



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

### **New NNSA Nuclear Testing Facility Open**

UPI, 21 May 2008, <http://www.upi.com/>

The National Nuclear Security Administration announced it has improved its ability to test the aging U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile for safety and reliability. (184 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **U.S. Wary of Pending Treaty Banning Cluster Munitions**

Voices of America, 21 May 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

The U.S. State Department said Wednesday [21 May] a pending international treaty banning cluster munitions could have unintended consequences for international military cooperation in such areas as disaster relief. (573 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **More than 100 Countries Adopt Cluster Bomb Ban**

AFP, 30 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

A landmark international convention banning cluster munitions was formally adopted by 111 countries here Friday, in a move organizers hope will stigmatize the lethal weapons as much as landmines. (654 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **North Korea Details Size of Plutonium Stockpile**

GSN, 02 June 2008, <http://www.nti.org>

In documents recently delivered to the United States, North Korea indicated that it has produced 37 kilograms of plutonium, the New York Times reported Saturday [31 May]. (698 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **Guinea-Bissau Joins the Chemical Weapons Convention**

OPCW News, 23 May 2008, <http://www.opcw.org/>

Guinea-Bissau deposited its instrument of ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) with the Secretary General of the United Nations on 20 May 2008, and the Convention will enter into force for this State on 19 June 2008. (255 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

### **Last VX Projectile Safely Processed at ANCDF**

*CMA, 24 May 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>*

All 139,581 nerve agent VX-filled artillery shells that had been stored here for decades have now been demilitarized at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF). (231 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

## COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

### **Samoa Hosts CTBT Forum**

*UPI, 20 May 2008, <http://www.upi.com/>*

Samoa held a Pacific Islands forum where officials met to discuss issues surrounding the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). (243 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE TREATY (CFE)

### **Belarusian Military Inspectors will Visit Netherlands with an Inspection**

*BelaPAN, 19 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Between May 19 and 22, an inspection group of Belarus will inspect two military units of the armed forces of the Netherlands in the framework of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE). (75 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

### **IAEA: Iran May be Withholding Information in Nuke Probe**

*Associated Press Online, 27 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Iran may be withholding information needed to establish whether it tried to make nuclear arms, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Monday [26 May] in an unusually strongly worded report. (881 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS (CONT.)

### **Iran Threatens to Limit U.N. Access**

AP, 28 May 2008, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Iran's new parliament speaker warned Wednesday [28 May] that Tehran could impose new limits on its cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog after a critical report from the agency. (378 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **IAEA Chief Presses Iran for Nuclear Cooperation**

GSN, 02 June 2008, <http://www.nti.org>

Decrying a “regrettable” lack of cooperation, the world’s top nuclear official today pressed Iran to help him allay Western suspicions that the nation has military ambitions for its nuclear activities. (912 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## OPEN SKIES TREATY

### **Russia to Perform Surveillance Flight over Sweden under Open Skies Treaty**

Russia & CIS Military Newswire, 26 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Russia will perform an aerial surveillance flight over Sweden under the international Agreement on Open Skies, the Russian Defense Ministry's Press and Information Department said in a statement on Monday [26 May]. (150 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

### **U.S. Hopes South Korea Will Join PSI**

Yonhap, 27 May 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

The United States reiterated Tuesday [27 May] its hopes that South Korea will participate in the global anti-proliferation initiative, a program that marks its fifth anniversary this week as the U.S. goes on active outreach to expand membership. (473 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI) (CONT.)

### **PSI Program Intercepted Missile Technology Bound for Syria**

*GSN, 29 May 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>*

A U.S.-led effort to stop illicit shipments of WMD technology has worked successfully many times, as demonstrated by an incident last year in which four nations cooperated to prevent Syria from acquiring ballistic missile testing equipment, a senior White House official said yesterday [28 May]. (742 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **South Korea Takes Step toward Proliferation Initiative**

*ROK Daily, 01 June 2008, accessed via Open Source Center*

South Korean Defense Minister Lee Sang-hee [Yi Sang-hu'i] said the country is considering fully joining the U.S.-led initiative aimed at stopping proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. (186 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

### **Russia Wants to Negotiate Replacement for START with U.S. before End of 2009**

*Interfax-AVN, 02 June 2008, accessed via Open Source Center*

Moscow hopes Russia and the United States will forge a replacement for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) before the end of 2009. (173 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:



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## New NNSA Nuclear Testing Facility Open

UPI, 21 May 2008, <http://www.upi.com/>

The National Nuclear Security Administration announced it has improved its ability to test the aging U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile for safety and reliability.

NNSA officials say the Dual-Axis Radiographic Hydrodynamic Test (DARHT) facility at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico is now fully operational. Since 1992, when President George H.W. Bush ordered a voluntary moratorium, the United States hasn't produced any new nuclear weapons or conducted any underground nuclear tests.

