



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 March – 07 April 2008

**DTRA**

## ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

### **U.S. to Conduct Complete Nuclear Weapons Inventory**

*Global Security Newswire, 27 March 2008, <http://www.nti.org>*

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has demanded a full-scale audit of all U.S. nuclear weapons and related technology after learning last week that the Pentagon mistakenly shipped four nuclear missile fuses to Taiwan in 2006. (352 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **Iran to Attend Chemical Weapons Convention**

*Keyhan International, 5 April 2008, accessed through Open Source*

An Iranian delegation is scheduled to participate in the second Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in The Hague in the Netherlands. The delegation from Iran's Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support (SCWVS) seeks to raise international awareness about the medical, psychological, social and environmental effects of chemical warfare, a report by the press TV said. (119 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Preparations Increase for Kentucky CW Disposal Site**

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Several construction projects are scheduled to begin this year at the Blue Grass Army Depot in advance of construction of a chemical weapons disposal plant at the Kentucky facility, the Richmond Register reported yesterday (see GSN, March 12). (291 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **China, Japan Prepare CW Disposal Plan**

*Global Security Newswire, 27 March 2008, <http://www.nti.org>*

Details are being finalized on a plan to eliminate hundreds of thousands of Japanese chemical weapons abandoned in China at the end of World War II, the South China Morning Post reported today (see GSN, Sept. 28, 2007). (260 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

 [back to top](#)

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## CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE TREATY (CFE)

### **Putin, Bush to Discuss Missile Defense, CFE in Bucharest, Sochi**

*RIA Novosti*, 27 March 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

The Russian and U.S. leaders will discuss European missile shield plans and the CFE arms reduction treaty when they meet in Romania and Sochi next month, the Russian foreign minister said on March 27. (380 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **NATO Publishes CFE Treaty Offer, as Russia Summit Approaches**

*AFP*, 28 March 2008, <http://www.spacewar.com/>

NATO nations made public Friday a long-standing offer to Russia aimed at getting Moscow to renew its commitment to a key Soviet-era arms pact, just days ahead of a key summit.

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

## INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

### **Egypt Moves Forward with Nuclear Plans**

*GSN*, 31 March 2008, <http://www.nti.org>

Egypt sought to consolidate its place as the leader among Arab nations seeking nuclear energy capabilities by signing a deal last week with Russia, Agence France-Presse reported (see GSN, March 25). (306 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

### **U.S., South Korea Push North on Nuclear Arms Declaration**

*Associated Press*, 27 March 2008, <http://www.sfgate.com/>

The United States and South Korea said March 26 that patience is wearing thin among international negotiators pressing North Korea to hand over a promised declaration of nuclear weapon efforts. (585 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

### **South Korea's Foreign Minister Sets August Deadline for 6-Party Progress, Takes Cautious Stance on PSI**

*JoongAng Ilbo, 28 March 2008, accessed through Open Source*

With inter-Korean relations growing tenser by the day, South Korea's Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan set an August deadline for a breakthrough in the long-stalled six party talks on March 28. Pyongyang also denounced Washington for making "unfair demands" in the process to dismantle the North's nuclear program. (554 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## OTTAWA CONVENTION

### **UN Troops Destroy over 6,000 Land Mines in Southern Sudan**

*Sudan Tribune, 31 March 2008, accessed through Open Source*

On March 31, UN peacekeepers destroyed 6,186 landmines in an area 35 kilometers northwest of Juba, marking Sudan's compliance with the 1997 Ottawa Convention on Anti-personnel Landmine Stockpile Destruction. (328 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

### **New U.S.-Russia Agreement on Strategic Armaments should Cap Rockets Arsenals**

*Agentstvo Voyennykh Novostey, 3 April 2008, accessed through Open Source*

The balance between the United States and Russia in the arsenals of strategic arms could be upset in favor of the United States, said Col. Gen. Viktor Yesin, the first vice president of the Academy for Security, Defense and Law and Order, a Russian think tank. (184 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Russia Opposed to U.S.-Proposed Design of New Strategic Arms Treaty**

