



**USAF COUNTERPROLIFERATION CENTER**  
**CPC OUTREACH JOURNAL**  
MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA

**Issue No. 958, 18 November 2011**

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Jerusalem Post – Israel

## **Netanyahu: 'All Options Are On the Table' Regarding Iran**

By JPOST.COM STAFF

November 16, 2011

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu informed the full Knesset plenum of that "all options are on the table" when it comes to Iran's nuclear program Wednesday. MK Michael Eitan read a statement from the prime minister to the special Knesset session dedicated to "the dilemma of whether to attack Iran."

"The prime minister and the authorized bodies are acting to stop the nuclear armament of Iran," Eitan told the plenum.

"The efforts are ongoing and we will do everything possible to enlist states in the international community," he continued, "because the Iranian threat is a danger not only to the State of Israel but to world peace."

<http://www.jpost.com/Headlines/Article.aspx?id=245807>

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Al Arabiya – U.A.E.

## **Iran to Send 'Rational' Response to IAEA's Report; Arabs, Israelis to Attend Nuke Talks**

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

By Agencies

TEHRAN -Iran is to send an "analytical" response to a report suggesting it was pursuing nuclear weapons, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said on Wednesday, a day before the U.N. watchdog meets on the issue.

"We have decided to draft and send an analytical letter with logical and rational responses to (International Atomic Energy Agency chief Yukiya) Amano's recent report," the Iranian state television website quoted Salehi as saying.

Salehi said the letter would be distributed to countries and international organizations.

His announcement came before a meeting of the IAEA's 35-member board on Thursday and Friday to consider the November 8 report which strongly suggested Iran was researching nuclear warheads, although it stopped short of saying so explicitly.

The United States and its allies are keen for the board to issue a resolution condemning Iran or referring it to the U.N. Security Council, according to a European diplomat in Vienna, where the IAEA is headquartered.

But Russia and China are seen as reluctant to go along, with Moscow criticizing the report and likening it to the false intelligence presented by the United States in the lead-up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Israeli officials have already raised the specter of military action against Iran's nuclear sites, based on the report.

Tehran has categorically denied it is seeking atomic weapons and dismissed the IAEA report as based on "false" information from Western intelligence services.

Salehi, who said Iran had already responded to the points raised in the report in a 117-page letter, called the IAEA report "unfair" and accused Amano of making a "hasty" move that damaged the watchdog's reputation.

However Salehi also downplayed recent comments by parliament speaker, Ali Larijani, that Iran could review its cooperation with the IAEA over the report.

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"The West wants to drive us into a hasty reaction and would not mind being able to say 'Iran has left the NPT (the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty supervised by the IAEA)'," he said.

Salehi said his country remained in "contact with the agency so that the situation does not worsen."

The foreign minister was also quoted as saying that Iran's nuclear activities "are making powerful progress."

Iran is subject to four sets of U.N. sanctions and additional unilateral Western sanctions over its uranium enrichment program, which it refuses to suspend.

### **Nuke talks**

Meanwhile, Arab states and Israel plan to attend a rare round of talks next week on efforts to free the world of nuclear weapons but Iran has yet to say whether it will take part in the meeting in Vienna, diplomats said on Wednesday.

The Nov. 21-22 forum, hosted by the IAEA, is seen as symbolically significant in seeking to bring regional foes together at the same venue and start a dialogue, even though no concrete outcome is expected.

If conducted smoothly with toned-down rhetoric on both sides, it could send a positive signal ahead of a planned international conference next year on ridding the Middle East of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

"It is a good opportunity for everybody to sit and talk but I don't think it is going to achieve a tangible result," a Western diplomat said.

Israel is widely believed to harbor the Middle East's only nuclear arsenal, drawing frequent Arab and Iranian condemnation.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/11/16/177530.html>

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Daily Star – Lebanon

## **US, Israel Not Behind Iran Blast: General**

November 16, 2011

TEHRAN: A top Iranian general said Wednesday that, contrary to speculation, the US and Israel were not behind a weekend munitions base blast that killed 17 Revolutionary Guards including a key ballistics missile expert.

"The recent blast has nothing to do with Israel or America," General Hassan Firouzabadi, the chief of staff of Iran's armed forces, was quoted as saying by Fars news agency.

He was confirming the Iranian description of the explosion as an "accident" and implicitly rejecting suggestions in Israeli and Western media that it might have been a covert military operation by Israel or the United States.

Firouzabadi said Saturday's blast at the base in Bid Ganeh, outside Tehran, slowed down development of an undisclosed military "product".

"It has only delayed by two weeks the manufacturing of an experimental product by the (Revolutionary) Guards which could be a strong fist in the face of arrogance (the United States) and the occupying regime (Israel)," he was quoted as saying.

Saturday's explosion killed General Hassan Moqaddam, the head of the Revolutionary Guards unit responsible for industrial research to ensure weapons self-sufficiency.

Moqaddam specialised in artillery during the 1980s Iraq-Iran war before founding the force's ballistics programme, according to information provided by officials in Tehran.

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Guards spokesman Ramezan Sharif said the blast occurred as munitions were being moved out of the base to another site. He did not say why Moqaddam was present.

Set up after the 1979 Islamic revolution, the Guards are in charge of Iran's missile programme, including Shahab-3 ballistic missiles with a range of 2,000 kilometres (1,200 miles) capable of hitting Israel.

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak has hailed the deadly munitions blast and said he hoped for more such incidents.

Time magazine said the explosion was the work of the Israeli spy agency Mossad, citing an unidentified "Western intelligence source."

Iran has in the past has accused Israel of carrying out covert attacks on its soil, notably the assassinations of two of its nuclear scientists in Tehran in 2010.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2011/Nov-16/154281-us-israel-not-behind-iran-blast-general.ashx#axzz1dz0n3a9a>

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Jerusalem Post – Israel

## 'IAEA Report Threatens Lives of Iranian Scientists'

*Publishing of researchers' names in report on Islamic Republic's nuclear program violated agency's Safeguards Agreement, says Iranian envoy; IAEA expected to pass resolution censuring Tehran.*

By JPOST.COM Staff and Reuters

November 18, 2011

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) violated its own terms when it released an incriminating report on Iran's nuclear program and threatened the lives of Iranian scientists, according to Iran's ambassador to the IAEA Ali Asghar Soltanieh.

In a letter to IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano, Soltanieh argued that the UN nuclear watchdog violated its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement when it released the names of Iranian nuclear scientists in findings about Tehran's supposed ongoing research for developing a nuclear weapon.

Soltanieh wrote that publishing the scientists' names "has made them targets for assassination by terrorist groups as well as the Israeli regime and the US intelligence services."

The envoy contended that Iran reserves the right to demand compensation from the agency for any damage resulting from the report, according to Israel Radio.

The 35-nation board of the UN nuclear watchdog looked set on Friday to censure Iran over mounting suspicions it is seeking to develop atom bombs, after the six big powers overcame divisions on how to best deal with a defiant Tehran.

But a draft resolution expected to win support from most countries at the meeting of IAEA did not include any concrete punitive steps, reflecting Russian and Chinese opposition for such measures.

Iran showed no sign of backing down in the protracted dispute over its atomic activities, threatening to take legal action against the Vienna-based UN agency for issuing the hard-hitting report about Tehran's nuclear program.

Last week's IAEA report presented a stash of intelligence indicating that Iran has undertaken research and experiments geared to developing a nuclear weapons capability. It has stoked tensions in the Middle East and redoubled calls in Western capitals for stiffer sanctions against Tehran.

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Iran says it is enriching uranium only as fuel for nuclear power plants, not atomic weapons. It has dismissed the details in the IAEA report obtained mainly from Western spy agencies as fabricated, and accusing the IAEA of a pro-Western slant.

Soltanieh, accused the agency of leaking the report early to the United States, Britain and France. Some of its contents appeared in Western media before their release on 8 November.

<http://www.jpost.com/IranianThreat/News/Article.aspx?id=246086>

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Wall Street Journal

## **U.N. Urges Iran to Permit Inspection of Atomic Sites**

November 18, 2011

By JAY SOLOMON

VIENNA—The United Nations' top nuclear official urged Iran to allow a visit by a high-level delegation from the International Atomic Energy Agency to discuss growing evidence that Tehran has been developing the technologies to build atomic weapons.

IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano's announcement of the request came as the U.S., Russia, China and other global powers agreed on the text of a new resolution to formally condemn Iran for its nuclear work in a vote on Friday.

The officials were meeting during the U.N. agency's quarterly Board of Governors' meeting in Vienna. The meeting follows the release by Mr. Amano last week of a detailed study of Iran's nuclear program that alleges Tehran has conducted extensive research in developing the technologies needed to make nuclear weapons, despite Iranian assertions that its program is peaceful in nature.

The report alleges that Iran has worked to develop nuclear-tipped midrange missiles and bomb-triggering systems and has conducted tests simulating the implosion of the core of a nuclear bomb.

Still, the new IAEA resolution contains no punitive measures against Tehran, and Iran won't be referred to the U.N. Security Council over the issue at this stage, according to a copy of the resolution viewed by The Wall Street Journal.

Such a referral could have led the Security Council to impose a fifth round of sanctions on Iran, but the measure was opposed by Russia and China, said diplomats involved in the deliberations.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Thursday he was cautioning Israel against taking military action against Iran, urging more time for diplomacy "at this point."

Speaking ahead of talks on Friday in Halifax with Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak, he warned that a strike could have potentially severe security and economic consequences across the region and globe.

"We share a common concern with regards to Iran and their effort to develop a nuclear capability," Mr. Panetta said.

Diplomats calling for tougher action said they fear Iran could emerge largely unscathed after the release of what was the strongest IAEA report yet on Iran's nuclear ambitions. Western diplomats said they would use the resolution to apply more pressure in the months ahead.

Senators in Washington on Thursday pressed for stronger U.S. measures to pressure Tehran. Republican Sen. Mark Kirk of Illinois filed an amendment calling for "crippling sanctions" on Iran's central bank in an effort to stop the flow of international payments—with a six-month exemption for oil transactions.

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The IAEA's resolution expresses "deep and increasing concern" about the state of Iran's nuclear program. It calls on Tehran to answer all the questions raised by Mr. Amano's report and return to direct negotiations with the U.S. and other world powers aimed at constraining Tehran's nuclear work.

The report doesn't lay out a specific time frame for Iran to respond. The IAEA's board of governors "expresses its continuing support for a diplomatic solution, and calls on Iran to engage seriously and without preconditions in talks aimed at restoring international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program," the resolution said.

