



# **USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**

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Press TV – Iran

## **Iran Says Enemy does Not Fear Bombs**

Saturday, February 19, 2011

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says the enemies of the Iranian nation have no fear of weapons, missiles and bombs yet they accuse the country of pursuing a military nuclear program.

“How can a government which possesses more than 5,000 fifth-generation nuclear bombs be afraid of this false claim that Iran may build one first generation bomb within the next few years?,” Ahmadinejad queried.

The enemies have “seen through experience that, whenever Iranians have found an opportunity, they have put forth ideas and [shown] capabilities conforming with world management [standards] and which the people of the world like,” the presidential website quoted him as saying on Saturday.

Iran has repeatedly declared the civilian nature of its nuclear program, citing reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency that have found no evidence of divergence in Tehran's nuclear activities.

Washington, however, managed to pressure the United Nations Security Council to impose a fourth round of sanctions against the Islamic Republic's financial and military sectors in June.

Earlier in the year, Tehran invited representatives and ambassadors of different countries to inspect its nuclear facilities as a goodwill gesture.

Responding to Tehran's invitation, delegates from more than 120 countries, including representatives from the IAEA, visited Iran's nuclear sites.

After the visit the representatives published a report, which Iran's Ambassador to the IAEA Ali Asghar Soltanieh said served as a clear message to the world, confirming the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activity.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/166067.html>

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Washington Post

## **U.S. Report Finds Debate in Iran on Building Nuclear Bomb**

By Greg Miller and Joby Warrick

Saturday, February 19, 2011

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A comprehensive new U.S. intelligence report concludes that Iran has resumed research on key components for a nuclear weapon, but that the slow and scattered nature of the effort reflects renewed debate within the government over whether to build a bomb, U.S. officials said.

The finding represents a significant, if subtle, shift from the main conclusion of a controversial 2007 estimate that Iran had halted its weaponization work.

In finding that Iran has again begun taking steps toward designing a nuclear warhead, the new estimate is likely to be seen as erasing doubt that the earlier document created about Iran's intent.

But the new report reaches no firm conclusions about when Iran might acquire the bomb. The classified estimate has already triggered debate among American officials over whether Iran's apparent hesitation is the result of U.S.-backed sanctions meant to derail any weapons program.

Overall, the National Intelligence Estimate concludes that Iran is conducting "early-stage R&D work on aspects of the manufacturing process for a nuclear weapon," said a U.S. official familiar with the report. At the same time, the estimate describes "serious debate within the Iranian regime . . . on how to proceed."

Anticipation surrounding the new estimate has been intense, not only because it addresses one of the central national security dilemmas confronting President Obama, but also because critics regarded the previous estimate as confusing, and blamed it for undermining then-President George W. Bush's efforts to ratchet up diplomatic pressure on Iran.

The report carries weight because it represents the consensus view of the entire U.S. intelligence community, rather than the assessments of a lone agency.

U.S. officials have said that, unlike the estimate of four years ago, the new one will remain classified and out of public view; they would describe it only on the condition of anonymity. A Wall Street Journal article described aspects of the estimate this week.

Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper Jr. summarized key points in testimony before the Senate intelligence committee Wednesday, telling lawmakers that Iran's "technical advancement, particularly in uranium enrichment, strengthens our assessment that Iran has the scientific, technical and industrial capacity to eventually produce nuclear weapons." He added, "Iran is technically capable of producing enough highly enriched uranium for a weapon in the next few years. Whether such a decision to do so had been made, he said, is unclear.

The new assessment does not entirely refute the 2007 report's most controversial finding, which held that Iran's leaders had halted nuclear weaponization research in 2003, even while pushing forward on uranium enrichment that is regarded as the most difficult step to building a bomb.

U.S. spy agencies remain convinced that Iranian officials ordered a temporary halt to certain military research projects aimed at mastering the complex engineering involved in building nuclear warheads. The stoppage was described in computer notes and files surreptitiously obtained by the United States.

At the time, Iran's massive enrichment plant near Natanz had been exposed by an opposition group. The halt also coincided with the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

"After 2003 the program went to ground," said a senior administration official who has reviewed the latest estimate. But even while that military-backed project remains shuttered, the official said, the effort "became not a single program but multiple programs farmed out to universities and private companies. What research is being carried out, and to what end, is now much harder to pin down."

Many analysts believe that Iran intends to follow the same course as Japan and other states that are regarded as "virtual" nuclear powers - acquiring all the basic building blocks for nuclear weapons without actually building a bomb.

These analysts believe Iran would stop short of assembling and testing a bomb, a move that would subject the country to international condemnation and a possible military attack. Iran consistently denies having a nuclear weapons program.

Over the past year, U.S. intelligence officials have become increasingly convinced that Iran's progress toward building a bomb has suffered setbacks, giving the United States and its allies an additional cushion of two years or more before Tehran would be in position to test a device.

Delays to Iran's program have been attributed in part to elaborate attempts at sabotage, including the unleashing of a computer worm, called Stuxnet, that caused major equipment failures in centrifuge machines at Natanz. U.N. inspectors have concluded that hundreds of machines failed in the attack but that Iran recovered remarkably quickly, wheeling in new machines.

U.S. intelligence agencies believe Iran has continued to achieve progress in making low-enriched uranium, a key ingredient in fuel for commercial nuclear reactors.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/18/AR2011021807152.html>

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Press TV – Iran

## **'Brazil Will Maintain Close Ties with Iran'**

Saturday, February 19, 2011

Brazil has announced that it will maintain its ties with Iran under new President Dilma Rousseff, continuing the cordial relationship started by former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota told state television and radio on Friday that Brazil is keen on maintaining its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, AFP reported.

Iran and Brazil had friendly ties when Lula was president, and Patriota said the new government would maintain the same level of relations with Iran, stating, "Rousseff will stay on the paths of her predecessor and mentor Lula da Silva."

The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Brazil signed a declaration in Tehran on May 17, 2010, according to which Iran would ship 1200 kilograms of its low-enriched uranium to Turkey to be exchanged for 120 kilograms of 20 percent enriched nuclear fuel to power the Tehran research reactor, which produces radioisotopes for cancer treatment.

The US and its European allies, however, snubbed the declaration and used their influence on the UN Security Council to impose a fourth round of sanctions against Iran over its nuclear work.

Earlier this month, the Brazilian ambassador to Iran, Antonio Luis Espinola Salgado, hailed the Tehran Declaration and said that Brasilia is ready to increase its cooperation to help resolve the dispute over Iran's nuclear program.

He also noted that Iran-Brazil trade is on the rise, saying that bilateral trade reached a record \$2.2 billion in 2010 and Brazil's imports from Iran rose five-fold last year.

The Brazilian foreign minister also lauded the efforts made by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the former Brazilian president to expand relations between the two nations.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/165916.html>

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Reuters.com

## **U.N. Nuclear Body may Highlight Iran Military Concerns**

By Fredrik Dahl, VIENNA,  
Saturday, February 19, 2011

(Reuters) - The U.N. atomic watchdog may soon spell out in more detail its concerns about possible military aspects to Iran's disputed nuclear program, Western diplomatic sources say.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is considering including an annex on the issue in its next regular report on Iran's atomic activities due this month, ahead of a meeting in early March of its 35-nation governing board, one source said.

