



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



20 April – 03 May 2010

DTRA

GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

Nuclear Posture Review

State Department, 22 April 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>

Remarks by Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security

President Obama outlined several steps last year to strengthen our national security by reducing the role and numbers of nuclear weapons. (561 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Army Begins Eliminating Old Chemical Weapons in Washington

Global Security Newswire, 19 April 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

The U.S. Army on Friday started eliminating several World War I-era chemical munitions discovered months ago in Washington, D.C., the Washington Post reported. (241 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. Statement to Executive Council OPCW Fifty-Ninth Session

States News Service, 20 April 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Remarks by Robert P. Mikulak, U.S. Representative to OPCW Executive Council

The United States recently provided the Director-General details on measures taken to accelerate the destruction of its remaining stockpile. (829 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Chemical Weapon Monitoring Suit Settled

The Pueblo Chieftain, 27 April 2010, <http://www.chieftain.com/>

State and Defense Department agencies reportedly have settled a lawsuit over how the Army monitors its stockpile of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. (389 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

UN Secretary-General's Message on the Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare

OPCW, 29 April 2010, <http://www.opcw.org/>

The Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force on this date 13 years ago, establishes far-reaching rights and obligations aimed at freeing the world of chemical weapons.

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



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CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

Group of Governmental Experts to Conventional Weapons Convention Continue Negotiations on Cluster Munitions

United Nations, 30 April 2010, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The First 2010 Session of the CCW Group of Governmental Experts mandated to continue negotiations to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions officially closed its week-long meeting on Friday, 16 April 2010 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. (436 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

States Parties to Two CCW Protocols Benefit from Newly Structured Experts Meetings—Promoting Synergy between Amended Protocol II and Protocol V

United Nations, 30 April 2010, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The cooperative interaction between experts of the States parties to CCW Protocol II and CCW Protocol V has created a dynamic atmosphere which further strengthened the implementation of both treaty regimes under the umbrella of the CCW. (858 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

U.S. Releasing Nuclear Data on Its Arsenal

The New York Times, 02 May 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

The Pentagon on Monday will release long-classified statistics about the total size of America's nuclear arsenal, part of an effort to make the case that the country is honoring its treaty commitments to shrink its inventory of weapons significantly, senior administration officials said Sunday. (297 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NPT Review Conference Opens at UN Headquarters in New York

Itar-Tass, 03 May 2010, <http://www.itar-tass.com/>

The 8th NPT Review Conference opened at the UN Headquarters in New York on Monday. (323 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)(CONT.)

Verifying Non-Proliferation and Facilitating Peaceful Nuclear Technologies

IAEA, 03 May 2010, <http://www.iaea.org/>

On 3 May 2010, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano addressed the opening session of the Review Conference for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)...

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

U.S. Opening Statement at NPT Review Conference

State Department, 03 May 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>

In her address to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in New York today, Secretary of State Clinton announced new Presidential policy initiatives that further the Administration's commitment to the NPT. (738 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

PLUTONIUM PRODUCTION REACTOR AGREEMENT (PPRA)

NNSA Program Helps End All Weapons-grade Plutonium Production in Russia

NNSA, 14 April 2010, <http://nnsa.energy.gov/>

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today lauded the imminent shutdown of the last weapons-grade plutonium production reactor still operating in Russia. (348 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

United States and Russia Highlight Nuclear Partnership

Associated Press, 19 April 2010, <http://www.sfgate.com/>

In a symbol of their new partnership, the United States and Russia urged all countries on Monday to follow their recent nuclear arms cuts by taking action toward the goal of global disarmament and a nuclear-free world. (348 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)(CONT.)

The Case for New START Ratification

State Department, 21 April 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>

Remarks by Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security

The New START will ensure and maintain the strategic balance between the United States and Russia at lower weapons levels, and it will promote strategic stability by ensuring transparency and predictability over the life of the Treaty. (948 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

The Ice Has Broken [OPINION]

The New York Times, 22 April 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

By Mikhail Gorbachev, President of The International Foundation for Socio-Economic and Political Studies (The Gorbachev Foundation)

A remarkable sequence of events in April has turned the spotlight on the subject of nuclear disarmament and global security. (1,056 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. Completes Work on New START Annexes

Itar-Tass, 01 May 2010, <http://www.itar-tass.com/>

The United States and Russia have completed negotiations on three annexes to the Protocol of the New START Treaty, State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said in a statement. (746 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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Nuclear Posture Review

State Department, 22 April 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>

Remarks by Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security

President Obama outlined several steps last year to strengthen our national security by reducing the role and numbers of nuclear weapons. In the past month, we have advanced that agenda by releasing the Nuclear Posture Review, signing the New START Treaty, and hosting the Nuclear Security Summit.

Let me say a few words about the New START Treaty and missile defenses. I spent much of March in Geneva to help conclude the New START Treaty. It will enhance our security by reducing and limiting U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear forces. Those limits were guided by rigorous analysis in the NPR. The new Treaty will promote strategic stability by ensuring transparency and predictability. And it will advance our nonproliferation agenda by demonstrating that we are meeting our Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] obligations.

The New START Treaty does not constrain U.S. missile defense programs. The United States will continue to improve our missile defenses, as needed, to defend the U.S. homeland, our deployed forces, and our allies and partners. Russia's unilateral statement on missile defenses is not legally-binding. It won't constrain U.S. missile defense programs. As the administration's Ballistic Missile Defense Review and our budget plans make clear, we will deploy the most effective missile defenses possible, and the New START Treaty does not impose any additional cost or inconvenience to those efforts. [...]

In addition to reaffirming our commitment to missile defenses, the NPR also supports the goal of bolstering nonproliferation. We want to give more incentive to non-nuclear states not to seek or acquire nuclear weapons. So we updated our Negative Security Assurance (NSA) to make it clear that non-nuclear weapon states party to the NPT who comply with their nuclear nonproliferation obligations do not have to fear a U.S. nuclear attack.

I want to clarify what this new Negative Security Assurance does and does not do. For non-nuclear weapon states parties to the NPT in compliance with their nuclear nonproliferation commitments, we are removing only the possibility of nuclear retaliation. For such states, we retain the prospect of using devastating conventional force to deter and respond to any aggression, especially if they were to use chemical or biological weapons.

