



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



23 September – 06 October 2008

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

VX Land Mine Disposal Begins at Umatilla

GSN, 26 September 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The Umatilla Chemical Depot in Oregon yesterday [September 25] began the process of eliminating land mines filled with VX nerve agent, the Associated Press reported. (293 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

ANCDF Passes Demilitarization 50 Percent Mark

CMA, 29 September 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

The team of Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) and Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) employees achieved another significant milestone Saturday [September 27]. Working together, the team has now safely demilitarized more than 50 percent of the chemical munitions stored here. (352 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Country Joins Drive to Eradicate Cluster Bombs

New Vision (Uganda), 02 October 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Uganda is among 42 African countries that have pledged to sign the convention on cluster bombs in December. (294 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Burundi Ratifies CTBT

CTBTO, 25 September 2008, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

The Republic of Burundi ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 24 September 2008, the same day as the CTBT Ministerial Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. (282 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)(CONT.)

Timor-Leste Signs CTBT

CTBTO, 29 September 2008, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 26 September 2008, bringing the number of State Signatories of the CTBT up to 180 States. (189 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

DAYTON PEACE ACCORDS

OSCE Helps Arrange Military Inspection in Bosnia and Herzegovina under Dayton Peace Accords

OSCE, 22 September 2008, <http://www.osce.org/>

The Republic of Croatia will conduct an Article IV inspection of a military site in Bosnia and Herzegovina from September 22 to 26. (255 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

Congress Passes India Nuclear Deal

Inside U.S. Trade, 03 October 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The Senate this week approved the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, authorizing nuclear trade with India for the first time since 1974, by a vote of 86 to 13. (390 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Rice Arriving in India after Landmark Nuclear Deal

Associated Press Worldstream, 04 October 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice heads to India on Saturday [October 4] just days after the U.S. Congress approved a landmark nuclear cooperation accord with the South Asian giant. (350 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Russia Offers to Hold More Strategic Stability Talks with United States

Interfax, 06 October 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia is open to more talks with the United States in a format that brings together the Russian foreign and defense ministers with the U.S. secretary of state and defense secretary in the same meetings, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says in an interview to be published on Tuesday [October 7]. (317 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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GSN, 26 September 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The Umatilla Chemical Depot in Oregon yesterday [September 25] began the process of eliminating land mines filled with VX nerve agent, the Associated Press reported. This is the last disposal campaign for VX weapons at Umatilla and follows complete elimination of munitions containing the nerve agent sarin.

The land-mine project is scheduled to be completed in two months, followed by a five-month changeover period to prepare the disposal plant for incineration of mustard blister agent. That final campaign is set for completion within one to two years.

Meanwhile, a federal judge this week rejected a legal challenge seeking to stop shipment to Texas of waste produced by chemical neutralization of VX at the Newport Chemical Depot in Indiana, AP reported.

The Army has already shipped most of the 1.5 million gallons of hydrolysate wastewater from Newport to a private incinerator in Port Arthur, Texas. Sierra Club and other groups argued that the shipments constituted a violation of the law and that the Army failed to adequately consider the danger of relocating the caustic material.

The Army, though, on Monday won a summary judgment of the lawsuit from U.S. District Judge Larry McKinney, who determined that the waste could not be considered a weapon or chemical warfare material.

The decision “validates what we have said all along, that this was our best disposal option,” Col. Robert Billington, program manager for Chemical Stockpile Elimination at the Army’s Chemical Materials Agency, said in a press release.

The Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has completed VX disposal and is scheduled for dismantlement over the next two years. The Army plans to transfer the remaining hydrolysate to Texas during that period.

No appeal of the decision is expected as most of the shipments have already occurred, AP reported.

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ANCDF Passes Demilitarization 50 Percent Mark

CMA, 29 September 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

The team of Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) and Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) employees achieved another significant milestone Saturday [September 27]. Working together, the team has now safely demilitarized more than 50 percent of the chemical munitions stored here.

Chemical munitions have been safely stored at this northeast Alabama installation since 1961. Safe disposal operations began in August 2003. Now, more than 331,100 nerve agent-filled rockets, artillery shells, and land mines have been safely demilitarized.

Timothy K. Garrett, ANCDF government site project manager, said, "It is good that we have successfully reached another milestone in our mission of safely demilitarizing the chemical munitions here. But we still have a long way to go.

"I am very proud of the work force we have and the accomplishments made to date. The success of the work force, and the commitment to safe operations, means we have safely eliminated the bulk of the risk that was associated with the storage of the chemical munitions here for so long."

ANCDF Site project manager Robert C. Love said, "We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go, and we can't lose sight of that fact. We have been able to operate safely for more than five years now by paying attention to detail, by applying many lessons learned and by looking out for each other daily. We must continue to do those things if we are to complete the second half of the process as successfully as we did the first half, and that is exactly what we plan to do."

