



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 January – 07 February 2012

DTRA

GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

Assistant Secretary Gottemoeller's Opening Statement at the Conference on Disarmament [Excerpt]

U.S. State Department, 24 January 2012; <http://www.state.gov>

I spoke at the CD's opening session last January and I am pleased to be here again to highlight the progress on arms control and disarmament that has been made over the course of the past year. (1,055 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

Bio-Security Presents New Challenges

The Hindu Business Line, 26 January 2012, <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com>

Written by Bhaskar Balakrishnan

Advancements in biotechnology can be used to alarmingly destructive effect. Recently, in September 2011, researchers in Rotterdam succeeded in modifying the avian flu virus in ferrets to make it capable of airborne transmission, and therefore, making it far more contagious.

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

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Libyan Army in "Full Control" of Chemical Weapons, Colonel Says

Global Security Newswire, 06 February 2012, <http://www.nti.org>

A Libyan Defense Ministry spokesman said last week the nation's new army is in "full control" of the former Qadhafi regime's chemical warfare materials, the Arabic language website al-Sharq al-Awsat reported. (309 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Rwandan Lawmakers Consider Chemical Weapons Legislation

The New Times, 30 January 2012, <http://www.newtimes.co.rw>

There was a time when the threat of chemical weapons was thought to be a concern of only for Western and Middle East countries, and other far-away places. Not anymore. Rwanda's Parliament is moving to pre-empt a potential threat to the country. (574 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)



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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

Army Names Acting Director for Chemical Materials Agency

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 24 January 2012; <http://www.cma.army.mil>

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) today announced the appointment of Don E. Barclay as its Acting Director, effective February 26, 2012. Barclay assumes this interim role on the heels of CMA's former director, Mr. Conrad F. Whyne and his recent appointment as Program Executive Office – Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO-ACWA). Whyne was named PEO-ACWA on January 24, 2012. (381 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Army Agency Wraps Up Chemical Weapons Disposal Campaign

Global Security Newswire, 24 January 2012; <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org>

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency [CMA] on Saturday concluded its full demilitarization campaign when the last amount of lewisite blister agent was incinerated at the Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah, bringing an end to a mission that spanned more than two decades and seven installations. (568 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE TREATY (CFE)

Interview with Rose Gottemoeller on Arms Control

Mission of the United States, Geneva Switzerland, 19 January 2012; <http://geneva.usmission.gov>

Interview with Judy Dempsey from the International Herald Tribune and Special Contributor to the Munich Security Conference. (930 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Indonesia Submits CTBT Ratification to UN

Global Security Newswire, 06 February 2012; <http://www.nti.org>

The United Nations on Monday formally received Indonesia's ratification document for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, Deutsche Presse-Agentur reported. (245 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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FISSILE MATERIAL CUTOFF TREATY (FMCT)

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U.S. State Department, 24 January 2012; <http://www.state.gov>

Thank you very much Mr. Secretary General, Mr. President. At the outset of my remarks, please allow me to congratulate Ecuador, and you personally, on your assumption of the first Presidency of the 2012 session of the Conference on Disarmament [CD]. (1,723 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START)

U.S., Russia Each Complete 18 New START Audits [On-site Inspections]

Global Security Newswire, 06 February 2012; <http://www.nti.org>

The United States and Russia have each conducted 18 audits [on-site inspections] of the other nation's nuclear sites under a bilateral strategic arms control treaty [New START] that took effect one year ago, the highest quantity the pact permits over a 12-month period, the U.S. State Department said on Friday. (481 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

U.S., Russia to Dispose of 34 Tons of Weapons-Grade Plutonium

Ria Novosti, 24 January 2012; <http://en.ria.ru>

The United States and Russia are successfully implementing their nuclear disarmament agreements and are continuing to work on the next steps in this direction, a U.S. Department of State official said on Tuesday. (316 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS

Developing Countries Make Progress toward Nuclear Power

International Atomic Energy Agency, 26 January 2012; <http://www.iaea.or.at>

Developing countries that have taken decisions to start nuclear power in recent years are continuing with their plans. . At a workshop in Vienna this week, they are sharing information on their experiences starting nuclear power programs and incorporating the lessons learned from the accident in Japan in the planning process. (594 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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Assistant Secretary Gottemoeller's Opening Statement at the Conference on Disarmament [Excerpt]

U.S. State Department, 24 January 2012; <http://www.state.gov>

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

Thank you very much Mr. Secretary General, Mr. President. At the outset of my remarks, please allow me to congratulate Ecuador, and you personally, on your assumption of the first Presidency of the 2012 session of the Conference on Disarmament [CD]. Ambassador Kennedy and I wish you well as you guide the work of this Conference forward; you may count on the U.S. delegation's full support. I would also like to extend our best wishes to the other CD Presidents for the 2012 session – Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, and Germany. We look forward to working with all of you during this year.

Accomplishments

I spoke at the CD's opening session last January and I am pleased to be here again to highlight the progress on arms control and disarmament that has been made over the course of the past year.

The New START Treaty entered into force on February 5, 2011. Implementation is going well and continues to contribute positively to the U.S.-Russian relationship. The treaty represents a strong foundation for further bilateral reductions and an important step on the path towards a world without nuclear weapons. Discussions between our two governments on the next steps are underway. I am also pleased to report that the U.S.-Russian Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement (PMDA) and its Protocols came into force in 2011. The PMDA commits the United States and the Russian Federation each to dispose of no less than 34 metric tons of excess weapon-grade plutonium – enough material in total for approximately 17,000 nuclear weapons.

