



# **USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**

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## **Articles & Other Documents:**

[Iran Overcoming Nuclear Program Problems: Barak](#)

[Syria May Have Built Atom Site near Damascus-Report](#)

[Satellite Photos: More Nuclear Sites in Syria](#)

[AP Exclusive: Iran Hunts for Uranium](#)

[SKorea, China Worry over NKorea's Nuclear Program](#)

['NK Nuke Program Threatens Peace in East Asia'](#)

[US, S. Korea Envoys Discuss N. Korea Nuclear Program](#)

[Two-Thirds of S.Koreans Support Nuclear Armament](#)

[GNP Reps Want Return of U.S. Nuclear Weapons](#)

[Cambodia Not Ready to Build Chemical or Nuclear Weapons](#)

[Watchdog Says Libya Destroys Chemical Weapons](#)

[U.S. Concerned about Security for Mustard Gas, Chemicals](#)

['Gadhafi May Use Chemical, Biological Weapons Against Libya Unrest'](#)

[Russia Discloses Rearmament Program Details](#)

[Trident Nuclear Fleet Cuts Ruled Out by Liam Fox](#)

[U.S., Russia Clash over Shared Missile Program](#)

[U.S. Reiterates Call for Further Arms Reduction Talks with Russia](#)

[Saudi Student to Be Arraigned in Bomb Plot](#)

[It Will Be Too Late to Halt Trident's Replacement if We Don't Talk Now](#)

[Civil Society must Push Nuke Ban](#)

[Pakistan and Jihadist Verses](#)

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Islam Tribune – U.S.

## **Iran Overcoming Nuclear Program Problems: Barak**

By Agence France-Presse (AFP)

February 23, 2011

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Iran is gradually overcoming problems in its nuclear program, and could still detonate a nuclear device within a year if it put its mind to it, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said.

But Barak said Iran was "several years" from having the capability of putting a nuclear weapon on a medium-range missile.

"It's clear they had certain holdups along the way and they are moving slower than expected," Barak said in an interview with CNN.

"But the painful fact is they keep moving forward. They are overcoming gradually the difficulties they faced. They don't get tired of it," he said.

His comments follow recent statements by senior Israeli officials that Iran is now not expected to acquire a nuclear weapon before 2015.

Israel's military intelligence chief, Brigadier General Aviv Kochavi, said a month ago that Iran was not currently working on a nuclear weapon, and it could be a year or two before it decides to do so.

Kochavi told the Knesset that once Iran decided to go for a nuclear weapon, it would take a year or two to produce one, and years longer to develop an effective missile delivery system for it.

Iran's attempts to enrich uranium needed for a bomb is believed to have been set back by a so-called Stuxnet worm. The detection of the worm has led to widespread speculation that it was planted through a US or Israeli cyberattack.

Barak said it was possible that the nuclear programs problems were the result of cyberware.

"But there were many kinds of problems. The fact of the matter is they continue to accumulate more and more on uranium and a mid-level enriched uranium... and that should be disturbing to us."

<http://www.islamtribune.com/2011/02/23/iran-overcoming-nuclear-program-problems-barak.html>

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

Reuters Africa.com

## **Syria May Have Built Atom Site near Damascus-Report**

Thursday, February 24, 2011

\* Plant may have been intended for uranium conversion-paper

\* Like Iran, Syria has denied nuclear weapons aims

VIENNA, Feb 24 (Reuters) - Western intelligence agencies suspect Syria may have built a secret atomic facility near Damascus, a German newspaper said, and a U.S. think-tank suggested it could be linked to a site bombed by Israel in 2007.

If confirmed, Thursday's report by the Sueddeutsche Zeitung would add to Western fears that the Arab state had engaged in covert nuclear activity prior to the Israeli attack and it may increase pressure for action by the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

The Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), a Washington-based think-tank, said the operational status of the facility near the town of Marj as Sultan was not known.

"However, there is suspicion that Syria may have emptied the buildings prior to mid-2008 and taken steps to disguise previous activities at the site," it said in an analysis issued in conjunction with the German newspaper report.

For more than two years Syria has refused to allow U.N. inspectors to revisit a site destroyed by Israel in September 2007, which U.S. intelligence reports said was a nascent North Korean-designed nuclear reactor intended to produce bomb fuel.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung said it had obtained photographs supposed to have been taken from inside two buildings at another location, 15 km (9 miles) east of the capital and bordering a military site. It was not known exactly when they were taken.

"But together with other information they allow for the first time the credible suspicion that Syria was in the process of setting up a facility for so-called uranium conversion -- a preliminary stage for producing fuel rods" which could be used in the suspected reactor, it said.

ISIS said the site near Marj as Sultan may have been functionally linked to the Dair Alzour facility, also known as al-Kibar, attacked by Israel more than three years ago.

"This facility could have been related to the process of making fuel for the planned al-Kibar reactor," it said, adding it was suspected of containing a small conversion facility.

#### SPECIAL INSPECTION?

Syria, an ally of Iran, denies ever harbouring an atom bomb programme and says the IAEA should focus on Israel instead because of its undeclared nuclear arsenal and the fact it has never joined the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

There was no immediate comment on Thursday from Syria's mission to the U.N. nuclear body, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Syria has repeatedly rebuffed requests by the IAEA for follow-up access to Dair Alzour and sites related to it, saying they are non-nuclear, military installations.

The IAEA is due to issue its quarterly reports about Iran and Syria ahead of a March 7-11 meeting of the Vienna-based body's 35-nation governing board.

The United States has suggested that the IAEA may need to consider invoking its "special inspection" mechanism to give it authority to look anywhere necessary in Syria at short notice.

If the Sueddeutsche Zeitung report was confirmed, "it would certainly crank up the issue of the special inspections," one Western diplomat said.

Some Vienna-based diplomats have cautioned against any such move, saying it would distract attention from the more pressing issue of Iran, which Western powers suspect is trying to develop nuclear weapons capability. Tehran denies this.

"This case (Syria) is very different to that of Iran. Iran's activity is continuing," IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano told Reuters in a Feb. 1 interview.

*Reporting by Michael Shields and Fredrik Dahl; editing by Andrew Roche*

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE71N0Y720110224?sp=true>

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

Arutz Sheva – Israel

February 24, 2011

## Satellite Photos: More Nuclear Sites in Syria

By Hillel Fendel

Western intelligence agencies have detected another nuclear plant in Syria – in a Damascus suburb.

Following Israel's bombing of a nuclear production plant in Syria over three years ago, another nuclear complex, albeit smaller, has now apparently been found, following close analysis of satellite photos.

A German newspaper, the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (SZ), reports that it has received the photos, but will not publish them because inferences can be made as to when they were taken, and thus to who leaked them.

In addition, Washington's Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) published photos on Wednesday of one of three more sites that are believed to be connected to the Al-Kibar facility.

### Pressure for Inspections of Syrian Sites

The two reports are likely to increase UN pressure for new inspections of suspected Syrian facilities when the IAEA convened next month.

The small, two-building complex reported by the German paper is located in Marj al-Sultan, adjacent to a military base – and to a wealthy suburban area with swimming pools - 15 kilometers east of Damascus. SZ reports that the photos lead analysts to believe that it is a uranium conversion plant for the production of fuel rods. It further stated that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna refused to comment on the photos.

The images of the smaller building show chemical equipment apparently made of stainless steel, as "would be expected in a uranium conversion plant," according to Western intelligence officials who wished to remain anonymous. Similar technology for the removal of impurities from the uranium is in use in the Iranian conversion plant at Esfahan, though not in North Korea.

