not be held until each country confines its tactical nuclear weapons to its own territory.

Editing by Tim Pearce.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/sns-rt-news-us-russia-usa-stre7141ed-20110205.0.7339861.story>

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The Star – Malaysia

Saturday, February 5, 2011

FACTBOX - START Treaty Opens Way to Nuclear Inspections

REUTERS - The United States and Russia formally inaugurated their new START nuclear arms treaty on Saturday, capping a two-year drive to "reset" relations between the two former Cold War foes.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov exchanged final ratification documents for the treaty at a security conference in Munich.

The exchange will set the clock ticking on a series of steps the two sides must take in the following weeks, leading up to the first on-site inspections of each other's nuclear arsenals in nearly two years, probably sometime in April.

Under the treaty, the two sides must reduce their deployed strategic nuclear warheads to no more than 1,550 in seven years and reduce deployed long-range missiles and bombers to no more than 700. Following are some of the initial steps required:

* Once the treaty enters into force, the sides will immediately begin exchanging information about the status of their nuclear forces, a senior U.S. official said on condition of anonymity. For example, they will notify each other whenever nuclear arms are deployed or removed from deployed status. The information is channeled through Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers established by both sides in 1988. The U.S. center is at the State Department, the Russian center is at the defense ministry.

* Within 25 days, the two sides must exchange the names and details of no more than 300 people who may serve as inspectors. The sides also will exchange the names of air crew members who will fly the inspectors. Within 30 days of the list exchange, the sides must issue visas for the inspectors and air crews.

* Within 45 days, the two sides must carry out an initial exchange of detailed information on each other's nuclear arsenals. "We'll exchange a complete database," the U.S. official said. "We'll give the Russians a complete set of data about our strategic nuclear forces and they'll give us a complete set of data about their strategic nuclear forces."

The data will include detailed information like a missile's classification, number of stages, length without front section, diameter of airframe, total length with launch canister and type of propellant.

The official said U.S. officials have not received fresh data on the Russian nuclear forces since July 2009.

* Sixty days after the treaty enters into force, the two sides may begin conducting on-site inspections. U.S. officials have been practicing for the first inspection, which will likely be held in mid-April, the U.S. official said.

Compiled by David Alexander in Washington; editing by Mark Heinrich

http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/2/6/worldupdates/2011-02-05T231849Z_01_NOOTR_RTRMDNC_0_-546813-1&sec=Worldupdates

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U.S. Department of State

The Role of the Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers

Fact Sheet, Office of Press Relations

Washington, DC

February 5, 2011

The exchange of information required under the New START Treaty is facilitated by the Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (NRRC) in the United States at the Department of State and in Russia at the Ministry of Defense.

The New START Treaty requires that the United States and Russia be transparent about their strategic offensive arms and delivery vehicles. A crucial element in producing this transparency is the New START Treaty's extensive notification system. Each Party is required to exchange up-to-date data on facilities, numbers and types of strategic weapons, and to notify one another of production, conversions, eliminations, and movements of nuclear weapon delivery systems via their respective NRRC. Also, inspections of facilities and meetings of the Bilateral Consultative Commission are coordinated through the notification process.

The Notification Process

Notifications on data or activities are delivered to each Party through a step by step process. For example, when the U.S. Air Force is planning to conduct a test launch of a Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile, Russia must be notified.

For the United States, the notification process begins when a message about the test launch is sent through the Department of Defense's Arms Control Enterprise System (ACES).

The notification then goes through a series of steps to ensure the accuracy of the notification.

It is then sent to the NRRC. Once in the NRRC, the watch officers retrieve the notification from ACES and load it on to NRRC systems for processing. They then re-verify the information, ensure it meets all the treaty requirements and package it for transmission to the Russian Government.

Finally, it is transferred to a special dedicated communication system that directly links the U.S. NRRC and the Russian NRRC and the message is sent, according to treaty-defined time deadlines.

The timeline for a given notification varies, but at times the entire operation must be completed in as little as an hour.

The process works much the same way in reverse whenever the Russian Government notifies the United States about its activities, except that the U.S. NRRC must translate the notification from Russian into English before disseminating it throughout the U.S. Government, including Defense command centers, such as NORAD, the National Military Command Center, foreign policy leaders at the State Department and National Security Staff, and many other departments and agencies.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2011/02/156039.htm>

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Trend News Agency - Azerbaijan

New Start Won't Keep Russia from Developing Bulava Missiles - Deputy PM

6 February 2011

The New START arms reduction treaty will not shift Russia's plans to continue developing Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) and Yars RS-24 missiles, Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov said on Saturday, RIA Novosti reported.

Earlier in the day, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton exchanged the instruments of ratification for the New START arms reduction treaty and the document came into effect.

"This treaty does not envision any duties on Russia except for one: to observe the limits stated in the treaty," Ivanov said.

"The plans we had to develop the strategic component of the armed forces remain in force, this concerns Bulava and Yars," Ivanov said.

Ivanov emphasized that not only Russia and the United States, but all of the countries which develop and have nuclear arms should hold talks aimed at reducing strategic nuclear arsenals.

<http://en.trend.az/regions/world/russia/1824329.html>

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People's Daily – China

New START Treaty Enters into Force as U.S., Russia Exchange Ratification Papers

February 6, 2011

A new nuclear arms treaty between the United States and Russia that limits the number of atomic warheads the two former Cold War enemies are permitted to possess took effect Saturday.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov exchanged instruments of ratification on the sidelines of the 47th Munich Security Conference. The New START treaty was approved by the U.S. Senate in December after President Barack Obama pressed strongly for its passage. Russia ratified the 10-year agreement, which can be extended by another five years, last month.

"We are aware that this treaty was born of our mutual understanding of the futility of a unilateral approach to security issues," Lavrov said.

Lavrov said the principles of parity, equality and undivided security stipulated by the New START treaty, negotiated last year, set a solid foundation for Russian-American cooperation in different areas.

"The treaty that enters into force today will enhance international stability," Lavrov said.⁸ Clinton called the treaty "an example of clear eye cooperation that is in everyone's interest."

"When it comes to the button that has worried us the most over the years -- the one that would unleash nuclear destruction -- today we take another step to ensure it will never be pushed," Clinton told reporters after the treaty went into effect.

The agreement will slash existing warhead ceilings by 30 percent over the next 10 years from current a current cap of 2,200 to 1550 and limits each side to 700 deployed long-range missiles and heavy bombers.

The pact also re-establishes a monitoring system that ended in December 2009 with the expiration of an earlier arms deal. Russia and the U.S. have the right to conduct onsite inspections beginning 60 days from the agreement going into effect Saturday.

Although the weapons ceiling in the new treaty is far more encouraging than those in previous agreements, the pact only limits deployed strategic nuclear weapons.

"We have made absolutely clear that we will not accept any constraints on our missile defense systems," Clinton said, adding that actions will be taken this year to deploy radar systems abroad for training.