Mr. Amano said he made his request to send a high-level delegation to Tehran in a letter sent to the president of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, Fereydoun Abbasi-Davani, on Nov. 2.

Mr. Amano said he hasn't received a response from Mr. Abbasi or other Iranian officials. An Iranian diplomat reached Thursday said Tehran hasn't yet provided a formal response.

Officials briefed on Mr. Amano's work said the IAEA delegation would seek access to key Iranian scientists and installations listed in the agency report.

The agency has for years sought to interview Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, described as the overall coordinator for Tehran's nuclear-weapons research. The IAEA would also seek to visit a military complex called Pachin, which is believed to house a containment vessel to conduct large explosive tests, according to these officials.

Iran, even though an IAEA member, isn't obligated to allow in a delegation. If it does, Tehran's agreement would likely be seen as an effort to lessen tensions with the agency.

The IAEA chief said he sees his delegation being led by the agency's chief nuclear inspector, Herman Nackearts of Belgium.

"I've had various discussions with Iran. But we have not yet reached the point of clarifying this issue" of alleged weapons work, Mr. Amano said at a news conference in Vienna on Thursday. "I made a concrete proposal to send a high-level mission to Iran...and I believe clarifying the outstanding issues is in the interest of Iran."

Tehran has attacked the IAEA report as politically motivated and based upon falsified information. Iran also has criticized the IAEA's top official of being too close to the U.S. and other Western powers.

Some diplomats warned that the release of the report could force Tehran to take a more confrontational stance toward the international community.

But Mr. Amano, a Japanese diplomat, said the ramifications of Tehran acquiring nuclear weapons are so severe that he had no choice but to notify the IAEA's member states.

"As the head of this organization, what else can I do? Can I sit on this information?" Mr. Amano told the news conference. "It's my duty to alert the world."

Negotiations over the future of Iran's program have been led by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—the U.S., Russia, China, France and the U.K.—plus Germany. The group most recently held direct talks with Tehran in January in Istanbul. But the talks collapsed after two days, with Iran demanding the international community lift all sanctions and recognize Tehran's right to produce nuclear fuel as a precondition for any future negotiations.

The U.N. bloc has been led by the European Union's foreign-policy chief, Catherine Ashton. On Thursday, she joined Mr. Amano in calling for Iran to answer the questions raised by the recent IAEA report and return to direct talks.

The six global powers offered Tehran "a series of ideas for ways in which Iran could move forward with all of us," Ms. Ashton told reporters in Moscow following a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. "We left those [ideas] on the table and we were open for their ideas to put on the table. And I'm still waiting."



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Adam Entous contributed to this article.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203611404577044140974665050.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203611404577044140974665050.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

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Atlanta Journal-Constitution

## West Says Iran Deceives World on Nukes

Friday, November 18, 2011

By GEORGE JAHN, Associated Press

VIENNA — The U.S. and its Western allies bluntly accused Iran on Friday of deceiving the world and declared it could no longer dismiss evidence it is working secretly on making nuclear arms.

Iran, in turn, charged the allegations were based on fabricated American, Israeli, British and French intelligence fed to the International Atomic Energy Agency to try and discredit the Islamic Republic.

The unusually tough exchanges were bound to raise international tensions over Iran's nuclear program — even though the Western statements emphasized that the preferred solution was through diplomacy.

Statements delivered to the IAEA's 35-nation board by the U.S., and on behalf of Germany, Britain and France, contained no mention of military action — an option that has not been discounted by either Israel or the U.S. if Tehran refuses to stop activities that can be used for nuclear weapons.

Still, they pulled no punches, drawing heavily on a recent IAEA report based on intelligence from more than 10 nations that concluded that some alleged clandestine activities by Iran could not be used for any other purpose than making nuclear arms.

"It is no longer within the bounds of credulity to claim that Iran's nuclear activities are solely peaceful," said Glyn Davies, the chief U.S. delegate to the IAEA, adding: "There is little doubt that Iran ... at the very least, wants to position itself for a nuclear weapons capability."

For the three European nations, German chief delegate Ruediger Luedeking said Iranian actions, ... "deepened disbelief in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program."

With the Nov. 8 report adding substantial weight to previous alleged evidence of Iranian nuclear weapons research and development, dismissing such suspicions "as false and fabricated — as Iran has done in the past — is neither plausible nor believable," Luedeking added.

Both he and Davies urged delegates to the closed meeting to back a proposed resolution based on the report urging Iran to end more than three years of stonewalling of IAEA attempts to probe the allegations, and to heed U.N. Security Council demands to stop other activities that could be used to make nuclear arms. Their comments were made available to reporters.

In opening words to the meeting, IAEA chief Yukiya Amano voiced similar concerns "regarding possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear program," saying such work may extend into the present. He added his agency finds the information leading to such suspicions to be generally credible.

"The information indicates that Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear explosive device," he said. "It also indicates that, prior to the end of 2003, these activities took place under a structured program, and that some activities may still be ongoing."

The resolution, to be taken up later Friday, is milder than the West had hoped for — but it has the support of Russia and China, which Iran traditionally counts on to counter Western pressure.

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A senior diplomat at the meeting told The Associated Press that Tehran was particularly unhappy with the success of the West's tactical move — watering down the language of the resolution in exchange for support from Moscow and Beijing.

Iran is under four sets of U.N. Security Council resolutions for refusing to freeze uranium enrichment — which can make both nuclear fuel and fissile weapons material — and tensions have been exacerbated by what the IAEA says is growing evidence of hidden nuclear weapons work.

It denies any interest in such weapons, says it is being targeted unfairly by the U.S. and its allies and that Amano is working for the Americans.

Chief Iranian delegate Ali Ashghar Soltanieh accused Amano of drawing up an "illegal, partial and unjustified and politicized report."

The report, he said, is based on "information provided by intelligence services of (the) U.S., U.K, France, (the) Israeli regime and some other western countries, which are false, baseless and fabricated."

He also accused Amano of security leaks that expose his country's scientists and their families to the threat of assassination by the U.S. and Israel.

Such leaks, said Soltanieh, have made Iranian scientists "the targets for assassination by ... (the) Israeli regime and United State(s) of America intelligence services." He said Amano is to blame for any threat "against the lives of my fellow citizens."

<http://www.ajc.com/news/nation-world/west-says-iran-deceives-1231624.html>

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Korea Times – South Korea

November 16, 2011

## **Concern Grows over New N. Korean Reactor**

By Kim Young-jin

Concern is growing over North Korea's construction of a new nuclear reactor after satellite imagery revealed rapid progress on the project that Pyongyang claims will soon be operational.

But an official here said the work underway to build the experimental light water reactor at the North's main Yongbyon nuclear complex didn't necessarily mean that Pyongyang had the capability to run it.

Recent commercial satellite photography analyzed by the North Korea-focused website 38 North shows significant progress on the site including the near-completion of a building to house the reactor as well as a system to cool the reactor and other support systems.

The images come amid heightened concern over the North's uranium-enrichment program (UEP) that it disclosed along with the beginnings of the light water reactor in November last year. Analysts say the UEP provides the North a second route to producing atomic weapons.

The rapid progression has raised eyebrows in Washington.

"Well, certainly we have concerns," Mark Toner, a spokesman for the U.S. State Department, said. "Any construction of a light water reactor would violate existing U.N. Security Council resolutions."

Toner called on the North to respect deals made under the six-party denuclearization framework under which Pyongyang is supposed to abandon its program in exchange for incentives.

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Light water reactors are generally used for civilian purposes. But analysts warn that completion of the project could allow Pyongyang to claim it is operating the UEP to fuel the reactor while secretly producing uranium for nuclear weapons.

Observers said the speed with which the North was working on the project showed its determination to push forward with its nuclear program despite international efforts to get the isolated state to ditch it in exchange for massive aid.

Last week, Pyongyang's state-run media said "the day is near at hand" when the country will start operating a light-water reactor based on indigenous technology.

But one Seoul official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Pyongyang had not proven it was capable of operating any light water reactor despite the progress.

"Constructing the structure of the light water reactor and (the North's) capability to make a nuclear reactor are two different matters," the official said. "While the outside construction has been progressing, the question remains as to whether they have ability to make a nuclear reactor or not."

Pyongyang has sought light water reactors since the mid 1980s. Under a 1994 deal with the United States, it was to have received two reactors in exchange for dismantling its plutonium-based program. But the deal fell through amid suspicions over the UEP.

The reactor under construction would be significantly smaller \_ with an output of 25 to 30 megawatts \_ than those planned under the deal with Washington. Analysts said given the complexity of the project, it would still take 2 to 3 years for the North to be able to run it.

The UEP has emerged as a key issue in discussions to resume the long-stalled six-party framework. Seoul and Washington want the North to halt the program and allow international inspectors to verify the move before resumption of talks. Pyongyang insists they restart without preconditions.

The Stalinist state is believed to have stockpiled enough plutonium from a gas graphite reactor at Yongbyon to build several atomic bombs. That reactor was shut down in 2007 under a six-party agreement.

Analysts remain skeptical over whether the North would ever give up its nuclear program even if negotiations resume, saying it would be difficult for the regime to relinquish the program that has become its greatest bargaining chip and claim to deterrence.

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2011/11/113\\_98893.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2011/11/113_98893.html)

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Miami Herald

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

## **Obama: US Will Act Vs NKorea Nuke Proliferation**

By The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia -- President Barack Obama said Thursday that the United States will act firmly against any nuclear proliferation activities by North Korea.

In a speech to the Australian Parliament, Obama said the transfer of nuclear material by North Korea to other nations would be "considered a grave threat to the United States and our allies."

The United States will "hold North Korea fully accountable for the consequences of such action," he told the parliament while outlining U.S. plans to stay invested across Asia and Australia, despite budget cuts back home.'



Obama's warning comes amid efforts to restart negotiations with North Korea on dismantling the nation's nuclear program.

North Korea has tested two nuclear devices since 2006, and is believed to be working toward mounting a bomb on a long-range missile designed to reach the U.S.

U.N. sanctions imposed on the country prohibit North Korea from engaging in nuclear and ballistic activity and from exporting atomic technology to other nations. In a report last year, U.N. experts outlined suspicions that Pyongyang was involved in banned atomic activities in Iran, Syria and Myanmar, including selling nuclear and missile technology.

Five countries, including the U.S., had been negotiating with North Korea to provide the nation with much-needed aid in exchange for disarmament. North Korea abandoned those talks in 2009 after the U.N. strengthened sanctions against Pyongyang, and later that year, Pyongyang announced it was also enriching uranium.