Expanding beyond bilateral issues, the five Nuclear Weapon States have started a regular dialogue on verification issues and confidence-building measures related to nuclear disarmament, as part of our commitment to carry out our Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Article VI obligations. The United States is proud to be at the leading edge of transparency efforts – publically declaring our nuclear stockpile numbers; participating in voluntary and treaty-based inspections measures; working with other nations on military to military, scientific and lab exchanges, sponsoring site visits and frequently briefing others on our nuclear programs and disarmament efforts.

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The United States is committed to securing ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and we have been engaging the United States Senate and the American public on the merits of the treaty. As we move forward with our process, we call on all governments to declare or reaffirm their commitments not to conduct explosive nuclear tests. We thank and congratulate Ghana, Guinea, Guatemala and Indonesia for ratifying the treaty in the past year. We ask that all the remaining Annex 2 States join us in moving forward toward ratification.

I am also gratified to report progress on the extension of treaty-based negative security assurances through regional Nuclear Weapons Free zones. The Obama Administration transmitted the relevant Protocols of the African and South Pacific Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaties to the U.S. Senate for its advice and consent to ratification. We were also glad that the Nuclear Weapon States and the states of ASEAN resolved long standing differences related to the South East Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone's Protocol language: Along with the other NPT depositary states, we have lent our strong support to the efforts of the facilitator for the 2012 Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone Conference, Finnish Under Secretary Jaako Laajava.

Regarding the Chemical Weapons Convention, the United States is proud of the progress made towards a world free of chemical weapons. We continue to make steady progress in destroying our chemical weapons. By April of this year, we anticipate we will have destroyed 90 percent of our stockpile. The remaining 10 percent will be destroyed while assigning highest priority to ensuring the safety of people, protecting the environment, and complying with national standards for safety and emissions, as called for in the convention.

Last month, the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention met here in Geneva for their Seventh Review Conference. They agreed to a standing set of agenda items that cover national implementation, developments in science and technology and assistance and cooperation, all of which will serve to strengthen the effect of the treaty and help bridge the interrelated work being undertaken in the security, public health, law enforcement and scientific communities. This was done under the able direction of our CD colleague, Ambassador Paul van den IJsell.

Mr. President, before proceeding further on CD matters, please allow me to discuss recent developments regarding the European Union's proposal for a "Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities." Over the past four years, United States and European experts have regularly consulted on drafts of the EU "Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities." After an extensive interagency review of the EU's initiative, the United States has decided to enter into formal consultations with the European Union and space-faring nations to develop an International

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Code of Conduct, because the long-term sustainability of the space environment is at risk from space debris and irresponsible activities.

As Secretary Clinton announced on January 17, the United States is prepared to work in active partnership with all governments to develop a Code that can be adopted by the greatest number of space-faring nations around the globe.

We believe that an international Code can help strengthen the long-term sustainability of space and promote safe and responsible use of space, while at the same time ensuring the inherent right of self-defense is not impaired. As more countries and companies field space capabilities, it is in our mutual interest that they act responsibly. A widely-subscribed International Code can encourage responsible space behavior and single out those who act otherwise, while reducing risks of mishaps, misperceptions, mistrust, and misconduct.

We expect to actively participate in the international discussions on an international Code throughout this year and beyond. As part of this process, the United States looks forward to the multilateral experts' meetings that the European Union plans to convene in the near future.

We also look forward to the Group of Government Experts on outer space [transparency and confidence building measures (TCBMs)] that is scheduled to convene this summer. We see this as a key opportunity to develop practical measures to enhance transparency and confidence building and sustain the peaceful exploitation of outer space.

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Bio-Security Presents New Challenges

The Hindu Business Line, 26 January 2012, <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com>

Written by Bhaskar Balakrishnan

Advancements in biotechnology can be used to alarmingly destructive effect. Recently, in September 2011, researchers in Rotterdam succeeded in modifying the avian flu virus in ferrets (the best animal model for influenza in humans) to make it capable of airborne transmission, and therefore, making it far more contagious.

The implications are that the highly-dangerous A(H5N1) avian flu virus, which so far spreads only from birds to humans, could get modified fairly easily, to enable it to spread by airborne transmission from human to human, making it far more dangerous. The A(H5N1) avian flu has caused around 350 deaths from 600 reported cases so far, giving it a mortality rate of around 60 percent.

Advances in Biotech

Recent research indicates that developments in biotechnology have now made it quite feasible to modify a wide range of pathogens to give them new features, including those that can make them far more dangerous to humans. A number of new diseases have emerged in recent years, adding to the list of existing pathogens and toxins that are dangerous to humans.

In the recent case, the research journals concerned were asked by U.S. agencies to not publish key details of their work on the precise nature of changes to the A(H5N1) virus, due to the apprehension that such information may be misused by unscrupulous elements. While the request has been acceded to, it has kicked off a debate in the scientific community on the general question of disclosure of certain research details in biosciences, which could be used by terrorists and some others against human populations, and the possible role of [the World Health Organization (WHO)] in this regard.

The [1972] Biological Weapons Convention [BWC], which has 165 countries party to it, embodies the determination of the international community to ban biological and toxin weapons. Such weapons have, for long, been regarded as being relatively less effective for military use.

However, the convention is wanting in the area of verification. The United States, which is the global leader in biotechnology, has stalled progress in this area, due to concerns regarding leakage of scientific information. This may now change. However, while the convention applies to governments, it leaves open the possibility of non-state actors attempting to use bio-weapons.