*Agentstvo Voyennykh Novostey, 31 March 2008, accessed through Open Source*

Russia cannot accept the United States' idea to develop a new strategic arms reduction treaty on the basis of the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty, a representative of the Russian Defense Ministry told Itar-Tass on March 31, commenting on March 26-27 Russian-American consultations. (400 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 March – 07 April 2008

**DTRA**

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

### **Russia: Another Batch of Topol Missile Launchers Scrapped in Udmurtia**

*Agentstvo Voyennykh Novostey, 27 March 2008, accessed through Open Source*

This year's first batch of the Topol ICBM launchers has been dismantled at the Pibanshur military base, Udmurtia, the information and public relations service of the [Russian] Strategic Missile Troops [RVSN] told Interfax-AVN on March 27. (304 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **For Bush and Putin, Trust Remains Bedrock of Efforts to Control Nuclear Programs**

*Associated Press, 2 April 2008, accessed through LexisNexis*

President Bush's meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin probably will be their last while Putin is still president. Once again, controlling the threat of nuclear weapons is circling back to American and Russian leaders. This time, the immediate issue in that minefield is expanding U.S. missile defenses in Eastern Europe. Bush argues that bases in Poland and the Czech Republic serve the defense of many nations, including Russia. Putin suspects the defense is aimed at Russia. (806 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

 [back to top](#)

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## United States to Conduct Complete Nuclear Weapons Inventory

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Defense Secretary Robert Gates has demanded a full-scale audit of all U.S. nuclear weapons and related technology after learning last week that the Pentagon mistakenly shipped four nuclear missile fuses to Taiwan in 2006.

Gates ordered the Defense Logistics Agency, the Air Force and the Navy “to verify positive control and accountability” of all nuclear weapons and related materials within 60 days (Josh White, Washington Post, March 28).

“At a minimum, your report should include the results of the inventory and your personal assessment of the adequacy of your respective department or agency’s positive inventory control policies and procedures,” the defense secretary said in a memo (Barbara Starr, CNN, March 27).

Defense officials said the inventory was ordered in response to the “extremely embarrassing” missile fuse incident, which came to light while the Pentagon was still dealing with fallout from the accidental flight of six nuclear-armed cruise missiles across the country last August, the Post reported (see GSN, Nov. 8, 2007).

The United States sent the electronic ICBM components to Taiwan in place of helicopter batteries despite rigorous command-and-control procedures governing all U.S. nuclear weapon materials.

The blunder remained undiscovered for 1 1/2 years until Taiwan informed Washington last week that it had received classified warhead technology. Gates has already ordered a probe of the incident.

“This is about the trust and confidence of the American people and our stewardship of the most dangerous weapons in the world,” said Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell. “Getting to the bottom of this incident and ensuring our nuclear arsenal and associated components are properly safeguarded must be a top priority of this department. Secretary Gates believes this situation is totally and completely unacceptable.”

U.S. Representative Edward Markey (D-Mass.), co-chairman of the House Bipartisan Task Force on Nonproliferation, said the fuse incident draws attention to the Pentagon’s need to reform its management of nuclear materials (see GSN, March 27).

 [back to top](#)

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25 March – 07 April 2008



“Otherwise, we run the risk that the next time our sensitive equipment ends up in the wrong hands, it won't simply be a matter of ‘return to sender,’” Markey said in a statement (White, Washington Post, March 28).

 [back to top](#)

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The delegation from Iran's Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support (SCWVS) seeks to raise international awareness about the medical, psychological, social and environmental effects of chemical warfare, a report by the press TV said.

The delegation will discuss the tragic outcome of the wide use of mustard gas in Saddam Hussein's chemical offensive against Iranians during the Iraq imposed war in the 1980s.

Some 183 countries will attend the second CWC April 7 to 18, 2008, to reaffirm that they will never "develop, produce, acquire, stockpile or retain chemical weapons, or transfer, directly or indirectly, chemical weapons to anyone."

 [back to top](#)

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Several construction projects are scheduled to begin this year at the Blue Grass Army Depot in advance of construction of a chemical weapons disposal plant at the Kentucky facility, the Richmond Register reported March 24 (see GSN, March 12).

Construction of the chemical neutralization complex is not expected to be completed for several years. The facility is currently estimated to complete munitions destruction in 2023, though Congress has demanded that all U.S. chemical weapons be eliminated by 2017 (see GSN, Feb. 20).

