



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



21 October – 3 November 2008

DTRA

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

World Destroys 41 Percent of Chemical Warfare Agents

GSN, 30 October 2008, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

The OPCW has announced that more than 41 percent of all chemical warfare material declared under [the CWC] has been eliminated, Interfax reported yesterday [October 29]. (138 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Pueblo CW Disposal Buildings Begin Construction

GSN, 30 October 2008, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

Construction is under way of the two primary facilities that will conduct disposal operations for the stockpile of chemical warfare materials stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado, the *Pueblo Chieftain* reported yesterday [October 29]. (284 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Finland Not to Sign Cluster Munitions Treaty

Helsinki Times, 03 November 2008, <http://www.helsinkitimes.fi/htimes/>

Finland's cabinet committee on foreign and security policy and Tarja Halonen, the president, decided at a joint session on Friday [October 31] that the country would not sign the Oslo treaty banning cluster munitions in December. (225 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Gates' Nuclear Warning: Unless Aging U.S. Atomic Arsenal is Updated, Its Long-Term Outlook is 'Bleak'

Los Angeles Times, 29 October 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Unless the United States modernizes its inventory of nuclear weapons and develops a replacement warhead, the atomic arsenal's long-term safety and reliability will deteriorate, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates warned Tuesday (October 28). (597 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)



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CONVENTION ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

Negotiations to Focus on New Instrument on Cluster Munitions

UNOG, 31 October 2008, <http://www.unog.ch/>

Negotiations on a new instrument on cluster munitions by a Group of Governmental Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the 1980 [CCW] will enter a decisive stage from 3 to 7 November at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. (345 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

Rate of Nuclear Thefts 'Disturbingly High,' Monitoring Chief Says

New York Times, 29 October 2008, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Mohamed ElBaradei, the chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said in a speech on Monday [October 27] that the number of reports of nuclear or radioactive material stolen around the world last year was "disturbingly high." (318 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Replacing START before January—U.S. Ambassador to Russia

Russia & CIS Diplomatic Panorama, 21 October 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Washington hopes to achieve progress in the talks with Russia on START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) problems before the current U.S. administration leaves the office. (620 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Gates Urges New Nuclear-Reduction Deal with Russia

Associated Press, 29 October 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Defense Secretary Robert Gates says the next American president should pursue a new agreement with Russia to further reduce the size of both nations' nuclear weapons arsenals. (670 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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GSN, 30 October 2008, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has announced that more than 41 percent of all chemical warfare material declared under an international treaty has been eliminated, Interfax reported yesterday (October 29).

The figure accounts for 28,600 metric tons removed from declared chemical warfare stockpiles in India, Russia, the United States and other countries, said Krzysztof Patujej, head of the OPCW special projects office.

Patujej said that Albania and one additional Chemical Weapons Convention [State Party]...have completely destroyed their chemical arsenals.

India has eliminated 97 percent of its chemical weapons and is on track to destroy its remaining stockpile by next April [2009], he said.

The United States has provided significant assistance in destroying the chemical weapons of other nations, and has eliminated 15,400 metric tonnes, or 55 percent, of its own chemical stockpile, Patujej added.

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The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives [ACWA] program for this fiscal year received \$62 million for construction at Pueblo and \$75 million for related research, design, testing and evaluation activities.

Steel girders are being raised at the Agent Processing Building and 750 yards of concrete flooring is scheduled to be poured today. Work is also ongoing at the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building, which would be used to remove explosives from munitions.

State permits allow for completion of construction and for installation and testing of equipment, but actual operations would require further approval.

Contractor Bechtel expected to complete construction in spring 2013 and to begin chemical neutralization of 2,611 tons of mustard blister agent by January 2015. Operations, under the current schedule, would continue through 2020.

Congress has demanded that the complete U.S. stockpile of chemical warfare materials be eliminated by the end of 2017. The Pentagon is considering its options for meeting the deadline, said Gary Anderson, ACWA manager at Pueblo.

“Our best opportunities to accelerate are during construction,” he said. Increased funding could increase the pace of construction. However, once operations begin, the speed of disposal would be limited by the plant’s capacity.

Disposal will involve removal of fuses and blasters from 780,000 artillery shells and mortar rounds, which would then move along an automated carrier so they could be drained of mustard agent. The agent would be neutralized through use of hot water and other materials. Wastewater produced by the process would be stored for later treatment.