North Korea says its uranium enrichment program is meant to provide fuel for a light-water reactor that the country is building at its main Yongbyon nuclear complex. At low levels, uranium can be used in power reactors, but at higher levels it can be used to make nuclear weapons.

Concerns about North Korea's atomic capability took on renewed urgency in November 2010 when a visiting American scientist was shown a uranium enrichment facility.

Last week, North Korean state media said "the day is near at hand" when the reactor will come into operation.

Washington is concerned about reported progress on construction of a reactor, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Tuesday. He said construction of a light water reactor would violate U.N. Security Council resolutions.

North Korea has expressed its willingness to rejoin the nuclear talks. Senior diplomats from the United States, South Korea and Japan were to meet Thursday to discuss North Korea on the sidelines of a regional forum in Bali, South Korean officials said.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/11/16/2505720/obama-us-will-act-firmly-against.html>

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Space War.com

## **Greece Seizes N. Korea Chemical Weapons Suits: Diplomats**

By Staff Writers

United Nations, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

November 16, 2011

Greek authorities seized almost 14,000 anti-chemical weapons suits from a North Korean ship possibly headed for Syria but did not disclose the find for nearly two years, diplomats said Wednesday.

The seizure was reported to the UN Security Council, which discussed the monitoring of nuclear sanctions against the isolated North, diplomats said.

The Greek operation was carried out in November 2009 but only reported to the United Nations in September, a diplomat told AFP on condition of anonymity in confirming the number of suits to protect against chemical weapons involved.

"It seems the shipment was headed for Latakia in Syria," a second diplomat said, noting that the Greek report to the council did not mention Syria.



"There is increasing concern because more and more of the violations before several sanctions committees seem to involve Syria."

Syria has already been linked to breaches of an arms embargo against Iran.

Both diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity as the report by the chairman of the North Korea sanctions committee, Portugal's UN Ambassador Jose Filipe Moraes Cabral, was given behind closed doors.

The UN Security Council ordered tough sanctions against North Korea after it staged nuclear weapons tests in 2006 and 2009.

The North pulled out of nuclear talks with China, the United States, Japan, Russia and South Korea in 2009 and efforts to kick start negotiations are struggling, with the United States and its allies saying that North Korea is not serious about disarmament.

In a comment sent on an official Twitter account, a British diplomat said it was "clear that North Korea (is) still violating" Security Council resolutions.

"Strong concerns in council about the ongoing proliferation efforts," added a German diplomat. Neither mentioned the seizure of the anti-chemical weapons suits.

[http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Greece\\_seizes\\_N\\_Korea\\_chemical\\_weapons\\_suits\\_diplomats\\_999.html](http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Greece_seizes_N_Korea_chemical_weapons_suits_diplomats_999.html)

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Boston Globe

## **China Vows Closer Military Ties with North Korea**

By Associated Press

November 18, 2011

BEIJING — China said Friday it would strengthen military ties with ally North Korea, amid continuing tensions between Pyongyang and Seoul and stalled efforts to restart nuclear disarmament talks.

The vow follows a three-day visit to the North by the Chinese military's top political commissar, Li Jinai, during which he told North Korean leader Kim Jong Il that China's army wanted to enhance understanding and mutual trust and strengthen practical exchanges with the North Korean military.

"This would promote the all-around development of China-DPRK relations, which are neighborly and friendly," China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. DPRK stands for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the official name of North Korea's isolated hardline regime.

No details were given on what practical steps the sides intend to take, and the vow appeared to be more of a political symbol of continuing Chinese support for the regime than a blueprint for real cooperation.

Although Li's trip was likely planned in advance, recent remarks by President Barack Obama asserting the U.S. military's continuing presence in Asia have riled Beijing. Chinese government-backed scholars and state media say they see the strengthening of America's alliance's with the Philippines, Australia and others as a new form of encirclement aimed at blocking China's rising predominance in the region.

Chinese troops fought with the North against U.S. and South Korean forces during the 1950-53 Korean War, and the nations still have a mutual protection pact. China remains Pyongyang's most important diplomatic ally and is a key source of food and fuel.

Beijing refused to condemn the North after South Korea accused it of two deadly attacks last year. Tensions have slackened somewhat, but talks on ending its nuclear programs remain stalled.



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[http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2011/11/18/china\\_vows\\_closer\\_military\\_ties\\_with\\_north\\_korea/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2011/11/18/china_vows_closer_military_ties_with_north_korea/)

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Yonhap News – South Korea

November 18, 2011

## **S. Korea, IAEA Agree to Step Up Cooperation over N.K. Nuclear Program**

By Lee Haye-ah

SEOUL, Nov. 18 (Yonhap) -- South Korea and the United Nations' atomic watchdog have agreed to work together more closely to end North Korea's nuclear weapons development, a senior Seoul official said Friday.

The agreement was reached between South Korea's chief nuclear envoy, Lim Sung-nam, and top officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna earlier this week, the official said.

The communist country is under increasing pressure to dismantle its nuclear weapons programs, including a uranium enrichment plant it revealed last year. Since July, Seoul and Washington have each held two rounds of high-level talks with Pyongyang to set the stage for a possible resumption of broader multilateral negotiations on ending the North's nuclear programs.

During a three-day trip to the Austrian capital that ended Tuesday, Lim met with IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano and other senior officials of the Vienna-based body, said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"From the past, from when the six-party talks were under way, the IAEA has played an important role in freezing and disabling North Korea's nuclear programs," the official told reporters. "Therefore, there was agreement that our two sides should strengthen cooperation in the future as well."

The six-party talks aimed at North Korea's denuclearization have been stalled since Pyongyang quit the process in April 2009 in the wake of U.N. Security Council sanctions for a missile test. North Korea also expelled IAEA monitors from its nuclear facilities around that time.

The communist regime has recently called for an unconditional reopening of the forum, which offers it economic and political aid in exchange for its denuclearization. Seoul and Washington demand Pyongyang take a series of pre-steps to demonstrate its sincerity, including a halt to its uranium enrichment program and a return of IAEA inspectors to monitor the suspension.

The six-party talks also involve Japan, China and Russia.

"There was also discussion about the IAEA's role in the event of a resumption of the six-party talks," the official said, without giving further details.

In Vienna, Lim also met with Glyn Davies, the new U.S. special representative for North Korea policy, and they discussed their countries' joint approach to the nuclear-armed state, officials here said. It was Lim's first meeting with Davies, who is preparing to step down from his current job as Washington's ambassador to the IAEA.

On his way home, the South Korean envoy on Thursday held trilateral talks with Japanese and U.S. officials on the sidelines of an East Asian summit meeting in Bali, Indonesia.

The talks, led by Lim, his Japanese counterpart Shinsuke Sugiyama and Kurt Campbell, assistant U.S. secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, served to reaffirm the three countries' common stance on Pyongyang, the senior official said.

**Issue No. 958, 18 November 2011**

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"There was agreement that the ball is in North Korea's court and that the North must show its sincerity through concrete actions," he said. "Only then can the six-party talks reopen."

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2011/11/18/96/0301000000AEN20111118009200315F.HTML>

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China Daily – China

## **ASEAN FMs Agree on Nuclear-Free Zone**

November 16, 2011

(Xinhua)

BALI, Indonesia, November 16 (Xinhua) -- The ASEAN Foreign Ministers agreed on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Proposal, according to a statement issued by the Indonesian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday.

The Five Parties Delegation (P5) from nuclear weapon states, namely the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia and China, also agreed to establish the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, said the statement.

"There has been an agreement. No further negotiations," said Djauhari Oratmangun, Director General for ASEAN Cooperation of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is also the Chairperson of the ASEAN Senior Officials Forum.

"The approval marks a significant development, as it could be the start towards the signing of the SEANWFZ Treaty by the nuclear weapon states," he added.

Febrian Alphyanto Ruddyard, Director for International Security and Disarmament of Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, explained that the agreement must be followed up with various discussions among stakeholders, either within ASEAN or with the nuclear weapon states.

The agreement is non-binding until the leaders of the nuclear nations sign the agreement. "It cannot be deemed settled until all the matters are agreed upon by the nuclear weapon states and all ASEAN members," he said.

However, he affirmed that the consensus among the delegates was a good start to guaranteeing ASEAN security from the harms of nuclear weapons. "An important element is the nuclear weapon states' commitment not to employ their nuclear weapons to threat and attack ASEAN countries," he added.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM) was held Tuesday in Bali, Indonesia as part of ASEAN Summit and related Summits to be held on November 17-19.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/xinhua/2011-11-16/content\\_4383943.html](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/xinhua/2011-11-16/content_4383943.html)

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The Nation – Pakistan

## **Woman Pleads Guilty in US on Reactor Scam**

November 17, 2011

WASHINGTON (Agencies) - The former boss of a US company's Chinese subsidiary Tuesday pleaded guilty to illegally supplying material to Pakistan for use in a nuclear reactor and is now cooperating with US investigators.

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US prosecutors said that Xun Wang, a Chinese citizen and lawful US permanent resident, faces up to five years in jail and a fine of \$250,000 for conspiring to violate US law by sending the high-quality paint coatings to Pakistan via China after being refused a US export license. Her plea before US District Judge Emmet Sullivan allows her to escape more serious charges she was facing that could have carried up to 65 years in prison.

No sentencing date was set.

“At the end of last year, the Chinese subsidiary of a US company pleaded guilty to illegally exporting high-performance coatings for use in a Pakistani nuclear reactor,” said US Attorney Ronald Machen in Washington.

“Today we are pleased to see the former managing director of that subsidiary accept responsibility for her role in the crime.

“We also welcome the defendant’s decision to cooperate with the government in our ongoing investigation of this blatant violation of US export laws.”

Wang, 51, the ex-managing director of PPG Paints Trading (Shanghai) Co Ltd, pleaded guilty to conspiring to export and ship high-performance epoxy coatings to the Chashma 2 Nuclear Power Plant in Pakistan (Chashma II) through a third-party distributor in China without the required license from the US Commerce Department.

Some US experts say there is evidence Pakistan is building a plant near Chashma II to turn spent fuel from the reactor into weapons grade plutonium for the country’s expanding nuclear arsenal.

The facility is run by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), the science and technology organisation responsible for Pakistan’s nuclear programme, including the development and operation of atomic power plants.

In November 1998, following Pakistan’s first successful detonation of a nuclear device, the US Commerce Department added the PAEC to the list of banned end-users of such goods under American export regulations. Wang has already paid a separate \$200,000 penalty in connection with her case.

According to her plea documents, in January 2006, PPG Industries sought an export license for the shipments of coatings to Chashma II.