Photos of the larger building show specialized equipment for filtering out uranium particles and hazardous chemicals resulting from the production process.

Western intelligence sources say there are "links" between the Al-Kibar site, destroyed by Israel in 2007, and Marj al-Sultan. Apparently the same people were seen at both locations and/or transports between the plants were observed.

The current status of the complex is not known. The IAEA requested access to the site in May 2008, and satellite images at the end of July showed suspicious activity in the area: trucks appear to be seen and the flooring was apparently replaced. The Syrians have not produced the requested explanations.

The Syrians have never allowed the Al-Kibar site to be thoroughly investigated by international authorities. A huge concrete slab now covers the site, and the truth of what was there is likely to remain buried there for many decades or centuries.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/142508>

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

Miami Herald  
February 24, 2011

## **AP Exclusive: Iran Hunts for Uranium**

By GEORGE JAHN, Associated Press

VIENNA -- Iran is expanding its covert global search for the uranium it needs for its nuclear activities and a key focus is Zimbabwe, says a new intelligence report acquired Tuesday by The Associated Press.

The report is in line with international assessments that Iran's domestic supplies cannot sustain its nuclear program that could be turned toward making weapons.

An intelligence report from a member country of the International Atomic Energy Agency - shared with the AP by an official from that nation - says Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi met secretly last month with senior Zimbabwean mining officials "to resume negotiations ... for the benefit of Iran's uranium procurement plan."

"This follows work carried out by Iranian engineers to map out uranium deposits in Africa and assess the amount of uranium they contain," said the two-page intelligence summary.

The report - confirmed independently by an official from another IAEA country - was shared as an Iranian delegation led by the head of the Cooperative Ministry Abbas Johari was meeting Thursday with "agriculture and mining interests" in the Zimbabwean capital Harare.

The official confirming the intelligence described the Salehi visit as part of an international Iranian effort that stretches across Africa, Asia and South America and may involve more than a dozen countries. Both officials - whose countries closely follow Iran's nuclear program - asked for anonymity in exchange for discussing intelligence matters.

The assessments are important because they call into question recent Iranian assertions meant to dispel doubts about the country's capability to sustain and expand its uranium enrichment program.

Iran says it is enriching solely to power a future network of nuclear reactors. But it has been targeted by U.N. sanctions because enrichment can also create fissile warhead material - and because of its nuclear secrecy and refusal to cooperate with IAEA probes into its activities.

The assessments come days ahead of the latest IAEA report on Iran, which has been under nearly a decade of international nuclear perusal over concerns it might seek to develop nuclear arms.

Diplomats said Thursday that report may contain an index listing experiments the agency suspects Iran conducted as part of work on a nuclear weapons program. The alleged experiments have been known for years, but republication would show the agency's impatience with Iran's prolonged refusal to cooperate with its investigation.

Tehran still has hundreds of tons of uranium hexafluoride - the gas derived from ore that is spun by centrifuges into the enriched uranium that can be used as reactor fuel and to arm nuclear missiles. But both Western intelligence agencies and IAEA officials say that it does not seem to have meaningful domestic supplies of the ore itself. That means that Iran's enrichment efforts would ultimately have to be curtailed unless new domestic or foreign supplies are secured.

Tehran denies any shortages. Because U.N. sanctions ban countries from selling Iran any nuclear material, it is publicly focusing on searching and exploiting possible domestic supplies at its only operating mine near Bandar Abbas and at a site at Saghand, both in southern Iran. Salehi in December said it had started uranium ore processing for the first time from domestic production instead of using supplies it imported decades ago.

Still - despite asserting it has plentiful ore reserves at Saghand - there have been no attempts to exploit the site, because of what officials say is a lack of money.

"Iran's known uranium ore reserves are limited and mostly of poor quality making them commercially unprofitable to mine," says former United States Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation Mark Fitzpatrick.

With the completion date of any Iranian nuclear reactor network decades away, Tehran may have other pressing reasons to look for replenishable ore supplies, said Fitzpatrick, now head of nonproliferation for the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Iran, he said, now has enough uranium gas to make 20 or 30 nuclear weapons, should it choose to turn what it says is a peaceful program into making such arms. If that supply were destroyed by a military attack or sabotage, "that could put a serious crimp into Iran's ability to reconstitute the program."

"That's why for strategic reasons its not surprising that Iran is continuing to try to acquire additional sources," he added.

Many of the world's uranium producers - or countries with large reserves - are in Africa. And while some, like South Africa, observe U.N. sanctions slapped on Iran in efforts to crimp its enrichment programs, there are doubts about more reclusive countries.

The intelligence summary said "part of Iran's plan is to gain a foothold in Zimbabwe and other African countries such as Congo, Nigeria (and) Senegal." The official who provided the summary said Salehi also visited Senegal in mid-January, apparently to patch up tensions created by allegations that Iran was supporting Senegalese separatists with weapons.

Other officials familiar with Iran-Zimbabwe relations said that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and others had expressed interest in Zimbabwe's uranium supplies several times since April, when Ahmadinejad visited Harare. But they said that action has been stalled by the problem of how to exploit the reserves.

Because the uranium ore is not near existing mining operations, large-scale extraction would draw international attention because it could not be covered up as expansion of existing platinum or other mining projects, they said, also asking for anonymity because their information was privileged.

Large uranium deposits were first found decades ago in the Kanyemba district nearly 250 kilometers (almost 150 miles) north of the capital, Harare, but were left unmined because of low prices. The site has an estimated 450,000 tons of uranium ore that would produce 20,000 tons of enrichable uranium.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe denied news reports after Ahmadinejad's April visit that the Iranians had secured mining rights for his country's uranium but his office said Iran had a right to apply for them.

U.S. officials would not specifically confirm the Zimbabwe connection but did not refute it in comments warning against violating U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iran.

"We know Iran is looking for countries that might be prepared to violate the UNSC resolution to address its uranium shortage," said U.S. National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor. "We urge all countries to abide by their international commitments."

Associated Press writer Adam Goldman contributed from Washington.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/02/24/v-fullstory/2083121/ap-exclusive-iran-widens-hunt.html>

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

Seattle Times  
February 23, 2011

## **SKorea, China Worry over NKorea's Nuclear Program**

*The foreign ministers of South Korea and China expressed worries Wednesday about North Korea's recently disclosed uranium enrichment program, which could give it a second way to make atomic bombs, a South Korean official said.*

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The foreign ministers of South Korea and China expressed worries Wednesday about North Korea's recently disclosed uranium enrichment program, which could give it a second way to make atomic bombs, a South Korean official said.

The foreign ministers agreed to consult closely on how to deal with the North's uranium program, a South Korean Foreign Ministry official said on condition of anonymity because of department policy.

Efforts to deal with North Korea's nuclear capability took on renewed urgency in November when a visiting American scientist was shown a uranium enrichment facility. South Korea says that violates a past international disarmament-for-aid deal and U.N. resolutions.

North Korea is already believed to have enough weaponized plutonium for at least a half dozen atomic bombs.

China - host of stalled six-nation North Korean nuclear disarmament talks - is officially opposed to the North's nuclear drive. But it remains to be seen whether China, which is North Korea's only major ally, will allow the United Nations to criticize the North's uranium enrichment efforts.

South Korean media have reported that China is blocking a U.N. Security Council committee from issuing a report saying the North's uranium program violates U.N. resolutions. The committee was to meet later Wednesday in New York.