Such a move would signal the U.N. body's growing frustration at what it sees as lack of Iranian cooperation with its probe into the country's nuclear work, which the United States and its allies fear is aimed at developing atomic weapons capabilities.

It could also give Western states additional arguments for trying to tighten their sanctions pressure on Tehran after talks in December and January between six world powers and Iran failed to make any progress in the long-running nuclear row.

Iran says its nuclear program is a peaceful bid to build a network of atomic power plants and it has repeatedly refused U.N. demands to halt uranium enrichment, which can have both civilian and military purposes.

For several years, the IAEA has been investigating Western intelligence reports indicating Iran has coordinated efforts to process uranium, test explosives at high altitude and revamp a ballistic missile cone in a way suitable for a nuclear warhead.

IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano, who has taken a blunter approach on Iran than his predecessor Mohamed ElBaradei, said in his first report on the issue a year ago that he feared Iran may be currently working to develop a nuclear-armed missile.

The assessment further strained relations with Iran, which said such accusations were baseless.

But in a sign of his determination to keep pursuing the issue, one diplomatic source said Amano had asked the IAEA department responsible for inspections in Iran and elsewhere "to look a bit more into the possible military dimension aspect."

He said: "I believe Amano has asked the safeguards department to look on the possible military dimensions issue and perhaps become a bit more clear on that in the following reports on Iran."

### **IRANIAN BOMB DEBATE?**

Another source said he expected the IAEA's next report to have a renewed focus on this issue, adding he believed there was an effort to "thoroughly describe the concerns" the agency has.

There was no immediate comment from the IAEA, which issues quarterly reports on Iran to the agency's board, grouping the United States and European countries as well as developing and non-aligned states.

Iran, one of the world's largest oil producers, says its nuclear program is meant only to yield electricity or radio-isotopes for agriculture or medicine.

The IAEA says Iran has refused to address the agency's concerns since mid-2008 and that Tehran's non-cooperation means the U.N. body cannot confirm that all nuclear material in the country is in peaceful activities.

It said in its last report in December it was essential that Iran gave it access to relevant sites, equipment, documentation and persons "without further delay."

Amano told Reuters earlier this month that the IAEA had never said Iran had a nuclear weapons program.

"But we have expressed our concern over some activities that might have a military dimension ... Unfortunately, since 2008 our Iranian partners have not agreed with us to clarify this issue," he said.

U.S. intelligence agencies believe Iranian leaders have resumed closed-door debates over the last four years about whether to build a nuclear bomb, U.S. officials said this week.

But a recent update to a controversial 2007 U.S. National Intelligence Estimate on Iran's nuclear ambitions also says its leaders have not decided about going ahead with an atomic weapon, said the officials familiar with the latest assessment.

U.S. Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said: "Iran is keeping open the option to develop nuclear weapons in part by developing various nuclear capabilities that better position it to produce such weapons, should it choose to do so."

*Editing by Alison Williams*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/19/us-nuclear-iran-idUSTRE71I20O20110219>

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Jerusalem Post – Israel

## **Arrow 2 Missile Defense System Successfully Tested**

*Missile defense system tried out off the coast of California destroying target simulating an Iranian ballistic missile.*

By YAAKOV KATZ

February 22, 2011

In face of Iran's continued race for nuclear power, Israel conducted a successful test of the Arrow 2 ballistic missile defense system off the coast of California early Tuesday morning, when it destroyed a target simulating an Iranian ballistic missile.

It was the eighteenth test of the Arrow, and the second in which the modified Arrow 2 was tested in its entirety, along with the Green Pine radar manufactured by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

The test was conducted jointly by the IAF, the Defense Ministry's Homa Missile Defense Agency and the US Missile Defense Agency. The Arrow is a project developed in cooperation by the IAI and Boeing.

The Arrow interceptor was launched at around 10:30 pm Pacific Standard Time from a US Navy base along the California coast and intercepted a missile fired from a nearby navy vessel. Defense officials said that the enemy missile impersonated a "future threat that Israel could one day face in the region." Defense officials lauded the successful launching as another indication of Israel's defense capabilities in the face of Iran's continued quest for a nuclear weapon. They said that the Arrow system could protect Israel from all of the missiles in Iran's arsenal.

The Green Pine Radar - an integral part of the Arrow missile defense system - detected the enemy missile and, after identifying it, related the information to the Arrow battery which launched the missile interceptor.

Arieh Herzog, head of the Homa Missile Defense Agency, said that the Arrow system worked as designed and completely destroyed the target.

The interceptor used in the test used new software.

"This test is important for Israel as it prepares to counter the ballistic missile threat in the region," Herzog said. "This test proves the success of the system after it underwent new upgrades." Defense Minister Ehud Barak said that the test was an important milestone in the Israel's development of missile defense systems. Last week, the IAF successfully tested the Iron Dome counter-rocket defense system ahead of its planned deployment in southern Israel.

<http://www.jpost.com/Defense/Article.aspx?id=209320>

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Korea Herald

## **N.K. Digging Sparks Speculation of Nuke Test**

February 20, 2011

North Korea has been digging special tunnels at a nuclear test site in Punggye-ri in North Hamgyong Province, sparking concerns that it may be preparing for another nuclear test, government and military sources said Sunday.

North Korea conducted its two previous plutonium-fueled nuclear tests, one each in 2006 and 2009, at the site.

“South Korea and U.S. intelligence authorities have spotted the North building a couple of additional tunnels in Punggye-ri,” said a government source. “It’s obvious that North Korea is preparing for a third nuclear test.”

Reports have emerged about signs that the reclusive regime may be preparing for its third nuclear test at the Punggye-ri nuclear test site in northeastern North Korea.

The source gave no further details on how many tunnels Pyongyang has constructed.

“Underground bases can’t be reused after a nuclear test blast,” he said, adding that Pyongyang is building more than one tunnel so that it can choose the best one for the atomic test.

“It’s unclear whether the North will conduct a plutonium-fueled nuclear test or uranium-fueled one,” the source said. “But it’s likely to opt for the plutonium-based program as it has already revealed the existence of a modern uranium enrichment facility and expects strong opposition from China.”

North Korea revealed in November that it was running a uranium enrichment facility. Pyongyang claims the uranium enrichment program is for peaceful energy development, but outside experts believe it could give the country a new source of fission material to make atomic bombs in addition to its known plutonium-based nuclear weapons program.

Meanwhile, the South Korean military is keeping tabs on the movements to check whether the North will conduct nuclear tests and long-range missile tests at the same time.

Reports said that North Korea has completed the construction of a new sophisticated missile launch site on its western coast near the Chinese border in an apparent bid to test-fire another ballistic missile that can reach the mainland U.S.

North Korea has conducted long-range missile tests three times — in 1998, 2006 and 2009 — which were seen as partial successes.

“The Joint Chiefs of Staff is mapping out programs to deal with the North’s third nuclear test, long-range missile launch and hovercraft attacks,” said a military source.