Plans for 2008 include installation of underground utility systems, pouring concrete for the disposal plant and a support facility, and construction of an electrical substation.

“[This year] will be an exciting year for the project as the pilot plant main construction site continues to take shape with the placement of horizontal concrete for the main destruction facility and the assembly of two new support buildings,” said Gary Cough, construction manager for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant.

Construction began in summer 2006 with development of an access road to the disposal site and preparatory earthwork for the primary plant. Since then, work has also been completed on several additional projects, including a perimeter fence and installation of cable and mechanical utilities.

Work is under way on lighting for the parking lot, a storm drain system and other installations, the Register reported. Designs have also been submitted for the munitions demilitarization plant, control support site and supercritical water oxidation processing facility.

Still to be installed are the main plant, a visitor registration building, a water tank and other facilities.

Meanwhile, the project to destroy three bulk containers filled with 157 gallons of sarin nerve agent is continuing (see GSN, Dec. 10, 2007; Ronica Shannon, Richmond Register, March 24).

 [back to top](#)

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Details are being finalized on a plan to eliminate hundreds of thousands of Japanese chemical weapons abandoned in China at the end of World War II, the South China Morning Post reported March 27 (see GSN, Sept. 28, 2007).

A Japanese official said, though, that an agreement might not be in the immediate offing. “I didn’t hear that there will be a conclusion soon,” he said.

Under the tentative plan, recovery efforts would focus on between seven and 10 areas, with destruction in each sector taking between four and 10 years depending on the number of weapons that are recovered. Under the Chemical Weapons Convention, the two nations have until April 2012 to complete the project.

The number of abandoned weapons remains in dispute. It has previously been estimated at around 400,000, but the Morning Post reported that Japan has placed the number at 700,000 shells. China says there are 2 million metric tons of weapons dispersed among 40 sites in 15 provinces, according to the newspaper. It says the munitions have killed or injured more than 2,000 people.

Japan agreed in a 1999 memorandum of understanding to recover its aging chemical weapons by June 2007, but there was limited progress before that deadline.

One obstacle is determining which weapons are Japanese and which might have belonged to Russia or Chinese nationalists who retreated to Taiwan after communists took control of China in the 1940s, said one Japanese official. Japanese Defense Ministry records might help solve that question, the Morning Post reported (Bill Savadove, South China Morning Post, March 27).

 [back to top](#)

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## **Putin, Bush to Discuss Missile Defense, CFE in Bucharest, Sochi**

RIA Novosti, 27 March 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

The Russian and U.S. leaders will discuss European missile shield plans and the CFE arms reduction treaty when they meet in Romania and Sochi next month, the Russian foreign minister said on March 27.

George W. Bush said on March 26 he had accepted Vladimir Putin's invitation to visit his holiday residence in Sochi on the Black Sea on April 6 after the April 2-4 NATO summit in Romania "to discuss the strategic agreement, a crucial part of which is missile defense."

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said: "The presidents of Russia and the United States will address all the key issues concerning European security at the Russia-NATO Council meeting during a NATO summit and their informal meeting later on."

"Our countries, Russia and the United States, bear a special responsibility for security in the Euroatlantic region. This relates to missile defense, the CFE, short- and medium-range missiles, and an arms race in space," Lavrov said.

When the leaders meet, Putin will be in the final month of his presidency. He is set to be replaced by his long-time ally Dmitry Medvedev on May 7.

Washington's plans to deploy a missile base in Poland and a radar system in the Czech Republic, which it says are designed to counter potential threats from Iran, have sparked an ongoing dispute with Moscow, which sees the plans as a direct threat to its security.

The missile plans coupled with NATO's ongoing expansion have triggered confrontational rhetoric from Russia and prompted the country to temporarily withdraw from the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe treaty, a crucial arms control arrangement, in mid-December 2007.

However, the Kremlin appeared to soften its stance after a recent visit by the top U.S. diplomat and defense chief, who brought proposals to ease Russian concerns.

Lavrov said giving up the idea of opening new missile bases in Central Europe was the best way of addressing Moscow's security concerns.