As a result, the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile is reaching an age when scientists originally projected the weapons would expire. With the DARHT facility now operational, officials will be able to assess and certify the weapons stockpile without underground nuclear testing, the NNSA reported.

"DARHT is an incredible scientific and engineering achievement and is extremely important to certifying the nuclear weapons stockpile," Robert Smolen, NNSA deputy administrator for defense programs, said in a statement.

"U.S. nuclear weapons are 20 to 30 years old, and this high-tech machine allows us to look at how changes made to fix age-related and technical defects may affect weapon performance -- all without conducting an underground nuclear test."

[back to top](#)

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## U.S. Wary of Pending Treaty Banning Cluster Munitions

*Voices of America*, 21 May 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

The U.S. State Department said Wednesday [21 May] a pending international treaty banning cluster munitions could have unintended consequences for international military cooperation in such areas as disaster relief. The United States and several other major military powers are not taking part in the 100-nation treaty talks in Dublin. VOA's David Gollust reports from the State Department.

State Department officials say they share international concern about civilian casualties caused by cluster bomb munitions lingering in former battle zones.

But they say the United States and key allies believe such weapons are still useful in certain conflict situations, and that rather than banning them they should be technically upgraded so that they become harmless soon after being used.

State Department experts briefed reporters here as delegates from more than 100 countries held a third day of sessions in Dublin on a treaty banning cluster munitions.

The United States and several other key producers of such weapons, including Russia, China, India and Pakistan are not taking part in the treaty process, launched last year in Oslo.

Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Stephen Mull said the outright ban envisaged in the Oslo process would be impossible to achieve, given the continued utility of the weapons.

He said the United States' focus instead is to regulate their use through the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, or CCW, which meets in Geneva and brings together all major weapons producers.

Mull faulted provisions of the emerging treaty, including one which he said would effectively criminalize military cooperation between signatory states and those outside the treaty:

"This would have very grave implications for a whole range of activities that we don't think are within the goals of the organizers of this process. For example, if the convention passes in its current form, any U.S. military ship would be technically not able to get involved in a peacekeeping operation, providing disaster relief or humanitarian assistance as we're doing right now in the aftermath of the earthquake in China, the typhoon in Burma, not to mention everything we did in Southeast Asia after the tsunami in December of 2004," he said.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

Cluster weapons are typically delivered by aircraft or missiles, opening in mid-air and scattering individual sub-munitions of bomblets over a wide area.

Interest in the issue was heightened by among other things, Israel's use of the weapons in its 2006 war with Hezbollah, which caused civilian casualties during and after the conflict.

Assistant Secretary Mull said the bomblets can be made to self-destruct or become harmless shortly after their use.

He said a Congressional mandate now forbids U.S. exports of cluster munitions that do not have these protections, and said that since such weapons are still under development, the United States, in effect, has an export ban in place.

Dublin conference delegates aim to complete the draft treaty by May 30 and forward it to Oslo for signatures. It would formally take effect six months after 20 nations sign and ratify the agreement.

The New York-based monitoring group Human Rights Watch said this week it is regrettable that the United States and some other countries continue to insist on the need for a weapon the rest of the world is banning because of unacceptable harm to civilians.

Human Rights Watch said despite their non-participation, a treaty would stigmatize cluster munitions to such a degree that it will be difficult for any country to use them without international condemnation.

 [back to top](#)

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**DTRA**

## More than 100 Countries Adopt Cluster Bomb Ban

*AFP, 30 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

A landmark international convention banning cluster munitions was formally adopted by 111 countries here Friday [30 May], in a move organizers hope will stigmatize the lethal weapons as much as landmines.

Diplomats adopted the treaty without objection at the end of 12 days of robust negotiation at Croke Park stadium in the Irish capital.

The wide-ranging pact bans the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions. It also provides for helping victims and clearing contaminated areas within 10 years.

The treaty requires the destruction of stockpiles within eight years – though it leaves the door open for future, more precise generations of cluster bombs that pose less harm to civilians.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hailed it as "a new international standard that will enhance the protection of civilians, strengthen human rights and improve prospects for development."

The convention is due to be signed in Oslo on December 2-3. It comes into force once 30 states have ratified it.

Politicians and campaigners described the adoption as hugely significant, despite the absence of the United States, China, Russia, Israel, India and Pakistan – all major cluster bomb stockpilers and producers.

But supporters said they hoped the treaty would pressure them to change track or shame them into not using cluster bombs.

"We all know that there are important states not present, but I am convinced that we will have succeeded in stigmatizing any future use of cluster munitions," Irish Foreign Minister Micheal Martin said.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere, whose country spearheaded the process, said in Oslo that "the door is open" to other states. "We have created a framework which is now allowing countries to join and I hope to see that," he said.



