



USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER
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MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

Issue No. 937, 2 September 2011

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Al Arabiya News – U.A.E.

Sarkozy Says Iran Nuclear Bid could Provoke Preemptive Military Action

Wednesday, 31 August 2011

By Al Arabiya and Agencies

PARIS - French President Nicolas Sarkozy warned on Wednesday that Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile ambitions could provoke preemptive military action against it.

"Its military nuclear and ballistic ambitions constitute a growing threat that may lead to a preventive attack against Iranian sites that would provoke a major crisis that France wants to avoid at all costs," he said.

Sarkozy did not say which country might launch such a strike, but it has been reported that Israel – perhaps with US support – has considered bombing Iranian nuclear sites if it believes Tehran is close to building a weapon.

The French leader placed the blame for the crisis on Iran, which insists it has no intention of building a nuclear weapon, and is merely enriching nuclear fuel for medical research and a domestic atomic energy program.

"Iran refuses to negotiate seriously," he told an annual meeting of French diplomats. "Iran is carrying out new provocations in response to the challenge from the international community for it to provide a credible response."

Sarkozy said France would work with its allies to build support for tougher international sanctions against Tehran's Islamist regime, in a bid to force it to back down over its enrichment program.

<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/08/31/164882.html>

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Bellingham Herald – Bellingham, WA

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Iran: Parliament Speaker to Visit North Korea

By Associated Press

TEHRAN, IRAN - Iran says the speaker of its parliament will visit North Korea to discuss "expansion of cooperation" with Pyongyang. The trip underlines the close ties between the two nations.

The U.S. has accused North Korea of providing Iran with advanced missiles capable of targeting European capitals.

The Iranian parliament's website says the speaker, Ali Larijani, will arrive in Pyongyang for a three-day visit beginning Sunday.

Iranian and North Korean officials have said in the past that the two countries are in "one trench" in the fight against "arrogant powers." Both are bitter enemies of the U.S. and the West.

The statement Wednesday said Larijani will visit China after winding up talks in Pyongyang.

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/08/31/2163529/iran-parliament-speaker-to-visit.html>

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Boston Globe

Diplomats Say Syria Stonewalling IAEA

By George Jahn, Associated Press

September 1, 2011

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VIENNA—Syria has reneged on a promise to quickly cooperate with a U.N. probe of its nuclear activities, saying it won't be able to provide more information to challenge an assessment that it tried to build a plutonium-producing reactor until October, diplomats told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The delayed cooperation will likely add to concerns that Damascus was in the early stages of a secret program that could be harnessed to produce nuclear weapons. It also comes as Syrian leader Bashar Assad faces unprecedented international pressure over his months-long crackdown on anti-government protesters, possibly deflecting attention in Damascus from dealing with the nuclear issue.

The two diplomats, who asked for anonymity because their information is confidential, said U.N. nuclear chief Yukiya Amano will tell board member nations of the International Atomic Energy Agency that he has been unable to make progress in his Syria probe at their 35-nation meeting starting Sept 12.

The board referred Syria to the U.N. Security Council in June for stonewalling IAEA attempts to investigate covert nuclear activities revealed in 2008, a year after Israeli warplanes bombed a secret Syrian desert site.

After trying in vain for three years to secure Syrian cooperation in its investigation, the IAEA drew on evidence available in June to assess that the target was in fact a nearly finished reactor, built with North Korean help, meant to produce plutonium.

Along with highly enriched uranium, plutonium can be used to arm nuclear warheads.

Syria has denied any secret nuclear activities. But the Arab country also has rejected IAEA requests for follow-ups to an initial visit to the desert site and access to others believed linked to it.

In a letter shared with the AP just before the Security Council referral in June, the Syrian government promised "full cooperation" with the probe. Since then, however, Amano has told the AP that meetings with Syrian nuclear officials have produced no results.

The diplomats said Thursday that the Syrians told the agency in a recent letter that they cannot meet requests for access to suspect sites and other information until October. Damascus did not provide substantial details about the reason for the delay.

Amano last month told the AP that -- unless the Syrians come forward with new information -- the agency stands by its assessment that the facility destroyed by Israeli jets in 2007 was meant to be a plutonium-producing reactor once completed.

The agency has produced regular written reports on its attempts to probe Syria's undeclared nuclear programs since 2008, but the diplomats said that won't be the case for the September board meeting, in another reflection of the fact that Damascus has provided no information to help the IAEA probe.

The U.N. Security Council met in closed session on July 14 to discuss the IAEA assessment. Some Western ambassadors said afterward that the agency's findings raised concerns that Syria violated its nonproliferation obligations.

http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2011/09/01/apnewsbreak_syria_reportedly_stonewalling_iaea/

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Tehran Times – Iran

Sarkozy's Remarks could Destabilize Region: Iran

Friday, September 2, 2011

Political Desk

Issue No. 937, 2 September 2011

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TEHRAN – An Iranian Foreign Ministry official has advised French President Nicolas Sarkozy against making remarks based on “unrealistic information.”

Hassan Tajik, the Foreign Ministry director for Western European affairs, made the remarks in response to Sarkozy, who said on Wednesday that Iran’s alleged attempts to build long-range missiles and nuclear weapons could lead unnamed countries to launch a pre-emptive attack on the country.

“Its military nuclear and ballistic ambitions constitute a growing threat that may lead to a preventive attack against Iranian sites that would provoke a major crisis that France wants to avoid at all costs,” AFP quoted Sarkozy as saying.

The French president also said that Paris would work with its allies to build support for tougher sanctions against Tehran in a bid to force it to back down over its enrichment program.

Tajik said the Islamic Republic’s nuclear program is meant for peaceful purposes and its defense program is aimed at improving the country’s military deterrence capability.

“Obviously, making comments based on unrealistic information will set the stage for the instability of the region, so (Sarkozy) is advised to avoid making such remarks in view of the realities on the ground.”

<http://tehrantimes.com/index.php/politics/2123-sarkozys-remarks-could-destabilize-region-iran->

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FARS News Agency – Iran
Friday, 02 September 2011

Commander: Iran Ready to Give Crushing Response to Enemy Aggressions

TEHRAN (FNA) - A senior Iranian military commander warned enemies against a military attack on Iran, stressing that any enemy aggression will be reciprocated by Tehran's crushing response.

"If enemies do a foolish act, thinking aggression on holy borders of our dear country, Islamic Iran will turn into a hell for them on the ground, space and sea," Commander of Khatam ol-Anbia Air Defense Base Brigadier General Farzad Esmayeeli stated on Friday.

Speaking as a pre-sermon lecturer in the congregational Friday prayers in Tehran, the commander said enemies should know that Iranian armed forces will confront them within shortest possible time if they think of harming the Islamic Republic establishment.

Iran has warned it could close the strategic Strait of Hormuz if it became the target of a military attack over its nuclear program.

Strait of Hormuz, the entrance to the strategic Persian Gulf waterway, is a major oil shipping route.

Meantime, a recent study by the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), a prestigious American think tank, has found that a military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities "is unlikely" to delay the country's program.

A recent study by a fellow at Harvard's Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, Caitlin Talmadge, warned that Iran could use mines as well as missiles to block the strait, and that "it could take many weeks, even months, to restore the full flow of commerce, and more time still for the oil markets to be convinced that stability had returned."

<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9006110047>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Russian NATO Envoy to Discuss Iranian Missiles in Tehran

2 September 2011

Russia's ambassador to NATO announced on Friday plans to travel to Iran later this month to discuss its ballistic missile program and the U.S.-led missile shield in Europe.

NATO's defense plan received a boost on Friday after Turkey joined the ambitious scheme, aimed at countering missile threats from Iran.

Russia has agreed to cooperate on the plan, but warned it may strengthen its own defenses if it is not made a full partner in the U.S.-led shield.

Speaking to RIA Novosti on Friday, envoy Dmitry Rogozin said Iran wanted more information about the missile talks.

"We, in turn, are interested in getting clarification from the Iranian side over its plans to develop missiles which are often referred to with alarm by our U.S. and European partners," Rogozin said.

"I hope this mission to Tehran will be a fruitful one," he added.