"Our position remains unaltered. The best way of addressing concerns related to the third missile site [in Europe] is to drop the plans, and switch to joint projects," he said.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 March – 07 April 2008

**DTRA**

The minister said a Russian delegation is currently in Washington continuing to discuss the problem. He also said Moscow was studying the U.S. confidence-building proposals, which he described as measures to improve transparency.

 [back to top](#)

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## **NATO Publishes CFE Treaty Offer, as Russia Summit Approaches**

AFP, 28 March 2008, <http://www.spacewar.com/>

NATO nations made public March 28 a long-standing offer to Russia aimed at getting Moscow to renew its commitment to a key Soviet-era arms pact, just days ahead of a key summit.

Russia announced at midnight on December 11 [2007] that it was suspending participation in the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which limits the deployment of troops and military equipment.

"This situation cannot be sustained indefinitely," a NATO statement said.

"Russia's 'suspension' risks eroding the integrity of the CFE regime and undermines the cooperative approach to security which has been a core of the NATO-Russia relationship and European security for nearly two decades."

NATO said the United States, with allied backing, had proposed some six months ago "a package of parallel actions, which, taken together, address all of the concerns Russia has raised with regard to CFE and related issues".

Under the offer, NATO allies would agree to move forward on ratifying the CFE treaty as Moscow resolved "outstanding issues" related to its forces in Georgia and Moldova.

Signed in 1990 and modified in 1999, the CFE places precise limits on the stationing of troops and heavy weapons from the Atlantic coast to Russia's Ural mountains -- a mammoth agreement that helped resolve the Cold War standoff.

Russia attributes its freeze to the failure of NATO members to ratify a revised 1999 version of the treaty but Moscow has also been riled by U.S. plans to deploy an anti-missile shield in two former Soviet satellite states.

NATO countries have said they will only ratify the CFE treaty once Moscow lives up to a pledge made in 1999 to pull its troops out of former Soviet republics Georgia and Moldova.

Despite the offer, both sides have been unable to end the deadlock.

"The Russians tell us that because they have ratified the adapted version of the treaty, it's up to us to take the first step," a NATO diplomat said, on condition of anonymity.

 [back to top](#)

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25 March – 07 April 2008

**DTRA**

"But we tell them that they have to respond to the offer we made them before last year," he said.

He added that, for the moment, "no one had crossed any red line but that, on both sides, this situation cannot last indefinitely."

NATO leaders are to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Bucharest on April 4, where the treaty, as well as differences over Kosovo and the U.S. missile defence shield are likely to be hot issues.

When asked about NATO's move Friday, Russian ambassador at the alliance, Dmitry Rogozin, told AFP that the "publication of the offer is aimed at putting pressure on Russia."

 [back to top](#)

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DTRA

## Egypt Moves Forward with Nuclear Plans

GSN, 31 March 2008, <http://www.nti.org>

Egypt sought to consolidate its place as the leader among Arab nations seeking nuclear energy capabilities by signing a deal last week with Russia, Agence France-Presse reported (see GSN, March 25).

The agreement apparently allows Russia to bid for the construction contract for Egypt's first nuclear reactor, a \$1.5 billion to \$1.8 billion plant to be built on the Mediterranean coast.

However, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said the deal resulted from "difficult" negotiations, indicating that all details of the agreement are not yet known.

"Western countries can be intrigued and a little concerned, even if nothing has (yet) been concluded on a commercial level," said Antoine Basbous, head of the Arab World Observatory in Paris.

A dozen Arab nations have indicated their interest in nuclear energy in order to meet growing power demands. Along with Egypt, the nations include Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Jordan, Libya, Algeria and Morocco, AFP reported.

This interest comes amid continuing concerns regarding the intent of Iran's nuclear program (see related GSN story, today).

"It's Iran's wish to accelerate its dubious program that has pushed Arab countries to throw themselves into the race for nuclear power," Basbous said.

International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Mohamed ElBaradei said last month that "all the Arab countries' nuclear activities will be under agency safeguards systems, so I don't see why anybody should be concerned."

Egypt joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 1981 and has backed efforts to make the Middle East free of nuclear weapons. It has been critical of Israel's presumed nuclear weapons activities.