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Unlike nuclear weapons technology, biotechnology is relatively accessible and far less costly to use. For example, the cost of gene sequencing has dropped dramatically with technology advances. Biotech research can be done at a relatively low cost compared to nuclear technology. Harmful pathogens can be easily transported and released to cause disease and panic.

So, this technology offers non-state actors a potential low-cost, high-impact instrument to cause damage to human populations, or to the agricultural sector of target countries. The accidental release of dangerous pathogens from research facilities is another possibility. Indeed, reports have already surfaced of Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) seeking to produce a deadly toxin, ricin, from the waste left after extracting castor oil. What if pathogens like avian flu A(H5N1), plague, SARS, etc. are deliberately modified to enable airborne transmission from humans to humans? This possibility can no longer be dismissed as science fiction.

Action is needed at the national and international levels to deal with this threat. Biotech research is conducted in a wide range of institutions, in government laboratories, universities, and by the private sector. Freedom to do research in biotechnology shouldn't be hampered, and intellectual property rights must be protected. However, the risks to society and the general population must be dealt with, as in the case of nuclear research.

This presents a formidable challenge to national regulatory agencies and governments in devising suitable frameworks to enhance bio-security and bio-safety, while allowing research to go ahead. Developing countries shouldn't face additional hurdles in access to biotechnology and its useful applications.

India should be actively engaged in international efforts and adopt national measures to strengthen bio-safety and bio-security. Otherwise, institutions and researchers in India are likely to face problems in entering into technology collaborations and research activities in biotechnology.

Regulatory Agency

India is still to set up a National Biotechnology Regulatory Agency, as a single professional entity to deal with all aspects of biotech research and applications.

A Bill on this subject, prepared in 2008, was finally tabled in Parliament in December 2011. This Bill needs to be revisited, to take into account the issue of bio-security and regulation of research activities, to prevent potentially dangerous information going into the wrong hands.

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This is a delicate issue, and needs to be dealt with in consultation with all stakeholders – research community, academics, and the private sector.

Research institutions should devote more attention to security aspects, such as personnel security, security of materials and equipment, and security of information and data. Suppliers of biotech equipment and consumables may need to take more care and verify end-user details while responding to requests for equipment and materials that could be used for harmful ends.

In the area of response to bio-threats, the actions needed are similar to those for combating disease outbreaks. Rapid response should include national and international coordination to instantly identify and determine the genetic makeup of the responsible pathogen, and evolve counter measures. The WHO's Global Outbreak and Response Network (GOARN) has functioned well and could be further strengthened.

On the international level, more teeth have to be given to the BWC. Verification provisions should be strengthened, and the role of national entities more precisely defined. A model code of conduct and rules for biotech institutions and national agencies could be useful. The Chemical Weapons Convention could provide a useful model in this regard. The threat from bioterrorism just got more likely than nuclear terrorism, and needs an effective response.

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Libyan Army in “Full Control” of Chemical Weapons, Colonel Says

Global Security Newswire, 06 February 2012, <http://www.nti.org>

A Libyan Defense Ministry spokesman said last week the nation's new army is in "full control" of the former Qadhafi regime's chemical warfare materials, the Arabic language website al-Sharq al-Awsat reported.

"The scarecrow of Libya's chemical weapons is over. The new Libyan army is in full control of all materials that may harm the Libyan people and neighboring countries," Col. Ahmad Bani stated. Despite Bani's pronouncement, reports indicate Qadhafi-era weaponry has been smuggled out of the country and used by rebels in insurgent attacks in Mali.

Libya's new government has assumed control over what remains of a 25-metric-ton declared stockpile of mustard blister agent that had been partially destroyed before the popular uprising erupted in the country in early 2011. The replacement government to the toppled Muammar Qadhafi regime late last year announced it had discovered a limited cache of sulfur mustard agent that Tripoli had not declared upon joining the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2004.

Officials from the convention's monitoring body, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, last month verified the existence of the previously secret chemical warfare materials.

"The chemical weapons and the mustard gas that were found in the Waddan area [in Libya's south] and in other places have been put under full control. These places are safe and under the Libyan army's control," Bani said in an English translation provided by the BBC.

Many foreign states are worried about the ability of the nascent civilian government to control the nation's lengthy borders, according to the report. Bani acknowledged that not all of the men guarding the border were formal army personnel.

"You know that the term 'revolutionaries' is not given to creatures coming from another planet," he said. "The Libyan revolutionaries are a mixture of army personnel, police and civilian citizens. So the protection of Libya's border is the responsibility of all Libyans."

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Rwandan Lawmakers Consider Chemical Weapons Legislation

The New Times, 30 January 2012, <http://www.newtimes.co.rw>

There was a time when the threat of chemical weapons was thought to be a concern only for Western and Middle East countries, and other far-away places. Not anymore. Rwanda's Parliament is moving to pre-empt a potential threat to the country.

A chemical weapon is a device that uses chemicals formulated to inflict death or harm to human beings. They are currently classified as weapons of mass destruction, and are generally condemned by the civilized world.

This week, the Chamber of Deputies' Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security is scheduled to scrutinize a draft law on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction [Chemical Weapons Convention or CWC]. The bill was initially up for discussion today, according to a draft program, but it has since been pushed to a later date, this week.

The bill defines chemical weapons to include "toxic chemicals or their precursors, except where intended for purposes not prohibited under the convention, as long as the types and quantities are consistent with such purposes." "It will not be discussed tomorrow [Monday] as the program changed but it will certainly be examined sometime this week. You will get to know more details later," Gideon Kayinamura, the Chairperson of the committee, told *The New Times* yesterday.