In June 2006, the US Department of Commerce denied the application. But Wang and her co-conspirators then agreed upon an illegal scheme to export and ship PPG Industries’ high-performance epoxy coatings from the United States to Chashma II, via a third-party distributor in China.

Wang, who hails from Hillsborough, Calif., was arrested at Atlanta’s Hartsfield-Jackson airport this summer as she and her family were headed to Italy to celebrate her oldest daughter’s graduation from prep school before starting Princeton.

Her lawyers initially argued that charges against her were “technical,” that she was at worst peripherally involved in the scheme and that the case involved paint, not any threat to American security or nuclear proliferation.

Wang, who has a doctorate in physics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and her husband ran their own paint import-export business. The couple, who have two daughters, sold it to PPG Industries in 2006 for more than \$17 million, and the US company hired her to run its wholly-owned Chinese subsidiary.

A short time later, prosecutors say, the US government rejected an application from PPG for a license to sell paint to an unnamed government-owned Chinese company, for use on the steel lining of the containment area of Chashma II. So PPG officials said the coatings were to be used at a nuclear power plant in China, where exports don’t require a license from the Commerce Department.

<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/National/17-Nov-2011/Woman-pleads-guilty-in-US-on-reactor-scam>

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Hindustan Times – India

## **Real Threat Assessment of Pak Nukes Not Yet Made: US Expert**

Press Trust Of India (PTI)

Washington, November 17, 2011

Pakistan's nuclear assets may appear tempting targets for terrorists, but a noted American expert says the real threat assessment of this is yet to be made. In an article published in the latest issue of Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Charles P Blair, Deputy Director of the Centre for Terrorism and Intelligence Studies, maintains that the real threat assessment is yet to be made --one that goes beyond merely considering assumed terrorist capability and putative vulnerabilities.

"Pakistan's nuclear assets may be tempting targets for terrorists. Experts are split, however, on the actual threat posed. Some assert that Pakistan's nuclear assets are on the verge of seizure by terrorists, while others contend that the risk is minimal at best," Blair wrote in his paper.

"Because neither side develops robust or holistic threat assessments, however, American decision makers, who wisely include open sources when evaluating possible threats emanating from Pakistan's nuclear infrastructure, are not adequately informed," Blair concluded.

In his article Blair notes that Pakistan has long been considered a potential source of nuclear weapons for terrorists, even before it had a full-fledged nuclear programme and decades before it demonstrated a yield-bearing nuclear explosive capability.

"Two groups of experts stand on opposite ends of the risk spectrum -- these "optimists" and "pessimists" consider valid variables but fail to evaluate all the critical factors necessary for a methodologically robust and defensible threat assessment of Pakistan's nuclear assets, he wrote.

According to Blair, pessimists contend the risk has grown and "the safety and security of nuclear weapons materials in Pakistan may very well be compromised at some point in the future."

Indeed, for almost a decade there have been calls for US contingency plans to destroy, temporarily secure in place, or "exfiltrate" Pakistani nuclear assets -- its nuclear weapons and fissile materials -- in the event of widespread civil unrest or a governmental coup empowering Islamist forces, he said.

"In contrast, optimists maintain Pakistan's nuclear weapons infrastructure is secure and the threat posed by terrorists is overblown. Optimists say perceptions of vulnerability do not adequately consider the implementation of various technical precautions and advances in Pakistan's personnel reliability programme," Blair noted.

"Based on unclassified information, neither the optimists' nor the pessimists' positions are defensible -- in fact, both positions only review assumed terrorist capabilities and putative vulnerabilities of Pakistan's nuclear assets," Blair said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/Americas/Real-threat-assessment-of-Pak-nukes-not-yet-made-US-expert/Article1-770419.aspx>

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Times of India – India

## **Eyeing China, India to Enter ICBM Club in 3 Months**

Rajat Pandit, Tamil News Network (TNN)

November 17, 2011

**Issue No. 958, 18 November 2011**

*United States Air Force Counterproliferation Research & Education | Maxwell AFB, Montgomery AL  
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NEW DELHI: The countdown has begun. Within three months, India will gatecrash the super-exclusive ICBM (inter-continental ballistic missile) club, largely the preserve of countries like the US, Russia and China that brandish long-range strategic missiles with strike ranges well beyond 5,500 km.

However, it will become a full-fledged member of the club only when its most ambitious nuclear-capable Agni-V ballistic missile, which will be able to target even northern China if required, becomes fully operational in 2014.

Gung-ho a day after the successful test of the new-generation 3,500-km Agni-IV missile, senior defence scientists on Wednesday declared that Agni-V, with a strike range of over 5,000-km, would be test-fired within the December-February time-frame.

"The three-stage Agni-V is undergoing integration at the moment...it's on schedule," DRDO chief V K Saraswat said, adding that both Agni-IV and V were comparable to the best missiles in their class, including Chinese ones, as far as the technology was concerned. Agni programme director Avinash Chander said his team was "confident" of offering the 17.5-metre-tall Agni-V for induction to the armed forces by 2014. The much-lighter two-stage Agni-IV will be operational by 2013 after two to four more "repeatable" tests.

"Our aim is to take just two to three years from the first test to the induction phase," he said.

Once deployed, the 20-tonne Agni-IV and 50-tonne Agni-V will add the much-needed muscle to India's nuclear deterrence posture against China, which has a huge nuclear and missile arsenal like the 11,200-km Dong Feng-31A ICBM which is capable of hitting any Indian city. With higher accuracy, fast-reaction capability and road mobility, unlike the earlier largely rail-mobile Agni missiles, Agni-IV and V will give India the required operational flexibility against China since they will be capable of being stored and swiftly transported. If launched from the north-east, for instance, they will be able to hit high-value targets deep inside China.

India, however, is not in an arms race or "numbers game" like the US-Soviet rivalry of the Cold War era. "We are not looking at how many missiles China or Pakistan has. With a 'no first-use' nuclear weapons policy, we only want a sufficient number of missiles to defend the country in the event of a crisis. Ours is a defensive-mode strategy, even if others have offensive postures," Saraswat said. The DRDO chief added that "indigenous content" in India's strategic missiles had gone up to such a level, with ring-laser gyros, composite rocket motors, micro-navigation systems and their ilk, that "no technology control regime" could derail them any longer.

Then why not go for missiles that can fly around 10,000 km? DRDO claims that it has the capability to develop such missiles but the government does not want alarm bells to clang around the globe. India, after all, is interested only in "credible minimum deterrence" against the threats it faces. Saraswat said the current focus was on fine-tuning the Agni missiles to defeat anti-ballistic missile systems of potential adversaries. Towards this end, added Chander, the radar and other "signatures" of Agni-IV have been significantly reduced to make them "much more immune to counter-measures".

What will make the Agni missiles even more deadly is the development of MIRV (multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles) warheads on which the DRDO is working. An MIRV payload on a missile carries several nuclear warheads, which can be programmed to hit different targets. A flurry of such missiles can completely overwhelm BMD (ballistic missile defence) systems.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Eyeing-China-India-to-enter-ICBM-club-in-3-months/articleshow/10761860.cms>

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The Nation – Pakistan  
Friday, November 18, 2011



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## Secret Pakistan-US Memo: President Promised to Create a "New Security Team" Favorable to Americans

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari was so scared of a military coup after Osama bin Laden's death that he was ready to create a "new security team" favorable to Americans and promised the US to hand over top al Qaeda and Taliban officials residing in Pakistan.

The promises were part of a secret memo to the then Chairman of the Joint US Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, according to The Foreign Policy's blog Cable.

The content and a copy of the said secret memo was posted by The Foreign Policy's blog Cable late last night.

According to The Cable the memo offered to reshape Pakistan's national security leadership, cleaning house of elements within the powerful military and intelligence agencies that have supported Islamic radicals and the Taliban, drastically altering Pakistani foreign policy -- and requesting U.S. help to avoid a military coup.

The secret memo from Zardari, was apparently handed over to Mullen by Mansoor Ijaz, a Pakistani-American businessman, in May this year in the aftermath of the May 2 killing of bin Laden in a safe house in Abbottabad.

The information about this secret memo was first leaked by Ijaz himself in an op-ed in the Financial Times last month.

According to this memo, Zardari, leading a civilian government wanted to create a new national security structure that would be favorable to the Americans.

In the Memo President Zardari also promised the US to hand over top al Qaeda and Taliban officials residing in Pakistan, including Ayman Al Zawahiri, Mullah Omar, and Sirajuddin Haqqani, or give U.S. military forces a "green light" to conduct the necessary operations to capture or kill them on Pakistani soil, with the support of Islamabad. "This commitment has the backing of the top echelon on the civilian side of our house," the memo states

"Civilians cannot withstand much more of the hard pressure being delivered from the Army to succumb to wholesale changes," reads the memo, sent to Mullen via an unidentified U.S. interlocutor by Ijaz. "If civilians are forced from power, Pakistan becomes a sanctuary for UBL's [Osama bin Laden's] legacy and potentially the platform for far more rapid spread of al Qaeda's brand of fanaticism and terror. A unique window of opportunity exists for the civilians to gain the upper hand over army and intelligence directorates due to their complicity in the UBL matter."

The memo -- delivered just 9 days after the killing of bin Laden -- requests Mullen's help "in conveying a strong, urgent and direct message to [Pakistani Army Chief of Staff] Gen [Ashfaq Parvez] Kayani that delivers Washington's demand for him and [Inter-Services Intelligence chief] Gen [Ahmad Shuja] Pasha to end their brinkmanship aimed at bringing down the civilian apparatus."

"Should you be willing to do so, Washington's political/military backing would result in a revamp of the civilian government that, while weak at the top echelon in terms of strategic direction and implementation (even though mandated by domestic political forces), in a wholesale manner replaces the national security adviser and other national security officials with trusted advisers that include ex-military and civilian leaders favorably viewed by Washington, each of whom have long and historical ties to the US military, political and intelligence communities," the memo states.

The memo offers a six-point plan for how Pakistan's national security leadership would be altered in favor of U.S. interests. President Asif Ali Zardari would start a formal "independent" inquiry to investigate the harboring of bin Laden and take suggestions from Washington on who would conduct that inquiry. The memo promised this inquiry would identify and punish the Pakistani officials responsible for harboring bin Laden.



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The memo also promises a new Pakistani national security leadership that would bring transparency and "discipline" to Pakistan's nuclear program, cut ties with Section S of the ISI, which is "charged with maintaining relations to the Taliban, Haqqani network" and other rogue elements, and work with the Indian government to punish the perpetrators of the 2008 terrorist attack in Mumbai.

