



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



21 September – 04 October 2010

DTRA

## BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTIONS (BWC)

### **Seventy-Seven Countries Sign Treaty against Transport of Bioweapons**

*BioPrepWatch*, 16 September 2010, <http://www.bioprepwatch.com/>

At a diplomatic conference held in Beijing on September 10, representatives from 77 countries signed two treaties aimed at improving aviation security worldwide by criminalizing the transport of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons-related material. (206 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Biodefense System Overhaul Was Necessary, HHS Secretary Says**

*Global Security Newswire*, 27 September 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

A planned \$1.9 billion revamp of the nation's medical countermeasure enterprise was overdue as government scientists were using decades old technology to confront new and emerging biological threats, a senior Obama administration official said here last week. (623 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **New Incinerator Machine Disposes of Leaky, Old Munitions**

*Anniston Star*, 22 September 2010, <http://www.annistonstar.com/>

Westinghouse workers at Anniston's chemical weapons incinerator now have a safer way to destroy older, leaky mustard gas munitions that make up a small percentage of the dwindling chemical stockpile. (539 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Russia Destroys 48.3 Percent of Its Chemical Weapons**

*BioPrepWatch*, 23 September 2010, <http://www.bioprepwatch.com/>

Russia declared on September 22 that it has destroyed 48.3 percent, or 19,300 tons, of its existing chemical weapons stockpiles. (221 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Work on Sixth Russian CW Disposal Site almost Done**

*Global Security Newswire*, 28 September 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

Construction of the sixth of seven planned Russian chemical weapons disarmament facilities is almost finished, ITAR-Tass reported yesterday. (313 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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

### **UMCDF Ramps Up Destruction of Chemical Agent**

*Chemical Materials Agency, 29 September 2010, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>*

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) has increased the destruction of chemical mustard agent from a 50 percent processing rate to 75 percent, effective today. (324 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Russian Chemical Weapons Disposal Site Halts Work after Accident**

*Global Security Newswire, 30 September 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org/>*

The Maradykovsky chemical weapons disposal plant in Russia has halted operations while officials investigate an accident in which four plant workers were apparently exposed to a lethal nerve agent, Interfax reported yesterday. (193 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Pueblo Chemical Weapon Explosive Plan Revised**

*The Pueblo Chieftain, 30 September 2010, <http://www.chieftain.com/>*

The large number of projected rejects among the Pueblo Chemical Depot's 780,000 chemical weapons is a worst-case scenario, local officials and Boone residents were told Wednesday night. (897 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

### **UN Session Urges United States, Others to Back Nuke Test Pact**

*Associated Press, 23 September 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>*

Two dozen foreign ministers from around the world on Thursday urged a handful of remaining nations to ratify the [Comprehensive] Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT], allowing it to take effect. (338 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **NNSA and CTBTO Conduct Technical Workshop to Strengthen Treaty Implementation Capabilities in Middle East**

*NNSA, 30 September 2010, <http://nnsa.energy.gov/>*

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) jointly hosted a workshop to enhance technical engagement with seismology centers throughout the Middle East. (404 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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## FISSILE MATERIALS

### **Meeting Unlikely to Break Disarmament Impasse, Diplomats Say**

*Global Security Newswire, 20 September 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org/>*

A meeting set for Friday of Cabinet-level delegates from UN member nations has little chance breaking a stalemate at the international Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland, diplomats told Reuters yesterday. (353 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Ban Urges Action on Stalled Nuclear Disarmament Talks**

*Associated Press, 24 September 2010, <http://www.thehindu.com/>*

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged world governments on Friday to end the “long inertia” at the Geneva disarmament talks and free up much of the money spent on arms for use alleviating hunger, disease and other ills in impoverished nations. (297 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

### **IAEA Board of Governors Elects New Chair**

*IAEA, 27 September 2010, <http://www.iaea.org/>*

The IAEA Board of Governors has elected the Governor for Pakistan, Mr. Ansar Parvez, as its Chairman for 2010-2011 (one year mandate) at a meeting held today in Vienna. (174 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START)

### **GOP to Obama: START Treaty Still Far from Votes Needed for Ratification**

*The Hill, 04 October 2010, <http://thehill.com>*

Senate Republicans are warning the Obama administration that it still has work to do to ensure a successful ratification vote on the START treaty ... stating that the 14-4 bipartisan vote by the Foreign Relations Committee this month was no guarantee that the full Senate will follow suit.. . (702 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## **NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START) (CONT.)**

### **U.S. Spy Chief to Brief Senators on Russia Nuclear Treaty**

*Agence France Presse, 29 September 2010, <http://news.yahoo.com/>*

U.S. spy chief James Clapper will brief senators Wednesday on intelligence issues tied to a landmark nuclear treaty with Russia, amid worries about Moscow's compliance, a lawmaker said Tuesday. (349 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## **TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE)**

### **U.S. Calls for Reviving Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty**

*Agence France Presse, 22 September 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called Wednesday for reviving a Cold War-era treaty setting limits on troops and weapons which Russia froze nearly three years ago. (352 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## **FULL TEXT OF WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:**

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At a diplomatic conference held in Beijing on September 10, representatives from 77 countries signed two treaties aimed at improving aviation security worldwide by criminalizing the transport of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons-related material.