"We have also discussed further arms control conditions that include nonstrategic and undeployed nuclear weapons," she said.

Both countries expressed reservations when approving the treaty.

The U.S. Congress did not consider the preamble to the agreement to be legally effective and the pact doesn't restrict the deployment of missile defense systems, including those in Europe.

To counter that, Russia reserved the right to withdraw from the treaty if the U.S. violates its provisions, unilaterally deploys missile defense systems that "qualitatively violate" Russian security or takes some other inappropriate unilateral actions.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hailed the treaty's entering into force as "a historical, political milestone on the road to our ultimate goal: achieving a world free of nuclear weapons."

He applauded the "leadership and political commitment" of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Obama.

Soruce: Xinhua

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/90853/7280449.html>

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Tehran Times

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

New START is in Violation of NPT: Senior MP

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN – MP Kazem Jalali has commented that the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and Russia contravenes the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

“The new START treaty between the U.S. and Russia goes against the NPT and is a move to legitimize development of new generation of nuclear weapons,” Jalali, the rapporteur of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said on Monday.

The lawmaker explained that Russia and the U.S. have agreed to reduce the number of their outdated nuclear bombs, but want to retain more advanced nuclear weapons which have higher destructive power and that is why the STATR III is in violation of NPT.

Russia and the U.S., through giving publicity to the treaty, have tried to distract people’s attention and convince the world that they have fulfilled their obligations, but in fact they have fallen short of the international community’s expectations, the veteran lawmaker noted.

The START III treaty was signed by Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama in Prague in April 2010.

The new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty came into force following an exchange of ratification papers by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference on Saturday.

http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index_view.asp?code=235402

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San Francisco Chronicle

Iran's FM Too Busy to Attend Security Conference

By The Associated Press (AP)

Saturday, February 5, 2011

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) -- Iran's foreign minister and nuclear chief says he is too busy to attend an international security conference where his country's suspected nuclear weapons ambitions featured prominently in the past.

Ali Akbar Salehi's decision was reported Saturday by the semi-official Iranian news agency Isna. It came several days after Britain's defense secretary said Tehran might be able to develop nuclear weapons by next year.

Iran claims its nuclear program is limited to peaceful purposes. The U.S. and its allies insist Iran is secretly trying to develop nuclear weapons. Recent attempts by the U.S. and others to persuade Iran to open its atomic program to more scrutiny have failed.

Last year, Iran was represented at the annual security conference in Germany.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2011/02/05/international/i022150S12.DTL>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Russia's Lavrov Warns Against New Sanctions on Iran

5 February 2011

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has called against possible introduction of new sanctions on Iran.

"The sanctions which were approved in June last year, the sanctions aimed at [Iran's] nuclear program have run its course," Lavrov said at the Munich Security Conference, adding that further sanctions on the Islamic state would negatively affect its economy.

The West suspects Tehran of pursuing a secret nuclear weapons program, which Iran strongly denies, insisting it needs atomic energy solely for civilian purposes.

Iran is currently under four sets of UN sanctions over its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment, including tougher financial controls and an expanded arms embargo, as well as an asset ban on three dozen companies and a travel freeze on individuals.

"We believe that neither further sanctions, nor intimidation and application of force could be regarded an efficient tool to solve these issues," Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov said at the same conference.

Ivanov emphasized that Iran should not become a nuclear power and the concerns that it may obtain nuclear weapons in the next few years are groundless.

MUNICH, February 5 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20110205/162470253.html>

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Chicago Tribune

Iran Unveils Missiles and Satellites as Warning to Foes

February 7, 2011

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran showed off new missile and satellite technology on Monday, and told its enemies it had "complete domination" of the entrance to the oil-rich Gulf.

As part of Iran's annual revolution celebrations, a time traditionally marked by new technological and military advances, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad unveiled locally-made satellites while a senior commander showed off mass produced missiles.

"We should reach a point where we will be able to provide our knowledge and technology in the aerospace field to other countries," Ahmadinejad said in a speech, unveiling the satellites he said were for scientific purposes, and showing film of a satellite-carrier rocket.

Although Iran is not engaged in any military conflict, it is on constant alert against possible attacks from the United States and Israel which have not ruled out possible pre-emptive strikes to stop Tehran getting nuclear weapons.

Iran says it has no intention of making nuclear bombs and that its atomic programme, which is the subject of U.S., European and U.N. sanctions, is entirely peaceful.

In 2009, Iran launched a domestically-made satellite into orbit for the first time, a step that increased the West's fear that the Islamic Republic is seeking to build a nuclear bomb and missile delivery systems.

The chief commander of the Revolutionary Guards, Mohammad Ali Jafari, said the new mass-produced missile would be able to target enemies at sea.

"Its speed is three times greater than the speed of sound and it cannot be traced and deactivated by enemies," official news agency IRNA quoted Jafari as saying.

Another Guards commander, Ali Fadavi reiterated Iran's threat to close the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow channel through which 40 percent of the world's seaborne oil trade passes.

"The Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz are under the complete domination of the Revolutionary Guards ... and it would be blocked in case of a threat," he said, according to the semi-official Mehr news agency.

Foreign analysts say Iran would be reluctant to take such a drastic step as it would cut off its own oil exports.

Reporting by Hossein Jaseb; Writing by Reza Derakhshi; Editing by David Stamp

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/sns-rt-international-us-irat7162f5-20110207,0,5300198.story>

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The Star – Malaysia
Monday February 7, 2011

Iran Resumes Steady Atom Enrichment after Mystery Halt

By Fredrik Dahl

VIENNA (Reuters) - Iran has resumed amassing enriched uranium at a steady pace after possible cyber sabotage and a mysterious albeit brief halt in its nuclear activities late last year, diplomats and experts say.

Technical woes, toughened international sanctions and the Stuxnet computer worm may all have figured in hampering Iran's nuclear progress, potentially pushing back estimates for when it might be able to assemble an atomic bomb if it decided to do so.

But despite such problems, the Islamic Republic is pressing ahead with its disputed nuclear energy programme and its stockpile of low-enriched uranium (LEU) is continuously growing.

It is now believed to have enough material for one or two nuclear bombs if refined much further, even though it is unclear how soon it could build such a weapon, which would entail the technical feats of compressing highly-enriched uranium (HEU) into a missile cone and assembling a delivery vehicle.

Iran denies that its aim is to "weaponise" enrichment, saying it seeks only an additional source of electricity.

Assessments of delays or advances in Iran's nuclear work have profound political significance as they can influence the amount of time major powers believe they have at their disposal to try to resolve the dispute diplomatically.

The risk of the row escalating into a military conflict appeared to recede last month when the departing head of Israeli espionage agency Mossad said Iran, the Jewish state's arch-foe, might not have a nuclear weapon before 2015.

