



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Issue No. 916, 17 June 2011

Articles & Other Documents:

Featured Article: [Nuclear Bomb Refurbishment May Alarm Russia, Imperil Obama Plan](#)

1. [Iran Assures Russia of Nuclear Compliance](#)
2. [Iran Sends 2nd Home-Made Satellite to Orbit](#)
3. [Iran to Send Monkey into Space](#)
4. [Japan and the U.S. to Reaffirm CBRN Working Group](#)
5. [China Military Paper Urges Steps against U.S. Cyber War Threat](#)
6. [China, Russia Agree to Address N. Korean Nukes within 6-Party Format](#)
7. [Myanmar Nukes? Defector's Tale Stokes Suspicions](#)
8. [Pakistan Denies Army Major's Arrest for CIA Links](#)
9. [Pakistan's Atomic Weapons Secure: US](#)
10. [US Fears Pak Nuclear Weapons Falling into Hands of Terrorists](#)
11. [Obama Rejects Missile Deal](#)
12. [AP Exclusive: Czechs Withdraw from US Missile Plan in Frustration at Minor Role](#)
13. [Gates Concerned by House Cuts in Nuclear Funds](#)
14. [Defense Official: U.S. Needs Effective Counter-WMD Strategy](#)
15. [House Committee Slashes Conventional "Global Strike" Funds](#)
16. [Nuclear Bomb Refurbishment May Alarm Russia, Imperil Obama Plan](#)
17. [Forty Names Appear on Terrorists' Hit List](#)
18. [Iran Postulates First Nuclear Test](#)
19. [China's Cyberassault on America](#)
20. [Al-Zawahiri Profile: Advocate of Global Jihadi Intifada – Analysis](#)

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

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Issue No. 916, 17 June 2011

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CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

The Hindu – India
Moscow, June 15, 2011

Iran Assures Russia of Nuclear Compliance

Tehran willing to resume six-party talks

By Vladimir Radyuhin

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has assured Russia that Tehran has no plans to build nuclear weapons and is willing to resume six-party talks.

"Iran's President stated unambiguously that his country has no intention to acquire nuclear weapons," said Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Astana, Kazakhstan, where the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) held its 10th anniversary summit on Wednesday.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev discussed Iran's nuclear programme at a trilateral meeting with Mr. Ahmadinejad and Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev before holding a one-to-one meeting with the Iranian leader on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

Mr. Ahmadinejad promised to share more information about Iran's nuclear programme with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and said Tehran was ready to reopen talks with the group of six without any intermediaries.

"We heard the Iranian President's assurances that additional measures would be taken to increase the transparency of Iran's nuclear programme in the framework of Tehran's contacts with the IAEA," said Mr. Lavrov, briefing reporters on the Medvedev-Ahmadinejad meeting.

Iran attended the SCO summit as an observer in the six-member regional security group.

At a separate meeting with Mr. Ahmadinejad on Wednesday, Chinese President Hu Jintao was quoted as urging Iran to participate in the six-party talks and make greater efforts to "establish trust" and "speed up the process of dialogue".

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article2107382.ece>

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

FARS News Agency – Iran
Thursday, June 16, 2011

Iran Sends 2nd Home-Made Satellite to Orbit

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iran successfully sent its second domestically-made satellite named 'Rasad' (Observation) into orbit, redisplaying the country's independence in its space program.

On auspicious birth anniversary night of Imam Ali ibn Abu-Taleb (P), pride-inspiring technicians of IRI Aerospace Org (IAO) successfully launched Iran's Rasad satellite into earth space Wednesday evening.

The competent IAO scientists and technicians who had the experience of launching Iran's 1st national satellite, Omid (Hope), into the earth space last year, whose main mission was image taking, and all phases of its design, manufacturing, assembly, testing, and preparation for being launched into the space were both initiated and completed inside the country, Iran's 2nd domestically produced satellite, Rasad, was launched successfully into the space on Wednesday evening.

Rasad satellite which weighs 15.3 kilograms and is designed to be launched into the 260 kilometer orbit of the earth is scheduled to rotate around the earth 15 times in 24 hours.

Rasad satellite's mission is establishing contact with earth stations, obtaining orders from those stations, image taking from the earth, and dispatching those images along with telemetry information back to the earth stations.

Issue No. 916, 17 June 2011

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The topology and structure of the of the earth stations of Rasad satellite, too, are designed in a way to provide the possibility for maximum access to Rasad through them, obtaining information from it, and forwarding commands to it at ease for the operators in charge.

Iran has recently taken wide strides in aerospace. The country sent the first biocapsule of living creatures into space in February, using its home-made Kavoshgar-3 (Explorer-3) carrier.

Iran announced in February that it plans to unveil and send two recently-built satellites into space in the near future.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had also earlier announced that the country plans to send a home-made measurement satellite into orbit in the near future.

"Iran's measurement satellite will be launched into space from an Iranian launch-pad and will have an Iranian exchange station and control station," Iranian president said late 2010.

Ahmadinejad further noted Iran's plans for sending astronauts into space in 2024, and said that the issue had gone under a second study at a cabinet meeting and that the cabinet had decided to implement the plan in 2019, five years earlier than the date envisaged in the original plan.

Omid (hope) was Iran's first research satellite that was designed for gathering information and testing equipment. After orbiting for three months, Omid successfully completed its mission without any problem. It completed more than 700 orbits over seven weeks and reentered the Earth's atmosphere on April 25, 2009.

After launching Omid, Tehran unveiled three new satellites called Tolou, Mesbah II and Navid, respectively. Iran has also unveiled its latest achievements in designing and producing satellite carriers very recently.

A new generation of home-made satellites and a new satellite carrier called Simorgh (Phoenix) were among the latest achievements unveiled by Iran's aerospace industries.

The milk-bottle shaped rocket is equipped to carry a 60-kilogram (132-pound) satellite 500 kilometers (310 miles) into orbit.

The 27-meter (90 foot) tall multi-stage rocket weighs 85 tons and its liquid fuel propulsion system has a thrust of up to 143 tons.

Iran is one of the 24 founding members of the United Nations' Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNCOPUOS), which was set up in 1959.

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9003260302>

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

The Telegraph – U.K.

Iran to Send Monkey into Space

Iran plans to send a live monkey into space in the summer, the country's top space official has said.

16 June 2011

In February, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad unveiled a space capsule designed to carry a live monkey into space, along with four new prototypes of home-built satellites the country hopes to launch before March 2012.

"The Kavoshgar-5 rocket will be launched during the month of Mordad (July 23 to August 23) with a 285-kilogram capsule carrying a monkey to an altitude of 120 kilometres (74 miles)," said Hamid Fazeli, head of Iran's Space Organisation.

At the time, Mr Fazeli touted the launch of a large animal into space as the first step towards sending a man into space, which Tehran says is scheduled for 2020.



Iran sent small animals into space – a rat, turtles and worms – aboard its Kavoshgar-3 rocket in 2010.

Mr Fazeli also announced plans for the launch in October of the Fajr reconnaissance satellite with "a lifespan of a year and a half, and to be placed at an altitude of 400 kilometres," the website reported.

On Wednesday, the Islamic republic successfully put its Rassad-1 (Observation-1) satellite into orbit 162 miles above the Earth.

Rassad-1, which orbits the Earth 15 times every 24 hours and has a two-month life cycle, will be used to photograph the planet and transmit images, media reports said.

Originally scheduled to launch in August 2010, the satellite was built by Malek Ashtar University in Tehran, which is linked to Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards.

Iran, which first put a satellite into orbit in 2009, has outlined an ambitious space programme amid Western concerns.

Western powers fear that Iran's space agenda might be linked to developing a ballistic missile capability that could deliver nuclear warheads.

But Tehran has repeatedly denied that its contentious nuclear and scientific programmes mask military ambitions.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/8579387/Iran-to-send-monkey-into-space.html>

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

BioPrepWatch.com

Japan and the U.S. to Reaffirm CBRN Working Group

By Ted Purlain

June 15, 2011

Japan and the United States will agree at upcoming security talks to reaffirm the role of a bilateral joint working group to counter the threat of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons.

The renewal appears to be a response to the need for the Japanese Self-Defense Forces and the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Japan to cooperate in the event of a nuclear accident. Past agreements have focused predominantly on the threat of weapons of mass destruction from North Korea, according to Breitbart.com.

To create a better working relationship in the event of emergencies, the Japanese government also hopes to have the U.S. military take part in local government-sponsored disaster drills and general disaster management planning.

The agreement is expected to be included in a joint statement issued after the meeting, to be held next week in Washington. The exact schedule remains uncertain, however, because an ongoing Diet session may prevent Japanese ministers from leaving the country.

An outline of the statement has revealed that the U.S. military's role in relief efforts under Operation Tomodachi, named after the Japanese word for friend, will be noted in the agreement, as will the importance of cooperation between the U.S. military, the SDF and Japanese local governments, according to Breitbart.com.