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## BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

Alongside him, British counterpart David Miliband, whose country dropped objections to the draft treaty on Thursday, breaking the deadlock in Dublin, added: "It's up to us to make sure it generates momentum in the process."

Slovenia, which currently holds the European Union presidency, said the new convention would have "a tremendous positive influence on the ground."

The United States has defended its non-attendance, saying it was "deeply concerned" about the humanitarian impact of cluster bombs and all weapons of war, despite "disagreements" about the best way forward.

Dropped from planes or fired from artillery, cluster bombs explode in mid-air, scattering bomblets, with many civilians having been killed or maimed in heavily-bombed countries like Laos, Vietnam and Afghanistan by their indiscriminate, wide area effect. They also pose a lasting threat as many bomblets fail to explode on impact.

Norwegian Deputy Defense Minister Espen Barth Eide told AFP that countries wanted their military actions to be seen as legitimate, and compared the potential impact of the Dublin text to the 1997 Ottawa Treaty on landmines.

"With the landmine treaty, the U.S. did not sign it but we don't really care because they behave as if they have signed it because they recognize they are morally outlawed," he said.

The Cluster Munition Coalition, an umbrella group of non-governmental organizations, said it would now be "politically impossible" for countries to use such weapons without a backlash. It was "deeply disappointed" by an article on how countries may assist non-signatory states and said it would work to ensure it did not become a "loophole."

Steve Goose, from Human Rights Watch, said they would pressure signatories to clear non-signatories' stockpiles from their soil. "This treaty will make the world a safer place for millions of people. Cluster munitions have been tossed on the ash heap of history," he said.

Afghan campaigner Soraj Ghulam Habib, who was 10 when his legs were blown off by a cluster bomb, said he now felt his suffering was not in vain.

"Victims need a lot of support and now work can be done to make victims self-reliant, not let them be like beggars on the street," the 17-year-old told AFP. "I hope that cluster munitions will never again be used by any states."

[back to top](#)

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**DTRA**

## North Korea Details Size of Plutonium Stockpile

GSN, 02 June 2008, <http://www.nti.org>

In documents recently delivered to the United States, North Korea indicated that it has produced 37 kilograms of plutonium, the New York Times reported Saturday [31 May].

Pyongyang had previously said it had produced 30 kilograms while U.S. intelligence agencies put the amount between 40 and 50 kilograms. Varying estimates have found that North Korea could produce between six and 10 nuclear weapons with its plutonium; it tested one weapon in October 2006.

U.S. officials are not yet accepting the latest figures, contained in more than 18,000 pages of documents submitted as a prelude to the regime's declaration of its atomic activities and holdings. State Department officials said they would need several weeks to examine all the documents.

Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, top U.S. envoy to the six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear program, said Pyongyang is striving to complete the declaration. The accounting is required under the second phase of a 2007 agreement under which the Stalinist state would give up its nuclear programs in exchange for economic, diplomatic and security benefits from China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States.

"We're coming to an important juncture in this process," Hill said Friday after meeting with his Russian counterpart in Moscow.

The documents released to date do not address suspected North Korean uranium enrichment and nuclear proliferation activities. Pyongyang's unwillingness to address those issues has held up the denuclearization process for months. An April compromise plan reportedly only calls for an acknowledgment of U.S. suspicions in these sectors.

Meanwhile, the State Department on Friday refuted comments from a former agency official, the Times reported. Charles Pritchard, head of the Korea Economic Institute, said North Korean officials told him in April that they did not intend to relinquish the nation's full stockpile of nuclear weapons and material.

"With all due respect to Mr. Pritchard, he's a former government official," said State Department spokesman Tom Casey. "I'm not sure who he's talking to. But I think [Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice], [President George W. Bush] and Chris Hill have all made clear that we

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

expect the North Koreans to provide us a declaration that meets the requirements of the six parties.”

“There are way too many people that make a living professing to know what’s really going on inside these and other negotiations,” Casey said, “and it’s kind of amazing how usually they are wrong. If I had a dime for every time some former official with an axe to grind had put forward their own version of what our negotiations were, I would be a very wealthy man,” he added.

South Korea’s lead nuclear negotiator also said he expects Pyongyang to soon issue its nuclear declaration, Agence France-Press reported.

“North Korea was preparing to submit a nuclear declaration, and I could confirm it was almost completed,” Kim Sook said yesterday following his first meeting with top North Korean envoy Kim Kye Gwan.

However, the official from Seoul said the United States might need additional time to take North Korea off the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, Yonhap reported. Pyongyang has demanded the move in exchange for releasing the declaration.

“In my view, the U.S. needs more time, while North Korea’s preparations are almost done,” he told reporters.