“We are closely watching its new missile launch site in Dongchang-ri and the Punggye-ri nuclear test site.”

He said that the Dongchang-ri missile site is not yet completed, while construction of a naval base that can accommodate 70 hovercrafts in Koampo, Hwanghae Province, will be finished soon.

Inter-Korean tensions have escalated since North Korea launched an unprovoked artillery attack on the South’s Yeonpyeong Island in November, killing two civilians and two marines. The bombardment came eight months after a North Korean torpedo sank a South Korean warship and killed 46 sailors.

The North had offered talks earlier this month, but the first inter-Korean contact since the Yeonpyeong bombardment collapsed as the two sides failed to agree on the agenda and other procedural issues for a higher-level meeting to reduce tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The two Koreas are still technically at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. About 28,500 American troops are stationed in South Korea to deter threats from North Korea.

(Yonhap News)

<http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20110220000178>

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Yonhap News – South Korea  
February 21, 2011

## **S. Korea, U.S. Worried about N. Korean Nuclear Test in Early 1970s**

SEOUL, Feb. 21 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United States planned to install nuclear test detection equipment near the border with North Korea in the early 1970s, declassified diplomatic documents showed Monday, an indication the two allies worried about Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions four decades ago.

The two sides worked together on the project, codenamed "Clear Sky," to install an acoustic detector and an electromagnetic pulse detector at Camp Long, an American military base at the time, in Wonju, about 90 kilometers east of Seoul, according to the declassified documents.

"This intelligence collection project will significantly enhance our knowledge of the technical competence in the nuclear field of potential adversaries and will materially assist in our joint efforts to improve the mutual defense of" South Korea, Lt. Gen. Robert N. Smith of the U.S. Air Force said in a letter to Koo Choong-whay of Seoul's foreign ministry.

Smith and Koo were the heads of the Joint Committee handling issues related to U.S. troops here.

"Due to the sensitivity of this project, it is desirable to limit the dissemination of information on this project to a minimum number of persons," the American official also said in the letter dated Oct. 18, 1971.

Further details on the project were not available.

Though North Korea was not mentioned by name, it is believed that the two countries worried about a North Korean nuclear test as the site was near the border with the communist nation.

After decades of pursuing nuclear development, North Korea carried out its first-ever nuclear test in 2006, drawing international condemnation and U.N. sanctions. In 2009, the defiant regime went ahead with a second test blast amid a deadlock in international nuclear negotiations.

In November last year, Pyongyang revealed that it was running a facility to enrich uranium, which if highly enriched, can be weapons-grade and used as fuel for atomic bombs. A uranium program is a second way of building nuclear weapons after the plutonium-based program.

North Korea has also shown indications of preparing to conduct a third nuclear test, government and military sources said, citing signs of drilling tunnels at its underground nuclear test site in the country's northeast.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2011/02/21/91/0301000000AEN20110221000700315F.HTML>

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Yonhap News – South Korea  
February 21, 2011

## **N. Korea's Defense Minister Warns of 'Nuclear Catastrophe' in Letter to Gates: Official**

SEOUL, Feb. 21 (Yonhap) -- North Korea's defense minister warned of a "nuclear catastrophe" in a letter sent to U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates last month and demanded direct talks with Washington, a senior South Korean official was quoted as saying Monday.

Kim Yong-chun, the minister of the North's People's Armed Forces, stressed in the letter that the North and the U.S. should meet bilaterally because the nuclear standoff boils down to an issue between the two sides, the Seoul official said during a briefing at an annual conference of South Korean diplomatic mission chiefs, according to multiple participants.

Kim said in the letter that unless something is done about the deadlock in the North Korean nuclear issue, a "nuclear catastrophe will break out on the Korean Peninsula," the senior briefer was quoted as saying at the diplomats' conference that opened in Seoul for a five-day run.

The letter shows the North Korean situation is heading toward a "climax," the official was quoted as saying.

"After all, the next step will be either one of two things, whether it will come to dialogue or stage provocations, and I think North Korea is standing at such a crossroads," the briefer said at the conference, according to the participants.

Additional North Korean provocations could be attacks such as the March sinking of the South's warship Cheonan and the November shelling of the South's border island of Yeonpyeong, missile or nuclear tests, or acts of terrorism, the briefer predicted.

"North Korea's military is thinking of striking a big deal with the United States by bypassing South Korea while sticking to its position that it won't apologize for the Cheonan and the Yeonpyeong incidents," he said.

Pyongyang's emphasis on the past summit agreements with the South means that it is trying to win concessions from Seoul and security assurances from Washington while continuing to hold on to nuclear weapons without giving them up, the official told the conference.

The official also said the North's military appears to be the main player in its dealing with the U.S. after it started getting involved in Pyongyang's decision-making process since the North's leader, Kim Jong-il, suffered a reported stroke in 2008.

"As Minister Kim Yong-chun proposed the North-U.S. military talks, the North's military is engaged in a high level of diplomacy," he said, adding that the North's military believes the country's foreign ministry is unreliable.

The North's military has greater say in the country's decision-making than the foreign ministry and has been handling external affairs as well recently, the official said, adding that Seoul has evidence that the North's military had its hands on "a few important decisions" on inter-Korean relations.

On the health of the North's leader, the official was quoted as saying that Kim Jong-il is in "so-so" condition without his health conditions sharply deteriorating or improving, and the South plans to keep an eye on the matter in the future.

His first son, Kim Jong-nam, who has been living overseas for years, has been keeping in touch with his father, sometimes sending his wife to Pyongyang, the official said.

"It appears he feels any threat to his security," the official was quoted as saying.

The eldest son fell out of favor in the race to become a successor to the family dynasty after he was caught trying to enter Japan on a fake passport to visit Tokyo's Disneyland. His half-brother, Kim Jong-un, has apparently been named the next leader of the communist nation.

There have been rumors that the heir apparent could attempt to hurt Kim's eldest son.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2011/02/21/57/0301000000AEN20110221008900315F.HTML>

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The Independent – U.K.

## **Japan Confronts Truth about Its Germ Warfare Tests on Prisoners of War**

*Search for corpses begins after nurse blows whistle on scandal*

By David McNeill in Tokyo

Tuesday, 22 February 2011

Scientists have begun digging for corpses at the site of a former Tokyo medical college allegedly used to conduct bio-warfare trials, reopening one of the darkest chapters of Japan's wartime past.

Activists campaigning for the excavation say that dozens of bodies were buried under the site at the end of the Second World War in an effort to cover up biological tests on prisoners, some dissected while still alive. "They dug a hole 10 metres deep and for a month after Japan's surrender they threw bodies into it," recalled Toyo Ishii, 88, a former nurse who began speaking out about what she saw after retiring. "The bodies included those of people who had been used in experiments to test the effects of germs."

Ms Ishii says she and others helped dump bodies and body parts, and were told to ignore questions about what took place there. An apartment building was built on top of the grave "so it would not be dug up again".

"One of the [former medical school] staff who knew the facts lived in the building to keep guard," she said.

The facility was reportedly linked to Unit 731 of the Japanese Imperial Army, then the most elaborate biological warfare programme ever created.