<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/18-Nov-2011/Secret-PakistanUS-memo-President-promised-to-create-a-new-security-team-favorable-to-Americans>

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RIA Novosti – Russian Information Agency

## **Russia to Conduct Test Launch of Bulava Missile in November**

16 November 2011

Russia will carry out the last test of the Bulava ballistic missile this year by the end of November, a defense industry source said on Wednesday.

"It will be a salvo launch from the Yury Dolgoruky strategic submarine, and it will involve at least two missiles," the source said.

The planned test is the fourth this year and the 18th overall. Despite several previous failures, officially blamed on manufacturing faults, the Russian military has insisted that the Bulava will be the main armament of the next generation of strategic submarines.

The Bulava (SS-NX-30) submarine-launched ballistic missile carries up to 10 MIRV warheads and has a range of over 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles). The three-stage missile is designed for deployment on Borey-class nuclear submarines.

Russia's first Borey class submarine, Yury Dolgoruky, which has recently completed sea trials in the White Sea, is expected to enter service with the Russian Navy in the near future, pending the outcome of the Bulava testing.

Meanwhile, a Russian Navy source told RIA Novosti on Wednesday that the second Borey class submarine, the Alexander Nevsky, will start its second stage of sea trials in the next three days if weather permits.

"The submarine is ready for sea trials to test its performance and communications," the source said.

The \$750-million vessel is expected to complete all trials and enter service with the Russian Navy in 2012.

Two other Borey class nuclear submarines, the Vladimir Monomakh and the Svyatitel Nikolai (St. Nicholas) are in different stages of completion. Russia is planning to build eight of these subs by 2015.

SEVERODVINSK, November 16 (RIA Novosti)

[http://en.ria.ru/military\\_news/20111116/168743359.html](http://en.ria.ru/military_news/20111116/168743359.html)

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Russia Today (RT) – Russia

## **Border Alert: Nuke War Risk Rising, Russia Warns**

17 November 2011

By Robert Bridge, RT

The danger of local armed conflicts along Russia's borders exploding into full-scale nuclear war has grown following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia's chief of staff said on Thursday.

**Issue No. 958, 18 November 2011**

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General Nikolai Makarov told the Russian Public Chamber there is a dangerous level of mistrust with former Soviet states that border the country.

*"The possibility of local armed conflicts virtually along the entire perimeter of the border has grown dramatically," Makarov said. "I cannot rule out that, in certain circumstances, local and regional armed conflicts could grow into a large-scale war, possibly even with nuclear weapons."*

Makarov mentioned NATO's steady encroachment toward Russia's borders as one of the key reasons for the heightened level of mistrust in the region since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

*"Almost all countries formerly belonging to the Warsaw Pact have become NATO members, and the Baltic States that were earlier a part of the USSR have also joined the alliance,"* Russia's top military official said.

Moscow has often criticized the western military bloc for going back on its word not to expand following the collapse of the USSR.

*"At time of the withdrawal from Eastern Europe, the NATO Secretary General promised the USSR it could be confident that NATO would not expand beyond its current boundaries,"* Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said in a past comment. *"So where is it now?" I asked them [the NATO officials]. They have nothing to say. They deceived us in the rudest way."*

Meanwhile, the comments by Chief of Staff Makarov did contain a silver lining in the nuclear cloud.

Speaking on the prospects of the New START treaty, signed by President Dmitry Medvedev and his US counterpart Barack Obama, Makarov was optimistic.

*"The previous START treaty was flawed, but there were attempts to extend it,"* he said. *"The new START is the first treaty that satisfies us."*

On the US missile defense system planned for Eastern Europe, the Russian general said the new START gives Moscow the flexibility its new defense measures require.

*"This treaty gives us the ability to secede in certain cases,"* he said, specifically mentioning the *"European missile defense problem"* as a national security threat that could force Moscow to breach the treaty.

<http://rt.com/politics/makarov-nuclear-russia-nato-575/>

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Press Release of Senator Lugar

## **Nunn-Lugar Destroys Nuclear Warheads, Deadly Chemical Weapons**

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar announced the following progress in the Nunn-Lugar Global Cooperative Threat Reduction Program during September 2011.

- 1 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) destroyed,
- 4 submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) eliminated,
- 6 nuclear weapons train transport shipments secured, and
- 121.1 metric tons of chemical weapons nerve agent destroyed.

On Veteran's Day, Lugar delivered a speech at Indiana University in which he called for increased efforts to stop threats of weapons of mass destruction before they reach our shores. He heralded the future of Nunn-Lugar Global "to protect Americans at home and our service personnel overseas."

"Achieving this mission requires constant vigilance. I will continue my efforts to bolster Nunn-Lugar activities that eliminate threats to U.S. security before they reach our shores," Lugar said.



The Nunn-Lugar scorecard now totals 7,601 strategic nuclear warheads deactivated, 792 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) destroyed, 498 ICBM silos eliminated, 182 ICBM mobile launchers destroyed, 155 bombers eliminated, 906 nuclear air-to-surface missiles (ASMs) destroyed, 492 SLBM launchers eliminated, 674 submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) eliminated, 33 nuclear submarines capable of launching ballistic missiles destroyed, 194 nuclear test tunnels eliminated, 194 nuclear test tunnels/holes sealed, destroyed 2381.822 metric tons of Russian and Albanian chemical weapons agent, 547 nuclear weapons transport train shipments secured, upgraded security at 24 nuclear weapons storage sites, built and equipped 34 biological threat monitoring stations.

Perhaps most importantly, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus are nuclear weapons free as a result of cooperative efforts under the Nunn-Lugar program. Those countries were the third, fourth and eighth largest nuclear weapons powers in the world.

Lugar makes annual oversight missions to Nunn-Lugar Global sites around the world. During his most recent mission, Lugar led a mission to East Africa to expand efforts to secure deadly biological threats.

<http://lugar.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=334773&&>

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The Hindu – India

Washington, November 17, 2011

## Could the U.S. Become a Proliferator?

*An independent U.S. government watchdog has urged the Department of Energy to increase its efforts to make nuclear fuel cycle outputs less attractive to potential terrorists*

By Narayan Lakshman

Even as the United States continues to chide other nations on the risks of nuclear proliferation it suffered an embarrassment this week when an independent government watchdog said that the U.S. “faces challenges” in terms of its efforts to minimise proliferation and terrorism risks associated with nuclear power.

In a stinging report, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) said that despite numerous initiatives by the Office of Nuclear Energy (ONE) to make nuclear fuel cycle outputs less attractive to potential terrorists, “concerns remain about the radioactive spent fuel that nuclear reactors generate.” The watchdog agency suggested that reliable and cost-effective fuel cycles, some of which reprocess spent fuel and recycle some nuclear material such as plutonium, were required.

Stopping short of praising the United Kingdom and France for their decades of experiences in developing and operating reprocessing and recycling infrastructures, the GAO exhorted the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to deepen its cooperation with such nations.

The agency further picked apart weaknesses in terms of the ONE’s attempts to collaborate with the domestic nuclear industry and with the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), another DOE entity.

The watchdog said that while the DOE’s research and development plans did not include a strategy for long-term collaboration with domestic nuclear industry – the ultimate user of any fuel cycle and technologies that are developed – without which the DOE “cannot be assured that the nuclear industry will accept and use the fuel cycles and technologies that the department may develop.”

In its critique, the GAO further noted that the ONE and NNSA do not have a formal mechanism to collaborate on future efforts to avoid duplication and overlap. To avoid such duplication, the GAO said, it recommended to the DOE that its two agencies complete a memorandum of understanding.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article2635185.ece>



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Omaha World-Herald

Thursday, November 17, 2011

## **StratCom Chief Mulls Nuclear Cuts**

By Matthew Hansen, World-Herald Staff Writer

The commander of the U.S. Strategic Command and other military leaders are examining the nuclear arsenal that StratCom oversees, searching for cost savings to comply with a planned \$450 billion military budget cut, StratCom's commanding officer said Wednesday in Omaha.

That examination of the nuclear triad, which Gen. Robert Kehler described as part of a StratCom-wide effort to "be more efficient," could get far more difficult if a congressional supercommittee fails to reach a deficit deal next week.

That failure could trigger another \$600 billion in automatic defense cuts over the next decade, a far deeper cut that could force the U.S. military to consider removing one leg of its three-legged nuclear stool, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta told Congress this week.

The United States' nuclear triad currently encompasses submarines, aircraft and land-based locations — all capable of launching nuclear weapons.

As it stands right now, military leaders are simply looking for ways, within the recently signed New START treaty with Russia, to find "some different force mixtures that might be more financially efficient," Kehler said Wednesday during a military symposium at Omaha's CenturyLink Center.

He emphasized that the budget discussions are preliminary, and he wouldn't detail any specific changes beyond the acknowledgment that the nuclear mission is being discussed as part of the already-agreed-upon \$450 billion in military downsizing over the next decade.

Panetta is far more blunt about what could happen if supercommittee inaction triggers the additional \$600 billion in defense cuts.

In a letter he sent this week to Sen. John McCain and Lindsey Graham, the defense secretary listed the elimination of land-based ICBMs — intercontinental ballistic missiles that can fire nuclear warheads large distances — as a potential item on the chopping block, should the additional military cuts be triggered.

Elimination of the land-based missiles would leave the United States with nuclear weapons that could be fired from aircraft or submarines.

Panetta also outlined other potential cuts, including the termination of the Joint Strike Fighter program, which would eventually leave the Air Force with fewer fighter planes than at any other point in its history, he said.

Efforts to modernize Army helicopters and replace the military's aging ballistic missile submarines could also be ended by the automatic cuts, he wrote the senators.

"The impacts of these cuts would be devastating for the Department," Panetta wrote to the senators, who had requested specifics. McCain and Graham plan to introduce a bill that would remove the trigger mechanism of \$600 billion in defense cuts even if the supercommittee doesn't reach a deficit deal.

Some military budget experts view Panetta's letter as farfetched, describing it as an attempt to frighten politicians and the public.

Lawrence Korb, a former assistant secretary of defense under President Reagan and now a senior fellow at the left-leaning Center for American Progress, says the military could handle the deep budget cuts because current military spending, even when adjusted for inflation, is at its highest level since World War II.

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A 15 percent cut to the military would mean the Department of Defense would be able to spend as much as it did in 2007, Korb said, which he views as acceptable.

"Reducing defense spending will help bring the growing national debt — which the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, called the greatest threat to national security — under control and free up funds to fix the United States' crumbling infrastructure and deteriorating educational system, the foundation of the economic component of national security," Korb said.

Providing a worst-case scenario in the face of possible budget cuts is a common defensive tactic in government.