The Chinese and South Korean foreign ministers also agreed in principle to create an environment for resuming the six-nation talks, which seek North Korea's nuclear disarmament in exchange for economic assistance and other benefits, the official said. China wants an early resumption of the negotiations, the official said.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi began a two-day visit to South Korea on Wednesday aimed at easing animosity between the Koreas. In a meeting with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, he said Beijing hopes for improved ties between the Koreas and reiterated China's opposition to the North's nuclear program, Lee's office said in a statement.

Lee asked China to play a constructive role in efforts to end North Korea's nuclear program, it said.

Relations between North and South Korea have plunged to one of the lowest levels in decades due to two deadly incidents last year - the sinking of a South Korean naval ship in March, and a North Korean artillery barrage in November on a front-line South Korean island. Fifty South Koreans were killed.

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2014304107\\_apaskoreasnuclear.html?syndication=rss](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2014304107_apaskoreasnuclear.html?syndication=rss)

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

Korea Times – South Korea  
February 24, 2011

## **'NK Nuke Program Threatens Peace in East Asia'**

By Na Jeong-ju

President Lee Myung-bak said Thursday that North Korea's nuclear program threatens peace in East Asia as well as global non-proliferation efforts.

He urged the North to choose the path of opening doors for economic development like China and Vietnam, saying the South is always ready to help.

"Inter-Korean peace is vital for regional cooperation," Lee said in a keynote speech at the Global Korea 2011 international forum at the Lotte Hotel in central Seoul. The one-day conference was held to mark the third anniversary of his inauguration, which falls on Friday.

"North Korea's persistent nuclear weapons development poses a grave threat not only to peace in Northeast Asia but also the non-proliferation regime of the international society."

Lee called for regional cooperation to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula.



“Unless the remains of the past are removed from the Korean Peninsula, genuine multilateral security cooperation cannot be anticipated in Northeast Asia,” he said.

“It is imperative that the North dismantle its nuclear arsenal and take the path of openness and development as China and Vietnam have done. That is the only alternative that Pyongyang can take for its own sake.”

The South Korean leader has repeatedly stressed that the country will provide all available assistance if the North changes first and shows sincerity in resolving the nuclear issue.

At the same time, he vowed a stern response to any further provocations by Pyongyang, based on the firm security alliance with the United States.

Establishing a peace regime and building an economic community between the two Koreas will pave the way for a new “blue ocean” of common prosperity in East Asia, Lee said.

On regional economic partnerships, he stressed the need to create an East Asian community by forging free trade agreements (FTAs).

“The shortcut to common prosperity and the establishment of a regional community in East Asia is to expand free trade through market openings,” he said.

“The starting point for regional collaboration to establish the East Asian community is to create a regional trade community.”

Should South Korea forge FTAs with China and Japan, the accords would guarantee a new paradigm of collaboration in East Asia, he noted.

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2011/02/116\\_82015.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2011/02/116_82015.html)

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

Bangkok Post – Thailand

## **US, S. Korea Envoys Discuss N. Korea Nuclear Program**

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Friday, 25 February 2011

South Korea's nuclear negotiations chief met Thursday with US special envoy for North Korea Stephen Bosworth to discuss Pyongyang's uranium enrichment program, officials said Thursday.

The program disclosed last November potentially gives the North a second way to make nuclear weapons, in addition to its plutonium stockpile and envoy Wi Sung-Lac's visit came a day after the North's main ally China blocked publication of a United Nations report criticising the program.

Wi also held talks with Robert Einhorn, the US State Department's special adviser for nonproliferation and arms control, and with his US counterpart Sung Kim, according to a spokesman.

State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said Wi would hold talks Friday with Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Kurt Campbell.

Prior to his departure, Wi told reporters his trip would focus on how to cope with the uranium program at the UN Security Council and consider ways to create the right conditions for resuming long-stalled six-party talks on the North's nuclear disarmament.

The sanctions panel report blocked by China calls for tougher implementation of the measures and outlines the progress the North has made on uranium enrichment, according to diplomats.

It describes the enrichment as a new violation of sanctions imposed following atomic tests in 2006 and 2009.

China chairs the talks grouping China, Japan, Russia, the United States and the two Koreas last held in December 2008 and has been trying to revive them to ease overall tensions on the Korean peninsula. It says the uranium issue should be dealt with at that forum.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/223442/us-s-korea-envoys-discuss-n-korea-nuclear-program>

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

Chosun Ilbo - South Korea

February 25, 2011

## **Two-Thirds of S.Koreans Support Nuclear Armament**

Two out of three South Koreans believe the country should arm itself with nuclear weapons in response to the North Korean nuclear threat, according to handouts distributed at the National Assembly on Thursday by former Grand National Party chairman Chung Mong-joon.

According to the handout based on a poll of 1,000 adults across the country from Feb. 18, 66.8 percent of respondents agreed the nation needs nuclear arms, with 34.4 percent ticking "strongly support the idea" and 32.5 percent saying "mostly agree." But 29.1 percent disagreed.

Some 67.1 percent of respondents think the current security situation is dangerous, with 15.6 percent ticking "very dangerous" and 51.5 percent "somewhat dangerous." A mere 29.5 percent regard the situation as "not dangerous."

A vast majority of 82.2 percent believe the North has nuclear weapons, and 12.7 percent do not. Some 52.7 percent are concerned about the "high possibility" of the North carrying out further provocations, in contrast to 39.1 percent who saw the threat as "not high."

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2011/02/25/2011022501228.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2011/02/25/2011022501228.html)

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

JoongAng Daily – South Korea

## **GNP Reps Want Return of U.S. Nuclear Weapons**

February 26, 2011

By Ser Myo-ja

Senior members of the ruling Grand National Party yesterday argued the U.S. should reintroduce tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea to protect the country against a military threat from the North.

In a National Assembly session on foreign, unification and security affairs, Chung Mong-joon, former chairman of the Grand National Party, made the proposal, calling it a cautionary move against a nuclear-armed North Korea.

“Would it be possible for the South to peacefully coexist with a nuclear-armed North?” Chung asked. “The U.S. nuclear umbrella is necessary, but it cannot be a negotiation card to dismantle the North’s nuclear arms programs.”

From 1958 until 1991, the United States deployed tactical nuclear weapons in the South. According to recently declassified U.S. documents, the number of nuclear weapons reached 950 in 1967. The last 100 were withdrawn in 1991.

The two Koreas adopted the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in 1992, committing themselves not to test, manufacture, produce, receive, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons.

Referring to a poll showing that 67 percent of South Koreans want the country to arm itself with atomic weapons against a nuclear-armed North Korea, Chung said, “it is a sensitive issue, but we should consider the return of American tactical nuclear arms until Pyongyang dismantles its weapons programs.”

GNP Representative Won Yoo-chul, who heads the legislature’s National Defense Committee, argued that it was necessary for South Korea to open a discussion on the return of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons. “It will pressure China and Russia to play a more active role in ending the North’s nuclear arms development,” Won said. “It will also bring about a positive effect in Seoul’s negotiations with Washington on a new nuclear cooperation treaty to secure the right to reprocess used nuclear fuel.”

Representative Chung Ok-nim, a GNP spokeswoman, also said American weapons should be returned to the South. “They should [only] be withdrawn when the North dismantles its nuclear arms,” she said.

The liberal opposition Democratic Party condemned the idea, arguing that the security crisis on the peninsula was caused by the Lee Myung-bak administration’s hostile policy.

“Because of the anachronistic hard-line policy toward the North, the government brought about the security crisis in which the North shelled the South’s territory directly for the first time since the Korean War,” said DP Representative Park Joo-sun.