A new set of strategic goals will also be issued in the statement, including the hope that China will take responsible action in response to global issues.

<http://bioprepwatch.com/news/249410-japan-and-the-us-to-reaffirm-cbrn-working-group>

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

Reuters



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Thursday, June 16, 2011

China Military Paper Urges Steps against U.S. Cyber War Threat

By Chris Buckley

BEIJING, June 16 (Reuters) - China must boost its cyber-warfare strength to counter a Pentagon push, the country's top military newspaper said on Thursday after weeks of friction over accusations that Beijing may have launched a string of Internet hacking attacks.

The accusations against China have centered on an intrusion into the security networks of Lockheed Martin Corp and other U.S. military contractors, and deceptions intended to gain access to the Google e-mail accounts of U.S. officials and Chinese human rights advocates.

But the official newspaper of the People's Liberation Army said it was Beijing that was vulnerable to attack, in a news report that surveyed the Pentagon's efforts in cyber security.

"The U.S. military is hastening to seize the commanding military heights on the Internet, and another Internet war is being pushed to a stormy peak," concluded the report in the Chinese-language Liberation Army Daily.

"Their actions remind us that to protect the nation's Internet security, we must accelerate Internet defence development and accelerate steps to make a strong Internet army," said the Liberation Army Daily article.

The article was also published on the website of China's Ministry of Defence (www.mod.gov.cn).

Although it does not amount to an official government statement, the report in the military newspaper -- which is closely vetted to reflect official thinking -- shows how China is also focused on the issues of Internet attacks and defence.

"Although our country has developed into an Internet great power, our Internet security defences are still very weak. So we must accelerate development of Internet battle technology and armament," said the report.

"Comprehensively improve our military's ability to defend the Internet frontiers," it urged.

Earlier this month, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Washington was seriously concerned about cyber-attacks and prepared to use force against any it considered acts of war.

Reporting by Chris Buckley; Editing by Alex Richardson.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/06/16/china-usa-internet-idUSL3E7HG1JC20110616>

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

Yonhap News – South Korea

China, Russia Agree to Address N. Korean Nukes within 6-Party Format

June 17, 2011

By Kim Young-gyo

HONG KONG, June 17 (Yonhap) -- China and Russia have agreed to deal with the North Korean nuclear issue only within the multilateral framework involving six countries, the Chinese government said Friday, a move seen as a push to restart long-stalled talks.

The Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement that Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev issued a joint statement Thursday in Moscow on the current international situation and major international issues, which included North Korea's nuclear program.

Hu was in Russia this week to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the two countries' signing of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation.

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"The two sides agreed that the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula should be resolved only within the framework of the six-party talks through political and diplomatic means, and reaffirmed their commitment to the talks," the statement said, stressing that the talks should be resumed as soon as possible.

The nuclear talks, aimed to dismantle Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal through economic and political incentives, have been stalled since December 2008 due to North Korea's boycott and tensions over its two deadly attacks on the South last year. The talks involve the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia.

North Korea has further chilled the mood for dialogue in recent weeks, saying it will no longer deal with South Korea and divulging details of a series of secret meetings held between the two Koreas.

The two leaders of China and Russian also agreed that "reducing the intensity of military activities in the region will help create the conditions for the resumption of negotiations," the Chinese foreign ministry said.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2011/06/17/89/0401000000AEN20110617005300320F.HTML>

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

Miami Herald
Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Myanmar Nukes? Defector's Tale Stokes Suspicions

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Among the hundreds of thousands who have fled Myanmar and its tyrannical rulers over the years is a military insider who claims he carried a big secret with him: evidence of a hidden nuclear weapons program.

Defector Sai Thein Win's account of his three years working in two clandestine factories, even with the trove of photos he brought with him, is no smoking gun. It has deepened suspicions, however, that Myanmar's xenophobic military leaders hanker for an atomic deterrent.

His allegations touch on a matter that is bound to resurface as Myanmar, also known as Burma, tries to curry international favor and end sanctions. While human rights and democracy have dominated Western attention to Myanmar, there also have been misgivings about its growing ties with North Korea, a suspected nuclear proliferator that may have exported missile technology to Myanmar.

In late May, a U.S. Navy destroyer intercepted a North Korean ship, suspected to have been carrying a cargo that violated U.N. nonproliferation sanctions, U.S. officials say. A Washington-based foreign diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said the cargo was suspected to have been weapons or missiles headed for Myanmar. The ship turned back to North Korea.

Myanmar has tried to ease international suspicions that it has illicit nuclear programs. Two weeks ago, after a visit by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., it announced that it was abiding by the U.N. sanctions. The government also said it had halted arrangements for nuclear research with Russia for its educational and health sectors. It said the "international community may misunderstand Myanmar over the issue."

In fact, the plans to build a research reactor with Russian help, first raised in 2000, never got off the ground, apparently because of payment problems and because Myanmar, a signatory to the nonproliferation rules of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has failed to sign an additional IAEA protocol with the U.N. watchdog for monitoring such a program.

Perhaps of greater concern is what Myanmar may have been pursuing completely under the radar.

Sai Thein Win, 35, has provided the most persuasive proof to date of a secret nuclear program. Such allegations have swirled for years but are hard to substantiate and are treated with some skepticism because of Myanmar's dearth of trained physicists and technicians.



Sai Thein Win, an army major and mechanical engineer, left Myanmar in February 2010 and appeared in a hard-hitting documentary filmed by the Democratic Voice of Burma, an exile media network. Myanmar swiftly denied it was seeking nuclear weapons, but its condemnation of the defector as an army deserter verified that he had served in the military and had undertaken postgraduate engineering studies in Russia.

He spent five years at Moscow State Technical University studying liquid-fueled rocket engine design for missiles. He recounted to The Associated Press that before leaving for Russia, he attended a May 2001 address to some 300 officers by Myanmar's then second-ranking general, Maung Aye, at the National Defense College in Yangon.

"He said they wanted us to study about rockets and nuclear reactors. They also said they needed weapons and long-range missiles to protect the country," Sai Thein Win said.

After returning to Myanmar, he worked for a year in a military research center, which managed the nuclear effort. He then spent three years at two factories in the western township of Myaing and in the northern township of Pyin Oo Lwin that he says attempted to make equipment for an intended uranium enrichment program using precision machinery from Germany and Singapore.

He said he initially believed in the program he worked on but became increasingly disillusioned. He said it was badly managed and a waste of money, driven by the ruling generals' thirst for power, and it was destined to fail.

"They knew what they wanted but did not know how to achieve it," he said in an interview from an undisclosed exile location that he does not want disclosed because of fears for his safety.

Experts have been divided on whether Sai Thein Win's account, including hundreds of photos of factory sites and manufactured components, amounts to proof that Myanmar was seeking nuclear weapons technology.

Robert Kelley, a former IAEA director and nuclear weapons inspector who interviewed Sai Thein Win and assessed the evidence he provided for the 2010 documentary, is confident it does, although engineering drawings were unprofessional and the manufactured items appeared crude. The method identified for enriching uranium, molecular laser separation, was highly unlikely to succeed.

David Albright, an analyst at the Institute for Science and International Security think tank and a former U.N. weapons inspector, concluded there could be non-nuclear applications. He wrote that it was impossible to discern whether a vital piece of equipment known as a bomb reactor was intended to produce uranium or some other metal instead.

Albright also questioned the credibility of information from defectors who could have a political ax to grind against Myanmar's rulers.

Still, the International Atomic Energy Agency has indicated an interest in interviewing Sai Thein Win, although it is unclear why it has failed to do so since he defected 15 months ago. Gil Tudor, a spokeswoman for the Vienna-based agency, said in an email to The Associated Press that the IAEA had taken steps to contact Sai Thein Win but has not been able to speak to him yet.

Sai Thein Win says that since he left Myanmar, no foreign government or agency has debriefed him.

The U.N. nuclear watchdog has been sufficiently concerned about allegations over Myanmar's nuclear activities that several months ago it requested a meeting and inspection of a particular site in the country. Tudor would provide no details about that site but said Myanmar has yet to respond.

U.S. officials say they worry that Myanmar could be seeking nuclear and missile technology, and the United States closely monitors its trade with North Korea, which allegedly helped Syria build a reactor that was bombed by Israel in 2007. Military trade with North Korea is forbidden under U.N. sanctions imposed in 2009 after its nuclear and ballistic missile tests.

U.S. officials believed North Korea may have reached an agreement with Myanmar to provide it with ballistic missile technology, according to a U.S. diplomatic cable dated October 2009 that was leaked to the WikiLeaks



organization and subsequently obtained by the AP. Other reports suggest North Korea has sold Scud missiles to Myanmar.