Numerous international agreements are in force with regard to chemical weapons. The bill was set up with the aid of a model [provided] by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), an [international] organization, based in The Hague, The Netherlands. [The OPCW] promotes and verifies adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention, which prohibits the use of chemical weapons and requires their destruction.

According to the OPCW, a common conception of a chemical weapon comprises a toxic chemical contained in a delivery system such as a bomb or artillery shell. "While technically correct, a definition based on this conception would only cover a small portion of the range of things the CWC prohibits as "chemical weapons" says the OPCW.

Why is the bill relevant?

The law will allow Rwanda to appropriately put into practice what is required in other pertinent international treaties it has ratified. Rwanda ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty in 2003 as well as the African Weapons Free Zone treaty in 2004, among others.

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An explanatory note seen by The New Times says the war against chemical weapons is a concern of the whole world since terrorist groups might plan terror acts by all means possible, including use of chemical weapons. It was noted that as industrial, agricultural, medical and research activities advance in the country, it is necessary for there to be a law that prohibits chemical weapons.

When passed, the law will allow competent authorities to request other states' authorities and international organizations to provide relevant data or information. "The competent authorities of Rwanda for crime prevention, criminal proceedings, and implementation of the convention may collaborate with other competent state authorities and international organizations and entities, and coordinate their actions to the extent required by the implementation of this law or of the equivalent foreign statute subject to the other state," reads part of the bill.

Chemical warfare involves the use of toxic properties of chemical substances as weapons. It does not depend upon explosive force but on the unique properties of the chemical agent weaponized. Chemical weapons usually include mustard gas, sarin and other deadly nerve agents.

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Army Names Acting Director for Chemical Materials Agency

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 24 January 2012; <http://www.cma.army.mil>

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) today announced the appointment of Don E. Barclay as its Acting Director, effective February 26, 2012. Barclay assumes this interim role on the heels of CMA's former director, Mr. Conrad F. Whyne and his recent appointment as Program Executive Office – Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO-ACWA). Whyne was named PEO-ACWA on January 24, 2012.

Barclay assumes the role of Acting Director from his recent position of Deputy Director, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, a position he has held since February 17, 2008. Prior to that, Barclay was Site Project Manager at CMA's Umatilla (Oregon) Chemical Agent Disposal Facility from 2001 to 2008. There, he was the executing agent for the Umatilla project, managing a \$170 million annual budget and a workforce of 850 people eliminating Umatilla's 3,717 tons of nerve and blister agents.

Prior to that, Barclay first worked in chemical agent operations in 1993 when he served as risk manager for CMA's Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) near Tooele, Utah, and eventually becoming CAMDS' director in 1997. He brings almost 20 years of experience to his role.

"CMA is a great workplace because of the many dedicated, committed professionals doing great work to accomplish a worthy mission," Barclay said. "The mission of CMA is far from over and I welcome the challenge of continuing the fine legacy that is the hallmark of this agency and its people. "We face some interesting times as an agency. The recent completion of CMA's stockpile elimination mission is a great accomplishment for the dedicated workforce of CMA. Our safety record stands as a testament to our attention-to-safety culture. That will continue as we move toward plant closures.

"We continue to have a valid mission in installation management, safe stockpile storage, recovered chemical warfare materiel elimination, emergency preparedness and support to our PEO-ACWA brethren. We will maintain our vigilance in that regard as we define where we are headed in the future. We have an expertise in this agency that is unique and valuable to the Army, our government and the nation."

CMA completed the safe destruction of 27,473.65 U.S. tons of nerve and blister agents representing 89.75 percent of the Nation's chemical agent stockpile. [This achievement] is the culmination of more than 20 years of dedicated work.

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Army Agency Wraps Up Chemical Weapons Disposal Campaign

Global Security Newswire, 24 January 2012; <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org>

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency [CMA] on Saturday concluded its full demilitarization campaign when the last amount of lewisite blister agent was incinerated at the Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah, bringing an end to a mission that spanned more than two decades and seven installations.

The Army agency was charged with eliminating 89.75 percent of the United States' declared chemical arsenal under the Chemical Weapons Convention, according to a CMA press release. "Completing destruction of this stockpile mission is a worthy and important accomplishment. This demonstrates our commitment to the elimination of chemical weapons, enhancing safety and security for our work force, our communities and the nation," Army Secretary John McHugh said in released comments.

The Chemical Materials Agency oversaw the destruction of 27,473 tons of blister and nerve agents and associated munitions stored at seven depots in Deseret, Utah; Johnston Island in the Pacific; Aberdeen, Maryland; Newport, Indiana; Umatilla, Oregon; Anniston, Alabama; and Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Roughly 891 tons of material had previously been eliminated prior to the 1997 entry into force of the international accord that prohibits the development, production, stockpiling or use of chemical weapons.

"The safe destruction of more than 2.2 million chemical nerve and blister agent munitions and bulk containers at seven demilitarization facilities is a remarkable accomplishment for the CMA work force at each site and systems contractors who operated each facility," Army acting Assistant Secretary Heidi Shyu said in provided remarks.

The Army estimated it will spend roughly \$28 billion on the CMA mission, which includes construction, preparation, operation and disassembly of plants at all seven installations, agency spokesman Greg Mahall stated by e-mail on Tuesday.

The remaining 10 percent of U.S. chemical weapons is housed at two depots in Pueblo, Colorado and Blue Grass, Kentucky. Destruction of those two stockpiles will be managed by another Army branch, the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives [ACWA] program, and is not anticipated to be completed before 2021. The Chemical Materials Agency said it would work with ACWA officials in sharing "the lessons learned" over the course of its 22-year disposal mission.