The funding for the war in Afghanistan is separate from the defense funding debate, although Panetta contends that slicing defense funding would make it harder to build military bases and get supplies in the war zone.

Kehler referred to the defense secretary's letter when asked Wednesday about the danger of the defense cuts that supercommittee inaction could trigger.

He declined to answer a question about whether those potential cuts would reduce the strategic goals and scope of the U.S. military.

"It remains to be seen," he said. "I don't want to get out in front of the secretary on this."

In recent testimony to the House of Representatives, Kehler acknowledged the tension between budgetary pressures and keeping the country's nuclear weapons safe and modern.

"Our challenge is great, and the choices we make today will affect our long-term confidence in the nuclear deterrent force," he said.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20111117/NEWS01/711179868/-1>

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Wired News

## **2,400 Miles in Minutes? No Sweat! Hypersonic Weapon Passes 'Easy' Test**

By Noah Shachtman

November 17, 2011

For a test of a hypersonic weapon flying at eight times the speed of sound and nailing a target thousands of miles away, this was a relatively simple demonstration. But it worked, and now the military is a small step closer to its dream of hitting a target anywhere on earth in less than an hour.

The last time the Pentagon test-fired a hypersonic missile, back in August, it live-tweeted the event — until the thing crashed into the Pacific Ocean. This time around, it kept the test relatively quiet. The results were much better.

To be fair, this was also an easier test to pass. Darpa's Falcon Hypersonic Technology Vehicle 2 — the one that splashed unsuccessfully in the Pacific — was supposed to fly 4,100 miles. The Army's Advanced Hypersonic Weapon went about 60 percent as far, 2,400 miles from Hawaii to its target by the Kwajalein Atoll in the south Pacific. Darpa's hypersonic glider had a radical, wedge-like shape: a Mach 20 slice of deep dish pizza, basically. The Army's vehicle relies on a decades-old, conventionally conical design. It's designed to fly 6,100 miles per hour, or a mere eight times the speed of sound.

But even though the test might have been relatively easy, the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon effort could wind up playing a key role in the military's so-called "Prompt Global Strike" effort to almost instantly whack targets half a





world away. A glider like it would be strapped to a missile, and sent hurtling at rogue state's nuclear silo or a terrorist's biological weapon cache before it's too late.

At first, the Prompt Global Strike involved retrofitting nuclear missiles with conventional warheads; the problem was, the new weapon could've easily been mistaken for a doomsday one. Which meant a Prompt Global Strike could've invited a nuclear retaliation. No wonder Congress refused to pay for the project.

So instead, the Pentagon focused on developing superfast weapons that would mostly scream through the air, instead of drop from space like a nuclear warhead. Those hypersonic gliders may cut down on the geopolitical difficulties, but introduced all sorts of technical ones. We don't know much about the fluid dynamics involved when something shoots through the atmosphere at hypersonic speeds. And there really aren't any wind tunnels capable of replicating those often-strange interactions.

"You have to go fly," says retired Gen. James "Hoss" Cartwright, who helped lead the Prompt Global Strike push as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as head of U.S. Strategic Command. "You have to open up the envelope of knowledge."

Darpa and the Air Force worked on understanding the aerodynamics of hypersonic flight — that's one of the reasons behind the ill-fated Falcon Hypersonic Technology Vehicle tests. Meanwhile, the Army concentrated on controlling the hypersonic glider, and on thermal management. Moving through the air a Mach 8 generates a huge amount of heat. The military was keen to see if the carbon composite coating on the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon could take it. The last thing the Pentagon wants is for its Prompt Global Strike weapon to burn up before hitting its target.

Judging from yesterday's test, it looks like the carbon composite held up. And so the plan to take out enemies from continents away just got a little easier to pull off.

<http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/11/2400-miles-in-minutes-hypersonic-weapon-passes-easy-test/>

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FoxNews.com

## **Ranks of Somali Terror Group Swelling With Foreign Fighters, Including Americans, Official Says**

By Catherine Herridge  
November 17, 2011

About 750 to 1,000 foreign fighters, including American citizens, are now swelling the ranks of Al Qaeda's affiliate in Somalia, a senior Kenyan military official tells Fox News.

The group, known as Al-Shabaab, has taken advantage of the Arab Spring to further cement its relationship with the Al Qaeda affiliate in Yemen, the Kenyan military official added.

Amplifying the point, Macharia Kamau, Kenya's ambassador and permanent representative to the Kenya Mission at the United Nations, said that the two Al Qaeda affiliates appear to be on the verge of a fully integrated operation.

"We have the bodies to prove it in Mogadishu (the Somali Capital)," Kamau told Fox News, referring to the suicide car bombings. "Unquestionably, the training capabilities are international and the funding behind these training capabilities are international."

Fox News has learned that in addition to training recruits in Somalia, Al Qaeda in Yemen, which is behind the last two major plots against the U.S. involving aircraft, has begun sharing bomb-making techniques with Al-Shabaab.



This is significant because the Yemeni Al Qaeda affiliate's Saudi bomb maker, Ibrahim al-Asiri, is considered a top target by U.S. intelligence because he has developed explosives that defy traditional airline security screening. Al-Asiri was behind the underwear bomb in 2009 and the cargo printer bombs last fall that were designed to bring down cargo planes over the eastern seaboard of the U.S.

Kamau said there was no convincing evidence that efforts to deter U.S. citizens from joining Al Shabaab have been successful. At least two dozen Americans, mostly of Somali descent, have joined Al-Shabaab since 2007. An Alabama native, Omar Hammami, who is under indictment in the U.S. for allegedly supporting Al Qaeda, is the public face of Al-Shabaab for the West through online videos and lectures.

Kenyan officials say the presence of Americans on the ground in Somalia is making conditions worse. There are now at least three documented cases of American suicide bombers in Somalia, and a fourth case is suspected. A month ago, Kenya began an aggressive military push into Somalia to contain Al-Shabaab.

"American citizens makes the situation even more complex because you are bringing a level of competence and training that normally is not found in some of these small communities in some of these failed states," Kamau said.

As for the number of foreign jihadists and the threat they present, Kamau added, "It has definitely not reduced ... the actual suicide bombers are sometimes from America or from Sweden ... where they have some of these tentacles linking back to it."

Kenya officials say that almost a third of the council that runs Al-Shabaab is "tied up with Al Qaeda elements," adding that "the leadership, the strategic thinking ... and the funding is tied up in the same Al Qaeda elements that are spread in many other parts of the world," including Yemen and potentially as far afield as Afghanistan.

A strategic priority is the Somali port city of Kismayo, which is seen as the main supply route for Al-Shabaab and other extremists elements in the Horn of Africa. The Kenyan ambassador said his country wants to see a naval blockade which will require international help. And while grateful for American support, given the current economic climate, Kamau said other nations whose strategic national security interests are at stake in the Horn of Africa should also bear the responsibility.

Asked if Somalia is on the verge of becoming an Al Qaeda safe haven from which it will try to launch global operations, the ambassador said, "Without a doubt. Absolutely. The evidence of that is clear. I'm sure your own intelligence agencies (U.S. intelligence services) here are aware of it. We (the Kenyans) are aware of it. ... The countries that surround Somalia are aware of it. We are all trying to respond appropriately."

While U.S. officials put the number of foreign fighters in Somalia at about 500 and slightly more in Yemen, they do not dispute that both affiliates are on the upswing when compared to Al Qaeda core in Pakistan that has only "several hundred" fighters.

"While Al Qaeda's core in Pakistan is weaker now than it ever has been, the initiative in the organization and attention of foreign fighters is shifting to their affiliates in Yemen and the Horn of Africa," a U.S. official told Fox News. Al Qaeda in Yemen and Al-Shabaab "are threats no one is taking lightly."

While Al-Shabaab has launched attacks outside of Somalia in Kenya and Uganda, the intelligence community questions whether the group will remain a regional player or whether it will truly go global by launching international plots. Al-Shabaab has not so far. One lingering concern is that Americans, with clean passports and clean backgrounds, who train with Al-Shabaab can eventually return to the U.S.

Asked whether it is only a matter of time before Al-Shabaab becomes a global player for Al Qaeda, Kenya's U.N. ambassador framed his response carefully.

"The next 12 months are critical," Kamau said. "It depends how successful we are on the ground. And what support we get from the international community. If we are successful, then we should hope that we should



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succeed and that should not happen. And if we fail, on the other hand, which we hope we don't, it is hard to tell what the repercussions will be for everyone."

*Fox News chief intelligence correspondent Catherine Herridge's bestselling book "The Next Wave: On the Hunt for al Qaeda's American Recruits," published by Crown, draws on her reporting for Fox News into Al-Shabaab, the American cleric Al-Awlaki and his new generation of recruits -- Al Qaeda 2.0.*

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2011/11/17/ranks-somali-terror-group-swelling-with-foreign-fighters-including-americans/?test=latestnews>

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United Press International (UPI)  
OPINION/Outside View

## Iran -- Not Necessarily a Nuclear Apocalypse

November 16, 2011

By HARLAN ULLMAN, UPI Outside View Commentator

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (UPI) -- Last week, the United Nation's International Atomic Energy Agency released an assessment of Iran's nuclear programs. While not overly alarmist, the report warned that, based on inputs from nearly a dozen different national intelligence agencies, Iran was developing programs in virtually all categories essential for production of nuclear weapons as well missile delivery systems. Iran quickly refuted the report denying any nuclear weapons ambitions.

Some immediately and predictably declared the situation apocalyptic resurfacing arguments for military action to prevent Tehran from acquiring the bomb. Russia and China were predictably more muted. And the Obama administration is wisely keeping its counsel as it reviews its options.

Clearly, few people in their right mind would prefer to see Iran with a nuclear weapon although China might not be entirely displeased with how such an event might shift America's attention from the Pacific back to the Persian Gulf and Middle East.

The reactions of Israel, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Cooperative Council among many others are laden with uncertainty and risk not the least of which is possible nuclear weapons proliferation.

Yet, before panic sets in, a bit of history provides an important context regardless of whether Iran does field nuclear weapons.

The most recent case studies are North Korea and Iraq. North Korea detonated, if not a weapon, certainly nuclear devices. Yet, has the geostrategic balance been affected? The answer isn't much.

Eight years ago, the United States attacked Iraq to keep Saddam Hussein from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Then national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said she didn't wish to be proven wrong by a nuclear mushroom cloud suddenly materializing over an American city.

In the first case, the consequences were far less than expected. And in the second, our intelligence was dead wrong.

Iran is neither North Korea nor Iraq. Still, a little more history is helpful before we embark on kinetic policies toward Iran.

