



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



19 May 2009 – 1 June 2009

DTRA

GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

Agreement for Cooperation between the United States and the United Arab Emirates Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

Bureau of Public Affairs, 21 May 2009, <http://www.state.gov/>

On May 21, 2009, President Obama submitted to Congress an Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Arab Emirates Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. (1,118 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

How to Reduce the Nuclear Threat [OPINION]

Wall Street Journal, 28 May 2009, <http://online.wsj.com>

By William J. Perry, Brent Scowcroft and Charles D. Ferguson

Monday's North Korean nuclear test was a dramatic reminder of the challenges to eliminating nuclear weapons world-wide. (685 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

China Reiterates Support for Nuclear Weapons Ban, Complete Nuclear Disarmament

Beijing Xinhua, 19 May 09, <http://news.xinhuanet.com/>

China reiterated its continuing support for the comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons and complete nuclear disarmament here on Tuesday. (214 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

The Test-ban Treaty [OPINION]

The New York Times, 25 May 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Nearly 17 years ago, after more than 1,000 explosions, the United States conducted its last underground nuclear test. (392 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CTBTO's Initial Findings on the DPRK's 2009 Announced Nuclear Test

CTBTO, 25 May 2009, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

The International Monitoring System seismic stations registered a seismic event at 41.2896 degrees North and 129.0480 degrees East at 00:54:43 GMT (09:54 local time). (627 words)

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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT) (CONT.)

Next Phase in the Analysis of the Announced DPRK Nuclear Test

CTBTO, 27 May 2009, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

CTBTO experts explained that they continued to study the signals detected by the seismic stations of the International Monitoring System (IMS). (508 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION

Nunn-Lugar Program April Update

Press Release, 22 May 2009, <http://lugar.senate.gov/>

U.S. Senator Dick Lugar announced the following accomplishments for the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program in April: (449 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Pentagon Looks to Destroy 90 Percent of Chemical Stockpile by Treaty Deadline

Global Security Newswire, 20 May 2009, <http://www.cwwg.org/>

The U.S. Defense Department hopes to eliminate 90 percent of its stockpile of chemical weapons by 2012, the year designated by an international treaty for full disposal of the arsenal, Defense Environment Alert reported last week. (301 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Army Adjusts Chemical Weapon Disposal Tracking Following Internal Criticism

Global Security Newswire, 20 May 2009, <http://www.cwwg.org/>

The U.S. Army recently took steps to improve monitoring of destruction of chemical warfare materials, Defense Environment Alert reported last week (see GSN, May 4). The moves followed a 2008 finding by internal auditors that the service's Chemical Materials Agency was not always correctly recording disposal of mustard blister agent stored in bulk containers. (330 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

State Clears Pine Bluff Arsenal to Increase Incineration to 75 Percent

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 21 May 2009, <http://www2.arkansasonline.com/>

State environmental regulators Wednesday authorized the Pine Bluff Arsenal to increase the amount of chemical munitions it can destroy at any one time. (236 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

Temporary Facility to Aid Disposal Mission

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 21 May 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Deseret Chemical Depot, Stockton, Utah- Army technicians began assembling a temporary chemical agent sampling facility today in the storage area of Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) in preparation for disposal operations. (260 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

The Chemical Weapons Convention Enters into Force for the Bahamas

OPCW, 21 May 2009, <http://www.opcw.org/>

The number of States not Party to the Convention is now reduced to seven. (142 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Kentucky: Chemical Weapons Site Reports Two Minor Leaks

Chicago Tribune, 26 May 2009, <http://www.cwwg.org/>

Two vapor leaks were found Tuesday in separate igloos where thousands of Cold War-era chemical weapons are stored in Kentucky, but Army officials said that they posed little danger outside the facility. (349 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Opens Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Siberia

Ria Novosti, 29 May 2009, <http://www.cwwg.org/>

Russia opened on Friday the first unit of a chemical weapons destruction facility in Siberia's Kurgan Region, and pledged to destroy 45 percent of existing stockpiles by the end of 2009.

(377 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OPCW Director-General Attends Opening Ceremony of the Shchuchye Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in the Russian Federation

OPCW, 29 May 2009, <http://www.opcw.org/>

On 29 May 2009, the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Ambassador Rogelio Pfitter attended the opening ceremony of the Shchuchye Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility situated in Kurgan Oblast, the Russian Federation. (561 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OPCW Releases Scheduled Chemicals Database

OPCW, 29 May 2009, <http://www.opcw.org/>

Contains information on over 1,300 scheduled chemicals declared to the OPCW, as well as all scheduled chemicals that had been assigned CAS Registry Numbers, amounting to an additional 28,000 chemicals. (345 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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FISSILE MATERIAL CUTOFF TREATY (FMCT)

Conference on Disarmament Adopts Program of Work after Twelve Years of Stalemate

United Nations, 29 May 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

After 12 years of stalemate, the Conference on Disarmament this morning adopted a consensus document CD/1863, which contains a program of work. Dozens of delegations took the floor to laude this historical moment, which had saved the world's sole multilateral for disarmament negotiations. (811 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

Director-General Candidates Meet Members of the IAEA

IAEA, 26 May 2009, <http://www.iaea.org/>

The IAEA Board of Governors held today an informal meeting during which each of the five candidates for the post of Director-General of the IAEA made a presentation of their candidature to the Agency's Members. (295 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

Third Preparatory Committee for 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference Concludes Successfully with Adoption of Consensus Report

United Nations, 19 May 2009, <http://www.unog.ch>

The Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held its third session from 4 to 15 May at United Nations Headquarters in New York. (604 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Clinton Condemns 'Provocative' North Korean Activities, Rhetoric

American Forces Press Service, 27 May 2009, <http://www.defenselink.mil/>

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton today reiterated U.S. commitment to South Korea's and Japan's security in light of what she called North Korea's "provocative and belligerent" activities and rhetoric. (282 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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OTTAWA CONVENTION

General Status and Operation of the [Ottawa] Convention

AP Mine Destruction Convention, 25 May 2009, <http://www.apminebanconvention.org/>

The meeting was opened by its Co-Chairs, Yoshinobu Hiraishi of the Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament and Camilo Sanhueza of Chile. (644 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

South Korea Joins Proliferation Security Initiative

Global Security Newswire, 26 May 2009, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

In the wake of North Korea's latest nuclear blast, South Korea said today it was joining the U.S.-led program to interdict illicit shipments of weapons of mass destruction and their component parts, Agence France-Presse reported (see GSN, April 23). (248 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Russian, U.S. Diplomats Launch Arms Control Talks

The Associated Press, 19 May 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Russian and U.S. negotiators sat down for difficult nuclear arms control talks Tuesday amid hopes that warming relations could help the two former superpowers reach an agreement seen as essential for global stability. (726 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Moscow Sees First Round of Russia-U.S. Strategic Arms Talks as Success

Moscow Interfax-AVN, 20 May 09, <http://www.militarynews.ru>

Russia sees the first round of Russia- U.S. talks on a new strategic arms reduction treaty, held in Moscow on Wednesday, as successful and constructive, a source in the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax. (374 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:



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Agreement for Cooperation between the United States and the United Arab Emirates Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

Bureau of Public Affairs, 21 May 2009, <http://www.state.gov/>

On May 21, 2009, President Obama submitted to Congress an Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (a so-called '123 Agreement' after the relevant section of the U.S. Atomic Energy Act).

This important Agreement reinforces a particularly strong and mutually beneficial political, security, and economic relationship. The UAE is a valued partner on many issues, showing close cooperation with us on support for the Palestinian Authority, Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan, where they have deployed combat troops.