Along with the declaration, the second phase of the denuclearization process calls on North Korea to disable its plutonium-producing nuclear reactor and two other key facilities at its Yongbyon nuclear complex. Slightly more than one-third of spent fuel rods have been removed from the five-megawatt reactor, International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei said today.

“These fuel rods, as well as the two-thirds remaining in the reactor core, are under agency containment and surveillance,” ElBaradei said in a statement to the IAEA Board of Governors. “The nuclear material produced during the disabling facilities at the nuclear fuel fabrication plant also remains under agency containment and surveillance. The agency has not been requested to participate in the disablement of these facilities.”

North Korea said Saturday that a recent U.S. report that addressed human rights and freedom under the regime left it “skeptical about whether [Washington] has true willingness” to end the nuclear standoff, the Associated Press reported.

 back to top

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**DTRA**

## Guinea-Bissau Joins the Chemical Weapons Convention

OPCW News, 23 May 2008, <http://www.opcw.org/>

Guinea-Bissau deposited its instrument of ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) with the Secretary General of the United Nations on 20 May 2008, and the Convention will enter into force for this State on 19 June 2008. It will thus become the 184th State Party to the CWC, reducing to 11 the number of States that still remain outside the CWC.

Guinea-Bissau's decision to join the Convention constitutes an important step towards the universality of the Convention. The goal of universal adherence is to both strengthen the global chemical weapons ban, as well as the international community's efforts to reinforce the norms against weapons of mass destruction.

As an OPCW Member State, Guinea-Bissau will benefit from OPCW's international cooperation-and-assistance programs, which aim to enhance each State Party's national capacity to implement the Convention and to engage in the peaceful uses of chemistry. Guinea-Bissau is the 50th country in Africa to join the Convention with only three States in the region remaining outside its jurisdiction.

The Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force on 29 April 1997. As its implementing agency, the OPCW works towards achieving four principal objectives: to eliminate chemical weapons; to prevent their proliferation and re-emergence; to provide assistance and protection upon any State Party's request in the event of the use, or threat of use, of chemical weapons; and to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry. Adherence to the Convention contributes to global peace and security, and its universal and effective implementation provides concrete benefits for all Member States.

 [back to top](#)

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## Last VX Projectile Safely Processed at ANCDF

CMA, 24 May 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

All 139,581 nerve agent VX-filled artillery shells that had been stored here for decades have now been demilitarized at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF).

The last VX-filled 155mm artillery shell was safely disposed of today (Saturday, 24 May). The first projectile was processed on June 3, 2007. ANCDF demilitarization efforts have processed 80 percent of VX munitions stored here. In addition to the artillery shells, 35,662 VX-filled rockets have been processed. The last VX munition campaign, involving land mines, will begin once site employees perform required maintenance work and install and test equipment designed to safely handle the land mines.

Timothy K. Garrett, ANCDF site project manager, said, "This is another significant milestone for our entire work force that includes the Anniston Chemical Activity employees who store the munitions and safely move them, as well as the employees at the ANCDF who safely demilitarize them."

Garrett also said, "We expect all of the change over work to be completed in about two months. Land mine disposal operations will take about a year to finish."

More than 48 percent of the chemical munitions stored here have now been safely demilitarized. In addition to the VX munitions, 142,428 GB-filled munitions have been safely disposed of since operations began on Aug. 9, 2003. The ANCDF is scheduled to be decontaminated and decommissioned with the conclusion of the final disposal campaign for mustard agent munitions.

[back to top](#)

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## Samoa Hosts CTBT Forum

UPI, 20 May 2008, <http://www.upi.com/>

Samoa held a Pacific Islands forum where officials met to discuss issues surrounding the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) gathered 13 Pacific states to participate in a workshop in Samoa aimed at promoting awareness of the CTBT and discuss with island state representatives the potential benefits of implementing the treaty. Officials say with participation in the CTBT, the island states could be eligible for benefits including tsunامي and accidental radioactive release warnings, among others, the CTBTO reported.

The Pacific Island region historically has been the site of some of the world's largest nuclear weapons tests, including more than 100 tests by the United States. Officials at the Pacific Island forum, which included Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, called for the CTBT to be put into force and for greater cooperation on nuclear weapons non-proliferation.

"The very creation of the Pacific Islands forum is tied up with nuclear issues," Peter Forau, deputy secretary general of the Pacific Islands forum secretariat, said in a statement. "(Nuclear) testing only ceased in our region as late as 1996 after five decades of atmospheric and underground testing. No other region has had such an experience," he said.

"(Countries should) respect the wishes of the peoples of the Pacific and indeed, the rest of humankind, to renounce nuclear testing and advocate, like the rest of us, non-proliferation."