The 2010 Beijing Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation and the 2010 Beijing Protocol to the 1971 Hague Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft will hold those who use civilian aircraft to transport such illicit CBRN materials accountable under law, according to RTT News.

The conventions make a number of other aviation offenses, including the use of aircraft as a weapon, criminal. The conventions also update previous provisions that promote international cooperation in fighting terrorism aimed at civil aviation while providing for the humane treatment of terrorists and terrorist suspects, RTT News reports.

The head of the U.S. delegation to the Beijing conference, Clifton Johnson, said that the treaties will significantly bolster the existing international counterterrorism legal framework and facilitate the extradition and prosecution of those who seek to use terror through the manipulation of civil aviation against the United States.

Also at the conference, which was held by the International Civil Aviation Organization, members unanimously elected China's Xia Xinghua as their new president.

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A planned \$1.9 billion revamp of the nation's medical countermeasure enterprise was overdue as government scientists were using decades old technology to confront new and emerging biological threats, a senior Obama administration official said here last week.

"We were working to squeeze every last bit of efficiency out of safe, but outdated, technology," Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Thursday. "It was like a car that you got tuned up but it still didn't accelerate fast enough when we needed it to."

Most notably, government researchers still used chicken eggs to grow vaccines, a process that dates back to the 1950s and can take up to several weeks to produce results, she said.

"Even if you yell at the eggs, they really don't grow a virus in a faster method," Sebelius joked, referring to an egg's ability to grow a vaccine.

Successful countermeasure development also has proven difficult because the private sector saw little financial benefit in producing biodefense medicines and vaccines for the government, according to Sebelius. The development process can be costly and there is little if any market for such products outside the public sector.

"For industry there's still too little incentive for private companies to produce medical countermeasures, for rare conditions like Ebola or radiation poisoning," she said during a biopreparedness conference organized by the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Biosecurity.

The planned changes were detailed in a report the department issued last month. The review was ordered in the wake of the government's response to the H1N1 influenza outbreaks in 2009, when development of a vaccine progressed much slower than expected. Countermeasures are typically defined as drugs and vaccines that ward against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents and emerging infectious diseases.

Of the initial \$1.9 billion investment, \$822 million would be spent on initiatives designed to decrease the amount of time the government needed to make pandemic flu vaccines, while the Food and Drug Administration would receive roughly \$170 to enhance its regulatory efforts. Another \$678 million would go toward setting up one or more nonprofit organizations that could provide financial support to small firms working on new treatments, as well as provide the companies with new production systems and manufacturing of vaccines for times of high demand.

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The department's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) last week awarded what could amount to \$100 million in contracts for initiatives intended to increase the speed with which agents and materials that counter biological threats are developed.

The government's countermeasure development pipeline, as set in 2004, starts with the National Institutes of Health conducting basic research on a drug or vaccine before transferring the materials to the biomedical authority at Health and Human Services.

The authority then provides financial and managerial support for companies to develop the treatments. The licensed end product would be purchased through the \$5.6 billion Project Bioshield effort. The program purchases medicines designed to protect U.S. citizens from the effects of a WMD attack.

"The closer we looked at our countermeasure process, the more leaks, and choke points and dead-ends we identified," Sebelius told the audience.

Project Bioshield was nearly raided earlier this year by House appropriators who sought to remove \$2 billion from its coffers in order to address unrelated budget issues. The funds were later restored.

In comments that closely mirrored those she made when the report was unveiled last month, Sebelius said the ultimate goal of the revamp was a "nimble, flexible capacity to produce medical countermeasures rapidly in the face of any attack or threat" including a naturally occurring, yet previously unrecognized, infectious disease.

"That's a pretty lofty goal but one, if we are committed to the security of Americans, that we have to take very seriously," she added.

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Westinghouse workers at Anniston's chemical weapons incinerator now have a safer way to destroy older, leaky mustard gas munitions that make up a small percentage of the dwindling chemical stockpile.