Cairo, though, has refused to sign the Additional Protocol to its IAEA safeguards agreement, which would allow for heightened checks of Egyptian nuclear sites. The government claims that signing the protocol would force it to rely too heavily on other nations for nuclear power requirements (Alain Navarro, Agence France-Presse/Yahoo!News, March 27).

 [back to top](#)

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## U.S., South Korea Push North on Nuclear Arms Declaration

Associated Press, 27 March 2008, <http://www.sfgate.com/>

The United States and South Korea said March 26 that patience is wearing thin among international negotiators pressing North Korea to hand over a promised declaration of nuclear weapon efforts.

A spat over the North's declaration, which was due by the end of last year, has deadlocked six-nation nuclear talks. Disarmament negotiators insist that it address claims of a secret uranium enrichment program and allegations that the North transferred nuclear technology to Syria.

"Time and patience is running out," South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan said at a news conference with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The new, conservative South Korean government warned that it would speak out against human rights abuses in the Communist North and that it would not expand economic ties unless the North abandoned its nuclear weapons programs.

The policy, outlined by the new president, Lee Myung-bak, means at least a temporary reduction in generous South Korean economic aid at a dire time for the North, with cuts in humanitarian aid expected to follow. In recent weeks, relief experts have warned that food shortages in the North will worsen because of high global commodity prices, flood damage and aid donors' reluctance in light of Pyongyang's nuclear wrangling with Washington.

Also Wednesday, South Korea confirmed reports that it would vote for a U.N. Human Rights Council resolution this week that criticizes North Korea as an abuser of human rights and calls for an extended U.N. investigation. That decision is also a change from the policies of the previous liberal governments.

For years, international human rights groups have called North Korea one of the world's worst abusers of human rights. It runs a gulag of prison camps believed to house 200,000 political detainees, according to U.S. government reports.

Rice, after a private lunch meeting with Yu, said, "It is really time now for there to be movement on the declaration.

"We've been at this for quite a long time."

 [back to top](#)

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Separately, President Bush called Chinese President Hu Jintao to discuss efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons. The leaders pledged to continue urging North Korea to deliver its declaration, the White House said.

At the State Department, Rice was asked if the Syria allegations were holding up the North providing a list. She said the United States expects the declaration and "any associated documents will show the full range of the North Korean programs and activities."

In an effort to make progress, the United States has indicated a willingness to give North Korea some leeway on how to present its declaration, including the possibility of separate documents.

During talks among the Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States in October, the North promised to lay out its long history of nuclear weapons development in a formal declaration by the end of 2007, a step toward eventually giving up its atomic bombs and the means to make them. In exchange, North Korea was to receive aid and political concessions, including its removal from U.S. terrorism and sanctions blacklists.

North Korea says it gave the United States a list of its nuclear programs in November. The Bush administration says it has not received a complete and correct list.

The chief U.S. envoy at the disarmament talks, Christopher Hill, said Tuesday that back-channel diplomatic discussions with North Korean officials could break the impasse in negotiations. He provided no details.

North Korea has insisted it does not have an active uranium program. It also denies accusations it spreads its nuclear expertise beyond its borders.

[back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 March – 07 April 2008

**DTRA**

## South Korea's Foreign Minister Sets August Deadline for 6-Party Progress, Takes Cautious Stance on PSI

*JoongAng Ilbo, 28 March 2008, accessed through Open Source*

With inter-Korean relations growing tenser by the day, South Korea's Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan set an August deadline for a breakthrough in the long-stalled six party talks on March 28. Pyongyang also denounced Washington for making "unfair demands" in the process to dismantle the North's nuclear program.

The moves came as Seoul faces the daunting task under hard-line President Lee Myung-bak of lowering the heat on relations with its communist neighbor while trying to accelerate diplomatic efforts to get the North to denuclearize.

"Given the schedule of U.S. domestic politics, we won't be able to implement any breakthrough decisions that are made after August," Yu told Korean reporters in Washington during a five-day visit to the United States that began March 26.

Yu said he was concerned about upcoming political uncertainties because of the U.S. presidential election.

"Only if the six-party talks are held next month will the momentum to continue the talks last despite the upcoming changes in the U.S. administration," Yu said.

Yu stressed that former U.S. President Bill Clinton's plan to visit North Korea never materialized because his term ended.

