



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 January – 07 February 2011

DTRA

GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

2011 Opening Statement to the Conference on Disarmament [EXCERPT]

U.S. State Department, 27 January 2011, www.state.gov

Remarks by Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance in Geneva, Switzerland

Under the CD's rules of procedure and consensus principle, every State assembled in this room will have an equal opportunity to defend its interests and ensure that an FMCT does not harm its vital interests. (1,275 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

USAMRIID Eases Fears over Creation of Bioweapons

Bio Prep Watch, 02 February 2011, www.bioprepwatch.com

Last Thursday, nine members of the Containment Lab Community Advisory Committee formed by Fort Detrick, the city of Frederick and Frederick County in Maryland, toured the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. (256 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

UN Passes Bill on Chemical Weapons Abandoned at Sea

Bio Prep Watch, 01 February 2011, www.bioprepwatch.com

The United Nations, after consulting with Terrance Long, a Canadian-based munitions expert, and the International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions organization, recently passed a bill that confronts the issue of chemical weapons abandoned at sea. (231 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Leaking Munitions Found at Depot; Re-Sealed in Larger Containers

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 02 February 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Chemical crews closed out a mustard leaker operation late yesterday afternoon that began almost five months ago when monitoring crews were alerted to trace readings of mustard agent vapors inside a storage structure containing 105 mm projectiles at Pueblo Chemical Depot. (180 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Desert Experiment to Enhance Monitoring for Nuclear Explosions

CTBTO, 26 January 2011, www.ctbto.org

In the headquarters of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO in Vienna, Austria, representatives of Member States together with CTBTO experts watch a live video feed of a large conventional explosion in the Israeli desert. (317 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CTBTO Tests Nuke Explosion Monitoring Technology

Global Security Newswire, 28 January 2011, gsn.nti.org

A test of an international arms control regime's ability to detect the detonation of a nuclear device in the atmosphere was carried out on Wednesday in the Israeli Negev desert. (293 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START)

After New START, What Next?

Arms Control Today, January/February 2011, www.armscontrol.org

After just two years in office, the administration of President Barack Obama has put the United States back in the role of global nuclear risk-reduction leader. (808 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Approves Arms Treaty

New York Times, 26 January 2011, www.nytimes.com

The upper chamber of the Russian Parliament gave final approval to the New Start nuclear arms control treaty on Wednesday, a key foreign policy goal of the Obama administration. (361 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Says Too Early to Talk Tactical Nuclear Weapons with United States

RIA Novosti, 29 January 2011, en.rian.ru

It is too early to discuss limiting tactical nuclear weapons (TNW) with the United States, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said. (369 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

New START Goes into Effect Saturday – FMCT Next

The Cable, 01 February 2011, www.thecable.foreignpolicy.com

A host of senior officials and lawmakers are on their way to Munich this weekend, where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will ceremoniously exchange the article of ratification for New START [NST] with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, officially bringing the treaty into force. (630 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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

START Treaty Approval May Bring Inspections by April

Reuters, 01 February 2011, www.msnbc.msn.com

The New START nuclear arms treaty between Russia and the United States will formally enter into force on Saturday when U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov exchange ratification documents. (422 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. and Russia Activate Arms Treaty

New York Times, 5 February 2011, www.nytimes.com

The United States and Russia on Saturday exchanged documents that formally activated New Start, a strategic arms control treaty. It was the final step in a protracted negotiation marked by difficult talks with the Russians and even more difficult talks with Republican holdouts in the Senate. (320 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

The Role of the Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers

U.S. State Department, 05 February 2011, www.state.gov

The exchange of information required under the New START Treaty is facilitated by the Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (NRRRC) in the United States at the Department of State and in Russia at the Ministry of Defense. (392 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Treaty Expected to Have Minimal Impact on Minot Base

Minot Daily News, 06 February 2011, www.minotdailynews.com

When Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz visited Minot Air Force Base several months ago, he said the New START treaty could impact the Minot base but it would be "only modestly." (601 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

START Becomes Official but Questions Still Linger

The Moscow News, 07 February 2011, www.moscownews.ru

The START treaty between Russia and USA finally came into effect on Feb. 5 at the 47th Security Policy conference in Munich. (450 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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2011 Opening Statement to the Conference on Disarmament [EXCERPT]

U.S. State Department, 27 January 2011, www.state.gov

Remarks by Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance in Geneva, Switzerland, Fissile Materials Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)

Mr. President, no other world body of sovereign states is better suited to negotiate an FMCT. We readily acknowledge that an FMCT would have profound security implications for countries that have unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, including the United States of America. Under the CD's rules of procedure and consensus principle, every State assembled in this room will have an equal opportunity to defend its interests and ensure that an FMCT does not harm its vital interests.

The entire point of seeking to pursue an FMCT here, in the CD, is precisely because of the consensus principle undergirding this body's substantive work. No country need fear the outcome of FMCT negotiations. And no country should feel it necessary to abuse the consensus principle and frustrate everyone else's desire to resume serious disarmament efforts and negotiations. [...]