Local, Swedish and German contractors completed construction Monday on a large metal chamber – called the Static Detonation Chamber – that will safely destroy those problematic munitions by detonating them. “It essentially works like a pressure cooker,” said site manager Terry Staggs, gesturing to the nearly 6-inch thick metal cylinder where the weapons will be heated up, detonated, then burned off.

The chamber is necessary, according to Staggs and government official Leslie Ware, because it will help to get rid of the more than 3,000 old mustard munitions stored in earthen bunkers at the incinerator.

Those munitions – some of which were manufactured in the early 1940s – couldn't be processed by the incinerator for one of two reasons, Ware said. One, they were too old to be taken apart by the robotics system that dismantles the weapons before melting them down in the incinerator burners. Or two, the weapons had leaked at some point during storage and were re-packed with additional layers of metal, also rendering them incapable of being processed by the incinerator robotics system.

Until now, if incinerator workers wanted to destroy these old munitions, they would have to wear protective suits and masks, enter the bunkers, dismantle the weapon and extract the chemical agent by hand.

That was an inefficient procedure that placed workers in risky situations, Staggs said. Now, Staggs said, thanks to the new chamber, workers can avoid the safety hazard, while the older chemical weapons can be destroyed more quickly and more efficiently.

The Static Detonation Chamber works by heating up the munitions to temperatures of more than 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. The intense heat causes the munitions to self-detonate, then to burn away, save for a few scrap metal pieces. “It burns off like a roman candle,” Staggs said.

The process not only takes away much of the human risk, but also destroys the entire weapon at once, sidestepping the disassembly phase, according to Staggs.

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And officials said the Static Detonation Chamber has passed strict state environmental guidelines, making it a relatively clean disposal process, too.

“The risk is greatly reduced. And the air coming out of the chamber will probably be cleaner than the air going into it,” Staggs said, pointing to the three-story metal pipes responsible for removing any toxic gases from the air released by the detonation chamber.

The chamber is the first of its kind in the United States and comes with a \$38 million price tag, according to Timothy Garrett, the government’s site project manager at the incinerator.

Workers received government approval to install the chamber in Anniston two years ago. A company in Sweden manufactured the parts needed to construct the unit and shipped them overseas for assembly.

Staggs said assembly began July 6, and workers are now in a testing phase, as they make sure everything works properly. The destruction of problem munitions is set to begin sometime in December or early 2011, Garrett said.

Staggs said he’s excited to get the chamber fired up. “I am ready for it, and I am proud of my team,” he said.

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Russia declared on September 22 that it has destroyed 48.3 percent, or 19,300 tons, of its existing chemical weapons stockpiles.

Viktor Kholstov, the head of the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade, Minpromtorg, made the announcement to a meeting of the Federation Council Committee on Defense and Security, according to United Press International (UPI).

"It means that we fully complied with the third stage of target dates for the destruction of stockpiles of chemical weapons," Kholstov said at the meeting, UPI reports. "The main source of financing for the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles – is the federal budget."

Kholstov said that in the first round of chemical weapons destruction, completed in April 2003, Russia eliminated 400 tons of weapons. In the second round, completed in April 2007, an additional 8,000 tons were eliminated. An additional 18,000 tons were supposed to be eliminated in the third round, Medscape.com reports.

"However, this task was completed last November 25 and by September 1 this year we have already destroyed 19.3 thousand tons of weapons," Kholstov said, Medscape.com reports.

In 2010, Russia budgeted \$645 million for destroying banned weaponry.

Early in September, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons visited the Pochep Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility to witness a portion of the destruction for themselves. A representative from the United States was present at the proceedings.

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## Work on Sixth Russian CW Disposal Site almost Done

*Global Security Newswire*, 28 September 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

Construction of the sixth of seven planned Russian chemical weapons disarmament facilities is almost finished, ITAR-Tass reported yesterday.

"Air-delivered munitions and munitions with the organophosphorus agent are stored" at the Pochep depot in the Bryansk Region, said Col. Gen. Valery Kapashin, who leads the Federal Directorate for the Safe Storage and Destruction of Chemical Weapons. "The facility is practically ready, the installation of the equipment is being completed and the commissioning of hubs and units is under way in some departments."

Russian officials intend in mid-October to verify the working order of machinery at the Pochep plant with chemical weapons disposal work to begin after that, Kapashin said.

The international economic crisis resulted in roughly \$300 million in 2009 funding cuts to chemical disarmament efforts in Russia, the officer said. Kapashin said work on the Kizner chemical disarmament plant in Urdmurtia would have been finished by now were it not for the funding shortfall.