This Agreement marks an important achievement for the United States and the UAE in establishing a foundation for the responsible development of peaceful nuclear energy under strong nonproliferation controls. The UAE's commitment not to engage in enrichment and reprocessing activities within its territory is reflected in the Agreement as a legally binding obligation on the part of the UAE. The Agreement serves as a model for states in the region in developing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes with the full confidence of the international community. ...

Once the Agreement enters into force, it will establish the necessary legal framework for the United States and the UAE to cooperate in the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes to assist the UAE in meeting its growing energy demands.

Nuclear Development in the Middle East

This Agreement is a tangible expression of the United States' desire to cooperate with states in the Middle East and around the world that want to develop nuclear power peacefully, and in a manner consistent with the highest nonproliferation, safety and security standards. The Agreement not only establishes a firm foundation for mutually beneficial cooperation in nuclear energy, but will also serve as a model for responsible nuclear energy development.

In signing this Agreement, the UAE has demonstrated its commitment to develop civil nuclear energy responsibly, in full conformity with its nonproliferation commitments and obligations. Among those is the UAE's commitment not to pursue enrichment and reprocessing (ENR) within its territory ...

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The UAE recognizes the value of international cooperation for establishing a nuclear power program as well as the need to develop domestic human resources. It has stated that it expects to hire a foreign consortium to construct, operate and partially own its first nuclear power plants while local expertise is developed.

U.S. industry is poised to assist with the development of a nuclear power program in the UAE, and the Agreement for Cooperation facilitates our involvement. U.S. technology in this area is leading-edge, and the United States anticipates receiving strong consideration as the UAE moves forward in implementing its plans.

A Strategic Partnership

- The United States and the UAE entered into the Agreement with the understanding that the UAE is committed to relying on existing international markets for nuclear fuel services as an alternative to pursuing uranium enrichment and nuclear fuel reprocessing on the territory of the UAE, a commitment reflected in the Agreement.
- The UAE contributed \$10 million to an International Atomic Energy Agency administered nuclear fuel bank in support of reliable fuel supply.
- The UAE acceded to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) on September 26, 1995 and its IAEA Safeguards Agreement entered into force on October 9, 2003. On April 9, it signed an Additional Protocol to its Safeguards Agreement.
- The UAE ratified the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material on November 15, 2003 and has committed to concluding the 2005 Amendment strengthening the Convention.
- The UAE acceded to the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism on January 10, 2008.
- The UAE acceded to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency on October 2, 1987.
- The UAE continues to work to implement UNSC 1540 - a resolution that, among other things, requires UN Member States to adopt and enforce effective laws prohibiting non-

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State actors from manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, transferring or using weapons of mass destruction or their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes.

- The UAE actively participates in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Proliferation Security Initiative.
- The UAE participates in the Container Security Initiative.
- The UAE is a key counterterrorism partner and actively combats money laundering and terrorist financing.
- The UAE enacted an export control law in 2007, under which the UAE has established a legal regime for control of exports and imports of sensitive goods including nuclear-related commodities, software, and technology.
- Through a bilateral counterproliferation task force, we work together closely and productively on a full range of counterproliferation issues.

Key Features of the Agreement

This Agreement includes all the requirements of Section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act governing agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the United States and non-nuclear-weapon states such as the UAE.

- The Agreement has a term of 30 years, and permits the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), and components for peaceful nuclear research and nuclear power production, and generally facilitates the transfer of related technology.
- The Agreement has a term of 30 years, and permits the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), and components for nuclear research and nuclear power production, and generally facilitates the transfer of related technology.
- The Agreement does not permit transfers of highly enriched uranium or plutonium (except for small quantities for analytical or experimental use), Restricted Data, sensitive nuclear technology, sensitive nuclear facilities (such as facilities for enrichment or reprocessing), or major critical components of such facilities.

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- In light of the importance to the United States of the UAE's commitment not to engage in enrichment or reprocessing within its borders, the Agreement includes a legally binding obligation that the UAE will not possess such facilities or engage in such activities within its territory. Were it to do so, such action would be grounds for the United States to terminate the Agreement.
- The Agreement provides advance, long-term approval by the United States to the UAE for the retransfer of spent nuclear fuel. The spent nuclear fuel subject to the Agreement may be retransferred to France and the United Kingdom, if consistent with their respective policies, laws and regulations, for storage or reprocessing subject to specified conditions.
- This U.S. approval does not include approval for the return to the UAE of plutonium or other special fissionable material recovered from the spent fuel by such reprocessing.
- The arrangement approving retransfers of spent fuel from the UAE to France and the United Kingdom assists with ensuring that spent fuel is not stored permanently in the Middle East.

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How to Reduce the Nuclear Threat [OPINION]

Wall Street Journal, 28 May 2009, <http://online.wsj.com>

By William J. Perry, Brent Scowcroft and Charles D. Ferguson

Monday's North Korean nuclear test was a dramatic reminder of the challenges to eliminating nuclear weapons world-wide. President Barack Obama has stated that he intends to pursue this goal while maintaining a reliable nuclear deterrent for the United States and its allies. But achieving nuclear abolition will likely require many years.

Indeed, it is difficult to envision the necessary geopolitical conditions that would permit even approaching that goal. Unless the U.S. and its partners re-energize international efforts to lessen the present dangers of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism, they will never have the hope of reaching this long-term objective.

An effective strategy to reduce nuclear dangers must build on five pillars: revitalizing strategic dialogue with nuclear-armed powers, particularly Russia and China; strengthening the international nuclear nonproliferation regime; reaffirming the protection of the U.S. nuclear umbrella to our allies; maintaining the credibility of the U.S. nuclear deterrent; and implementing best security practices for nuclear weapons and weapons-usable materials worldwide.

With thousands of U.S. and Russian warheads still deployed, the threat of a nuclear war through strategic miscalculation is not entirely removed. Thankfully, Russia has neither shown nor threatened such intent against the U.S. The two nations cooperated through much of the post-Cold War period on reducing nuclear arsenals and curbing nuclear proliferation. But given the recent chill in U.S.-Russia relations—a result of NATO expansion efforts and missile-defense systems in Poland and the Czech Republic—the relationship faces significant challenges.

In order to "press the reset button" with Russia, in the words of Vice President Joe Biden, the U.S. needs to base strategic dialogue on the common interests of stopping nuclear proliferation, preventing nuclear terrorism, and ensuring the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The U.S. and Russia should conduct a joint threat assessment as a prerequisite to renewed arms control. In tandem, the U.S. and China should discuss their threat perceptions and seek greater cooperation on nuclear security and stability.

The spread of weapons-usable nuclear technologies may push the world to a dangerous tipping point. ... To prevent further proliferation, the Obama administration needs to leverage the next 12 months in the run-up to the May 2010 Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference. The U.S. must redouble global efforts to enact the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty on nuclear weapons,

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call for a ban on the production of fissile material for weapons, and provide sustainable resources to the International Atomic Energy Agency—the world's "nuclear watchdog."

In the meantime, as Mr. Obama has stated, the U.S. should maintain a safe, secure and reliable nuclear deterrent for itself and its allies. This deterrent should be adequately funded and staffed with top-notch managers, scientists and engineers. The administration should also decide whether to replace existing nuclear warheads with redesigned warheads or to increase programs to extend their operational lives on a case-by-case basis, weighing heavily recommendations from the weapons lab responsible for the warheads in question.

Another critical concern is the massive global stockpile of weapons-usable fissile material that could fuel thousands of nuclear explosives. The more states that have fissile material, the greater the chances of it falling into the hands of terrorists. Laudably, the Obama administration has committed to work with international partners to secure all vulnerable nuclear materials within four years. This ambitious agenda will require development of much better security practices and a cooperative effort among dozens of countries.