Last February, North Korea agreed to close its main nuclear reactor step by step in exchange for a package of food, fuel and other aid from the United States, China, South Korea and Russia. But the three-phase process to dismantle Pyongyang's nuclear program has been stalled for months since the North has yet to submit a complete list of its nuclear programs. The Dec. 31, 2007 deadline is long past.

Yu has repeatedly expressed a concern that the long delay is weakening the momentum for the next round of negotiations, while the clock is ticking on the Bush administration, which bows out in January 2009.

Meanwhile, Pyongyang intensified its criticism towards Washington yesterday for not complying with its obligations under last year's agreement and eventually creating deadlocks in the negotiations.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 March – 07 April 2008

**DTRA**

"We would like to make clear that we have never offered any nuclear-related assistance, including uranium-enrichment programs, to other countries, have never dreamed of and will never be doing such things," North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement released March 27 through the state-run Korea Central News Agency.

"If the United States keeps trying to create what does not even exist and delays resolving the nuclear issue, it will have a serious impact on the process so far to dismantle the nuclear programs."

Washington has consistently said it has evidence of a North Korean uranium enrichment program and worries over proliferation activities by Pyongyang.

In another signal of busy diplomatic efforts to keep the nuclear negotiation afloat, the U.S. State Department announced that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill would visit Seoul next week as part of an Asian tour.

Yu also said that U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice suggested South Korea join the Proliferation Security Initiative, a U.S.-led program to intercept shipments of weapons of mass destruction and missiles.

"We will take some time to review the proposal since it is a very sensitive issue in South-North relations," he said. Yu also said he took a cautious stance on Washington's proposal to join the U.S.-led global missile defense system, saying the country must take into account relations with China and Russia, both of whom oppose the system, which also carries with it a large price tag.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 March – 07 April 2008

**DTRA**

## **UN Troops Destroy over 6,000 Land Mines in Southern Sudan**

*Sudan Tribune, 31 March 2008, accessed through Open Source*

On March 31, UN peacekeepers destroyed 6,186 landmines in an area 35 kilometers northwest of Juba, marking Sudan's compliance with the 1997 Ottawa Convention on Anti-personnel Landmine Stockpile Destruction.

Soldiers from the Bangladeshi Demining Company of UNMIS help prepare detonation charges UN engineers and demining experts from the Bangladeshi Demining Company, part of the Bangladeshi contingent of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), used some 13 tons of TNT and plastic explosives to destroy the mines.

The demolition was attended by Sudanese officials from the federal government, the government of southern Sudan [GoSS], diplomatic corps as well as the representatives of UN agencies and NGOs.

From the federal government, the demolition of landmines was attended by State Minister at the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Ahmed Haroun and State Minister at the Ministry of Transport Dr Mabrouk Mubarak Saleem.

Government of Southern Sudan Internal Security and Police Minister Paul Mayom acclaimed the demolition as the first of its kind in the history of Southern Sudan. "This is a clear symbol signaling that there is no more resort to war between the SPLM [Sudan People's Liberation Movement] and the NCP [National Congress Party]", he said.

SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] soldiers from the Joint Integrated Demining Unit - one of many joint units that now bring together soldiers the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the SPLA - transported the landmine stockpiles from several locations throughout Southern Sudan to the area near Luri, about 35 kilometers northwest of the regional capital of Juba.

SPLA Captain Acien Manguiek, standing beside one of the six pits filled with landmines an hour before the demolition, spoke of new friendships formed between the former enemies.

"We have become friends with them (soldiers from the SAF) because we are doing one job, fighting one enemy: mines," he said. "We were lacking equipment to do this and are very grateful that the Bangladesh (contingent of UN peacekeepers) is helping - we appreciate them very much," he added.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 March – 07 April 2008



## New U.S.-Russia Agreement on Strategic Armaments should Cap Rockets Arsenals

*Agentstvo Voyennykh Novostey, 3 April 2008, accessed through Open Source*

The balance between the United States and Russia in the arsenals of strategic arms could be upset in favor of the United States, said Col. Gen. Viktor Yesin, the first vice president of the Academy for Security, Defense and Law and Order, a Russian think tank.