If we cannot find a way to begin these negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, then we will need to consider other options. The calls for exploring such alternatives were in evidence at this year's HLM and during the subsequent UNGA First Committee session. The longer the CD languishes, the louder and more persistent such calls will become.

Should we not be able to agree to begin negotiations now, in preparation for CD negotiations on a Fissile Materials Cutoff Treaty, we strongly support the idea of robust plenary discussion on broad FMCT issues, reinforced by expert-level technical discussions on specific FMCT topics which could further inform CD plenary exchanges.

This work will be, not a substitute for FMCT negotiations in the CD, but healthy intellectual homework that will prepare the way for what almost certainly will be a difficult negotiation.

We urge every CD Member State to dispatch to Geneva scientific and technical experts on fissile material to support such discussions here in the coming weeks. The U.S. experts will follow me here in several weeks, and be available to contribute to discussions in the CD, and hold meetings on the margins with interested delegations. [...]

Nuclear Disarmament

The New START Treaty sets the stage for further limits on and reductions in nuclear arms. As President Obama stated when he signed the New START Treaty in Prague on April 8, 2010,

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once the Treaty enters into force, the United States intends to pursue with Russia further reductions in strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons, including on non-deployed nuclear weapons.

The U.S. Senate made clear its strong interest in addressing the numerical disparity in non-strategic or tactical nuclear weapons between the United States and Russia. The Resolution of Advice and Consent to Ratification calls for the United States to seek to initiate negotiations with Russia to limit and reduce tactical nuclear weapons within a year of entry into force of the New START Treaty.

Work is already underway in Washington to prepare for such dialogue with Russia on future talks.

The United States will continue its long tradition of transparency about nuclear weapons, as exemplified by the stockpile numbers that we released during the NPT Review Conference, as well as the many briefings and documents which we made available in the run-up to and at the RevCon, and subsequently.

As a follow-up to the September 2009 P-5 conference on verification, transparency and confidence building, the five will meet later this year to take up these issues again, as part of our effort to implement the Review Conference's final Document.

Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones (NWFZs)

Mr. President, the United States supports properly crafted nuclear weapons-free zones (NWFZs) because, if the relevant countries fully comply with them, they can contribute to regional security and stability and reinforce the world-wide nuclear nonproliferation regime. We believe that the protocols to the treaties establishing such zones are the most appropriate way of implementing legally-binding negative security assurances.

At last year's NPT Review Conference Secretary Clinton announced that the United States would submit for Senate advice and consent to ratification protocols to the nuclear weapons-free zones established for Africa and the South Pacific. Secretary Clinton also made clear that the United States was prepared to consult with parties to nuclear weapons-free zones in Central and Southeast Asia in an effort to reach agreement that would allow us to sign the treaties' protocols. Work has been ongoing since the Review Conference to fulfill these pledges and we remain ready for constructive dialogue with the parties to the Central and Southeast Asia nuclear weapons-free zones.

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Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space

Mr. President, the U.S. National Space Policy was released on June 28, 2010, and reflects the principles and goals to be used in shaping the conduct of U.S. space programs and activities. One provision of the policy states that the United States will pursue pragmatic and voluntary transparency and confidence-building measures – or TCBMs – to strengthen stability in space by mitigating the risk of mishaps, misperceptions, and mistrust.

To implement this part of the policy, the United States is continuing to consult with the European Union on its initiative to develop a comprehensive set of multilateral TCBMs, also known as the “Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities.” We plan to make a decision in the coming weeks as to whether the United States can sign on to this Code, including what, if any, modifications would be necessary. [...]

CTBT

Mr. President, turning now to other important matters, at the NPT Review Conference, Secretary Clinton had reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The Obama Administration will continue to lay the groundwork for positive U.S. Senate consideration of the CTBT, working closely with the Senate, and to bolster international support for the Treaty.

While the Administration prepares for U.S. Senate consideration of the Treaty, the United States has increased its level of participation in all of the activities of the CTBTO’s Preparatory Commission in preparing for the entry into force of the CTBT, especially with respect to the Treaty’s verification regime.

U.S. technical experts are working closely with their counterparts from the Provisional Technical Secretariat to explore joint efforts to improve the capabilities of the various networks of the global International Monitoring System and the functions of the International Data Centre in Vienna.

After an absence of eight years, U.S. experts are fully engaged in advancing the effectiveness of the On-Site Inspection element of the verification regime, both from policy and technical perspectives.



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The United States has also assumed full responsibility for the costs of operating, maintaining, and sustaining the 31 stations of the International Monitoring System assigned by the Treaty to the United States.

BWC RevCon

The CD can claim important success in its work over the years. The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) stands out as one of those success stories. Our own CD Ambassador Kennedy recently was appointed to serve concurrently as the U.S. Special Representative for Biological Weapons Convention Issues. Her critical task leading up to the Seventh Review Conference is to lead U.S. efforts in working with others, including many of you here today, to ensure the groundwork is done to help ensure a successful BWC RevCon and work thereafter.