[back to top](#)

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20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## **Belarusian Military Inspectors will Visit Netherlands with an Inspection**

*BelaPAN, 19 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Between May 19 and 22, an inspection group of Belarus will inspect two military units of the armed forces of the Netherlands in the framework of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE). The press service of the Defense Ministry of Belarus reports that in the course of the inspection, the inspectors will check compliance of the quantity of armament and military hardware limited by the CFE at the checked objects with their declared quantity.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## **IAEA: Iran May be Withholding Information in Nuke Probe**

*Associated Press Online, 27 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Iran may be withholding information needed to establish whether it tried to make nuclear arms, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Monday [26 May] in an unusually strongly worded report.

The tone of the language suggesting Tehran continues to stonewall the U.N. nuclear monitor revealed a glimpse of the frustration felt by agency investigators stymied in their attempts to gain full answers to suspicious aspects of Iran's past nuclear activities.

A senior U.N. official familiar with the investigation into Iran's nuclear program said none of the dozens of agency reports issued in that context had ever been as plain spoken in calling Tehran to task for not being forthright. He agreed to discuss the report only if granted anonymity because he was not authorized to comment to the media.

Iran has described its cooperation with the agency's probe as positive, suggesting it was providing information requested by agency officials.

Ali Ashgar Soltanieh, Iran's chief delegate to the IAEA, said as much again Monday, telling The Associated Press that the report described "the peaceful nature of our nuclear actions."

"The Americans failed ... in shameful attempts" to co-opt the agency into delivering anti-Iranian findings, he said.

He noted a paragraph in the report saying that agency experts had been given access to all declared nuclear material in Iran and verified that all of it was accounted for.

But Gregory L. Schulte, his U.S. counterpart, suggested the report was a strong indictment of Iran's defiance of the international community's efforts to get answers about troubling parts of its nuclear program, noting it "details a long list of questions that Iran has failed to answer."

"At the same time that Iran is stonewalling its inspectors, it's moving forward in developing its enrichment capability in violation of Security Council resolutions," Schulte told the AP.

He described parts of the report as a "direct rebuttal" of Iranian claims that all nuclear questions had been answered.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

U.S. intelligence says Iran stopped work on nuclear weapons in 2003 but some other nations believe such activities continued past that date. The report noted Iran continued to deny such allegations.

Obtained by the AP, the restricted report forwarded to the U.N. Security Council and to the 35 board members of the IAEA said Iran remains defiant of the council's demands that it suspend uranium enrichment.

Shrugging off three sets of council sanctions, Iran has expanded its operational centrifuges machines that churn out enriched uranium by about 500 since the last IAEA report, in February, the new report said.

In announcing major progress in his government's push for nuclear power, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said last month that Iranian scientists were putting 6,000 new uranium enriching centrifuges into place and testing a new type that worked five times faster.

The IAEA report noted Iran now had only 3,500 centrifuges and said the few advanced machines actually running were only in a testing phase. Still the senior U.N. official said Iran's goal of 6,000 machines running by the summer was "pretty much plausible."

Uranium can be used as nuclear reactor fuel or as the core for atomic warheads, depending on the degree of enrichment.

Running smoothly, 3,000 centrifuges could produce enough nuclear material for a bomb within 18 months. But Iran insists it is only working to produce fuel for reactors that will generate electricity and says it has a right to conduct enrichment for such purposes under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In addressing whether Iran was complying with IAEA requests, the report appeared to come down on the side of the U.S. "Iran has not provided the Agency with all the information, access to documents and access to individuals necessary to support Iran's statements" that its activities are purely peaceful in intent, it said.

"The Agency is of the view that Iran may have additional information, in particular on high explosives testing and missile related activities which ... Iran should share with the agency," the report said. It was referring to two alleged sets of tests that IAEA officials say could be linked to a nuclear weapons program.



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

The allegations of nuclear military programs "remain a matter of serious concern," the report said. Suggesting fears of clandestine weapons activities remain, it added: "Clarification of these is critical to an assessment of the nature of Iran's past and present nuclear program."

Iran already rejected evidence provided by the U.S and other IAEA board members on alleged weapons programs in February, but then promised to revisit the issue before the agency's next board meeting in a week.

Intelligence received by the IAEA in its investigations, as well as from the U.S. and other agency board member nations, suggest Iran experimented with an undeclared uranium enrichment program that was linked to a missile project and drew up blueprints on refitting missiles to allow them to carry nuclear warheads.

The intelligence also suggested Iran was researching construction of an underground site that apparently could be used to test fire nuclear bombs and ordered "dual use" equipment from abroad that could be part of an atomic weapons program.

Additionally, Iran possesses diagrams showing how to mold uranium metal into the shape of warheads.