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Finland Not to Sign Cluster Munitions Treaty

Helsinki Times, 03 November 2008, <http://www.helsinkitimes.fi/htimes/>

Finland's cabinet committee on foreign and security policy and Tarja Halonen, the president, decided at a joint session on Friday [October 31] that the country would not sign the Oslo treaty banning cluster munitions in December.

"The Oslo convention will be discussed again after an evaluation of defense capabilities has been carried out and the international development work along with the supply and cost options of cluster munitions have been analyzed," the government said in a statement.

"The cabinet committee on foreign and security policy will follow the situation on an annual basis."

"Finland considers the Oslo convention significant from the humanitarian perspective and supports the objectives and efforts of the Oslo convention to make the convention universal."

The government added that Finland would participate in the implementation of the Oslo treaty "through humanitarian mine action."

President Halonen said it was by no means awkward not to sign the treaty.

She told the Finnish News Agency (STT) that Friday's decision reflected realism and respected the treaty. The president added that while the treaty was extremely important, Finland was not in a position to sign it at the moment.

The Finnish military has purchased a fair amount of cluster munitions in an effort to replace its stockpile of anti-personnel land mines. The Finnish government has pledged to sign the Ottawa treaty banning the mines in 2012.

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Gates' Nuclear Warning: Unless Aging U.S. Atomic Arsenal is Updated, Its Long-Term Outlook is 'Bleak'

Los Angeles Times, 29 October 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Unless the United States modernizes its inventory of nuclear weapons and develops a replacement warhead, the atomic arsenal's long-term safety and reliability will deteriorate, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates warned Tuesday [October 28].

Gates also broke with the Bush administration by saying the United States "probably should" ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), an international agreement prohibiting new testing of nuclear weapons.

His remarks, in an address to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, represented his most extensive comments on the nation's nuclear weapons program as well as his first statement in support of the test ban treaty. The pact was signed by the Clinton administration in 1996 but has not been ratified by the Senate, and President Bush opposes it.

The Senate rejected the treaty in 1999, but the next administration could resubmit it. Some experts believe that support could build in the Senate if the Pentagon establishes that it can build a new weapon without testing. Gates suggested Tuesday that a new replacement warhead could be developed without testing.

He said the current nuclear stockpile has been re-engineered to extend its life span, but such extensions cannot continue indefinitely. Without a modernization program, Gates said, the long-term outlook for the arsenal is "bleak."

"No one has designed a new nuclear weapon in the United States since the 1980s, and no one has built a new one since the early 1990s," he said. The older and less reliable the nuclear arsenal is, he added, the more difficult it will be to make sharp cuts in the U.S. stockpile and reduce the number of nuclear weapons.

"To be blunt," Gates said, "there is absolutely no way we can maintain a credible deterrent and reduce the number of weapons in our stockpile without resorting to testing our stockpile or pursuing a modernization program."

For the last two years, Congress has cut most funding for the Reliable Replacement Warhead program, including \$89 million sought by the National Nuclear Security Administration to determine the cost of building a new warhead.

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"Currently, the United States is the only declared nuclear power that is neither modernizing its nuclear arsenal nor has the capability to produce a new nuclear warhead," Gates said.

Supporters argue that building a new warhead would allow scientists to add modern security systems to the weapons and improve their safety.

But the Reliable Replacement Warhead program, a project of the departments of Defense and Energy, is controversial, in part because some lawmakers believe that stopping nuclear proliferation will be more difficult if the U.S. is seen as developing a new generation of weapons. Others see it as a back-door way to develop new nuclear capabilities and lower the threshold for using them—arguments Gates rejected.

"Let me be clear: The program we propose is not about new nuclear capabilities—suitcase bombs or bunker-busters or tactical nukes," he said. "It is about safety, security and reliability."

In the question-and-answer session after his speech, Gates was asked whether the U.S. should sign the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty. "If there are adequate verification measures, we probably should," he said.

Sen. Barack Obama, the Democratic nominee for president, supports the test ban. His Republican opponent, Sen. John McCain, opposed the treaty in 1999 but has promised to take "another look" at it.

George Perkovich, the vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said Gates' endorsement of the treaty was important.

"There isn't a high Republican officeholder who has said anything that clear on it," he said. "That is interesting and good. That opens a lot of doors."

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Negotiations to Focus on New Instrument on Cluster Munitions

UNOG, 31 October 2008, <http://www.unog.ch/>

Negotiations on a new instrument on cluster munitions by a Group of Governmental Experts 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) will enter a decisive stage from 3 to 7 November at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. This will be the fifth and final session of the Group's work in 2008.