"But we have enough money for next year and money has even been transferred to us for 2012," he said. "This will allow us to complete construction work at Kizner and on the second start-up complex at Pochep. We will also finish construction of the second phase (of a facility) in Shchuchye (Kurgan Region) and attempt to complete the creation of the most complex buildings at the Leonidovka facility in Penza Region and at the Maradykovsky facility in Kirov Region."

The Pochep installation contains 7,498 metric tons of nerve agents, nearly 19 percent of the world's-largest stockpile of chemical warfare materials that once stood at 40,000 metric tons, United Press International (UPI) reported.

Russia has eliminated more than 48 percent of the chemical agent arsenal and expects to complete work in 2015, three years past the deadline set by the Chemical Weapons Convention. It allocated \$645 million for the effort this year, according to UPI.

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Chemical Materials Agency, 29 September 2010, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) has increased the destruction of chemical mustard agent from a 50 percent processing rate to 75 percent, effective today.

“Our plant has received the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approval for this increase and has made the required steps to safely ramp up the destruction of the remaining chemical mustard agent stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot,” said Gary Anderson, U.S. Army site project manager at the UMCDF.

The United States is a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, a treaty signed by 178 countries that calls for the destruction of all chemical agents by April 29, 2012.

“This increase in processing will help us complete our mission more timely and efficiently, Anderson said. “The UMCDF is expected to complete the destruction of the stockpile prior to the international treaty requirements.”

The UMCDF began destroying mustard in June 2009. Umatilla had a stockpile of 2,339 tons of mustard agent in large steel containers with no explosives, allowing larger volumes of agent to be processed on a daily basis through the facility’s two Liquid Incinerators.

“We have demonstrated to the DEQ our ability to safely process agent at these levels, and the plant is operating 24 hours a day to incinerate the last of the chemical agent stored at the depot,” said Steve Warren, Project General Manager for URS, the company that built and operates the demilitarization plant.

“Nationwide, it took eight years to destroy the first 10 percent of agent as we were still mastering the operation,” said Col. Robert Billington, Chemical Materials Agency project manager for Chemical Stockpile Elimination. “Since then, we have systematically applied the lessons learned to continually improve our efficiency. Achieving a 75 percent processing rate at UMCDF is a great milestone and is attributable to the close working relationship we have between systems contractors, the U.S. Army and the DEQ.”

UMCDF has completed more than 7 million man-hours without a lost-time injury.

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The Maradykovsky chemical weapons disposal plant in Russia has halted operations while officials investigate an accident in which four plant workers were apparently exposed to a lethal nerve agent, Interfax reported yesterday.

Kirov Region arms control official Mikhail Manin told journalists Tuesday that elimination of soman-filled munitions at the facility had been stopped for the time being.

"Among the possible causes [of the incident] are both the breach of safety regulations and irregularities in the technological process," Manin said. "The situation at the facility is under total control of both military specialists and the regional government."

Officials from the Chemical Weapon Safe Storage and Destruction Federal Department, the Federal Medical and Biological Agency and military attorneys were probing the incident, he said.

Four plant personnel who worked with an incinerator at the site were found to have constricted pupils during a September 11 medical examination, according to Manin. They were treated at a Moscow hospital and released.

The local Communist Party has asserted the accident actually caused 10 people to be sickened.

The Maradykovsky depot reportedly houses 17.4 percent of Russia's total chemical weapons stockpile in 40,000 munitions filled with organic phosphorus compounds.

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## Pueblo Chemical Weapon Explosive Plan Revised

*The Pueblo Chieftain*, 30 September 2010, <http://www.chieftain.com/>

The large number of projected rejects among the Pueblo Chemical Depot's 780,000 chemical weapons is a worst-case scenario, local officials and Boone residents were told Wednesday night. Members of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission still questioned the numbers, though, and want more discussion at their next meeting.

The commission held this month's meeting at the Boone Community Center and Kevin Flamm, manager of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) Program, came to explain his agency's latest proposal to use explosive technology to destroy some of the depot's weapons. Flamm said he hoped that the number would be a lot lower than the 37,595 that will go into a model for an environmental assessment of the plan. That study will be done by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Earlier this month, Flamm's office scrapped a plan to destroy as many as 150,000 weapons two years ahead of the opening of a water neutralization plant now under construction. The idea was to keep U.S. weapons destruction efforts going after the last incineration site finishes and before the Pueblo plant goes on line and make a good-faith effort to show other countries that are part of a chemical weapons destruction treaty.

The Environmental Protection Agency was critical of the assessment and wanted more information, which he said would have pushed back the start date. Now, the ACWA office is looking at a plan that would blow up problem weapons in containment chambers.