Its nuclear work has been under IAEA investigation since 2003, when a dissident Iranian group revealed the existence of a clandestine enrichment program.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## Iran Threatens to Limit U.N. Access

AP, 28 May 2008, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Iran's new parliament speaker warned Wednesday [28 May] that Tehran could impose new limits on its cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog after a critical report from the agency. Ali Larijani, formerly the country's top nuclear negotiator, was overwhelmingly elected as parliament speaker Wednesday. Moments later, he told parliament that a new report by the International Atomic Energy Agency was "deplorable."

The unusually strongly worded report issued Monday said Iran may be withholding information needed to establish whether it tried to make nuclear weapons.

"We recommend them not to clandestinely keep passing Iran's nuclear dossier between the IAEA and 5-plus-1 group. This parliament won't allow such deception," Larijani told an open session of parliament broadcast live on state-run radio. He was referring to IAEA reports and permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany. The council has imposed three sets of sanctions against Iran for its refusal to halt enriching uranium – a process that can be used to generate electricity or nuclear arms.

"Should this behavior continue, the parliament ... will set new limits on cooperation with the IAEA," Larijani said. His comments drew chants of "God is great" and "Death to America" from the chamber.

The tone of the IAEA report suggesting Tehran continues to stonewall the U.N. nuclear monitor revealed a glimpse of the frustration felt by agency investigators stymied in their attempts to gain full answers to suspicious aspects of Iran's past nuclear activities. Iran has previously described its cooperation with the agency's probe as positive, suggesting it was providing information requested by agency officials. In the past, Iran had extensive voluntary cooperation with the IAEA beyond its obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, including allowing IAEA inspectors to visit its military sites as a goodwill gesture to build trust.

But Tehran ended all voluntary cooperation with the IAEA, including allowing snap inspections of its nuclear facilities, in February 2006 after being reported to the U.N. Security Council. Ever since, Iran has limited its cooperation to only its obligations under the NPT. The treaty does not require Iran to allow short notice intrusive inspections of its facilities.

Larijani didn't specify what measures the parliament would take, but it could include further scaling back cooperation by not responding to questions originating from Western intelligence agencies.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

DTRA

## IAEA Chief Presses Iran for Nuclear Cooperation

GSN, 02 June 2008, <http://www.nti.org>

Decrying a “regrettable” lack of cooperation, the world’s top nuclear official today pressed Iran to help him allay Western suspicions that the nation has military ambitions for its nuclear activities.

“Iran has not provided the [International Atomic Energy] Agency with all the access to documents and to individuals requested by the secretariat, nor has Iran provided the substantive explanations required to support its statements” that all nuclear research has been peaceful in nature, said agency leader Mohamed ElBaradei in an opening statement to a regular session of the agency’ governing board in Vienna.

Tehran has clarified many aspects of its past nuclear activities, he said, but nuclear officials have stumbled in clearing up allegations that the nation has conducted research into nuclear-weapon designs.

“It is regrettable that we have not made the progress we had hoped for with respect to the one remaining major issue, namely clarification of the cluster of allegations and secretariat questions relevant to possible military dimensions to Iran’s nuclear program,” ElBaradei said. “The so-called alleged studies remain a matter of serious concern.”

ElBaradei took an unusually hard stand, said one senior Western diplomat, suggesting that the agency leader is growing more frustrated with his efforts to understand Iran’s nuclear program, five years after Tehran acknowledged its existence.

ElBaradei released a report last week describing the agency’s understanding of Iran’s past nuclear activities, and agency safeguards chief Olli Heinonen briefed diplomats Thursday on the report’s details.

The story he told was a “deeply troubling one,” said one diplomat in attendance. Of particular concern was Iran’s possession of a document on crafting uranium metal into hemispheres, a shape that has strong nuclear-weapon implications.

Heinonen described his “alarm” that Iran had the information, the diplomat said.

Iran has said it acquired the document in a batch of uranium enrichment technology data it received from an illicit nuclear network in the late 1980s.

back to top

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

Despite the continuing agency concerns, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin expressed confidence recently that Iran was not seeking nuclear weapons.

"I don't believe so. Nothing indicates it," he said in a Le Monde interview published Saturday.

"The Iranians are a proud people," he said. "They want to enjoy their independence and exercise their legitimate right to civil nuclear power.

"I am serious. On a legal level, Iran has infringed nothing at the moment. They have the same right to enrichment (of uranium.). The paperwork says so. Iran is accused of not displaying all its programs to the IAEA. This point remains to be resolved," Putin said.

Still, he urged Iran to cooperate with the nuclear agency and to avoid provoking other nations in the region. Iran should remain without nuclear weapons, he said.

"That is our principled position," he said. "Using nuclear weapons in a region as small as the Middle East would be synonymous with suicide. Whose interests would it serve? The Palestinians? Hardly, the Palestinians would cease to exist."