But that was later contradicted by the new head of Israel's military intelligence, who said sanctions had not held up Iran's nuclear programme and it could produce bombs within two years.

"On the whole, I do have a feeling that the enrichment programme is not in fantastic shape," one senior Western diplomat said. But Iran keeps accumulating LEU and "there is no sense that ... that increasing trend is under threat", he said.

"MOUNTING SETBACKS"

Iran's centrifuges producing enriched uranium, which can be used to fuel power plants or provide material for weapons if refined to a high degree, have been plagued by breakdowns since a rapid expansion of the process in 2007-08.

Western officials say stiffened sanctions on Iran, one of the world's largest oil producers, are interfering with its enrichment programme by making it more difficult to obtain vital equipment and parts from abroad.

Covert operations by Israel or the United States, which have not ruled out military action to make sure Iran does not obtain an atomic bomb, may also have damaged its atomic activities.

Speculation that the Stuxnet computer worm was a state-directed cyber attack on Iran's Natanz enrichment site was fuelled by revelations in November that it temporarily stopped refining uranium there in the middle of that month.

But the head of the U.N. atomic watchdog, which is due to issue its next, quarterly report about Iran's nuclear programme by early March, told Reuters last week that the halt lasted only for a "short period of time".

Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said he did not know the reason for the move but that LEU production was "continuing steadily".

He did not give details. But diplomats believe Iran stopped feeding material into its centrifuges used to make LEU for at most a few days. Iran has not commented on the incident.

"This is a very difficult facility to operate," Amano said.

The Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), a Washington-based think-tank, said Iran's nuclear programme was "suffering mounting setbacks", giving more time for diplomacy.

That may well be needed. Two rounds of talks between Iran and six world powers -- the United States, France, Germany, China, Russia and Britain -- in December and January made no headway and ended without any agreement to meet again.

SECRET SITES?

But despite disruptions, including centrifuge breakage and the assassination of two nuclear experts in 2010, ISIS said Iran had made some progress, increasing its monthly LEU output and boosting the number of working centrifuges late last year.

The senior Western diplomat said Iran's nuclear programme presented a "patchy picture", with both good and bad months for its LEU output. But whatever problems it might have, "when the guy has come to read the meter, it keeps on ticking over."

Iran's stockpile now exceeds three tonnes and it is estimated to grow by roughly 100 kg per month.

Proliferation analyst Mark Fitzpatrick said Iran experienced technical woes but that it already had a sizable amount of LEU.

"If further enriched, the current stockpile would be enough for one or two nuclear bombs," Fitzpatrick, a former senior U.S. State Department official now at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies think-tank, said.

ISIS experts David Albright and Andrea Stricker said most analysts believed that Iran had not yet decided whether to build nuclear weapons, but that Tehran's actions increasingly appeared to be working toward that capability.

"Predicting when Iran might obtain nuclear weapons is highly uncertain," Albright and Stricker wrote in an analysis.

They cited U.N. experts as saying Tehran already has enough knowledge to assemble a crude weapon but that it faced problems in missile delivery. "If Iran built a secret site using more advanced centrifuges, it could be ready to build a bomb as soon as 2012 or 2013," Albright and Stricker added.

Editing by Mark Heinrich

http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/2/7/worldupdates/2011-02-07T181601Z_01_NOOTR_RTRMDNC_0_-547106-1&sec=Worldupdates

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MSNBC.com
Open Channel

What Do We Know about Egypt's Arsenal?

By Robert Windrem, NBC News investigative producer for special projects
February 7, 2011

NBC News has obtained more than a dozen documents from the United States, Russia and Israel that shed some light on several Egyptian weapons of mass destruction programs, including its nuclear potential and details of a joint North Korean-Egyptian missile development agreement.

The documents, stretching back two decades, reveal an Egyptian commitment to research and development of WMDs, the acronym for weapons of mass destruction that thrust itself into the common lexicon during the Iraq war. They also reveal that Cairo is interested in nuclear and radiological weapons, though the extent of that interest is far from clear.

The U.S. has long known about but tolerated because of Egypt's central role in both the Middle East peace talks and counterterrorism. To quote one congressional expert on arms proliferation, "If they were any other Arab state, we would be all over them every day on these issues."

At the same time, U.S., Israeli and Russian officials have expressed concerns that the Egyptian weapons programs — particularly its missile expertise — has the potential to destabilize the relative peace that has reigned in the Middle East for several decades. Despite these concerns, the officials say, Egypt has continued to work on many of these programs.

Egyptians have defended its development of WMDs as a necessary counterbalance to Israel's weapons capabilities, which are daunting even to the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with the Jewish state. With an estimated 200 nuclear warheads — bigger than Great Britain's arsenal — and 100 medium-range missiles, Israel is in a world of diminishing nuclear programs, a regional superpower — at least.

Here is a breakdown on the Egyptian programs, drawn from the U.S., Russian and Israeli documents, all of which were either publicly disseminated or declassified under the Freedom of Information Act:

Nuclear proliferation

The most revealing document in the trove is a Jan. 28, 1993, report by the Foreign Intelligence Service, the KGB's successor organization. The report, titled "Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction," was issued at a time of extraordinary public openness in Russia and has not been updated since.

The report stated that while Egypt had "no special program of military-applied research in the nuclear sphere" at the time, it had made significant advances on nuclear technology.

Among other things, it said Egypt had:

- Built a research reactor at Inshas, north of Cairo, built with help from Argentina.
- Contracted with Russia to supply a MGD-20 cyclotron accelerator, which would be helpful in exploring uranium enrichment technologies.
- Begun construction of a facility at its Inshas research center that "in its design features and engineering protection could in the future be used to obtain weapons-grade plutonium from the uranium irradiated in the research reactors."
- In addition, NBC News obtained a U.S. Customs Service account of a debriefing of an Egyptian-American spy, Abdel Kadr Helmy. Helmy, who was jailed in the 1980s for trying to obtain various missile technologies including Pershing-II guidance packages — said in the interviews that Egypt had an active nuclear weapons development program that included sending uranium to Pakistan for enrichment to bomb-grade levels. He also said that an Egyptian Brigadier General, Ahmad Nashet, ran both the civilian nuclear establishment in Cairo as well as the nascent bomb program.
- Helmy subsequently disavowed the claim, and Egypt has steadfastly denied interest in nuclear weapons.

Chemical weapons

The Egyptians are also interested in chemical weapons. Specifically, the FIS document notes: "Techniques of the production of nerve-paralyzing and blister-producing toxic agents have been assimilated."

Furthermore, the FIS said, "There is information to the effect that Egypt is displaying interest in purchases overseas of warheads intended for filling with liquid chemical warfare agents. The stockpiles of toxic substances available at this time are insufficient for broad-based operations, but the industrial potential would permit the development of the additional production in a relatively short time." It may be that the warheads the Russians discussed were ultimately bound for Iraq.