The dangers of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism are real and imminent. Any serious effort to combat them will require the leadership of the United States.

Mr. Perry, a former Secretary of Defense, and Mr. Scowcroft, a former National Security Adviser, are the co-chairs of the Council on Foreign Relations-sponsored Independent Task Force on U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policy. Mr. Ferguson, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, is the Project Director.

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China Reiterates Support for Nuclear Weapons Ban, Complete Nuclear Disarmament

Beijing Xinhua, 19 May 09, <http://news.xinhuanet.com/>

China reiterated its continuing support for the comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons and complete nuclear disarmament here on Tuesday.

Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jieyi said China was willing to make joint efforts with the international community to realize a nuclear-free world.

Liu made the remarks when attending an international seminar co-sponsored by the Chinese government and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) here on Tuesday.

The seminar, opened on Tuesday, will end Saturday.

Liu also spoke highly of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty's important contributions to the progress of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

He restated the Chinese government's aspiration for the Treaty's becoming effective as early as possible.

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, which was signed and ratified by 180 and 148 nations respectively, was agreed in 1996. The treaty aimed at banning nuclear weapon test of any form, so as to effectively prevent nuclear proliferation and push forward the process of nuclear disarmament.

China was among the first countries to sign the treaty in September 1996 in New York, one month after the treaty was agreed. The Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO was founded in November 1996, with its headquarters in Vienna. The Commission was established to prepare for the Treaty's becoming effective.

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The Test-ban Treaty [OPINION]

The New York Times, 25 May 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Nearly 17 years ago, after more than 1,000 explosions, the United States conducted its last underground nuclear test. President George H. W. Bush, following Russia and France, announced a voluntary moratorium and the other major nuclear powers—Britain and China—made the same pledge... Since then, 180 countries have signed the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty.

[However,] ... the test-ban treaty, which would go beyond the voluntary moratorium and legally bind states to not test, has never come into force. That is because the United States and eight other nuclear-capable states whose participation is required—China, North Korea, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran, Israel and Egypt—have not ratified it.

A formal ban on testing would make it harder for nuclear-armed states to build new weapons, and place another hurdle in the way of any country ... thinking of starting an arsenal. ...

In September 1996, President Bill Clinton was the first leader to sign the Treaty. But the drive to bring it into force hit a wall three years later when the Senate voted 51 to 48 against ratification President Obama has vowed to "immediately and aggressively" pursue ratification of the test-ban treaty. He has asked Vice President Joseph Biden to shepherd [it] in the Senate.

The campaign got an important boost from two ... former secretaries of state, George Shultz and Henry Kissinger, who have urged ratification. Mr. Shultz ... said in Rome last month that the old arguments against the Treaty—cheaters might not be detected and the safety and viability of American weapons could not be guaranteed without testing—have been put to rest by advances in technology.

A task force led by former Defense Secretary William Perry ... and Brent Scowcroft, a ... former national security adviser, also concluded that the treaty is in America's national security interests.

Still, Mr. Obama and Mr. Biden will have to invest considerable effort and political capital to win ratification. Senate sources say no more than 63 senators would now vote for the Treaty, four less than the two-thirds majority needed. Two key Republican senators who need to be won over are John McCain, who said in the 2008 presidential campaign that the Treaty deserved another look, and Richard Lugar, former Foreign Relations Committee chairman, who has said he would "study it thoroughly." ... Another Senate defeat would probably doom the treaty forever. ...

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The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) claimed earlier today, 25 May 2009 that it had conducted a nuclear test. ... The International Monitoring System seismic stations registered a seismic event at 41.2896 degrees North and 129.0480 degrees East at 00:54:43 GMT (09:54 local time). The signal's area of origin is largely identical with the 2006 DPRK nuclear test. CTBTO Member States received the first automatic estimation of time, location and magnitude of the event at 2:24 GMT—before the DPRK announced the test. More precise estimations were distributed two and four hours later.

Higher magnitude than in 2006

The event's magnitude is slightly higher than in 2006, measuring 4.52 on the Richter scale, while in 2006 it was 4.1. Considerably more seismic stations picked up the signal this time: 23 primary seismic stations compared to 13 in 2006; the closest IMS station to the event was at Ussuriysk, Russia, and the furthest in Texas, USA—halfway around the world. Since the last DPRK nuclear test, the number of seismic stations in the IMS network has increased from 89 to 130. Overall, three-quarters ... of the 337 facilities in the International Monitoring System are already in place; see overview on the progress in the build-up of the verification regime.

Only after further analysis at the International Data Centre in Vienna, using data from the 16 auxiliary seismic stations that recorded the event as well, will it be possible to confirm that the signal was manmade and not an earthquake.

Once the manmade character has been established, the next step will be to detect radioactive particulates or noble gases that are frequently released into the atmosphere even by underground nuclear tests. In October 2006, traces of the noble gas xenon 133 took two weeks before being detected by one of the IMS's stations in Yellowknife, Canada; 7,500 km away. While the noble gas network consisted of only 10 systems then, there are 22 today (out of a total of 40 when the network is complete). Some of the new stations are situated close to the DPRK, in China, Japan and Russia. While the exact meteorological situation will determine how long it will take for these stations to detect radioactive noble gases, the period of time is likely to be shorter than in 2006.

If the CTBT were in force, an on-site inspection could be dispatched to corroborate the findings and present them to its Member States to pronounce the final verdict. An on-site-inspection will only be possible after the CTBT has entered into force. However, the initial seismic findings of today's event have already homed in on it precisely enough to request an on-site inspection

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under the Treaty's rules. These foresee that an area for an on-site inspection must be no larger than 1,000 km². At the first stage of analyzing the available seismic data, the potential area of origin of today's event could already be narrowed down to 860 km²—roughly the size of the city of Berlin—and will further decrease significantly in the coming days. The CTBTO has often trained its ability to conduct on-site inspections, most recently in a major exercise at the former Soviet Union nuclear test site Semipalatinsk in September 2008 during the so-called Integrated Field Exercise 2008.

... When the CTBT enters into force, the norm against nuclear testing will be considerably strengthened, as a nuclear test will then constitute a breach of international treaty law. Nine countries have yet to ratify the Treaty to that effect: China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Israel and the United States, who have already signed the Treaty, whereas the DPRK, India and Pakistan have not yet signed it. 180 States worldwide have signed the CTBT, of which 148 have ratified [see interactive map at: <http://www.ctbto.org/map/#ims>]

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Next Phase in the Analysis of the Announced DPRK Nuclear Test

CTBTO, 27 May 2009, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

At a meeting of Signatory States of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) yesterday, 26 May, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) informed delegates on the progress in the analysis of its findings on the nuclear test declared by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Monday, 25 May. The CTBTO issued its first information to the Signatory States at 02.24 A.M. (GMT)—before the DPRK had officially announced the test—containing the location, magnitude, depth and time of the event. This information was further updated within two and four hours. On Monday morning, a technical briefing to Signatory States provided additional information.

CTBTO experts explained that they continued to study the signals detected by the seismic stations of the International Monitoring System (IMS). The seismic data seemed to be more complex than from typical explosions. The signals have been recorded by a larger number of IMS seismic stations. CTBTO experts concluded that the recorded signals contain distinct characteristics of an explosion. In addition, they also identified simultaneous signals with earthquake—like characteristics.