"We ask them to take that into account, and not irritate their neighbors or the international community, and prove they have no ulterior motives," he added.

For its part, Iran has criticized EIBaradei's recent report.

"We were expecting more than this from the agency," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini said yesterday. "If it was not for the pressure from one or two countries, the agency could have made a better report which would not have given any opportunity for some countries who are seeking pretexts to put pressure on us."

[back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## Russia to Perform Surveillance Flight over Sweden under Open Skies Treaty

*Russia & CIS Military Newswire, 26 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Russia will perform an aerial surveillance flight over Sweden under the international Agreement on Open Skies, the Russian Defense Ministry's Press and Information Department said in a statement on Monday.

From May 26 to 30 the Russian An-30B is expected to take off from an airfield in Uppsala (Sweden), according to the statement. The flight range will be 1,700 kilometers.

"The itinerary will be determined and agreed with the party being observed, with weather conditions in various parts of Sweden taken into account, as well as capabilities of the surveillance equipment, its application restrictions as per the treaty and flight safety requirements. During the surveillance flight both Russian and foreign specialists will monitor how the surveillance equipment is being used, whether the approved modes and the surveillance flight itinerary are being strictly observed and how the provisions of the Open Skies Treaty are being complied with," the Defense Ministry said.

[back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## U.S. Hopes South Korea Will Join PSI

*Yonhap, 27 May 2008, accessed via Open Source Center*

The United States reiterated Tuesday [27 May] its hopes that South Korea will participate in the global anti-proliferation initiative, a program that marks its fifth anniversary this week as the U.S. goes on active outreach to expand membership.

"We would certainly encourage them (South Korea) to join, and we've engaged in a number of discussions with them," John Rood, acting undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, told reporters.

"The present government in Seoul is, I think, reviewing the issue. We will await the outcome of that," he said at a media roundtable.

South Korea has been reluctant to actively participate in the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) because of its relations with North Korea, one of the targets of the initiative. The country was divided after the fratricidal Korean War (1950-1953), and relations between the two sides since have swung between enmity and engagement.

President Lee Myung-bak [Yi Myo'ng-pak], inaugurated in February, has emphasized better relations with the U.S. as one of the linchpins of his foreign policy, raising speculation that his administration might decide to join the PSI. But officials are still cautious, concerned about provoking the Pyongyang regime.

North Korea became a higher concern with the U.S. acknowledgement last month that the communist state helped Syria build a clandestine nuclear reactor.

"We gained information about North Korean activities in Syria through a variety of means," Rood said, adding that much of the intelligence came from American sources. "So I can't, strictly speaking, say that is a PSI-inspired intelligence operation or something of that nature."

U.S. President George W. Bush established the PSI on May 31, 2003, urging international cooperation to help stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction through monitoring and interdiction of suspicious vessels. The program now has more than 90 member states, of which 70 engage in regional joint exercises.

Much of the program's successes have been kept secret because of the diplomatic and intelligence sensitivities involved. But Stephen Hadley, national security adviser, is expected to reveal details and specific examples in his keynote speech to the anniversary event on

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

Wednesday, ahead of the outreach session Thursday aimed at persuading non-members to consider joining the PSI.

North Korea and Iran, suspected of harboring secret nuclear weapons programs, both are subjects of U.N. Security Council resolutions that contain language of PSI purposes.

But nations like China, which shares a border with its traditional ally North Korea, have opposed certain measures, such as interdictions on the high seas.

Their opposition weakened the resolution's language in respect to both North Korea and Iran.

Like South Korea, China is not a PSI member state.

"The Chinese have had some concerns about the activities," said Rood. The undersecretary will travel to Beijing next week for strategic security talks, and he said PSI and other nonproliferation efforts will be on the agenda.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## PSI Program Intercepted Missile Technology Bound for Syria

GSN, 29 May 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

A U.S.-led effort to stop illicit shipments of WMD technology has worked successfully many times, as demonstrated by an incident last year in which four nations cooperated to prevent Syria from acquiring ballistic missile testing equipment, a senior White House official said yesterday [28 May].

Marking the fifth anniversary of the Proliferation Security Initiative, national security adviser Stephen Hadley praised the growth in the numbers of participating nations – from 11 to 91 – and the program’s accomplishments.

“One example of its success occurred in February 2007, when four nations represented in this room worked together to interdict equipment bound for Syria – equipment that could have been used to test ballistic missile components. A firm in one nation had manufactured the equipment. A firm in another nation was the intermediary that sold it to Syria. The shipping company was flagged in a third nation. And customs officials at the port of a fourth nation were alerted to offload and inspect the equipment – and send it back to the country of origin,” Hadley said in the Washington speech. “Interdictions like this one have been successful all over the world – and have stopped many shipments of sensitive materials destined for Iran, North Korea and Syria.”

