



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



26 February – 07 March 2011

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GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

New Vienna Organization to Spur Disarmament

IDN-InDepth NewsAnalysis, March 2011, www.indepthnews.net

The Vienna Center for Disarmament and Nonproliferation [VCDNP] is a new feather in the cap for Austria. (606 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Deterrence in the Age of Nuclear Proliferation – The Doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction is Obsolete in the Post-Cold War Era [OPINION]

Wall Street Journal, 07 March 2011, www.wsj.com

By George P. Shultz, William J. Perry, Henry A. Kissinger and Sam Nunn

As long as there has been war, there have been efforts to deter actions a nation considers threatening. Until fairly recently, this meant building a military establishment capable of intimidating the adversary, defeating him or making his victory more costly than the projected gains. This, with conventional weapons, took time. Deterrence and war strategy were identical. (1,315 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Preparations Begin for Mustard Gas Assessments at Kentucky Depot

Bio Prep Watch, 03 March 2011, www.bioprepwatch.com

Employees of the Blue Grass Chemical Activity will begin the preparation of stored mustard projectiles for x-ray assessments to take place this week at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. (227 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

New Chamber Designed to Safely Dispose of Chemical Weapons

KSL Broadcasting (UT), 03 March 2011; www.ksl.com

High-tech equipment has arrived in Utah that's intended to give the Army a safe way to do something that would otherwise be very dangerous. (493 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Advisory Panel on Future Priorities of the OPCW Holds Second Meeting

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 03 March 2011, www.opcw.org

The advisory panel of independent experts on future OPCW priorities that was established in December 2010 by Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü held its second meeting in The Hague on February 21-22, 2011. (314 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

Depot Workers Reach Safety Milestone

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 03 March 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Government workers at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) today achieved a major safety milestone – reaching and surpassing one million consecutive man-hours without a lost workday injury. (232 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OPCW Delegation Visits U.S. Chemical Weapons Destruction Facilities and Holds High-Level Meetings in Washington D.C.

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 04 March 2011, www.opcw.org

From February 28 to March 4, 2011 a delegation from the OPCW Executive Council visited the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Utah, and held high level meetings in Washington D.C. (714 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Official Thinks OK of Nuclear Test-Ban Possible

Las Vegas Review-Journal, 26 February 2011, www.lvrj.com

Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, told a gathering of international associates in Las Vegas this week that U.S. Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty is “an essential step on the path toward a world without nuclear weapons.” (631 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. Seeks Funds for Test-Ban Monitoring

Arms Control Association, March 2011, www.armscontrol.org

The Obama administration’s fiscal year 2012 budget request includes \$33 million for the U.S. contribution for the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization’s (CTBTO) ongoing work to build, operate, and maintain the International Monitoring System. (278 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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

Russia Demands Universal Observance of CTBT

Global Security Newswire, 02 March 2011, gsn.nti.org

Russia has pressed all governments that are not yet Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty signatories to join the agreement, *Interfax* reported yesterday. (523 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

Preparations for the CCW Fourth Review Conference Underway while Negotiations on Cluster Munitions Continue

States News Service, 01 March 2011, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The Group of Governmental Experts of the States Parties to the CCW devoted time during its first 2011 session held from 21 to 25 February to discuss preparations for the CCW Fourth Review Conference (14-25 November 2011). (678 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

FISSILE MATERIALS

Secretary Clinton Urges Treaty to Halt Production of Nuclear Bomb Material

Bloomberg, 28 February 2011, www.bloomberg.com

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called for an international treaty to bar production of plutonium and uranium for use in nuclear bombs, saying it was a crucial step to fulfilling President Barack Obama's vision of a world without nuclear weapons. (378 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

PLUTONIUM MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSITION AGREEMENT (PMDA)

Kremlin to Seek Ratification of Plutonium Disposal Pact

Global Security Newswire, 04 March 2011, gsn.nti.org

The Kremlin is set to send a bill to Russia's State Duma for ratifying a deal with the United States on eliminating stockpiled weapon-grade plutonium, *ITAR-Tass* reported. (167 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)



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New Vienna Organization to Spur Disarmament

IDN-InDepth NewsAnalysis, March 2011, www.indepthnews.net

The Vienna Center for Disarmament and Nonproliferation [VCDNP] is a new feather in the cap for Austria, which served as a bridge between East and West under the leadership of Chancellor Bruno Kreisky in the 1970s, and was the venue of some early rounds of the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) between the United States and the now defunct Soviet Union.

Along with two eminent UN organizations – the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty Organization (CTBTO) – focusing on arms control by taming atomic energy, the new Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) will advance international peace and security in the twenty-first century.

The establishment of the Center is an initiative of Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger, very much in the spirit of Kreisky. It will be managed by the James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies (CNS) of the U.S.-based Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), a graduate school of Middlebury College.