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The United States has announced it will not meet the April 29 deadline established by the CWC accord to complete all chemical disarmament work. Fellow convention signatories Russia and Libya have also declared they will miss the cutoff date.

"This important disarmament milestone is a major step towards complete, verified, and global abolition of a whole class of weapons of mass destruction, with the United States leading the way," Global Green USA security and sustainability chief Paul Walker wrote in a blog post for the organization.

An earlier deadline called for the United States and other CWC signatories to destroy all of their chemical warfare materials by April 2007. However, that cutoff date proved untenable for all chemical armed-nations, which received extensions of up to five years. Albania, India and South Korea have now completed their disposal operations.

Moscow has said it will complete chemical demilitarization work by 2015. The new government in Libya has yet to announce when it anticipates wrapping up its mission, but it retains a vastly smaller quantity of chemical agent than either Russia or the United States.

"The complete elimination of chemical weapons, verified by international inspectors, over the next decade, will be a major step forward to the larger goal of abolishing all weapons of mass destruction – nuclear, chemical, and biological – from the globe," Walker said.

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Interview with Rose Gottemoeller on Arms Control

*Mission of the United States, Geneva Switzerland, 19 January 2012; <http://geneva.usmission.gov>
Interview with Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance. January 19, 2012*

QUESTION: Late last year, the Americans broke off conventional arms control talks with Russia. Why?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOTTEMOELLER: The situation simply could not continue indefinitely. The Russian Federation had “suspended implementation” of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) in December 2007. Last fall, we decided we needed to take action. Together with a group of other treaty signatories – NATO allies and partners Moldova and Georgia – we agreed to halt implementation of the treaty with Russia. We continue to implement the CFE Treaty with all the other States Parties. We were sending a message; we considered it to be a rational countermeasure, and did it more in sorrow than in anger. It was a message to Russia that we would like to see them come back into implementation of the treaty. The United States is committed to revitalizing the conventional arms control regime in Europe and continues to consult on finding a way forward with our treaty partners.

QUESTION: What could restart negotiations?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOTTEMOELLER: Right now, I think we’re in a good place. It is still premature to talk about negotiations, but ceasing the implementation of the CFE Treaty toward Russia actually opens up an environment to explore new opportunities for the future of conventional arms control in Europe. But first we need to do some very basic work on the concepts and substance, together with our allies and partners, including the Russians. Everybody knows that the CFE Treaty simply is not relevant anymore to the current security situation in Europe. It was negotiated at a time when the Warsaw Pact was still standing against us.

QUESTION: It was a Cold War relic?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOTTEMOELLER: What we have now is an opportunity for a regime that would be clearly post Cold War. We need to think ahead about what will be most helpful, contributing to resolving the frozen conflicts and strengthening regional security. I think the Russians have the same interest in stable and predictable security relationships as other countries.

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QUESTION: If you look at the entirety of Russia's security outlook, tactical nuclear weapons are an important card, because its conventional forces are so weak. Where do we stand with regard to tactical nuclear weapons?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOTTEMOELLER: It is true that the Russian military doctrine is quite clear on the strategic importance they give to tactical nuclear weapons. But we need to pull the aperture wider. When President Obama signed the New START Treaty on April 8, 2010, he said that the United States would like to negotiate further reductions in three categories of nuclear arms: in deployed strategic nuclear weapons, in non-deployed strategic nuclear weapons (for example, those held in storage facilities) and in non strategic nuclear weapons, the so-called tactical nuclear weapons, which are the ones that concern Europe. The President made it very clear that we want to tackle all three categories in the next arms reduction negotiations with Russia.

QUESTION: But why should the Russians agree to cuts in tactical weapons?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOTTEMOELLER: Again, you have to look at the full picture. The Russians have always said that they are concerned about U.S. up-load capabilities...

QUESTION: ...meaning that the United States could relatively quickly bring back a substantial number of reserve nuclear weapons from storage...

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOTTEMOELLER: ...and that could be a part of the picture for future negotiations. I am not saying that we are making an official proposal at this point. But you have to have an idea what the trade-offs might be.

QUESTION: So far, there really has not been much movement on tactical weapons.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOTTEMOELLER: I would not say that. In fact, there has been movement in two areas: First, the United States has made it clear that we want to begin talking sooner rather than later about the issues affecting further reductions. And we want to begin talking sooner rather than later about transparency measures that we might pursue even before we get back to the negotiating table. And so, we are looking at some ideas in that regard.

In the meantime, there is some important homework that we have to do within the NATO Alliance – the NATO Deterrence and Defense Posture Review is taking place right now. We know that NATO is committed to an extended deterrent and will remain a nuclear alliance for as long as nuclear weapons exist. In May, we are going to have the NATO summit in Chicago.

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That is an opportunity to reach some conclusions on what NATO policy is going to be with regard to non-strategic nuclear weapons.

QUESTION: Does missile defense complicate things?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY GOTTEMOELLER: We hope not! (laughs) Because we talk until we are blue in the face to make the point that we believe cooperation on missile defenses in Europe would be very much in the interests of the Russian Federation. Our goal is to reach agreement on a political framework to move missile defense cooperation forward and strengthen the overlapping capabilities that we have. We want to address the common threat that ballistic missiles pose for security in Europe, including for Russia.