Underground explosions typically release radioactive noble gases, which can be detected—depending on the amount released—by certain IMS stations. Noble gas is the “smoking gun” of a nuclear explosion. The detection of airborne radioactive substances depends on the prevailing meteorological situation. By applying a technique called Atmospheric Transport Modeling (ATM), the three-dimensional travel path of a radionuclide particle or noble gas is backtracked from where it was detected by a monitoring station, to the area where it may have originated—and vice-versa.

After the 2006 nuclear test, traces of the radioactive noble gas xenon133—an isotope that does not exist in nature—were detected by a station in Yellowknife, Canada; some 7500 km away from the test site and 12 days after the event. As the network of noble gas-capable stations has grown denser today—up from 11 to 22 systems (40 anticipated at the entry into force of the CTBT), with the higher density of stations now running in the region, it may be possible to detect radioactive noble gas within days rather than weeks.

The system's capabilities were also boosted through the establishment of a joint response system with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) last September, which allows the CTBTO to utilize additional atmospheric transport models in order to make more precise ATM calculations.

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The CTBTO will provide an update if and when noble gas has been detected and analyzed. Background A verification regime is being built to monitor compliance with the CTBT. 337 facilities worldwide will monitor the underground, the oceans and the atmosphere for any sign of a nuclear explosion. Today, 246 facilities have been certified and incorporated into the network, and can send data to the International Data Centre at the CTBTO in Vienna.

The CTBT has been signed by 180 States and ratified by 148, see interactive map. For its entry into force, however, the following nine States have yet to ratify: China, DPRK, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, and the United States.

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Nunn-Lugar Program April Update

Press Release, 22 May 2009, <http://lugar.senate.gov/>

U.S. Senator Dick Lugar announced the following accomplishments for the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program in April:

- 10 Submarine launched ballistic missiles; and
- 5 nuclear weapons transport train shipments secured.

On May 29, 2009, Lugar will attend the official opening ceremonies for the Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Shchuchye, Russia. Located in Siberia, the new facility was funded by the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program. Nunn-Lugar previously secured the nearly 2 million munitions containing VX nerve agent and other chemical weapons. The shells now will be drained and destroyed, and the deadly chemicals neutralized.

On at least a dozen occasions over the past decade Lugar has interceded to keep the Shchuchye project on track. The program was challenged by congressional opposition and restrictions, contractual problems, cost over runs, and delays. “Our own national security is bolstered by a vigorous international campaign to contain and eliminate all chemical weapons stockpiles. Global terrorists remain on the prowl, looking for new targets and, no doubt, new weapons. Destroying the huge cache of weapons at Shchuchye will make Americans safer,” Lugar said.

In November 1991, Lugar (R-IN) and Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA) authored the Nunn-Lugar Act, which established the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. This program has provided U.S. funding and expertise to help the former Soviet Union safeguard and dismantle its enormous stockpiles of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, related materials, and delivery systems. In 2003, Congress adopted the Nunn-Lugar Expansion Act, which authorized the Nunn-Lugar program to operate outside the former Soviet Union to address proliferation threats. In 2004, Nunn-Lugar funds were committed for the first time outside of the former Soviet Union to destroy chemical weapons in Albania, under a Lugar-led expansion of the program. In 2007, Lugar announced the complete destruction of Albania’s chemical weapons.

The Nunn-Lugar scorecard now totals:

- 7,514 strategic nuclear warheads deactivated;
- 752 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) destroyed;
- 498 ICBM silos eliminated;
- 143 ICBM mobile launchers destroyed;

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- 643 submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) eliminated;
- 476 SLBM launchers eliminated;
- 31 nuclear submarines capable of launching ballistic missiles destroyed;
- 155 bombers eliminated;
- 906 nuclear air-to-surface missiles (ASMs) destroyed;
- 194 nuclear test tunnels eliminated;
- 438 nuclear weapons transport train shipments secured;
- Upgraded security at 24 nuclear weapons storage sites; and
- Built and equipped 18 biological 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 trips to Nunn-Lugar sites around the world.

The Nunn-Lugar program: <http://lugar.senate.gov/nunnlugar/>

The Nunn-Lugar scorecard: <http://lugar.senate.gov/nunnlugar/scorecard.html>

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Pentagon Looks to Destroy 90 Percent of Chemical Stockpile by Treaty Deadline

Global Security Newswire, 20 May 2009, <http://www.cwwg.org/>

The U.S. Defense Department hopes to eliminate 90 percent of its stockpile of chemical weapons by 2012, the year designated by an international treaty for full disposal of the arsenal, Defense Environment Alert reported last week (see GSN, May 15).

That percentage would seem to cover demilitarization operations that are completed or under way at seven U.S. chemical weapons storage sites.

Left over would be the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky and the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado, where chemical neutralization plants are not yet finished. Disposal work is now expected to be completed in 2020 at Pueblo and three years later at Blue Grass.

The Chemical Weapons Convention requires the U.S. stockpile, which stood at nearly 30,000 tons of warfare materials such as mustard blister agent and sarin nerve agent when the pact entered into force in 1997, to be eliminated by April 2012. Defense officials have acknowledged they cannot meet that schedule, and are now aiming at a 2017 deadline set by Congress.

The Pentagon budget proposal for the next fiscal year includes \$550.4 million for preparation of the Colorado and Kentucky plants, a \$250 million hike from the anticipated funding request. The extra money is intended to help "complete destruction of the remaining 10 percent of the U.S. chemical stockpile as close to 2017 as possible," according to a Defense Department budget document released this month.

Reports have indicated that the Pentagon intends to request more than \$1 billion in additional funding over the next few budgets for the two installations (see GSN, May 6).

The fiscal 2010 defense budget request includes \$1.71 billion for the full range of chemical demilitarization activities, encompassing operations and maintenance, research and development and military construction. The federal budget year begins Oct. 1 (Defense Environment Alert/Chemical Weapons Working Group, May 12).

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Army Adjusts Chemical Weapon Disposal Tracking Following Internal Criticism

Global Security Newswire, 20 May 2009, <http://www.cwwg.org/>

The U.S. Army recently took steps to improve monitoring of destruction of chemical warfare materials, Defense Environment Alert reported last week (see GSN, May 4).

The moves followed a 2008 finding by internal auditors that the service's Chemical Materials Agency was not always correctly recording disposal of mustard blister agent stored in bulk containers. The problem occurred when "heels" of dried material threw off the weighing of the ton containers.

"Our review showed that amounts recorded as destroyed in the Chemical Accountability Management Information Network (CAMIN) weren't always accurate for chemical agent-filled ton containers," Army auditors said in an August report titled Agent Accountability at Chemical Agent Disposal Facilities. "As a result, the agency didn't have complete assurance that amounts recorded in the system were accurate which increased its chances for heightened levels of program scrutiny by federal, state and international organizations that have a vested interest in the elimination of chemical weapons."

Inside EPA obtained the document through a Freedom of Information Act request. There was no indication that any actual agent had escaped destruction, according to Defense Environment Alert.

The Chemical Materials Agency did not dispute the findings and acknowledged the importance of maintaining accurate records of the country's chemical-weapon inventory. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons receives the agency's data to determine whether the United States is adhering to demilitarization obligations set by the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In a prepared statement, the agency said it "has reviewed procedures for recording ton container agent destruction in CAMIN and has determined the amount of agent listed on the Certificate of Destruction as demilitarized is the amount in CAMIN, the official accountable record."

"Adjusting the weights of the ton containers in CAMIN would require, at a minimum, a supplemental treaty declaration," said the agency, which instead recommended an "ad hoc" statement within the reporting system to explain discrepancies between the original recorded weight of chemical agent and its weight when drained for destruction (Defense Environment Alert, May 12).