“The nuclear crisis can only be resolved when Pyongyang itself loses the need for nuclear weapons. When the confrontation between the two Koreas disappears, the need for nuclear weapons will disappear as well,” Park said.

The government dismissed the GNP’s argument for the return of U.S. nuclear weapons to the South, while blaming the North for increased tensions.



“For the peace and stability of the peninsula, denuclearization must be maintained,” Prime Minister Kim Hwang-sik said. “Rather than nuclear competition, it is Seoul’s principal stance to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula through international efforts, including the six-party talks.”

National Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin said it was the government’s position that international cooperation is needed to pressure Pyongyang to end its nuclear aspirations.

<http://joongangdaily.joins.com/article/view.asp?aid=2932760>

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

People’s Daily – China

## **Cambodia Not Ready to Build Chemical or Nuclear Weapons**

25 February 2011

Cambodian government reaffirmed Friday that it has banned all kinds of production of chemical and nuclear weapons which is contradictory to international treaty.

In a press statement released after a weekly cabinet meeting, it said a sub-decree with four articles was approved Friday during the meeting at which it is designed to examine the chemical substance which is potential for the production of chemical and nuclear weapons.

The sub-decree regulates the control, management and collection of data on the need of any use of chemical substance which is required by the international convention.

The sub-decree was approved as correlation to the country's constitution.

Cambodia's Constitution, article 54, says that "The manufacturing, use, storage of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons shall be absolutely prohibited."

Cambodia is a signatory and a party to many international conventions and treaties, including the Ottawa Treaty which deals with landmines.

*Source: Xinhua*

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90851/7300807.html>

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

Washington Post

## **Watchdog Says Libya Destroys Chemical Weapons**

By ARTHUR MAX, The Associated Press

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

AMSTERDAM -- Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is keeping his word to destroy his chemical stockpile for producing mustard gas and has no weapon to deliver a chemical payload, a U.N. watchdog group said Wednesday.

Reports from Libya say fears that the regime will use chemical or biological weapons are rampant among protesters facing Gadhafi's militias and supporters, and former British Foreign Secretary David Owen said the West should be concerned about that possibility.

"We know that this is a person who could unleash either chemical or biological weapons which he possibly still has," Owen said on BBC radio Wednesday. Gadhafi "is deeply unstable, and has been for 42 years," he said.

But the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons indicated the use of chemical weapons was unlikely.

All Libya's delivery systems - 3,300 unloaded aerial bombs - were crushed by bulldozers in 2004 when Gadhafi agreed to dismantle his weapons of mass destruction, said the OPCW, based in The Hague.

Libya destroyed nearly 13.5 metric tons (15 tons) of sulfur mustard last year, about 54 percent of its stockpile. It received an extension to eliminate the rest by May 15, the organization said. Nearly 40 percent of the chemicals used to make sulfur mustard also have been destroyed since 2005, it said.

Twice-yearly inspections have found no evidence of Libya reviving the chemical weapons program.

"So far as we know, Libya gave up the capacity to deliver chemical agents seven years ago," OPCW spokesman Michael Luhan told The Associated Press. "And in the last year we've also seen, after some delays, substantial progress toward destroying their existing stockpile of chemical agent, which is all mustard."

A British government official also said there was little to no fear outside Libya that Gadhafi would use such weapons.

"We worked quite successfully five years ago to make sure the supplies were destroyed. So right now, they have the expertise but not the kit," said the official in London on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of his work.

*Associated Press writer Paisley Dodds in London contributed to this report*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/02/23/AR2011022302228.html>

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

Washington Times

## **U.S. Concerned about Security for Mustard Gas, Chemicals**

By Eli Lake, The Washington Times

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

U.S. military and intelligence officials are closely watching Libya's stockpiles of mustard gas and their precursor chemicals as the North African country descends further into civil war.

Proliferation analysts generally assess that Libya has close to 14 tons of mustard gas that it has not destroyed despite the announcement in 2003 that it would dismantle its weapons of mass destruction program.

"Obviously, the security of the Libyan stockpile of chemical weapons is a concern," a U.S. intelligence official told The Washington Times.

"You could see a scenario where [Libyan dictator Moammar] Gadhafi takes troops away from these [stockpiles]," a Senate aide monitoring the situation in Libya said. "He could be pulling his security forces off of his missions, and bring them to Tripoli and Benghazi and other towns he needs to secure to hold on to his regime and, as a result, these facilities will be unguarded."

On Wednesday, Libyans in the eastern part of the country celebrated their liberation from Col. Gadhafi and vowed to free the capital, Tripoli, where Gadhafi forces attacked protesters with heavy arms. In a rambling, nationally televised speech Tuesday, Col. Gadhafi vowed to die a "martyr."

President Obama denounced the violence Wednesday and said he was dispatching Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to Geneva on Monday to attend international talks on how to stop the carnage.

Mustard gas is a highly toxic sulfuric compound that can blister and burn exposed skin. First used in World War I, it can cause internal and external bleeding, and disrupt breathing and digestion. Its use in warfare is banned under the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention.

After the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, Col. Gadhafi agreed to dismantle his country's weapons of mass destruction program and its Scud missiles, after years of quiet diplomacy. In return, the U.S. was obligated to restore diplomatic relations with Tripoli and remove Libya from the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism.

The deal was hailed as a key foreign policy accomplishment of the George W. Bush administration.

Paula DeSutter, the U.S. coordinator under President Bush for the elimination of Libyan weapons of mass destruction, told The Times that Libya eliminated all of its bombs in which mustard gas could be delivered but still had some of the chemical agent.

"They definitely have some mustard gas and some of the chemical precursors," said Ms. DeSutter, a former assistant secretary of state for verification and compliance. "But as far we know, they do not have the means to deliver them. They eliminated all of the unfilled munitions they declared in 2004."

Ms. DeSutter added, however, that the mustard agent could be used as a weapon against unarmed demonstrators. "If you want to kill your people, you could pour it out on the street," she said.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), an international agency charged with monitoring the compliance of states with the Chemical Weapons Convention, said Wednesday that Libya has made progress in destroying its chemical weapons stocks.

"So far as we know, Libya gave up the capacity to deliver chemical agents seven years ago ... and in the last year we've also seen, after some delays, substantial progress toward destroying their existing stockpile of chemical agent, which is all mustard," an OPCW spokesman told the Associated Press.

Jamie Fly, executive director of the Foreign Policy Initiative, said that even though the OPCW notes that Libya's chemical weapons cannot be delivered in bombs, "this is still a major concern because there are terrorists who may want to get their hands on these weapons and, given the current state of chaos in the country, we need to be worried these chemical agents could fall into the wrong hands."

Mr. Fly served as a director for counterproliferation policy at the National Security Council during the Bush administration.

Ms. DeSutter said she recommended during the Bush administration using Libya's mustard gas as part of a counterterrorism sting operation to entice terrorists to come to Libya.

"I suggested at the time that we go on jihadi network websites and announce, not as the U.S. government, but surreptitiously as a phony jihadist, that Libya had all of this mustard gas, then give the location," she said.

"The hope was the terrorists would try to infiltrate the facility and thereby eliminate a number of terrorists. But nobody picked it up and ran with it. The point is we did not view this as a proliferation risk as much as a health and safety risk."

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/feb/23/us-concerned-about-security-for-mustard-gas-chemic/>

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

Daily Ha'aretz – Israel

February 25, 2011

## 'Gadhafi May Use Chemical, Biological Weapons Against Libya Unrest'

*Speaking to Qatar-based broadcaster Al Jazeera, Libya's former minister says beleaguered dictator may turn to the country's estimated 9.5 tons mustard gas stockpile.*

By Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA)

Libyan Leader Muammar Gadhafi may resort to using biological and chemical weapons as a last resort amid the country's escalating and violent unrest, Al Jazeera quoted a former Libyan minister as saying on Friday.