That includes about 1,000 weapons that have been found to be leaking or have been used for sampling several decades ago and placed in steel cylinders, which commission members have always known could not go through water neutralization. It also includes weapons that can't be opened by a robotic system designed to remove explosives and 28,375 boxed 105 mm shells with fuzes that have been unstable and could be a risk to workers and 400 weapons that have been tagged for treaty inspection in the coming years.

Representatives of other treaty countries will be tapping them to make sure they do indeed still have mustard agent.

Also put into the chambers would be all the explosives removed from the weapons and the bags of propellants stored along with them, something that was in the original plan for the program. Flamm said that the cost-saving measures adopted in 2004 had that work being done off-site but Bechtel, the prime contractor, has asked that it be done at the chemical depot instead.

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Commission members have long expected that about 1,000 leaking weapons would have to be destroyed outside the water neutralization process, but the number of possible rejects, 9,220 in the environmental assessment model, has come as a surprise along with the possibly problematic 105 mm shells.

Flamm said that number of rejects was based on experience with the same kind of robotic system that went into use this year at the Anniston Army Depot.

The Anniston program has processed 20,016 weapons before sending them to an incinerator, with 205 rejected because of problems opening them. Based on that 1.02 percent reject rate, he said the Pueblo model projects 4,250 105 mm and 3,400 155 mm shells could be rejected and 1,170 4.2-inch mortar rounds.

Flamm said that the actual number could be considerably lower because some of the problems at Anniston already have been solved. "We think we'll be able to unscrew them at Pueblo but maybe we can't," he said.

Flamm said that by the end of the year, Bechtel will select a method to blow up the weapons, selecting from among several private vendors and the Army's own system. All have been used to destroy weapons on battlefields and training grounds around the world, along with caches of chemical weapons that have been uncovered and cannot be moved.

Whoever gets the contract will have to provide data to Oak Ridge on air and water emissions and other issues and a new environmental assessment will be issued next fall. Bechtel also would do a risk assessment on the boxed munitions, which ACWA officials say could be dangerous to handle.

Commission member Ross Vincent asked about the sequence, questioning why a vendor would be chosen before the program is approved to move forward but Flamm said it was necessary to get the data for the study and said he was confident that the assessment would show no risk.

Joe Schieffelin, who represents the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, asked if ACWA would go ahead and blow up the boxed munitions regardless of the risk assessment results, calling the plan a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Flamm told him if it's safer to process the munitions through the water neutralization plant, "that's where we'll process them."

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Commission member Terry Hart asked Flamm if there were other methods besides the robotic equipment to open up problem weapons. “It seems like we’ve moved past that discussion, which we never had locally.”

Flamm told him, “My understanding has always been the path forward at (the Pueblo plant), reject munitions were going to be processed using an explosive technology. Other methods were examined very early on and were dismissed for a variety of reasons.”

He said it would take a major redesign now because the area where the weapons are opened and where they’re washed out are in different places and raises the question of what to do with the leaking mustard agent.

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## UN Session Urges United States, Others to Back Nuke Test Pact

Associated Press, 23 September 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Two dozen foreign ministers from around the world on Thursday urged a handful of remaining nations to ratify the [Comprehensive] Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT], allowing it to take effect. Advocates said approval by the U.S. Senate, in particular, would encourage some of the other eight governments whose ratification is required to bring the 1996 CTBT into force, to outlaw all nuclear test explosions.

"I believe the national security interests of the United States are enhanced by ratification of the CTBT," Australian Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd told reporters after chairing the two-hour meeting to promote the treaty on the 2010-11 General Assembly's opening day.

"Be courageous. Take the initiative. Be the first mover," UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged non-ratifiers in a speech to the meeting.

The treaty specified 44 nuclear-capable states – from Algeria to Vietnam – that must give full approval before it can take effect. Besides the United States, the others among the 44 that have not ratified are China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan. Indonesia has announced it will ratify by year's end. A total of 151 nations have ratified the pact.

The U.S. Senate rejected the treaty in 1999, but President Barack Obama plans to resubmit it for ratification. Some Republicans are again mustering opposition, but Democrats are hopeful of approval next year.

The U.S. opponents again object that the United States might need to test to maintain a reliable nuclear stockpile, and the treaty's monitoring system wouldn't detect all clandestine tests by cheaters.

Treaty supporters counter that the U.S. weapons stockpile has been certified reliable annually since the 1990s, and the \$1 billion monitoring system of seismic and other detectors built up since 1999 has proven it can spot even small explosions.

Led by Australia, Japan, Canada and Morocco, Thursday's session adopted a statement endorsing the capability of the monitoring system and calling upon "all states that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the treaty without delay."

The major nuclear powers have refrained from testing since the 1990s.