CNS is the largest non-governmental organization in the United States involved in research and training in the fields of nonproliferation and disarmament. The Monterey Institute's Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies (NPTS) master's degree program, launched in August 2010, is the only one of its kind in the United States.

Significantly, the VCDNP has been set up in the wake of the conclusion of the new START Treaty between the United States and Russia, which observers have described as a welcome development in the nuclear disarmament field.

The IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano rightly says: "Reducing the role and numbers of nuclear weapons is a positive step towards a safe and peaceful world free of nuclear weapons which can impact positively on nuclear non-proliferation efforts. But, of course, further steps are needed."

Amano is a national of Japan, which is the only country to have experienced the horrors of nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This lends an added significance to his remark at the VCDNP opening ceremony on February 25, 2011: "Disarmament and non-proliferation education have an essential role to play in maintaining and strengthening the momentum towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons." [...]

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According to CNS, the VCDNP will serve as a platform for independent expertise in the field of nuclear security that contributes to the global efforts in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Its main objectives are:

1. to further international peace and security, in particular, nuclear security through disarmament and non-proliferation measures; and
2. to further international discourse, education, and training on disarmament and non-proliferation.

These goals are to be achieved through:

- Conferences, seminars and other meetings to foster result-oriented dialogue among international organizations, governments, non-governmental experts, scholars, and civil society;
- Educational and training programs for professionals, faculty members, students, journalists, and the broader public from various countries;
- Research and analysis of disarmament and non-proliferation issues and the dissemination of findings ;
- Partnership with international, non-governmental, and academic institutions and organizations in Austria and other countries in achieving the aforementioned objectives and promoting dialogue, education, research, and analysis. [...]

Cooperation

In addition to disarmament and non-proliferation issues, Amano also identified terrorism, nuclear security, nuclear power and nuclear law as potential areas of cooperation between the IAEA and the VCDNP. He mentioned, for example, attending a Nuclear Security Summit hosted by U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C. in April 2010, which saw the participation of leaders from 47 countries. [...]

The Austrian Foreign Minister Spindelegger, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO, Tiber Toth, the President of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Sunder Ramaswamy, and CNS Director Bill Potter also spoke at the opening.

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Deterrence in the Age of Nuclear Proliferation – The Doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction is Obsolete in the Post-Cold War Era [OPINION]

Wall Street Journal, 07 March 2011, www.wsj.com

By George P. Shultz, William J. Perry, Henry A. Kissinger and Sam Nunn

The advent of the nuclear weapon introduced entirely new factors. It was possible, for the first time, to inflict at the beginning of a war the maximum casualties. The doctrine of mutual assured destruction represented this reality. Deterrence based on nuclear weapons, therefore, has three elements:

- It is importantly psychological, depending on calculations for which there is no historical experience. It is therefore precarious.
- It is devastating. An unrestrained nuclear exchange between superpowers could destroy civilized life as we know it in days.
- Mutual assured destruction raises enormous inhibitions against employing the weapons.

Since the first use of nuclear weapons against Japan, neither of the superpowers, nor any other country, has used nuclear weapons in a war. A gap opened between the psychological element of deterrence and the risks most leaders were willing to incur.

U.S. defense leaders made serious efforts to give the president more flexible options for nuclear use short of global annihilation. They never solved the problem, and it was always recognized that Washington and Moscow both held the keys to unpredictable and potentially catastrophic escalations.

As a result, nuclear deterrence was useful in preventing only the most catastrophic scenarios that would have threatened our survival. But even with the deployment of thousands of nuclear weapons on both sides of the Iron Curtain, the Soviet moves into Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 were not deterred. Nor were the numerous crises involving Berlin, including the building of the Wall in 1961, or major wars in Korea and Vietnam, or the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. In the case of the Soviet Union, nuclear weapons did not prevent collapse or regime change.

Today, the Cold War is almost 20 years behind us, but many leaders and publics cannot conceive of deterrence without a strategy of mutual assured destruction.

We have written previously that reliance on this strategy is becoming increasingly hazardous. With the spread of nuclear weapons, technology, materials and know-how, there is an increasing risk that nuclear weapons will be used.

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It is not possible to replicate the high-risk stability that prevailed between the two nuclear superpowers during the Cold War in such an environment. The growing number of nations with nuclear arms and differing motives, aims and ambitions poses very high and unpredictable risks and increased instability.

From 1945 to 1991, America and the Soviet Union were diligent, professional, but also lucky that nuclear weapons were never used. Does the world want to continue to bet its survival on continued good fortune with a growing number of nuclear nations and adversaries globally? Can we devise and successfully implement with other nations, including other nuclear powers, careful, cooperative concepts to safely dismount the nuclear tiger while strengthening the capacity to assure our security and that of allies and other countries considered essential to our national security?