We believe the RevCon should take decisive action and adopt a program of future work that will allow the BWC to make major contributions to building global capacity to combat infectious disease and prevent bioterrorism, as well as promoting confidence in effective BWC implementation and compliance. The RevCon should also take steps that enhance the effectiveness of the BWC as a norm against biological weapons, advance the goal of universal adherence, and build on past exchanges in order to provide the premiere forum for multi-sectoral information exchange, coordination, and cooperation to identify, mitigate, and manage biological threats. [...]

[Read the full text here: <http://www.state.gov/t/avc/rls/155400.htm>]

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USAMRIID Eases Fears over Creation of Bioweapons

Bio Prep Watch, 02 February 2011, www.bioprepwatch.com

Last Thursday, nine members of the Containment Lab Community Advisory Committee formed by Fort Detrick, the city of Frederick and Frederick County in Maryland, toured the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

They also met with Army officials in an effort to ease the public's concern over the belief that the aerosolized diseases created at the facility are biological weapons, the *Frederick News Post* reports.

"Do you have to create an offensive capability to test a defensive measure?" Kim Loll, asked, according to the *Frederick News Post*.

"I think the community does have the concern of, are they creating weapons so they can test vaccines against them?" Alex Hamill asked, the *Frederick News Post* reports.

Lisa Hensley, the principal investigator in charge of the viral therapeutics branch, denounced the notion that weapons were being developed at the facility. The tests take place in small chambers only a few cubic feet wide for animal tests, during which they are exposed to a quick spray and the researchers only create a tiny amount they need just before the experiment, she said, the *Frederick News Post* reports.

During a back-and-forth discourse and a tour of the facility, the committee was walked through all of the safety precautions taken to ensure that the operation at the USAMRIID is disciplined and secure. Most of the documents that prove the lab is safe are not released to the public.

"Well, I'm feeling better already," committee member Ray Hunter said after being walked through the facility, the *Frederick News Post* reports.

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UN Passes Bill on Chemical Weapons Abandoned at Sea

Bio Prep Watch, 01 February 2011, www.bioprepwatch.com

The United Nations, after consulting with Terrance Long, a Canadian-based munitions expert, and the International Dialogue on Underwater Munitions organization, recently passed a bill that confronts the issue of chemical weapons abandoned at sea.

The resolution summons countries around the world to form a collective of expertise and resources to investigate environmental damage caused by underwater chemical weapon dump sites from world powers dumping their chemical warfare arsenals into the ocean, according to *Digital Journal*.

Some of the nations that conducted these mass dumping into the world's oceans after World War II include the United Kingdom, Japan, the United States, France, Japan and China. Chemical munitions are believed to be exposed in the Baltic Sea, the Bay of Bengal, the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

The chemical weapons include a varied arsenal that consist of cyanide, phosgene, lewisite, VX and mustard gas. According to a Center for Nonproliferation Studies report, there may be up to 127 dump sites in bodies of water throughout the world. As the shells and steel drums begin to rust, these munitions may be releasing untold amounts of chemicals into the water.

To date, 33 countries have signed the UN resolution, the *Digital Journal* reports. In April, the advisory board will meet in Poland as its members discuss the measures and special technologies that will be used to collect data on the sea-based munitions.

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Leaking Munitions Found at Depot; Re-Sealed in Larger Containers

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 02 February 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Chemical crews closed out a mustard leaker operation late yesterday afternoon that began almost five months ago when monitoring crews were alerted to trace readings of mustard agent vapors inside a storage structure containing 105 mm projectiles at Pueblo Chemical Depot.

The low-level readings were detected on September 21, 2010, during scheduled weekly igloo monitoring operations. An air filtration unit was immediately installed on the rear air vent of the storage structure and was in continuous operation until the leaker operations were completed this week.

Chemical crews dressed in personal protective equipment began a slow, systematic operation to isolate individual pallets of stored 105 mm projectiles and discovered a group of five munitions on one pallet with dried, crusted mustard agent on January 6.

Chemical crews transferred the five munitions into larger 12" X 56" sealed, single-round containers last week. County and state officials were given updates on the operation from the start to yesterday's completion of operations.

All processes were carried out under strict engineering controls, protecting the environment and safety of all depot employees and surrounding communities.

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Desert Experiment to Enhance Monitoring for Nuclear Explosions

CTBTO, 26 January 2011, www.ctbto.org

It is early in the morning of January 26, 2011. In the headquarters of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in Vienna, Austria, representatives of Member States together with CTBTO experts watch a live video feed of a large conventional explosion in the Israeli desert.

The detonation was part of an international experiment organized by the CTBTO in cooperation with 21 countries from around the world. “This is a crucial test for the infrasound technology, an important component of our monitoring system,” said Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO.

Infrasound detects low frequency sound waves, inaudible to the human ear, and is used by the CTBTO to detect nuclear explosions in the atmosphere.

The International Monitoring System (IMS) consists of almost 340 installations around the world that watch over the planet to detect signs of a nuclear explosion. The 60 infrasound stations are part of that system and can detect low frequency sounds that could.

The infrasound technology is relatively young. Scientific and technological attention declined after atmospheric nuclear tests were banned by the 1963 Partial Test-Ban Treaty. “The CTBT and our monitoring system brought infrasound back to life,” Tóth told the gathering.