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State Clears Pine Bluff Arsenal to Increase Incineration to 75 Percent

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 21 May 2009, <http://www2.arkansasonline.com/>

State environmental regulators Wednesday authorized the Pine Bluff Arsenal to increase the amount of chemical munitions it can destroy at any one time.

The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at the Arsenal is one of seven facilities established to incinerate the nation's cache of aging chemical and nerve-agent weapons.

Pine Bluff had been operating its incinerators at 50 percent capacity while destroying the blister-agent mustard gas, awaiting environmental tests by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality.

Incineration of the munitions will now accelerate to 75 percent of maximum capacity in the chemical deactivation furnace, metal parts furnace and liquid incinerators.

The facility has already destroyed more than 494 ton containers of mustard gas.

The arsenal began incinerating its stockpile of weapons in March 2005 as part of an agreement in the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention, an international treaty which the United States and more than 150 other nations signed as their pledge to rid the world of chemical weapons.

In April, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency announced that 61 percent of the nation's declared stockpile of chemical munitions had been destroyed. The agency's goal is to destroy the rest by 2012.

Last year, the arsenal finished the incineration of all nerve agent munitions in its inventory and began the chemical weapons phase.

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Temporary Facility to Aid Disposal Mission

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 21 May 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Deseret Chemical Depot, Stockton, Utah. Army technicians began assembling a temporary chemical agent sampling facility today in the storage area of Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) in preparation for disposal operations.

The filtered semi-permanent structure will be used to collect samples of GA nerve agent and Lewisite blister agent for characterization and analysis required for environmental permit compliance.

The technicians are members of the U.S. Army 20th Support Command Chemical Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives (CBRNE) Analytical and Remediation Activity which supports the Army chemical stockpile depots with chemical assistance operations. Depot, systems contractor and state regulatory officials will monitor assembly and sampling operations which are projected to take four to five weeks.

The Army's Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is evaluating the proposed addition of a small-scale liquid incinerator system to thermally destroy the relatively small stockpiles of the two chemical agents plus any processing by-products such as spent decontamination solutions and other liquid wastes generated during disposal operations. Like the new sampling facility, the planned incinerator (LIC) and its associated pollution abatement system and auxiliary equipment would be installed within the boundary of DCD's storage area.

Proposed disposal operations for the relatively small quantities of the GA and Lewisite agents would not interfere with ongoing mustard disposal operations at the nearby Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) with headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., stores the nation's aging chemical weapons and develops programs aimed at effectively treating and ultimately eliminating chemical warfare materiel.

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The Chemical Weapons Convention Enters into Force for the Bahamas

OPCW, 21 May 2009, <http://www.opcw.org/>

The number of States not Party to the Convention is now reduced to seven.

On 21 May 2009, the Bahamas became the 188th State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, bringing the OPCW closer to achieving its goal of universal adherence.

With Bahamas becoming a State Party, the number of States not Party to the Convention is now reduced to seven: Angola, Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK or North Korean], Egypt, Israel, Myanmar, Somalia and Syria.

Welcoming the newest State Party to the Convention as a significant step towards achieving universality of the Convention, the OPCW Director-General stated that "the Bahamas joining the Organization draws us ever closer to our goal of realizing a universal ban on chemical weapons, and we call upon those States that have not yet adhered to the Convention to do so without delay."

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Kentucky: Chemical Weapons Site Reports Two Minor Leaks

Chicago Tribune, 26 May 2009, <http://www.cwwg.org/>

Two vapor leaks were found Tuesday in separate igloos where thousands of Cold War-era chemical weapons are stored in Kentucky, but Army officials said that they posed little danger outside the facility.

The leaked materials were mustard gas and sarin, a highly toxic nerve agent. Blue Grass Chemical Activity spokesman Richard Sloan said they were the first two leaks discovered this year at the Army Depot in Richmond. Two leaks being found hours apart is a rare coincidence, if not unprecedented, he said. "I don't think I've ever seen it happen before," Sloan said.

Monitoring equipment found low levels of mustard agent vapor Tuesday morning inside one of the projectile storage igloos. Hours later, another leak of GB vapor was found at an igloo that houses M55 rockets. It was unclear when the leaks actually occurred.

Neither leak was considered a serious threat to the surrounding area and filters attached to the igloo vents ensure none of the agent escapes into the atmosphere. Workers were planning to enter the igloos Wednesday to locate the leaking weapons and repack them.

"It's always a cause for concern, therefore we don't expect it, but it's something we're well trained to handle," Sloan said. Sloan said the rising temperatures could have played a role in the mustard leak. Two similar leaks were found last summer, blamed in part on the heat.

Mustard agent is among the least lethal of the ... munitions housed at the depot and other storage sites, and is set to be destroyed to comply with an international treaty. Unlike GB and other deadly nerve agents housed there, mustard is a weapon designed to debilitate an opposing Army by causing massive breakouts of blisters on the body, including the throat and lungs when inhaled.

GB, or sarin, is more difficult to detect because it is odorless and colorless, Sloan said. ...

The GB leak found Tuesday was believed to be much smaller than a liquid sarin leak in August 2007 that sparked an emergency operation to dispose of the container holding it. That process was completed earlier this year. ...

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Russia Opens Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Siberia

Ria Novosti, 29 May 2009, <http://www.cwwg.org/>

Russia opened on Friday the first unit of a chemical weapons destruction facility in Siberia's Kurgan Region, and pledged to destroy 45 percent of existing stockpiles by the end of 2009. The facility is to destroy 5,500 tons of chemical agents, including VX and sarin, stored in the village of Planovy in the Shchuchye district, about 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) east of Moscow, by the end of 2012.

"Today, a fantastic team of experts from different countries is gathered at this site. This is very logical, because chemical disarmament is an issue of the utmost global importance and the facility being launched is truly unique," Russian Industry Minister Viktor Khristenko said at the opening ceremony.

U.S. Senator Dick Lugar, also at the ceremony, said: "Today we must ensure that the [chemical] weapons are never used, and never fall into the hands of those who would do harm to us or others."

Khristenko said Russia is currently on schedule in the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles. "In 2003, we started the destruction of 1 percent of chemical weapons stockpiles. By 2007 we destroyed 20 percent, and to date we have destroyed 36.6 percent," he said. "By the end of 2009, we must destroy 45 percent of the stockpiles, or 18,000 metric tons of chemical agents in Russia. Despite any doubts or difficulties that may arise, we will fulfill our obligations on the destruction of chemical weapons arsenals," the minister added.

Russia signed the Chemical Weapons Convention ... in 1993, and ratified it in 1997. The country is to destroy its entire declared arsenal of 40,000 metric tons of chemical weapons by 2012. Russia has allocated \$7.18 billion from the federal budget for the implementation of the program and has built so far four chemical weapons destruction plants—in Gorny in the Saratov Region, Kambarka in the Republic of Udmurtia, in Nizhny Novgorod, and at the Maradykovsky complex in the Kirov Region.

Western nations pledged at the 2002 Kananaskis G8 summit to help Russia financially and technologically to destroy or convert its chemical weapons and production facilities as part of the Global Partnership against the Proliferation of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. The United States has contributed over \$1 billion for the construction of the facility at Shchuchye.

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OPCW Director-General Attends Opening Ceremony of the Shchuchye Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in the Russian Federation

OPCW, 29 May 2009, <http://www.opcw.org/>

OPCW inspectors will maintain a 24-hour presence at the facility to ensure that all chemical weapons at the site are irreversibly destroyed.

On 29 May 2009, the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter attended the opening ceremony of the Shchuchye Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility situated in Kurgan Oblast, the Russian Federation.