No one should doubt our resolve to hold accountable those responsible for such aggression, whether those giving the orders or carrying them out. Deterrence depends on the credibility of the response. A massive and potent conventional response to non-nuclear aggression is highly credible.

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We also reserve the right to readjust the Negative Security Assurance if warranted by the evolution and proliferation of the biological weapons threat.

The updated Negative Security Assurance does not alter our current policy on the use of nuclear weapons toward nuclear armed states or non-nuclear weapon states not in compliance with the NPT and their nuclear nonproliferation obligations, such as North Korea and Iran. In other words, for this group of states, we have retained calculated ambiguity.

But I want to stress that the NPR states the United States would only consider the use of nuclear weapons in extreme circumstances to defend the vital interests of the United States or its allies and partners. Nuclear weapons have not been used in nearly 65 years. The bar for their use is high and this NPR recognizes that fact. It is in the U.S. interest and that of all other nations that the long record of nuclear non-use be extended forever. [...]

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Army Begins Eliminating Old Chemical Weapons in Washington

Global Security Newswire, 19 April 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

The U.S. Army on Friday started eliminating several World War I-era chemical munitions discovered months ago in Washington, D.C., the Washington Post reported.

One shell containing lewisite was destroyed inside the self-contained Explosive Destruction System [EDS] chamber. The detonation took place on federal land in the residential Spring Valley area. After the munition was broken apart by explosives, chemicals were added to the remains to neutralize the blister agent, said Dan Noble, head of the Army Corps of Engineers project.

Destroying a munition through the EDS process can last several hours. The corps intends to detonate an additional mustard agent-filled munition and three arsine shells over the next few weeks. Twenty additional shells that are believed to be filled with water are also set to be destroyed, Noble said.

The Army has used the Explosive Destruction System to safely eliminate more than 1,700 munitions, including 15 shells exploded at Spring Valley in 2003. The latest round of EDS disposal is anticipated to be finished by the middle of next month, according to a Corps of Engineers press release.

Meanwhile, two containers filled with arsenic trichloride, which is used to produce lewisite, were slated today to be sent to a military laboratory at the Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland, Noble said. The poisonous chemicals were discovered at the end of March in Spring Valley, where efforts to clean up the former Army chemical weapons testing site have been ongoing since 1993, the Post reported.

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U.S. Statement to Executive Council OPCW Fifty-Ninth Session

States News Service, 20 April 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Remarks by Robert P. Mikulak, U.S. Representative to OPCW Executive Council

Mr. Chairman, the United States continues to support fully the ongoing consultations under your leadership on how and when to initiate discussion by the Council on issues related to meeting the final extended deadline for the destruction of chemical weapons. We look forward to the continuing consultations under your successor, and to receiving the input of the Technical Secretariat on legal and administrative implications. These working papers will assist the Councils deliberations as it carefully reviews options and works to find consensus solutions that will maintain the integrity of the Convention and keep the Organization strong.

The United States recently provided the Director-General details on measures taken to accelerate the destruction of its remaining stockpile. In 2006 when the United States requested an extension of its deadline for destruction, the U.S. had destroyed 36.4 percent of its stockpile, and projected that it would destroy only approximately 66 percent by the extended deadline of April 29, 2012. As we reported during this week's Destruction Informal Consultation, as of March 31, 2010, the United States has completed the destruction of 71.1 percent of its chemical weapons stockpile, which is a significant achievement. The United States is fully committed to meeting its obligation under the Convention to destroy 100 percent of its chemical weapons stockpile, as rapidly as possible and in a manner that is safe and environmentally sound.

Mr. Chairman, as progress is made on the elimination of chemical weapons stocks, this Council will grapple with several issues associated with the future of the OPCW. The peak year for verification activities at chemical weapons destruction facilities probably will be 2011. Following 2011, there likely will be a significant decrease in the requirement for chemical weapons demilitarization inspectors and a need to maintain a strong cadre of inspectors for the verification of chemical industrial facilities. In addition, the inspectorate will also be impacted when the Director-Generals exceptional authority under the tenure policy to grant contract extensions beyond the seven-year period expires in 2012.

States Parties will need to work very closely with the Technical Secretariat to maintain the correct size, balance of skill sets and capabilities of technical expertise to ensure the viability of the Conventions verification regime. Although the requirement for chemical weapons demilitarization inspectors will decline, it will be important to effectively maintain an adequate number of inspectors with this unique expertise.

The Technical Secretariat will need to attract and maintain a qualified pool of inspectors with relevant skills in chemical weapons demilitarization, such as munitions identification and

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handling, and explosive ordnance disposal. Maintaining these skill sets will be necessary to sustain the OPCWs capability to deal with old and abandoned chemical weapons, discovered chemical weapons, recovered munitions, challenge inspections, investigations of alleged use, and the possible accession of additional possessor states.

In addition, we must also consider how best to allocate available resources across the Technical Secretariat, to best accomplish non-proliferation activities and other core areas of work, including Articles VII, X, and XI of the Convention. Regarding the non-proliferation elements of the Convention, other chemical production facilities (or, OCPF) remain a focal point of attention. We appreciate the efforts of Mr. Marthinus van Schalkwyk of South Africa in his role as facilitator, as well as the work of the Technical Secretariat, in assessing ways to focus OCPF inspections toward the most relevant plant sites through possible enhancement of OCPF declarations. It is increasingly important that we resolve long-outstanding issues related to OCPFs and other parts of the industry verification regime.

Perhaps the most critical outstanding industry-related issue is the methodology for selecting OCPF plant sites for inspection. According to the Convention, the basis for incorporating States Parties proposals into the methodology should have been decided by the year 2000. However, ten years later we still have only an interim site selection methodology. We believe that the Council should quickly reactivate this important facilitation so that the site selection methodology finally can be fully implemented in accordance with the requirements of the Convention.

The United States also remains interested in working with the Technical Secretariat and interested States Parties to use the OPCW as a forum for discussing chemical safety and security issues. As the Director-General points out in his recent Note on the Status of the OPCWs Contribution to Global Anti-Terrorism Efforts, there are relevant linkages to Articles X and XI. The United States looks forward to working with other States Parties, the Technical Secretariat, and the Facilitator of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, Mr. Mike Byers of Australia, in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, there is another issue that I would like to raise, which is the convergence of chemistry and biology resulting from the advances in understanding of the chemistry of biological systems. Bacteria are now being engineered to perform industrial chemical production processes. Each of us should consider how the convergence of chemistry and biology might affect the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the CWC's relationship to the Biological Weapons Convention. [...]