Former justice minister Mustafa Abdel Galil told the broadcaster Al Jazeera that Gaddafi had those weapons and would not hesitate to use them against civilians.

"At the end when he's really pressured, he can do anything. I think Gadhafi will burn everything left behind him," he warned late Thursday.

The regime is known to still possess substantial quantities of mustard gas. Gadhafi agreed in 2003 to dismantle Libya's nuclear and chemical weapons program, and has destroyed about 50% of its chemical weapons, but due to delays is still believed to have stockpiled 9.5 tons of mustard gas.

In a speech Thursday, Gadhafi blamed terrorist network al-Qaeda for 10 days of anti-government protests threatening to unravel his 41-year-long grip on the country.

His comments were made as several northern cities were captured by the opposition, and dozens of Libyan diplomats and security members defected to side with the protesters.

Estimates by international groups and diplomats of the number of people killed by Gadhafi's security forces range from 600 to 2,000.

Troops loyal to Gadhafi shot peaceful protesters in the town of al-Zawiya Thursday evening, killing at least 100 Al Jazeera reported, quoting witnesses.

"They were trying to kill the people, not terrify them," the witness said.

At least 390 people were killed in clashes between protesters and forces loyal to the Libyan regime in the city of Benghazi alone, said Nuri al-Obeidi, a security chief who switched sides and joined the protesters, who meanwhile control Libya's second-largest city.

Some 1,300 people were injured in Benghazi, he added.

Al-Obeidi said 90 people had been freed from a prison camp found in the base of an army unit led by Chamies al-Gadhafi, one of the sons of the Libyan leader. Among them were deserters who had refused to fire on protesters.

"The city is safe now," al-Obeidi said. "The youth is protecting the water and power supply."

In the city of Torbuk, protests continued late Thursday with demonstrators demanding an end to Gaddafi's rule. According to the local hospital four civilians had been killed and 27 injured since the anti-government forces took over the city.

Rebels killed at least 200 mercenaries in the north-eastern city of Al-Baidha, a local policeman said, claiming that the regime had offered the foreigners 12,000 dollars for every protester they killed.

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/international/gadhafi-may-use-chemical-biological-weapons-against-libya-unrest-1.345603>

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

People's Daily – China  
February 24, 2011

## **Russia Discloses Rearmament Program Details**

The Russian Armed Forces on Thursday announced a 10-year rearmament program involving the large-scale purchase of modern weapons, according to local reports.

The Russian Army planned to buy more than 600 warplanes, 1,000 combat helicopters and 100 warships, including 20 submarines, First Deputy Defense Minister Vladimir Popovkin was quoted by local media as saying.

Russia would spend 19 trillion rubles (more than 650 billion U.S. dollars) under the program, Popovkin said, adding that 100 Ka-52, Ka-226, Mi-28N and Mi-26 helicopters would be purchased this year alone.

Also slated for 2011 was the introduction of Russia's new Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), currently being tested, while 10 brigades would be armed with Iskander-M tactical missiles by 2020, Popovkin said.

He said the Russian Defense Ministry was scheduled to develop a heavy ICBM to replace RS-18 and RS-20 missiles. The new missile would carry 10 warheads and replace the Topol ICBM, which carries with three warheads.

Currently, the Topol mobile missile system is the main Russian strategic first-strike missile.

In addition, the official revealed the Russian Army would receive 56 anti-aircraft S-400 systems as well as the newest S-500 system, which must be developed by 2013.

However, Popovkin said Russia would purchase only "limited amounts" of foreign-made military equipment and armaments, which would be confined to those which Russian industry did not produce.

He said French-made Mistral helicopter carriers had been included in the rearmament program.

Popovkin also promised the Defense Ministry would not fund long-lasting technical and scientific research that bore no practical results.

Shortly after a brief war with Georgia in August 2008, Russia unveiled military reform plans aimed at modernizing its armed forces, improving their efficiency and raising the living standards of servicemen and women.

*Source: Xinhua*

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/90853/7299266.html>

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

BBC News – U.K.  
February 22, 2011

## **Trident Nuclear Fleet Cuts Ruled Out by Liam Fox**

A cut in the number of Trident submarines is not possible if the UK's nuclear deterrent is to be maintained, the defence secretary has said.

Dr Liam Fox told BBC Scotland that the current technology required the retention of all four submarines.

The Royal Navy currently operates 58 nuclear-armed ballistic missiles and about 200 nuclear warheads on four Vanguard-class submarines at Faslane.

His comments follow speculation the fleet could be cut from four to three.

Britain operates a "Continuous At Sea Deterrent", which means a fully-armed submarine is on patrol in the Atlantic at all times.

However, the fleet is ageing and in 2005 the Labour government pledged to build four new submarines at a cost of £20bn.

Former Prime Minister Gordon Brown said in 2009 that he would be willing to cut the number of submarines from four to three in a bid to save money and contribute to global arms reduction.

In a speech last summer, Dr Fox said he would be prepared to follow suit, as long as the move did not compromise the UK's defences.

### **'Rogue regimes'**

But speaking to a BBC Scotland documentary team, Dr Fox said: "At the moment the assessment is we need four.

"If you reduce the number you take an increased risk in your ability to deploy that deterrent at all times.

"So at the moment the technology says four. That's something that can always be kept under review."

Dr Fox said the coalition was committed to reducing the size of the UK's nuclear weapons stockpile, and the next generation of submarines would carry fewer warheads.

But he insisted that while other states were developing nuclear weapons, the UK needed to retain an independent deterrent.

He added: "We have rogue regimes like North Korea who are actually trying to develop nuclear weapons.

"We are seeing other countries potentially trying to develop nuclear weapons. And we cannot gamble with Britain's future security."

The coalition government has opted to delay work on the next generation of submarines until 2016.

Opponents of Trident believe the delay is an opportunity to get rid of Britain's entire nuclear deterrent.

The SNP's defence spokesman, Angus Robertson, said: "It's a weapon system which is unjustifiable.

"We can never use it. It's immoral, it's illegal, and frankly, we should be spending our money on more important things."

CND Scotland's Alan Mackinnon said the government's own security review found that the UK was far more at threat from terrorism, cyber attack or even natural disaster.

He added: "Nowhere down the line was there the threat of a nuclear attack from another country because that's just not on the horizon. It's just not going to happen."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-12504517?cid=dlvr.it>

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

Washington Times

## **U.S., Russia Clash over Shared Missile Program**

*Moscow would get a role in NATO defense*

By Douglas Birch, Associated Press

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

Talks between the U.S. and Russia over a new anti-ballistic missile system for Europe are stuck on a key point, with Moscow demanding to run the system jointly and Washington refusing to yield.

Russia is insisting on shared control of the missile defense program with the U.S. and NATO, which President Obama has flatly opposed because it essentially would give Russia responsibility for protecting NATO from nuclear missile threats. The U.S. is offering Moscow a more limited role.

After years of opposition, Russia agreed last fall to talk at least about cooperating on the anti-ballistic missile plan for Europe, which the U.S. says may be needed one day if Iran develops nuclear weapons. Analysts from both sides are scheduled to report on details of the proposal to defense ministers in July.

However, Moscow has refused to budge from its demand for joint control and has been keeping up the rhetorical pressure. In late November, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said if the U.S. and NATO cannot reach an agreement on missile defense, Russia may deploy new offensive weapons, triggering another arms race.