Monitoring of the blast in the Negev desert was widespread: 25 mobile infrasound sensors deployed in 15 European and Middle Eastern countries stood ready to register the sound waves emanating from the explosion. Conducted in a controlled environment, the detonation is expected to generate important ground-truth information for the calibration and fine-tuning of infrasound sensors and infrasound data processing tools.

It’s calm again in the Negev desert. The dust lifted by the blast has settled. But, the work has only just begun. International scientific experts and CTBTO specialists are now sifting through a host of data from the explosion, assessing the information and starting to plan the next steps towards completing the build-up of the IMS infrasound network.

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CTBTO Tests Nuke Explosion Monitoring Technology

Global Security Newswire, 28 January 2011, gsn.nti.org

A test of an international arms control regime's ability to detect the detonation of a nuclear device in the atmosphere was carried out on Wednesday in the Israeli Negev desert. The detonation of conventional explosives was conducted to assess how well infrasound technology could identify low-frequency sound waves the human ear cannot detect, according to a release from the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

The test employed 100 tons of explosives that produced 2.7-magnitude trembling on the Richter scale and a mushroom cloud that topped out at 1.78 miles above the Earth's surface, United Press International reported.

"This is a crucial test for the infrasound technology, an important component of our monitoring system," CTBTO Executive Secretary Tibor Tóth said in released remarks.

The test involved 25 infrasound sensors located in 15 Middle Eastern and European states that were put on alert to detect the sound waves resulting from the detonation in the Israeli desert. The explosion was expected to produce useful data that can be used by CTBTO experts and international scientists in improving the calibrations of the infrasound processing equipment and sensors.

The test was the result of collaboration between the treaty organization and 21 nations. Representatives from CTBT nations observed the event via a video feed at the organization's offices in Vienna, Austria.

The treaty regime's International Monitoring System encompasses nearly 340 facilities, including 60 infrasound installations, located across the planet to monitor for the detonation of a nuclear weapon.

The pact has been ratified by 153 nations, including 35 of the 44 states whose full endorsement is required for the treaty to enter into force. Holdouts among that group of "Annex 2" states are China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States.

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After New START, What Next?

Arms Control Today, January/February 2011, www.armscontrol.org

After just two years in office, the administration of President Barack Obama has put the United States back in the role of global nuclear risk-reduction leader. In April 2009, Obama recommitted the United States to the goal of a “world without nuclear weapons,” beginning with overdue reductions in U.S. and Russian stockpiles, steps to strengthen the beleaguered nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), reconsideration of the long-delayed Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), and action toward a fissile material cutoff treaty (FMCT).

By last summer, Obama and his team had guided the 2010 NPT Review Conference to a successful conclusion, negotiated and signed the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, and hosted a historic nuclear security summit.

The nuclear risk reduction effort got another big boost last month when 13 Republicans joined 58 Democrats and independents to approve ratification of New START, which will verifiably cut deployed arsenals to 1,550 warheads each. The strong vote for the treaty is remarkable in this time of hyper-partisanship in Washington. As Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair John Kerry (D-Massachusetts) noted, “[I]n today’s Senate, 70 votes is yesterday’s 95.”

Kerry and Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Indiana), along with Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, pursued a smart, patient plan to consult with Republican senators and take their concerns into account. They turned back treaty-killing amendments from a small group of obstinate treaty critics led by Minority Whip Jon Kyl (R-Arizona) that would have required renegotiation with Russia.

In the end, New START won the Senate’s support because it makes sense and had strong support from the U.S. military and national security establishment. Passage of New START will boost U.S.-Russian cooperation to contain Iran’s nuclear program and secure vulnerable nuclear material, and open the way for further Russian and U.S. nuclear arms reductions.

The next steps will not be easy, but they must be pursued. Twenty years after the end of the Cold War, it is in the best interests of Russia and the United States to reduce their huge strategic nuclear stockpiles further, phase out their Cold War-style targeting plans, restrict the role of nuclear weapons solely to deterring nuclear attack by others, account for and reduce tactical nuclear bombs, and, as Obama has promised, engage the other nuclear-armed states in a dialogue on nuclear disarmament.

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Further U.S.-Russian reductions should cover all types of nuclear weapons and, ideally, be secured through a follow-on treaty. In the interim, the two governments should consider unilateral reciprocal actions that accelerate the reductions mandated by New START and go further – by cutting their deployed strategic stockpiles to 1,000 or fewer warheads before the 2017 New START implementation deadline.

Not only must the United States and Russia further reduce their arsenals, they must work harder to prevent other states from building up and improving their nuclear arsenals. To succeed, the United States needs to revive efforts for a global ban on fissile material production for weapons and solidify the global moratorium on nuclear test explosions by ratifying the CTBT.

In 2009, Obama pledged to “lead a global effort” to negotiate a verifiable FMCT, but talks at the 65-nation Conference on Disarmament (CD) remain blocked due to opposition from Pakistan, which is locked in an arms race with India.