BRUSSELS, September 2 (RIA Novosti)

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20110902/166380516.html>

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Al Arabiya News – U.A.E.

UN Atom Agency Seeks Rare Mideast Nuclear Talks

Friday, 02 September 2011

By Fredrik Dahl

Vienna (Reuters) - The UN nuclear agency has invited all its members, including Israel, Arab states and Iran, to attend rare talks later this year about the volatile Middle East and efforts to rid the world of atomic weapons, a document said on Friday.

While Israel and some Arab nations have indicated readiness to take part in the proposed forum in November, Iran said it saw no justification for such a meeting now.

In its response to the invitation from Yukiya Amano, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran's envoy to the IAEA took a swipe at Tehran's arch-foe Israel, which is widely believed to have the Middle East's only nuclear arsenal.

Nuclear weapons are especially controversial in the Middle East. Arab states often criticize Israel over its presumed nuclear arsenal. Israel and the United States see Iran as the region's main proliferation threat, accusing Tehran of covertly seeking to develop nuclear arms. Iran denies this.

"We are of the view that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons which allow one party to threaten its neighbors and the region," Iranian Ambassador Ali Asghar Soltanieh wrote.

A gathering of regional adversaries around the same table to talk about nuclear arms could be symbolically important, even though substantive progress is likely to remain elusive.

Amano, the IAEA's director general, said in the report made available to Reuters on Friday that he had written to all IAEA member states about taking part in a Nov. 21-22 forum in Vienna.

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Debate would focus on lessons learned and relevant experience for the Middle East from the establishment of nuclear weapons-free zones in other regions, such as Africa and Latin America.

Diplomats stress that no decisions are expected at the planned talks, but that they could be useful as a way to start a dialogue and help build badly needed confidence in the region.

Amano said in his Sept. 2 report, the Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East, that he had sought the views of Middle East countries on the agenda for the planned forum.

Twelve Middle Eastern states, including Egypt, Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Syria, have written back, Amano added.

<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/09/02/165128.html>

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Yonhap News – South Korea
Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Clear Evidence Exists on N. Korea-Syria Nuke Ties: Cheney

By Lee Chi-dong

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30 (Yonhap) -- Former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney said there was a "striking resemblance" between Syria's nuclear facility and North Korea's nuclear reactor in Yongbyon.

In his new memoir, "In My Time," published Tuesday, Cheney also said the North must have provided Syria with uranium-based nuclear technology as it did to Libya.

"Sustained nuclear cooperation between North Korea and Syria likely began as early as 1997," he said, citing information from senior U.S. intelligence officials.

The U.S. received much of the intelligence on the Pyongyang-Damascus relationship from the Israelis, he said. In 2007, Israel carried out an airstrike on a Syrian nuclear site.

A photo showed, Cheney said, that even a North Korean official in his country's delegation at the six-way talks aimed at ending Pyongyang's atomic weapons program had visited Syria for nuclear cooperation.

"It was pretty remarkable -- even for the North Koreans -- for a member of their negotiating team to be spending time, when he wasn't at the negotiating table, proliferating nuclear technology to Syria," he said.

Cheney, who served as vice president from 2001 to 2009, emphasized that current and future American leaders should take lessons from a mistake in North Korea policy during the final years of the Bush administration.

He claimed the State Department's negotiating team, led by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, lost sight of the objective.

"For them, the agreement seemed to become the objective, and we ended up with a clear setback in our nonproliferation efforts," he said.

At that time, Washington agreed to provide Pyongyang with a set of political and economic incentives. In fact, the U.S. removed the communist nation from the blacklist of state sponsors of terrorism in return for its declaration of its nuclear stockpile.

While White House officials made clear that their goal was getting North Koreans to give up their nuclear weapons program, he argued, the State Department came to regard getting the North Koreans to agree to something as the ultimate objective.

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"That mistake led our diplomats to respond to Pyongyang's intransigence and dishonesty with ever greater concessions, thereby encouraging duplicity and double-dealing," he said.

North Koreans were "masters of brinkmanship -- creating problems, threatening their neighbors and expecting to be bribed back into cooperation," he said.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2011/08/31/39/0401000000AEN20110831000300315F.HTML>

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Scotsman – Edinburgh, Scotland

Kim's Medical Secrets Revealed to the World

31 August 2011

By Bryan Kay

A FORMER North Korean doctor has revealed the secrets behind dictator Kim Jong-il's medicine cabinet.

Dr Seok Young-hwan said the reclusive "Dear Leader" survives on a diet of herbal remedies first tested on ordinary citizens who suffer from heart disease who share his age and blood type.

Mr Kim was pictured last week limping on his left side while clambering into his armoured train on a trip to Russia, with Seoul officials speculating that the 69-year-old's health may not have improved as much as previously thought following a stroke in 2008.

Dr Seok, once based at the Kim il-Sung Longevity Research Institute, was part of an "anti-ageing team" treating Jong-il.

The human guinea pigs, said Dr Seok, were considered "lucky" since they were given "good medicine" not available to the public in the Communist state.

"Simply put, the long life research institute is to look after the general," said the 47-year-old, who defected in 1998. "It's not a place you can apply to work at. It's a place you are dragged into."

<http://news.scotsman.com/world/Kim39s-medical-secrets-revealed-to.6828125.jp>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

China Successfully Tests New Aircraft Carrier

31 August 2011

China's first aircraft carrier has successfully completed its maiden sea trials and returned to a shipyard for further refurbishing, the Chinese Defense Ministry said on Wednesday.

The vessel, the former Soviet aircraft carrier Varyag, has been overhauled for its new role as a platform for research and naval pilot training at the Dalian shipyard in Northeast China.

"The recent sea trials of the aircraft carrier achieved the anticipated objectives," Defense Ministry spokesman Yang Yujun told a news conference in Beijing.

The Admiral Kuznetsov class aircraft carrier was 70% complete when China bought it from Ukraine for \$20 million in 1998. Before being sold, the ship was disarmed and its engines were removed.

China started a total overhaul of the ship in 2005, along with the development of carrier-based aircraft.

The 1,000-foot vessel is designed to carry 26 aircraft and 24 helicopters.

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Chinese military experts believe that the vessel could be commissioned by the Chinese Navy in a few years.

BEIJING, August 31 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110831/166328234.html

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Korea Times – South Korea
Thursday, September 1, 2011

'US to Respond Forcefully to NK Provocations'

By Kim Young-jin

The United States would not hesitate to engage militarily against further aggressive behavior by North Korea, a leading U.S. expert said Thursday, stressing that Washington would maintain its role in East Asia despite shifting regional dynamics and internal strife.

"We must maintain a steady course to assure the North Korea regime that there is no military solution to their problem and no advantage in reckless acts of intimidation," John Hamre, president of the Washington D.C.-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, told an international forum in Seoul.

"We Korea and America together are prepared to respond as needed. If we have to fight a war, we will. We won't start it, but we will win if it happens," the former U.S. deputy secretary of defense said.

Despite a recent warming trend, tensions remain high over the North's two deadly attacks last year. Seoul has vowed a strong military response to any further provocation after Pyongyang sank the warship Cheonan and shelled Yeonpyeong Island, killing a total of 50 South Koreans.

Washington has strongly backed its ally in the aftermath of the attack, conducting joint shows of force in waters off the peninsula.

Many analysts say the Obama administration is quietly pushing for more engagement with the North, including the possible resumption of the six-party talks on Pyongyang's denuclearization, in a bid to manage its belligerence and growing nuclear program.

The sides recently held rare bilateral talks in New York amid a flurry of diplomacy over how to restart the forum.

Seoul and Washington want Pyongyang to take concrete denuclearization steps before the talks resume, while the North wants an unconditional return to talks, which halted in 2009 after the North stormed out in response to international sanctions.

Hamre expressed skepticism over the ability of the forum to bring about the North's complete denuclearization, in part due to Beijing's willingness to look the other way over the program that includes a uranium-enrichment component.

"I think China sees a greater risk from North Korea instability and collapse and uncertainty about where that goes, than it does by North Korea having nuclear weapons," he said, adding that regional players must remain steady in their postures toward the program.