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Chemical Weapon Monitoring Suit Settled

The Pueblo Chieftain, 27 April 2010, <http://www.chieftain.com/>

State and Defense Department agencies reportedly have settled a lawsuit over how the Army monitors its stockpile of chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Depot.

Details were not available Monday because the Army had not sent back a copy of the settlement but a spokesman for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment said that one provision calls for the Army to close the vents on the igloos where the weapons are stored to prevent uncontrolled chemical releases to the environment and to put charcoal filters on the igloos in the near future.

Previously, the Army had checked igloos on a quarterly rotation but state officials said that was not often enough and sued to require tougher rules. As an example of the cooperation between the Army and Colorado officials, state health department representatives were on hand Monday for what was a major trash day at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. Three transport trucks hauled off more than two decades worth of waste from the chemical stockpile program and took it to an incineration plant in Port Arthur, Texas. Items from decontamination work have been piling up since the mid-1980s, a depot spokesman said, and contained things from the cleanup of spills, old chemical munitions sampling operations and decontamination procedures associated with leaking mustard agent-filled munitions. Over the years, more than 500 of the 780,000 weapons have been identified as leaking and have been stored in steel cylinders until they can be destroyed.

Depot Commander Lt. Col. Rob Wittig said, "I am very pleased with the coordinated efforts of the depot, the Chemical Materials Agency and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in getting this waste safely transferred and destroyed.

"This was a fairly significant effort that was only made possible by everyone's common goal of protecting our local friends and neighbors, the workers and the environment. We will continue working closely together as we make preparations to safely dispose of the chemical munitions stored at the depot."

The entire stockpile is scheduled to be destroyed by 2017.

While the weapons themselves are prohibited from being moved across the country, contaminated items have been neutralized by using simple household bleach but still come under rules for hazardous wastes. The Army's Chemical Materials Agency selected Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur to treat and dispose of the waste.

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UN Secretary-General's Message on the Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare

OPCW, 29 April 2010, <http://www.opcw.org/>

On this annual observance, let us honor the victims of chemical warfare by reaffirming our commitment to strengthening the Convention, which is the only instrument that bans an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under strict international verification. Let us also remember the suffering of the families of these victims, as we work together to free the world, once and for all, from the horrors of each and every weapon of mass destruction.

The Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force on this date 13 years ago, establishes far-reaching rights and obligations aimed at freeing the world of chemical weapons.

Important advances have been made in achieving that great goal. As of March 31, 2010, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has verified the destruction of 58 percent of the world's declared chemical weapons stockpiles. Eighty-nine percent of all chemical weapons production facilities have been destroyed or converted to peaceful uses. Three States have eliminated their chemical weapon stockpiles. The OPCW has also conducted more than 4,000 inspections in 81 States Parties, including verification activities at commercial enterprises, which testifies to the support the global chemical industry has given to achieving the goals of the Convention.

However, full implementation of the Convention and achieving universal membership remain significant challenges. As Depositary of the Convention, I urge the States that have not yet become Parties to do so without further delay. New developments in science and technology have the potential to make it easier to produce chemical weapons. There is also the risk that non-State actors will acquire such weapons. Additional collective efforts will be essential in achieving progress on each of the key areas covered by the Convention: disarmament, non-proliferation, international cooperation, assistance and protection. The elimination of all weapons adaptable to mass destruction was a goal found in the first resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The United Nations will continue to do its part in this effort, including through strengthening its partnership with the OPCW.

On this annual observance, let us honor the victims of chemical warfare by reaffirming our commitment to strengthening the Convention, which is the only instrument that bans an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under strict international verification. Let us also remember the suffering of the families of these victims, as we work together to free the world, once and for all, from the horrors of each and every weapon of mass destruction.

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Group of Governmental Experts to Conventional Weapons Convention Continue Negotiations on Cluster Munitions

United Nations, 30 April 2010, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The First 2010 Session of the Conventional Weapons Convention Group of Governmental Experts mandated to continue negotiations to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, presided by Minister Jesus S. Domingo of the Philippines, officially closed its week-long meeting on Friday, April 16, 2010 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The 2009 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) decided that the Group of Governmental Experts should “continue its negotiations, informed by the Chairperson’s consolidated text dated August 26, 2009 (document CCW/MSP/2009/WP.1, titled “Draft Protocol on Cluster Munitions”), and taking into account document CCW/GGE/2009-II/2, Annex I (titled “Cluster Munitions”), and other past, present and future proposals by delegations, to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations.”

The Group of Governmental Experts is expected to conclude its negotiations as rapidly as possible and report to the next Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, scheduled to take place in November 2010. The work of the Group of Governmental Experts is supported by experts on issues relevant to the negotiations.

The Chair was assisted by Lt. Col. Leonidas Hidalgo of the Philippines Armed Forces as Chairperson of the Meetings of the Military and Technical Experts of the Group. Moreover, Mr. Jim Burke of Ireland, Ms. Anesa Kundurovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Mr. Philip Kimpton of Australia also assisted as Friends of the Chair.

A new Chair’s paper based on inputs from negotiating delegations throughout the week has been circulated. The new text will be considered as the basis for further negotiations at a special informal session of the Group of Governmental Experts scheduled to take place in the final week of June 2010.

The humanitarian impact of cluster munitions has been discussed within the CCW since 2001, first—under a broader theme of explosive remnants of war, and since 2007—as the main item of the agenda of the Group of Governmental Experts. The Group has invested much effort during the last three years in drafting a new protocol on prohibitions and restrictions on the use of cluster munitions, but there is still considerable controversy over its possible content. In his

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closing remarks, the Chair emphasized that this represented a considerable challenge. “Cooperation, common efforts, flexibility and political will,” he stressed were important elements to overcome such challenge.

The Second 2010 Session of the Group of Governmental Experts will take place from August 30 to September 3, 2010.

