



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



24 March 2009 – 6 April 2009

DTRA

ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

Obama Outlines Sweeping Goal of Nuclear-Free World

Associated Press Online, 06 April 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Declaring the future of mankind at stake, President Barack Obama on Sunday [April 5] said all nations must strive to rid the world of nuclear arms and that the United States had a "moral responsibility" to lead because no other country has used one. (775 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Close Out of Chemical Event at Blue Grass Army Depot

CMA, 26 March 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Army officials report the closure of the chemical event stemming from the 2007 leak of the agent GB from a ton container stored at the depot. (111 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Construction of Blue Grass CW Disposal Facility Still in Early Stage

Global Security Newswire, 31 March 2009, <http://qsn.nti.org/>

Construction of the chemical weapons disposal facility at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky is 10 to 15 percent complete... (221 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Dominican Republic to Become 187th State Party to the CWC

OPCW, 01 April 2009, <http://www.opcw.org/>

The Dominican Republic has deposited its instrument of ratification of the CWC with the Secretary General of the United Nations... (439 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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Russian Disposal Site Eliminates Lewisite Stockpile

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INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

Kazakhstan Volunteers to Host Uranium Bank

TCE Today, 04 April 2009, <http://news.google.com/>

Kazakhstan has offered to host an international nuclear fuel bank and the U.S. administration is seriously considering the offer, according to a senior White House official. (360 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

OTTAWA CONVENTION

Conventional Weapons Destruction and Landmine Clearance in Lebanon

U.S. State Department, 24 March 2009, <http://www.state.gov/>

The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs has granted \$1.5 million to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) for conventional weapons destruction in eight impacted communities in southern Lebanon.

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

Conference on Disarmament Concludes First Part of 2009 Session

UN Office at Geneva, 26 March 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

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PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

Seoul to Join Nonproliferation Program

The Korea Times, 06 April 2009, <http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/>

President Lee Myung-bak said Monday [April 6] the country was positively considering joining the U.S.-led program to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. (705 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Obama, Medvedev Pledge Cooperation: Leaders Open Talks on Arms Control Treaty

Washington Post, 02 April 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev announced the start of negotiations Wednesday [April 1] on a new strategic arms control treaty that would cut each nation's long-range nuclear arsenal further than previous agreements... (566 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Text of U.S.-Russia Joint Statement on Nuclear Arms

Associated Press, 01 April 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Text of a joint statement by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama, as released by the White House on Wednesday. (1,582 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE)

Foreign Minister Reiterates Russia's Stance on NATO, ABM, CFE Treaty

BBC Worldwide Monitoring, 31 March 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has made a number of important international policy statements at the Brussels Forum 2009, including on NATO expansion, missile defense and the CFE Treaty, Russian news agency ITAR-TASS reported on 31 March. (221 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:



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Declaring the future of mankind at stake, President Barack Obama on Sunday [April 5] said all nations must strive to rid the world of nuclear arms and that the United States had a "moral responsibility" to lead because no other country has used one.

...Obama dismissed those who say the spread of nuclear weapons, "the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War," cannot be checked. "This goal will not be reached quickly perhaps not in my lifetime," he told a cheering crowd of more than 20,000 in the historic square outside the Prague Castle gates. We "must ignore the voices who tell us that the world cannot change. We have to insist, 'Yes, we can.'"

Few experts think it's possible to completely eradicate nuclear weapons, and many say it wouldn't be a good idea even if it could be done. Even ... nations such as North Korea have shown they can develop bombs, given enough time. But a program to drastically cut the world atomic arsenal carries support from scientists and lions of the foreign policy world. Obama embraced that step as his first goal and chose as the venue for his address a nation that peacefully threw off communism and helped topple the Soviet Union, despite its nuclear power.

But he said his own country, with its huge arsenal and its history of using two atomic bombs against Japan in 1945, had to lead the world. He said the U.S. has a "moral responsibility" to start taking steps now.

"To reduce our warheads and stockpiles, we will negotiate a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [START] with the Russians this year," he promised.