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## **NNSA and CTBTO Conduct Technical Workshop to Strengthen Treaty Implementation Capabilities in Middle East**

NNSA, 30 September 2010, <http://nnsa.energy.gov/>

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) jointly hosted a workshop to enhance technical engagement with seismology centers throughout the Middle East.

The four-day workshop, which concluded today [September 30], was held at NNSA's Cooperative Monitoring Center in Amman, Jordan, and was the first of its kind in the region.

The announcement of this workshop comes less than a week after Energy Secretary Steven Chu and NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino visited the CTBTO headquarters during the 2010 IAEA General Conference.

"NNSA's efforts in scientific collaboration are a cornerstone of our nonproliferation programs, and this workshop symbolizes our dedication to cooperation amongst the United States, CTBTO and the countries in the Middle East to improve our understanding and use of today's detection technologies," said NNSA Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Ken Baker. "This workshop helps carry out President Obama's mission of preventing proliferation and enhancing international cooperation."

The CTBT was opened for signature in September 1996 and obligates countries that sign and ratify "not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion." It provides for an extensive monitoring regime to detect nuclear explosions, a data distribution process and on-site inspections. It also established the CTBTO, which is located in Vienna, Austria, to implement these requirements.

"We are pleased to be jointly hosting this unprecedented workshop in the Middle East, the first of its type in the region," said Dr. Lassina Zerbo, Director of the CTBTO's International Data Centre. "This is part of a larger effort to train scientific experts while building technical capacity and promoting universalization of the treaty in all regions of the world."

Technical experts from NNSA's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and the CTBTO worked together to develop a wide-ranging agenda to promote capacity building and transparency in this crucial area of concern for nuclear proliferation. Regional seismology collaboration efforts in the Middle East have been facilitated by NNSA's Confidence Building Measures Program with support from LLNL.

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NNSA's Confidence Building Measures Program builds trust, transparency, and capacity among indigenous science and technology communities to address nuclear proliferation and security concerns. This strategic engagement both reduces the danger of nuclear proliferation by engaging local technical experts while laying the groundwork for more formal government-to-government cooperation in potentially sensitive nonproliferation issues.

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## Meeting Unlikely to Break Disarmament Impasse, Diplomats Say

*Global Security Newswire*, 20 September 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

A meeting set for Friday of Cabinet-level delegates from UN member nations has little chance breaking a stalemate at the international Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland, diplomats told Reuters yesterday.

The 65-nation conference in 2009 broke a deadlock that had lasted for more than 10 years, agreeing to a work plan that addressed four issues: nuclear disarmament, a fissile material cutoff pact, the prohibition of space-based weapons, and an agreement by nuclear-armed states not to use their strategic weapons against nations that do not possess such armaments. Pakistan initially endorsed the plan, but later withdrew its consent and demanded further consideration of the program.

"We must not discount the possibility that, without a concerted dose of political will, this institution will atrophy into irrelevance," Laura Kennedy, the U.S. ambassador to the conference, said ahead of the planned meeting at the United Nations in New York.

The conference prepared the Biological Weapons Convention and Chemical Weapons Convention and worked intensively on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. However, the longtime impasse means the "sleepwalking" body should be given only one year to demonstrate progress, Canadian Ambassador Marius Grinius said.

Russian and U.S. agreement in April on a new bilateral nuclear arms control treaty has had little influence on the conference, disconcerting some officials. "There is a dynamic surrounding disarmament and nonproliferation, but the [Conference on Disarmament (CD)] hasn't taken off. The CD is stuck in the middle of nowhere. It's a real problem," one Western diplomat said. "Nobody sees a way out."

As the possibility of agreement Friday on beginning fissile material cutoff talks has diminished, some officials have called for groups of nations to begin negotiations outside the conference, Reuters reported. "I don't expect there to be a magic bullet that will produce immediate results," one envoy said. "There is no plan to walk away from the CD, but one could consider discussions in tandem."

The United States was previously unenthusiastic about such talks. "But after well over a decade of inaction in Geneva, new approaches may be called for," Kennedy said. "Patience is running out for many states, including the United States." [...]

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## Ban Urges Action on Stalled Nuclear Disarmament Talks

Associated Press, 24 September 2010, <http://www.thehindu.com/>

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged world governments on Friday to end the “long inertia” at the Geneva disarmament talks and free up much of the money spent on arms for use alleviating hunger, disease and other ills in impoverished nations.

A new coalition of nuclear-activist nations, meanwhile, said that moving quickly in Geneva on a treaty to shut down all production of uranium and plutonium for atomic bombs is an “essential step” toward global nuclear disarmament.

Negotiations for the long-proposed Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty [FMCT] ... at the Conference on Disarmament [CD] in Geneva, should ... “be pursued with vigor and determination,” said the 10-nation group, led by Japan and Australia and including Germany, Canada and Mexico.