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States Parties to Two CCW Protocols Benefit from Newly Structured Experts Meetings—Promoting Synergy between Amended Protocol II and Protocol V

United Nations, 30 April 2010, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The cooperative interaction between experts of the States parties to CCW Protocol II on Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (as amended on May 3, 1996) and CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War has created a dynamic atmosphere which further strengthened the implementation of both treaty regimes under the umbrella of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

Officially opened by Ambassador Germán Mundaraín Hernández of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in his capacity as President-designate of the Twelfth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II on April 19, the Group of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II (April 19-20) and the Meeting of Experts of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V (April 21-23) this year structured their informal open-ended meetings using one program of work throughout the entire week. Subsequently, the meetings were officially closed by Ambassador Peter Woolcott of Australia in his capacity as President-designate of the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Friday, April 23, 2010.

During the week-long meeting the experts discussed various substantive issues based on the mandate given to the two expert-level meetings by the Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to the two Protocols in November 2009. The Coordinators mandated to conduct the work of the two experts meetings mutually co-chaired some sessions in a collaborative and cooperative spirit dealing with issues or a combination of issues of mutual interest under the two respective Protocols.

The experts continued from the previous year to explore the issue on improvised explosive devices in all its aspects under the Coordinator Mr. Reto Wollenmann (Switzerland). The broad topics of prevention, protection of civilians, and the humanitarian dimension resulting from improvised explosive devices use was discussed, drawing on various national experiences on improvised explosive devices incidents and the scale of the problem, such as those in Afghanistan, Colombia, and the Philippines. Linking the problems related to improvised explosive devices with the issue on Victim assistance, the Coordinator Ms. Stephanie Karner (Austria) assisted by Ms. Danijela Žunec Brandt (Croatia) made headway on States' implementation of the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance and States' responses to the victim assistance questionnaire. This year's major theme under this topic was the socio-economic inclusion of victims and survivors of explosive remnants of war.

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A review of the operation and status of Amended Protocol II, notably the consideration of matters arising from the annual national reporting by States parties as well as development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines was also discussed under the Coordinator Mr. Abderrazzak Laassel (Morocco). The issue on the legal possibility and feasibility of terminating the original unamended CCW Protocol II was the focus of discussion.

The topic on clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war, under the Coordinator Ms. Renata Alisauskiene (Lithuania) focused on various national experiences to shed further light and share experience on implementing treaty obligations on this particular issue. Evaluation and achieving results in explosive remnants of war clearance programs was one of the highlights of this year's discussion. Donor States were invited to make use of the explosive remnants of war database to identify all possible sources of support for explosive remnants of war-related activities as well as to advise on their own activities. Sessions were co-chaired with the Coordinator on National reporting and Recording, Retaining and Transfer of Information of the Use of Explosive Ordnance, Mr. Henrik Markuš (Slovakia) and the Coordinator on Cooperation and assistance and Requests for assistance, Mr. James C. O'Shea (Ireland) to maximize the forum's potential to match needs with resources. In this regard, national experience in giving and receiving assistance was shared by a number of States

The issue on generic preventive measures under the responsibility of the Coordinator Capt. (Navy) Eric Steinmyller (France) highlighted some valuable national experience with regard to good management and storage of ammunition and explosive ordnance, or the lack thereof, which further accentuated the importance of implementing high standards of preventive measures at the national level.

The Web-based Information System for Protocol V (WISP.V) under the responsibility of the Coordinator Mr. Gyula Somogyi (Hungary) was examined. The experts exchanged ideas and conveyed suggestions in order to clarify a number of practical questions before the system begins its development stage. The discussion was based on a previously introduced logical flowchart that created the basic outline of the system.

The experts meetings also welcomed five new parties to Protocol V since the Third Conference in November 2009. The following are the new States and their dates of accession: Belgium (January 25, 2010), Cyprus (March 11, 2010), Italy (February 11, 2010), Saudi Arabia (January 8, 2010), and Qatar (November 16, 2009).

The Coordinators will report on the work done under their respective responsibilities to the Twelfth Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, which will

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be held on November 21, 2010, and the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V, which will be held on November 22-23, 2010, respectively, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

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U.S. Releasing Nuclear Data on Its Arsenal

The New York Times, 02 May 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

The Pentagon on Monday will release long-classified statistics about the total size of America's nuclear arsenal, part of an effort to make the case that the country is honoring its treaty commitments to shrink its inventory of weapons significantly, senior administration officials said Sunday.

The American initiative will be cast by the White House as a small but significant step toward allowing the world to measure whether President Obama makes good on his promise of reducing American reliance on nuclear defenses. The commitment to make the figures public will be included in a speech that Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton will deliver at the opening of a United Nations conference reviewing progress on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Mrs. Clinton will also announce new funds for the International Atomic Energy Agency.

For years, American intelligence officials have objected to publishing quantitative descriptions of the American nuclear arsenal, concerned that the figures might help terrorist groups calculate the minimum nuclear fuel needed for a weapon. But administration officials said reputable Web sites that track such issues have long noted that American weapons designers need an average of around 4 kilograms of plutonium, or 8.8 pounds.

"It became clear there was a way to get the transparency without revealing any state secrets," a senior administration official said, declining to speak on the record because the numbers had not yet been declassified.

The numbers will combine three categories of weapons: deployed, in "active reserve" and in inactive storage. They exclude weapons designated for decommissioning. The United States and Russia have already revealed the number of deployed strategic weapons they possess. Britain and France have recently revealed details of their stockpiles. China has said little. India, Pakistan and Israel—which have all refused to sign the treaty—have not revealed numbers.

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NPT Review Conference Opens at UN Headquarters in New York

Itar-Tass, 03 May 2010, <http://www.itar-tass.com/>

The 8th NPT Review Conference opened at the UN Headquarters in New York on Monday. The conference participants will discuss how to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and illegal turnover of nuclear materials.

The NPT review conference is held every five years starting from 1970 when the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty entered into force. Efforts were made at each conference to reach consensus on the final declaration that should evaluate compliance with the treaty and give recommendations on how to strengthen it further.

It is expected that the current 8th NPT Review Conference will consider a number of issues, including those discussed at the 2005 conference, such as the universal nature of the NPT, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, measures to develop peaceful uses of atomic power for security purposes, issues of regional disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the implementation of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are expected to take the floor on the first day of the conference. It seems that Ahmadinejad will be the only head of state to attend the conference, with all the other countries being represented by foreign ministers, deputy foreign ministers and ambassadors. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov will speak at the conference on behalf of Russia on May 4.