In connection with the commissioning of this new facility, the Russian Federation was represented by the Minister of Industry and Trade, H. E. Mr. V. Khristenko; the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation to the Volga Federal District and Chairman of the State Commission on Chemical Disarmament, H.E. Mr. G.A. Rapota; and the Deputy Foreign Minister, H.E Mr. S. Ryabkov.

The Russian authorities were also represented by the Director of the National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention Department for Fulfillment of Convention-related Obligations, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Mr. V. Kholstov; and the Head of the Federal Department for Safe Storage and Destruction of Chemical Weapons, General V. Kapashin.

The Honorable United States Senator Mr. Richard G. Lugar also attended the ceremony, as well as the Ambassador of the United States to the Russian Federation and representatives of Canada, France, Finland, the United Kingdom and other donor countries.

The Minister of Industry and Trade and other Russian authorities underlined that the opening of the Shchuchye Facility constituted a further step, and a clear reaffirmation, towards the full and timely fulfillment by the Russian Federation of its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Senator Lugar, who from a very early stage promoted United States' support to the construction of the Shchuchye Facility, highlighted the value of the U.S.-Russian cooperation in the field of disarmament and stressed the symbolic value of the new Shchuchye Facility in that context.

Director-General Pfirter on behalf of the OPCW congratulated the Russian authorities and the Russian Federation as a whole on the commencement of operations at this new Facility. This achievement constituted an important contribution to international peace and security, and demonstrated the Russian Federation's continued and firm commitment to meet its solemn

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obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention to complete destruction of its stockpile within the established deadline. Director-General Pfirter also commended the generosity of the countries which are supporting the Russian Federation and noted that the coming online of the facility at Shchuchye was a sterling example of the crucial cooperation and assistance that the States Parties can offer each other in pursuing the goals enshrined in the Convention.

The Shchuchye facility began on 5 March 2009 the destruction of rocket warheads filled with sarin (GB). The weapons to be destroyed at Shchuchye contain in total about 5,460 metric tonnes of nerve agent including sarin and VX; this represents about 14 percent of the chemical weapons that Russia is obliged to destroy. During the destruction process, OPCW inspectors will maintain a 24-hour presence at the facility to ensure that all chemical weapons at the site are irreversibly destroyed.

As at 30 April 2009, the Russian Federation had destroyed 12,169 metric tonnes of its Category 1 chemical weapons, or 30.35 percent, of the aggregate amount declared. To fulfill its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention the Russian Federation will destroy 45 percent by 31 December 2010 and 100 percent by 29 April 2012.

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OPCW Releases Scheduled Chemicals Database

OPCW, 29 May 2009, <http://www.opcw.org/>

The Scheduled Chemicals Database is a tool developed by the Technical Secretariat to facilitate the identification of scheduled chemicals by National Authorities, customs authorities, and the chemical industry for the purposes of implementing the declaration and transfer provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This database has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union.

The Scheduled Chemicals Database contains information on over 1,300 scheduled chemicals declared to the OPCW that are contained in the Handbook on Chemicals 2009, as well as all scheduled chemicals that had been assigned Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Registry Numbers as at 13 January 2009, amounting to an additional 28,000 chemicals. Although the database contains more than 29,000 scheduled chemicals, it does not contain all possible scheduled chemicals. Owing to the nature of the families of chemicals covered under the schedules, it is not possible to provide a comprehensive database of all scheduled chemicals.

The Scheduled Chemicals Database provides information on chemical identifiers such as CAS Registry Numbers, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and CAS chemical names, synonyms, and World Customs Organization Harmonized System codes.

The database is accessible via the Internet, through the OPCW website. Owing to licensing issues, the Secretariat will not be able to provide copies of the database, and access will be provided to registered users only. Registration is free and open to all. New users are required to provide a valid e-mail address in order to receive confirmation of registration. In accordance with the privacy statement on the OPCW website, information requested during the registration process will be used only for statistical purposes in order to improve the database in the future, and will not be published for general access.

The point of contact for feedback and enquiries on the Scheduled Chemicals Database is:

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Telephone: +31 (0)70 416 3015
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Conference on Disarmament Adopts Program of Work after Twelve Years of Stalemate

United Nations, 29 May 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

After 12 years of stalemate, the Conference on Disarmament (CD) this morning adopted a consensus document CD/1863, which contains a program of work. Dozens of delegations took the floor to laude this historical moment, which had saved the world's sole multilateral for disarmament negotiations.

Ambassador Idriss Jazairy of Algeria, outgoing President of the CD, said that he had had a long career but today's event was one of the high points of it and that it had been worth living for just that moment. The decision the members had taken today was one that would reinforce multilateralism. Today, they had not only saved the CD from a possible demise but they had also set up what partnership could achieve when they could break the artificial barriers that sometimes separated the North and South today as East and West had been separated in the past. If the twenty-first century was about anything, then it was about saving the planet through multilateralism.

Argentina said that this morning the CD had recovered its central role as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating body, as designed by those who had set it up. China said that today's event signified that the CD had broken its stalemate and would start its substantive program soon. Mexico noted that today was also the starting point of future hard work and hoped that the current positive atmosphere would prevail in the negotiations they would soon start. France said that through the adoption of the program of work they had entered a new period in the work of the CD. Austria hoped that they could start substantive work without further delay. Sweden said that without the President's determination they might still be hesitating to take this historic step. The road ahead was still full of challenges, said Indonesia.

Turning to the upcoming work, India said that it was committed to participating constructively in the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT) negotiations. India was willing to join only a non-discriminatory, multilaterally negotiated and internationally verifiable FMCT provided their security interests were fully addressed. Nuclear weapons were an integral part of their national security and would remain so pending the global elimination of all nuclear weapons on a universal, non-discriminatory basis. A FMCT would be a step forward to this goal. While joining the consensus on the program of work, they were disappointed that the Conference had not been able to decide on launching negotiations on nuclear disarmament. Pakistan said that the allocation of time for the four Working Group should be balanced. The appointment of the Chairs of the Working Groups should also reflect equal geographical representation.

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By decision CD/1863, on the establishment of a program of work for the 2009 session, the CD will establish several Working Groups. Under agenda item 1, cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, it will establish a Working Group to exchange views and information on practical steps for progressive and systematic efforts to reduce nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal of their elimination, including on approaches toward potential future work of multilateral character.

A second Working Group under this agenda item will negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, on the basis of the document CD/1299 of 24 March 1995 and the mandate contained therein (also known as the Shannon Mandate).

It will also establish Working Groups on prevention of an arms race in outer space and on negative security assurances. The Conference will appoint Special Coordinators on the other agenda items, including weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons; comprehensive program of disarmament; and transparency in armaments; to seek the views of its members on the most appropriate way to deal with those issues.

Before the adoption of the program of work, Iran indicated this morning that the delegation had forwarded the draft program of work to their capital and had not received, until now, instructions about it. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea said that they desired peace on the Korean Peninsula more than anything else. They had decided to support the draft decision in order for the Conference to be able to start its substantive work, even though a negative debate was still taking place in the Security Council in New York.

Speaking this morning were Ukraine, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Morocco, India, Argentina, China, the United Kingdom, Chile, Mexico, Pakistan, France, Australia, Austria, Sweden, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, the Russian Federation, the United States, Iraq, Indonesia, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, Spain, South Africa and Portugal.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament, which will be the first of this year's session under the presidency of Argentina, will take place on Thursday, 4 June 2009 at 10 a.m.

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Director-General Candidates Meet Members of the IAEA

IAEA, 26 May 2009, <http://www.iaea.org/>

The IAEA Board of Governors held today an informal meeting during which each of the five candidates for the post of Director-General of the IAEA made a presentation of their candidature to the Agency's Members.