The nuclear-free cause is more potent in Europe than in the United States, where even Democratic politicians such as Obama must avoid being labeled as soft or naive if they endorse it. Still, Obama said he would resubmit a proposed Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT] to the Senate for ratification. The pact was signed by President Bill Clinton but rejected by the Senate in 1999.

While espousing long-term goals, Obama took care to promise that America would not lower its defenses while others are pursuing a nuclear threat. He warned both North Korea, which has tested a nuclear weapon, and Iran, which the West says is developing one, that the world was against them. Obama gave his most unequivocal pledge yet to proceed with building a missile defense system in Europe, so long as Iran pursues nuclear weapons, a charge it denies. That

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shield is to be based in the Czech Republic and Poland. Those countries are on Russia's doorstep, and the missile shield has contributed to a significant decline in U.S.-Russia relations.

In the interest of resetting ties with Moscow, Obama previously had appeared to soft-pedal his support for the Bush-era shield proposal. But he adopted a different tone in Prague.

"As long as the threat from Iran persists, we will go forward with a missile defense system that is cost-effective and proven," Obama said, earning cheers from the crowd.

Hours before the address, an aide awoke Obama in his hotel room to tell him that North Korea had made good on its pledge to launch a long-range rocket. By lunchtime, the president had addressed it publicly nearly half a dozen times.

"Rules must be binding," he said. "Violations must be punished. Words must mean something."

"Now is the time for a strong international response," he said. After the speech and a round of private meetings with foreign leaders, Obama arrived in Turkey, the final stop of his trip.

On the broader anti-nuclear issue, more than 140 nations have ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. But 44 states that possess nuclear technology need to both sign and ratify it before it can take effect and only 35 have done so. The United States is among the holdouts, along with China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea, and Pakistan.

Ratification was one of several "concrete steps" Obama outlined as necessary to move toward a nuclear-free world. He also called for reducing the role of nuclear weapons in American national security strategy and seeking a new treaty to end the production of fissile materials used in nuclear weapons.

Obama said the U.S. will seek to strengthen the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] by providing more resources and authority for international inspections and mandating "real and immediate consequences" for countries that violate the Treaty.

He offered few details of how he would accomplish his larger goal and acknowledged that "in a strange turn of history, the threat of global nuclear war has gone down, but the risk of a nuclear attack has gone up."

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CMA, 26 March 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil>

Army officials report the closure of the chemical event stemming from the 2007 leak of the agent GB from a ton container stored at the depot.

Toxic chemical crews working for the Blue Grass Chemical Activity have successfully completed the destruction and disposal of three ton containers which held approximately 160 gallons of the chemical agent.

All wastes generated by the operation have been transported to contractor operated hazardous waste disposal facilities located outside of Kentucky.

The Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection has authorized the disassembly and removal of the temporary treatment facility located at the depot. The Blue Grass Chemical Activity is coordinating this action with other Army agencies.

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Construction of Blue Grass CW Disposal Facility Still in Early Stage

Global Security Newswire, 31 March 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

Construction of the chemical weapons disposal facility at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky is 10 to 15 percent complete, the Richmond Register reported last week.

"We've done a lot of the easy stuff first. It's just the way the money flowed and the timing of the completion of the (plant) design," acting site project manager Ralph Collins told the Richmond Rotary Club.

Only 7 percent of the plant design remains unfinished. Workers began pouring concrete recently and are set to continue for two years, Collins said.

Construction is expected to continue for four to six years, Collins said today. Disposal of 500 tons of blister and nerve agents contained in projectiles and rockets is expected to last through 2021 or 2022, though an anticipated funding boost from the Obama administration could shorten the time line to 2019, he said.

The United States is required by the Chemical Weapons Convention to eliminate its arsenal of banned warfare materials by April 2012, while the U.S. Congress has demanded that work be completed in 2017.

"There [are] several deadlines, and we're not going to make any of them," Collins told the Rotary Club.

"With the new administration, they want to take a look at all expenditures," he said. "Once we see what they put in their budget, we'll know the results of that."