Under the guidance of its chair, Ambassador Bent Wigotski of Denmark, the Group will finalize its work to continue to "negotiate a proposal to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations". A revised Chair's text, which tries to bridge the gap between the divergent positions expressed by delegations during the four previous sessions, was presented on the eve of the session by the Chairperson and will serve as the basis for the negotiations.

The outcome of this session will be reported by Ambassador Bent Wigotski for further action to the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention, which will take place on 13 and 14 November 2008.

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 last year as the main item of the agenda of the Group of Governmental Experts.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is the depositary of the Convention, which was opened for signature in New York on 10 April 1981 and entered into force on 2 December 1983. It currently has 108 States Parties, and five countries having signed but not yet ratified. Jamaica is the latest country to join the Convention on 25 September 2008, and which notified its consent to be bound by Protocols I, III, amended Protocol II, Protocol IV, Protocol V and the amendment to Article 1 of the Convention. The Convention as amended and all the Protocols will enter into force for Jamaica on 25 March 2009.

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Rate of Nuclear Thefts 'Disturbingly High,' Monitoring Chief Says

New York Times, 29 October 2008, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Mohamed ElBaradei, the chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said in a speech on Monday [October 27] that the number of reports of nuclear or radioactive material stolen around the world last year was "disturbingly high."

Dr. ElBaradei, in his annual report to the General Assembly, said nearly 250 such thefts were reported in the year ending in June.

"The possibility of terrorists obtaining nuclear or other radioactive material remains a grave threat," he said. "Equally troubling is the fact that much of this material is not subsequently recovered."

Members of Dr. ElBaradei's staff and outside experts cautioned that the amount of missing material remained relatively small. If all the stolen material were lumped together, it would not be enough to build even one nuclear device, they said.

It is also unclear if the rising number of reports of stolen material stems from a growing market for radioactive goods or more vigilant reporting of thefts by member states.

However, the idea that there might be a new market for such material is of concern, they said, especially if some of it were to end up in a dirty bomb.

The threat from such a bomb is less a health risk from radiation than from the panic an attack would probably cause, said Cristina Hansell, a professor at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies, in Monterey, California...

In a typical case, Ms. Hansell said, an oil company reported last May that a device containing radioactive material that was used in exploration in Sudan was missing.

It would take long exposure to the device to create any health risk, she said. "What will kill you from a dirty bomb is the immediate explosion, not the radioactivity," she said, noting that the main concern was that despite the attention devoted to trying to police such material, the amount disappearing keeps rising. "There still seems to be quite a big problem." [...]

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Replacing START before January—U.S. Ambassador to Russia

Russia & CIS Diplomatic Panorama, 21 October 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Washington hopes to achieve progress in the talks with Russia on START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) problems before the current U.S. administration leaves the office.

"We are very hopeful, although it is now looking less likely, that the Bush administration and the Russian Federation will reach agreement on a new structure for the follow-on START before January 2009," U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Beyrle said in an interview with Interfax.

"We do hope to make some progress in explaining the American position and hearing how the Russian side sees the future START process in order for the new administration to be able to make as quick progress as possible on that," said the high-ranking diplomat.

Asked whether the United States is ready to conclude a full-fledged legally binding treaty that would stipulate all verification measures provided by START I, Beyrle said: "Well we have already made clear in the Sochi framework document that Presidents Bush and Putin signed in spring that the United States is in favor of a legally binding document as a follow-on to the START I agreement."

At the same time, he added that, "the actual details, what the structure of that agreement would be is obviously the subject of negotiation between the U.S. and Russia."

Expert consultations on strategic issues between Russian and U.S. deputy defense ministers should continue, the ambassador said. "Before the Bush administration leaves office and the more we work together, the better we will understand the Russian position and the faster our new administration under a new president will be able to pick up that file and continue to work on it," Beyrle said.

"That's one very concrete example where the Bush administration intends to work right up until January 20th, until the inauguration of the new president because these issues are simply too important to leave unattended," he said.

Asked how the United States reacts to the linking of the new START with the missile defense issue, the diplomat said that he had interesting discussions on this matter with several U.S. officials. "The question of strategic offense and strategic defense has a logical connection. How that logical connection could be expressed in a follow-on to the current START agreement is a very interesting question that I think deserves looking at," Beyrle said.