Some critics have said the initiative reflects a Bush administration distaste for supporting traditional nonproliferation strategies and institutions such as the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, Hadley said the program was designed to enhance those regimes.

“PSI is not a replacement for the NPT, the IAEA, or the multilateral export control regimes – but a way to build upon them and give them a new enforcement mechanism they did not have before,” he said. “In PSI, cops and criminals do not co-exist in the organization. PSI is a group of nations committed to be cops, a group that defines criminals clearly, and a group committed to hold themselves and each other accountable for results.”

U.S. backing for the initiative is part of six-prong plan to prevent the proliferation of key materials and technology to adversary nations and terrorists who “seek even more destructive power by attempting to acquire weapons of mass destruction,” Hadley said.

The six involve securing dangerous materials, dismantling smuggling networks, intercepting actual shipments, disrupting terrorist cells, strengthening defenses, and deterring WMD attacks.

 back to top

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

On the last item, Hadley said, “there is a real question whether terrorists, themselves, can be deterred,” but he suggested that erecting strong defenses should be the first step, followed by “encouraging debate over the morality of WMD terrorism” as a way to undermine any religious justification terrorists might draw.

The United States must also make clear that any nations supporting terrorist WMD attacks would be held responsible.

“The United States has made clear for many years that it reserves the right to respond with overwhelming force to the use of weapons of mass destruction against the United States, our people, our forces, and our friends and allies,” he said. “Today we also make clear that the United States will hold any state, terrorist group, or other non-state actor or individual fully accountable for supporting or enabling terrorist efforts to obtain or use weapons of mass destruction – whether by facilitating, financing, or providing expertise or safe haven for such efforts.”

Reacting to Hadley’s remarks, a former State Department official criticized the Bush administration for allowing the PSI effort to grow too much, the New York Sun reported.

“This initiative was precisely an answer to the ossified, broad based proliferation structures that were failing us,” said David Wurmser an aide to former Undersecretary of State John Bolton, a key early supporter of the PSI program. “It was meant to be an association of like-minded nations genuinely worried and serious about counterproliferation.”

Wurmser expressed concern about the Syrian missile technology incident cited by Hadley, saying that it was unfortunate that the equipment was returned to its country of origin. He compared the case to the 2003 seizure of uranium enrichment equipment bound for Libya on the BBC China, an incident credited with leading to Tripoli’s decision to abandon its WMD ambitions.

“Who actually had control of the proliferating material in the BBC China at the end of the incident, and who actually held control of the material at the end of this event that Hadley describes?” Wurmser asked. “As Hadley says, it was the proliferator, whoever it is, who held on to the material. In the BBC China case, the Germans held onto the centrifuge parts.”

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## South Korea Takes Step toward Proliferation Initiative

*ROK Daily, 01 June 2008, accessed via Open Source Center*

South Korean Defense Minister Lee Sang-hee [Yi Sang-hu'i] said the country is considering fully joining the U.S.-led initiative aimed at stopping proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. North Korea has long been strongly opposed to the global security program.

At the seventh round of the Asia Security Summit in Singapore yesterday, Lee said South Korea has a "firm belief that North Korea's weapons of mass destruction should never be proliferated," and has a "full understanding" of the need for the Proliferation Security Initiative. The initiative was first announced by U.S. President George W. Bush in May 2003 in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"South Korea is partly participating in the initiative given the country's security situation, and is currently mulling a time and need to further participate in it," Lee said. South Korea, given its delicate diplomatic ties with North Korea and China, has only been observing the training sessions of the nations who joined. Currently 15 countries, including Russia, Japan, France, Germany and Britain, are fully committed to the initiative. China has openly announced it will not take part in the program.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 May – 02 June 2008

**DTRA**

## **Russia Wants to Negotiate Replacement for START with U.S. before End of 2009**

*Interfax-AVN, 02 June 2008, accessed via Open Source Center*

Moscow hopes Russia and the United States will forge a replacement for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) before the end of 2009.

"Consultations on START-related issues are important for both countries, and our partners understand this. We hope that irrespective of the change on the domestic scene in the United States, we will manage to negotiate new agreements before the expiration of the START Treaty, before the end of 2009," Igor Neverov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's North America Department, said in an interview with the newspaper NG-Dipkuryer, published Monday [02 June].

"Will the upcoming change of U.S. administration and the arrival of a new president in January delay the agreement?" Neverov said.

"In my opinion, a certain pause is possible in the talks," he said.

"Experience shows that whenever a new American administration arrives, it takes an analytical pause required for strategic assessment. Therefore, we are prepared to work intensively and at a quick pace on a new agreement, precisely now. But, again, what matters most is its essential content," said Neverov.

 [back to top](#)

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