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Dominican Republic to Become 187th State Party to the CWC

OPCW, 01 April 2009, <http://www.opcw.org/>

The Dominican Republic has deposited its instrument of ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) with the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Convention will enter into force for the country on 26 April 2009, making the Dominican Republic the 187th State Party to the CWC. This will reduce to eight the number of countries that still remain outside the Convention*.

The OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pflirter, welcomed the decision as a significant step in strengthening global peace and security. "I congratulate the government of the Dominican Republic for its decision to ratify the Convention, which draws us closer to the goal of realizing a universal ban on chemical weapons, and we call upon those remaining States that have not yet adhered to the CWC to do so without further delay," Ambassador Pflirter said.

The Convention aims at eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons by States Parties, which are required to take the steps necessary to enforce that prohibition within their jurisdiction. All States Parties are obliged to declare and destroy any stockpiles of chemical weapons they may hold and any facilities which produced them, as well as any chemical weapons they abandoned on the territory of other States Parties in the past.

All States Parties declare to the OPCW the extent of specific activities which could pose a risk to the object and purpose of the Convention. These activities are then subject to international verification and monitoring by the OPCW Secretariat, primarily through inspections, to ensure non-proliferation. States Parties also agree to abide by a verification regime for certain toxic chemicals and their precursors in order to ensure that such chemicals are only used for purposes not prohibited.

As a State Party, the Dominican Republic will benefit from the OPCW's international cooperation and assistance programs, which provide support in the establishment of an effective National Authority and in drafting and enacting necessary legislation to implement the CWC at the national level. Such legislation enables States Parties to detect, prosecute and punish any breach of the chemical weapons ban committed on their territory or by their nationals anywhere in the world.

In addition, the OPCW provides support to facilitate annual declarations and OPCW inspections, as well as monitoring chemical transfers and maintaining relevant chemical transfer restrictions. Member States receive training and may draw upon the Organization's expertise to enhance

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their national civil protection in the event of a chemical weapons attack or the threat of such an attack.

* Angola, the Bahamas, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Israel, Myanmar, Somalia, and Syria

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Disposal Facility Begins Destroying Mustard Agent-Filled Mortars

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Workers began processing HT mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch cartridges (mortars) today as part of ongoing mustard disposal operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

There are two types of mustard agent filled 4.2-inch mortars at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD)—HT mustard, which has a lower freezing point and makes up the majority of these munitions and HD, or distilled mustard. All munitions were reconfigured to remove their explosive propellant charges several years ago at the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS).

Utah state regulatory authorities are observing the sampling and analysis of the HT mortars prior to disposal processing to verify regulatory compliance with mercury emission standards. HT mortar destruction is expected to be completed late this year. Because DCD's HD mortars are likely to contain elevated concentrations of mercury, they will not be processed until the TOCDF's new mercury filtration and capture system is operational. The system is currently being installed and is expected to be ready for testing this fall. The equipment will use sulfur-impregnated charcoal filters, which will capture mercury from furnace flue gases, ensuring environmental protection.

More than 50 percent of the original mustard agent stockpile (by agent weight) has been eliminated. Planning for the elimination of DCD's relatively small remaining stockpile of GA (Tabun) nerve and Lewisite blister agent is in progress. Chemical weapons destruction operations at DCD are scheduled to be completed by fall 2011 followed by TOCDF decommissioning and closure.

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Waste produced through chemical neutralization of the blister agent is being processed to produce dry salts that will be stored at Kambarka and later reprocessed at another location. Workers are also decontaminating 80 containers that once held the warfare material.

Russia possessed the world's largest stockpile of chemical agents, an arsenal that stood at 40,000 metric tons before disposal operations began. It has pledged to meet the April 2012 Chemical Weapons Convention deadline for full elimination of the arsenal, though some observers doubt whether [Russia] can achieve that goal.

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Sampling and analysis, during a slow controlled start-up of HT mortar processing operations, identified higher than anticipated levels of mercury in the furnace exhaust and initiated a scheduling adjustment.

While mercury emissions were within permitted limits, the Army is committed to ensuring maximum protection of the environment and has delayed further processing of the mortars.