The five nominated candidates are:

Mr. Yukiya Amano of Japan;
Mr. Luis Echávarri of Spain;
Mr. Abdul Samad Minty of South Africa;
Mr. Ernest Petrič of Slovenia; and
Mr. Jean-Pol Poncelet of Belgium.

The candidates were nominated by their respective governments in line with a process approved by the Board in October 2008. IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei's term of office expires on 30 November 2009. He has stated that he is not available for a fourth term of office.

The Chairperson of the Board of Governors Ambassador Taous Feroukhi said that today's meeting should be seen as a first step in the process of the election of the next Director-General.

"This meeting will help Member States to form an objective assessment of the five candidates," she said before opening the session.

A closed meeting of the Board of Governors has been called for 9 June during which a "straw poll" on the five candidates will be held. The straw poll, a secret ballot mechanism envisaged by the IAEA Statute in relation to the election of the Director-General, is not binding.

A formal vote on the election of the Director-General is to be held most likely late June, early July.

Dr. ElBaradei is the IAEA's fourth Director-General since 1957. He was first appointed to the office effective December 1997, and reappointed in 2001 and 2005. He follows Hans Blix, IAEA Director-General from 1981 to 1997; Sigvard Eklund, IAEA Director-General from 1961 to 1981; and Sterling Cole, IAEA Director-General from 1957 to 1961.

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Third Preparatory Committee for 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference Concludes Successfully with Adoption of Consensus Report

United Nations, 19 May 2009, <http://www.unog.ch>

The United Nations issued the following press release:

The Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) held its third session from 4 to 15 May at United Nations Headquarters in New York. This was the last of three sessions of the Preparatory Committee that will be held prior to the 2010 Review Conference.

This session, which was open to all parties to the Treaty, observer States, specialized agencies, international and regional intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, addressed both substantive and procedural issues related to the Treaty and the upcoming Review Conference in 2010. The 10 days of meetings were chaired by Ambassador Boniface G. Chidyausiku of Zimbabwe. One hundred nineteen States parties participated in this third session.

Palestine participated as an observer, as did the following specialized agencies and international and regional intergovernmental organizations: the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, the European Commission, the League of Arab States, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization. Representatives of the United Nations attended the session and provided secretarial support.

The purpose of this session was to prepare for the 2010 Review Conference by taking into account the deliberations and results of the previous two sessions held in 2007 and 2008, and to conclude various procedural issues for the 2010 Review Conference, while also making every effort to produce a consensus report containing recommendations to the Review Conference.

Following a general exchange of views on all aspects of the implementation of the Treaty, during which more than 60 statements were made, the Committee's early meetings were devoted to the procedural issues for the Review Conference in 2010, which were successfully finalized at the session. This includes the provisional agenda and draft rules of procedure, as well as the unanimous endorsement of the candidacy of Ambassador Libran N. Cabactulan of the Philippines for the presidency of the 2010 Review Conference. The meeting also decided that the 2010 Review Conference will be held from 3 to 28 May in New York.

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Several meetings were dedicated to substantive discussion on the following three clusters of issues: the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, disarmament and international peace and security; non-proliferation, nuclear-weapon-free zones and safeguards; and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Within this framework, the Committee also discussed security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; regional issues, including the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and reaffirmed in the final document of the 2000 Review Conference; and other provisions of the Treaty such as Article X on withdrawal from the Treaty.

In the margins of the meeting more than 50 side events were held by States parties, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, which included film screenings, discussions on the nuclear fuel cycle, disarmament and non-proliferation education, IAEA safeguards and prospects for nuclear weapons abolition.

Seventy-seven non-governmental organizations participated in the session with more than a dozen addressing the Committee in a meeting set aside specifically for their presentations.

The Treaty, which entered into force in 1970 and was extended indefinitely in 1995, requires that review conferences be held every five years. The Treaty is regarded as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Its objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament, and to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

For official conference documentation, please visit

<http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Nuclear/NPT2010Prepcom/PrepCom2009/index.html>.

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Clinton Condemns 'Provocative' North Korean Activities, Rhetoric

American Forces Press Service, 27 May 2009, <http://www.defenselink.mil/>

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton today reiterated U.S. commitment to South Korea's and Japan's security in light of what she called North Korea's "provocative and belligerent" activities and rhetoric. "The United States has and intends always to honor ... the defense of South Korea and Japan," she said. "That is part of our alliance obligation, which we take very seriously."

While not discussing details of North Korea's nuclear and missile tests conducted this week ... Clinton noted that the international community is coming together to condemn them. "North Korea has made a choice," she said. "It has chosen to violate the specific language of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1718. It has ignored the international community. It has abrogated the obligations it entered into through the Six-Party Talks. And it continues to act in a provocative and belligerent manner toward its neighbors.

"There are consequences to such actions," Clinton said, noting that the U.N. is weighing possible options. "I'm very pleased that we have a unified international community, including China and Russia, in setting forth a very specific condemnation of North Korea and then working with us for a firm resolution going forward," she said.

Whatever response is adopted, Clinton said, it will be imposed "with the intent to try to rein in the North Koreans and get them back into a framework where they are once again fulfilling their obligations and moving toward denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

The secretary of state reiterated hope that North Korea will return to the stalled process aimed at a nuclear-free Korean peninsula. Working with North Korea toward denuclearization, "will benefit, we believe, the people of North Korea, the region and the world," she said. ...

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General Status and Operation of the [Ottawa] Convention

AP Mine Destruction Convention, 25 May 2009, <http://www.apminebanconvention.org/>

The meeting was opened by its Co-Chairs, Yoshinobu Hiraishi of the Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament and Camilo Sanhueza of Chile. The Co-Chairs were supported by their Co-Rapporteurs, María del Carmen Vivar of Ecuador and Bostjan Jerman of Slovenia.

In opening the meeting, the Co-Chairs highlighted that they had developed a program covering four areas of work: (i) an overall assessment of the status of the pursuit of the Convention's core aims; (ii) discussions on matters of cross-cutting interest to all Standing Committees; (iii) ongoing consideration of the implementation of various articles of the Convention which have traditionally been discussed by this Standing Committee; and, (iv) updates on the work of various implementation mechanisms.

In addition, the Co-Chairs reminded delegations that they are proceeding, in keeping with past practice, in undertaking the task of consulting with a view to identifying a list of nominees to serve as Co-Rapporteurs following the Second Review Conference.

Overview of the General Status of Implementation and Universalization

The President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties, Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland, provided an overview of the general status of implementation of the Convention. In addition, the Czech Republic on behalf of the Member States of the European Union distributed a written statement of a general nature.

Canada, in its capacity as Coordinator of the Universalization Contact Group, provided an update on the general status of universalization. In addition, the following other States Parties or other organizations provided updates on their efforts to promote universal acceptance of the Convention: Australia, Japan, Norway, Thailand, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

The following States not parties provided updates on steps they are taking toward accession to the Convention: the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Morocco.

Article 7: Transparency and the Exchange of Information

Belgium, in its capacity as Coordinator of the Article 7 Contact Group, provide an update on the status of transparency reporting under Article 7 of the Convention. In addition, the United

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Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Geneva Branch, in its capacity as the official recipient of reports, provided an update.

Haiti informed the Standing Committee that it has submitted its initial transparency report (thus implying that there remain only three States Parties that have not provided an initial report as required. In addition, the following other States Parties and other delegations provided updates or shared views on transparency and the exchange of information: Moldova, the ICBL and UNMAS.