Biological weapons

Similarly, the Egyptians have a biological weapons program, according to statements from the FIS, the CIA and the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency dating back to the 1990s.

"At the start of the 1970s," the FIS report stated, "President Sadat confirmed this, announcing the presence in Egypt of a stockpile of biological agents stored in refrigerating plants. Toxins of varying nature are being studied and techniques for their production and refinement are being developed at the present time in a (unnamed) national research center."

In response to a question during a congressional hearing on WMD proliferation on Feb. 24, 1993, CIA Director R. James Woolsey confirmed that Egypt is counted as a nation with biological weapons capability.

And in three annual reports to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee since 1995, the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency has used the same language to assess the Egyptian program: "The United States believes that Egypt had developed biological agents by 1972. There is no evidence to indicate that Egypt has eliminated this capability and it remains likely that the Egyptian capability to conduct biological warfare continues to exist."

What is intriguing about these reports is that, unlike a similar report in 1994, they did not include this sentence: "The United States however has not, however, obtained recent information on this program" — the implication being that the U.S. did receive information about the program starting in 1995, though it's not clear what that information was.

Missiles

The area where Egypt excels is in missile development.

The FIS report noted: "By 1990, Egypt's missile forces were armed with a regiment each of Soviet Scud-B (with a range of 300 kilometers) and Frog 7 (70 km) transporter-erector-launchers and also a certain quantity of Sakr 80 and Sakr 365 Egyptian-Iraqi-North Korean short-range missiles. It is technically possible to fit the Scud and Frog warheads with chemical weapons."

The report also noted that China had reached an agreement with Egypt to assist in modernizing a manufacturing plant to build "new modifications of the Scud B-class missiles and three domestic types of Egyptian surface-to-surface missiles."

A 1992 Israeli Defense Forces memorandum on Mideast missile programs provided this appraisal of the Egyptian program aimed at acquiring and supporting ground-to-ground missiles, or GGM in weapons-speak:

"During the 1950s, and aided by German Nazi scientists, a concerted effort was made to build factories which would manufacture missiles," it said. "This effort continued over the years; at present the Egyptian army diverts resources to this endeavor."

The memo said that the Egyptian program was focused on the Scud, and that North Korea was its main ally. In the early 1980s, it said, North Korea bought tens of Russian-made medium-range Scud-B missiles from the Egyptians and, in exchange, helped the Egyptians set up the infrastructure for missile production and assembly. The Egyptian factories are said to have begun active production in 1993.

An even bigger concern among foreign intelligence services is the medium-range Condor II missile program, a joint project of Egypt, Argentina and Iraq.

In congressional testimony on April 18, 1991, U.S. Customs Service agent Daniel Burns stated that Abdelkader Helmy, the Egyptian-American rocket scientist who had pleaded guilty to helping Egypt obtain equipment and material for the Condor-II missile discussed with him several projects, including an "Egyptian effort to develop a nuclear warhead, including the Cobalt-60 effort and the purchase of uranium from France."

Helmy's statement is of particular concern as Cobalt-60, a radioactive isotope that could be used in a radiological or "dirty" bomb, which disperses radioactive material on detonation.

As stated above, Helmy later disavowed the statement and returned to Egypt. Egypt has denied any interest in nuclear weapons.

http://openchannel.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2011/02/07/6002936-what-do-we-know-about-egypts-arsenal

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Japan Times

Sunday, February 6, 2011

Japan, U.S. Join Hands Against Nuclear Terrorism

Kyodo News

The United States and Japan have agreed to work out a road map to prevent nuclear terrorism ahead of the second nuclear security summit in 2012, according to a senior White House official visiting Tokyo.

The road map is intended to cover measures to block theft of nuclear materials by internal personnel and technological cooperation between the two countries over "security by design concepts" of nuclear-related facilities such as nuclear power plants and nuclear fuel-processing facilities.

Laura Holgate, senior director for weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and threat reduction at the White House's National Security Council, indicated that the United States and Japan are deepening their alliance in nuclear security for protecting nuclear materials and nuclear-related facilities — a field of great importance to the Obama administration.

Japan operates a large number of nuclear reactors and plans to expand exports of nuclear power plants overseas, making it an important player in the U.S. initiative.

"We did agree on a road map. We're close to agreement," Holgate said. "I guess I'm still waiting to hear the last formal feedback from our counterparts. But, we had an agreement at the table, certainly, of a shared approach to how we will implement the topics that were addressed in the 'terms of reference' that we agreed in October of last year.

"As you can imagine, this is a sensitive topic, so the details of what we're going to do together, I think, are going to be not something I can talk about in public. But, you've seen the terms of reference, so you're familiar with the scope of activities."

Holgate, who headed the U.S. delegation at the Japan-U.S. Nuclear Security Working Group's first meeting late last month, said, "When we talk about nuclear terrorism, fortunately most of that conversation is hypothetical.

"When we talk about nuclear theft, that's not hypothetical, and we know what cases we have, and we can design around those risks," she added.

"The known cases of smuggling of weapons-usable material primarily are related to small amounts that were removed from large industrial facilities, by workers, or people who were able to get access to that material," she said.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20110206a7.html>

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Denki Shimbun – Japan

February 8, 2011

Nuclear Nonproliferation Support Center Opens

TOKYO --The opening ceremony for the Integrated Comprehensive Support Center for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Nuclear Security for Asia was held on February 4 in Japan. This facility, which started full-fledged operations, will provide training on nuclear terror countermeasures and other matters for students from emerging countries that are newly deploying nuclear power.

The center is located about 110 km northeast of Tokyo at the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's facility at Tokai-mura, where a number of nuclear power related facilities are located. Training will cover topics including principles of nuclear material protection systems, regulatory frameworks and facility design for nuclear material protection. Exercises on nuclear material protection facility design will use a virtual nuclear power facility projected on monitor screens.

Shunsuke Kondo, chairman of Atomic Energy Commission of Japan, and Jill Cooley, a division director from the IAEA Safeguards Department, expressed their expectations for the center's activities during the opening ceremony.

http://www.shimbun.denki.or.jp/en/news/20110208_01.html

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Yonhap News – South Korea

February 8, 2011

Nuclear Unit in N. Korea Went on Hunger Strike: Defectors' Group

By Sam Kim

SEOUL, Feb. 8 (Yonhap) -- Hunger-stricken soldiers of a nuclear-related unit in North Korea defied orders last month to work and were swiftly punished in an internal crackdown, a defectors' group said Tuesday, citing an unidentified North Korean officer.

North Korean Intellectuals Solidarity (NKIS), which is run by defectors in South Korea, said on its Web site that a brigade mainly tasked with mining uranium stopped operating around Jan. 17 after food supplies ran out, leaving the troops starved for three days.