A centre south of Harbin in China turned typhoid, anthrax, smallpox, cholera and dysentery into mass-produced killers. Live prisoners were dissected to determine the effects of pathogens on the human body.

Yoshio Shinozuka, who was 16 when he was dispatched by Tokyo to help the Unit 731 scientists, remembers the first time he assisted in an experiment on one of the prisoners who were dubbed murata, or logs. "I knew the Chinese individual we dissected alive," he recalls. "At the vivisection I could not meet his eyes because of the hate in them. He was infected with plague germs and... his face and body became totally black. Still alive, he was brought on a stretcher to the autopsy room, where I was ordered to wash the body. I used a rubber hose and a deck brush to wash him... The man's organs were excised one by one."

The results harvested from these experiments were, by 1940, being used to spread typhoid, cholera and plague across China. Soldiers dumped pathogens in rivers and water supplies. Fleas were cultivated to carry the plague,



then dumped over Chinese villages. The effectiveness of the experiments is widely disputed, but some historians put the casualty count in the six-figure range.

After the war, the Japanese military scientists who had built the programme and boasted of its war-winning potential were given amnesty by the US occupation, in exchange for their research findings. "The value to the US of Japanese biological warfare data is of such importance to national security as to far outweigh the value accruing from 'war crimes' prosecution," wrote one US military scientist.

The military seal of approval meant immunity for the key figures, including the programme's architect, Shiro Ishii, who died of natural causes in Tokyo in 1959. Many had lucrative post-war careers in the medical industry.

Japan's high command ordered the dynamiting of Unit 731's Chinese facilities as the end of the war approached. Japanese governments have never officially acknowledged their existence, successfully fighting a 2002 demand for compensation by Chinese victims of the experiments. Health ministry officials refused requests from Chinese families who wanted DNA testing of bone fragments found nearby in 1989.

The Tokyo site would probably have remained undisturbed were it not for the efforts of Ms Ishii and local residents, who demanded the human remains be exhumed. Tokyo's metropolitan government wanted to turn the site, which housed much of the Imperial Army's main facilities, into a sports ground. For years, it argued with the health ministry over who was responsible for the actions of the old army.

Excavations were finally ordered five years ago by the government but were delayed while buildings on the site were demolished and residents rehoused. Officials are playing down expectations of a major revelation. "We are not certain if the survey will find anything," health ministry official Kazuhiko Kawauchi told the Associated Press.

But activists said the dig is very important. "It was a horrific war crime and deserves to be more widely known," said civil rights lawyer Keiichiro Ichinose, who helped lead the 2002 Chinese suit. "Japan must acknowledge its past before it can move forward."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/japan-confronts-truth-about-its-germ-warfare-tests-on-prisoners-of-war-2221715.html>

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Economic Times – India  
19 February 2011  
Press Trust of India (PTI)

## **Obama Admn Asked to Ensure Pak Doesn't Use Aid for N-Programme**

WASHINGTON: Voicing serious concerns over the increasing nuclear arsenal of Pakistan, a top US Senator has sought a clear assurance from the Obama administration that the American aid money is not used by Islamabad to fund its atomic weapons programme.

In a joint letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Defence Secretary Robert Gates, Virginia Senator Jim Webb threatened that in the absence of such an assurance, he would introduce a legislation in the Congress that would "require a certification" from the administration that US funds are not used by Pakistan for its nuclear weapons programme.

"Published reports indicate that Pakistan has steadily increased its nuclear arsenal over the past two years, putting it on a path to overtake Britain as the world's fifth largest nuclear weapons power," Webb, a Democrat, wrote in the February 17 letter to Clinton and Gates released to the media yesterday.

"I am writing to restate my concern that no US funds appropriated for assistance to Pakistan be used to support, expand or assist the government of Pakistan in the development of its nuclear weapons," he wrote.

In the absence of such clear assurances from the administration, Webb said he would be compelled to re-introduce the legislative amendment he had introduced in this regard in 2009.

Two years ago, Webb, a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, introduced an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act that would have required certification that no funds appropriated for assistance to Pakistan would be used to advance programmes outside of direct US security interests, including expansion of Islamabad's nuclear weapons programme.

Following assurances of greater transparency and accountability from administration officials, including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen during a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, Webb decided not to pursue the amendment.

"Recent press reports on Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme are troubling," Webb said in his letter. "Just last week, the Washington Post reported that Pakistan has begun work on what appears to be a fourth plutonium-producing reactor, another signal that Pakistan continues ambitious efforts to modernise and expand its nuclear weapons."

"I am writing to restate my concern that no US funds appropriated for assistance to Pakistan be used to support, expand, or assist the Government of Pakistan in the development of its nuclear weapons. Absent clear assurances that this is not the case, I will feel compelled to re-introduce the amendment I offered in 2009," Webb wrote.

There was no immediate reaction from the State Department.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics/nation/obama-admn-asked-to-ensure-pak-doesnt-use-aid-for-n-programme/articleshow/7526693.cms>

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Sify News – India

Asian News International (ANI)

## **"CIA Spy" Davis was Giving Nuclear Bomb Material to Al-Qaeda, Says Report**

February 20, 2011

Double murder-accused US official Raymond Davis has been found in possession of top-secret CIA documents, which point to him or the feared American Task Force 373 (TF373) operating in the region, providing Al-Qaeda terrorists with "nuclear fissile material" and "biological agents," according to a report.

Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) is warning that the situation on the sub-continent has turned "grave" as it appears that open warfare is about to break out between Pakistan and the United States, The European Union Times reports.

The SVR warned in its report that the apprehension of 36-year-old Davis, who shot dead two Pakistani men in Lahore last month, had fuelled this crisis.

According to the report, the combat skills exhibited by Davis, along with documentation taken from him after his arrest, prove that he is a member of US' TF373 black operations unit currently operating in the Afghan War Theatre and Pakistan's tribal areas, the paper said.

While the US insists that Davis is one of their diplomats, and the two men he killed were robbers, Pakistan says that the duo were ISI agents sent to follow him after it was discovered that he had been making contact with al Qaeda, after his cell phone was tracked to the Waziristan tribal area bordering Afghanistan, the paper said.

The most ominous point in this SVR report is "Pakistan's ISI stating that top-secret CIA documents found in Davis's possession point to his, and/or TF373, providing to al Qaeda terrorists "nuclear fissile material" and "biological agents", which they claim are to be used against the United States itself in order to ignite an all-out war in order to re-establish the West's hegemony over a Global economy that is warned is just months away from collapse," the paper added.

<http://www.sify.com/news/cia-spy-davis-was-giving-nuclear-bomb-material-to-al-qaeda-says-report-news-international-1cumEfbecfi.html>

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Hindustan Times – India

## **Pak Incapable of Understanding Real Threat: Report**

Press Trust of India (PTI)

New York, February 21, 2011

Pakistan's rivalry with India is driving its nuclear ambitions, a media report on Monday said, noting that Islamabad seems incapable of understanding that the real threat comes from Taliban and other extremists. "The army claims to need more nuclear weapons to deter India's superior conventional arsenal... It seems incapable of understanding that the real threat comes from the Taliban and other extremists," the *New York Times* reported.