Associated Press writer Grant Peck in Bangkok, Thailand, contributed to this report.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/06/15/v-fullstory/2267241/myanmar-nukes-defectors-tale-stokes.html>

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

Palm Beach Post

Pakistan Denies Army Major's Arrest for CIA Links

June 15, 2011

By MUNIR AHMED, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The Pakistani army denied Wednesday that one of its majors was among a group of Pakistanis who Western officials say were arrested for feeding the CIA information before the American raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

The New York Times, which first reported the arrests of five Pakistani informants Tuesday, said an army major was detained who copied license plates of cars visiting the al-Qaida chief's compound in Pakistan in the weeks before the raid.

A Western official in Pakistan confirmed that five Pakistanis who fed information to the CIA before the May 2 operation were arrested by Pakistan's top intelligence service.

But Pakistani army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas denied an army major was arrested, saying the report was "false and totally baseless." Neither the army nor Pakistan's spy agency would confirm or deny the overall report about the detentions.

The group of detained Pakistanis included the owner of a safe house rented to the CIA to observe bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, an army town not far from the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, a U.S. official said. The owner was detained along with a "handful" of other Pakistanis, said the official.

The Western officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence matters.

The fate of the purported CIA informants who were arrested was unclear, but American officials told the Times that CIA Director Leon Panetta raised the issue when he visited Islamabad last week to meet with Pakistani military and intelligence officers.

U.S.-Pakistani relations have been strained over the raid by Navy SEALs on Pakistani territory, which embarrassed Pakistan's military, and other issues.

One of the issues that has caused tension between the two countries is U.S. drone missile strikes targeting militants in Pakistan's tribal region near the Afghan border.

Three attacks on Wednesday targeted suspected militant compounds and a vehicles in south and north Waziristan tribal areas, killing at least 15 alleged insurgents, according to Pakistani intelligence officials. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Pakistani officials often denounce the strikes in public, even though many are believed to support them in private. That support has been strained in the wake of the bin Laden raid, especially since the strikes are unpopular with the Pakistani public.

Officials said the arrests of the suspected informants was just the latest evidence of the fractured relationship between the two nations.



The Times said that at a closed briefing last week, members of the Senate Intelligence Committee asked Michael Morell, the deputy CIA director, to rate Pakistan's cooperation with the United States on counterterrorism operations, on a scale of 1 to 10.

"Three," Morell replied, according to officials familiar with the exchange, the newspaper said.

American officials speaking to the Times cautioned that Morell's comment was a snapshot of the current relationship and did not represent the Obama administration's overall assessment.

"We have a strong relationship with our Pakistani counterparts and work through issues when they arise," Marie Harf, a CIA spokeswoman, told the newspaper. "Director Panetta had productive meetings last week in Islamabad. It's a crucial partnership, and we will continue to work together in the fight against al-Qaida and other terrorist groups who threaten our country and theirs."

Husain Haqqani, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, said in an interview with the Times that the CIA and the Pakistani spy agency "are working out mutually acceptable terms for their cooperation in fighting the menace of terrorism. It is not appropriate for us to get into the details at this stage."

Dozier reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Kathy Gannon in Kabul, Afghanistan, and Ishtiaq Mahsud in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan, contributed to this report.

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/world/pakistan-denies-army-majors-arrest-for-cia-links-1540776.html>

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

Economic Times – India

15 June, 2011

Press Trust of India (PTI)

Pakistan's Atomic Weapons Secure: US

WASHINGTON: Amid India's concerns over the danger of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal falling into the hands of terrorists, top US Commander Mike Mullen has said Islamabad's atomic weapons are secure.

"We have actually expended resources in support of assisting them (Pakistan), our government has, not the Pentagon, and they have responded positively in that regard," Admiral Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Charlie Rose Show.

"So they are certainly aware of those concerns, they have them themselves. I see them learning in that regard, so the trend from my perspective is in the right direction, and where we are as we speak is that those weapons are secure and I'm comfortable with that," he said.

Mullen said he has raised the concern about the security for nuclear weapons many a time with Pakistani army chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani and ISI head Lt Gen Ahmed Shuja Pasha.

His comments came days after Defence Minister A K Antony voiced concern over the "danger and threat" of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal falling into the hands of terrorists and said India was closely monitoring the situation in the neighbourhood.

"Our only worry is that Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is always in danger and threat of going into the hands of militants and terrorists.... We are closely monitoring the happenings around us," Antony said in New Delhi when asked about American media reports on Pakistan's nuclear stockpile.

Acknowledging that questions are being raised about the US aid to Pakistan, Mullen said yesterday that it is for the Congress to decide.

"Certainly (there) has been an enormous amount of discussion since the bin Laden raid about that. I think we're working our way through any adjustments which may occur," he said.



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

"Certainly, we have expectations that this aid will be challenged and that it will be discussed, in terms of focus. And discussed in terms of, you know, 'If you do this, we'll do this,' kind of thing. It's a significant amount of money. We know that," he said.

"I believe if we walk away from that part of the world, we'll be back in 10 or 20 years. It'll be much more viral than it is right now, as has been the case, since we left in 1989. So I think we all have to work together to keep this going, to bring the pressure we can, and to try -- in particular, on the development side, the economic side. And in the end, that's really the answer in Pakistan, to focus there as well," Mullen said.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics/nation/pakistans-atomic-weapons-secure-us/articleshow/8862082.cms>

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

Times of India – India

US Fears Pak Nuclear Weapons Falling into Hands of Terrorists

Press Trust of India (PTI)

June 17, 2011

WASHINGTON: US on Friday expressed apprehension that the nuclear weapons and technology of Pakistan might fall into the hands of terrorists and thus stressed on having the lines of communications open with Islamabad.

"It's a country with an awful lot of terrorists on that border," Admiral Mike Mullen Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters at a joint Pentagon news conference with the defence secretary, Robert Gates.

"Things that I fear in the future, it's the proliferation of that technology, and it's the opportunity and the potential that it could fall into the hands of terrorists, many of whom are alive and well and seek that in that region.

And that's of great interest, I think, to our country and certainly to the rest of the world," Mullen said in response to a question.

Gates argued the US strategy against terrorism is succeeding and Pakistan is playing a contributory role to that.

"It is important to remember that they have 140,000 troops on that border, that at a minimum are stirring things up. They basically cleared South Waziristan and Swat.

But even their presence and manoeuvring and so on creates uncertainty," he noted.

Gates said that there is some indication that al-Qaida is worried because of the way the US went after bin Laden, their suspicion is that the Pakistanis may have been involved in it and are worried that the Pakistanis may betray them, as well.

"Clearly, the lines of communication through Pakistan are critical for our operations in Afghanistan. So I think all of these things are important.

Just in terms of regional stability, there is the reality that Pakistan is a country that has a number of nuclear weapons.

And, again, keeping those lines of communication open, it seems to me, is very important," Gates said in his final news conference at the Defence Secretary.

Noting that the long history of the US-Pakistani relationship has had its ebbs and flows, the defence secretary said: "They have regarded over the decades that we have abandoned them on at least four occasions, two wars with India, when the Soviets left Afghanistan, and then after the enforcement of the Pressler amendment."

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"It is a relationship both sides have had to work on. It is complicated. But we need each other. We need each other more than just in the context of Afghanistan. Pakistan is an important player in terms of regional stability and in terms of Central Asia.

So my view is that this is a relationship where we just need to keep working at it," he said.

"Just as the ebbs have come in surprising ways, I suppose that the things that would cause an uptick are hard to predict right now.

But the key is to keep the lines of communication -- literally, between our governments open and to continue communicating with each other as openly and as honestly as we can," he argued.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/US-fears-Pak-nuclear-weapons-falling-into-hands-of-terrorists/articleshow/8883498.cms>

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

Washington Times

Inside the Ring

By Bill Gertz, the Washington Times

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Obama Rejects Missile Deal

President Obama recently rejected a proposed missile-defense agreement with Russia that was developed by the State Department with the hope of coaxing Moscow into cooperation on countering Iranian missile threats.

The draft deal had been developed by Ellen Tauscher, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, prior to the Group of Eight summit last month, where it was hoped the agreement would be signed by Mr. Obama and Russian President Dmitri Medvedev.

The White House, however, decided against signing the pact amid concerns that the agreement would limit U.S. missile defenses, something the administration has promised it would not do. Russia, however, has sought such limits as part of its strategy for the ongoing talks with the United States on the subject.

According to a senior U.S. national security official close to the issue, the Russians were told in advance of the summit that the deal would be signed during the meeting of world leaders in Deauville, France, in late May.

"The president couldn't sign it," said the official, who noted that the Russians "felt they had been lied to." The official added that what was significant was that Mr. Obama turned down an arms agreement that was drafted by his own State Department.

The proposed deal included four parts that were worked out by Mrs. Tauscher and officials in her shop. They included unobjectionable sections on confidence-building measures and transparency.

The White House balked on the agreement because of two other parts. One involved a written assurance that treaty lawyers rejected as something Moscow could consider legally binding: a statement saying the Pentagon would not point missile-defense interceptors deployed in Europe at Russia.