"Security authorities were immediately sent to the unit to clamp down on the soldiers refusing to work," NKIS head Kim Seung-kwang said in a phone interview, citing a senior North Korean officer that he said his correspondents had met earlier in China.

The unit, which is commanded by a larger one that oversees North Korea's nuclear arms development, is based in the country's southwest, he added.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles affairs concerning the communist neighbor, would not confirm Kim's claim. An official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the sensitivity of the topic, only said his ministry continues to monitor NKIS reports.

Other defectors have said in recent months that food shortages in the North Korean military are deepening, even forcing soldiers on leave to procure food from their civilian acquaintances.

The NKIS claimed that seven soldiers were starved to death in the last few months in a North Korean unit stationed in the southeast. The group, which supports hard-lined policies over North Korea, also said that 70 percent of the North Korean army is depending on stew mainly made with salt as a major part of their daily diet.

North Korea, one of the world's poorest countries, operates 1.2 million troops, upholding the military-first, or "songun," policy charted by its leader, Kim Jong-il, and investing a large amount of resources in missile and nuclear development.

Up to an estimated 2 million people died in the mid-1990s after the communist regime suspended rations, observers say. Despite having shelled a South Korean island and sharply raising tensions last year, the North is now reaching out to Seoul in what analysts say is a peace offensive aimed at drawing economic aid.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2011/02/08/66/0401000000AEN20110208008200315F.HTML>

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Sify News – India

Having More N-Bombs than India Won't Help, Says Pakistani Daily

February 5, 2011

Indo-Asian News Service (IANS)

Islamabad, Feb 5 (IANS) Possessing more nuclear weapons than India will not make Pakistan more secure, said a commentary in a Pakistan daily, pointing out that 'the Bomb' had not helped to achieve Kashmiri liberation, and instead India's grip on Kashmir was tighter.

The commentary in the Express Tribune also said that Pakistan has 'deep and serious problems that cannot be solved by more or better weapons'.

Pervez Hoodbhoy, who teaches nuclear and particle physics, in a comment piece 'Pakistan's nukes: How many are enough?', wrote that news from the US that Pakistan probably has more nuclear weapons than India must have thrilled many.

If for argument's sake, we suppose that Pakistan surpasses India in numbers - say by 50 percent or even 100 percent, 'Will that really make Pakistan more secure? Make it more capable of facing current existential challenges?,' he asked.

'The answer is, no.'

'Pakistan's basic security problems lie within its borders: growing internal discord and militancy, a collapsing economy, and a belief among most citizens that the state cannot govern effectively. These are deep and serious problems that cannot be solved by more or better weapons.

'Therefore the way forward lies in building a sustainable and active democracy, an economy for peace rather than war, a federation in which provincial grievances can be effectively resolved, elimination of the feudal order and creating a tolerant society that respects the rule of law.'

The article pointed out that Pakistanis have long imagined the 'Bomb as a panacea for all ills'.

'The Bomb did nothing to bring Kashmiri liberation closer. India's grip on Kashmir is tighter today than it has been for a long time...

'Pakistan's strategy for confronting India - secret jihad by Islamic fighters protected by Pakistan's nuclear umbrella - backfired terribly after Kargil and nearly turned Pakistan into an international pariah.

'More importantly, today's hydra-headed militancy owes to the Kashmiri and Afghan mujahideen who avenged their betrayal by Pakistan's army and politicians by turning their guns against their former sponsors and trainers.'

While saying that some might ask, 'didn't the Bomb stop India from swallowing up Pakistan?'

'The answer is, no. First, an upward-mobile India has no reason to want an additional 180 million Muslims. Second, even if India wanted to, territorial conquest is impossible.'

The article went on to say that conventional weapons in Pakistan are sufficient protection.

'If the mighty American python could not digest Iraq or Afghanistan, there is zero chance for middling India to occupy Pakistan, a country four times larger than Iraq.'

'It is, of course, true that Pakistan's nuclear weapons deterred India from launching punitive attacks at least thrice since the 1998 tests. India could do nothing after Pakistan's secret incursion in Kargil during 1999, the Dec 13 attack on the Indian parliament the same year (initially claimed by Jaish-i-Muhammad), or the Mumbai attack in 2008 by Lashkar-i-Taiba,' it said.

'So should we keep the Bomb to protect militant groups? Surely it is time to realise that conducting foreign policy in this manner will buy us nothing but disaster after disaster.'

It ended by saying: 'We need fewer bombs on both sides, not more.'

<http://www.sify.com/news/having-more-n-bombs-than-india-won-t-help-says-pakistani-daily-news-international-lcfsoqihcjj.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Tbilisi 'Interested' in U.S. Missile Defense Radar

7 February 2011

Georgia is interested in the proposal by a group of U.S. senators that Tbilisi host a missile defense radar, Deputy Foreign Minister David Dzhagalania said on Monday.

Four U.S. Republican senators - Jon Kyl, James Risch, Mark Kirk and James Inhofe - have sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates asking him to consider Georgia as a potential host for the TPY-2 missile defense radar.

"This is a new initiative so I can't say the Georgian side has formulated a concrete position on the matter," Dzhagalania said.

"This initiative is interesting in and of itself and it deserves attention from the point of view of regional security and stability."

The United States previously invited Turkey to host a radar site but Ankara set a number of conditions, including that an anti-missile shield should be deployed in all the alliance's member states, not just Turkey.

The senators have suggested that alternate sites be considered and that Georgia's geographic location would make it an ideal place for a radar targeting Iran.

TBILISI, February 7 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20110207/162488779.html>

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Washington Times

Report: Russia Warns U.S. Over Missile Defense Plans

By Vladimir Isachenkov, Associated Press

Monday, February 7, 2011

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia sees the planned U.S. missile defense system as a potential threat to its nuclear forces and may review its participation in a landmark nuclear arms treaty, officials said Monday.

The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), the centerpiece of President Obama's efforts to reset ties with Russia and the most significant arms control pact in nearly two decades, took effect last week. It limits each country to 1,550 strategic warheads, down from the current ceiling of 2,200.

The treaty doesn't prevent the United States from building new missile defense systems, but Russia has warned that it reserves the right to withdraw from the treaty if the United States significantly boosts its missile shield.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov reaffirmed Monday that a buildup in the U.S. missile defense capability would prompt Moscow reconsider its obligations under the New START pact.

"If the U.S. increases the qualitative and quantitative potential of its missile defense ... a question will arise whether Russia should further abide by the treaty or would have to take other measures to respond to the situation, including military-technical measures," Mr. Ryabkov said, according to Russian news agencies.

Russia was strongly critical of the previous U.S. administration's plan to deploy missile defense sites in Poland and the Czech Republic and hailed Mr. Obama's decision to scrap it. But the Kremlin has remained concerned about revamped U.S. missile defense plans and continues to see them as potentially dangerous to its security.