Recently, the four of us met at the Hoover Institution with a group of policy experts to discuss the possibilities for establishing a safer and more comprehensive form of deterrence and prevention in a world where the roles and risks of nuclear weapons are reduced and ultimately eliminated. Our broad conclusion is that nations should move forward together with a series of conceptual and practical steps toward deterrence that do not rely primarily on nuclear weapons or nuclear threats to maintain international peace and security.

The first step is to recognize that there is a daunting new spectrum of global security threats.

These threats include chemical, biological and radiological weapons, catastrophic terrorism and cyber warfare, as well as natural disasters resulting from climate change or other environmental problems, and health-related crises. For the United States and many other nations, existential threats relating to the very survival of the state have diminished, largely because of the end of the Cold War and the increasing realization that our common interests greatly exceed our differences. However, an accident or mistake involving nuclear weapons, or nuclear terrorism fueled by the spread of nuclear weapons, nuclear materials, and nuclear knowhow, is still a very real risk.

An effective strategy to deal with these dangers must be developed.

The second step is the realization that continued reliance on nuclear weapons as the principal element for deterrence is encouraging, or at least excusing, the spread of these weapons, and will inevitably erode the essential cooperation necessary to avoid proliferation, protect nuclear materials and deal effectively with new threats.



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Third, the United States and Russia have no basis for maintaining a structure of deterrence involving nuclear weapons deployed in ways that increase the danger of an accidental or unauthorized use of a nuclear weapon, or even a deliberate nuclear exchange based on a false warning. Reducing the number of operationally deployed strategic nuclear warheads and delivery vehicles with verification to the levels set by the New Start Treaty is an important step in reducing nuclear risks. Deeper nuclear reductions and changes in nuclear force posture involving the two nations should remain a priority. Further steps must include short-range tactical nuclear weapons.

Fourth, as long as nuclear weapons exist, America must retain a safe, secure and reliable nuclear stockpile primarily to deter a nuclear attack and to reassure our allies through extended deterrence. There is an inherent limit to U.S. and Russian nuclear reductions if other nuclear weapon states build up their inventories or if new nuclear powers emerge.

It is clear, however, that the U.S. and Russia – having led the nuclear buildup for decades – must continue to lead the build-down. The U.S. and its NATO allies, together with Russia, must begin moving away from threatening force postures and deployments including the retention of thousands of short-range battlefield nuclear weapons.

All conventional deployments should be reviewed from the aspect of provocation. This will make America, Russia and Europe more secure. It will also set an example for the world.

Fifth, we recognize that for some nations, nuclear weapons may continue to appear relevant to their immediate security. There are certain undeniable dynamics in play – for example, the emergence of a nuclear-armed neighbor, or the perception of inferiority in conventional forces – that if not addressed could lead to the further proliferation of nuclear weapons and an increased risk they will be used. Thus, while the four of us believe that reliance on nuclear weapons for deterrence is becoming increasingly hazardous and decreasingly effective, some nations will hesitate to draw or act on the same conclusion unless regional confrontations and conflicts are addressed. We must therefore redouble our efforts to resolve these issues.

Achieving deterrence with assured security will require work by leaders and citizens on a range of issues, beginning with a clearer understanding of existing and emerging security threats. The role of nonnuclear means of deterrence to effectively prevent conflict and increase stability in troubled regions is a vital issue. Changes to extended deterrence must be developed over time by the United States and allies working closely together. Reconciling national perspectives on nuclear deterrence is a challenging problem, and comprehensive solutions must be developed.

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A world without nuclear weapons will not simply be today's world minus nuclear weapons.

Nations can, however, begin moving now together toward a safer and more stable form of deterrence. Progress must be made through a joint enterprise among nations, recognizing the need for greater cooperation, transparency and verification to create the global political environment for stability and enhanced mutual security. Ensuring that nuclear materials are protected globally in order to limit any country's ability to reconstitute nuclear weapons, and to prevent terrorists from acquiring the material to build a crude nuclear bomb, is a top priority.

Moving from mutual assured destruction toward a new and more stable form of deterrence with decreasing nuclear risks and an increasing measure of assured security for all nations could prevent our worst nightmare from becoming a reality, and it could have a profoundly positive impact on the security of future generations.

Mr. Shultz was Secretary of State from 1982 to 1989.

Mr. Perry was Secretary of Defense from 1994 to 1997.

Mr. Kissinger was Secretary of State from 1973 to 1977.

Mr. Nunn is former Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

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Preparations Begin for Mustard Gas Assessments at Kentucky Depot

Bio Prep Watch, 03 March 2011, www.bioprepwatch.com

Employees of the Blue Grass Chemical Activity will begin the preparation of stored mustard projectiles for x-ray assessments to take place this week at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky.