A second provision that scuttled the deal involved language in the draft agreement that could be considered as limits on the numbers and capabilities of U.S. missile defenses.

As in the past, Congress has been left in the dark on the agreement, despite claims by Mrs. Tauscher and others that her dealings with Moscow on missile defenses are not secret.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner declined to comment on the breakdown of the proposed agreement.

Issue No. 916, 17 June 2011

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"I would simply say that we continue to seek, per the president's instructions, missile-defense cooperation with Russia, but we will not agree to any constraints or limits on our missile-defense systems," Mr. Toner said in an email to Inside the Ring.

Mrs. Tauscher, who aides say often refers to herself in meetings as "the Tausch," could not be reached for comment.

Following the summit, NATO Secretary-General Anders Rasmussen said June 7 that NATO and Russia could not develop joint missile defense because the alliance would not "outsource" defense obligations to non-members.

Disclosure of the failed missile agreement comes as the Czech Republic government announced on Wednesday that it is canceling its participation in the administration's regional missile defense, based on a failure to properly include the Czechs in the system.

The administration has sought to limit missile defenses in Europe because of objections from Russia. The Czech withdrawal represents a failure of the administration to back pro-U.S. allies in Eastern Europe, said one U.S. official.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jun/15/inside-the-ring-380739054/>

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

Minneapolis Star Tribune

AP Exclusive: Czechs Withdraw from US Missile Plan in Frustration at Minor Role

By KAREL JANICEK, Associated Press

June 15, 2011

PRAGUE - The Czech Republic is withdrawing from U.S. missile defense plans out of frustration at its diminished role, the Czech defense minister told The Associated Press Wednesday.

The Bush administration first proposed stationing 10 interceptor missiles in Poland and an advanced radar in the Czech Republic, saying the system was aimed at blunting future missile threats from Iran. But Russia angrily objected and warned that it would station its own missiles close to Poland if the plan went through.

In September 2009, the Obama administration shelved that plan and offered a new, reconfigured phased program with an undefined role for the Czechs. In November 2009, the Czech Republic was offered the possibility of hosting a separate early warning system that would gather and analyze information from satellites to detect missiles aimed at NATO territory.

Defense Minister Alexander Vondra told the AP that the Czech Republic wanted to participate but "definitely not in this way."

"They gave us an offer and we assessed that," Vondra said. "I would say we've solved it in an elegant way."

Vondra spoke Wednesday after meeting U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary William Lynn.

The two men said both sides will be looking at possibilities of Czech participation in the future.

"We can return to it at some point but it's premature at the moment," Vondra said. "We have certain ideas but it's too early to speak about them."

Vondra and Lynn told reporters during an earlier news conference that the official reason for the Czech withdrawal was that the center was no longer needed after a bigger role for NATO in the new system was endorsed at a summit in Lisbon last year.



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"The offer that we made has been overtaken by events," Lynn said. "The Lisbon summit has changed the nature of the missile defense framework that we're operating in. The offer, while I think an interesting one, a good one, no longer fits either the missile defense framework or Czech needs."

But Vondra called it "a consolation prize" at a meeting of NATO defense ministers last week in Brussels.

"Our ideas about the future cooperation are more colorful than just a room or two with some screens there," Vondra said.

"Now even this has been withdrawn for the simple reason that Washington has decided to place it on the level of NATO, rather than on the basis of bilateral agreements, such as those with Poland and the Czech Republic," Boston University international relations professor Igor Lukes said.

The new U.S. administration's plan calls for placing land- and sea-based radars and interceptors in several European locations, including Romania and Poland, over the next decade and upgrading them over time. As the first part of the plan, the United States in March deployed to the Mediterranean the USS Monterey, a ship equipped to detect and shoot down missiles.

"I'm not surprised by the decision," said Jan Vidim, a lawmaker in the lower house of the Czech Parliament. "The United States has been and will be our crucial strategic partner but the current administration doesn't take the Czech Republic seriously."

Vidim's remarks reflected concern by many in Central and Eastern Europe that the U.S. interest in resetting ties with Moscow could come at their expense.

Others were celebrating.

"That's wonderful news," said Eva Novotna, who helped organized numerous protests against Czech involvement. "I'm really pleased to hear that."

Tomas Karasek, an analyst at Prague's Association for International Affairs, said the decision illustrates the fact that "after Bush, who paid enormous attention to Poland and the Czech Republic, Obama has different priorities."

"It definitely won't improve the Czech-U.S. relations but it will hardly harm them seriously," Karasek said. "It was the decision not to build the radar here that had a very negative impact on the relations."

<http://www.startribune.com/world/123902509.html>

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

Reuters

Gates Concerned by House Cuts in Nuclear Funds

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Washington, (Reuters) - Defense Secretary Robert Gates said on Wednesday he was very concerned about plans in the House of Representatives to cut \$1 billion from funding to upgrade nuclear weapons infrastructure.

Gates told a hearing of the Senate Appropriations Committee that funding for nuclear modernization had been carefully worked out between the Pentagon and the Department of Energy, which oversees the program.

"This modernization project is, in my view, both from a security and a political standpoint, really important," he told the committee, noting that the House was considering legislation that would cut the funding by about \$1 billion in fiscal 2012.

Gates said the project involves a considerable amount of new construction, including replacing buildings at Los Alamos, New Mexico, that date from the time of the Manhattan Project, which developed the first atomic bomb.

Issue No. 916, 17 June 2011

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He said the modernization plans had helped to convince the Senate to support the New START nuclear arms treaty with Russia in December.

"Where we came out on that ... played a fairly significant role in the willingness of the Senate to ratify the New START agreement," Gates told the panel.

Cutting the funds, he said, will hamper efforts to maintain the weapons themselves.

"The risks are to our program in terms of being able to extend the life of our weapons systems, to modernize them not in the sense of capability, but in terms of security and reliability," Gates said.

During Senate negotiations over the New START treaty, the Obama administration agreed to spend some \$85 billion over the next decade to modernize the nation's nuclear infrastructure. It also plans to spend \$100 billion to maintain and modernize U.S. nuclear delivery systems.

Editing by Xavier Briand

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/06/15/us-usa-nuclear-arms-idUSTRE75E5TS20110615>

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

National Journal

Defense Official: U.S. Needs Effective Counter-WMD Strategy

By Martin Matishak

June 15, 2011.

The United States still lacks an effective strategy to prevent or counter the potential loss or diversion of a weapon of mass destruction somewhere in the world, according to a senior Defense Department official.

Several recent Pentagon exercises demonstrated "that our capabilities in this regard have some serious gaps," John Harvey, principal deputy to the assistant Defense secretary for nuclear and chemical and biological defense programs, said on Friday. "A critical gap is that we do not have a systematic approach to achieve what we call in the Department of Defense 'situational awareness' for the combat commands regarding" unconventional weapons.

That enhanced insight into ongoing developments in a particular military theater "is not the broad-area, ground, or maritime surveillance that would be critical once an asset has been lost for days or weeks, assuming we knew it were lost," he added at a breakfast event on Capitol Hill. "While that's important, we want to get our arms around the problem as close to the point of prevention of loss as we can."

The solution, in part, calls for increased intelligence in a number of areas, according to Harvey, including: the state of nations' WMD programs; terrorists' interest in those efforts; existing proliferation networks; national proliferation activities; and the security status of WMD facilities, including possible threats and vulnerabilities. Also key would be continued engagement on enhancing weapons security and ongoing threat-reduction programs with other nations, he said.

"All of these things basically answer the question of what's going on in anything having to do with WMD" in the regions covered by U.S. Central Command and the nine other combat commands, Harvey told the audience.

He said a new Pentagon program designed to address some of those concerns is slated to begin in the next fiscal year.

The United States has long been concerned that another nation's WMD materials might go missing or be acquired by terrorists. Washington has used programs such as the Pentagon's Cooperative Threat Reduction initiative to secure or eliminate nuclear and other WMD materials in the former Soviet Union and beyond.

Issue No. 916, 17 June 2011

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President Obama has identified countering WMD threats as a top national security goal. Last year the administration released a National Security Strategy that described nuclear weapons and other unconventional arms as the "gravest danger to the American people and global security."

In addition, the administration's 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review addressed the need for WMD response forces. The Pentagon last year announced it would establish 10 National Guard domestic units assigned to that mission. The forces are intended to conduct quick responses to attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and large-explosive devices.

"The idea of preventing loss of control is not how our military typically thinks," Harvey told *Global Security Newswire* after the event. "What they think is, if it's lost, tell me where it is, I'll go get it, I'll kill the people who have it, and I'll make sure they don't set it off. But we've got to get to the left of that, if you know what I mean."

Pentagon officials want combatant commands to possess a better day-to-day picture of the security of warheads and other dangerous materials, including chemical and biological agents, in their respective theaters, Harvey told the audience.