Ban addressed foreign ministers at an unusual high-level meeting that he convened in an effort to build political momentum for action at the Geneva talks, which Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Satoru Satoh dubbed “the sleeping conference.”

The UN chief noted that in the past decade world military spending had risen by 50 percent to more than \$1.5 trillion. ... “Disarmament and non-proliferation are essential across the board, not simply for international peace and security.”

The 65-nation, 31-year-old CD, the world’s only multilateral forum for nuclear arms diplomacy, has not produced anything substantial since the 1996 nuclear test-ban treaty, a pact now on hold because key nations, including the United States, have not ratified it.

A fissile-material treaty has been proposed since the 1990s, after decades in which nuclear-weapons powers accumulated hundreds of tons of plutonium and highly enriched uranium sitting today in deployed or disused weapon warheads, in storage, in fuel stores for nuclear-powered Russian icebreakers and U.S. missile submarines, in research reactors, and elsewhere.

Experts believe there’s enough material in the world for 160,000 bombs, increasingly worrying global authorities [...]

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## IAEA Board of Governors Elects New Chair

IAEA, 27 September 2010, <http://www.iaea.org/>

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors has elected the Governor for Pakistan, Mr. Ansar Parvez, as its Chairman for 2010-2011 (one year mandate) at a meeting held today in Vienna.

Mr. Parvez is also serving as the Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

The Ambassadors and Resident Representatives of Denmark and Ukraine were also elected as Vice-Chairmen. They are Mr. John Hartmann Bernhard, Governor for Denmark, and Ms. Olena Mykolaichuk, Governor for Ukraine.

Eleven countries were elected last week to serve on the 35-member IAEA Board of Governors for the two-year period 2010-2012. The action was taken by Member States meeting at the IAEA General Conference in Vienna. The newly elected Board members are Belgium, the Czech Republic, Chile, Ecuador, Italy, Jordan, Niger, Portugal, Singapore, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

Other Member States represented on the IAEA Board during 2010-2011 are Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kenya, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, Russia, South Africa, Ukraine, the UK, the USA and Venezuela.

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## **GOP to Obama: START Treaty Still Far from Votes Needed for Ratification**

*The Hill*, 04 October 2010, <http://thehill.com>

Senate Republicans are warning the Obama administration that it still has work to do to ensure a successful ratification vote on the START treaty in a lame-duck session after the November elections. GOP senators left the capital on Wednesday and Thursday repeatedly stating that the 14-4 bipartisan vote by the Foreign Relations Committee this month was no guarantee that the full Senate will follow suit.

Democratic leaders are eyeing a floor vote on the treaty sometime after November 15, when the chamber convenes for a few weeks before adjourning for the Christmas holiday. But several other priorities are jockeying for space on the agenda, such as a showdown vote on extending the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts pushed through by the George W. Bush administration. That leaves a short window for action on the controversial treaty signed by President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in Europe this spring.

The treaty aims to reduce missiles, warheads and launchers in both countries and would replace a previous agreement that expired in December. But ratification will require 67 votes by the Senate – the House does not vote on treaties – and Republicans have been vocal critics of the treaty for months, led by GOP Whip Jon Kyl (Arizona).

Criticism has mostly centered around fears that the treaty endangers the United States by not taking strong enough steps to modernize the country's existing arsenal of missiles. Produced and maintained with outdated technology, current missiles are too vulnerable to malfunction, Republicans claim.

"Things depend entirely on the administration's commitment to nuclear modernization," said Senate Republican Conference Chairman Lamar Alexander (Tennessee). "There are a number of us on the Republican side, led by Sen. Kyl, who want to make sure that we continue this path to make sure our nuclear weapon force is up to date. What we've seen, and the facilities that we have today, is really very appalling. It's like building a Corvette in a Model T plant. So we're withholding judgment."

Kyl himself was tight-lipped when asked about the treaty on Wednesday, simply saying he didn't know how he would vote on it.

Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-Mass.), who has held months' worth of hearings on the treaty, hedged last week when asked for a vote prediction but said he was optimistic that White House officials will persuade enough Republicans.

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Lugar, the panel's ranking Republican, was also optimistic. I think we'll have a debate and ratify the treaty during this calendar year, he said. But I would be completely off-base on trying to predict the final vote.

Besides Lugar, other leading Republicans said they still need convincing. "Modernization is a significant issue," said Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the party's 2008 presidential nominee. "They've got to satisfy those concerns."

There is some Republican support. Sens. Bob Corker of Tennessee, Johnny Isakson of Georgia and Lugar voted for the treaty in this month's committee vote, as did all of the panel's Democratic members.