Early this month, a Russian deputy foreign minister warned that anything less than a "joint system" could lead Russia to withdraw from the recently ratified New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and to "take other measures, including military-technical measures."

Sergey Kislyak, Russia's ambassador to the United States, told an industry-sponsored conference in Washington recently that the two sides still have not reached a good understanding of how a joint program would work. He warned that his country was not interested in "cloning" decisions already made by the U.S.

Referring to Russian fears that the missile defense system could target Russian warheads, Mr. Kislyak said Moscow is determined to maintain a strategic nuclear balance with the West.

"We want to be reassured that whatever you do there doesn't undermine the stability of deterrence, because deterrence is still with us," he said Wednesday at the Nuclear Weapons Monitor Nuclear Deterrence Summit in Washington.

"We haven't reached a state ... between our two countries that would allow us to abolish it. We would like to see it happen. But that's going to be a long way [off]."

The U.S. and NATO have proposed sharing radar and other early warning data, but Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller, the top U.S. arms control negotiator, told the industry summit that Mr. Obama has decided that "NATO will protect NATO, and that's the bottom line as far as we're concerned."

The issue could make or break the deal.

"The hardest question on missile defense in the end is who pulls the trigger," said Steven Pifer of the Brookings Institution, a veteran of U.S. arms control negotiations and former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. He nevertheless thinks that an agreement can be reached.

The White House had hoped that the New START limiting U.S. and Russian strategic weapons, effective Feb. 5, would be a springboard to further arms deals, including deeper cuts in strategic forces as well as reductions in short-range nuclear weapons and non-deployed warheads.

U.S. officials say that new limits on the strategic arsenals of the U.S. and Russia, which between them control 90 percent of the world's deployed nuclear arms, are crucial to efforts to halt the spread of those weapons and promote disarmament worldwide.

Both U.S. and Russian officials have been vague about the details of Russia's proposal for a joint missile-defense system, which Mr. Medvedev has called a "sectoral" defense.

However, independent Russian military analyst Alexander Golts said the plan would give Russia responsibility for intercepting missiles headed across its territory toward Europe, while NATO would be responsible for missiles headed across its territory toward Russia.

The apparent aim is to ensure that NATO's interceptors are not aimed at Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), where they might cripple Russia's ability to respond to a first strike from the West.

Mr. Golts said the Kremlin may recognize that the U.S. could never agree to such a scheme but has adopted this position as a bargaining tactic. Russia's bottom line, he said, may be an agreement by the U.S. not to deploy ship-based missile interceptors in the Arctic region where, in theory at least, they could shoot down Russian strategic ICBMs headed for U.S. targets.

"If Americans are honest when they say that this missile defense is not aimed at Russian nuclear potential, why not?" Mr. Golts said.

Analysts say U.S. missile defense systems are not capable of posing serious threats to Russia's nuclear missiles and are intended to protect against any missile threats from Iran and North Korea. Russia has said it is concerned the current systems will develop into a full-scale missile shield.

Russia is not the only country skeptical of U.S. missile-defense goals.

"The Chinese are very, very concerned about missile defenses," said Sharon Squassoni of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank.

"A moderately effective missile defense, which we don't have yet, could really neutralize their nuclear capability, and they know that. We have to do this with the Russians because we're going to have to do this with the Chinese later on."

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/feb/23/us-russia-clash-over-shared-missile-program/>

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

RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

**U.S. Reiterates Call for Further Arms Reduction Talks with Russia**



24 February 2011

The U.S. administration is ready to conduct talks with Russia on further nuclear arms reductions, including non-strategic weapons, a senior State Department official said.

"The New START Treaty sets the stage for further limits on and reductions in nuclear arms," Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Rose Gottemoeller said.

"As President Obama stated when he signed the New START Treaty, once the Treaty enters into force, the United States intends to pursue with Russia further reductions in strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons, including non-deployed nuclear weapons," she said.

A number of senior U.S. officials voiced the proposal to start talks with Russia on further arms cuts, including tactical nuclear weapons (TNW).

When ratifying the New START deal with Moscow in December, the U.S. Senate adopted a resolution obligating the government to start bilateral talks on cutting the TNW stockpiles - landmines, artillery shells and short-range missiles. Washington says Moscow has a larger number of these systems.

President Barack Obama said in a message to the Senate early this month his country expects to hold talks with Russia on TNW within a year after the New START arms reduction treaty comes into force.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said January 29 that it is too early to discuss limiting TNW with the United States because Russia needs to see the way the U.S. fulfills its commitments under the New START.

WASHINGTON, February 24 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20110224/162734663.html>

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

New York Times  
February 25, 2011

## **Saudi Student to Be Arraigned in Bomb Plot**

By CHARLIE SAVAGE and SCOTT SHANE

WASHINGTON — A 20-year-old Saudi college student was scheduled to be arraigned in Texas on Friday morning for what federal officials said was a plot to carry out terrorist attacks inside the United States.

The student, Khalid Aldawsari, who wrote in his journal that he sought a student visa three years ago so he could carry out terrorist attacks, will be charged with the attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, officials said.

By the time Mr. Aldawsari, a community college student in Lubbock, Tex., came to the attention of the authorities this month, he had obtained two of the three chemicals needed for a bomb and was researching potential targets — including the Dallas residence of former President George W. Bush, the homes of three former military guards at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and dams in Colorado and California, an F.B.I. affidavit said.

Mr. Aldawsari's journal, which says "it is time for jihad," and his e-mail account also contained at least two semicryptic references to New York — a plan to spend a week there as part of a to-do list that culminated in leaving car bombs in unidentified places during rush hour and a link to a Web site of feeds from the city's traffic cameras, the F.B.I. complaint said.

The New York City police commissioner, Raymond W. Kelly, said the department had been following the case from the beginning, adding that the plan "sure gives us cause for concern, but we are not surprised — New York is at the top of the terrorist target list." A law enforcement official said Mr. Aldawsari had visited the city, but gave no details.

A North Carolina chemical supply company reported Mr. Aldawsari to the Federal Bureau of Investigation on Feb. 1, citing a suspicious order, the complaint said. Officials said that set off a fast-moving investigation involving hundreds of agents, prosecutors and analysts. "Yesterday's arrest demonstrates the need for and the importance of vigilance and the willingness of private individuals and companies to ask questions and contact the authorities when confronted with suspicious activities," said James T. Jacks, United States attorney for the Northern District of Texas, said Thursday.

Federal officials declined to discuss whether Mr. Aldawsari's student visa application raised any red flags. But Representative Lamar Smith, the Texas Republican who leads the Judiciary Committee, condemned the immigration system for allowing him to enter the country — comparing him to the hijackers in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11,

2001, most of whom were Saudis with valid visas. “Until we crack down on our immigration laws that allow terrorists to enter the U.S., history will continue to repeat itself,” Mr. Smith said.

The complaint says that Mr. Aldawsari complied with immigration rules by notifying the authorities each time he transferred to a different school.

Nail al-Jubeir, a Saudi Embassy spokesman, said more than 30,000 Saudi students were in the United States and he knew of no other Saudi student arrested here on terrorism charges since 2001. “We were informed about the arrest, and we’re working closely with U.S. authorities,” he said.

The complaint suggests that investigators have so far found no conspirators and no links to terrorist organizations, though his Facebook page listed several groups opposed to the Saudi monarchy. The F.B.I. document says he wrote in his journal that he wanted to found a terrorist group under the Qaeda umbrella to carry out attacks in the United States.