He did not discuss specific commands, which cover various regions around the globe. The U.S. Central Command, for example, has an "area of responsibility" that encompasses North Africa, Central Asia, and the Middle East, including Syria, which is suspected of holding a sizable arsenal of chemical weapons, and Pakistan, which remains subject to concerns regarding the security of its nuclear arsenal.

In addition, the department wants to ensure the commands "have the earliest possible indication of a change in status" of those materials, including any tips of unusual activity by people working on WMD programs to head off insider threats, he said.

He noted that the response to a potential loss of an unconventional weapon might not involve U.S. military forces. Instead, the command could share intelligence with the host country's military or police and have them follow up or, if a weapon is in transit, pass coordinates to local officials or allies in neighboring theaters.

The new worldwide approach would need to draw data from classified and open-source information from inside the intelligence community as well as other areas, according to Harvey.

"It's more than intelligence," he said. "It's knowledge."

Harvey offered a "broad-based plan" for addressing potential WMD vulnerabilities, said Rick Nelson, director of the Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"But going forward, it will be important to conduct any strategy-formulation process with as much interagency participation as possible, so as to limit the possibility of a plan that leaves out important issues," he told *GSN* by e-mail.

Harvey touted the creation of a new Pentagon effort, dubbed Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Systems, aimed to give combat commands the additional insight needed to prevent or defeat a catastrophic attack.

The newly minted effort would receive roughly \$7.8 million in the next fiscal year, slated to begin October 1, budget documents show. Funding would increase in subsequent budgets, settling around \$69 million in 2015 and 2016.

"This program addresses developing an integrated and interconnected CWMD capabilities-based system that defines and enables a comprehensive CWMD steady-state and surge posture," the budget item justification states. The text does not offer specific details.

"We fought really hard within the department to get this funded," Harvey told *GSN*, adding that he and other Pentagon officials recently visited Capitol Hill to speak about the program with staff from the respective appropriations committees.

Issue No. 916, 17 June 2011

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"We see this as an opportunity to begin to put together the pieces of what I would call a CWMD systems architecture, and a CWMD concept of operations, and to start thinking about what we need to do to improve the capabilities of that architecture," he said.

Nelson warned that "ensuring consistent and continued funding for CWMD will prove challenging given the likely budget cuts or freezes facing DOD and other federal departments.

"That said, the language describing CWMD is encouraging in that it builds on the idea, which is gaining more and more currency in Washington, that most successful initiatives will require interdepartmental and interagency coordination," he stated. "There are very few single agency problems and even fewer single agency solutions."

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/nationalsecurity/defense-official-u-s-needs-effective-nobr-counter-wmd-nobr-strategy-20110615>

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

Global Security Newswire

House Committee Slashes Conventional "Global Strike" Funds

Thursday, June 16, 2011

By Elaine M. Grossman, *Global Security Newswire*

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday recommended a nearly 50 percent cut in funding for the development of conventionally armed, fast-strike weapons for the upcoming budget year (see *GSN*, June 10).

If the panel's mark-up of the fiscal 2012 defense spending bill eventually makes its way into law, funds for the so-called "conventional prompt global strike" effort would total \$104.8 million, a significant drop from the Obama administration's \$204.8 million request.

Under the effort, the Defense Department is developing a number of different attack weapon technologies that could eventually be capable of hitting targets halfway around the world with less than an hour's notice.

Pentagon officials say a small number of these conventional arms are necessary as an alternative to using high-speed nuclear weapons in instances in which a surprise threat emerges thousands of miles away that must be struck rapidly, but where there are no U.S. aircraft or ships stationed nearby. This might include a North Korean ballistic missile being readied for launch or a terrorist leader spotted while on the move, defense officials explain.

The first such system to be fielded could be an Air Force Conventional Strike Missile, which would initially launch like a ballistic missile but then be capable of maneuvering to target at speeds exceeding Mach 5.

An initial flight test of a key component of the missile -- a "hypersonic technology vehicle" -- ended in failure in April 2010 (see *GSN*, Aug. 19, 2010). A second airborne trial of the vehicle is slated for this August and a more advanced version is expected to undergo a flight test in fiscal 2012.

House panel members moved to enact the \$100 million cutback in the program after searching for savings throughout the defense budget, a committee aide told *Global Security Newswire* on Wednesday. The funds were reallocated toward ongoing military operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere, as well as to "more important, higher priority programs," the staffer said.

The congressional aide spoke on condition of not being named, lacking authority to address the issue publicly. A House Appropriations report on the new legislation did not offer an explanation for the reduction.

The draft decrease in global strike funds is part of the committee's \$530 billion appropriations measure for nonemergency defense spending in the coming fiscal year, which begins on October 1. The proposed package cuts \$9 billion from President Obama's request, but offers a \$17 billion increase over 2011 defense budget figures.

Issue No. 916, 17 June 2011

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The appropriations legislation is expected to go to a House floor vote as early as next week. It follows the chamber's action late last month to authorize 2012 defense expenditures. Typically authorization bills deal with policy and programmatic matters, while appropriations legislation is necessary for the government to spend funds.

The House Armed Services Committee's defense authorization bill, which passed in a 322-96 floor vote on May 26, recommended a small decrease in conventional prompt global strike funds.

Trimming \$25 million from the administration's global strike request, this House panel also issued a defense authorization report challenging the Pentagon's development strategy for the weapon systems.

House members lauded the Defense Department for the "innovation and scientific discovery" associated with developing the Conventional Strike Missile, but said they were "also concerned about pursuing a weaponized missile system, or any material development decision, before demonstrating that the technology is feasible."

Defense officials want the Air Force missile effort to undergo a critical design review in 2012, a crucial step toward putting the so-called "boost-glide" weapon through the paces of a full operational demonstration.

Bugs yet to be worked out in the cutting-edge technology effort include finding ways to prevent the weapon system from burning up as it zooms through the upper atmosphere, as well as developing a guidance system that can control the apparatus at such high speeds.

Surmounting such steep technical challenges is not expected to come cheap. Air Force officials have estimated that the cost to conduct two full demonstrations of the first non-nuclear global strike missile could reach \$500 million (see *GSN*, March 15, 2010).

The price tag for procuring three Conventional Strike Missiles -- one to put on alert and another two for back-up -- could be as high as \$300 million, according to Defense officials (see *GSN*, Nov. 26, 2008). The initial fielding date has slipped from 2015 to possibly as late as 2017, according to service officials.

Lawmakers last month raised the idea of finding cheaper and easier alternatives to the Conventional Strike Missile.

"The committee is concerned about the affordability of [conventional prompt global strike] given the current budgetary environment," the House defense authorization report states. "Based on briefings by the [Defense] Department, the committee is aware of other potential conventional long-range strike capabilities that may be lower cost, carry less technical risk, and provide a capability sooner" than the Conventional Strike Missile, the report reads.

The panel said it "encourages a broader examination" of the alternatives for undertaking the long-range, fast-attack mission.

The Defense Department has already begun to explore other, potentially more cost-effective options for prompt global strike that might be available in the near term, said a second House aide, who also requested anonymity. Debate is simmering inside the Pentagon over how best to pursue the mission, spurred by those "who don't want to put all their eggs in the HTV basket," said the staffer, referring to the futuristic hypersonic technology vehicle.

The Senate Armed Services Committee is marking up its version of the 2012 defense authorization bill this week in closed session. That chamber's Appropriations Committee will take its stab at next year's defense funding bill after that.

Once these two types of defense spending bills have passed in both chambers, lawmakers from the House and Senate will meet in conferences to hash out a single authorization bill and a single appropriations bill. The resulting legislation is then sent to the president for his signature or veto.

During the current fiscal year, the Pentagon has opted to allocate the lion's share of its \$239.9 million global strike budget on the Air Force hypersonic glide concept, spending \$147 million to develop and demonstrate the technology, according to one Defense report.



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The remainder is being spent on an Army effort to develop an alternative delivery vehicle, re-entry system and warhead; the development of a test range; and defense-wide studies on conventional prompt global strike.

The Senate Appropriations Committee last September called on the administration to break down its lump-sum funding request for global strike into these different types of expenditures, beginning with the fiscal 2012 budget, but the Pentagon has not done so.

Defense officials said they have not yet determined how they would split the 2012 funding, because such a decision is to be based on the results of this year's flight experiments.

In its recent report, the House Armed Services Committee mentioned that it anticipates there will be some excess funds left unspent from fiscal 2011 appropriations for prompt global strike, and those could dollars could help make up for 2012 reductions.

Despite Pentagon descriptions of prompt global strike work as focusing on the Air Force and Army efforts, it appears that the Navy continues to hone a submarine-launched concept for the mission that has been repeatedly rejected by Congress.

Navy budget documents for fiscal 2012 submitted to Congress show that the service this year is spending \$10 million to study how a conventionally armed missile could be launched from nuclear ballistic-missile submarines.

Lawmakers have moved to terminate Navy work on the so-called Conventional Trident Modification year after year, citing concerns that Russia or China might mistake the launch of a non-nuclear D-5 missile for the start of an atomic war, potentially setting the stage for a dangerous international crisis (see *GSN*, Sept. 22, 2010).