"In the current talks with the United States on strategic offensive weapons it is necessary to insist that not only warheads, but also carrier rockets be limited. The START [Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty] limitations should be eliminated," Yesin told Interfax-AVN commenting on information published by the U.S. State Department regarding the U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals.

According to Yesin, who headed the Strategic Rocket Forces headquarters between 1994 and 1996, "in any other case the agreements will be unfavorable for Russia, and the imbalance in strategic armaments between the two nations will remain."

Since the United States has preserved a great number of nuclear warheads, "it now possesses a 'return potential' of more than 3,000 nuclear warheads that it can rapidly load - in four or six months - on intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine missiles," Yesin said.

[back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 March – 07 April 2008

**DTRA**

## Russia Opposed to U.S.-Proposed Design of New Strategic Arms Treaty

*Agentstvo Voyennoykh Novostey, 31 March 2008, accessed through Open Source*

Russia cannot accept the United States' idea to develop a new strategic arms reduction treaty on the basis of the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty, a representative of the Russian Defense Ministry told Itar-Tass on March 31, commenting on March 26-27 Russian-American consultations.

He said the main difference on the issue of what could replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-1) lay in that the "United States proposes making its basis the Moscow Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty plus certain transparency measures, but Russia wants to retain all restrictive mechanisms of START and control that are available in the current START-1".

"Yes, the Americans no longer object to concluding a legally binding agreement that is to replace START-1. But they want the new document to be a replica of START with a virtual, and not real reduction of strategic arms, with strategic carriers and nuclear warheads that are subject to reduction to be not physically destroyed but stored, making a so-called recoverable potential," the Defense Ministry's official said.

Besides, the "United States categorically objects to our proposal to write in the new agreement rigid measures for control for its fulfillment, that is, providing to each side a possibility of checking one another at any time without the right of refusal."

"In other words, we notify them that, for instance, we come in April and see how they fulfill the agreement, and they cannot deny this to us. But the Americans want to reserve the right to decide when they can let us to their nuclear facilities and when they cannot. 'Yes, come to us, but not in April, but in May or in June' - this 'permitting' provision they want to lay down in the new agreement. Naturally, such an approach does not suit us," the Defense ministry's representative said.

He voiced the hope that Washington would adjust its stance at the meeting of the Russian and American presidents in Sochi on April 6. "Bilateral consultations on strategic stability like the Washington ones will not be held before the Sochi summit," he said.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty ends in December of 2009. According to it, Russia and the United States can have not more than 1,600 deployed carriers and not more than 6,000 nuclear munitions for them. The Moscow Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty of May 2002 stipulates that Russia and the United States limit their strategic nuclear warheads to 1,700-2,200.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 March – 07 April 2008



## Russia: Another Batch of Topol Missile Launchers Scrapped in Udmurtia

*Agentstvo Voyennykh Novostey, 27 March 2008, accessed through Open Source*

Moscow, 27 March: This year's first batch of the Topol ICBM launchers has been dismantled at the Pibanshur military base, Udmurtia, the information and public relations service of the [Russian] Strategic Missile Troops [RVSN] told Interfax-AVN on March 27.

"Six life-expired Topol mobile launchers have been scrapped since March 17," a spokesman for the RVSN said.

He added that solid fuel missiles and Topol launchers are scrapped on special sites envisaged by corresponding international agreements, under the supervision of U.S. inspectors.

The dismantlement of the launchers is conducted in accordance with START-1, he said.

As reported by the RVSN, 36 decommissioned Topol ICBM launchers were scrapped last year, against 16 in 2006.

The RVSN spokesman also said that along with the dismantlement works, the Strategic Missiles Troops and design bureaus are working on making the most of the missile systems' technical potential by extending their service life.

Today the service life of the Topol missile system considerably exceeds the initial warranty period of 10 years. The launch [of a Topol missile] from the Plesetsk cosmodrome on October 18 2007 proved that the service life of the Topol missile system can be extended to 21 years.

Extending the service life of the Topol systems at a minimal cost makes it possible to replace decommissioned missiles with those of the new generation, on schedule and without stretching the military budget.

The assessment of reliability and technical condition of the Topol missile systems indicates that that there is a potential opportunity to extend their service life to 23 years.