“I excelled in my studies in high school in order to take advantage of an opportunity for a scholarship to America,” investigators said he wrote in Arabic. “And now, after mastering the English language, learning how to build explosives, and continuous planning to target the infidel Americans, it is time for Jihad.”

Mr. Aldawsari came to the United States in September 2008. He studied English at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and transferred in August 2009 to Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and then to a nearby campus of South Plains College last month.

Mr. Aldawsari led a solitary life at Texas Tech, rarely speaking to other students, said three former roommates who requested anonymity because they feared association with him would hurt their careers. They said Mr. Aldawsari lived with them for a year while he studied chemistry.

He kept his food separate in a small refrigerator in his room and kept his room locked when he was out. He would often bang on the walls of his room in anger or frustration.

“He was just in his own bubble,” said one 20-year-old roommate from Dallas.

He could often be heard talking loudly on the telephone in Arabic in the mornings, and in the afternoon he streamed Arabic television stations at a high volume.

He was not outwardly religious, the roommates said.

A Facebook page for Mr. Aldawsari says he is from Al Kharj, in central Saudi Arabia, and lists interests ranging from “STOP Israel’s War Crimes in Gaza” and several Saudi dissident groups to Agatha Christie and zombies.

Mr. Aldawsari wrote in his journal that he was inspired by Osama bin Laden’s speeches and that the 9/11 attacks had produced a “big change” in his thinking, the authorities said. The F.B.I. also said he wrote a blog, FromFarAway90, where posts in Arabic refer to war and distress in Palestine, infidels in the Islamic world and martyrdom.

The handwritten journal was also said to list “important steps,” including obtaining a forged United States birth certificate; applying for a passport and driver’s license; traveling to New York for a week; and renting cars in disguise, putting bombs with remote detonators in them and taking them to various places during rush hour.

Mr. Aldawsari was reported to the authorities twice this month. On Feb. 1, Carolina Biological Supply in Burlington, N.C., told the F.B.I. that he had tried to place a \$435 order for phenol on its Web site the day before.

Phenol is explosive when mixed with sulfuric and nitric acids. Mr. Aldawsari had already managed to buy three gallons of sulfuric acid and about eight gallons of nitric acid at other places in December, the affidavit said.

Because Carolina Biological Supply would not ship phenol to a residential address, Mr. Aldawsari had to have his order sent to a freight firm in Lubbock. But the firm returned the shipment to North Carolina, and then reported it to the Lubbock police.

Later, after the supply firm, at the F.B.I.’s request, pressed Mr. Aldawsari to explain why he wanted the chemical, he angrily canceled the order. On Feb. 12, the affidavit says, he e-mailed himself procedures for extracting phenol from aspirin.

The authorities said he sent additional e-mails to himself listing “nice targets” and instructions for converting a cellphone into a detonator. One e-mail, titled “Tyrant’s House,” contained Mr. Bush’s address in Dallas.

Mr. Aldawsari also searched on the Internet for rules on backpacks in Dallas nightclubs and looked at pictures of dolls, the F.B.I. said, suggesting that he may have considered nightclub attacks or concealing explosives.

The search of his apartment, the affidavit said, also found chemical lab equipment, a gas mask, a hazardous materials suit and Christmas lighting it said was suitable for bomb making.

*Al Baker contributed reporting from New York, and James C. McKinley Jr. from Lubbock, Tex.*

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/26/us/26texas.html?\\_r=1&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/26/us/26texas.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all)

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

The Guardian – U.K.

OPINION

## **It Will Be Too Late to Halt Trident's Replacement if We Don't Talk Now**

*We must question Britain's nuclear weapons policy before long-term contracts lock us in*

By Ian Davis

Wednesday, 23 February 2011

You report that Britain's nuclear weapons strategy "will be subjected to unprecedented independent scrutiny by a group of senior defence, diplomatic, scientific and political figures" (Commission to examine case for nuclear weapons, 9 February).

This is a welcome development, and I am reassured by the facilitating role of the British American Security Information Council – an organisation I led for much of the previous decade.

I was delighted when, last October, the coalition government announced that it had "put off a decision on the shape and size of a new nuclear weapons system until 2015". However, my euphoria was short-lived. Having now reviewed the status of the project for Greenpeace, I can only conclude that "like-for-like" Trident replacement remains firmly on track.

You quote Sir Menzies Campbell, who sits on the new Trident commission, as saying: "This is the first time in a very long time that we have had a wholesale review of nuclear weapons policy."

However, work on the successor submarine programme to replace the Trident missile system has begun. A joint US-UK effort to design a common missile compartment for each country's respective replacement submarine programme commenced in 2008 and the UK has already spent over £200m on upfront engineering design activity. In 2007 the MoD approved a budget of £309.5m for the concept work on successor submarines – and defence secretary Liam Fox has confirmed that between April 2007 and June 2010 nearly twice this amount was spent, some £570m.

In addition, the first tranche of long-lead contracts for the new submarines are expected to go ahead shortly. Between 10% and 20% (around £2bn-£4bn) of the total cost of the new submarines is likely to be spent before the "delayed" "main gate" decision in 2015. Who is going to argue for a cheaper alternative (or cancel the project) after that?

The Treasury committee was recently told that the aircraft-carrier contract was unbreakable not just for legal reasons, but also because it was inextricably linked to the strategic need to maintain a stable supply of work for Britain's sole warship supplier (BAE Systems). Similarly, for Trident replacement, the evidence suggests that major contracts are about to be placed to protect our sole nuclear submarine supplier (which also happens to be BAE Systems).

You report that the commission members "were all described ... as having an 'open mind' about whether Britain should continue to possess nuclear weapons", but these contracts may lead to an unbreakable political commitment to like-for-like Trident replacement. Moreover, the MoD's failure to seriously explore any of the potential alternatives speaks volumes.

A strong case can be made for a genuine delay in replacing Trident, ending the policy of continuous at-sea deterrence. The new commission must ask hard questions of the coalition government now, before it becomes too late for a fresh and in-depth debate.

*Dr Ian Davis is an independent human security and arms control consultant and activist. He has a rich background in government, academia, and the non-governmental organisation sector. He received both his Ph.D. and BA in Peace Studies from the University of Bradford, in the United Kingdom.*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/feb/23/nuclear-weapons-trident-replacement-review>

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

Japan Times  
OPINION  
Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011

## **Civil Society must Push Nuke Ban**

By DAISAKU IKEDA, Special to The Japan Times

Last year, important international conferences were held to tackle such pressing global challenges as climate change and nuclear disarmament. While these conferences saw the emergence of constructive new consensus, it is not enough simply to sound the alarm: The time has come for action and solidarity.

Where there is an absence of international political leadership, civil society should step in to fill the gap, providing the energy and vision needed to move the world in a new and better direction.

I believe that we need a paradigm shift, a recognition that the essence of leadership is found in ordinary individuals — whoever and wherever they may be — standing up and fulfilling the role that is theirs alone to play.

Focusing on the goal of nuclear weapons abolition, I would like to propose three areas in which civil society can make an important contribution.

1. We must press all states possessing nuclear weapons to move quickly toward their complete elimination.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has called for the regular convening, starting this year, of a Security Council summit on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament.

I fully support this call. In addition, I propose that participation be opened to states that have chosen to relinquish their nuclear weapons or programs. Specialists in the field and representatives of nongovernmental organizations should also have the opportunity to address these summits. Such gatherings should work to develop concrete means and paths toward a world free of nuclear weapons, with 2015 as their immediate goal.