Nonetheless, conceptual work on converting a number of Trident missiles for a conventional mission appears to proceed. Next year "a study on SSBN-based conventional prompt global strike options will be completed to address safety, security and surety issues, along with ambiguity issues as they relate to various sea-based designs," one Navy budget document states.

The service in 2012 hopes to estimate procurement costs for conventional Trident designs and lay out a possible acquisition schedule for the controversial system, according to the budget report.

This information "is required to better understand the capabilities that could be delivered from naval platforms," the service states.

Advocates of exploring alternatives to a conventional version of the submarine-launched missile, such as the Air Force Conventional Strike Missile, argue it would be better to field a weapon whose launch could not be mistaken for the onset of a nuclear war.

The Conventional Strike Missile and similar long-range weapons could be made verifiable by foreign inspectors or spy satellites, and would follow a flight trajectory noticeably distinct from nuclear-tipped sea-launched ballistic missiles or ICBMs, according to advocates.

http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20110616_3508.php

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

Bloomberg

Nuclear Bomb Refurbishment May Alarm Russia, Imperil Obama Plan

By Viola Gienger

June 16, 2011

A U.S. Air Force plan to refurbish aging nuclear bombs deployed in five European countries would increase the weapon's power and accuracy and risks re-igniting tensions with Russia, an arms control group says.

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The \$4 billion program to extend the life of the B61 bomb is part of a larger atomic weapons maintenance plan approved by President Barack Obama. The work is designed to ensure the reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent force without building new weapons or adding capabilities that might prompt Russia to do the same.

The aim is “to modernize them, not in the sense of capability, but in terms of security and reliability,” Defense Secretary Robert Gates said in budget testimony yesterday before the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on defense. “The risks are to our own program in terms of being able to extend the life of our weapons systems.”

Hans Kristensen, a nuclear weapons specialist at the Federation of American Scientists in Washington, said the B61 refurbishment plan may make the bombs more capable, in violation of that stated policy.

The Air Force plans to add a new tail section that will effectively replace the four different current versions of the B61 with one that would achieve the same effect as the version with the highest explosive force, the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, said in a May report.

“There’s no way this can happen without increasing the military capability,” Kristensen, a former adviser to Denmark’s Ministry of Defense, said in a telephone interview.

U.S. Stockpile

The B61 is among seven types of nuclear weapons remaining in the U.S. stockpile of more than 5,000 bombs. The version of the B61 that currently has the higher explosive force, or yield, isn’t deployed in Europe, so the refurbished weapon with that level of effect would amount to a new capability, he said.

The result may undermine Obama’s stated goal of easing tensions with Russia and working toward eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide. Obama last year reached a new agreement with Russia to further cut each side’s nuclear weapons and has offered cooperation on a Europe-based missile defense system that officials in Moscow oppose.

Obama has budgeted a record \$80 billion over 10 years to maintain and modernize the existing nuclear stockpile, while pledging not to add capabilities that might spark a new arms race.

Gates told the Senate panel yesterday that the modernization project is “really important.”

Weapons in Europe

While the U.S. won’t discuss the locations of its Cold War- era nuclear arms in Europe, Kristensen said research has shown they are in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey.

Tommy Vietor, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, declined to comment and referred questions to the Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration, which oversees design and production of U.S. nuclear warheads in its laboratories and other sites.

The facilities are managed by subsidiaries or consortia of companies including Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin Corp. (LMT) and Babcock & Wilcox Co. (BWC) of Charlotte, North Carolina.

“The president made clear in his Nuclear Posture Review that this administration will not develop new nuclear warheads with new military capabilities,” said Damien LaVera, a spokesman for the nuclear agency. “The NNSA is in the beginning stages of a life-extension program that is not intended to give the B61 weapon system new military capabilities, but simply to ensure the safety, security and effectiveness of an aging system for decades to come.”

More Efficient

The Air Force said its plan for a single version for the overhaul is more efficient and reduces the total cost of the life-extension project.



The program “maintains the current military capability of four variants of the B61 with a single bomb type,” Air Force spokeswoman Vicki Stein said in an e-mail.

The GAO cited the increased capability in a May report that largely focused on concerns the overhaul would be delayed because of planning complications. Delays risk leaving the U.S. unable to ensure the European nuclear deterrence it has pledged to provide as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the GAO said.

The NNSA estimated the cost of the B61 life-extension project at about \$4 billion through its projected completion in 2022, the GAO reported.

“The new bomb tail section is estimated to cost \$800 million and is designed to increase accuracy, enabling the military to achieve the same effects as the older bomb, but with lower nuclear yield,” the GAO said in the report. “The addition of the new tail section also allows NNSA to consolidate the different versions of the B61 bomb into a single version.”

Letter to Biden

In a May 24 letter to Vice President Joe Biden to alert him to the issue, Kristensen warned that the increased accuracy may mean “war planners and adversaries might see such nuclear weapons as more usable, allowing some targets that previously would not have been attacked because of too much collateral damage to be attacked anyway.”

Kristensen, who with other experts accurately estimated the size of the U.S. nuclear stockpile before the Pentagon revealed the figure of 5,113 warheads last year, said he doesn’t think the White House is deliberately circumventing its own public pronouncements.

“But they’re not giving specific enough guidance to the NNSA and the military services,” he said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-06-15/nuclear-bomb-overhaul-may-counter-obama-pledge-anger-russia.html>

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

ABC News – The Blotter

Forty Names Appear on Terrorists’ Hit List

By BRIAN ROSS, RHONDA SCHWARTZ, JASON RYAN, and RICHARD ESPOSITO

June 16, 2011

The FBI and the Department of Homeland Security have alerted law enforcement about a terrorist “hit list” that was posted on a jihadi web site and names 40 prominent figures from government, the U.S. military and the media who should be attacked.

Among the names on the hit list, which includes photographs of the targets and biographical information, are a member of Congress, Pentagon officials, a conservative pundit, executives of an American company involved in the production of drone aircraft, and two prominent French executives.

According to a bulletin circulated by the FBI, the hit list appeared on the website Ansar al-Mujahideen after one poster highlighted Al Qaeda leader Adam Gadahn’s call in a June 3 message for lone wolf attacks on American public figures and corporate institutions. “In response to the original posting,” says the U.S. government’s intelligence bulletin, “other forum members posted the names of over 40 heads of government, industry and media as potential targets.” One forum member suggested that booby-trapped parcels be sent to the home addresses of those on the list.

“Though there has been an increase in postings on extremist web forums since [Osama bin Laden’s] death on 2 May 2011, these examples are the most target specific threat postings in the forum since that date,” says the



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bulletin. The depth and breadth of the list provided . . . represent a familiarity with defense and intelligence contractors and private sector support."

An FBI official who reviewed the notice said the threats were mostly aspirational and described the item as a "wish list" of targets. DHS and the FBI circulated the notice to law enforcement out of an abundance of caution because posters on the website were making threats on a publicly available forum.

In a statement DHS spokesman Chris Ortman said, "A DHS Open Source Information Report about an online posting by a user of an Arabic-language violent jihadist forum, which listed specific individuals and businesses that the user believed were legitimate targets, was disseminated by the Office of Intelligence & Analysis."

"While we have no information of any imminent terrorist threat to the United States or any U.S. persons, as always, we urge federal, state and local law enforcement, as well as the general public, to maintain increased vigilance for indications of preoperational or suspicious activity," said Ortman.

An FBI spokesman declined to comment on the list, "other than to say that when the names of individuals and businesses were discovered on this forum, appropriate action was taken."

In Gadhafi's June 3 video, he calls on Muslims living in America to carry out deadly one-man terrorist acts using fully automatic weapons purchased at gun shows, and to target major institutions and public figures.

"What are you waiting for?" asks Gadhafi in English, and then adds that jihadis shouldn't worry about getting caught, since so many have been released. "Over these past few years, I've seen the release of many, many Mujahideen whom I had never even dreamed would regain their freedom."

Called "Do Not Rely on Others, Take the Task Upon Yourself" and produced by al Qaeda's media arm, as Sahab, the tape mixes Gadhafi's new message with clips from old videos of Osama bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri and other al Qaeda leaders praising one-man attacks. They call on jihadis in the West to carry out lone wolf operations.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/forty-names-terrorists-hit-list/story?id=13861410>

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

Forbes

OPINION/ Commentary

Iran Postulates First Nuclear Test

By Jamsheed K. Choksy

June 14, 2011

Media outlets and blogs in Israel, England, and the U.S. have responded with considerable incredulity to claims by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of sanguine reactions if Iran tests an atom bomb.

The IRGC's scenario underscores an unfortunate reality, however. After years of hollow threats, politicians and generals in the U.S., E.U., and Israel likely will adapt to the mullahs obtaining a nuclear weapon. World stock markets would follow their lead and recover from initial tumbles. Crude oil and natural gas prices may surge for a while but will fall back down. Arab countries relying on petroleum revenues to stay afloat and Western ones needing a steady flow of energy to power their societies are likely to back away from challenging Iran.