In the wide-ranging keynote address at the Korea Global Forum 2011 co-hosted by the Ministry of Unification, the expert said neither China's ongoing rise nor fierce political wrangling on Capitol Hill would diminish Washington's role in the region.

The Obama administration is concerned over China's ongoing military-buildup that apparently seeks to keep pace with the country's rapid economic growth.

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Hamre said that while the build-up -- and the increased chance for miscalculations among forces in the region that come with it -- was ominous, it did not seem to reflect a desire to fundamentally change the international order. "China is demanding power and influence and respect within its sphere, it is not demanding a change to the international system," he said.

As for the partisan wrangling in Washington that boiled over during the recent debt-ceiling debacle, Hamre, once a reported candidate for Secretary of Defense, said it would not affect Washington's committed presence in the region.

"The harsh debate underway in America is not about foreign policy. There is a broad consensus on how Obama has handled the crisis on the Korean Peninsula," he said. "Is America so preoccupied with its domestic battles that it will abandon Asia? The short answer is no."

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2011/09/113_94017.html

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Yonhap News -- South Korea
September 1, 2011

Professor: N. Korea-China Pact on Intervention Is a Dead Letter

By Kim Kwang-tae

SEOUL, Sept. 1 (Yonhap) -- A bilateral pact between North Korea and China calling for automatic intervention in case of a military conflict has become virtually invalid with the end of the Cold War, a Chinese scholar claimed Thursday.

The two allies signed the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in 1961, obligating China to defend North Korea against aggression.

Zhu Feng, a professor of international relations at Peking University, said in a paper released ahead of a forum in Seoul on Thursday that the treaty has been a completely dead letter for two decades following the end of the Cold War.

The treaty says it will remain in force until the two sides agree on its amendment or termination. Chinese state television reported in July that the treaty will remain in effect until 2021 after being automatically renewed in 1981 and 2001.

Zhu, however, said China has switched its priority to South Korea over North Korea over the past 20 years in terms of Chinese political, economic and strategic interest on the Korean Peninsula. He also predicted that the trend is unlikely to change as China expands its economic ties with South Korea.

China sent hundreds of thousands of troops to North Korea to fight against South Korea and the U.S.-led U.N. forces during the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in a cease-fire, not a peace treaty.

China is the North's last remaining ally and key economic benefactor, though it has established diplomatic ties with South Korea and the United States. The world's second-largest economy has also become a top trading partner for South Korea and the United States.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2011/09/01/94/0401000000AEN20110901003851315F.HTML>

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Space War.com

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N. Korea Hits Out at US over Nuclear Row: Reports

By Staff Writers

Tokyo, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

September 1, 2011

North Korea's number-two leader slammed the United States on Thursday for singling out his country's uranium enrichment programme in a drive against nuclear proliferation, reports said.

"Not only our country but other countries in the world are enriching uranium," Kim Yong-Nam, the president of the Supreme People's Assembly -- North Korea's parliament -- told Japanese media in Pyongyang, according to Kyodo news agency.

"But the problem is why the world pays attention only to the uranium enrichment programme of our country," added Kim, who is considered a nominal head of state in the communist country ruled by paramount leader Kim Jong-Il.

Kim Yong-Nam said Washington was singling out the North Korean programme in an effort to guide world opinion against Pyongyang, according to Kyodo. The broadcaster NHK also reported Kim's comments.

He attributed such action to Washington's "wily" desire to disturb Pyongyang's exchanges and cooperation with other countries.

North Korea has insisted that its uranium enrichment programme, which was disclosed last November, is a peaceful energy project. But experts say it could easily be reconfigured to produce weapons-grade uranium to augment the country's plutonium stockpile.

Six-nation talks on the North's nuclear disarmament -- involving the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, China and Russia -- have been at a standstill since December 2008.

The communist North has repeatedly expressed a desire to go back to talks, but Washington has urged it to show more sincerity and mend ties with Seoul first.

On North Korea's stalled ties with neighbouring Japan, Kim said Pyongyang was closely watching Yoshihiko Noda, who was elected Japan's new prime minister on Tuesday.

"We don't yet know whether (Noda) will move toward a positive direction to improve (North) Korea-Japan relations or follow the same path of previous governments" in doing little to improve ties, he said.

Tokyo has cooled ties with Pyongyang in protest at its nuclear weapons programmes and its reluctance to come clean on the fate of Japanese nationals it admitted to kidnapping in the Cold War years.

[http://www.spacewar.com/reports/N Korea hits out at US over nuclear row reports 999.html](http://www.spacewar.com/reports/N_Korea_hits_out_at_US_over_nuclear_row_reports_999.html)

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United Press International (UPI)

India Postpones Latest Agni Missile Launch

September 2, 2011

NEW DELHI, Sept. 2 (UPI) -- India postponed until next week a test-firing of its indigenously built Agni II ballistic nuclear capable missile due to a technical glitch.

The two-stage surface-to-surface missile was to be tested by its Strategic Forces Command from Wheeler Island off the Bay of Bengal on Monday, a report in the Indian Express newspaper said.

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"But we had to postpone the test due to technical problems," Avinash Chander, director of the Agni missile program, said.

The day next week for the launch is not decided, said Chander, who gave no reason for the failure.

But previous missile failures have been blamed on guidance problems.

There also were doubts about continuous rainfall in Balasore near the test-firing range over the past three days.

India has a checkered history of launching indigenously built missiles, including the Agni I, II and III weapons.

The basic Agni series includes the single-stage 450-mile range Agni I, already inducted into service, and the two-stage Agni II and III models.

The 1,200-mile range Agni II was inducted into the army in 2004 and still is undergoing test-firings. The 65-foot missile weighs around 17 tons and can carry a 1-tonne payload.

The 2,000-mile range Agni III is in the last stages of development.

The solid-propellant Agni series of ballistic missiles are manufactured by Bharat Dynamics, one of India's major manufacturers of munitions and missile systems founded in 1970 in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

Bharat Dynamics also manufactures India's Konkurs anti-tank missile.

Agni-II has been developed by Advanced Systems Laboratory along with other laboratories under the government-backed Defense Research and Development Organization.

India's main missile test launch center is Wheeler Island -- just over 1 mile long and 6 miles off the country's east coast in the Bay of Bengal and about 90 miles from Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Orissa state.

It was from Wheeler Island that Agni III, with a range of just over 2,000 miles, was successfully test-launched from a mobile launcher in February last year.

During a test launch the following month, a Prithvi missile veered off its path, failing to reach its required altitude of around 70 miles. It climbed to around 45 miles before tumbling back into the Bay of Bengal.

Then in September, the DRDO acknowledged guidance problems that caused a failure in another Prithvi missile test launch. The surface-to-surface missile remained on the launch pad during a trial in Chandipur, Orissa.

The short-range, 4.6-tonne nuclear-capable missile became enveloped in orange smoke and the launch was aborted, officials from the DRDO said at the time.

"The failure to lift Prithvi II was due to a snag either in the main missile or the sub-system, including the launcher," a DRDO spokesman said.

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2011/09/02/India-postpones-latest-Agni-missile-launch/UPI-48761314957660/

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Xinhua News – China

September 1, 2011

Russia Successfully Completes Tests of Nuclear Submarine

MOSCOW, Sept. 1 (Xinhua) -- All tests for the fourth-generation strategic nuclear submarine Yuri Dolgoruky have successfully completed, officials of the submarine's producer Sevmash shipyard said Thursday.

During the five-day sail on the open sea, the submarine's crew also successfully tested the launch of the new Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile from underwater last Saturday.

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The Bulava, expected to become Russia's main naval strategic missile, is capable of carrying 10 warheads to a range of 8,000 km.

The Yuri Dolgoruky, named after a hero of Moscow, was launched in 2007. Sevmash shipyard is building two similar submarines.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-09/01/c_131092153.htm

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Trend – Azerbaijan

1 September 2011

Russia Warns Against NATO Anti-Missile System Buildup

Unrestricted buildup of NATO's missile defense system would force Russia to take responsive measures to protect its strategic containment potential, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Thursday, Xinhua reported.