The NPT was signed in 1968. It formalized the nuclear power status of five countries—Russia, Great Britain, the United States, China and France—and was designed to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons. This treaty legalized the arsenals of the “nuclear five” countries and all the other countries that signed the document had no right to create or buy [nuclear] weapons of mass destruction.

In 1995, the NPT was extended indefinitely. To date, 190 states have signed the NPT. India, Pakistan, and Israel remain outside the treaty. North Korea withdrew from the NPT in January 2003.

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Verifying Non-Proliferation and Facilitating Peaceful Nuclear Technologies

IAEA, 03 May 2010, <http://www.iaea.org/>

On May 3, 2010, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano addressed the opening session of the Review Conference for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)...

The 190 States that are party to the NPT aim to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, foster nuclear energy's peaceful uses and speed nuclear disarmament. Under the Treaty, the IAEA is mandated to verify that nuclear materials and technologies are not used to make nuclear weapons, as well as to help increase access to peaceful nuclear technologies' benefits. Every five years since 1970, the NPT is reviewed by its States Parties to be assured that these aims are being realized.

Verification

Through the "comprehensive safeguard agreements" set out in the NPT's third article, the IAEA verifies that a State has made a complete and accurate declaration of all types and quantities of nuclear material and nuclear-related activities. Verification can include evaluation, on-site inspections, visits, containment by sealing equipment and remote surveillance with cameras. Currently, safeguard agreements are in force in 172 States.

In countries under comprehensive safeguards, the IAEA accounts for all "source and special fissionable material", which are substances that are crucial in producing nuclear weapons, plutonium-239, uranium-233 and uranium-235.

Enhanced Inspection Authority

The safeguards agreements concluded under the NPT are strengthened by the Additional Protocol. This complementary legal agreement grants the IAEA expanded rights of access to information and sites. The Additional Protocol furnishes the IAEA with the legal capacity to provide assurance regarding declared activities, as well as to determine the absence of undeclared activities. Additional Protocols are now in force for 98 States.

Furthering Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

In its fourth Article, the NPT grants every State Party the right to exchange equipment, materials and scientific and technological information for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The IAEA has the duty to support nuclear applications' peaceful development, especially to meet developing countries' needs.

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Science and Technology Foster Sustainable Development

The IAEA serves as an authoritative, independent source of information, knowledge, capacity building and expertise to support nuclear energy's peaceful uses. The Agency's support includes exchanging scientific and technical information, training scientists and experts, as well as establishing effective, global safety and security standards. A robust nuclear safety and security culture is promoted to be certain that peaceful nuclear technologies can be fully utilized and expanded.

Currently, 125 Member States benefit directly from the IAEA's Technical Cooperation program, which enables developing countries to utilize nuclear science and technology for peaceful purposes. The program improves human health, helps water resource management, and advances sustainable energy development. Scores of Member States receive the Agency's support in enhancing nuclear safety and security. Nuclear techniques boost plant and animal production, advance rural development, while helping to reduce and mitigate the impact of climate change. Nuclear tools combat insects and diseases, improve food safety and help to cut air pollution. Radiotherapy saves the lives of cancer sufferers throughout the developing world.

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U.S. Opening Statement at NPT Review Conference

State Department, 03 May 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>

In her address to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in New York today, Secretary of State Clinton announced new Presidential policy initiatives that further the Administration's commitment to the Treaty's core bargain: states without nuclear weapons promise not to acquire them, states with nuclear weapons work towards eliminating them, and all enjoy access to the peaceful uses of the atom. This fact sheet describes the Secretary's announcements regarding U.S. participation in nuclear-weapon-free zones and expanded support for peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZ)

The Secretary announced that the United States will seek U.S. Senate advice and consent to ratification of several Protocols to the Africa Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) and the South Pacific Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga). These treaties complement the NPT and enhance the international nonproliferation regime by prohibiting the development or testing of nuclear weapons within their respective geographic zones. Zone parties are also prohibited from stationing nuclear weapons within their territories. The United States is not eligible to be a Party to either of these treaties, but it is eligible to join treaty Protocols open for signature by the nuclear weapons states. These protocols include a pledge not to test nuclear weapons within the zones and legally-binding assurances not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against treaty Parties. The United States understands that such negative security assurances are important to states which have foresworn nuclear weapons and abide by their nuclear non-proliferation obligations.

Following a review of U.S. policy towards the nuclear-weapon-free zones currently in force, the Administration is satisfied that the African and South Pacific treaties are consistent with U.S. and international criteria for such zones. The United States believes that such zones, when fully and rigorously implemented, contribute to the President's nonproliferation and disarmament goals and to international peace and security. The United States has concluded that the Treaties of Pelindaba and Rarotonga and their Protocols will not disturb existing security arrangements or U.S. military operations, installations, or activities. The Treaties and Protocols will also promote regional cooperation, security and stability and provide a vehicle for the extension of legally-binding negative security assurances, consistent with the strengthened negative security assurance announced in the recent U.S. Nuclear Posture Review.

The United States signed the Protocols to the Treaties of Pelindaba and Rarotonga in 1996. The United States has also signed and ratified the Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which

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established a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean. With respect to the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties in force in Southeast Asia and Central Asia, the United States looks forward to continuing consultations with zone parties to explore possible U.S. support for signature and ratification of the applicable protocols.

IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative

The Secretary announced today a campaign to raise \$100 million over the next five years to broaden access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The funds are to significantly expand support for projects sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), addressing energy and important humanitarian purposes, such as cancer treatment and fighting infectious diseases, food and water security, and the development of infrastructure for the safe, secure use of civil nuclear power. These efforts will be aimed to assist developing countries. The United States has pledged \$50 million to this effort and will work with others to meet the \$100 million target by the opening of the next NPT Review Conference.

Historically, the United States has been the single largest contributor to the IAEA's technical cooperation programs. These programs enable more than 100 states to enjoy the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In addition to its assessed annual contribution to the IAEA, the United States provides more than \$20 million each year in extra budgetary funding for IAEA technical cooperation programs alone, about 25 percent of the total contributions. The new U.S. pledge is in addition to this long-standing support, and it represents a significant addition to our current annual commitment to the IAEA's technical cooperation fund. The United States is taking this step in recognition of the growing international interest in power and non-power uses of nuclear energy and the NPT's promise of peaceful nuclear sharing with nations that abide by their nuclear non-proliferation commitments. As President Obama said in Prague in April 2009, access to peaceful nuclear energy "must be the right of every nation that renounces nuclear weapons, especially developing countries embarking on peaceful programs."