Through this cooperation, Russia would see first-hand that this system is designed and capable to defend only against missiles originating from the Middle East. At the same time, we have been trying to convey to them also that U.S. and NATO missile defenses in Europe are not intended nor will they be capable to undermine the Russian strategic offensive armed forces. The Russians remain to be convinced. But I don't think it's a hopeless situation. Not by any stretch of the imagination.

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Indonesia Submits CTBT Ratification to UN

Global Security Newswire, 06 February 2012; <http://www.nti.org>

The United Nations on Monday formally received Indonesia's ratification document for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT], Deutsche Presse-Agentur reported.

The legislature of the Southeast Asian nation ratified the accord in December. Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa delivered the document to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon late Monday morning at UN headquarters in New York.

Indonesia's move comes amid continued hopes for movement on drawing down the global stocks of nuclear weapons, Natalegawa noted. "The ratification should encourage others to do likewise, in order to help the treaty to enter into force," he said.

"This action will formalize Indonesia's ratification, which was approved unanimously by Indonesia's parliament" on December 6, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization [CTBTO] said in a press release. "Indonesia's ratification is a major step towards bringing the CTBT, which bans all nuclear explosions, into legal effect."

Indonesia is one of 44 "Annex 2" states that must ratify the treaty before it can enter into force. There are eight remaining holdouts – China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States.

Proponents argue that a prohibition on nuclear testing would curb nations' efforts to develop nuclear weapons or update existing arsenals. Skeptics say the test-ban regime's technological verification system – which consists of more than 300 sensor sites around the world – is not foolproof and that the United States might someday need to end its voluntary moratorium on [nuclear] testing to ensure it holds a viable deterrent.

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Assistant Secretary Gottemoeller's Opening Statement at the Conference on Disarmament

U.S. State Department, 24 January 2012; <http://www.state.gov>

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

Thank you very much Mr. Secretary General, Mr. President. At the outset of my remarks, please allow me to congratulate Ecuador, and you personally, on your assumption of the first Presidency of the 2012 session of the Conference on Disarmament [CD]. Ambassador Kennedy and I wish you well as you guide the work of this Conference forward; you may count on the U.S. delegation's full support. I would also like to extend our best wishes to the other CD Presidents for the 2012 session – Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, and Germany. We look forward to working with all of you during this year.

The Impasse at the CD

Mr. President, while the international community has been active and achieved results in many areas during the past year, the Conference on Disarmament appears to be no closer to an "honest day's work" than it was last January. Despite herculean efforts by a number of CD Member States, the CD continues to languish, and a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT), the next logical and necessary step in the multilateral nuclear disarmament process, remains no closer to negotiation.

We did see some rays of hope last year. Australia and Japan hosted a series of extensive FMCT technical experts' discussions on the CD's margins that allowed the international community an opportunity to exchange views and gain perspectives in a sustained and organized way. The Chairs' summaries of these discussions will make a useful contribution to our collective body of knowledge when eventual FMCT negotiations begin.

The United States initiated consultations among the P5 [the permanent five nuclear weapon states recognized in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)] and others on unblocking FMCT negotiations in the CD and to prepare our own countries for what certainly will be a prolonged and technically challenging negotiation. Last summer, the Secretary-General of the United Nations [UN] asked Member States to continue their dialogue on ways to improve the operation and effectiveness of the UN's multilateral disarmament machinery, in particular the CD.

In the view of the United States, all of these efforts have been worthwhile, but regrettably, none has achieved the desired result of moving this body forward on FMCT negotiations and work on

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other important issues. Mr. President, when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton addressed the CD last February, she had stressed that, “global nuclear security is too important to allow this matter [FMCT] to drift forever.”

At the most recent session of the [UN General Assembly (UNGA)] First Committee, we all witnessed and experienced the growing international frustration with the status quo here in Geneva. Not surprisingly, and with no small amount of justification, many in the international community are losing patience with the current situation in the CD. Every government represented in this room has national security concerns and obligations associated with an FMCT, including my own. But as responsible governments, we also have a collective obligation to and responsibility for international peace and security, to which an FMCT would significantly contribute.

An FMCT Is as Vital as Ever

The FMCT is not some sort of deliberate diversion from “real” nuclear disarmament. Along with the [Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)], an FMCT is an absolutely essential step for global nuclear disarmament. Simply stated, we can’t get to the end, if we don’t start at the beginning. A verifiable end to the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons is necessary if we are to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons. How can we make progress towards a world without nuclear weapons while some states continue to produce the key component for building up their nuclear arsenals?

A universal halt to the production of fissile materials for use in nuclear weapons is essential. Some states have already declared a moratorium on such production, but others have not. Some, such as the United States, have reduced their military stocks of fissile material, whereas others are actively engaged in further production. The path to a world without nuclear weapons will require many steps. The next logical step in halting the increase of nuclear arsenals is an FMCT.

Mr. President, in Action 15 of the 2010 NPT Review Conference Final Document’s Action Plan, all States Parties agreed that the CD should begin immediate negotiation of an FMCT. The United States remains firmly committed to an FMCT as a tangible contribution to our “full, effective and urgent implementation of article VI,” as stated in that Action Plan. As the 2015 NPT review process gets under way this year, every NPT State Party has a responsibility to help make an FMCT a reality. In fact, every nation should share in the work that will create the conditions necessary to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world.

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Looking Ahead

Here in Geneva, and New York, and in capitals around the world, there has been a vigorous debate over the state of the UN's multilateral disarmament machinery in general and the CD impasse, in particular. I have been speaking about this at various venues and I will reiterate my thoughts here. Some people have spoken about amending the consensus rule at the CD, in order to break the current logjam. The United States does not share the view that the impasse in the CD is the result of its procedural rules. On the contrary, we believe that the consensus rule has served CD members well by providing assurance that individual member states' national security concerns can be met.