"The U.S.-European anti-missile system has been building in the parameters defined in Washington, which as the Russian leadership repeatedly said, could create a threat to Russian strategic nuclear forces by the end of the decade," Lavrov said in his speech to students of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations.

He said that NATO and the United States did not guarantee that the system would not be used against Russia.

"Military experts understand that non-restricted one-sided buildup of the missile defense capabilities would require the other side to compensate to protect its potential of strategic containment," Lavrov said.

He reminded that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev offered in 2008 to sign a legally binding treaty about European security.

Besides, Moscow has not yet received any explanations from NATO about the block's eastward expansion, Lavrov said.

Moscow has long opposed the deployment of NATO missile defense facilities near its borders, saying they would be a security threat to the country and upset the strategic balance of force in Europe.

<http://pda.trend.az/en/1925112.html>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

U.S. Could Threaten Russian Strategic Nuclear Forces - Foreign Minister Lavrov

1 September 2011

The United States continues to refuse to guarantee that the European missile defense shield will not be directed at Russia, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Thursday.

"They don't want to give us a guarantee that the U.S.-NATO [European] missile defense shield will not be directed at Russia," Lavrov said during an address to students and professors at the Moscow State University for International Relations.

Lavrov said that in July 2009, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama agreed on joint efforts in establishing an anti-missile defense system by first starting with a general analysis of challenges and threats.

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"We added concrete proposals to the parameters for such a system and there were long consultations through bilateral talks and within the Russia-NATO Council. Unfortunately, we have not come to an agreement; however, a European missile defense shield is currently being created according to the parameters that Washington has defined and could create a threat to Russia's strategic nuclear forces," Lavrov said.

"Military experts understand completely that the unlimited expansion by one party's anti-missile defense capabilities requires the other party to take equal actions in order to protect its strategic restraint potential," he added.

Russia needs assurance that no military action would be directed at any other country in the Euro-Atlantic zone, he said, adding "otherwise we will return to the ideological stereotypes of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and that would be a big mistake in the light of the global challenges threatening all the members of the global society."

In June, Russia's envoy to NATO Dmitry Rogozin said the United States was already deploying its missile defense system in Europe without waiting for an agreement with Russia.

Romania announced in June that it had reached an agreement with the United States to deploy a U.S. missile interceptor system at a disused Soviet airbase on its territory.

"We have seen once again that the United States plans to unfold its system de facto without waiting for the end of [missile defense] talks with Russia, as the situation with the treaty with Romania shows," Rogozin said.

Russia and NATO agreed to cooperate on the so-called European missile defense system at the Lisbon summit in November 2010. NATO insists there should be two independent systems that exchange information, while Russia favors a joint system with full-scale interoperability.

MOSCOW, September 1 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110901/166347758.html

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National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

Press Release

NNSA Ships Additional Special Nuclear Material from LLNL

August 31, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today announced that Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) has removed 90 percent inventory of nuclear material requiring the highest level of security protection.

The move is part of NNSA's efforts to consolidate Category I and II special nuclear material, requiring the highest level of security, at five sites by the end of 2012. This initiative will further improve security and reduce costs as part of NNSA's overall effort to transform the Cold War era nuclear weapons complex into a 21st century nuclear security enterprise.

"I applaud the safe and efficient work done at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to package and remove nuclear material no longer needed at the site," said Don Cook, NNSA's Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs. "The men and women at Livermore continue to make big strides in reaching NNSA's goal of removing Category I and II special nuclear material from Livermore by the end of 2012, and they are doing this while continuing to perform vital national security work. The removal of the material meets NNSA's goal of transforming a Cold War nuclear weapons complex into a more robust nuclear security enterprise that is smaller, safer and more efficient."



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All shipments have been completed in full compliance with safety and environmental laws and procedures. All federal and receiver site requirements were met for these shipments. The deinventory project was initiated in October 2006.

NNSA had originally planned to remove high-security material from LLNL by 2014. However, NNSA has developed an accelerated timeline to remove the material safely and securely by 2012.

<http://nnsa.energy.gov/mediaroom/pressreleases/materialllnl83111>

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Stock Markets Review

August 31, 2011

U.S. Pays Russia \$7.2 billion for Separating Uranium from Warheads

By Joao Peixe

Under terms of the U.S.-Russian two-decade old “megatons-to-megawatts” agreement, the United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) has reimbursed the Russian Federation more than \$7.2 billion for its work in separating fissile uranium for use in civilian nuclear power plants from Soviet-era nuclear warheads.

The figure was included in a statement released by USEC the payment is for the Russian separative work units (SWU) component of extracting low enriched uranium from dismantled nuclear warheads delivered to the USEC since 1995.

OJSC Techsnabexport (Tenex) is the Russian Federation government's intermediary for the agreement. According to terms of the contract, which expires in two years, OJSC uses natural uranium in an admixture to dilute the weapons-grade uranium.

According to Russia’s Agentstvo Voyennykh Novostei [news](#) agency, OJSC Techsnabexport could eventually receive up to \$17 billion for the entire contract, of which over \$8 billion of would be for the SWU operation.

USEC said that the SWU operation has eliminated 425 metric tons of highly enriched uranium, the equivalent of 17,000 nuclear warheads, by converting it into [fuel](#) for commercial nuclear power plants, with the nuclear fuel produced up to now capable of generating enough electricity to meet the demand from U.S. households for nearly five years.

http://www.stockmarketsreview.com/extras/us_pays_russia_72_dollar_billion_for_separating_uranium_from_warheads_20110831_159943/

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Scientific American

Science after 9/11: How Research Was Changed by the September 11 Terrorist Attacks

New work in forensics, biodefense and cyber security blossomed after the attacks on New York City, Washington, D.C., and in the skies over Pennsylvania, but increased regulations have also stymied international collaboration as well as work on some infectious diseases

By Eugenie Samuel Reich

Thursday, September 1, 2011

Two months after al Qaeda terrorists flew airplanes into the World Trade Center towers in Manhattan on September 11, 2001, analytical chemist John Butler found himself working late nights in his lab, developing DNA assays to identify 911 victims from the tens of thousands of charred human remains recovered at Ground Zero.

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Thinking back, he still clearly remembers the sense of rising to a national need that was shared by dozens of researchers recruited to the same difficult problem. "People wanted to step up and help the country," he says.

Ten years on, Butler's solitary effort at National Institute of Standards and Technology has grown to a large research group working on the forensics of blended, degraded or soiled DNA, and U.S. expertise developed in the wake of 9/11 has also been exported worldwide, put to use identifying victims of mass atrocities in Africa, Asia, Bosnia and Iraq.

It is just one example of how a research direction blossomed as a result of 9/11. Scientists and science policy experts say the federal government's response to terrorist events in 2001, both the September attacks and the anthrax letters in October, have had a profound effect on U.S. research in areas as diverse as forensics, biodefense, infectious diseases, public health, cyber security, geology and infrastructure, energy, and nuclear weapons. Even the social sciences have been affected by the emergence of "terrorism studies" and the new emphasis on the threat in the field of risk analysis.

A major conduit for the shifts is the availability of money: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), created by consolidating 22 federal services and agencies in 2002 in direct response to September 11, had a science budget that peaked at \$1.3 billion in 2006 before falling again to about \$700 million in 2011. Key science-funding agencies including the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Energy, also put money into research motivated by security concerns (amounting to a total homeland security (this number does not refer to DHS but to homeland security funding across all agencies) research budget of \$7.3 billion in 2011) and a small amount of the U.S. Department of Defense money associated with wars in Afghanistan and Iraq ended up in the hands of researchers as well—for example, by funding work on explosives detection and weaponry.

In biodefense, so much money poured into science that Judith Reppy, a science and technology studies expert at Cornell University, even considered whether (adapting the term coined by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1961) a "biomedical-military-industrial complex" has emerged in which scientists, the military and lobbyists conspire to try to keep the funds coming. She rejected that hypothesis, finding that biomedical science in the U.S. remains primarily a civilian endeavor, but says 9/11 has introduced trimmings of "guards, guns and gates," and increased funding research on pathogens that might be used by terrorists.