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NNSA Program Helps End All Weapons-grade Plutonium Production in Russia

NNSA, 14 April 2010, <http://nnsa.energy.gov/>

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today lauded the imminent shutdown of the last weapons-grade plutonium production reactor still operating in Russia.

The ADE-2 reactor has been producing weapons-grade plutonium for nearly 52 years in Zheleznogorsk, the former secret Siberian city. Russian President Medvedev announced the imminent shutdown at President Obama's Nuclear Security Summit in Washington. The announcement marks the culmination of cooperative efforts by the NNSA and its Russian counterpart to permanently cease Russian weapons-grade plutonium production.

"The shutdown of the Zheleznogorsk reactor is a major milestone in efforts to close the book on one of the darkest legacies of the Cold War," said NNSA Administrator Thomas P. D'Agostino. "President Obama and President Medvedev have set our two nations on a course to curb global nuclear dangers by reducing the use of weapons-grade nuclear materials and securing vulnerable material around the world. Our partnership in shutting down the Zheleznogorsk reactor is a tangible demonstration of our shared commitment to preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and keeping dangerous nuclear materials out of the hands of terrorists."

The Russian reactors were originally operated to produce weapons-grade plutonium for the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons program from the early 1960s until 1993. At the same time, the reactor also provided heat and electricity to Zheleznogorsk and nearby areas. Since 1993, the reactor has only been operated to provide heat and electricity to the community but continued to produce weapons-grade plutonium as a byproduct.

Under the terms of the 1997 Plutonium Production Reactor Agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation, the plutonium produced could not be used for weapons purposes but continued to add to the inventory of accumulated weapons-grade material. NNSA and Russia's Ministry of Atomic Energy agreed to work together to close Russia's last three plutonium producing reactors and provide replacement heat and electricity.

NNSA's Elimination of Weapons-Grade Plutonium Production program previously worked together with Rosatom to shut down and close two other reactors at Seversk. The closure of the Zheleznogorsk reactor brings a final and permanent end to all weapons-grade plutonium production in Russia.

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United States and Russia Highlight Nuclear Partnership

Associated Press, 19 April 2010, <http://www.sfgate.com/>

In a symbol of their new partnership, the United States and Russia urged all countries on Monday to follow their recent nuclear arms cuts by taking action toward the goal of global disarmament and a nuclear-free world.

Ambassadors from the former Cold War rivals joined forces at a UN General Assembly debate to tout the April 8 signing of a "New START" treaty that would shrink their arsenals to the lowest point since the frightening arms race of the 1960s.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin called on all nations "without exception, and first and foremost those that have nuclear arsenals, to join efforts with Russia and the United States in this field and to contribute actively to the disarmament process."

"We are convinced that only through collective efforts we can succeed in achieving effective disarmament and a nuclear-free world," Churkin said.

U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice encouraged all countries to build on the recent momentum to make "real progress" on disarmament, nonproliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy at the upcoming five-year review of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty which begins on May 3.

In an unusual move, Rice and Churkin sent a note to UN member states last Wednesday saying they would address Monday's opening session of the debate on "Disarmament and World Security" to highlight the "New START" treaty signing. It "demonstrates the cooperative partnership between the countries in fulfilling our obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and reaffirms our commitment to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons," they said.

The treaty, signed in Prague by U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, signaled a bold opening in previously soured U.S.-Russia relations. If ratified by both nations' legislatures, it will shrink the limit of nuclear warheads to 1,550 each over seven years, down about a third from the current ceiling of 2,200.

Churkin, in his speech Monday, said the new treaty "heralds the transition to a higher level of cooperation between Russia and the United States in disarmament and nonproliferation" and lays the foundation for "new relations in the military-strategic area."

Rice called the signing "a major milestone" and said it delivered on President Obama's pledge a year ago to take concrete steps towards a world without nuclear weapons.

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"Our joint appearance here today is a sign of the much strengthened relationship between our two nations—a relationship built on candor, cooperation and mutual respect," she said.

At a 47-nation summit hosted by Obama last week, Medvedev and other world leaders endorsed the U.S. leader's call for securing all nuclear materials around the globe within four years to keep them out of the grasp of terrorists. The U.S. and Russia also completed a long-delayed agreement on disposing of tons of plutonium from Cold War-era weapons.

Rice said the United States "will work to reverse the spread of nuclear weapons and to build momentum for their elimination" at next month's conference to review the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, or NPT.

The 1968 treaty, considered the cornerstone of global nonproliferation efforts, aimed to prevent the spread of atomic arms beyond the five original weapons powers—the U.S., Russia, Britain, France and China. It requires signatory nations not to pursue nuclear weapons in exchange for a commitment by the five nuclear powers to move toward nuclear disarmament and guarantees non-nuclear states access to peaceful nuclear technology to produce nuclear power.

In his speech to the General Assembly, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged that the NPT treaty become universal, which would mean nuclear powers India and Pakistan and Israel, which is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, signing on and North Korea rejoining.

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The Case for New START Ratification

State Department, 21 April 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>

Remarks by Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security

Some of you know that I spent the much of March at the negotiating table in Geneva. Having dedicated much time and effort to working through the tough issues with our Russian counterparts; and having served in the Congress and worked on a few deals there; I know what a good bipartisan agreement looks like.

In my experience, such agreements enhance our national security and that is what the New START Treaty will do. It will ensure and maintain the strategic balance between the United States and Russia at lower weapons levels. And it will promote strategic stability by ensuring transparency and predictability over the life of the Treaty. Meanwhile, the United States will sustain a safe, secure, and effective nuclear force to protect ourselves and our allies. [...] I want to make the case that it deserves bipartisan support.

Much has changed since the first START Treaty was signed by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev in 1991. Today's leading threats—nuclear proliferation and terrorism—do not require the United States and Russia to deploy large nuclear arsenals. [...]