In February 2011 a new U.S. National Intelligence Estimate maintained an earlier conclusion that Iran's leadership had not yet made the decision to assemble nuclear weapons. Indeed, until now, Iran has gone back and forth with the West at the negotiating table. The Revolutionary Guards' statement seeks to break the deadlock by suggesting Iran's policymakers should not fear domestic and foreign consequences of crossing the nuclear breakout threshold.

There is history in Iran for such media-based nuclear maneuvers. The Islamic Republic recommenced its atomic program, originally begun by the last shah, after suffering Saddam Hussein's chemical weapons attacks during the 1980s. But even then only concerted pressure persuaded its first Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. A

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major turning point occurred in October 1988 when a speech by Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, then speaker of Iran's parliament, recommending atom bombs was published by the IRGC.

Events in Afghanistan and Iraq gave Iran impetus for continuing its nuclear program. The Islamic Republic's government came to fear that it would be next in line for involuntary regime change via U.S. troops. Iran's leaders watched North Korea's Kim Jong Il preempt Western force by demonstrating atomic capability. They now see NATO bombarding Libya's nuclear-bereft Muammar Qadhafi. So, brushing off international sanctions and setbacks from poorly-designed domestic centrifuges and carefully-targeted foreign computer viruses, revolutionary Iran pursues its atomic quest.

Now even the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) acknowledges detecting military dimensions. Iran has responded by notifying the IAEA that enrichment would be tripled and relocated from the Natanz facility to a more secure one at Fordo--possibly to safeguard against last-ditch military moves by the U.S. or Israel. But even a former Israeli intelligence director believes, like the American public, that preemption will fail.

The public prediction by Iran's military of a mild aftermath to "a much anticipated" atomic test is reminiscent of the 1980s campaign to restart nuclear activities. It suggests to an Iran specialist like me that Tehran's leaders are concluding "the day after a first nuclear test will be like any other" except their country could be less vulnerable and Iranians would be proud.

Indeed President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has become unequivocal that "no offer from world leaders could stop Iran enriching uranium," stressing his position is in concert with that of current Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The influential Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi Mesbah Yazdi supports Iran's having nuclear weapons too.

Ahmadinejad, the ayatollahs, and the parliament are locked in political combat over the boundaries of executive authority. Military commanders may regard producing atom bombs as a means of rallying the factions together. The same applies to Supreme Leader Khamenei who has been urging unity and so may relent on the production of nuclear weapons. Ahmadinejad too stands to regain national stature as a nuclear president.

Attempts by monarchies in the Persian Gulf, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan to blame their peoples' unrest upon Iranian machinations have added to Tehran's fears. Iranian officials envision a Saudi-led Sunni cabal harming Tehran specifically and Shiites generally. Resurgence of this centuries-old sectarian struggle also is galvanizing Iran's clergymen, generals, and politicians into abandoning their hitherto cautious position of not declaring nuclear weapons as a goal.

So the IRGC's candidness should come as no surprise, for a nuclear Iran is inevitable. Tehran, it seems, is attempting to reassure the world that it can behave no differently than the nine other nations with atom bombs. It would be prudent therefore to assume that Iran will no longer stop at "the threshold of a nuclear weapons capability" as the U.S. Department of State believes. Perhaps, as their recent words suggest, some members of Iran's government understand mutually assured destruction and seek to mitigate irreversible political and economic tensions.

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<http://www.forbes.com/2011/06/14/nuclear-iran-is-inevitable.html>

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

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China's Cyberassault on America

If we discovered Chinese explosives laid throughout our national electrical system, we'd consider it an act of war. China's digital bombs pose as grave a threat.

By RICHARD CLARKE

In justifying U.S. involvement in Libya, the Obama administration cited the "responsibility to protect" citizens of other countries when their governments engage in widespread violence against them. But in the realm of cyberspace, the administration is ignoring its primary responsibility to protect its own citizens when they are targeted for harm by a foreign government.

Senior U.S. officials know well that the government of China is systematically attacking the computer networks of the U.S. government and American corporations. Beijing is successfully stealing research and development, software source code, manufacturing know-how and government plans. In a global competition among knowledge-based economies, Chinese cyberoperations are eroding America's advantage.

The Chinese government indignantly denies these charges, claiming that the attackers are nongovernmental Chinese hackers, or other governments pretending to be China, or that the attacks are fictions generated by anti-Chinese elements in the United States. Experts in the U.S. and allied governments find these denials hard to believe.

Three years ago, the head of the British Security Service wrote to hundreds of corporate chief executive officers in the U.K. to advise them that their companies had in all probability been hacked by the government of China. Neither the FBI nor the Department of Homeland Security has issued such a notice to U.S. executives, but most corporate leaders already know it.

Some, like Google, have the courage to admit that they have been the victims of Chinese hacking. We now know that the "Aurora" attack (so named by the U.S. government because the English word appears in the attack software) against Google in 2009 also hit dozens of other information technology companies—allegedly including Adobe, Juniper and Cisco—seeking their source code. Aurora wasn't an isolated event. This month Google renewed its charge against China, noting that the Gmail accounts of senior U.S. officials had been compromised from a server in China. The targeting of specific U.S. officials is not something that a mere hacker gang could do.

The Aurora attacks were followed by systematic penetrations of one industry after another. In the so-called Night Dragon series, attackers apparently in China went after major oil and gas companies, not only in the U.S. but throughout the world. The German government claims that the personal computer of Chancellor Angela Merkel was hacked by the Chinese government. Australia has also claimed that its prime minister was targeted by Chinese hackers.

Recently the computer-security company RSA (a division of EMC) was penetrated by an intrusion which appears to have stolen the secret sauce behind the company's SecureID. That system is widely used to protect critical computer networks. And this month, the largest U.S. defense contractor, Lockheed, was subject to cyberespionage, apparently by someone using the stolen RSA data. Cyber criminals don't hack defense contractors—they go after banks and credit cards. Despite Beijing's public denials, this attack and many others have all the hallmarks of Chinese government operations.

In 2009, this newspaper reported that the control systems for the U.S. electric power grid had been hacked and secret openings created so that the attacker could get back in with ease. Far from denying the story, President Obama publicly stated that "cyber intruders have probed our electrical grid."

There is no money to steal on the electrical grid, nor is there any intelligence value that would justify cyber espionage: The only point to penetrating the grid's controls is to counter American military superiority by threatening to damage the underpinning of the U.S. economy. Chinese military strategists have written about how in this way a nation like China could gain an equal footing with the militarily superior United States.

Issue No. 916, 17 June 2011

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CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

What would we do if we discovered that Chinese explosives had been laid throughout our national electrical system? The public would demand a government response. If, however, the explosive is a digital bomb that could do even more damage, our response is apparently muted—especially from our government.

Congress hasn't passed a single piece of significant cybersecurity legislation. When the Chinese deny senior U.S. officials' claims (made in private) that Beijing is stealing terabytes of data in the U.S., Congress should not leave the American people in doubt. It should demand answers to basic questions:

What does the administration know about the role of the Chinese government in cyberattacks on public and private computer networks in the United States?

If there is widespread Chinese hacking of sensitive U.S. networks and critical infrastructure, what has the administration said about it to the Chinese government? Specifically, did President Obama raise concerns about these attacks with Chinese President Hu Jintao at the White House this spring?

Since defensive measures such as antivirus software and firewalls appear unable to stop the Chinese penetrations, does the administration have any plan to address these cyberattacks?

In private, U.S. officials admit that the government has no strategy to stop the Chinese cyberassault. Rather than defending American companies, the Pentagon seems focused on "active defense," by which it means offense. That cyberoffense might be employed if China were ever to launch a massive cyberwar on the U.S. But in the daily guerrilla cyberwar with China, our government is engaged in defending only its own networks. It is failing in its responsibility to protect the rest of America from Chinese cyberattack.

Mr. Clarke was a national security official in the White House for three presidents. He is chairman of Good Harbor Consulting, a security risk management consultancy for governments and corporations.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304259304576373391101828876.html>

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

Eurasia Review – Spain

OPINION/Analysis

Al-Zawahiri Profile: Advocate of Global Jihadi Intifada – Analysis

By B. Raman

June 17, 2011

Six weeks after the death of Osama bin Laden on May 2, 2011, Al Qaeda's General Command has announced the appointment of Ayman al-Zawahiri, of Egypt, who was OBL's No.2, as the new head of Al Qaeda. A statement announcing his appointment was posted on a website associated with Al Qaeda. It was attributed to the General Command. It said: "Sheikh Dr Ayman al-Zawahiri, may God guide him, assumed responsibility as the group's Amir [leader]". It vowed that under Zawahiri, Al Qaeda would pursue jihad against the US and Israel "until all invading armies leave the land of Islam".