There may be a case for some modifications to how decisions are taken on small procedural items at the CD, but those issues are not at the heart of the impasse. The road will remain blocked until all members of the CD are convinced that commencing negotiations is in their national interest, or at least, not harmful to those interests. The United States is working hard to make the case to those countries with reservations about the FMCT that starting negotiations is not something to fear.

Of course, for any negotiation to be substantive and worthwhile, the key states most directly affected by an FMCT should be involved. When it comes down to what is in the best interest of international security, the negotiating venue for the FMCT is of less importance than the participants. As a matter of pragmatism, however, the CD – which includes every major nuclear capable state – remains the best option for achieving a viable, effective FMCT.

Once FMCT negotiations have begun, CD members will face many complex and contentious issues, including the difficult issue of scope. We are well aware that CD members are divided on this issue. Ambassador Shannon's Report to the CD, from which the Shannon Mandate is derived, highlighted these disagreements. His Report of his consultations made it abundantly clear that members could not agree on this key issue, nor on many others. What members did agree on is embodied in a key line in that report following a listing of those contentious issues. That crucial line said: "...it has been agreed by delegations that the mandate for the establishment of the ad hoc Committee does not preclude any delegation from raising for consideration in the ad hoc Committee any of the above noted issues."

The U.S. position is clear: FMCT obligations, including verification obligations, should cover only new production of fissile material. Step-by-step approaches to arms control and nonproliferation have been very successful over the years. A step-by-step approach would serve us well with an FMCT. One essential step in the process should be a legal ban on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons.

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We are fully aware that many CD members have a different view and this issue will be the subject of vigorous debate. That is what negotiations are for, and the United States is ready to have that debate. What is not helpful is an effort to “pre-negotiate” the outcome of any negotiations by an explicit reference to existing stocks in a negotiating mandate. We would not be alone in seeing this as a thinly-veiled effort to prevent negotiations from getting underway.

Regarding the possibility of the CD simultaneously negotiating on the four core issues – FMCT, nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, and prevention of an arms race in outer space – it is not a practical option. It is difficult to see how a body that has not negotiated any of these topics over the last sixteen years could take on the responsibility for negotiating all four at one time. The CD should focus on one major negotiation at a time, as it did during the CTBT negotiations. Given the reality that an FMCT would set the stage for further progress in reducing nuclear arsenals, it has been repeatedly endorsed by CD Member States as the priority nuclear disarmament negotiation.

Conclusion

Mr. President, we hope 2012 will be the year when the Conference on Disarmament emerges from its prolonged impasse and once again contributes to international peace and security by beginning negotiations on an FMCT. The CD and its predecessor bodies have a long history of delivering landmark agreements, all of which were contentious in their own right and took years to complete. But in each case, the nations and people who assembled in this historic chamber persevered, and helped to create a multilateral arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament structure that supports the security of the international system to this very day.

An FMCT will make a critical contribution to this international security architecture. As Secretary Clinton said last February, this agreement is “too important a matter to be left in a deadlock forever.”

If the CD fails to deliver an FMCT negotiation this year, we will again have shirked our responsibility to move forward towards a world without nuclear weapons... We recognize that this is a crucial year for the CD as an institution and that the UN General Assembly is monitoring our progress closely. Let’s seize the opportunity to make real progress here and restore the vibrancy of this once vital institution. Business as usual is a recipe for disaster.

We look forward to consulting and working with the CD Member and Observer states as the 2012 session proceeds. Time is short and the stakes are high. Thank you, Mr. President.

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U.S., Russia Each Complete 18 New START Audits [On-site Inspections]

Global Security Newswire, 06 February 2012; <http://www.nti.org>

The United States and Russia have each conducted 18 audits [on-site inspections] of the other nation's nuclear sites under a bilateral strategic arms control treaty [New START] that took effect one year ago, the highest quantity the pact permits over a 12-month period, the U.S. State Department said on Friday.

New START, which entered into force on February 5, 2011, requires each government by 2018 to reduce deployment of strategic nuclear warheads to 1,550, down from a cap of 2,200 mandated by this year under an older treaty. It also limits the number of fielded strategic warhead delivery platforms to 700, with an additional 100 systems permitted in reserve. The treaty calls for the nations to regularly share quantities, siting and schematics of armament equipment and sites.

Information swaps mandated by the treaty have resulted in "very detailed" portraits of the U.S. and Russian strategic arsenals that the audits can verify, according to a State Department fact sheet. Orbital surveillance instruments and other tools operated by each government offer additional means of monitoring compliance with the pact, the document adds.

The sides to date have swapped more than 1,800 notifications under the treaty. The details, traded through each side's Nuclear Risk Reduction Center, include quantities, siting and operational specifications of armaments covered by the pact.

"These notifications help to track movement and changes in the status of systems," the State Department said. "For example, a notification is sent every time a heavy bomber is moved out of its home country for more than 24 hours."

Full-scope information caches traded twice each year [data exchanges] by the countries offer a "full accounting of exactly where weapons systems are located, whether they are out of their deployment or operational bases and gone to maintenance, or have been retired," the document states. "This semiannual exchange, along with the mandatory treaty notifications that continuous updates provide, creates a 'living document' that provides a comprehensive look into each other's strategic nuclear forces."