All 142,428 of Anniston's GB (sarin) nerve agent munitions were demilitarized between August 9, 2003, and March 2, 2006. Since July 23, 2006, more than 188,670 nerve agent VX-filled munitions have been safely processed. VX land mine disposal operations are expected to conclude early next year. The last disposal campaign, involving mustard (blister) agent-filled mortars, artillery shells and containers, will begin later in 2009 following a planned maintenance and changeover period. The ANCDF is scheduled to be decontaminated and closed at the end of all chemical munition demilitarization operations.

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Country Joins Drive to Eradicate Cluster Bombs

New Vision (Uganda), 02 October 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Uganda is among 42 African countries that have pledged to sign the convention on cluster bombs in December. The treaty seeks to end the production, sale, transfer, and use of cluster bombs the world over, the disaster preparedness minister, Professor Tarsis Kabwegyere, has said. He added that the 42 countries had also agreed to destroy stockpiles of cluster ammunitions in their possession.

"We have agreed that each of these countries sends representatives to the signing conference due to take place in Oslo, Norway, on December 3," he said.

The minister was on Tuesday [September 30] closing the cluster ammunitions convention at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala. According to the minister, any African country that declines to sign the convention would be punished.

The convention secretariat pointed out that Angola, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Eritrea, The Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mauritius, and Zimbabwe had not yet adopted the treaty, adopted in Dublin in May this year.

In Africa, cluster ammunitions were used in Angola, Chad, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Uganda. It is believed that 77 countries have stockpiled cluster munitions, including Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, and Uganda.

According to the Action Plan signed in Kampala by the representatives of 42 countries, all countries are to ratify the convention after the signing ceremony.

"Interim measures should be taken to ensure effective implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions," the statement said.

About 34 states are known to have produced over 210 different types of cluster bombs, and over 20 countries [have been] affected. They are: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Croatia, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Grenada, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Montenegro, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Uganda, Vietnam, and Chechnya.

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Burundi Ratifies CTBT

CTBTO, 25 September 2008, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

The Republic of Burundi ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 24 September 2008, the same day as the CTBT Ministerial Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This brings the total number of treaty ratifications to 145.

Tibor Tóth, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), welcomed Burundi's ratification.

Adherence to the CTBT is almost universal, with 179 states having signed the Treaty to date. This applies especially to Africa, with Mauritius and Somalia the only countries in the region that have not yet signed. Click here for an interactive map of the Treaty's status:

<http://www.ctbto.org/map/#status>

Four of the 44 States listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty who must sign and ratify [the CTBT] before [it] can enter into force are in Africa: Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, and South Africa, of which only Egypt has yet to ratify.

The other eight States whose ratification is still required for the Treaty to enter into force are: China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea [North Korea], India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Pakistan, and the United States of America. The other 35 Annex 2 States have ratified the Treaty, including the three nuclear weapon States France, Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom.

The CTBT bans all nuclear explosions. A verification regime is being built to monitor compliance with the Treaty. By the time the Treaty enters into force, 337 facilities will monitor the oceans, underground and the atmosphere for any sign of a nuclear explosion. 256 facilities have been installed to date and are sending data on a continuous basis to the CTBTO's International Data Centre in Vienna.

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Timor-Leste Signs CTBT

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The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 26 September 2008, bringing the number of State Signatories of the CTBT up to 180 States.

Tibor Tóth, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), welcomed Timor-Leste's signature.

Adherence to the CTBT is now almost universal and closing in on older arms control treaties such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In the treaty-defined region of South East Asia, Pacific and the Far East, 28 of 32 States have now signed the Treaty, of which 19 have ratified.

Of the 44 States listed in Annex 2 to the Treaty who must sign and ratify before the CTBT can enter into force, seven are in this region: Australia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DRPK), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Viet Nam. Of these, China, DPRK and Indonesia have yet to ratify.

The other six States outside the region, which still have to ratify for the CTBT's entry into force are: Egypt, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Pakistan and the United States of America...

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OSCE Helps Arrange Military Inspection in Bosnia and Herzegovina under Dayton Peace Accords

OSCE, 22 September 2008, <http://www.osce.org/>

The Republic of Croatia will conduct an Article IV inspection of a military site in Bosnia and Herzegovina from September 22 to 26. This will be the 300th inspection mission according to the Dayton Peace Accords Annex 1 B, which covers the measures for Sub-Regional Arms Control under its Article IV.

It will also be the 600th single inspection of a military facility which was conducted on the territories of the four Parties: Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, and the Republic of Serbia.

"The Parties have reached a high level of competence and conduct the mutual inspections in a professional and thorough manner and confirmed in inspection reports that the number of notified heavy weapons in the region is in accordance with the agreed limitations," said Brigadier General Costanzo Periotto, the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for Article IV.

"These activities resulted in more transparency, openness, and confidence between the Parties."

At the 1995 OSCE Ministerial Council in Budapest, OSCE participating States decided to designate a Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office to assist the parties in the former Yugoslavia in their negotiations and implementation of peace and arms control agreements.

Inspection activities by the Parties began in August 1996 after the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control was signed in Florence, Italy. It was agreed that for the purpose of ensuring verification of compliance with the provisions of the Agreement each Party should facilitate these inspections in line with detailed inspection rules which are covered by special procedures in protocols to the Agreement.