Disposal of the remaining stockpile of mortars will resume this fall once TOCDF's new mercury filtration and capture system is operational. The mercury filtration and capture system is currently being installed and is expected to be ready for testing this fall. The equipment will use sulfur-impregnated charcoal filters, which will capture mercury from furnace flue gases, ensuring environmental protection.

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Kazakhstan has offered to host an international nuclear fuel bank and the U.S. administration is seriously considering the offer, according to a senior White House official.

The unnamed source told the Wall Street Journal that U.S. president Barack Obama is “seriously considering” the initiative, which would be operated by U.N. nuclear watchdog the International Atomic Energy Agency. If agreed, the bank would allow fledgling nuclear power states to purchase enriched uranium for use in domestic nuclear power plants and eliminate the economically-enticing option of developing their own enrichment technology, which can also be tailored to produce weapons-grade material.

Nonproliferation is a cornerstone of the concept: under the present U.S. administration, it is likely that the majority of purchased fuel will be derived from decommissioned warheads and any nation withdrawing fuel from the bank will first have to forgo a nuclear arsenal and nuclear fuel production. This in turn eliminates the need for aspiring nuclear power states to create markets to peddle their own nuclear wares.

Kazakhstan has a legitimate claim to host the site inasmuch as it is something of a prime example for nuclear nonproliferation having inherited a nuclear arsenal from the dissolution of Soviet Russia it then voluntarily disbanded it; plus the nation has a huge mineral wealth holding more than 16 percent of estimated global uranium reserves.

Diplomatically, Obama also has a lot to gain by supporting Kazakhstan’s request having agreed with Russian president Dmitry Medvedev to work towards further reducing their deployed warheads—an extension to an agreement made in 2002. Supporting a bank in Russia’s backyard, a country that Russia uses to launch its satellites, will go a long way to warming an old cold war relationship that cooled considerably under ex-presidents George Bush and Vladimir Putin.

The Wall Street Journal’s coverage coincides with North Korea’s failed showcasing of its ballistic missile technology and Obama’s pledge to crowds gathered in Czech capital Prague that the United States will lead an international effort to reduce nuclear stockpiles and prevent would-be weaponized states from spreading the nuclear threat.

“As the only nuclear power to have used nuclear weapons,” said Obama, “the U.S. has a moral responsibility to act.”

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Conventional Weapons Destruction and Landmine Clearance in Lebanon

U.S. State Department, 24 March 2009, <http://www.state.gov/>

The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs has granted \$1.5 million to the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) for conventional weapons destruction in eight impacted communities in southern Lebanon. The presence of conventional weapons following the 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and Israel has impeded post-conflict recovery. MAG's project is critical to restoring access to land for agricultural development and infrastructure rehabilitation and development.

As a result of the 2006 conflict, southern Lebanon was littered with cluster sub-munitions and other conventional weapons, including landmines. Even after two years, new weapons strike locations continue to be discovered and communities continue to be threatened, reducing the residents' ability to recover and return to sustainable livelihoods.

Coordinating closely with the Lebanon Mine Action Center, MAG will deploy teams to eight communities in southern Lebanon, and expects to clear an estimated 680,000 square meters of priority land. We anticipate that the population of these communities, approximately 45,000 people, will indirectly benefit from these Battle Area Clearance efforts.

Since the conflict in southern Lebanon ended, the U.S. Government has provided over \$15.5 million to support the clearance of explosive remnants of war (ERW). The Department of State has led the overall effort, providing over \$7 million to MAG for ERW clearance in southern Lebanon, including unexploded cluster munitions, and \$2.5 million in 2007 and 2008 to the Lebanese Mine Action Center to help develop capacity to address the landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination problem.

The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement manages both humanitarian mine action programs (including clearance of landmines and explosive remnants of war, survivors assistance, and mine risk education) and conventional weapons destruction programs worldwide. To learn more visit <http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra/>

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Conference on Disarmament Concludes First Part of 2009 Session

UN Office at Geneva, 26 March 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The Conference on Disarmament this morning heard statements from Switzerland, speaking as the current President of the Ottawa Convention; Bulgaria, in a farewell speech, outlining achievements and challenges facing the Conference; and Canada, on proposals for getting the Conference back to substantive work and on space security.

Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland, President of the Ottawa Convention, recalled that three weeks ago the 156 State Parties to the Convention had celebrated the tenth anniversary of its entry into force. Over the past 10 years considerable and measurable progress had been made with regard to stockpile destruction; mine clearance; and victim assistance. States Parties had destroyed more than 41 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines and the annual number of victims had fallen from 20,000 in 1997 to 6,000 in 2007. Among challenges facing the Convention was universalization: 39 states were not yet members.

Canada formally tabled two papers today. The first, a background paper entitled “Getting the Conference on Disarmament Back to Substantive Work: Food for Thought”, did not pretend to offer any one solution; rather it was hoped that the paper would promote understanding and dialogue among the members of the Conference and help it find its way, progressively and positively, to a resumption of its substantive work. The second, “Merits of Certain Draft Transparency and Confidence-Building Measures and Treaty Proposals for Space Security”, advanced the case that strong transparency and confidence-building measures could serve as important instruments in their own right, as well as elements towards an eventual treaty in that area.

Bulgarian Ambassador Petko Draganov, in a farewell statement, observed that the facts spoke for themselves: military expenditure worldwide was constantly growing at a rate higher than global economic growth, standing today at some \$1.3 trillion per year. The basic problems they were facing therefore could not be resolved in the Conference, as they were political by nature. Nevertheless, he had witnessed the growing readiness for compromise and seen the vast potential for a breakthrough based on shared interests and common goals. He felt more confident now that sooner rather than later the Conference on Disarmament would be able to resume its core purposeful activity.

The Conference on Disarmament concludes the first part of its 2009 session this week and will open the second part on 18 May. The next public plenary will be held on Tuesday, 19 May 2009 at 10 a.m.

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Seoul to Join Nonproliferation Program

The Korea Times, 06 April 2009, <http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/>

President Lee Myung-bak said Monday [April 6] the country was positively considering joining the U.S.-led program to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

“Regardless of North Korea's missile and nuclear threats, South Korea should be a member of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI),” Lee said. “We have discussed the matter as part of efforts to increase the nation's participation in global efforts to fight terrorism and prevent the proliferation of dangerous weapons.”

The government now needs non-partisan support to tackle the North's missile threat, Lee said. The President made the remarks during a meeting with leaders of the ruling Grand National Party, the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) and the minor opposition Liberty Forward Party, according to presidential spokesman Lee Dong-kwan.

The response came one day after North Korea launched a rocket in defiance of international calls to stop the move, which was viewed as a test of ballistic missile technology. North Korea said the satellite Kwangmyongsong-2 soared into space successfully via the Unha-2 launch vehicle, commonly known as Taepodong-2, but the U.S. and South Korea said the launch was a failure and nothing had entered orbit.

President Lee's plan to join the PSI could irk North Korea, which has called Lee a “traitor” and blamed him for siding with the United States to raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Pyongyang has issued threats of an armed response against Seoul's participation in the U.S.-led initiative. Analysts say North Korea may attempt an armed clash on the inter-Korean border.

During a National Assembly interpellation session, Prime Minister Han Seung-soo also said, “The government will not give up joining the PSI. We are considering actively participating in the program.” ...

In the aftermath of North Korea's long-range rocket launch on Sunday, Korea's potential participation in the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) is generating heated political debate.

In a departure from past restraint, the government announced Monday an intention to consider joining more than 90 member nations of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), aimed at interdicting the transfer of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). South Korea has so far been tentative about expanding its role in the PSI in anticipation of irritating the North.

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The opposition Democratic Party (DP) is voicing explicit concerns at the government's seemingly sudden change of position in joining the initiative. The North has made it clear that the South's PSI participation will be met by military countermeasures.

"I do recognize the necessity to review expanding (South) Korea's PSI participation. However, this is not the time to discuss it," said Rep. Song Min-soon of the DP in an MBC radio interview, Monday. "Without China's joint participation, it will not take full effect." China has refused to become a part of the initiative, questioning its legality.