Beyond what's in the treaty, getting the United States Senate's advice and consent would allow us to build upon a more constructive partnership with Russia. We have already reaped some diplomatic gains, notably improving relations with Russia. Disagreements over issues, like missile defense, remain. But we are now talking with each other as opposed to just talking past one another.

Our cooperation is a prerequisite for moving forward with tough, internationally binding sanctions on Iran. Will this agreement result in Iran and North Korea changing their behavior? It's unlikely. But ratification of the New START Treaty could help us persuade other nations to hold those countries accountable.

It would also demonstrate that the United States is living up to our obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. That's an important achievement as we head into the NPT Review Conference next month.

I want to say a word about missile defense because that is where the most vocal critics have focused their energy. While the Treaty's preamble acknowledges the interrelationship between offensive and defensive systems, that is nothing new. The New START Treaty is about strategic offensive arms.

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The New START Treaty does not constrain U.S. missile defense programs. The United States will continue to improve our missile defenses, as needed, to defend ourselves, our deployed forces, and our allies and partners.

Russia's unilateral statement on missile defenses is not an integral part of the New START Treaty. It's not legally-binding. It won't constrain U.S. missile defense programs. As the administration's Ballistic Missile Defense Review and our budget plans make clear, we will deploy the most effective missile defenses possible, and the New START Treaty does not impose any additional cost or inconvenience to those efforts.

Our Russian friends needed some assurances as it negotiated deeper reductions in the absence of an ABM Treaty. The United States made a unilateral statement to clarify that our missile defense systems are not intended to affect the strategic balance with Russia, but would instead be employed to defend the United States and to defend our deployed forces, allies, and partners against regional threats. [...]

The New START Treaty counts the actual number of warheads carried on deployed ICBMs and SLBMs. Since the heavy bombers on both sides are no longer on alert, the sides agreed to an attribution rule of one warhead per heavy bomber rather than count heavy bombers at zero warheads. This strikes a balance between the fact that neither side has nuclear armaments on its bombers on a day-to-day basis and the fact that these bombers nonetheless have the capability to deliver nuclear weapons.

For many of us in the room, arms control and nonproliferation have been our life's work. But with the Soviet Union and the United States no longer aiming thousands and thousands of nuclear missiles at each other, the public's awareness has dissipated. Secretary Clinton even answered a question from a reporter a few weeks ago about whether Americans' eyes glazed over on the topic of arms control.

I know that won't happen here, nor should it. President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and Secretary Gates have all painted chilling pictures of what would happen if terrorists acquired nuclear material or a nuclear weapon. Even if the relationship between the United States and Russia does not generate the interest that it once did, a terrorist with a bomb does. Just look at the buzz over two new movies, "Nuclear Tipping Point" and "Countdown to Zero."

The Treaty already has support from General Scowcroft's former colleagues: Republican Secretaries of State George Schultz and Henry Kissinger; President Clinton's Defense Secretary William Perry; and former Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn.

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In today's political climate, that is considered news. But Republican and Democratic administrations traditionally have worked together with Congress to reduce the risk of nuclear war and to maintain a safe, secure, and effective deterrent to protect the United States and our allies in Europe, the Pacific, and elsewhere.

The Senate approved the INF, START, and the Moscow Treaties by healthy margins. The Obama Administration negotiated an agreement that should enable that tradition to continue. We already have started working with Senators to brief them and get them comfortable with what's in ... and what's not in ... the New START Treaty. And on the issue of stockpile management, we have proposed significant spending increases.

As we engage with the Senate, as we let them know what is in and what's NOT in the Treaty, we can achieve and earn a significant level of bipartisan support. I hope to work with all of you in the coming months to do just that.

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The Ice Has Broken [OPINION]

The New York Times, 22 April 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

By Mikhail Gorbachev, President of *The International Foundation for Socio-Economic and Political Studies (The Gorbachev Foundation)*

A remarkable sequence of events in April has turned the spotlight on the subject of nuclear disarmament and global security. I am referring to the signing by Presidents Obama and Medvedev of the New START treaty, the presentation of the Obama administration's nuclear doctrine and the nuclear security summit meeting in Washington attended by leaders of several dozen countries.

The ice has broken. The situation today is dramatically different from just two years ago. But has it changed enough to say that the process now under way is irreversible?

Let's first look at the New START treaty. It has been deemed irrelevant and the reductions it calls for described as "creative accounting." Though the cuts are indeed modest compared to those made under the treaty the first President Bush and I signed in 1991, the treaty is a major breakthrough.

First, it resumes the process initiated in the second half of the 1980s, which made it possible to rid the world of thousands of nuclear warheads and hundreds of launchers.

Second, the strategic arsenals of the United States and Russia have once again been placed under a regime of mutual verification and inspections.

Third, the United States and Russia have demonstrated that they can solve the most complex problems of mutual security, which offers hope that they will work together more successfully to address global and regional issues.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, with the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty the two biggest nuclear powers say to the world that they are serious about their Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty obligation to move toward eliminating nuclear weapons.

By reviving the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, the treaty is a powerful tool for political pressure on those countries, particularly Iran and North Korea, whose nuclear programs have caused legitimate concern within the international community. It also reminds other nuclear weapon powers that they, too, must join in the process of nuclear disarmament.

I have often been asked, in Russia and elsewhere, whether the process of nuclear disarmament could be scuttled by a build-up in the arsenals of other countries—for example China, Pakistan

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and India. This is a legitimate question. The least that the other members of the “nuclear club” must do now is freeze their arsenals.

Further progress along the path of disarmament and nonproliferation would be facilitated by a statement from nuclear powers saying that the sole purpose of nuclear weapons is to prevent their use. Unfortunately, the new U.S. nuclear doctrine does not go that far. Nevertheless, this document, as well as Russia’s military doctrine, signals a tendency toward reduced reliance on nuclear weapons.

The new U.S. doctrine emphasizes that Russia is no longer an adversary. It declares the Obama administration’s intent to secure ratification of the treaty banning all nuclear testing and states that the United States will not develop new nuclear weapons.

The Obama administration has proposed bilateral dialogues on strategic stability with Russia and China. Such a dialogue must include missile defense issues. After all, the interrelationship of strategic offensive arms and missile defense is recognized in the New START.

The dialogue on strategic stability is certainly in Russia’s interest. To conduct it with confidence, we in Russia need a serious debate on the problem of missile defense, involving experts, members of Parliament and the military. What kind of missile defense does Russia need? Should it be linked with the U.S. missile defense system? These are political rather than “agency” issues. Decisions on such issues will be with us for decades to come.