It said that Pakistan can't feed its people, educate its children, or defeat insurgents without billions of dollars in foreign aid. "Yet, with China's help, it is now building a fourth nuclear reactor to produce more weapons fuel."

The paper earlier reported that Pakistan has been steadily building up its nuclear arsenal since President Barack Obama took office in 2009. The country is on its way to overtake Britain as the fifth largest nuclear weapons power, and soon even surpass France as the fourth largest.

The United States, Russia and China are currently the three largest nuclear weapons states.

The daily pointed out that "the biggest game-changer would be for Pakistan and India to normalize diplomatic and economic relations."

Earlier this month, New Delhi and Islamabad agreed to resume talks on "all outstanding issues". The talks came to a halt following the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

The paper suggested that while India won't accept outside mediation, Obama could still press both countries to settle differences over Afghanistan and Kashmir.

For the first time, Afghanistan has been included in the list of items that both countries have agreed to talk about.

"Washington also needs to urge the two militaries to start talking, and urge the two governments to begin exploring ways to lessen the danger of an accidental nuclear war — with more effective hotlines and data exchanges — with a long-term goal of arms-control negotiations," the paper suggested.

Pakistan has produced enough material for 40 to 100 additional weapons, according to experts, including a new class of plutonium bombs.

The paper recommended that Washington push Pakistan stop blocking negotiations on a global ban on fissile material production.

The daily also underlined that Pakistan needed to do more to stop insurgents who target India.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Pak-incapable-of-understanding-real-threat-report/Article1-665081.aspx>

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Times of India - India

## **Davis Issue could Spark Egypt-Style Revolution in Pakistan: Imran Khan**

Press Trust of India (PTI)

February 22, 2011

NEW YORK: The case of American official Raymond Davis, arrested for double murder in Lahore last month, could spark an Egypt-style revolution in Pakistan, cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan has said.

Contradicting reports have emerged regarding Davis, some claiming that he had "close links" with Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan while others said the US official "was part of a covert, CIA-led team of operatives conducting surveillance on militant groups deep inside the country."

"This is not an ordinary situation," Khan told the Time. "If he (Davis) is returned to the US under diplomatic immunity, it might trigger the revolution off."

37-year-old Davis, arrested in Lahore on January 27 for killing two men he claimed were trying to rob him, is currently in jail in Pakistan.

The US had demanded the release of Davis contending that he is an "administrative and technical official" attached to its Lahore consulate and that he enjoys diplomatic immunity.

However, Khan suggested that Pakistan was ripe for an uprising. "I think Pakistan is completely ready for it," he said, adding, "In fact, it's even more ready than Egypt was."

Following the overthrow of leaders in Tunisia and Egypt, large-scale protests have erupted in several countries in the region including Bahrain, Yemen and Libya.

Observers have wondered how far the call for change will spread in the Muslim world.

The media report pointed out that, unlike Egypt, Pakistan has had three years of civilian democracy, a lively media, and other political freedoms that allow its citizens to dissent. But Khan asserted that youth in Pakistan suffer many of the same problems as their counterparts in Egypt.

"Never in our history have we had such levels of corruption and such bad governance," Khan claimed, slamming the economic and political situation in the country as well.

"You can see the whole thing already bubbling under surface," he added.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/Davis-issue-could-spark-Egypt-style-revolution-in-Pakistan-Imran-Khan/articleshow/7548413.cms>

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Daily Times – Pakistan

February 22, 2011

## Raymond Davis is a CIA Guy

ISLAMABAD: An Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) official said on Monday that the American in custody for killing two men is an undercover Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) contractor while US sources closely following the case also confirmed that he is employed by the CIA but was not involved in covert operations. "It is beyond any shadow of a doubt that Raymond Davis was working for the CIA," an official of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) told AFP on condition of anonymity. "He's on contract. He's not a regular CIA guy, but he's working for CIA. That's confirmed," he said. The official further said the Davis case had soured relations with the CIA. "Our relations with the CIA are now sort of pretty dicey. It has affected our relationship," he added. US sources said that Davis was employed by the CIA as a contractor but was not involved in covert operations. Davis, who is being held in a Lahore jail amid a tense US-Pakistan diplomatic dispute over whether he has diplomatic immunity, was working as a "protective officer", the sources said. Davis' duties as a protective officer – essentially a bodyguard – were to provide physical security to the US embassy and consular officers, as well as visiting American dignitaries, US officials, who declined to be identified, told Reuters. Two US sources familiar with the matter confirmed to Reuters that Davis, a former member of the US special forces, had previously worked on contract as a security officer for Xe Services, a controversial private contractor formerly known as Blackwater.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011%5C02%5C22%5Cstory\\_22-2-2011\\_pg1\\_2](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011%5C02%5C22%5Cstory_22-2-2011_pg1_2)

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The Express Tribune – Pakistan

## Imran Sees 'Change' in Pakistan this Year

By Pakistan Press International (PPI)

February 22, 2011

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Imran Khan on Tuesday said that people should expect 'change' in Pakistan this year.

"People should not worry, as year 2011 is the year of change," Imran Khan said, while addressing students at CBM University on Tuesday. He said that it is the need of hour that people should mobilize and stand for their rights.

"I cannot do anything for you and no one else could do. But the youth of this country should stand and fight for their rights. If anyone could bring a change, then he could do so only by the help of youth," he added.

He said leaders are not born but they are made. A person cannot become a leader because of a piece of paper, claiming that it was will of his wife that he would be the leader if anything happens to her. Nor the people called 'Diesel' could become leader, Imran Khan said.

He said Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and his followers were the best leaders this world has ever produced. They were true upholders of justice. They never amassed money and properties for themselves. In fact Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) left no property to be inherited by his heirs, he said.

He said that the people, who are ruling Pakistan, are nothing but puppets in the hands of their American masters. America asks them to bomb their compatriots and they obey. They show the Americans that they had dropped so many bombs on their compatriots and ask to reward. The Americans tell them 'this is not enough. Do more'. This is the lowest level of humiliation that so-called leaders kill their citizens, he lamented.

He said that the people who carry out suicide bombings are the victim of these bombardments and are wrongly being tagged as terrorists.

Khan said that Pakistan has huge talent and the remittances sent by overseas Pakistanis helps government in managing budget.

Overseas Pakistanis are ready to invest in Pakistan if government provides them peace and stability, he said adding honest leadership is needed for this. He regretted both the government and the system have totally failed.

Imran Khan said that Pakistan has every ingredient to become a successful nation but the only hindrance is corrupt leaders and silent and submissive people.

However, he said that the youth has never been as politically aware as they are now. The youth are now taking interest in resolving the crisis facing Pakistan and it is very crucial as only youth can bring change, he said.

He said that the situation in the Arab world and Pakistan is not too different and Pakistan has been fed up with rulers who are American puppets.

He said that the war in Pakistan is not between fundamentalists and liberals but between status quo and anti-status quo. The status quo forces do not want any change as the present situation suits them best because it is very profitable for them. They are making big bucks and they have hijacked the power. But the common masses want change and they would eventually prevail, he said.