Moscow last March made the RS-24 [intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)] and its firing unit available for examination as part of a New START mandate for system exhibitions. The United States had not previously observed up close the mobile system that can carry several warheads.

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Washington provided comparable access to the B-1B and B-2A heavy bombers. "Following the U.S. exhibition demonstrating that B-1B heavy bombers are no longer capable of employing nuclear armaments, these aircraft no longer count toward the central treaty limits regarding deployed heavy bombers," the department said.

In addition, each government has displayed apparatus intended for use in telemetric data swaps enabled by the treaty. The pact permits trading in 2012 of such details from ICBM and submarine-launched ballistic missile [SLBM] trials conducted last year.

"The treaty's Bilateral Consultative Commission (BCC) held its first session in April 2011, and has since met two additional times," the department said. "Under the treaty, this implementing body must meet at least two times per year."

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U.S., Russia to Dispose of 34 Tons of Weapons-Grade Plutonium

Ria Novosti, 24 January 2012; <http://en.ria.ru>

The United States and Russia are successfully implementing their nuclear disarmament agreements and are continuing to work on the next steps in this direction, a U.S. Department of State official said on Tuesday.

Rose Gottemoeller, the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance said addressing the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva that last year “the U.S.-Russian Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement (PMDA) and its Protocols came into force.” “The PMDA commits the United States and the Russian Federation each to dispose of no less than 34 metric tons of excess weapon-grade plutonium – enough material in total for approximately 17,000 nuclear weapons,” she added.

The New START document, signed by the Russian and U.S. presidents in 2010, cuts both countries’ strategic nuclear arsenals to a maximum of 1,550 warheads, down from the previous ceiling of 2,200. “The New START Treaty entered into force on February 5, 2011. Implementation is going well and continues to contribute positively to the U.S.-Russian relationship,” she said. “The treaty represents a strong foundation for further bilateral reductions and an important step on the path towards a world without nuclear weapons. Discussions between our two governments on the next steps are underway,” Gottemoeller said.

Relations between Moscow and Washington have been tense recently over the United States continuing its build-up of missile defense systems in Europe, which Russia sees as a direct threat to its national security. Last November, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev warned that Russia would deploy missiles and may opt out of the New START nuclear reductions agreement if Russia, the United States and NATO failed to find a way to work together on European missile defenses.

Earlier this month, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control Ellen Tauscher said, however, that the administration of President Barack Obama would not give Russia any legally binding guarantees that U.S. missile defenses in Europe will not impact Russia’s strategic deterrent.

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Developing Countries Make Progress toward Nuclear Power

International Atomic Energy Agency, 26 January 2012; <http://www.iaea.or.at>

By Alexey Katukhov, Anne Starz and Alan McDonald

Developing countries that have taken decisions to start nuclear power in recent years are continuing with their plans. At a workshop in Vienna this week, they are sharing information on their experiences starting nuclear power programs and incorporating the lessons learned from the accident in Japan in the planning process.

After the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan in March last year, interest declined in some countries that had been considering nuclear power. Others are taking a "wait and see" approach. But around thirty countries continue to consider nuclear power as a serious option in their energy mix because of their concerns about growing energy demands, dependence on fossil fuels, climate change and energy security.

"I believe that all Member States should have access to nuclear power if they wish to add it to their energy mix," [International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)] Director General Yukiya Amano said. "While it is up to each country to decide whether they wish to opt for nuclear power, the IAEA has a key role to play in ensuring that the development of nuclear power programs takes place in a safe, efficient, responsible and sustainable manner."

Some countries have taken concrete steps toward their first [nuclear power plant (NPPs)] in the past year. For example, Belarus reported that it signed an agreement with Russia for its first NPP in October. Bangladesh and Vietnam have also signed intergovernmental agreements with Russia regarding nuclear power.

Though nuclear power's overall safety record is strong, the accident in Japan offers several lessons for countries introducing nuclear power, notably the importance of designing a power plant to withstand the most extreme hazards foreseeable at the plant's site and ensuring sufficient emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

The IAEA is implementing a Nuclear Safety Action Plan which identifies 12 actions to improve global nuclear safety after Fukushima, including specific actions for countries starting a nuclear power program. "Safety must also be the watch word for Member States considering the introduction of nuclear power," IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano stressed.

As part of the Action Plan, Member States are encouraged to develop an appropriate infrastructure to support the nuclear power program. The IAEA issued a document on Milestones in the Introduction of a National Nuclear Power Program in 2008 to guide Member

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States. The IAEA Milestones Approach assists nuclear newcomers with guideposts to mark progress during planning stages, to demonstrate to national and international stakeholders their commitment to nuclear safety and control of nuclear materials. The IAEA also provides standards, guidance, reviews and assessments, missions, and specific assistance as additional support for newcomer countries.

Building new nuclear power infrastructure is a major undertaking that requires careful planning, preparation and a significant investment in time and resources. The infrastructure to support the successful introduction of nuclear power covers a wide range of issues, from the physical facilities for the delivery of electricity, the site and supporting facilities for handling radioactive waste, to the legal and regulatory framework to the human and financial resources necessary to implement the required activities. It entails attention to many complex and interrelated issues over a long duration – and a commitment of at least 100 years.

The IAEA supports new nuclear power programs with international standards and guidance, peer review and advisory services, capacity building and training, and forums where experts can network and share their experiences. The 6th Workshop on Topical Issues on Infrastructure Development, from January 24-27, 2011, is one such forum, providing a platform for the exchange of information in developing nuclear infrastructure between nuclear newcomer countries and recognized experts in the field.

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