If talks at the CD do not begin soon, the Obama administration should pursue parallel, open-ended talks involving the eight states with fissile material production facilities that are not legally required to be under international safeguards. Even if talks do begin, they will likely drag on for years. To hasten progress, all states with facilities not subject to safeguards should agree voluntarily to suspend fissile material production.

The New START vote suggests it is possible for the Senate to reconsider and come together around the CTBT, which cannot enter into force without U.S. ratification. The case for the test ban treaty is even stronger than it was when the Senate considered it in 1999. Nearly two decades after the last U.S. nuclear test explosion, it is clear that the United States no longer needs or wants nuclear testing and further testing by other states could help improve their nuclear capabilities.

The Obama administration’s robust, \$85 billion, 10-year plan for upgrading the nuclear weapons complex should give skeptical senators greater confidence that nuclear testing is no longer needed to maintain the effectiveness of the U.S. arsenal.

The New START vote shows that controversial treaties can be approved without the support of top Republicans when the White House, backed by the military and the national laboratory directors, pursues a sustained, high-profile campaign. It is time for Obama to launch such a campaign to explain how the CTBT strengthens U.S. security. The American people expect their leaders to take action to reduce the nuclear weapons threat. Doing nothing or delaying action on pragmatic nuclear risk-reduction steps is not an option.

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Russia Approves Arms Treaty

New York Times, 26 January 2011, www.nytimes.com

The upper chamber of the Russian Parliament gave final approval to the New Start nuclear arms control treaty on Wednesday [January 26, 2011], a key foreign policy goal of the Obama administration.

“The arms race is a thing of the past,” the chairman of the international affairs committee in the Russian senate, Mikhail Margelov, told Radio Russia on Monday. “The disarmament race is taking its place.”

The treaty, the first major revamping of nuclear disarmament deals since the late cold war era, sets new limits for strategic nuclear warheads and delivery systems, the doomsday weapons of a nuclear exchange. The pact requires the United States and Russia to reduce their nuclear arsenals to levels slightly lower than today’s – down to 1,550 warheads each, from between 1,700 and 2,200 now – within seven years of ratification, and to immediately renew mutual inspections.

Initially seen as a jumping off point for more ambitious reductions in nuclear weapons held by both countries, the treaty proved far harder to ratify in the United States than expected. It was approved late last month [December 22, 2010], after a bruising Senate fight.

The Russian process – in a Parliament dominated by pro-Kremlin parties – went more smoothly, and usually hard-line figures here were making celebratory comments earlier this week. Duma members had voted 350 to 56 for the treaty on Tuesday, far surpassing the 226 votes needed for ratification. Only the Communist and Liberal Democratic parties voted against the treaty.

But, mirroring the process that occurred earlier in the United States Senate, the Russians intend to append a nonbinding statement of interpretation that will formalize what amounts to an agreement to disagree on the American missile defense program, which Russia opposes.

The treaty’s preamble notes a connection between offensive and defense strategic weapons that the United States has interpreted to mean that the treaty does not impose limits on missile-defense systems. The Russians are expected to say, in commentary to be released after ratification, that it does.

“They are welcome to interpret any language of the treaty as they want, but that interpretation is not legally binding on the United States,” Micah Zenko, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, said in a telephone interview.

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Russia Says Too Early to Talk Tactical Nuclear Weapons with United States

RIA Novosti, 29 January 2011, en.rian.ru

It is too early to discuss limiting tactical nuclear weapons (TNW) with the United States, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said.

When ratifying the New START arms deal with Russia in December, the United States Senate adopted a resolution obligating the government to start bilateral talks on cutting the TNW stockpiles – landmines, artillery shells and short-range missiles. Washington says Moscow has a larger number of these systems.

"We are not even close to discussing the prospect of concluding any agreement in this sphere, the more so as we don't know yet how the [new] ratified arms reduction treaty will be implemented," Ryabkov told Russian journalists Friday. "Until we see the way commitments undertaken within its framework are fulfilled and to what extent the sides are acting in line with the treaty's letter and spirit, this issue will be premature for us," he said.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed off on the new pact ratification documents on Friday. The Russian parliament's upper house ratified the new START treaty on Wednesday [January 26, 2011]. The lower house, the State Duma, ratified the pact Tuesday [January 25, 2011], adding some provisions to the ratification document and issuing two supplementary statements to the resolution on the treaty ratification.

The ratification document provides a legally-binding clause that links strategic offensive and strategic defensive weapons. The first supplementary statement addresses the current state and the future of Russia's nuclear deterrent, while the second outlines the State Duma's position on the reduction and limitations of strategic offensive armaments.

The new deal, replacing START 1, which expired in December 2009, was signed by Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama in Prague in April 2010. The document slashes the Russian and U.S. nuclear arsenals to a maximum of 1,550 nuclear warheads, down from the current ceiling of 2,200.

The U.S. Senate ratified the deal on December 22, 2010, but added several amendments to the resolution on ratification, including a demand to build up U.S. global missile defenses. Medvedev said the treaty will formally enter into force after the exchange of ratification documents, which is due to take place at the upcoming meeting between Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and State Secretary Hillary Clinton. The meeting could take place in Munich on February 5.