Imran Khan said that ruling Pakistani politicians are afraid of change. "All of them, in spite of having petty differences, would defend each other to maintain the status quo," he added.

He said that present rulers have broken all records of getting costly foreign debts in their tenure and Pakistani generations would have to toil for years to repay them.

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/122313/imran-sees-change-in-pakistan-this-year/>

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Economic Times – India

## **Pakistan All Set to Overtake Britain as World's Fifth Largest Nuke Power**

February 22, 2011

Asian News International (ANI)

LONDON: Pakistan is all set to overtake Britain as the world's fifth largest nuclear power as it has increased its nuclear weapons stockpile by nearly 40 percent in last two years, having more than 100 deployed weapons.

American intelligence agencies believe that Pakistan now has more than 100 deployed nuclear weapons, an increase of nearly 40 per cent in two years.

This makes Pakistan the fifth largest nuclear arsenal power behind the United States, Russia, France and China.

Four years ago, the Pakistani arsenal was estimated at 30 to 60 weapons. Based on the analysis done by the US recently, accelerated production of plutonium and highly enriched uranium, Islamabad may now have an arsenal of up to 110 weapons, the Daily Mail reports.

Many of these have been miniaturised to be mounted on ballistic missiles with ranges of more than 1,245 miles bringing many Indian cities within reach.

The weapons have been kept at depots all over Pakistan - some are said to be near the main air bases.

The revelation of the growing size of its nuclear weapons will throw the spotlight on the massive aid packages given to Islamabad by the West, especially the US.

The Pakistan military has said that it needs more nuclear weapons to counter and deter India's more conventional military might.

The two countries conducted nuclear tests in 1998, and have fought three wars since partition and independence in 1947.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics/nation/pakistan-all-set-to-overtake-britain-as-worlds-fifth-largest-nuke-power/articleshow/7546912.cms>

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Global Security Newswire

## **Russian Military to Receive Bulava Missile in 2011**

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Russia yesterday said its military would receive the new Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missile in 2011 under the nation's current schedule for assessing the experimental weapon, ITAR-Tass reported (see *GSN*, Jan. 27).

"The testing program is such this year that following its completion, the armed forces will adopt the missile for armament," Russian First Deputy Defense Minister Vladimir Popovkin said.

"The number of launches will be as many as needed" to achieve between 98 percent and 99 percent reliability, Popovkin said.

The Bulava is designed to carry up to 10 nuclear warheads as far as 5,000 miles. Seven of the missile's 14 trial launches to date have been successes, including a pair of tests conducted in October (ITAR-Tass, Feb. 20).

Meanwhile, Moscow plans to field the advanced S-400 air-defense system on the Kamchatka Peninsula in its eastern territory, a high-level Russian military official said on Friday.

"The S-400 deployment in Kamchatka will allow to provide the cover for the naval facilities more efficiently, including for the nuclear submarine carriers' base in Vilyuchinsk," Interfax quoted the Russian Army General Staff official as saying.

"This decision is not linked to the plans to reinforce a grouping of troops in the Kurils or threats emanating from the North Korean nuclear missile program," the insider said (see *GSN*, Feb. 17).

Moscow was planning additional actions aimed at shoring up the area's air and missile protections, the official added.

"The plan also includes a number of measures to restore the controlled radar field and to improve control, intelligence and target detection systems. Without all that the efficiency of S-400s will be low," the official said (Interfax I, Feb. 18).

Russia also intends to supply S-300 systems to two Leningrad-region air defense regiments, air force anti-aircraft missile troops head Maj. Gen. Sergei Popov said on Friday.

"The regiments deployed in Elektrostal and Dmitrov in the Moscow region, which have received the new S-400 set, will pass their former weapons -- S-300 'Favorit' [surface-to-air missile] systems -- to the two missile defense regiments in the Leningrad region," he said (Interfax II, Feb. 18).

[http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw\\_20110222\\_7817.php](http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110222_7817.php)

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Gulf News – U.A.E.

OPINION/Editorial

## **Show Us the Pictures of the WMDs**

*No one should be asked to believe a claim of the weapons without clear evidence*

February 20, 2011

The requirement for clear evidence to justify going to war has just become all the more clear. At a time when the United States claims that Iran is building nuclear weapons capability, but cannot show the world any pictures of missiles or weapons, such evidence is all the more important. No one should be asked to believe such a claim without solid and unambiguous evidence. No one should be asked to accept such claims on good faith alone.

The sad history of lies, false claims and politicians using intelligence to suit their own political aims have become part of the fallout of the Iraq war. George W. Bush knew while the invasion was still happening that his claim of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) was based on forged evidence that Iraq had tried to buy 'yellow cake' refined uranium from Niger. But now Bush's trail of deception has been hit by yet another revelation.

The Iraqi defector whose claims that Iraq was building biological weapons were crucial to the US case, has admitted that he made up the claims because he wanted the US to go to war and topple Saddam. Rafid Al Janabi was a chemical engineer in the Iraqi military whose detailed descriptions of biological weapons factories, trucks loaded with anthrax, and mobile biological facilities in trains all combined to become a key part of Colin Powell's justification for war.

Unfortunately the claims were not true. "I had a problem with the Saddam regime," Al Janabi told the *Guardian* this week. "I wanted to get rid of him and now I had this chance." His fabrication achieved his purpose as Saddam was toppled. But the ludicrous failure of intelligence that he created shows how any such future claim has to be treated with great care.

<http://gulfnews.com/opinions/editorials/show-us-the-pictures-of-the-wmds-1.764509>

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Korea Times – South Korea

OPINION

February 20, 2011

## **No Solution in Sight**

By Tong Kim

After the breakdown of working-level inter-Korean military talks on Feb. 9, it became more difficult to predict when the North might come back to hold dialogue with the South or if they would at all. Now it is uncertain when the opportunity might come to create the right conditions to resume the long stalled six-party talks, still viewed as the best forum to deal with the North Korean nuclear programs.

Apparently, the South Korean delegates were caught off guard when their counterparts walked out on the second day of the talks, because the North had appeared eager to move forward to higher-level talks. Until that point, they had been negotiating an agenda, a timeline and a level of representation for higher-level military talks, but without any agreement.

Of the three items for negotiation, disagreement on the agenda turned out to be the main cause for the breakdown. In a "bulletin" posted on the Korea Central News Agency, the North Korean military said there is "no need to deal with the South any more, since the South Korean traitor group did not want improved relations but continuation of confrontation and collision." The North blamed the South's intransigent stance regarding the two incidents of provocation for which the North denies any responsibility.

The Seoul government says the door to military talks is still open, if the North accepts the agenda that the South proposed to discuss: (1) responsible measures for the sinking of the Cheonan navy ship and the shelling on Yeonpyeong Island and (2) prevention of future provocations. The North claimed that they proposed an additional agenda item: "tension reduction on the Korean Peninsula or prevention of any military action that could be regarded as provocation against each other."