In the late 1940's, the United States had similar fears of the Soviet Union acquiring nuclear weapons. Pre-emptive strikes were part of that debate. In fact, the then commandant of the prestigious National War College in Washington was fired for arguing publicly for a preventative attack. Instead, policies of deterrence and containment proved preferable and effective after Moscow got the bomb in 1949.

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In the early 1960's, this debate was repeated over China's nuclear ambitions. China exploded its first weapon in 1964. War was avoided. And China has fortunately moved from the enemy column, one hopes permanently.

That said, what bold actions might be considered to avert Iranian nuclear proliferation? A grand bargain with Russia is one such possibility. Suppose Russia were able to convince, cajole or coerce Iran into abandoning all nuclear weapons ambitions through a transparent and verifiable regime perhaps through controlling critical supply chain parts and systems or other means. Obviously, verifiability must be absolutely assured. And the strategic bargaining chip could be U.S. and NATO ballistic missile defense plans (the European Phased Adopted Approach) for defending the alliance in Europe that Russia so vehemently opposes.

The EPAA was designed explicitly to defend NATO from a potential Iranian nuclear ballistic missile threat. Should Russian convince Iran to abandon its nuclear weapons programs, the need for these defenses would evaporate. If conditions changed, as the EPAA relies on readily transportable land based radar systems and SM-3 missiles, many sea-based, defenses could be deployed quickly assuming the basic command and control architecture had been put in place.

Second and possibly through Track II, non-official diplomacy, the United States could quietly explore containment and deterrent options with Britain and France and possibly Russia and China as nuclear powers and with regional countries such as Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. Israel should be part of this quiet diplomacy.

Interestingly, an Iranian decision to develop nuclear weapons could force these regional powers into a closer embrace with the United States and NATO rather than embarking on nuclear weapons programs of their own.

Third, far closer examination of both Iranian views of nuclear weapons including doctrine, command, control, security and the rest and of the supply chain for vital parts and systems crucial to the enrichment of uranium in particular must be carried out. For example, Iran's centrifuges depend on magnetic bearings that are quickly worn out by the high speeds needed to enrich uranium. If supplies could be restricted, that would surely delay and even defer acquiring nuclear weapons.

Whether Iran decides to acquire nuclear weapons or not -- and to do so covertly or openly -- are open questions. From a Western perception, Iran's keeping the nuclear option open may make the most sense. Whether Iranians see it that way is unclear.

But rather than panic, history sets a context. So does bold thinking. Let us exercise both.

*Harlan Ullman is Chairman of the Killowen Group, which advises leaders of government and business, and senior adviser at Washington's Atlantic Council.*

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/Analysis/Outside-View/2011/11/16/Outside-View-Iran-Not-necessarily-a-nuclear-apocalypse/UPI-88801321443540/?spt=hs&or=an](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Analysis/Outside-View/2011/11/16/Outside-View-Iran-Not-necessarily-a-nuclear-apocalypse/UPI-88801321443540/?spt=hs&or=an)

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Al-Arabiya – U.A.E.

OPINION

## **The West Wages Jihad but Forbids Us from Doing So**

By Dr. Aaidh al-Qarni

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

How can the West wage jihad but prohibit us Muslims from doing so?

Here I am talking about the fact that the West has produced nuclear missiles yet prevents us from doing so; occupies our lands whilst protecting its own territory, and colonizes our seas and oceans whilst defending its own seas and oceans. Its factories produce rockets, bombs, missiles, frigates, rocket-launchers and aircraft carriers,

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whilst our factories only produce bubble-gum and Pepsi. The West warns us against acts of aggression and acquiring weapons, whilst it launches attacks and stockpiles arms day and night.

This is because the West is intelligent and knows that power is the source of all stature and grandeur. Allah the Almighty said: "Prepare against them what force you can". The world respects no one but the strong. As for diplomacy, romanticism, and political sentimentality, this is mere superficial talk to distract and deceive foes, because war is an act of deception. Preoccupying the Middle East with arts, folklore, and cultural ceremonies at the expense of military factories is an open joke. To produce one tank would be better than a thousand poems, a rocket more useful than a hundred cultural shows, and a bomb more effective than a hundred epic tales to remind us of the glory of our forefathers, and what it used to be like in the old days. Does the world respect a state for its peaceful reputation, finesse, tact, and modesty, or for its strength and power? Iran realized this secret, and indeed the Persians are among the most cunning people, described by Umar Ibn al-Khattab as having "the virtue of the mind, with which they rule".

I agree with what Mr Abdul-Rahman al-Rashid wrote in this newspaper, and what Mr Dawud al-Shuriyan wrote in al-Hayat newspaper, suggesting that Iran will produce a nuclear bomb and the West will not attack it. It will then be a case of the survival of the fittest, and the Arab appeal to Iran to abandon its military nuclear program - to have mercy on the Arabs and gain heavenly merit for doing so - will be proven to be a hollow cry. Iran has not heeded these words which do not deserve the ink with which they were written, because the true rational minds of the world; the international war scientists and military professors, all agree that the strongest is ultimately the one who is most respected and feared. In this life, there is no room for integrity, for integrity and sacredness belong to the heavens, whilst the world's laws and politics are established on deceit and cunning. As long as people accept to be ruled by current laws without divine legislation, then it is a matter of interests, maneuvers, usurpation, arrogance, oppression and proving oneself.

Look at the five major nuclear states; how they advise others to abandon their nuclear weapons and oppose the atomic bomb, whilst the United States itself originally gained its respect and political weight because of its nuclear arsenal. The message of the five states is heard everywhere and their banners are held high. They possess the right to veto decisions and the world bows to them, fearing their reach and power. They preach to other states and advise all nations to be peaceful, transparent and hospitable, urging them not to manufacture nuclear weapons because this constitutes a global threat. In fact, the five major nuclear states do not want other nations to manufacture nuclear weapons so that they can maintain their hegemony, authority and tyranny. The West was wise to develop the inter-continental ballistic missile and the atomic bomb, yet it prevents us in the Middle East from doing so because it knows that in order to rule the world and monopolize its wealth, one needs overpowering strength and clear superiority. We in the Middle East are supposed to be content with reading history and revelling in the glories of the past, but this is only good for students in literacy classes.

The poet Nizar Qabbani once said about the Arabs:

They have long written history books and they became convinced. But since when did guns live inside books?

Oh Bin al-Walid [Islamic commander Khalid Ibn al-Walid], is there no sword that you can hire, or have our swords turned to wood?

I urge the Arabs to manufacture the nuclear bomb and nuclear weapons. There are buildings currently being occupied by minor daily newspapers that no one reads, and "cultural heritage" museums housing scrap metal, worn-out rope, blunt axes, and other artefacts. These should all be turned into factories to manufacture tanks, rocket-launchers, missiles, satellites and submarines, so that the world comes to respect us, hear our voice, and appreciate our status. The world is governed by the law of the strong.

An ancient Arab poet once said: "The wolves run after he who has no dogs, but steer clear of the lair of the vicious lion." Do not let us be fooled by Iran's honeyed words suggesting that Tehran seeks nuclear weapons only to burn Israel, for this is purely an illusion.



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The poet Khalaf Bin Hazal said:

"Do not trust the wolf cubs if they are alive whilst their parents are dead, for they will come at you in the morning with their fangs".

*Dr. al-Qarni is a Saudi-born Islamic preacher and scholar. His book "Don't Feel Sad" has sold millions worldwide. This article was first appeared in the London-based Asharq al-Awsat on Nov. 15, 2011.*

<http://english.alarabiya.net/views/2011/11/16/177451.html>

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Los Angeles Times  
OPINION/Op-Ed

## To Save Money, Look to Nukes

*Sensible cuts in U.S. nuclear forces could save \$35 billion over 10 years.*

By Michael O'Hanlon  
November 16, 2011

The deficit reduction plans now on the table in Washington require some \$400 billion in defense spending cuts starting in 2013 and extending for a decade. To achieve that, tough choices will be needed. There is fat, but only so much. To avoid cutting any more muscle than necessary — especially in conventional forces, which do all of the actual fighting — we need to look to nuclear forces as well.

Unfortunately, during last year's debate over ratification of the New START arms control treaty with Russia, the Obama administration agreed to demands from Senate Republicans to increase spending on nuclear capabilities. This is the wrong policy for an age of austerity.

The logic of frugality should not be pushed to extremes. We need a dependable nuclear arsenal. And our strategic forces should remain as large as Russia's, not out of any concern that we will fight our former Cold War enemy in a nuclear exchange but to avoid giving Moscow any more reason to push its weight around with its neighbors. In addition, there is a case for targeted nuclear R&D, including building a simpler, safer, more reliable nuclear warhead that would not require testing. That will take some money.

But we do not need to overinsure. The United States is allowed by treaty to have about 1,550 strategic warheads; we do not need all of our current stock of several thousand more tactical and surplus warheads, even if international agreements don't constrain them. Nor do we need to hedge against a revanchist Russia by retaining the capability to rapidly increase warheads on missiles. Our bomber fleet provides ample insurance against Russian cheating, which would in any case be far less foreboding than in the Cold War.

A change in philosophy — from equally modernizing each leg in the nuclear triad to accepting a more economical overall capability — would allow us to remain at nuclear parity with Russia and still save money. The triad is made up of land-based ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles), sea-based SLBMs (submarine-launched ballistic missiles) and airborne strategic bombers.

We could, for example, stop making "D5" SLBM nuclear-tipped missiles and cut back the current fleet of 14 nuclear-armed submarines to eight, with no significant reduction in capability or robustness of the submarine leg of the triad. How? We could increase the number of warheads deployed per missile, in keeping with the missile's originally designed capabilities; and we also have the ability to increase the number of missiles per submarine. Many land-based Minuteman ICBM missiles could be retired, allowing savings in operating costs and in refurbishment of those missiles. We could eliminate at least half the current total, meeting more of our treaty allowance with weapons attributed to the bomber force.

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The Department of Energy's nuclear weapons assets could also be scaled back. It has expensive plans for a dedicated new facility to make the plutonium "pits" at the heart of most nuclear weapons. As the nuclear arsenal shrinks, that expensive plan won't be necessary. Overall, one of the country's two main weapons-design laboratories, at Los Alamos, N.M., and Livermore, Calif., could gradually get out of the nuclear weapons business. Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico could remain involved in nuclear weapons research in support of the remaining design lab, so the nation would have substantial expertise at multiple locations.