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New START Goes into Effect Saturday – FMCT Next

The Cable, 01 February 2011, www.thecable.foreignpolicy.com

A host of senior officials and lawmakers are on their way to Munich this weekend, where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will ceremoniously exchange the article of ratification for New START [NST] with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, officially bringing the treaty into force.

"With New START, the United States and Russia have reached another milestone in our bilateral relationship and continue the momentum Presidents Obama and Medvedev created with the 'reset' nearly two years ago," State Department spokesman P. J. Crowley said in a statement. The official exchange will take place on Saturday, February 5.

There will be a star studded U.S. lineup at the Munich Security Conference, including from the administration: National Security Advisor Tom Donilon, Under Secretary of Defense Michele Flournoy, Under Secretary of State Ellen Tauscher, NSS Afghanistan-Pakistan coordinator Doug Lute, NSS Senior Director Dan Shapiro, and NSS Director for Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Eurasia Jeff Hovenier.

The congressional delegation is impressive as well: Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA), Sen. Daniel Coats (R-IN), Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ), Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH), Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO), Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA), Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Rep. Jane Harman (D-CA), and Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY).

So what's next for arms control? Back in 2009, the Obama administration had been planning to follow up New START with a congressional push to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). But after the grueling fight to ratify New START and in the face of staunch and reliable Republican promises that CTBT won't be ratified by this Senate, the new plan is to move forward with the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty [FMCT] next.

The FMCT is an agreement that all countries stop producing new fissile material for nuclear weapons. The State Department's lead negotiator for New START, Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller, said on January 27 at the Conference on Disarmament [CD] in Geneva that the Obama administration wants to get going on FMCT now.

"Our priority is for a negotiation of a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty to begin here in the Conference on Disarmament, and we are resolved during this CD session to do everything we can to ensure that that goal is achieved," Gottemoeller said.

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So why haven't the negotiations for FMCT started already? "A single country has been basically concerned about the start of negotiations and has been standing in the way of launching negotiations," she said.

That country is Pakistan, which has been resisting FMCT because they are still increasing the size of their nuclear arsenal. In fact, the Washington Post reported on Monday that Pakistan has doubled its deployed nuclear arsenal, which now totals over 100 weapons.

The State Department has thus far been unable to convince Pakistan to get on board with FMCT, despite that the Obama administration has been striving to increase support and ties with the government led by President Asif Ali Zardari and the military led by Army Chief of Staff Ashfaq Parvez Kayani.

"We believe in the value of the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty. And through our Strategic Dialogue we are encouraging Pakistan to engage constructively on efforts to conclude the FMCT," Crowley said.

Of course, if the negotiations for FMCT ever do begin and if all the countries involved come to an agreement on the treaty, it still faces an uphill battle in the Senate, where GOP senators are prepared to take a very close look. Inside the GOP, that could reignite a familiar battle between the two top Republicans on arms control, Richard Lugar (R-IN) who supports the pact and Jon Kyl (R-KY) who still has concerns.

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START Treaty Approval May Bring Inspections by April

Reuters, 01 February 2011, www.msnbc.msn.com

The New START nuclear arms treaty between Russia and the United States will formally enter into force on Saturday when U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov exchange ratification documents. The two will exchange instruments of ratification on the sidelines of an annual security conference in Munich, the State Department said on Tuesday.

The exchange will set the clock ticking on a series of steps the two sides must take in the following weeks, leading up to the first on-site inspections of each other's nuclear arsenals in nearly two years, probably sometime in April.

Under the treaty, the two sides must reduce their deployed strategic nuclear warheads to no more than 1,550 in seven years and reduce deployed long-range missiles and bombers to no more than 700.

Following are some of the initial steps required by the accord:

- Once the treaty enters into force, the sides will immediately begin exchanging information about the status of their nuclear forces, a senior U.S. official said on condition of anonymity. For example, they will notify each other whenever nuclear arms are deployed or removed from deployed status. The information is channeled through Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers established by both sides in 1988. The U.S. center is at the State Department and the Russian center is at the defense ministry.
- Within 25 days, the two sides must exchange the names and details of no more than 300 people who may serve as inspectors. The sides also will exchange the names of air crew members who will fly the inspectors. Within 30 days of the list exchange, the sides must issue visas for the inspectors and air crews.
- Within 45 days, the two sides must carry out an initial exchange of detailed information on each other's nuclear arsenals. "We'll exchange a complete database," the U.S. official said. "We'll give the Russians a complete set of data about our strategic nuclear forces and they'll give us a complete set of data about their strategic nuclear forces."

The data will include detailed information like a missile's classification, number of stages, length without front section, diameter of airframe, total length with launch canister and type of propellant.

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The official said U.S. officials have not received fresh data on the Russian nuclear forces since July 2009.

- Sixty days after the treaty enters into force, the two sides may begin conducting on-site inspections. U.S. officials have been practicing for the first inspection, which will likely be held in mid-April, the U.S. official said.