NATO last fall approved a plan for a U.S.-led missile shield in Europe and invited Russia to join, but Moscow hasn't yet made a definite commitment. Experts from both sides will analyze the issue and report to defense ministers in July.

Mr. Ryabkov warned Monday that Russia won't cooperate with NATO on the project unless it's treated as a full partner.

"This must be a joint system with shared responsibilities, information exchange and decision-making in order to make us an equal and responsible member," he said. "If two separate networks are built, things won't change for us, and we will see a situation when the NATO system could potentially be used against Russia's security interests. Cooperating on such a system would mean hurting ourselves."

Russian officials have remained skeptical about U.S. and NATO claims that the proposed shield is designed to fend off a missile threat from Iran.

Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said Monday the U.S. missile defense could only be aimed against Russian missiles. "This system could undermine Russian nuclear deterrent forces," he said.

<http://www3.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/feb/7/report-russia-warns-us-over-missile-defense-plans/>

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France 24.com
7 February 2011

Russia Rebuffs US Call for New Arms Talks

By Olga Rotenberg, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

MOSCOW — Russia said Monday it was premature to set a date for a new round of nuclear disarmament talks on short-range missiles amid pressure from the United States for a quick reduction.

US President Barack Obama's administration is keen to launch negotiations over so-called tactical weapons that have remained outside the remit of previous nuclear disarmament agreements.

The talks are a part of Obama's vision of creating a world without nuclear weapons and would mark an unprecedented departure from the largely theoretical cutbacks that previously covered only long-range heavy missiles.

The number of the smaller tactical weapons each side has remains a secret but military experts estimate that Russia has about 1,500 more than the United States.

A top Russian foreign ministry official said Monday that Moscow was aware of Washington's desire to start a new round of short-range missile reduction talks this year.

But he said such talks could only go ahead once Washington reconsidered its plans for a new missile defence shield for Europe and its desire to place weapons in space.

"We have taken note of the US president's position, which seeks to put a time frame on the start of tactical nuclear missile negotiations," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said.

"But we should put the emphasis on the word 'seeks'," the Russian official said

"We are not avoiding these talks. But talks about tactical nuclear missiles are impossible without a set of other issues: an imbalance of conventional forces, missile defence, and the deployment of arms in space," he said.

"Will these issues be put to a review? I do not have the answer to this key question at this point," Ryabkov said.

The diplomat's comments came two days after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and her Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov exchanged ratification documents in Munich formally bringing into force a new START treaty covering long-range arms.

Clinton said Saturday that she would use the occasion to discuss "further arms control issues" with Lavrov -- including the two countries' stocks of short- and medium-range missiles and non-deployed nuclear weapons.

But Moscow appears intent on making any future discussions dependent on Washington's ability to compromise on its mooted missile defence shield for Europe.

Russia initially resisted the idea outright before amending its stance and seeking a formal say on how the system worked.

The Kremlin initially argued that the shield -- while designed to protect the West against potential strikes from countries such as North Korea and Iran -- could weaken Russia's own unclear deterrence potential.

A senior defence official repeated that argument Monday, saying Russia was the only country that could conceivably pose a threat to the West today.

"This system could undermine Russia's nuclear deterrence forces," said Deputy Defence Minister Anatoly Antonov.

But military analysts suggest that Moscow's true worry is that the US-led NATO alliance might one day turn the shield into an offensive system that can fire various high-tech weapons and missiles at Russia from space.

An equal say in how the shield operates could potentially ensure that the system is never pointed at Russia. But NATO officials have responded to Russia's arguments with extreme caution.

Moscow press reports said the Alliance was particularly concerned about giving Russia the right to determine which countries posed a danger to Europe.

The Kommersant business daily quoted one NATO diplomat as saying that one of the main disagreements concerned Iran -- an old Russian ally that Moscow refuses to recognize as an immediate threat.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20110207-russia-rebuffs-us-call-new-arms-talks>

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Sify News – India

Russia Urges US to Withdraw Nuclear Weapons from Europe

February 7, 2011

Moscow/Brussels, Feb 7 (DPA) Russia Monday urged the US to withdraw its tactical nuclear weapons from Europe, as NATO's top official said he was optimistic talks on the issue could be held.

Such a move by the US would build confidence, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said in Moscow, Interfax news agency reported.

The call came two days after the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or New START, came into force between Russia and the US.

Earlier, Russia's State Duma parliament had asked the US to redeploy its nuclear weapons back home and dismantle the infrastructure for them on foreign soil.

The number of US battlefield nuclear weapons in Europe is a closely-guarded secret, but unofficial reports and leaks suggest that there are some 200 warheads stored in depots in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Turkey.

Over the past 18 months, NATO officials have repeatedly said that they would like to see New START followed by an agreement on reducing the tactical nuclear stockpiles in Europe. According to NATO, Russia currently has some 5,000 such warheads on its European territory.

In a separate briefing Monday in Brussels, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said new START made him 'optimistic' that it would be possible to launch negotiations on the issue.

Meanwhile, speaking in Moscow, Deputy Defence Minister Anatoly Antonov repeated his call for NATO to build a common missile defence programme with Russia in Europe.

NATO leaders in November agreed to set up a NATO anti-missile system in Europe, and invited Russia to start talks on how each side could share information from its planned system with the other. Russia accepted, but has since fiercely criticised the NATO plan.

'At the moment, there are no weapons in the region that are a threat to NATO,' Antonov was quoted as saying. 'In this context, any defence system built solely by NATO would be directed at Russia.'

In such a case Russia would react militarily, he said, hinting at the deployment of short-range missiles.

A number of top Russian politicians have said that NATO should scrap its plan and, instead, set up a joint NATO-Russia missile shield which would only be able to fire if both sides agreed to it.

Rasmussen dismissed that proposal Monday.

'NATO is responsible for the protection and defence of NATO allies ... This responsibility can't be outsourced. Honestly speaking, would you expect the Russian people to accept that defence of Russian territory should be taken care of by NATO?' he asked.

However, he said that he was 'quite optimistic' that a deal could be reached, despite 'slightly different ideas' on the concept.

Antonov also said that Russia wanted 'further nuclear disarmament', and that Moscow was prepared to talk with other nuclear powers in addition to the US.

NATO nations are set to review their nuclear and conventional forces at a summit in early 2012, with a number of nations, including Germany, pushing for the alliance to reduce its nuclear capability.

<http://www.sify.com/news/russia-urges-us-to-withdraw-nuclear-weapons-from-europe-news-international-lchxadgajeh.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Clinton Says U.S. Open to Missile Defense Cooperation with Russia

5 February 2011

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has reaffirmed Washington's readiness to cooperate with Russia on missile defense.

Speaking at the global security conference in Munich on Saturday, Clinton said the United States seeks true cooperation with Moscow in the missile defense sphere in an effort to strengthen bilateral relations and the U.S. security.