"As the government weighs the issue, it should take the aftermath into full consideration while determining forthcoming changes in future months," added the former foreign minister during the Roh Moo-hyun administration.

In a similar vein, DP Chairman Chung Sye-kyun told reporters that the government should take a cautious approach and refrain from causing additional conflict with the North. Leaders of the governing Grand National Party (GNP) are viewing the PSI participation as a "timely move."

During a meeting with leaders of three major political parties on Monday, President Lee Myung-bak explained that steps to expand Seoul's role in the PSI had been under review by his administration, irrespective of Pyongyang's military provocations.

"We have been preparing for a full PSI participation as a means of joining the international effort to maintain peace through preventing the proliferation of WMDs," Lee said during the Cheong Wa Dae meeting.

Similarly, the Foreign Ministry and the National Intelligence Service revealed the government's intention to seek full participation in the PSI based on Korea's own schedule in their reports to the National Assembly on Monday.

Despite the conflicting positions in the political arena, it is expected that the government will make an official announcement regarding the PSI question.

Initiated by the former U.S. administration under President George W. Bush in 2003, the PSI is partially aimed at preventing the communist state from gaining WMDs by intercepting ships suspected of carrying either weapons or weapons material.

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Obama, Medvedev Pledge Cooperation: Leaders Open Talks on Arms Control Treaty

Washington Post, 02 April 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev announced the start of negotiations Wednesday [April 1] on a new strategic arms control treaty that would cut each nation's long-range nuclear arsenal further than previous agreements

The 70-minute meeting, held at the residence of the U.S. ambassador to Britain, produced a joint statement pledging cooperation on issues including Afghanistan, Iran's nuclear program, nuclear proliferation and reviving the global economy. The statement also noted that "differences remain" over U.S. plans to deploy a missile-defense shield in Eastern Europe, Russia's war with Georgia last year, and NATO's plan to expand deeper into what Russia considers its traditional sphere of influence. ...

"What I believe we've begun today is a very constructive dialogue that will allow us to work on issues of mutual interest," Obama said after the private meeting, held on the eve of the Group of 20 economic meeting. He announced that he plans to travel to Moscow in July for a summit.

Medvedev ... said: "I can only agree that ... [t]here are far more points in which we can, where we can come closer, where we can work, rather, on those points where we have differences."

... "We are not being naive about this," a senior U.S. official said. "When there's disagreement, we're going to honestly disagree. But we're going to try to avoid problems that come as a result of misunderstandings."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov praised what he called a "new atmosphere of mutual trust ... which ensures taking into account mutual interests and readiness to listen to each other."

In a separate joint statement, the two leaders pledged to begin working immediately on an agreement to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which will expire at the end of this year. They committed to reducing their nuclear arsenals to levels lower than those mandated by the Moscow Treaty of 2002, which calls for both nations to have no more than 1,700 to 2,200 warheads by December 31, 2012.

Senator Richard G. Lugar (Indiana), the ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a statement that the new agreement would have to be signed by early

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August for the Senate to ratify it this year. The deadline probably means that Obama and Medvedev would have to sign the treaty during their July summit in Moscow.

The statement also called for "international negotiations for a verifiable treaty to end the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons," a step that has never been taken before.

Obama also pledged to work for ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty [CTBT], which the Senate rejected in 1999. Senate aides said Wednesday that trying to bring the treaty to a vote probably would take time, and they predicted that it does not currently have enough votes to pass.

The arms reduction talks are designed to produce a treaty that contains stringent measures to verify warhead and missile levels, something that U.S. officials said the two countries have not attempted since the START Treaty was signed almost 20 years ago.

... [T]he leaders pledged to cooperate on holding Iran to its disclosure commitments under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. The goal is to ensure that Iran is not using what its leaders say is a civilian nuclear energy program to make nuclear weapons, something the United States and others think is the case. ...