Some of the post-9/11 changes have entailed increased regulation. Jerry Jaax, a veterinarian and infectious disease researcher who oversees research compliance at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kans., says that many biomedical fields have been swamped by such new regulations or increased enforcement of pre-9/11 regulations in a bid to prevent researchers and the materials they handle from becoming security threats. He says federal rules on select agents—pathogens that require special facilities and handling—and on imports and exports of biological samples and materials, have slowed the ability of scientists to do research important to public and agricultural health. "Some say we're regulating away our ability to do this kind of research and I think there's some truth to that," he says.

And, a major difficulty has been immigration. The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 imposed stringent new visa requirements that restricted scientists and science students from all over the world from entering the U.S. Albert Teich, who has tracked the issue for the American Association for the Advancement of Science where he is director of science and policy programs, says that problem peaked in 2003, but has since improved, especially following lobbying of Congress by scientific societies and advice from the National Academy of Sciences, whose 2009 report "Beyond 'Fortress America'" and 2007 report "Rising above the Gathering Storm" were among those to suggest the rules be eased. But the policies had a lasting impact on the ability of U.S. researchers to collaborate and recruit students, he says.

Teich adds that security concerns have cast a shadow over U.S. science in a number of ways, and points to the erection of a steel security barrier around the perimeter of the previously open campus of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. "To me," he says, "that fence is a very dramatic visual impact of 9/11 on science."

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<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=how-research-was-changed-by-september-11-terrorist-attacks>

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U.S. Department of State

The Case for the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty: Some Key Points

Fact Sheet

Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance

September 1, 2011

The United States will be more secure by ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which establishes a global legal ban on the explosive testing of nuclear weapons.

The CTBT Helps Restrain Further Nuclear Weapons Proliferation.

It is in our national security interest to prevent other states from advancing their nuclear weapon capabilities, an objective that would be reinforced through the adoption and entry into force of the global, legally binding CTBT. With a global ban on nuclear explosive tests, states interested in pursuing or advancing their nuclear weapons programs would have to either risk deploying weapons uncertain of their effectiveness or face international condemnation and possible sanctions for conducting nuclear tests.

With or without nuclear explosive testing, it is possible for states to develop fission weapons, but without testing there would always be uncertainty how well they would perform. A ban on nuclear explosive testing will prevent more established nuclear weapon states from confirming the performance of more advanced nuclear weapon designs that have not been successfully tested in the past.

The United States possesses the most extensively tested and certified nuclear arsenal in the world and remains the world's pre-eminent conventional weapons superpower. Our nation has been able to maintain military superiority while also observing a unilateral testing moratorium for almost twenty years, thus abiding by the core prohibition of the CTBT. Yet, the absence of U.S. ratification of the Treaty continues to limit our ability to promote a global ban.

Ratification of the CTBT Is Part of an Integrated Nuclear Security Strategy.

The President has identified the spread of nuclear weapons to terrorists or other states as a direct and pressing threat to American security and has provided unprecedented resources – financial, political and technical – to prevent proliferation. Since entering office, the Administration has achieved entry into force of the New START Treaty, released an updated Nuclear Posture Review, and helped to achieve the consensus Action Plan at the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference.

The Administration has also convened the successful 2010 Nuclear Security Summit, helped secure and relocate vulnerable nuclear materials, led efforts to establish an international nuclear fuel bank, and increased effective multilateral sanctions against both Iran and North Korea for their illicit nuclear activities.

Support for and pursuit of CTBT ratification is another key element of this strategy to strengthen America's security. Ratification of the Treaty would likely bring additional international support for carrying out other elements of the Action Plan from the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The CTBT Can Be Verified.

At the heart of the CTBT's verification regime is an international monitoring system that includes hundreds of sensors deployed around the world, which will help the United States and other CTBT Parties verify compliance with the Treaty. This system has already detected the two nuclear explosive tests conducted by North Korea; its capabilities will continue to improve as the system is completed.

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Entry into force also will bring to bear the option for an on-site inspection, which will help clarify ambiguities regarding a possible nuclear test. Taken as a whole, the Treaty's robust verification regime, which supplements our state of the art monitoring national technical means capabilities, will make it extremely difficult for any state to conduct militarily significant explosive nuclear tests that escape detection.

The United States Does Not Need to Conduct Nuclear Tests.

President Obama said in April 2009, "As long as [nuclear] weapons exist, the United States will maintain a safe, secure and effective arsenal to deter any adversary, and guarantee that defense to our allies."

U.S. nuclear weapons are now maintained without explosive nuclear testing. From 1945-1992, the United States conducted 1054 nuclear explosive tests, more than any other country. Since it adopted a moratorium on nuclear explosive testing in 1992, the United States has maintained the reliability of our arsenal through an extensive and rigorous stockpile stewardship program that includes surveillance and warhead life extension programs. This Administration has committed more than \$85 billion in funding over the next decade, to maintain the U.S. stockpile, a modern nuclear weapons production complex, and a highly trained and exercised base of nuclear experts, engineers, and technicians.

For over 15 years, the Secretaries of Defense and Energy from Democratic and Republican administrations, and the directors of the nuclear weapons laboratories have annually assessed our arsenal to be safe, secure and effective, and each year they have determined that we do not need to conduct explosive nuclear tests.

<http://www.state.gov/t/avc/rls/171305.htm>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

Test of New U.S. Interceptor Missile Results in Failure

2 September 2011

A modernized version of the SM-3 missile has failed to intercept a ballistic missile target during a test over the Pacific Ocean, the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) said.

A Standard Missile 3 (SM-3) Block 1B interceptor missile was launched on Monday from the cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG-70) to intercept a short-range ballistic missile target launched from the U.S. Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility on the island of Kauai.

"This was the first flight test of the advanced SM-3 Block 1B interceptor missile," the agency said in a statement. "Program officials will conduct an extensive investigation to determine the cause of the failure to intercept."

According to the statement, the MDA has conducted 22 successful intercepts in 27 at-sea test launches of interceptor missiles under Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System flight testing program since 2002.

The SM-3 missile is expected to become a key part of the Obama administration's European Phased Adaptive Approach (PAA) for defending the continent against ballistic missile attacks.

The missile is equipped with a kinetic warhead which does not carry any high explosive.

Hit-to-Kill technology relies on the kinetic energy released in a high-speed collision between the warhead and the target. The energy from the impact is equivalent to the force released when a 10-ton truck traveling at 600 mph hits a wall.

WASHINGTON, September 2 (RIA Novosti)

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20110902/166365622.html

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Washington Post

White House Counterterrorism Chief Says Killing of al-Qaida No. 2 Was Huge Blow to Terror Group

By Associated Press

August 31, 2011

WASHINGTON — White House counterterrorism chief John Brennan said al-Qaida is “on a steady slide” after the death of al-Qaida’s latest second-in-command in Pakistan.

Brennan told The Associated Press on Wednesday that it’s a “huge blow” in the first official White House comment since Atiyah Abd al-Rahman’s reported killing by CIA drone strike in Pakistan’s tribal areas last week.

“Al-Qaida is sort of on the ropes and taking a lot of shots to the body and the head,” Brennan said.

“This is a time not to step back and let them recover,” a message he says he’s sending to his counterparts in Pakistan.

Islamabad’s objections to drone strikes have become more strident since the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden in May. Despite that friction, Brennan said the relationship with Pakistan is improving.

In a wide-ranging interview, Brennan credited aggressive U.S. action against militants from Pakistan to Yemen as the main reason U.S. intelligence has detected no active terror plots before the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

He described the counterterrorism relationship with Pakistan, Yemen and Iraq as models of how the U.S. will fight al-Qaida in the future — where the lion’s share of the hunting and fighting is done by the host nation. He said the U.S. was looking ahead to crafting a similar model in Afghanistan as U.S. troops draw down there, where as in Iraq and Yemen, small numbers of U.S. intelligence and special operations forces will work with their counterparts, providing training, equipment and sharing intelligence to track terror targets, and keep them under pressure.

“If they’re worrying about their security ... they’re going to have less time to plot and plan,” Brennan said of the militants. “They’re going to be constantly looking over their shoulder or up in the air or wherever, and it really has disrupted their operational cadence and ability to carry out attacks.”