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Congress Passes India Nuclear Deal

Inside U.S. Trade, 03 October 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The Senate this week approved the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, authorizing nuclear trade with India for the first time since 1974, by a vote of 86 to 13. The House already passed the joint resolution of approval and it has now been sent to the White House to be signed by President Bush, marking a foreign policy and legislative victory for the administration.

The measure was strongly supported by U.S. business interests led by the U.S.-India Business Council. India ministry of external affairs in a September 10 letter of intent to the State Department pledged to buy two reactors from U.S. suppliers and to work to create a nuclear liability regime U.S. firms need to supply India with nuclear technology and fuel. The deal is expected to benefit General Electric and U.S. defense firms such as Lockheed-Martin and Boeing eager to reap the rewards of closer ties with India after years in which the ban on nuclear trade strained relations.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce in an October 1 letter to all senators said it would possibly score the vote on the deal and on a proposed amendment that would have placed new conditions on the 123 Agreement. The agreement derives this name from the section in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 which sets the framework under which the U.S. negotiates international pacts so firms can engage in international nuclear commerce.

Opponents believe the deal will damage the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which India has never signed, and contains insufficient safeguards to prevent India from using U.S. material to advance its nuclear weapons program. India first detonated a nuclear weapon in 1974, in violation of the NPT and with the use of U.S. technology...

The House and Senate-passed language made some changes to the nuclear deal favored by nonproliferation hawks. The resolution forbids the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to issue licenses for the exports of nuclear fuel to India unless the president certifies that India has made a formal declaration to the IAEA placing these facilities under safeguards.

The resolution also says any strategic fuel reserve should be commensurate with "reasonable reactor operating requirements," an effort to make clear that India would not be able to stockpile massive quantities of nuclear fuel. Such a stockpile could insulate India from any efforts to punish it for detonating a nuclear weapon...

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Rice Arriving in India after Landmark Nuclear Deal

Associated Press Worldstream, 04 October 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice heads to India on Saturday [October 4] just days after the U.S. Congress approved a landmark nuclear cooperation accord with the South Asian giant.

Rice will meet with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other leaders over the weekend, the U.S. State Department said. She was also to travel to Kazakhstan. Few details of her schedule in New Delhi were available.

Congress passed a pact this week that allows American businesses to begin selling nuclear fuel, technology and reactors to India, overturning a three-decade ban on atomic trade with the South Asian country. The deal includes safeguards and requires U.N. inspections at India's civilian, but not military, nuclear plants.

U.S. President George W. Bush must still sign the legislation, and a technical nuclear agreement must also be signed. U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Evan Feigenbaum said in Washington he expected that to happen soon, but U.S. officials have not said whether Rice would have a signing ceremony during her trip to India.

On Thursday, Rice said ties between the U.S. and India are "on a very firm footing, and that can only be good for democracy and it can only be good for the world."

In India, the governing Congress party spokesman Veerappa Moily called the deal "a monumental achievement."

India built its bombs outside the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, which it refuses to sign. It has faced a nuclear trade ban since its first atomic test in 1974. Its most recent nuclear test was in 1998. Bush and Singh announced their intention to pursue nuclear cooperation in July 2005. U.S. lawmakers overwhelmingly approved the deal in a conditional form in late 2006. It then overcame strong political opposition in India, where critics threatened to bring down Singh's government, denouncing the accord as a ploy to make India Washington's pawn.

Opposition and communist parties critical of the deal said India has forfeited its right to hold future nuclear tests.

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Russia is open to more talks with the United States in a format that brings together the Russian foreign and defense ministers with the U.S. secretary of state and defense secretary in the same meetings, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says in an interview to be published on Tuesday [October 7].

Lavrov told Russian government daily Rossiiskaya Gazeta that all points of dispute, such as the United States' plans to deploy elements of its missile defense in Eastern Europe and all issues of strategic offensive armaments, should be raised at such talks.

Lavrov mentions that Russia has repeatedly expressed anxiety over the U.S. plans to place missile defense elements in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The United States "has promised, having acknowledged our concerns, to hand us over a list of confidence-and transparency-building measures that would make it possible to lessen these concerns without eliminating them," the minister says.

"We are still waiting," he says.

START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) I is another issue that needs to be on the agenda for "two plus two" meetings, Lavrov argues. START I expires in December 2009, "after which there will be no mechanism of control of the entire system of strategic forces," he says.

"It has been promised to us that the American side, aware of the entire seriousness of the current situation, will formulate proposals of some kind that would reflect synchronized Russian and U.S. positions on the maintenance of strategic stability after the expiry of the START I treaty. Such promises, by the way, have been given us more than once. Last time, a senior State Department official said that the proposals would be handed over in September. We are still waiting," Lavrov says.

"We will have to discuss all that you and I are talking about now. Our American partners are aware of our concerns. And there is no way to avoid such concerns," Lavrov says.

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