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Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told journalists earlier that Moscow expects proposals from Washington over the expiry of the START-I in late 2009.

"We were promised that the U.S., being aware of the whole responsibility in the current situation, will formulate some proposals that will reflect Russian and U.S. shared views on how to continue to maintain strategic stability after the expiry of the START-I Treaty," he said.

"Such promises have been given to us repeatedly," Lavrov said. "The last time a U.S. State Department official said that the proposals would be made available in September. We are still waiting," Lavrov said.

The Russian Foreign Minister recalled that the 1972 START Treaty was ruined at the time when "a destabilizing missile defense system is being created not only in Europe, but also to the South and East of the Russian border, and something similar is being planned in the Northwest."

If no agreement is reached, after the expiry of the START-I Treaty "there will be no mechanism of control over the entire system of strategic forces," Lavrov said.

Russia's U.S. partners do not want to restrict the number of warheads stored at warehouses, nor the number of carriers, he said. "I think this is the most dangerous way. Because the START-I restricts not only all nuclear warheads, both deployed and stored, but also virtually all carriers of nuclear weapon, all means of its delivery," the Russian minister said.

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Gates Urges New Nuclear-Reduction Deal with Russia

Associated Press, 29 October 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Defense Secretary Robert Gates says the next American president should pursue a new agreement with Russia to further reduce the size of both nations' nuclear weapons arsenals.

"I think it ought to be an agreement that is shorter, simpler and easier to adjust to real-world conditions than most of the strategic arms agreements that we've seen over the last 40 years," he said.

Both presidential candidates, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama, advocate negotiating further reductions with Russia.

Gates spoke Tuesday at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where he said the long-term outlook for keeping U.S. nuclear weapons safe and reliable is "bleak," in part because the United States is experiencing a brain drain in the laboratories that design and develop the world's most powerful weapons.

Gates said America's more than 5,000 nuclear weapons are now safe and secure, but he sketched out a series of concerns about the future, while stressing that nuclear weapons must remain a viable part of the U.S. strategy for deterring attack as long as other countries have them.

"Hope as we will, the power of nuclear weapons and their strategic impact is a genie that cannot be put back in the bottle—at least for a very long time," he said.

In a later question-and-answer session with his audience, Gates said he is concerned about the possibility that some Russian nuclear weapons from the old Soviet arsenal may not be fully accounted for.

"I have fairly high confidence that no strategic or modern tactical nuclear weapons have leaked" beyond Russian borders, Gates said. "What worries me are the tens of thousands of old nuclear mines, nuclear artillery shells and so on, because the reality is the Russians themselves probably don't have any idea how many of those they have or, potentially, where they are."

Gates offered a number of reasons the United States should maintain its nuclear arsenal, including the assertion that by providing an umbrella of protection for allies like Japan and South Korea, it removes a reason for those countries to feel the need to develop their own nuclear weapons.



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Echoing concerns by some congressional Republicans, Gates said there are reasons to worry about the U.S. arsenal.

"Let me first say very clearly that our weapons are safe, secure and reliable," Gates said. "The problem is the long-term prognosis — which I would characterize as bleak." He noted that the United States has not designed a new nuclear weapon since the 1980s and has not built a new one since 1992.

In his most extensive remarks on nuclear weapons since he became Pentagon chief nearly two years ago, Gates spelled out in detail his views on why nuclear weapons play a vital role in the broader U.S. defense strategy. And he called for urgent action to reverse a decline in focus on nuclear issues.

"Currently the United States is the only declared nuclear power that is neither modernizing its nuclear arsenal nor has the capability to produce a new nuclear warhead," he said. "To be blunt, there is absolutely no way we can maintain a credible deterrent and reduce the number of weapons in our stockpile without resorting to testing our stockpile or pursuing a modernization program."

The Gates remarks come amid a growing debate in national security circles over whether and how the United States should take the lead in pushing for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons.

Gates made clear he believes that such a goal, while reasonable, cannot be realized for many years.

"We must take steps to transform from an aging Cold War nuclear weapons complex that is too large and expensive to a smaller, less costly but modern enterprise that can meet our nation's nuclear security needs for the future," Gates said.

He urged Congress to drop its opposition to a long-stymied administration proposal to develop a design for a more secure nuclear warhead, saying it could be done without actual underground nuclear testing.

"The program would reinvigorate and rebuild our infrastructure and expertise," Gates said.

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