He pointed to the killing of Al-Rahman as an example of how U.S. pressure is degrading the network.

“There’s no longer a management grooming program there. They don’t stay in place long enough,” Brennan said.

Al-Rahman had barely assumed a leadership position since bin Laden’s death pushed his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, into the top spot. Brennan described Al-Rahman as a “workaholic” and an “operational mastermind” who kept al-Qaida’s nodes from Yemen to Europe connected.

“Taking him out of commission is huge,” Brennan said. “There’s not another bin Laden out there. I don’t know if there’s another Atiyah Abd al-Rahman out there.”

Brennan said the key to keeping another Al-Rahman from rising is to keep constant pressure on all locations where al-Qaida operates, working through host countries to target a network of operatives that “are flowing sometimes back and forth” from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and Somalia as well as parts of the African Sahel.

He admitted that efforts to keep pressure on across that network hit a “speed bump” when the “Arab Spring” swept U.S.-friendly governments, and counterterrorism personnel, out of office.

But he said in Egypt, U.S. contacts have been able to recover quickly following longtime leader Hosni Mubarak’s ouster earlier this year. The counterterrorism relationship with Tunisia, where the Arab Spring movement began, also remains strong, he said.

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Brennan said the uprising in Yemen, however, had kept Yemeni forces engaged in a fight for political survival, and had slowed down the fight against arguably the most dangerous bin Laden affiliate, Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.

AQAP, as the affiliate is known, has worked with the rebel tribes to grab large swaths of territory in the south.

The unrest has forced the U.S. to draw down the hundred-plus military and intelligence personnel it had working with Yemeni counterterrorism forces. Those Yemeni forces, led by ailing Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's sons, have been reluctant to leave the capital unguarded, even when a brigade of conventional Yemeni troops became trapped by al-Qaida in the Abyan region.

"This political tumult is ... leading them to be focused on their positioning for internal political purposes as opposed to doing all they can against AQAP," he said.

U.S. forces had to air drop food and water aid to the embattled unit, which was threatening to surrender. Brennan says the U.S. has since persuaded the Yemenis to send enough forces their way to free them, and that he's urged the country's vice president to send more troops into the fight.

Yemeni president Saleh is still recovering in Saudi Arabia with some 70 percent of his body burned and a lung pierced from an assassination attempt in June as he was praying in his palace compound.

While Brennan says Saudi Arabia would allow Saleh to return from his temporary medical exile, he repeated the White House's earlier calls for Saleh to stay away and let new elections take place.

"I've told him that I do not believe it's in his interests, Yemen's interests or our interests ... to go back to Yemen," Brennan said.

He called Yemen a "tinder box" that could spark into a civil war that al-Qaida would take advantage of.

Associated Press writers Erica Werner, Darlene Superville and Julie Pace contributed to this report.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/white-house-counterterror-chief-says-killing-of-al-qaida-no-2-was-huge-blow-to-terror-group/2011/08/31/gIQAElHwsJ_story.html

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Scotsman – Edinburgh, Scotland

Decapitating al-Qaeda, Head by Head

01 September 2011

By Mark Mazzetti

AT SOME point in the coming days, a shadowy group of al-Qaeda operatives in Pakistan who make up the network's "General Command" is likely to announce a replacement for Atiyah abd al-Rahman, the Libyan chief of operations who was killed last week in a drone strike by the US's Central Intelligence Agency.

But as the tenth anniversary of the group's most successful attack approaches, the key question is: does it matter?

In many ways, a successor to Rahman would have a familiar role in the terrorist group. He would be in charge of co-ordinating attacks against the US and Europe, delivering messages from the new leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, to the rank and file, and managing sometimes strained relations between al-Qaeda's Pakistan-based leadership and the group's far-flung affiliates throughout the Middle East and Africa.

But even as al-Qaeda's leadership continues to project an image of control, many terrorism experts and US intelligence officials say the members of this circle of maybe a dozen operatives - many of whom served for years as Osama bin Laden's closest confidants - are at risk of being marginalised not only by the global jihad movement but also by the al-Qaeda affiliates they helped spawn. With their ranks thinned by relentless drone strikes, some

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experts believe al-Qaeda's operatives in Pakistan resemble a driver holding a steering wheel that is no longer attached to the car.

"With the death of guys like Atiyah, it's increasingly likely that the al-Qaeda affiliate groups are just going to start doing their own thing," said Brian Fishman, a terrorism analyst at the New America Foundation. "At some point, the guys in Pakistan might be reduced to issuing a lot of public statements and hoping for the best."

Even with the network's operatives in Pakistan under siege, al-Qaeda's wings in Yemen and North Africa have had little difficulty continuing a wave of violence. The chaos and power vacuum in Yemen have allowed operatives there to gain control over large swaths of the country's southern territories, and al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb has claimed responsibility for a suicide attack that killed 16 soldiers and two civilians last Friday at an Algerian military academy. The same day, a Nigerian terrorist group that has cultivated ties to al-Qaeda killed dozens of people when it blew up the UN headquarters in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

"For the past two years, the affiliates have been gaining in stature while core al-Qaeda has been declining," said a senior US counter-terrorism official.

The drone attack that killed Rahman came just weeks after President Barack Obama's top adviser on Pakistan said the US had just six months to deliver "a knockout blow" to al-Qaeda's senior leadership in Pakistan.

Now, al-Qaeda will have to dig into its ranks to replace al-Rahman, which many experts said will not be easy. US officials said that one candidate is Abu Yahya al-Libi, another Libyan operative who became more prominent after he escaped from the US military prison at Bagram in Afghanistan in 2005.

While al-Rahman was hardly among al-Qaeda's most well-known figures, US officials said that his importance to the network came from the close ties he had forged with militant leaders during the 1990s, a time when al-Qaeda was a more centralised organisation based largely in Afghanistan.

The senior US official said Rahman acted as al-Qaeda's "human Rolodex," in a reference to the business contacts system.

For instance, in late 2005, Rahman chastised Abu Musab al-Zarqawi - the leader of al-Qaeda's wing in Iraq - for carrying out attacks against Shiite Muslims, which he worried would fracture the insurgency against US troops in Iraq. Rahman wrote a letter to al-Zarqawi, whom he had known for years, threatening to remove him from the top of al-Qaeda in Mesopotamia if he did not change his ways.

<http://news.scotsman.com/world/Decapitating-alQaeda-head-by-head.6828721.jp>

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Alaska Dispatch
OPINION/Commentary

NATO Bombing in Libya Shows Why Countries should Keep Nukes

By Reza Sanati, the Christian Science Monitor
August 30, 2011

Of all the lessons to draw from the ignoble end to Muammar Qaddafi's brutal regime in Libya, the one about nuclear weapons proliferation is probably not the first tutorial that comes to mind.

But you can believe it is not lost on countries that feel vulnerable, including Iran. And for the sake of global security, the international community must consider what it's like to be in their shoes.

The lesson is elementary. Eight years ago, Libya agreed to dismantle its infant nuclear program. More than five months ago, NATO began enforcing a no-fly zone in support of Libyan rebels. Would NATO have launched a bombing campaign against Libya if the unpredictable Mr. Qaddafi had possessed nuclear weapons?

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Qaddafi's forceful downfall will make acquiring nuclear weapons all the more justifiable to states that feel threatened by outsiders. In turn, that will erode the vision of nonproliferation that held such promise in the post-cold-war era.

The zero-nukes goal promoted by President Obama is underpinned by the expectation that having nuclear weapons for security reasons is obsolete – along with the bipolar world of the cold war.

In reality though, the reason why countries seek nuclear weapons is just as resolute today as it was in the cold war.

From 1945 to 1991, the preeminent source of security in international affairs was the nuclear bomb. The few nations that openly had credible means of delivery – the United States, the USSR, Britain, France, and China – successfully deterred physical aggression by another state against their homelands.

Their collective experience and the perceived frailties of those states not possessing the bomb eventually created the following narrative: Nuclear weapons provide security to states while the lack of them leaves a country vulnerable.

In this setting, two diametrically opposing trends were born. The first was driven by states that viewed their circumstances as so perilous that the only alleviating factor would be acquiring the bomb.