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Text of U.S.-Russia Joint Statement on Nuclear Arms

Associated Press, 01 April 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Text of a joint statement by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama, as released by the White House on Wednesday [April 1]:

Reaffirming that the era when our countries viewed each other as enemies is long over, and recognizing our many common interests, we today established a substantive agenda for Russia and the United States to be developed over the coming months and years. We are resolved to work together to strengthen strategic stability, international security, and jointly meet contemporary global challenges, while also addressing disagreements openly and honestly in a spirit of mutual respect and acknowledgment of each other's perspective.

We discussed measures to overcome the effects of the global economic crisis, strengthen the international monetary and financial system, restore economic growth, and advance regulatory efforts to ensure that such a crisis does not happen again.

We also discussed nuclear arms control and reduction. As leaders of the two largest nuclear weapons states, we agreed to work together to fulfill our obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and demonstrate leadership in reducing the number of nuclear weapons in the world. We committed our two countries to achieving a nuclear free world, while recognizing that this long-term goal will require a new emphasis on arms control and conflict resolution measures, and their full implementation by all concerned nations. We agreed to pursue new and verifiable reductions in our strategic offensive arsenals in a step-by-step process, beginning by replacing the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with a new, legally binding treaty. We are instructing our negotiators to start talks immediately on this new treaty and to report on results achieved in working out the new agreement by July.

While acknowledging that differences remain over the purposes of deployment of missile defense assets in Europe, we discussed new possibilities for mutual international cooperation in the field of missile defense, taking into account joint assessments of missile challenges and threats, aimed at enhancing the security of our countries, and that of our allies and partners.

The relationship between offensive and defensive arms will be discussed by the two governments.

We intend to carry out joint efforts to strengthen the international regime for nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In this regard we strongly support the [NPT], and are committed to its further strengthening.

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Together, we seek to secure nuclear weapons and materials, while promoting the safe use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. We support the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and stress the importance of the IAEA Safeguards system. We seek universal adherence to IAEA comprehensive safeguards, as provided for in Article III of the NPT, and to the Additional Protocol and urge the ratification and implementation of these agreements.

We will deepen cooperation to combat nuclear terrorism. We will seek to further promote the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, which now unites 75 countries. We also support international negotiations for a verifiable treaty to end the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

As a key measure of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, we underscored the importance of the entering into force the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT]. In this respect, President Obama confirmed his commitment to work for American ratification of this Treaty.

We applaud the achievements made through the Nuclear Security Initiative launched in Bratislava in 2005, including to minimize the civilian use of Highly Enriched Uranium, and we seek to continue bilateral collaboration to improve and sustain nuclear security. We agreed to examine possible new initiatives to promote international cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy while strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime.

We welcome the work of the IAEA on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle and encourage efforts to develop mutually beneficial approaches with states considering nuclear energy or considering expansion of existing nuclear energy programs in conformity with their rights and obligations under the NPT. To facilitate cooperation in the safe use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, both sides will work to bring into force the bilateral Agreement for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

To strengthen nonproliferation efforts, we also declare our intent to give new impetus to implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1540 on preventing non-state actors from obtaining WMD-related materials and technologies.

We agreed to work on a bilateral basis and at international forums to resolve regional conflicts.

We agreed that al-Qaida and other terrorist and insurgent groups operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan pose a common threat to many nations, including the United States and Russia. We agreed to work toward and support a coordinated international response with the U.N. playing a

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key role. We also agreed that a similar coordinated and international approach should be applied to counter the flow of narcotics from Afghanistan, as well as illegal supplies of precursors to this country. Both sides agreed to work out new ways of cooperation to facilitate international efforts of stabilization, reconstruction and development in Afghanistan, including in the regional context.

We support the continuation of the Six-Party Talks at an early date and agreed to continue to pursue the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in accordance with purposes and principles of the September 19, 2005, Joint Statement and subsequent consensus documents. We also expressed concern that a North Korean ballistic missile launch would be damaging to peace and stability in the region and agreed to urge the DPRK to exercise restraint and observe relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

While we recognize that under the NPT Iran has the right to a civilian nuclear program, Iran needs to restore confidence in its exclusively peaceful nature. We underline that Iran, as any other Non-Nuclear Weapon State party to the NPT, has assumed the obligation under Article II of that Treaty in relation to its non-nuclear weapon status. We call on Iran to fully implement the relevant U.N. Security Council and the IAEA Board of Governors resolutions, including provision of required cooperation with the IAEA. We reiterated their commitment to pursue a comprehensive diplomatic solution, including direct diplomacy and through P5+1 negotiations, and urged Iran to seize this opportunity to address the international community's concerns.