We can also reduce spending on missile defense. Missile defense is important; it is hardly the anachronism of U.S.-Russian enmity that critics sometimes imply. But it is also overfunded, with too many systems in various stages of development and deployment. Current programs include upgrades to the ground-based strategic systems in California and Alaska, separate sea-based and land-based theater defense systems, and two land-based short-range defense systems. At least one of the latter programs could be canceled without harming our defense capability.

How much could such cuts in nuclear forces save us? I estimate about \$30 billion to \$35 billion over the 10-year period being debated by budgeteers. That would approach 10% of the necessary savings in defense; it's real money.

And it is a much better idea than increasing nuclear spending by the \$80 billion or so agreed on last year during the Senate's New START ratification debate. This is the kind of tough but doable policy change that is required of the military, and our politicians, if we are to meet what has become our No. 1 national security challenge: the nation's woeful fiscal and economic condition.

*Michael O'Hanlon, director of research in foreign policy at the Brookings Institution, is author of the just published e-book "The Wounded Giant: America's Armed Forces in an Age of Austerity."*

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-ohanlon-nukes-20111116,0,4035778.story>

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The Friday Times – Pakistan

OPINION/Analysis

November 18-24, 2011 - Vol. XXIII, No. 40

By Khaled Ahmed

## **Not So Deterrent As Scary**

A long article titled the 'Ally from Hell' by Jeffrey Goldberg and Marc Ambinder (The Atlantic 5 Nov 2011) raises questions about the security of Pakistan's nuclear weapons. After the article appeared, Washington carefully repeated its official assessment of Pakistan's nuclear security system, rebutting many details of the case made by The Atlantic authors. One opinion presented in the article however talked not so much of the safety of our nuclear arsenal - which is being looked after effectively by Safety Laws Division (SPD) - as the changing nature of the Pakistani state. It quoted American author of a book on Pakistan Army, Stephen Cohen, as saying:

'The US must maintain its association with a nuclear Pakistan over the long term for three main reasons. The first is that an unstable and friendless Pakistan would be more apt to take precipitous action against India; the second is that nuclear material, or a warhead, could go missing; the third, longer-term worry is that the Pakistani state itself could implode. One of the negative changes we've seen is that Pakistan is losing its coherence as a state. Its economy has failed, its politics have failed, and its army either fails or looks the other way. There are no good options'.

It appears that ultimately it is not the security safeguards around Pakistan's hundred-odd nuclear warheads but the character of the state of Pakistan which is causing worry. According to the Atlantic article, this worry extends to China too. No so convincingly, it tells us that, in secret talks, China has told the US that it won't mind if America

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attacked inside Pakistan to secure its nuclear weapons. If the world is scared of our nuclear weapons more than those of India, what can be the reason?

Pakistan, India and Israel did not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Israel was ignored and India was 'forgiven' by the nuclear club and was thus given unofficial exemption from the punitive clauses of NPT. North Korea and Iran were signatories of NPT but went rogue. So we have three categories that could excite nuclear worries, out of which India has been 'regularised' while Pakistan, North Korea and Iran continue to cause anxiety. Within this 'troublesome trio', Pakistan has some extra features that should bother the world.

**Selling nuclear technology for money:** Pakistan was found engaged in nuclear technology sales to North Korea, Iran and Libya. Half a dozen greatly detailed books on Dr AQ Khan have apprised the world about this megalomaniac scientist who wants to show off his ability to defy international nuclear embargoes and also make some money on the side. One can say that Pakistan arouses proliferation fears; and if it is allowed to drift further into isolationism (and resultant economic collapse) it might help some Iran-challenged Arab states acquire the bomb after enabling Iran. (The irony of first enabling Iran against the Arabs, then enabling the Arabs against Iran will not be missed.) On the other hand, India is not seen as a proliferator, which has helped in its 'regularisation' as a nuclear power.

**Political instability and nuclear safety:** Out of the 'troublesome trio' - Iran, North Korea, Pakistan - the last named is internally threatened with political instability. North Korea is a totalitarian dictatorship with complete political control over its population. Iran is an Islamic totalitarian state with an oppressive hold on its dissenters while its population attaches its nationalism to the bomb Iran hopes to acquire. In Pakistan, political instability has resulted in an almost spontaneous ascendancy of the Army. Pak Army has been known to base its tactical policy vis-a-vis India on nuclear weapons and indulge in risk-taking which can threaten the world with nuclear conflict in South Asia.

**Lack of writ of the state:** Out of the four states with nuclear ambition - India, Pakistan, Iran, North Korea - Pakistan is the only one with a weak writ of the state. There are regions in the country where the state does not exist which means that the municipal law is not respected. The cities have duplicated this lack of writ by developing no-go areas of their own. In Balochistan there is an ongoing inviting foreign interference. In the Tribal Areas, the state is struggling to re-extend its lost control. Cities like Peshawar and Karachi are subject to mafias and jihadi groups with strategies of 'revenue-collection' through kidnappings and robberies. Some of these mafias have warlords at their head capable of fulfilling 'contracts' like snatching a nuclear device. They seem to 'practise' this expertise by attacking NATO supply trucks.

**Revisionist nationalism and the bomb:** Out of the troublesome group of states, Pakistan has nurtured a revisionist nationalism against a much larger and stronger state, India, on the basis of a perceived loss of territory. India could have one against China, but it eschewed revisionism by front-loading trade with China instead. North Korea is dangerous because of its irredentism against South Korea, but the latter is not a nuclear power. Iran too can be indirectly irredentist against the Arab states across the Gulf. But Pakistan's revisionism is dangerously unrealistic, bestowing permanent instability on it. Nationalism is attached to this revisionism which in turn is attached to the bomb, making it dangerous because it allows Pakistan to think in terms of an unrealistic strategic parity with India.

**Presence of foreign terrorists:** Except Pakistan, no other 'troublesome' state mentioned above is afflicted with the presence of foreign terrorists on its soil. The presence of globally feared groups worsens the already weakened writ of the state. It has changed the concept of 'ungoverned space' by filling it with alien control, threatening the 'governed space' too. India has lost partially its writ in some states where a Maoist uprising is in progress, but there are no foreign elements heading the movement with international financing. The foreign elements look at Pakistan as a base from where to launch their attacks at global targets. There is some proof that they would like to have access to nuclear weapons. Some jihad-inspired nuclear scientists of Pakistan had established links with Al Qaeda under the Pak-dominated Taliban government in Afghanistan.



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**Terrorist ideology superior to Pakistan ideology:** Pakistan is destabilised by terrorism coming from local and foreign sources. It is also victim of insurrection in a part of its territory. No other state comparable to Pakistan is under such threat. Reference is often made to the Maoist insurrection in several states of India. But unlike Pakistan with Al Qaeda embedded in its guts, the ideology of the Maoists in India is not the ideology of the state of India. Pak Army has made the Islamic constitution of Pakistan more vulnerable to the ideology of Al Qaeda by designating America as enemy number one of Pakistan. The result is that public opinion now regards the ideology of Al Qaeda as being superior. This has facilitated Al Qaeda's penetration into the military - and any journalist reporting it can mysteriously die. This implies in the long run that nuclear weapons can fall into the hands of the terrorists through the contaminated personnel inside the military.

**The idea of 'revolution' and the bomb:** Pakistanis talk about Revolution more than ever before because they want the current order to change. From the opinion being expressed in the media one can say that any revolution will have to take the following shape: 1) It will be against democracy and in favour of Islamic reform; 2) It will be anti-America and also generally anti-West with India thrown in as the palpable enemy nextdoor while Israel acts as the notional enemy giving a sharp global pan-Islamic edge to the Revolution; 3) Since Pakistanis feel that the sharia is not in force in Pakistan - it is, under the Federal Shariat Court written into the Constitution! - the ideology of the Revolution will come from Al Qaeda; and 4) any revolutionary government will have to be directionally presided over by Al Qaeda. The weapon of choice for Al Qaeda to avoid 'regime-change' will be the nuclear weapons of Pakistan.

It is not so much for the outside world to worry about the drift towards 'revolution' in Pakistan as it is for the Pakistanis to see what is happening to them. And it is not only extremism that is happening to them. Capital is fleeing in anticipation, which is the businessman's way of telling Pakistan it is drifting towards chaos. Even politicians, not willing to speak out about the dangerously changing nature of the state, are busy stashing their money abroad. Those who support this revolution - like Imran Khan - admit they cannot declare themselves openly against the state-protected 'non state actors' for fear of being killed. Since the much-banded revolution has the Al Qaeda stamp on it, it is devoid of all intellectual content. Its only strategy is to hold on to Pakistan and use its nuclear weapons as guarantee against 'regime-change'.

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<http://www.thefridaytimes.com/beta2/tft/article.php?issue=20111118&page=4>

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OPINION/Russia and NATO

## **An Absence of Trust**

*Why Russia is no closer to working with NATO on missile defence*  
November 19th, 2011

THE hopes at NATO's 2010 Lisbon summit that Russia might be a partner in the missile-defence system meant to protect Europe from a nuclear-armed "rogue" state are looking increasingly forlorn. NATO governments had promised "to explore opportunities for missile-defence co-operation with Russia in a spirit of reciprocity, maximum transparency and mutual confidence." But at his Valdai dinner on November 11th, Russia's prime minister, Vladimir Putin, claimed that the Russian ambassador to NATO, Dmitry Rogozin, had been told by an American senator that missile defence was aimed at Russia's nuclear deterrent. Mr Putin even drew a diagram on a napkin to make his point.

At this week's meeting of the NATO-Russia Council, a body meant to improve relations, Russia's deputy defence minister, Anatoly Antonov, was equally blunt. He complained that NATO was pressing ahead even though Russia's

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conditions for co-operation had not been met. Chief among his gripes was America's refusal to give Russia a legal guarantee—in effect a treaty—that NATO's missile shield would never be used to protect Europe or America from Russian nuclear weapons. He suggested that Russia might take "military-technical measures".

The heart of the problem is a lack of trust, made worse by what Russia sees as NATO's cynically broad interpretation of the UN Security Council resolution on Libya—a "betrayal", say some Russians. Russian leaders cannot bring themselves to believe repeated Western assurances that plans to defend Europe against nuclear missiles are aimed solely at irrational states with a handful of weapons (diplomat-speak for Iran), and are not meant to blunt the effectiveness of Russia's array of nuclear weapons.

Russian military analysts concede that the phased approach to European missile defence adopted by the Obama administration is less threatening than George Bush's plans for a shield based on long-range interceptors and radars in Poland and the Czech Republic. They also accept that, even in its final phase of deployment, the system would be overwhelmed by any Russian attack. But they persist in seeing missile defence as part of a long-term American plot to undermine Russia's nuclear arsenal.

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