Clinton also said Washington is seeking to carry out a new joint analysis of the situation in missile defense and also joint exercises.

The U.S. Secretary of State welcomed the forthcoming exchange the instruments of ratification for the New START arms reduction treaty on Saturday with her Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

Clinton said the treaty is an example of a "clear-eyed cooperation that is in everyone's interests."

Lavrov said earlier this week Russia will do whatever is necessary to ensure its security if NATO attempts to give Moscow a raw deal in building a joint European missile defense system.

Russia and NATO agreed to discuss the creation of the European missile defense system in Lisbon in November last year, but as yet the talks have not brought any positive results.

Moscow insists on setting up a joint European missile defense network with NATO to make sure that the planned placement of elements of a U.S. missile defense system in a number of European countries will not threaten Russia's national security.

NATO, however, proposes creating two separate systems that would exchange information.

MUNICH, February 5 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20110205/162465292.html>

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Global Security Newswire

U.S. Unveils Space Strategy, Noting China Threat

Monday, February 7, 2011

Emerging Chinese defense technologies could enable the nation to block communications or destroy orbiting satellites, the U.S. Defense Department said on Friday as it rolled out a decade-long space security plan (see *GSN*, Feb. 3).

"The investment China is putting into counterspace capabilities is a matter of concern to us," Agence France-Presse quoted Deputy Defense Secretary Gregory Schulte as saying.

The new National Security Space Strategy is aimed at making the United States "more resilient" and capable of protecting its holdings in an increasingly trafficked and at times antagonistic setting, Schulte said.

"Space is no longer the preserve of the U.S. and the Soviet Union, at the time in which we could operate with impunity," he said.

"There are more competitors, more countries that are launching satellites ... and we increasingly have to worry about countries developing counterspace capabilities that can be used against the peaceful use of space," Schulte said.

"China is at the forefront of the development of those capabilities."

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has responded to U.S. worries over China's space program by working to incorporate space issues in talks with Beijing, he said. China eliminated one of its orbiting satellites in January 2007, raising international concerns about the nation's military reach in space (see *GSN*, Jan. 19, 2007).

Iran and Ethiopia have also moved to develop their clout in space, Schulte added. "They've jammed commercial satellites ... If Ethiopia can jam a commercial satellite, you have to worry about what others can do against our military satellites," the official said.

"Fifteen years ago we didn't have to worry about that but now we have to think differently, to think about how we can continue to conduct the critical functions that are performed from space, or, if they're degraded, we have to have alternative solutions," he said.

Steps for securing U.S. space holdings might include the formation of mutual defense agreements with other countries, according to the new space strategy. In addition, Washington "retains the option to respond in self-defense to attacks in space, and the response may not be in space, either," the official said (Karin Zeitvogel, Agence France-Presse/Google News, Feb. 6).

The new document draws from the U.S. National Security Strategy and National Space Policy, and its completion marked the final step in a Space Posture Review carried out in consultation with partner nations as well as other federal entities, according to a Pentagon press release.

"The strategy provides a basis to update defense plans and programs and make the hard choices that will be required to implement the strategy," Gates said in the statement. "We look forward to working closely with Congress, industry, and allies to implement this new strategy for space."

In putting the strategy into effect, the Pentagon indicated it would bolster "norms of behavior" in space, pursue relevant military activities with other nations, augment resiliency and revamp procedures for obtaining related materials and components.

The Obama administration's fiscal 2012 defense funding request would take into account the first activities for putting the strategy into effect, and the Defense Department would prepare over the next year to make additional updates in future budget cycles, the statement says (U.S. Defense Department release, Feb. 4).

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110207_6746.php

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

OPINION

Munich Security Conference: Is there more to Life than Missile Defense?

5 February 2011

By RIA Novosti political commentator Dmitry Kosyrev

The big question facing the Munich Security Conference this year is: Will the new and unexpected security threats emerging from the Middle East interfere with the serious dialogue between Russia and NATO on general missile defense, or will they help?

Much like the World Economic Forum in Davos, no vital security decisions are made in Munich. Rather, it offers participants a chance to share ideas in an informal setting. These ideas are then gradually translated into government policy.

The Middle East looms large

Like Davos, this former NATO conference (attended this year by about fifty heads of state and ministers) has global pretensions, though it is primarily concerned with the Euro-Atlantic region. The fact is that the biggest threats to the security of this region often emanate from elsewhere.

At this year's conference, which runs from February 4 to 6, the uprisings in Egypt, Tunisia, and the developments in the Middle East in general will surely take center stage. Delegates will have to improvise to some degree, as the events are still unfolding. It will be particularly interesting to hear the opinions of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, National Security Advisor Thomas E. Donilon and other members of the Obama administration, who have already arrived in Munich.

The U.S. delegates will no doubt want to know how their European allies plan to help them address emerging threats in the region, which could prove far more serious than Iraq or Afghanistan.

A guerilla with a computer

Cyber security is sure to be another hot-button issue. British Foreign Secretary William Hague will deliver his a speech late on Friday evening in which he will discuss the need for an "international code of conduct" for the Internet. He will also propose a conference on this issue, to be held in London.

The main threat to cyber security today, at least for Western nations, is Wikileaks founder Julian Assange and his ilk.

Obama harnessed the power of the Internet in his campaign for president, which is a good thing. But now freedom of the web has shown what it is truly capable of in Tunisia and Egypt, where the nightmare of the 2000s could very well become a reality - a total war of Muslim extremists against all things Western. These mass demonstrations were fuelled by Internet activists in the tradition of Assange. They are poorly educated "freedom fighters" suffering from a herd mentality, an inferiority complex, and a hatred of ruling elites and all those successful and well off. The guerilla with a machine gun is a familiar sight. Is the multimedia guerilla with a laptop any better? The Internet and social media are double-edged swords. Therein lies the problem.

Friends to an extent

The Munich Security Conference should also be a place for meaningful and open dialogue between Russian and NATO delegates on missile defense. Moscow has made it clear that if there is no progress on missile defense, particularly in Europe, after the ratification of the New START Treaty, Russia will have to take measures to ensure its security.

NATO wants to talk about joint missile defense with Russia and, in general, to get along. But if NATO uses the talks as a cover to create a missile defense system that is, in fact, aimed against Russia, all the recent progress made by Russia and the West will go to waste.

The reset began long before Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama. Ronald Reagan called Mikhail Gorbachev a friend. George W. Bush looked into Vladimir Putin's soul, and a declaration followed affirming that Russia and the United States were no longer enemies. Two documents on the principles of Russia-NATO cooperation were signed in 1997 and 2002.

But NATO's campaign in Yugoslavia in 1999 and the conflict in the Caucasus in 2008 showed that these documents were about as valuable as the paper they were printed on. Any seasoned bureaucrat can tell you that all the day-to-day documents still define the two sides - either tacitly or implicitly - as enemies. Declarations are just there to pacify the naive.