We also started a dialogue on security and stability in Europe. Although we disagree about the causes and sequence of the military actions of last August, we agreed that we must continue efforts toward a peaceful and lasting solution to the unstable situation today. Bearing in mind that significant differences remain between us, we nonetheless stress the importance of last year's six-point accord of August 12, the September 8 agreement, and other relevant agreements, and pursuing effective cooperation in the Geneva discussions to bring stability to the region.

We agreed that the resumption of activities of the NATO-Russia Council is a positive step. We welcomed the participation of an American delegation at the special Conference on Afghanistan convened under the auspices of Shanghai Cooperation Organization last month.

We discussed our interest in exploring a comprehensive dialogue on strengthening Euro-Atlantic and European security, including existing commitments and President Medvedev's June 2008 proposals on these issues. The OSCE is one of the key multilateral venues for this dialogue, as is the NATO-Russia Council.

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We also agreed that our future meetings must include discussions of transnational threats such as terrorism, organized crime, corruption and narcotics, with the aim of enhancing our cooperation in countering these threats and strengthening international efforts in these fields, including through joint actions and initiatives.

We will strive to give rise to a new dynamic in our economic links, including the launch of an intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation and the intensification of our business dialogue. Especially during these difficult economic times, our business leaders must pursue all opportunities for generating economic activity. We both pledged to instruct our governments to make efforts to finalize as soon as possible Russia's accession into the World Trade Organization and continue working towards the creation of favorable conditions for the development of Russia-U.S. economic ties.

We also pledge to promote cooperation in implementing Global Energy Security Principles, adopted at the G-8 summit in St. Petersburg in 2006, including improving energy efficiency and the development of clean energy technologies.

Today we have outlined a comprehensive and ambitious work plan for our two governments. We both affirmed a mutual desire to organize contacts between our two governments in a more structured and regular way. Greater institutionalized interactions between our ministries and departments make success more likely in meeting the ambitious goals that we have established today.

At the same time, we also discussed the desire for greater cooperation not only between our governments, but also between our societies—more scientific cooperation, more students studying in each other's country, more cultural exchanges and more cooperation between our nongovernmental organizations. In our relations with each other, we also seek to be guided by the rule of law, respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights, and tolerance for different views.

We, the leaders of Russia and the United States, are ready to move beyond Cold War mentalities and chart a fresh start in relations between our two countries. In just a few months we have worked hard to establish a new tone in our relations. Now it is time to get down to business and translate our warm words into actual achievements of benefit to Russia, the United States, and all those around the world interested in peace and prosperity.

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Foreign Minister Reiterates Russia's Stance on NATO, ABM, CFE Treaty

BBC Worldwide Monitoring, 31 March 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has made a number of important international policy statements at the Brussels Forum 2009, including on NATO expansion, missile defense and the CFE Treaty, Russian news agency ITAR-TASS reported on 31 March.

"We want to cooperate with [NATO, and] ... see potential for cooperation like this: Afghanistan, joint control of air space, a number of other areas, compatibility of forces in order to preserve peace," Lavrov said. "We simply cannot understand why NATO is expanding and why this military structure is advancing towards our borders," he added.

"As for missile defense, Russia is generally in favor of joint cooperation," Lavrov said. "Russia is ready to cooperate to counteract threats like these," he said.

[In earlier statements] ... Lavrov [has been] quoted as saying that Russia welcomes Germany's initiative to convene a meeting in June 2009 to consider the ... CFE (Conventional Forces in Europe) Treaty. "Europeans should take part in this work because, in the long run, we are talking about conventional armed forces in Europe," Lavrov said. "We expect their active involvement in this effort. In this context we welcome the statement made by German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on convening a meeting of high-level experts in Germany in June this year to consider the situation around the CFE Treaty," he was quoted as saying.

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