The second was the goal of states either already possessing nuclear weapons or firmly protected in a larger security organization (e.g., NATO) to prevent the spread of atomic weapons.

To fuse the gap between the "security haves" and "have nots," the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was born in 1970. It encouraged the nuclear countries to provide have-nots with expertise and infrastructure to exploit peaceful nuclear technology. The ultimate goal was full disarmament for all. But the nuclear-weapon states never disarmed while the security circumstances for the nonnuclear states remained. A few countries, namely Israel, India, and Pakistan, stayed out of the NPT to pursue weapons programs of their own. Others decided to flirt with "nuclear latency" – having all the ingredients and infrastructure of making weapons, yet not possession.

After the Soviet Union's demise, the prospect of nuclear disarmament became more hopeful. Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and post-apartheid South Africa intellectually challenged the role of nuclear weapons for deterrence. A nescient, reenergized emphasis was placed on international law as the ultimate and legitimate arbiter of state security. Nuclear and nonnuclear states made ambitious but vague pledges to realize the disarmament goal of the NPT. Subsequent Russian and American arms-control agreements and the creation of nuclear-free weapons zones in South America and Africa added to this new cooperative spirit.

Yet creeping beneath the trend toward a "post nuclear" world, were behavioral contradictions initiated by highly industrialized nations. Their actions, perhaps unwittingly, gradually chipped away at the nonproliferation goal.

For various reasons, these nations attacked the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Libya. That aggression partially, if not fully, materialized by reason of the targets' lack of a nuclear deterrent. At the same time, troublesome nuclear-armed states such as North Korea and Pakistan have not been attacked since they acquired the bomb. They've also garnered multilayered benefits from the international community.

Compare Libya and Pakistan. In 2003, Tripoli agreed to dismantle its fledgling nuclear program, give up its stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons, and halt support for terrorism. In exchange, it was reintegrated into the global political economy. And yet, it was still attacked – a result of its brutal repression of its people in rebellion.

On the other hand, nuclear-armed Pakistan hid the most-wanted terrorist in the world for roughly a decade, while also supporting various regional militant groups and aiding the Taliban. That country has suffered virtually no consequences from the great powers but enjoys US economic and military aid.

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Despite Western assurances about nonproliferation, the enduring fact is that countries that feel threatened will, at a minimum, consider becoming nuclear-latent, if not outright open possessors of nuclear weapons.

Neither is this just a matter for a country's elite leaders. The more the US threatens Iran with war rhetoric and levies sanctions, the more the Iranian population wants a uranium enrichment program and, in recent years, to develop nuclear weapons.

The 2010 US Nuclear Posture Review ruled out a nuclear attack against all non-nuclear-weapon states – with the sole exception of Iran. In December 2010, the Charney Research for International Peace Institute, a New York-based think tank, found that 71 percent of Iranians want nuclear weapons, up from 52 percent in a similar 2007 poll.

The current trends in geopolitics augur ill for nonproliferation efforts. If states that already feel vulnerable – what about Saudi Arabia or Venezuela, for instance? – also face sanctions or threats of war, they may be compelled to break the nuclear taboo.

States under duress, such as Iran, are watching. Having witnessed attacks on Libya, Iraq, and Serbia while nuclear-armed countries remain secure, they can't help but gravitate toward nuclear deterrence – though Iran's aggressiveness aggravates regional tensions. This dynamic is even more profound considering that nuclear technology is accessible to many different countries and regions.

The US and other countries that want to move forward with nonproliferation need to understand why states would want the bomb. If fear is driving them, and evidence strongly suggests it is, those fears must be addressed.

The threat or reality of military intervention against nonnuclear states (think also Syria), at times done to dissuade them from acquiring nuclear capability, can lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Efforts at dialogue, security cooperation, and a renewed commitment to disarmament for all will go a long way toward reviving the nonproliferation argument. Otherwise, that narrative will become obsolete, perhaps dragging the world into a renewed arms race in a more profound and volatile way.

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<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/nato-bombing-libya-shows-why-countries-should-keep-nukes?page=full>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

OPINION/Analysis

Iran Inches Closer to Nuclear Weapons

31 August 2011

RIA Novosti military commentator Konstantin Bogdanov

Iran has acknowledged that it possesses new technologies that could bring it closer to developing nuclear weapons and more advanced missiles. The international community is finding it more and more difficult to restrain Tehran, and increasing the country's political and technological isolation could have dire consequences.

Smuggling to evade sanctions

Iran is now capable of producing carbon-plastic composite materials in violation of UN sanctions. Iran's Defense Minister Ahmad Wahidi said his country is among ten nations in the world that can manufacture them. Associated

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Press quoted Wahidi as saying that this new capability will eliminate a bottleneck in Iran's production of modern military systems.

Carbon-plastic composites play a key role in the production of modern solid-propellant rocket engines. Given Iran's efforts to develop long-range solid-propellant missiles, Wahidi's ostentatious announcement should worry detractors.

Composite materials are a highly sensitive dual-purpose technology, whose export to various "unreliable" countries is closely monitored. Iran began to experience restrictions in its pursuit of this technology in 2004, but it apparently bypassed international sanctions by resorting to smuggling the necessary components.

In 2005-2006, it was reported that some companies in Gulf countries, registered in the name of Iranian nationals, were illegally importing metal-ceramic composites from China and India.

Metal-ceramic composites are an extremely interesting special material. It is virtually impossible to build the fuel assemblies of nuclear reactors without them. They are also used in jet engines due to their unique heat-resistant properties.

Iran has successfully smuggled both carbon-plastic composites and metal-ceramic composites into the country, two essential technologies it had lacked.

As for missile technology, Iran is steadily mastering the so-called Category II, a list of critical dual-purpose items not subject to sanctions but which have a direct bearing on Iran's ability to produce modern missiles. Iran is also making progress on nuclear technologies.

Silver bullet

It appears that the Iranian defense industry is becoming increasingly able to advance its nuclear-missile program without substantial foreign technology transfers.

Arab nations in the Middle East have at times invested heavily in their hi-tech defense programs, primarily nuclear projects, but their economies were too backward in terms of engineering, production and human-resource capabilities to make much progress independently.

There was generally a "secret facility" built with substantial foreign assistance. A wide range of key equipment was imported, with foreign specialists completing a number of onsite operations. This arrangement made Arab nuclear projects extremely vulnerable, and resulted in surgical strikes against vital elements of the potentially dangerous production facilities.

Israel took full advantage of the situation. In 1981, Israeli bombers destroyed Iraq's Osirak reactor at the Al Tuwaitha Nuclear Center near Baghdad during Operation Opera. Analysts say the Israeli strike virtually halted the entire Iraqi nuclear program. In September 2007, Israeli warplanes hit an unspecified facility in Syria. Some reports claim that the facility was part of Damascus' nuclear program.

Both air strikes accomplished their objectives. The nuclear weapons programs of Arab regimes unfriendly to Israel slowed down considerably. However, sending in the cavalry against Iran will not have the same success. Israel is unable to mount such an attack on Iran, and not because of the distance between the two countries. In 1976, for example, Tel Aviv conducted a spectacular hostage rescue operation at Entebbe Airport in Uganda. That was an extremely difficult objective because Israeli special forces had to be illegally redeployed over the Red Sea, Somalia and Ethiopia's Ogaden Desert.

The problem is that Iran's level of industrial and technological development is far beyond that of Syria and Saddam's Iraq. Israel itself has indirectly acknowledged this. "With Iran it's a different project. There is no one silver bullet you can hit and that's over," a senior Israeli defense official told Reuters.

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Iran has a strong science education system. Iranian students perform fairly well at international physics and mathematics Olympiads.

It appears that opponents of Iran's nuclear program will soon have to stop treating the Iranian regime as a big, dumb kid who wants a nuclear bomb to scare its neighbors. Sooner or later, Iran's right to possess the most advanced military technologies, including nuclear weapons, will have to be addressed in earnest.

This right will be exercised in a painful manner for Iran's neighbors if the international community continues to pursue tougher measures to contain Tehran's technological development and to isolate it politically, without offering any alternative for elevating the Iranian state to that level of international politics that Tehran has de facto attained.