Article 3: Mines Retained and Transferred for Permitted Reasons

The Co-Chairs provided an opportunity for States Parties to provide updates on mines retained and / or transferred for reasons permitted under Article 3 of the Convention. In addition, the Co-Chairs introduced a document prepared on their behalf by the Convention's Implementation Support Unit (ISU) containing the number of retained and transferred mines that the States Parties have reported since entry into force (Article 3 Table).

The following States Parties that have retained and / or transferred mines for permitted purposes provided updates: Australia, Croatia, El Salvador, Germany, Mauritania, Turkey and Zambia. The following other delegations shared their views on mines retained and / or transferred for permitted purposes: Norway, Switzerland, the ICBL and the ICRC.

Article 9: Development and Adoption of Legislative, Administrative and Other Measures

The Co-Chairs recalled that in the 9MSP's Geneva Progress Report, it was noted that "67 States Parties have not yet reported having adopted legislation in the context of Article 9 obligations or that they consider existing laws to be sufficient." ...

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South Korea Joins Proliferation Security Initiative

Global Security Newswire, 26 May 2009, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

In the wake of North Korea's latest nuclear blast, South Korea said today it was joining the U.S.-led program to interdict illicit shipments of weapons of mass destruction and their component parts, Agence France-Presse reported (see GSN, April 23).

"Our participation in the [Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)] is necessary, in light of the very grave situation that North Korea has conducted a nuclear test," Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan told lawmakers (see related GSN story, today).

U.S. President Barack Obama expressed his appreciation for the decision in a telephone conversation with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak (Agence France-Presse I/NASDAQ.com, May 26).

Seoul has been solely an observer to the PSI, deferring full participation in order to avoid aggravating Pyongyang. ... The South indicated last month it would reconsider its stance after North Korea's rocket launch, an event seen by several nations as a test of long-range missile technology (see GSN, April 6). Several weeks passed without a formal declaration, but Monday's nuclear test eliminated any reason for further delay, government sources in Seoul told the Yonhap News Agency.

The move was made "to cope with the serious threat that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles poses to world peace and security," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Moon Tae-young.

"But maritime agreements reached between South and North Korea will still remain valid," he added, addressing pacts that allow each nation's cargo vessels to pass through the territorial waters of the other country (Agence France-Presse II/ ChannelNewsAsia, May 26).

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Russian, U.S. Diplomats Launch Arms Control Talks

The Associated Press, 19 May 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexus

Russian and U.S. negotiators sat down for difficult nuclear arms control talks Tuesday amid hopes that warming relations could help the two former superpowers reach an agreement seen as essential for global stability.

The negotiating teams led by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller and the chief of Russian Foreign Ministry's security and arms control department, Anatoly Antonov, gathered at a foreign ministry mansion for two days of talks on a replacement for the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

START expires on December 5, threatening to end formal controls on the size of the world's biggest nuclear arsenals. Between them, the two countries possess more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons. The failure to negotiate a replacement pact would leave Moscow and Washington unable to inspect and verify each other's stockpile of nuclear warheads, eroding mutual trust and undermining security. Failure to strike a deal would also make it more difficult for the U.S. to persuade Iran, North Korea and other countries to curb their own nuclear ambitions.

President Barack Obama's apparent determination to improve ties with Moscow ... paved the way for the rapid launch of talks on a successor deal to START. Both Russian and U.S. diplomats are hopeful of reaching an agreement before the year's end, but analysts are doubtful of quick progress because of differences on what weapons to cut as well as the divisive legacy of George W. Bush's presidency.

Alexander Pikayev, a top arms control expert at Russia's Institute for World Economy and International Relations, said that the talks starting Tuesday could shape U.S.-Russian relations for years ahead. "If they manage to strike a deal, it would be a major breakthrough boosting relations in other areas," Pikayev said. "But if the talks drag on and run into a deadlock, it will have a strong negative effect."

While Obama has put Bush's plan for a missile defense in Europe on hold, Russia wants the U.S. to scrap the anti-missile system altogether. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, still perhaps Russia's strongest political figure, warned last week that Russia would link the arms control talks with the U.S. missile defense plan something Washington has refused to do.

Retired Maj. Gen. Vladimir Dvorkin, a veteran Cold War arms control negotiator who helped write START, said it's too early to judge how flexible Russia might be in the talks. "They may

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say something in the agreement's preamble about taking (the missile defense) into account, or they may take a tough approach and say there will be no agreement until the plan for a missile defense is canceled," Dvorkin said.

START, signed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and President George H.W. Bush, led each country to cut its nuclear warheads by at least one-quarter, to about 6,000. Putin and President George W. Bush in 2002 signed the so-called Treaty of Moscow, which called for further cuts to between 1,700 and 2,200 operationally deployed warheads by 2012. The page-long document relied on comprehensive verification procedures contained in the 700-page START, including onsite inspections and regular exchange of data.

Moscow and Washington have long argued over what weapons should be subject to cuts. Russia wants to limit missiles, bombers and submarines along with nuclear warheads, just as the original START treaty did. The 2002 agreement only applied to warheads.

Gottemoeller said in a recent interview with Interfax that Obama's team is ready to negotiate cuts in missiles and other so-called delivery vehicles. But Dvorkin said it remains to be seen whether the two sides can agree on how to count the weapons.

There are other points of disagreement hampering progress. The United States is prepared to count only the warheads ready for launch, while Russia wants to count those in storage as well.

The U.S. also plans to swap nuclear warheads for conventional explosives on some long-range ballistic missiles. Russia opposes the plan because it would be impossible to tell whether a missile launched by the U.S. was carrying a nuclear warhead.

Pikayev said that the parties may end up signing a quick framework deal this year and continue talks on a broader, more comprehensive pact. Even if both sides want a deal, he said, there is no guarantee they can strike one. "There is a political will to reach the agreement, but there are objective difficulties which are difficult to overcome," he said.

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Moscow Sees First Round of Russia-U.S. Strategic Arms Talks as Success

Moscow Interfax-AVN, 20 May 09, <http://www.militarynews.ru>

Russia sees the first round of Russia-U.S. talks on a new strategic arms reduction treaty, held in Moscow on Wednesday, as successful and constructive, a source in the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax. "The talks are over. We qualify them as a success," the source said. "The meeting proceeded in a constructive spirit," the source added.

The sides have agreed to meet for the next round in Geneva on June 1-3, the diplomat said. "Reports on the first results of the work on a new treaty will be made at a Russian-U.S. summit in Moscow in early July," the source said.

The first two-day official talks on a new treaty to replace START were held behind closed doors. The delegations of Russian and U.S. experts were led by Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Security and Disarmament Department Anatoly Antonov, and U.S. Assistance Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller. The sides were extremely cautious and avoided making commentaries or voicing judgments, but ahead of the talks Russia had expressed hopes they would be productive.

During the next five months, Russian and U.S. experts are expected to draft a legally binding treaty to replace START, which goes out of effect on December 5 2009. By the beginning of July, when a Russian-U.S. summit is held in Moscow, they will have to present a substantive report on the work done to the Russian and U.S. presidents.

It took Russian and U.S. experts seven years to forge the START I ... treaty. The one and a half-page Russian-American Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions [SORT] took a year to be drafted.

START I was signed in Moscow in late July 1991 and took effect on December 5 1994. It gave the former Soviet Union and the United States seven years to cut their nuclear arsenals to no more than 6,000 warheads on each side.

In 2002, Russia and the U.S. signed the SORT treaty ..., also known as the Moscow Treaty. It obliged the sides to cut the number of nuclear warheads to 2,200 - 1,700 by 2012.

Moscow and Washington have voiced readiness to go further in a future strategic arms reduction treaty, and cut the number of nuclear warheads below the levels set in the Moscow Treaty.

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