Yet, the proposed dialogue should not be limited to strategic weapons. More general problems must also be addressed if we are to build a relationship of partnership and trust. Foremost is the problem of military superiority.

The U.S. national security strategy, adopted in 2002 and still in effect, clearly proclaims the need for U.S. global military superiority. This principle has in effect become an integral part of America’s creed. It finds specific expression in the vast arsenals of conventional weapons, the colossal defense budget and the plans for weaponizing outer space. The proposed strategic dialogue must include all these issues. Reaching mutual understanding will take a sense of realism and long-term vision.

NATO is now discussing a new “strategic concept,” and for the first time it is consulting with Russia. I welcome this. Does it mean that NATO is ready to renounce the claim to include the entire world in its “zone of responsibility” and instead work together with others within multilateral institutions vested with real authority and powers? The recent opinion essay by

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George Shultz and William Perry (IHT April 12) seems to suggest that influential Americans are now seriously considering such issues.

I am sure that Russia is ready to engage in such a discussion, and not Russia alone. For whether we like it or not, the world today is multipolar.

There has been much disingenuous talk that “multipolar structures are inherently unstable,” citing examples of Europe in the 19th and early 20th centuries and blaming multipolarity for conflicts and wars, including world wars. Such talk is pointless, because multipolarity is now a reality.

We have seen in recent months that power centers like China, Russia and the European Union have responded to the global financial crisis responsibly. While defending their own interests they have taken into account the interests of other players and of the world community as a whole. This is multipolarity in action, helping to mitigate the crisis and move toward addressing longer-term measures. But it’s only a beginning.

The Middle East peace process is in a deep crisis. The world is still paying for the mistakes of U.S. strategy in Iraq and Afghanistan. Efforts to agree on a global climate policy are stalled. The mechanisms for fighting poverty and backwardness are dysfunctional. In the final analysis, it all comes down to the lack of political will and failure of leadership.

We need collective leadership. We have recently seen examples of what it can achieve. But what remains to be done is much more than what has been done. Too much time was wasted after the end of the Cold War. The legacy of mutual suspicion, narrow self-interest and domination is still very much with us. The struggle between this legacy and new thinking will define international politics in the 21st century.

Mikhail Gorbachev was the last leader of the Soviet Union. He is now president of The International Foundation for Socio-Economic and Political Studies (The Gorbachev Foundation).

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U.S. Completes Work on New START Annexes

Itar-Tass, 01 May 2010, <http://www.itar-tass.com/>

The United States and Russia have completed negotiations on three annexes to the Protocol of the New START Treaty, State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said in a statement. "The United States and the Russian Federation have completed negotiations on three Annexes to the Protocol of the New START Treaty and formally exchanged the text today in Moscow," he said.

"These Annexes contain the technical information and detailed procedures that will be used in implementing the New START Treaty verification regime," he said. The annexes provide formats for the treaty's notifications and "spell out the procedures for the conduct of inspection activities and the exchange of telemetric information", the spokesman said.

"This completes the Treaty documents that will be transmitted to the Senate in May for its advice and consent to ratification," Crowley said.

The new START Treaty's provisions envisage that each Party reduces and limits its strategic offensive armaments in such a way so that in seven years after the treaty comes into force and later their total numbers do not exceed:

- 700 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and heavy bombers;
- 1,550 warheads for them;
- 800 deployed and non-deployed ICBM, SLBM launchers and heavy bombers. The limit has been fixed upon our initiative in order to bring deployed and non-deployed launchers, as well as heavy bombers into the legal space of the Treaty, which will allow us to limit the so-called "returnable potential" and provide a stimulus for the elimination or reconfiguration of the mentioned strategic offensive armaments.

The Parties agreed to reduce the total number of warheads by a third against the Moscow Treaty (the ceiling was 2,200 warheads under the Moscow Treaty) and, what is more important, more than halve the top limit for strategic delivery vehicles (the START ceiling was 1,600 vehicles, while the Moscow Treaty did not limit the vehicles). Thus, Russia and the United States demonstrated their aspiration for major and truly large-scale cuts in strategic offensive armaments.

Russian presidential aide Sergei Prikhodko said earlier that "the connection between START and missile defense is reflected in the preamble of the document".

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"The negotiators faced the task of adequately fixing in the new Treaty the inextricable connection between strategic offensive and strategic defensive armaments (i.e. missile defense). The task was successfully fulfilled—the START/ABM connection, as well as the growing significance of this connection during the reduction of strategic offensive armaments will be fixed in the Treaty and will be legally binding.

Besides, the United States has agreed not to refurnish and not to use ICBM and SLBM launchers for interceptor missile deployment and vice versa. The U.S. side also agreed to discuss the distinguishing features between interceptors and ICBM and SLBM, as well as between interceptor and ICBM/SLBM launchers which would rule out a possibility to bypass the Treaty. The provision does not ban unilateral decisions, but it is unequivocally based on the assumption that strategic offensive armaments will be reduced to such an extent that will ensure security of either party and take into account the presence of strategic defensive systems capable of neutralizing strategic offensive armaments.

Such an interconnection has been legally stipulated," the aide said. "The international legal formula has been included that any party in exercising its state sovereignty has the right to withdraw from the Treaty if it decides that exclusive circumstances resulting from its provisions pose a direct threat to its supreme interests. The given provision concerns qualitative and quantitative increase of the U.S. strategic missile defense potential," Prikhodko said.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reiterated Russia's position: "The new START Treaty as a protocol and a set of documents as a whole is legally binding. In addition to very important issues related to an unprecedented reduction of nuclear arsenals, and in addition to important agreements on verification which is built on increased confidence and trust, not on suspicions, it formalizes an interrelationship between strategic defensive and strategic offensive weapons. And this treaty has built all the important mechanisms that ensure the right of each party to decide how to ensure its security if this interrelationship is broken."

The new START Treaty was signed by President Dmitry Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama in Prague on April 8. The previous Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) expired on December 5, 2009. The Soviet Union and the United States signed the START-1 treaty on July 31, 1991, and the treaty entered into force on December 5, 1994. The treaty was in force for 15 years until it expired on December 5, 2009.

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