Earlier, on May 18, 2011, quoting Pakistani security sources, Al Jazeera had reported that Al Qaeda had appointed Saif al-Adel, formerly of the Egyptian Army, as its interim leader and Mohammed Mustafa al-Yemeni as its operations chief. Al Jazeera had said: "According to the sources, the decision (on the appointments) was made at a meeting on May 10 on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border."

According to Al Jazeera, Adnan al-Khairi al-Masri was named as Al Qaeda's general command head, Mohammed Nasser al-Wahshi as its Africa chief, Mohammed Adam Khan, an Afghan, as in charge in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and Fahd al-Iraqi as in charge of the Afghan-Pakistani border region.

Issue No. 916, 17 June 2011

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Since the earlier report had emanated from Pakistani sources there was some doubt about its reliability. The latest statement regarding the appointment of Zawahiri as the head was posted in one of the web sites used by Al Qaeda for such announcements and hence appears to be more authentic.

Saif al-Adel was said to have been a critic of OBL's arbitrary ways of taking important operational decisions and had reportedly questioned the wisdom of the 9/11 terrorist strikes in the US Homeland since those strikes, according to him, enabled the US to mobilise the international community against Al Qaeda.

The latest statement of Al Qaeda regarding the appointment of Zawahiri is silent on the earlier appointments as announced by Al Jazeera on the basis of information provided by Pakistani sources.

Zawahiri has been advocating since February 12, 2007, a global jihadi Intifada, which would cover all lands in the world, which rightfully belong to Islam.

However, he specifies certain areas, which he thinks should receive special attention first. Of these, he gives the topmost priority to Afghanistan and Iraq. He says the future of Islam and of the global Intifada itself will be decided in those countries. If they can defeat the Americans there, the jihadis' victory in the rest of the lands will be assured. After mentioning these two countries, he mentions certain other areas specifically. He believes that the victory of the jihadis in these areas would also be crucial for the ultimate victory of Islam. These areas are Palestine, including Gaza, the Lebanon, Somalia, Algeria and Chechnya in Russia. He describes Somalia as the Southern garrison of Islam and Algeria as its Western garrison.

His past statements had included Jammu and Kashmir as among historic Muslim lands under occupation by non-Muslims and hence to be "liberated". He had drawn the attention of the Pakistani people to the danger of Gen. Pervez Musharraf colluding with the Hindus if he was not removed from power. However, he had not spoken of the Muslims living in other parts of India outside J&K.

By Jihadi Intifada, he means a kind of struggle in which the role of motivated individual Muslims will become more important than that of organisations so that the weakening or collapse of an organisation does not result in a collapse of the Intifada. He wants the Intifada to acquire a momentum of its own as a result of the sacrifices of individual Muslims.

He said in his message of January 22, 2007: "Every Muslim today is directly responsible for defending Islam, Islam's homeland and the Islamic Ummah and he is responsible for the efforts to liberate the Muslim captives foremost of whom is Sheikh Omar Abdl al-Rahman from the prisons of the crusaders and their helpers and we reaffirm to the families of the Guantanamo captives who are demonstrating these days in Cuba, that we –with God's permission– have not and will not forget our captives and that their liberation is a debt on our necks and that the Americans must expect to pay the price for everything they have done to them."

In his past statements, he downplayed the importance of a central command and control in keeping the Intifada going. The motivation of individual Muslims was more important than any centralised command and control.

He also projects the Intifada as a mix of military and non-military struggles. He says in his message of December 20, 2006: "We must bear arms. And if we are unable to bear them, then we must support those who carry them. This support comes in many forms and guises, so we must exploit all Da'wah, student and union activities to back the Jihadi resistance..... The Muslim Ummah must exploit all methods of popular protest, like demonstrations, sit-ins, strikes, refusing to pay taxes, preventing cooperation with the security forces, refusing to provide the Crusaders with fuel, hitting traders who supply the Crusader forces, boycotting Crusader and Jewish products, and other ways of popular protest."

The importance of the role of individual Muslims has been re-emphasised in a video circulated by the propaganda wing of Al Qaeda on June 8, 2011. This video is a collation of messages issued by Zawahiri, Adam Gadahn, the American convert to Islam, who heads the propaganda wing, Atiya Abdel Rahman (Libyan operations chief of Al Qaeda, who was allegedly a key aide to bin Laden when he was hiding in Abbottabad) and Abu Laith Al-Libi.



In his message, Adam Gadahn, who spoke in English, said: “Muslims living in the US are perfectly placed to play an important and decisive part in the jihad against the Zionists and Crusaders.” He told them how easy it was to buy automatic assault weapons at gun shows without any identification.

Hinting at a policy of targeted individual assassinations of important Governmental and non-Governmental leaders, he said: “It’s important that we weaken our cowardly enemies’ will to fight by targeting influential public figures in Crusader and Zionist government, industry and media.”

Zawahiri’s past statements highlighted his disenchantment with the PLO, Al Fatah and the Hamas. He asked the Palestinians to take over the responsibility for the Intifada in their own hands. He said in his message of February 12, 2007: “The Muslims in the area should work for the establishment of an Islamic state in Palestine, instead of supporting an individual faction or political party. I’m not asking them to join HAMAS, Islamic Jihad or al-Qaida, but rather, I’m asking them to return to Islam, in order to fight for the establishment of an Islamic state over all of Palestine, and not for the establishment of a secularist state which will please America on crumbs of Palestine.”

He wanted the Palestinians as well as the Muslims of the Lebanon to categorically reject all UN Resolutions and international agreements relating to these lands of Islam. He told the Lebanese people: “I ask my brothers in Islam and Jihad in Lebanon not to give in to Resolution 1701, nor accept the pushing back of the Lebanese border 30 kilometers, nor accept the presence of the international Crusader forces in the south as a barrier between them and Occupied Palestine, even if that resolution is agreed to by all official political forces licensed by the Lebanese government, on the basis of international balances and foreign connections.”

In a message of December 20, 2006, Zawahiri said: “Brothers in Islam and Jihad in Somalia: know that you are on the southern garrison of Islam, so don’t allow Islam to be attacked from your flank, and know that we are with you, and that the entire Muslim Ummah is with you. So don’t lose heart, or fall into despair, for you must dominate if you are true in faith. And know that you are fending off the same Crusade which is fighting your brothers in Islam in Chechnya, Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon. So be resolute, be patient and be optimistic, for by Allah beside whom there is no other god, even if your enemies possess thousands of tons of iron and explosives, in their chests lie the hearts of mice. So be severe against them like Muhammad was.”

He also said: “I also send my greetings and those of my brothers to our steadfast brothers in Algeria in the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, the guards of Islam’s western garrison. I ask Allah to accept their sacrifices, perseverance and resoluteness, to send down on them His victory which He promised His believing worshippers, and to conquer with them His enemies, the Crusaders and secularist sons of France. And I give them the good news that the winds of victory are blowing, that the Ummah has risen up, and that the era of humiliation has come to a close. So stand firm.”

His increased interest in Algeria could be attributed to his desire partly to bring about the rule of the Sharia in Algeria and partly to use Algeria as a rear base for spreading the Intifada to France, Spain and Portugal. Al Qaeda and its International Islamic Front have been using the Afghanistan-Pakistan region as a rear base for their Jihadi Intifada against the US and the UK. It has not been possible to use it as a rear base against France, Spain and Portugal. They are hoping that an active Jihadi Intifada in Algeria will help in overcoming this deficiency.

In a reference to Chechnya, Zawahiri said in his message of December 20, 2006: “And I send my greetings and those of my brothers to the Chechen people, in Jihad against the Russian Crusade for 400 years. O sons of Imam Shamil, know that you are not alone in confronting the Crusade against Islam. You are at the throats of the Russians and their helpers, and we are at the throats of the Americans and Jews and their followers. So stand firm.”

Under the ideological guidance of Zawahiri, Al Qaeda had also been calling upon the Muslims of the world to follow the command of Mulla Mohammad Omar, the Amir of the Taliban. It was part of his efforts to remove the impression that Wahabi Arabs were in the forefront of the Jihadi Intifada. He has been trying to emphasize that all Muslims are in the Intifada irrespective of their ethnic origin or nationality. He said in a message of 2007: “Nationalists split the Muslim Ummah into Arabs, Persians, Kurds, Turks, Afghans and others, then split the Arabs



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into Egyptians, Moroccans, Syrians, Iraqis, Lebanese, Saudis, Yemenis and others and thus provided the best possible service to the crusade invading the Islamic world and instead of the Ummah uniting to confront the colonialist campaign, as it previously united to face the crusade and Mongol invasions, the Ummah fell apart and fought itself." There was an attempt by Zawahiri to give Mulla Omar an iconic status as a non-Arab commander of the Jihadi Intifada.

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<http://www.eurasiareview.com/al-zawahiri-profile-advocate-of-global-jihadi-intifada-analysis-17062011/>

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

Issue No. 916, 17 June 2011

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