In April last year, a meeting of former heads of state and government was held in Hiroshima. Participants visited the Peace Memorial Museum and heard the testimony of atomic bomb victims (hibakusha). They issued a communique that stressed the importance of world leaders, especially those of nuclear-weapon states, visiting Hiroshima.

In this spirit, I propose that Hiroshima and Nagasaki be the host cities for the 2015 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, which would also serve as a nuclear abolition summit. If government leaders together witnessed the realities of the atomic bombings, this would most certainly solidify their resolve.

2. We must take steps to prevent further nuclear weapons development or modernization.

Here, bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force is crucial. This will prohibit — as an expression of the will of the international community — nuclear testing in perpetuity; it will also strengthen the psychological foundations for nuclear weapons abolition.

To achieve this, it is necessary for a number of key countries that have not yet done so to ratify the treaty.

I would like to propose a series of interlocking agreements of mutual obligation to secure the signing and/or ratification of the CTBT within a fixed period. This could take the form, for example, of a bilateral commitment to sign by India and Pakistan and a tripartite agreement for mutual ratification by Egypt, Iran and Israel.

In Northeast Asia, negotiations should be pursued through the six-party talks for an agreement by which the United States and China ratify the CTBT, a zone is established in which all parties pledge the nonuse of nuclear weapons, and North Korea signs and ratifies the CTBT and abandons its nuclear weapons programs.

3. We must work for the adoption of a Nuclear Weapons Convention comprehensively prohibiting these most inhumane of all weapons.

As the Final Document adopted by the 2010 NPT Review Conference suggests, these weapons are fundamentally incompatible with the principles of international humanitarian law. This is the awareness we must foster and spread. It was to this end that the youth members of Soka Gakkai collected more than 2.2 million signatures in support of a Nuclear Weapons Convention; these were presented to the representatives of the president of the NPT Review Conference and the U.N. secretary general.

In September 2010, Malaysia and Costa Rica put forward a resolution in the U.N. General Assembly seeking the start of negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention. This passed with the support of more than 130 states, including China, India, Pakistan and North Korea. If global civil society can raise its voice and increase its presence, bringing about a profound shift in international public opinion, this would be a force that no government could ignore.

The crucial thing is to arouse the awareness that as a matter of human conscience we can never permit the people of any country to fall victim to nuclear weapons, and for each individual to express their refusal to continue living in the shadow of the threat they pose. We must each make a personal decision and determination to build a new world free of nuclear weapons.

An NWC would thus represent a kind of world law — drawing its ultimate authority and legitimacy from the expressed will of the world's peoples: It would bear the imprimatur of each of the world's citizens.

The three challenges I have discussed here require a change in attitude on the part of states. Even more crucially, they require the passionate commitment and action of awakened citizens.

I believe that we must maintain pride in the knowledge that the actions we take, based on our own decisions and choices as individuals, link directly to the magnificent challenge of transforming human history.

Today we stand at a watershed moment. We have before us the potential to bring the era of nuclear weapons to an end. We must not allow this historic opportunity to pass.

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

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OPINION/Analysis

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## **Pakistan and Jihadist Verses**

By Rajeev Sharma

While Pakistan Army and civilian government are engaged with the US and other nations in fighting terrorism within their country as well as in Afghanistan, the volatile country is leaning more towards becoming a radical State than before. This is a dangerous trend particularly when the New York Times and Washington Post have reported that Pakistan is beefing up its nuclear arsenal at a breakneck speed and has already overtaken India in terms of the number of nuclear bombs at its disposal. Pakistan now has 110 nukes as compared to an estimated 60 to 80 nuclear bombs India is currently believed to have. Already Pakistan has emerged as the world's fastest growing nuclear arsenal power and is poised to displace the United Kingdom as the world's fifth largest nuclear weapon power.

India needs to take appropriate steps to deal with the national security threat the growing number of Pakistani nukes poses. The unpredictable, mercurial nation that India's Islamic neighbour is adds to New Delhi's problems. Unlike India, Pakistan does not subscribe to the no-first-use doctrine with regard to nuclear weapons. In fact, Pakistan had considered nuking India during the 1999 Kargil war. Therefore, it is all the more important for India in particular and the international community in general for Pakistan to behave responsibly and maturely. Unfortunately this is not happening and there are signs that Pakistan is hurtling headlong into the jihadist matrix.

Two recent incidents are telling pointers to this grave development. In November 2010, for instance, Al-Rehmat Trust organised a series of courses on "jihadist verses" in Koran in more than 18 cities of Pakistan. The Trust is a front for Jaish-e-Mohammad, one of the most notorious terrorist groups operating from Pakistan with base in Bahawalpur and Peshawar. Jaish is headed by Maulana Masood Azhar, a former Harkat-ul Ansar rabble rouser, wanted in the 1999 Indian Airlines hijacking and several other terrorist attacks in India. According to the US Treasury Department, Jaish began using Al-Rehmat as a front organisation in 2002 after the former was banned by the US following the December 13 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament. The trust was used to recruit new set of terrorists for fighting the US forces in Afghanistan early 2009.

Another incident relates to October 2010 about the Taliban setting up schools on the outskirts of Karachi. These schools are outrightly terrorist schools where young students are taught bomb making and suicide bombings. One of the students, arrested by the police before he could blow himself up, said students were told that the Muslims in the world were being subjected to brutality and it was their duty to take revenge. It is not known how many schools and students are in these Taliban run schools. These are not the only Taliban schools. In fact, pro-Taliban madrasas have been in existence across Pakistan, including Islamabad, for quite some time. Lal Masjid in Islamabad was in fact one of the biggest of such madrasas claiming to work for turning Pakistan into an Islamic state and to establish Caliphate across the world through jihad. A survey conducted in Islamabad at that time showed Lal Masjid was not the only jihadi madrasa in the capital but at least 25 per cent of all mosques and madrasas either taught jihad or propagated extremist views.

These developments must be read with the support the Taliban has among the people, the army and the political leadership. One of the staunchest supporters of the Taliban is Pakistan's Tourism Minister Maulana Attaur Rehman. A Pashtun from Jamat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazlur Rehman party, Attaur said early this month at a public meeting that the Taliban were the true believers of Islamic ideology. He said it was the US which was the "biggest terrorist". There are others with equally strong views on the Taliban.

These civilian leaders compliment the views held by terrorist leaders like Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar who leave no opportunity to propagate violence as a means to achieve whatever goals they have imagined for the Muslim world. Saeed has a much more powerful platform to propagate his terrorist views and objectives; he runs over 150 schools and more than 85 madrasas where hatred and violence are an integral part of the curriculum. The school textbooks, published by his group, espouse a violent cause among the impressionable young students. His group also runs a powerful students body in Punjab University where its members promote extremist views among the student community and strongly oppose any attempt to project liberal views and opinions. It is not surprising that a large number of students from various colleges in Punjab find their way to terrorist training camps run by Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). In fact, a November 2010 report said several hundred students from Punjab were undergoing training at LeT camps in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. Their agenda is to carry out terrorist attacks in India and to help the Taliban to fight the US-led forces in Afghanistan.

With so many extremist forces brainwashing, indoctrinating and training the young students in Pakistan, its transformation into a radical state is not far. A deeply concerned India has to take pro-active measures to insulate it in case the Pakistani nukes fall into the hands of the jihadists by accident or by design of ever obliging elements in the Pakistani military and intelligence establishment. The increasing number of Pakistani nukes means more headaches for the Pakistani security establishment in safekeeping. It also means a higher success quotient for the terrorists in trying to steal the nuclear bombs.

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