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

<http://en.rian.ru/analysis/20110830/166311085.html>

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THE DIPLOMAT – Japan
OPINION/New Leader Forum

Nuclear Infinity. Really?

Despite what critics say, the goal of a nuclear-free world is still worth striving for. But it must be done smartly.

August 31, 2011

By David Santoro

Writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, Georgetown University Assistant Prof. Matthew Kroenig, until last month a special advisor at the US Defence Department, dismissed the argument that 'nuclear zero' will make the world a safer place. Instead, he argues that the United States would be better off having 'infinite' nuclear weapons.

This perspective is problematic. Today more than ever, the United States and other nuclear-armed states need to endorse the goal of 'nuclear zero,' but they need to do so smartly. A middle ground needs to be found between what the late Sir Michael Quinlan called the 'righteous abolitionists' (or the idealists) and the 'dismissive realists.'

The righteous abolitionists need to become more familiar with the political and technical complexity of nuclear disarmament. A world free of nuclear weapons simply can't – and should not – happen overnight. The presence of nuclear weapons is evidence of deep, entrenched conflicts that need to be solved *before* arsenals can be reduced deeply and then eventually eliminated. Moreover, the process of nuclear disarmament is an intricate technical process that requires much time and extremely intrusive verification tools.

Similarly, the dismissive realists would do well to acknowledge that it isn't tenable, at least in the long term, for the United States and a few others to have the right to possess nuclear weapons while others are simply denied this right. A careful analysis of the review process of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty shows that nuclear disarmament is – and always has been – strongly called for by most nations of the world, even by US allies.

Most importantly, the reality is that nuclear weapons do remain relevant in the post-Cold War world, although their usefulness has decreased considerably. And although the proposition has yet to be proved correct, making more progress toward nuclear disarmament could well make it easier to strengthen the non-proliferation regime, which is an utmost priority in an age of nuclear proliferation and the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The question, therefore, isn't whether or not we should move toward nuclear disarmament, but how to go about it in a realistic manner.

The Barack Obama administration has tried to do just that. Obama has insisted on the need to move not toward a world free of nuclear weapons, but toward the *peace and security* of a world free of nuclear weapons. These words are too often omitted. Indeed, despite what many critics have argued, the current administration has *not*

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opted blindly for the goal of nuclear zero. The 2010 Nuclear Posture Review Report makes it a goal, but it's a goal far on the horizon: the document points out very clearly that the conditions for its achievement aren't currently in place and, in fact, that we don't even know what they are.

It's in this context that the United States needs to think about the roles and missions of its nuclear arsenal, as well as about the structure that its forces should have to achieve them. To be sure, Kroenig mentions that it's time to have a serious, dispassionate assessment of the roles, missions, and force structure of the US arsenal. But his assumption seems to be that nuclear weapons could – and perhaps even should – be with us for an indefinite future. Although he claims that he's neither recommending 'nuclear infinity' nor 'nuclear zero,' he explains that 'if forced to choose,' the United States should opt to have an infinite number of nuclear weapons.

But the way forward is to recognize that the future of the world should be nuclear weapon free, however distant that future may be. In addition to encouraging other nuclear-armed states to endorse this goal, US officials should concentrate on redefining the roles, missions, and force structure of their arsenal with this in mind. They also need to reflect on how the United States can reassure its allies and deter its enemies with nuclear weapons when it must, and without them when it can.

Thankfully, this reflection has already begun (and, despite popular belief, it predates the Obama administration).

David Santoro is a Research Associate at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, under the Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow Programme. He is the co-editor, with Tanya Ogilvie-White, of 'Slaying the Nuclear Dragon' (University of Georgia Press, forthcoming).

<http://the-diplomat.com/new-leaders-forum/2011/08/31/nuclear-infinity-really/>

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Washington Times
OPINION/Commentary

LYONS: Budget Crisis Threatens Defense

Cutting our military further in a dangerous world could be costly

By Adm. James A. Lyons, the Washington Times

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

There is no question that the Department of Defense is facing a budget crisis, which, if not managed properly, will have far-reaching consequences for our national security. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, before departing the Pentagon, cautioned repeatedly about a "hollowing out" of our military forces if proposed budget cuts are enacted. The fact of the matter is that with Mr. Gates' cut of \$175 billion plus the \$400 billion in additional deductions proposed by the Obama administration, our military forces are already hollowed out. With two ongoing wars, our military has been run hard and put away wet.

Just last year, a bipartisan congressional panel was created to review DoD's latest Quadrennial Defense Review, led by former Secretary of Defense William Perry and former National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley. The panel concluded that "there is a significant and growing gap between the 'force structure' of the military - its size and its inventory of equipment - and the missions it will be called on to perform in the future. Instead of cutting the DoD budget, there is an urgent need for recapitalizing and modernizing the weapon and equipment inventory of all services."

But this sober assessment has fallen on deaf ears in the Obama administration. With the \$400 billion already cut from defense by the administration in its first two years, we cannot continue to maintain a military capability second to none. Further, we are ceding our technology edge, which is our force multiplier, to China and Russia. For the first time in modern history, we do not have a next-generation fighter aircraft on the drawing board. However,

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our global responsibilities have not been lessened. Maintaining our maritime capability is key to our economic growth. Suffice to say our economic prosperity depends on a strong national defense.

In Asia, we cannot ignore China's unprecedented, rapid modernization and growth of its military forces, which are being specifically tailored to confront the U.S. Navy and Air Force. Nor can we ignore its boisterous and contemptuous attitude toward the United States and its allies with its illegal claims to the South China Sea and its role in spreading nuclear weapon technology.

We cannot overlook the threat posed by a nuclear-equipped, fanatical Iran, which has had a record of continuous aggression against the United States since November 1979. Certainly, the modernization of Russia's nuclear and conventional forces with the clear objective of achieving hegemony over its various domains must be factored into any threat equation.

In an uncertain world, made more so by an emerging realignment in the Middle East, there will continue to be an increased demand for sea power. U.S. vital interests are tied to a secure maritime environment that places global responsibilities on our naval forces. However, at a July 12 hearing before the House Armed Services subcommittee on readiness, Vice Adm. William R. Burke and Vice Adm. Kevin M. McCoy confirmed that the U.S. Navy's readiness issues are unresolved and most likely will get worse. Adm. McCoy told Rep. J. Randy Forbes, Virginia Republican and the committee chairman, "We're not good to go right now," but he said the force has a good plan. With drastic budget cuts looming, I wonder just how good the plan is.

The Navy is now doing the expensive, extended maintenance of its ships that it has long delayed. This is reminiscent of the Carter years when the Navy had endured severe budget cuts. Back then, the Navy had shrunk from more than 900 ships to 477 with 75 ships overdue for major overhaul. With the exception of the ill-fated Littoral Combat Ship, which has no offensive or defensive capability, the Navy we have today consists of 278 ships built during the Reagan administration. Another fact to consider is that we have more flag officers today than we have ships.

Adm. Burke and Adm. McCoy both said that the Navy is stretched thin by the number of forces it must provide to commanders who want more carriers, more aircraft and more submarines than the Navy can deploy. They both warned that today's operational tempo is "unsustainable" at its current force level. It's interesting to note that since the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act was enacted in 1986, the number of joint-force combat commands, each with its own joint commands and activities, has exploded. Further, there are 250 Joint Task Forces, each with its own tail and support elements. Joint programs are clearly out of control. It's been 25 years since Goldwater-Nichols was enacted. Perhaps it is time for it to be reviewed in light of the current budget crisis, as well as the changing threat environment.

Nonetheless, we still need to come to grips with the potentially disastrous outcome of the Budget Control Act of 2011. With the already-deep cuts made in the national-security budget, the Congressional supercommittee needs to be reminded that entitlements and other domestic spending never defeated an enemy. Economic prosperity depends on a strong national defense. Current and future threats make a recognized national-security capability mandated by our Constitution absolutely essential to maintaining our freedom and way of life.

Retired Adm. James A. Lyons was commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and senior U.S. military representative to the United Nations.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/aug/31/budget-crisis-threatens-defense/>

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