Taking advantage of this opportunity would make it possible to maintain the required numerical strength and combat capacity of the Strategic Nuclear Forces' ground task force at a minimal cost, as well as preserve the infrastructure of existing missile deployment areas for new modern mobile ground-based missile systems.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 March – 07 April 2008



## For Bush and Putin, Trust Remains Bedrock of Efforts to Control Nuclear Programs

*Associated Press, 2 April 2008, accessed through LexisNexis*

President Bush's meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin probably will be their last while Putin is still president. Once again, controlling the threat of nuclear weapons is circling back to American and Russian leaders.

This time, the immediate issue in that minefield is expanding U.S. missile defenses in Eastern Europe. Bush argues that bases in Poland and the Czech Republic serve the defense of many nations, including Russia. Putin suspects the defense is aimed at Russia.

As an inducement, the United States is prepared to promise not to activate the new sites unless Iran proves to be an imminent threat to Europe by test-flying a missile capable of reaching the continent.

"Look, I'm going to meet with President Putin to make it clear to him the Cold War is over and Russia is not our enemy, and that there's common ground," Bush said April 2 in Bucharest at a new conference with Romania's president.

"I've got some convincing to do, but he needs to understand the missile defense system is aimed primarily at rogue regimes coming out of the Middle East that could hold us all hostage," Bush said. "And it's a good chance for me to sit down and have yet another heart-to-heart with him. And I'm more than happy to do so." An agreement may emerge, one that joins the United States and Russia again in controlling the pathway of the nuclear age.

A Kremlin spokesman said Tuesday that officials on both sides were working on a document setting out a "strategic framework" for relations beyond their time in office. "We proceed from the assumption that we will succeed in completing the work and that it will be adopted in some form," spokesman Dmitry Peskov told The Associated Press in Moscow.

What Bush and Putin decide to do would have only a tangential impact on the worrisome nuclear programs of North Korea and Iran. But their two nations sit atop the world's most massive nuclear arsenals. Their cooperation, based highly on trust, seems essential.

Under the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the United States and Russia are limited to no more than 6,000 nuclear warheads each. Both nations are believed to be way below those totals. In 2002, Bush and Putin agreed on a treaty that sets as a target 1,700 to 2,200 deployed strategic warheads by 2012.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 March – 07 April 2008

**DTRA**

Abandoned by the Bush administration from the outset was the longtime methodical process of negotiating the smallest details of nuclear reductions as well as verification procedures to guard against cheating. And setting a target is something less than a concrete agreement. In the meantime, the START treaty is due to expire at the end of next year, and Russian and American officials have been unable to chart an agreement for a successor pact.

It is not certain whether Bush and Putin, meeting at the Black Sea resort city of Sochi, will come to terms on either missile defense systems or reductions in strategic arms. But if their meeting is marked by good will and relations have overcome the bumps that followed Bush's initial positive impression of Putin, a course toward a solution could be set.

That first meeting, in June 2001, stirred hopes of a positive relationship when Bush said he had looked into Putin's eyes and "was able to get a sense of his soul." Putin steps down as president next month. By all accounts, though, he will remain a driving force in Russian policy after his hand-picked successor, Dmitry Medvedev, takes over.

Bush has met with Putin some 20 times, according to an unofficial White House count, more often than with any other foreign leader except Britain's Tony Blair. "Both have invested a lot in this relationship, but they haven't had a big payoff," said Andrew Kuchins, director of the Russia program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"I think they would like to reverse that trajectory," Kuchins said in an interview. The notion that they would make headway on a broad strategic framework, extending the START treaty and on verification measures should not be ruled out, Kuchins said. "What drives me to be optimistic is that fundamentally we are not a threat to Russia and Russia is not a threat to us," he said.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the private Arms Control Association, faults both Bush and Putin for "failure to overcome the rivalry and Cold War attitudes of their predecessors." He noted in an interview they will leave behind enormous nuclear missile stockpiles.

The next president of each country will have a responsibility to negotiate a new agreement and framework to verifiably slash each nation's arsenal, Kimball said.

"Failure to replace START would leave behind an atmosphere that will perpetuate Russian concern about U.S. strategic nuclear capabilities and could diminish U.S. capability to chart what Russia is doing," he said.

 [back to top](#)

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