If the North Korean agenda was accepted, it would open an opportunity to bring up a series of issues, including the dispute over the Northern Limit Line (NLL) and combined exercises by the U.S.-ROK armed forces such as Key Resolve, Foal Eagle, and Ulchi Freedom Guardian that the South does not want to discuss for good reason. Yet, if the North Koreans are serious, they should agree to confirm the usefulness of the North South Non-Aggression Pact of 1991.

Even before the talks, few had expected the North to accept the responsibility for the explosion of the Cheonan or for its artillery attack on the island in the West Sea. The North Koreans said all along that it would only express its views on the issues. Even if high-level military talks were held, their best outcome would be some agreement to prevent future incidents of a provocative nature, which would not be satisfactory for the Seoul government. However, if the talks produce a creative, negotiated expression regarding the two sticking points that can be interpreted to each side's advantage to save face for both, it might contribute to the furthering of inter-Korean dialogue.

In the meantime, it is not clear that the North's overall dialogue offensives, which they waged aggressively in all directions since the Obama-Hu summit in mid-January, have come to a halt. Even with China's political and economic support, North Korea is struggling for survival from a dual crisis of leadership succession and economic impoverishment. Kim Jong-il has just celebrated his 69th birthday, handing out gifts to the hungry people reportedly the least in amount and value to date.

Yet, militarily North Korea is becoming more threatening. North Korea maintains an active nuclear program, with a conservative estimate of six to eight bombs and a disclosed uranium enrichment plant that could later provide a new source of fissile material. The latest revelation of North Korea's missile program has confirmed that the North had built another, more modern launching site near the Chinese border, to shield it from possible pre-emptive attack from the United States.

Recent U.S. warnings — from security and intelligence leadership, including the defense secretary, combatant commanders and national intelligence chief — suggest that the North Korean nuclear and missile programs impose a direct threat to the security of the United States and its allies and should be heeded in two ways. Such warnings could be taken as a reverse warning to the North that the United States will not let them keep developing dangerous weapons of mass destruction without punishment. On the other hand, the warnings could be taken as public recognition of the North's capabilities, which would be a welcome to the North Koreans.

Many experts in government and private organizations are saying more provocations are on their way. Future provocations may come in the form of another missile firing using the new launch pad for which 10 years were invested to build, or another nuclear test to improve devices since their second test in May 2009. Whereas preparations for these tests would be detectable, there are few operable measures to prevent them.

Perhaps, a more likely type of provocation would be a surprise attack by North Korean Special Forces on any target they choose. However, in view of the fact that the North experienced no gains but bad publicity and condemnation, and considering Pyongyang's internal complications, it is not likely the North would launch another attack, unless it becomes desperate. The situation in the North has not reached a point to ignite an all-out suicidal attack.

The Seoul government wants to believe the only way to deter North Korean provocation and to change the North is strengthening defense posture and maintaining a consistent policy of principles. However, experience shows that deterrent alone does not prevent provocation and the government's hard-line policy or international sanctions did not change North Korean behavior. It does not seem that the North will collapse soon.

Is there a better way to resolve the North Korean issue than smart engagement? Anyway, there would not be serious government-to-government talks for a while. What's your take?

*Tong Kim is a research professor with the Ilmin Institute of International Relations at Korea University and an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).*

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2011/02/137\\_81728.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2011/02/137_81728.html)

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New York Times  
OPINION/Editorial  
February 20, 2011

## **Pakistan's Nuclear Folly**

With the Middle East roiling, the alarming news about Pakistan's nuclear weapons buildup has gotten far too little attention. The Times recently reported that American intelligence agencies believe Pakistan has between 95 and more than 110 deployed nuclear weapons, up from the mid-to-high 70s just two years ago.

Pakistan can't feed its people, educate its children, or defeat insurgents without billions of dollars in foreign aid. Yet, with China's help, it is now building a fourth nuclear reactor to produce more weapons fuel.

Even without that reactor, experts say, it has already manufactured enough fuel for 40 to 100 additional weapons. That means Pakistan — which claims to want a minimal credible deterrent — could soon possess the world's fifth-largest arsenal, behind the United States, Russia, France and China but ahead of Britain and India. Washington and Moscow, with thousands of nuclear weapons each, still have the most weapons by far, but at least they are making serious reductions.

Washington could threaten to suspend billions of dollars of American aid if Islamabad does not restrain its nuclear appetites. But that would hugely complicate efforts in Afghanistan and could destabilize Pakistan.

The truth is there is no easy way to stop the buildup, or that of India and China. Slowing and reversing that arms race is essential for regional and global security. Washington must look for points of leverage and make this one of its strategic priorities.

The ultimate nightmare, of course, is that the extremists will topple Pakistan's government and get their hands on the nuclear weapons. We also don't rest easy contemplating the weakness of Pakistan's civilian leadership, the power of its army and the bitterness of the country's rivalry with nuclear-armed India.

The army claims to need more nuclear weapons to deter India's superior conventional arsenal. It seems incapable of understanding that the real threat comes from the Taliban and other extremists.

The biggest game-changer would be for Pakistan and India to normalize diplomatic and economic relations. The two sides recently agreed to resume bilateral talks suspended after the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai. There is a long way to go.

India insists that it won't accept an outside broker. There is a lot the Obama administration can do quietly to press the countries to work to settle differences over Afghanistan and the disputed region of Kashmir. Pakistan must do a lot more to stop insurgents who target India.



Washington also needs to urge the two militaries to start talking, and urge the two governments to begin exploring ways to lessen the danger of an accidental nuclear war — with more effective hotlines and data exchanges — with a long-term goal of arms-control negotiations.

Washington and its allies must also continue to look for ways to get Pakistan to stop blocking negotiations on a global ban on fissile material production.

The world, especially this part of the world, is a dangerous enough place these days. It certainly doesn't need any more nuclear weapons.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/21/opinion/21mon1.html>

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Knoxville News Sentinel

OPINION/Editorial

## **Editorial: Congress Should Find Funding for ET Projects**

February 20, 2011

The current zeal for cutting the federal budget could wind up hurting East Tennessee and the nation's nuclear weapons and scientific infrastructure.

Republicans in the House of Representatives threaten to undo the deal between the Obama administration and GOP senators that made modernization of the nation's nuclear weapons systems a condition for ratifying the New START treaty with Russia. A key part of the modernization effort is a proposed uranium processing facility at the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex in Oak Ridge.

Budget cuts also threaten research projects at Oak Ridge National Laboratory at a time when many are bemoaning the United States' lack of research investment in the sciences compared to China and other countries.

The Obama Administration's proposed budget doesn't include money for continued construction of the new lock at the Chickamauga Dam, a project that is vital for businesses in East Tennessee that rely on shipping.

Veteran U.S. Rep. John J. Duncan Jr. and the freshmen congressmen from East Tennessee - U.S. Reps. Chuck Fleischmann and Scott DesJarlais - don't have to choose between the national interest and the interests of constituents because they dovetail. Cutting the federal budget deficit is a laudable goal, but not at the expense of programs and projects necessary for the health of the nation.

Modernizing the nation's nuclear weapons complex - including Y-12 - is vital for our national security and for the economic health of the region. The same goes for the cutting-edge research at ORNL. And the threat of the lock at Chickamauga Dam not being completed would turn East Tennessee literally into a backwater by cutting off more than 300 miles of navigable waterways, including access for Knoxville.