The path forward

This time Moscow along with some rather powerful forces in the United States and Europe sincerely want to make progress. President Dmitry Medvedev attended the Lisbon summit in November last year. In the resulting declaration, the sides said that they want to see a true strategic partnership between NATO and Russia. Moscow was invited to participate in a joint missile defense system.

And a special meeting with Medvedev in Moscow was arranged last October in the run-up to this year's Munich conference. The visit was led by Wolfgang Friedrich Ischinger, the main organizer of Munich conferences. Everyone agreed that no more declarations are needed.

It is important to do something real to break down the wall of mistrust. The cascade of expert meetings in Munich will reveal whether the sides are up to the challenge.

We cannot afford to drag this process out for purely technical reasons. During the year we will have to decide a big question: whether to build two missile defense systems or one common one.

This year, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov rather than President Medvedev will go to Munich. He expressed his position on an array of issues at a news conference in January.

It is unclear what affect the new security challenges arising in the Middle East will have on the missile defense debate. Perhaps it will make all the NATO delegates realize that Russia is not the enemy, and they will drop missile defense to focus on more pressing matters. Or perhaps these emerging threats will elevate Russia's importance, and a joint missile defense system will seem like an excellent idea.

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

<http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20110205/162458471.html>

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Pakistan Observer – Pakistan

OPINION

Monday, February 7, 2011

Fissile Material Quandary

By Air Cdre Khalid Iqbal (R)

Pakistan's nuclear capability has been security driven and not status motivated. Nuclear threat became a reality for Pakistan after India's first nuclear test in 1974. The contentious issue of fissile material stocks stimulates Pakistan's reservations regarding FMCT negotiations. Both the Shannon Mandate 1995, as well as the 2006 draft FMCT excluded the issue of existing stocks from the purview of the treaty and sought to control only future production of fissile material. Pakistan's principle worry is its disparity with the Indian stockpile of fissile material that threatens the strategic stability in the region.

Pakistan is keen to debate across the board nuclear disarmament on non-discriminatory basis at the Conference on Disarmament (CD). Pakistan is proposing a Fissile Material Treaty that should deal with existing stocks as well as the future production.

In the plenary session of CD, Pakistan has cautioned the world community in categorical terms that growing international support for India's nuclear programme would destabilize the region and force Pakistan to augment its deterrence. Pakistan's Ambassador Zamir Akram sharply criticized the moves to bring India into the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and other bodies that allow trade in nuclear materials. It is interesting to recall that the NSG was created in 1975 to standardize nuclear trade rules as a reaction to India's testing of a nuclear explosive device in 1974. To carry out that explosion, India had clandestinely diverted Plutonium from a power reactor provided to it by Canada.

Zamir Akram aptly pointed out, "Apart from undermining the validity and sanctity of the international non-proliferation regime, these measures shall further destabilise security in South Asia... As a consequence, Pakistan will be forced to take measures to ensure the credibility of its deterrence. The cumulative impact would be to destabilise the security environment in South Asia and beyond." Earlier he told journalists that Pakistan "would like a treaty that deals with stocks not just future production."

US disarmament ambassador Laura Kennedy told journalists that negotiations on a ban, a Fissile Material Cut off Treaty (FMCT), were a priority for Washington. "We believe that this is long overdue, it's a priority. And this sense of urgency is not, again, simply one of the United States, but is widely shared," Kennedy said.

India, like Pakistan, is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) but extension of aggressive cooperation in the field is a classic example of creating exceptions and meting out discriminatory treatment in similar situations. It is strange that a country, which was first to introduce nuclear weapons in South Asia, is being rewarded in every possible way but the country that has been offering concrete proposals to make the region free of nuclear weapons faces discrimination and intimidation.

At this time only Pakistan, India, and probably North Korea and Israel, produce fissile material for weapons. The major nuclear powers, after having accumulated thousands of weapons, have declared unilateral moratoriums on its production. Likewise, issue of fissile material is not very significant to any Non Nuclear Weapon State that is party to NPT, because these states have already abdicated their right to pursue nuclear program for military purposes. President Obama's vision of nuclear weapons free world is held hostage to intricately intertwined Indian policies of

nuclear security and power generation. India has piled up 1300 tons of reactor grade fissile material churned out by its nuclear power reactors over the previous years. Reactor grade Plutonium was used in one of the Indian nuclear explosions of 1998.

To understand the real significance of the FMCT for Pakistan, one needs to dig deeper into India's nuclear energy program. Pakistan's principal worry is India's accumulation of reactor grade plutonium for its fast breeder reactors. India's rationale for accumulating such a vast inventory of reactor grade plutonium stems from its three-stage nuclear energy program. The Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR) are envisaged as the mainstay of this plan. By producing more Plutonium than they consume, FBRs provide a window for diverting surplus fissile material for weapon programmes; especially so when India has not accepted any safeguards on its fast breeder reactors. FBRs form the backbone of India's grand plans for nuclear energy. Their number would increase by 5 times by 2020 and more than 60 times by 2050. To realize this design, India is poised to construct hundreds of FBRs.

India's ambitious plan for fast breeder reactor technology has serious implications for the nuclear stability in the region. This conundrum has compelled Pakistan to block the negotiations on FMCT at the CD. Despite pressuring Pakistan to fall in line on the issue, Americans know it well that spoiler is someone else. Pakistan's principal worry is the perpetually snowballing disparity with the Indian stockpile of fissile material. Current impasse on FMCT emanates from the most unlikely cause that is India's nuclear energy policy rather than its nuclear security policy. Therefore, any progress on the FMT would only be possible if India is willing to completely separate the domains of nuclear energy from that of nuclear security under an effectively verifiable regime. Pakistan looks forward towards a global disarmament regime, which should be legally binding, internationally verifiable and universally acceptable. In this context, Pakistan wants to negotiate a Fissile Material Treaty (FMT) that caters for complete elimination of all existing stocks of nuclear fissile material on non-discriminatory basis and also prohibits its further production. Pakistani proposal is disarmament based in nature and is compatible with the 'Global Zero' concept. Pakistan's position is neither the first, nor the only example of a country insisting in multilateral arms negotiations that its security interests be accommodated in a binding treaty. Arms control efforts over the decades have always been flexible enough to address the security concerns of participating states. CD's work should not become hostage to one issue that is fissile material management. It should comprehensively proceed on disarmament matters; so that its work is on equal pace on all interlocked agenda issues like disarmament of outer space, negative assurances, abolishing of missile defence shields, conventional arms race and fissile material management etc. Moreover, envisaged treaty must take into account the security concerns of all states. America's emphasis on early adoption of controversial FMCT, in isolation, is quite unfortunate. This amounts to treating the symptoms while ignoring the root causes. Where hard calculations of security are involved, nations have to be engaged to forge agreements; they must be neither isolated nor coerced.

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