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U.S. and Russia Activate Arms Treaty

New York Times, 5 February 2011, www.nytimes.com

The United States and Russia on Saturday exchanged documents that formally activated New Start, a strategic arms control treaty. It was the final step in a protracted negotiation marked by difficult talks with the Russians and even more difficult talks with Republican holdouts in the Senate.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and her counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergey V. Lavrov, traded so-called instruments of ratification — paperwork that brings the treaty into force and starts the clock ticking on verification and inspection procedures for the two sides' nuclear arsenals.

Mrs. Clinton, speaking at a security conference here where she and Mr. Lavrov conducted the brief ceremony, said the treaty was an example of “clear-eyed cooperation that is in everybody’s interests.”

She said that she and Mr. Lavrov had discussed further arms control initiatives, including a pact to reduce stockpiles of tactical nuclear weapons, as well as one that would scrap long-range warheads stored in warehouses.

And Mrs. Clinton promoted the idea of cooperation in a missile-defense system for Europe, noting that last fall in Lisbon, Portugal, President Dmitri A. Medvedev of Russia embraced the idea of working with the United States on the technology. Russia had long opposed American missile-defense plans, arguing that they were aimed at weakening its defenses.

New Start cuts the number of deployed strategic warheads to 1,550, and the number of launchers and heavy bombers to 800. Within 45 days, the United States and Russia must share details on the number, location and technical characteristics of their arsenals. Sixty days from now, inspectors will be permitted to investigate the nuclear sites of the other country.

For President Obama, Saturday’s ceremony fulfilled one of his signature policies, curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. But it also illustrated the political hurdles to achieving even a modest arms control treaty.

Mr. Obama signed the treaty in April 2010 with Mr. Medvedev, but it took nearly 8 months for the agreement to be approved by the United States Senate, where Senator Jon Kyl, an Arizona Republican, held up approval because of concerns about financing for nuclear research.

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Its prospects looked grim late last year, with several senators saying they did not want to vote on it during a lame-duck session, and with a slimmer Democratic majority coming into office in January.

But after an intense lobbying campaign by Mr. Obama, Mrs. Clinton and Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., the treaty was passed just before Christmas. The Duma, the upper chamber of the Russian Parliament, voted to approve the treaty a month later.

In addition to the ratification of New Start on Saturday, the so-called quartet — a group that deals with the Middle East consisting of the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations — convened. This meeting was intended to reaffirm support for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, even amid the turmoil in Egypt and the Arab world.

The United States was reluctant to hold the meeting, a senior Western diplomat said, but the Europeans, in particular, wanted to make the point that change in the Middle East was a new opportunity for peace and that stagnation between Israel and Palestine was a bad signal.

“Our analysis is, because of the events in Egypt, we must react and send a signal the peace process is alive,” the European diplomat said. Another quartet meeting will follow in the next month, he said.

Mrs. Clinton deflected a question about how the turmoil in Egypt and other Arab countries would affect Israel or the peace process. In its eagerness to avoid the issue, the administration lined up with Turkey. Ahmet Davutoglu, the Turkish foreign minister, said: “It is better not to talk about Israel-Palestine now. It is better to separate these issues.”

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The Role of the Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers

U.S. State Department, 05 February 2011, www.state.gov

The exchange of information required under the New START Treaty is facilitated by the Nuclear Risk Reduction Center (NRRC) in the United States at the Department of State and in Russia at the Ministry of Defense.

The New START Treaty requires that the United States and Russia be transparent about their strategic offensive arms and delivery vehicles. A crucial element in producing this transparency is the New START Treaty's extensive notification system. Each Party is required to exchange up-to-date data on facilities, numbers and types of strategic weapons, and to notify one another of production, conversions, eliminations, and movements of nuclear weapon delivery systems via their respective NRRC. Also, inspections of facilities and meetings of the Bilateral Consultative Commission are coordinated through the notification process.

The Notification Process

Notifications on data or activities are delivered to each Party through a step by step process. For example, when the U.S. Air Force is planning to conduct a test launch of a Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile, Russia must be notified.

For the United States, the notification process begins when a message about the test launch is sent through the Department of Defense's Arms Control Enterprise System (ACES).

The notification then goes through a series of steps to ensure the accuracy of the notification.

It is then sent to the NRRC. Once in the NRRC, the watch officers retrieve the notification from ACES and load it on to NRRC systems for processing. They then re-verify the information, ensure it meets all the treaty requirements and package it for transmission to the Russian Government.

Finally, it is transferred to a special dedicated communication system that directly links the U.S. NRRC and the Russian NRRC and the message is sent, according to treaty-defined time deadlines.

The timeline for a given notification varies, but at times the entire operation must be completed in as little as an hour.

The process works much the same way in reverse whenever the Russian Government notifies the United States about its activities, except that the U.S. NRRC must translate the notification



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from Russian into English before disseminating it throughout the U.S. Government, including Defense command centers, such as NORAD, the National Military Command Center, foreign policy leaders at the State Department and National Security Staff, and many other departments and agencies.

For the full details on the notification process, visit www.state.gov/newstart

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Treaty Expected to Have Minimal Impact on Minot Base

Minot Daily News, 06 February 2011, www.minotdailynews.com

When Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz visited Minot Air Force Base several months ago, he said the New START treaty could impact the Minot base but it would be "only modestly." He said they're not going to zero nuclear weapons at any time soon.