Fleischmann and DesJarlais campaigned as budget-cutters, but they also said they would go to bat for federal programs in Oak Ridge. Now they have that opportunity.

Y-12 stands to benefit from the deal struck late last year to fund modernization of nuclear weapons plants in exchange for Republican votes for ratification of the New START treaty. The biggest modernization project is the planned Uranium Processing Facility, which could cost up to \$6.5 billion. The facility would replace older buildings used to process bomb-grade uranium and would include new quarters for assembling and dismantling nuclear warhead parts.

The House version of a continuing budget resolution for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011 would significantly scale back some of the funding increases reached under the bipartisan agreement. The cuts for the remainder of 2011 also could be devastating to ORNL.

ORNL Director Thom Mason told the News Sentinel the cuts could result in 1,000 lost jobs at the lab and more with subcontractors. In addition, the Obama administration's budget proposal for next year could pull the plug on the Holifield research accelerator, a tool used by Oak Ridge researchers for more than 35 years.

Duncan, Fleischmann and DesJarlais, along with Tennessee U.S. Sens. Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander, must work with the administration and their fellow Republicans to find funding for these projects, which are good for Tennessee and important to the nation.

<http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2011/feb/20/congress-should-find-funding-for-et-projects/>

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## North Testing U.S. Patience, Again

February 21, 2011

Pyongyang continues to try Washington's patience.

After flaunting a new facility to enrich uranium - possibly for nuclear bombs - the communist regime reportedly has completed construction of a second long-range missile launchpad.

The new launch site at Tongchang-ri, just 70 kilometers (43 miles) from the Yongbyon nuclear reactor complex, is reportedly five times bigger than the first missile base at Musudan-ri in North Hamkyung Province.

Its rocket launchpad also is 1.5 times larger.

The new launch facility that took nearly a decade to finish could eventually send intercontinental ballistic missiles as far as the mainland of the United States.

North Korea has been bolstering its middle- and long-range missile programs since testing its first Taepodong-1 missile in 1998.

It then tested a Taepodong-2, which is capable of reaching Alaska and the southern coastlines of the United States, in both 2006 and 2009. It also has tested nuclear weapons.

James Clapper, director of national intelligence, told the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee last week that the Taepodong-2 missile failed in the 2009 test but that the country's technology had improved since the initial test in 2006.

Last month, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates also said that North Korea's long-range ballistic missiles could pose a direct threat to the American mainland within five years rather than the earlier estimate of 10 years.

In other words, North Korea has made quick progress in building a launching facility as well as the missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads across the Pacific Ocean.

The latest saber-rattling moves may again represent an effort to win Washington's support for bilateral talks.

But it probably won't work. The U.S. instead could maintain its strategic patience publicly while reinforcing its missile defense system. Or, it could even resort to military action to wipe out the North's nuclear and bombing facilities if it must.

North Korea's bold provocation of pointing nuclear and missile weapons at the United States can boomerang and lead to its doom.

It should come to its senses, stop its military campaign and care for its starving people instead. We strongly urge the North to give up its nuclear weapons program and start a sincere dialogue. It's the only way North Korea can save its regime and its people.

<http://joongangdaily.joins.com/article/view.asp?aid=2932445>

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22 February 2011

## Hard to Understand Nuclear Complacency

By David Krieger, Inter Press Service (IPS)

***If terrorists acquire a nuclear weapon, they would not be deterred by threat of nuclear retaliation.***

Nuclear weapons are the ultimate weapon of terrorism, whether in the hands of a terrorist organisation or those of the leader of a country. They are weapons of mass annihilation that kill indiscriminately men, women and children. Given the terrorist nature of nuclear weapons and their capacity to destroy civilisation, what makes them acceptable to so many people? Or, at a minimum, what makes so many people complacent in the face of nuclear threats?

The acceptability of nuclear weapons is rooted in the theory of nuclear deterrence, which its proponents argue has kept and will keep the peace. This theory is based upon many assumptions concerning human behaviour. For example, it assumes the rationality of political and military leaders. It seems quite evident that not all leaders behave rationally at all times and under all circumstances.

The theory requires clear communications and the threat to use nuclear weapons in retaliation must be believed by opposing leaders, but as we know communications are not always clear and misperceptions may inform beliefs.

### **Madman theory**

There is a madman theory of nuclear deterrence. It posits that to be truly believable, the leader of a nuclear armed state must exhibit behaviour that appears sufficiently insane to lead opposing leaders to believe that he would actually use the weapons. Thus, insanity, or at least the impression of it, is built into the system. At a systems level, can anyone doubt that the reciprocal threats of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) were truly mad, as in insane?

Another aspect of deterrence theory is that it requires a territory against which to retaliate. Thus, the theory is not valid in relation to a non-state terrorist organisation. If a country has no place to retaliate, there can be no nuclear deterrence. If a terrorist organisation acquires a nuclear weapon, it will not be deterred by threat of nuclear retaliation. This places a fuse on the nuclear threat, and means that there must be zero tolerance for a non-state terrorist organisation to acquire a nuclear capability.

There should also be zero tolerance for states to possess nuclear weapons. I am not limiting this observation to states that seek to develop nuclear arsenals. I mean all states and, most importantly, those already in possession of nuclear weapons. Current nuclear arsenals may be used by accident, miscalculation or intention. And so long as some states possess nuclear weapons and base their security upon them, there will be an incentive for nuclear proliferation.

Widespread nuclear complacency is difficult to understand. Most people are aware of the tremendous damage that nuclear weapons can do, but perhaps feel reassured that the weapons have not been used since 1945. The weapons are largely out of sight and out of mind. It is also possible that people feel impotent to influence nuclear policy and thus defer to experts and policy makers. This is unfortunate because until large numbers of people assert themselves on the need to eliminate nuclear weapons, the countries with nuclear weapons will continue to rely upon them to their peril and to the world's peril.

The New Start agreement between the US and Russia is a modest step forward in reducing the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons on each side to 1,550 and the number of deployed delivery vehicles to 700. The greatest value of the treaty may be in restoring inspections of each side's nuclear arsenal by the other side. At the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation we advocate the following next steps forward:

- \* Reducing the total number of nuclear weapons strategic, tactical and reserve to under 1,000 on each side;
- \* making a binding commitment to 'No First Use' of nuclear weapons and to never using nuclear weapons under any circumstances against non-nuclear weapon states;
- \* De-alerting all nuclear weapons so that there will be no use by accident, miscalculation- or in a fit of anger;
- \* Placing limits on missile defence systems and banning space weapons;
- \* commencing multilateral negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, which would ban all nuclear weapons worldwide in a phased, verifiable, irreversible, and transparent manner.

With due regard for the sanctity of life and for future generations, we can do better than to live with such inertia. We can move to zero, the only stable number of nuclear weapons. This is the greatest challenge of our time, a challenge that we must respond to with engagement and persistence. It is time to replace Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) with Planetary Assured Security and Survival.

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/139818/hard-understand-nuclear-complacency.html>

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