Isakson said many Republicans will follow the lead of Lugar, who has spent years on the committee and is well-respected by the GOP caucus. But Isakson also said the administration will have to follow through on its pledge to assure Republicans that the country's missile arsenal is safe. "The administration is going to have to live up to the commitment they made to us," Isakson said. "I think they will."

Corker also told The Hill his committee vote is no indication of his vote when the treaty comes up for a floor vote. "I still have questions, and I still want them answered," Corker said. "We'll see, but I'm still undecided for now."

But several Republicans said their opposition is final. Sen. Jim DeMint (R-South Carolina), who voted against the treaty during the committee vote, said he did not believe the administration could present a convincing case for modernization. "The treaty is built on a platform that assumes parity with Russia," DeMint said. "It creates this impression that we're going to be safer when in fact I think it makes the world more dangerous. It is also built on the assumption that we will continue this strategy of mutually assured destruction. I think it's fundamentally flawed. I don't think I'm 'swing-able'."

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## U.S. Spy Chief to Brief Senators on Russia Nuclear Treaty

Agence France Presse, 29 September 2010, <http://news.yahoo.com/>

U.S. spy chief James Clapper will brief senators Wednesday on intelligence issues tied to a landmark nuclear treaty with Russia, amid worries about Moscow's compliance, a lawmaker said Tuesday. Republicans have concerns about the agreement and "we'll raise those in the closed hearing" said Senator Kit Bond, the top Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Clapper, the U.S. director of national intelligence, will head to the capitol in the early evening, one Senate aide said on condition of anonymity. Another confirmed that the briefing would occur without specifying a timeframe.

The U.S. Senate is expected to vote on ratifying the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) after November elections that are expected to deal a blow to President Barack Obama's Democratic allies in the congress. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee endorsed the agreement in a 14-4 vote on September 16 even after one of the panel's Republican members, Senator James Risch, said the U.S. intelligence community had shared "troubling" new information with lawmakers.

Lawmakers were tight-lipped about the details at the time, though Bond warned in a statement about "the treaty's lack of verification necessary to detect Russian cheating." Asked whether there was anything new given longstanding allegations of Russian non-compliance, Risch told reporters after the committee vote: "You haven't seen the same stuff I've seen," but would not elaborate.

The treaty – signed by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and Obama at an elaborate ceremony in Prague in April – restricts each nation to a maximum of 1,550 deployed warheads, a cut of about 30 percent from a limit set in 2002.

The agreement, a top Obama foreign policy initiative, replaces a previous accord that lapsed in December 2009 and also requires ratification by Russia's lower house, the Duma.

U.S. Senate ratification requires 67 votes, Democrats control 59 seats, and just three Republicans on the foreign relations committee voted in favor of the accord, with four against.

Republicans have charged the accord could hamper U.S. missile defense plans – a charge denied by the Pentagon – have concerns about Russian implementation, and want assurances about plans to modernize the existing U.S. nuclear arsenal.

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## U.S. Calls for Reviving Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty

*Agence France Presse, 22 September 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called Wednesday for reviving a Cold War-era treaty setting limits on troops and weapons which Russia froze nearly three years ago. Clinton delivered the message to foreign ministers from the 28-member North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as well as Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who gathered in a New York hotel on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

"We should agree to restore the viability of the conventional arms control regime in Europe this year, and move on to modernize the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) regime next year," she said, according to her prepared remarks.

The 1990 CFE places precise limits on the stationing of troops and heavy weapons from the Atlantic coast to the Ural mountains – a mammoth agreement that helped resolve the Cold War standoff.

Moscow's decision to suspend compliance in December 2007 drew fire from Western governments. In December 2007, Lavrov asked Western countries to accept the amendments to the treaty that were agreed in 1999 and ratified by Moscow if Russia is to lift the suspension.

But NATO countries refused to ratify the amended treaty, which took into account the huge geopolitical changes wrought by the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union, until Russian troops withdraw from ex-Soviet republics Georgia and Moldova. They said their presence violates the CFE, a charge Moscow rejects.

Clinton said Washington is "heartened that Russia and our other CFE partners have welcomed NATO's proposal to try to prepare a short framework statement of essential CFE elements for further discussion, before the NATO and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) summits. But she said the participants "must ensure that the initial framework commits us to addressing all the tough issues if we want the follow-on negotiations to be successful."

In this vein, she said the United States and others meeting Wednesday believe that the CFE framework document must address the following.

"We need reciprocal military transparency. We must have real military limitations and restraints where we need them," Clinton said. "And all participating states, including Georgia and Moldova, must have the right to agree to the stationing of foreign forces on their sovereign territory," she said.

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