"As a result, clearly I think Minot has an enduring mission both in the ICBM (intercontinental ballistic missile) and in the bomber area. We may over time have somewhat fewer numbers but not dramatically so," said Schwartz.

On Saturday, the new U.S.-Russia nuclear arms control treaty went into effect, but it will take some time before its details are worked out.

The treaty serves as a blueprint for reductions to the U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals while preserving American's nuclear triad ICBMs, nuclear-capable bombers and submarine-launched ballistic missiles. The two countries will have seven years to comply with it.

Minot Air Force Base, the only dual wing nuclear base, has two legs of the nuclear triad. The 5th Bomb Wing has two squadrons of B-52 bombers and the 91st Missile Wing has 150 land-based Minuteman III ICBMs. The ICBMs are in underground silos in north-central and northwest North Dakota.

Both Lt. Gen. Jim Kowalski, new commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, and Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz, commander of Global Strike Command before Kowalski took over last month, supported the treaty.

Global Strike Command oversees the nuclear enterprise which includes Minot AFB's 5th Bomb Wing and the 91st Missile Wing.

Last month, the Associated Press reported military leaders are weighing how to trim 30 land-based missiles from the nation's arsenal of 450 ICBMs as a result of the new treaty with Russia. The news agency reported Kowalski, during a visit to Malmstrom AFB, Mont., said the leading option right now is to remove 10 ICBMs each from Malmstrom, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., and Minot AFB.

But the best methods of meeting the treaty requirements will take awhile to decide.

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Kowalski, who also visited Minot AFB last month, said the treaty gives a chance for the U.S. and Russia to work on strategic weapons issues and also the larger issues.

Of the road ahead for the U.S. and Russia, Kowalski said, "It's a good thing for our nation, it is a good thing for our relations with the Russians and it's a good thing in the kind of signal it sends to the rest of the world that more weapons are not necessarily better."

Klotz, considered one of the U.S. military's most experienced and respected nuclear arms experts, was at the Minot base in December. He said it's extraordinarily important the two nations that possess the largest number of nuclear weapons in the world have a continuous and substantive dialogue on issues relating to nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons policy issues. He said the New START is the core, the nexus, around which that dialogue can take place which is why he's such a strong supporter of the treaty.

After President Barack Obama signed the documents Feb. 2 ratifying the New Start nuclear arms treaty with Russia, Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., said, "The New START treaty embodies the commitments of so many who are working to keep our citizens safe, including the airmen who stand guard at Minot Air Force Base and our national security leadership who have put their faith in Minot's mission. I applaud the ratification of this treaty and I am confident it will make our nation safer and more secure."

Conrad is a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee and the chairman of the ICBM Coalition in the Senate.

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START Becomes Official but Questions Still Linger

The Moscow News, 07 February 2011, www.moscownews.ru

The START treaty between Russia and USA finally came into effect on Feb. 5 at the 47th Security Policy conference in Munich. But while there was much back-slapping at the official handover of the documents activating the arms control deal, questions still remain about the vexed issue of missile defense.

Clear-eyed cooperation

Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov and the US State Secretary Hillary Clinton exchanged the instruments of ratification for the New START arms reduction treaty.

“Russia and the USA accepted their responsibility for security in the world, and demonstrated their readiness to move further towards providing stability,” Lavrov announced.

Hillary Clinton called the treaty “another example of the kind of clear-eyed co-operation that is in everyone's interests,” RIA Novosti reported.

“The START treaty was born out of understanding of the counter-productivity of unilateral approaches to security. The principles of equality, parity, equal and undivided security lay a solid foundation for the modern Russian-American cooperation in various spheres,” Lavrov said at the global security conference in Munich on Saturday.

The sides will exchange all information on armaments in the next 45 days and in 60 will renew inspection of the countries' nuclear objects. The treaty was signed last spring, but it took almost a year to ratify it in both countries.

Anti-missile system remains an issue

Despite the warm words about getting the deal together, Lavrov warned that the treaty could not be used to smuggle a NATO anti-missile system into Europe without Russia's agreement.

“If the dialogue with Russia will be used to divert the eye from US-NATO anti-missile system, then we risk losing a unique chance,” Lavrov said.

“If our concerns are not considered, then the imbalance will have to be compensated. Such a scenario, unfortunately, would take us to the past. I will stress: it is not our choice.”

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The long road to ratification

Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama signed the treaty on April 8, 2010 in Prague. The treaty means the countries will work towards limiting their nuclear potential to 1550 nuclear warheads each, up to 30 percent lower than under the 2002 Moscow treaty.

START leaves Russia to determine the composition of its arms. The treaty will be valid for between 3 and 10 years, with an option to extend it for another five.

Russian parliament did not want to ratify the treaty before the USA, where the ratification was slowed down by Republicans, some of whom see the agreement as a threat to national security.

The US Senate ratified the treaty on Dec. 22 after President Obama personally called some wavering Republicans to convince them to accept the treaty.

Russia's Duma ratified it on Jan. 25 enabling the weekend sign-off to go ahead.

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