The operation intends to select samples of the mustard projectiles that are representative of the entire stockpile. They are to be stored in three facilities and then transported to a separate one designed for x-rays. The operation is scheduled to begin in May 2011, according to *Kentucky.com*.

The initial process is expected to last as long as several weeks and is considered the first step in the destruction of the chemical weapons munitions.

The x-rays will be utilized to determine whether or not the projectiles will be exploded inside steel vessel detonation chambers.

The U.S. Department of Defense [DoD] is considering using the specialized detonation chambers to destroy mustard agent shells that are judged too unstable or difficult to dispose of through chemical neutralization, *Kentucky.com* reports.

The depot houses 15,492 mustard weapons. Neutralization of the installation's total stockpile of 523 tons of blister and nerve agents is scheduled to begin in 2018 and end in 2021.

The Blue Grass Army Depot is located in central Kentucky and employs approximately 1,000 personnel with a payroll of \$79 million in 2009, according to *Kentucky.com*. It provides conventional ammunition services, chemical defense equipment management and manufacturing capabilities for the DoD.

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New Chamber Designed to Safely Dispose of Chemical Weapons

KSL Broadcasting (UT), 03 March 2011; www.ksl.com

High-tech equipment has arrived in Utah that's intended to give the Army a safe way to do something that would otherwise be very dangerous. The plan is to blow up corroded munitions containing chemical weapons. Officials say they can do it with no harm to people or the environment.

"I am 100-percent confident it will work, based on the design of it," said Jim Grgich, who is managing the effort at the Army's chemical weapons incinerator in Tooele County.

The plan is to blow-up about 300 artillery shells and mortar rounds that contain mustard agent. It's a big change of direction at the incinerator complex. For 15 years, they been destroying Utah's share of the nation's chemical weapons stockpile – 1.1 million explosive weapons containing toxic chemical agents.

The primary technique has been to cut the munitions open, drain the agents and send the materials to two separate furnaces. That process will be finished later this year.

"We're about 97 percent complete of the original stockpile," said Jim Ryba, U.S. Army project manager for the Deseret Chemical Depot.

But the plant's operators were surprised to discover several hundred munitions that were considered too corroded and too unstable to put through the incinerator system. "We possibly could have had a potential detonation or a situation where somebody could have been injured," Grgich said.

The solution they hit upon is to wrap the munitions with explosives and detonate them inside a chamber that's engineered to contain the explosion. The chamber is built by Kobe Steel in Japan and is known by the acronym, DAVINCH, Detonation of Ammunition in a Vacuum Integrated Chamber.

It's actually two chambers, one nesting inside the other, with a total weight of 160,000 pounds. The door alone weighs 30,000 pounds.

The Army provided video of a test conducted in Japan, with a detonation nearly identical to those that will take place in Utah. On the video, the system appears to work perfectly. A large boom can be heard and the chamber vibrates noticeably, but nothing is seen emerging from the explosion.

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The chamber is fitted with an elaborate filtration system to handle any gases produced by the explosion. “In the event that we do see (mustard) agent in that off-gas system,” Grgich said, “we have the ability to contain it before it’s released to the environment. We have the ability to continuously re-circulate that until it is clean.”

The system is currently sitting in a warehouse in Salt Lake. Intermountain Rigging and HeavyHaul has been contracted to deliver 12 truckloads of equipment associated with the project. IRH’s drivers and workers have been fitted with gas masks so they can help set up the system once they deliver it to the Army incinerator complex.

The detonation chamber is expected to be moved to Tooele County over the weekend. Testing is planned to take place this summer, and detonations are expected in September. The plan is still awaiting final approval from state and federal agencies.

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Advisory Panel on Future Priorities of the OPCW Holds Second Meeting

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 03 March 2011, www.opcw.org

The advisory panel of independent experts on future OPCW priorities that was established in December 2010 by Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü held its second meeting in The Hague on February 21-22, 2011.

The panel, chaired by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus of Sweden, held two days of substantive discussions on a range of topics including strategic issues, the current and future international security environment, advances in science and technology, developments in the chemical industry, and current OPCW activities such as verification, international cooperation, assistance and protection, and capacity-building for national implementation.

During the meeting the members of the panel met with the Director-General, and the panel Chairman met with several Permanent Representatives to the OPCW and with staff representatives of the Technical Secretariat.

The advisory panel will convene again in May 2011 and hold its final meeting in June 2011. It will then submit its final report to the Director-General, who will thereafter share the report with OPCW Member States. Many Member States have expressed an interest in the work of the panel and the expectation that its report will assist them in their consideration of issues affecting the evolution of the Organization.

The members of the advisory panel were selected by the Director-General for their expertise in the fields of arms control and disarmament, chemical industry, and science and technology. The members are wholly independent and serve on the panel in their personal capacities. The panel comprises the following 14 members from a broad geographical distribution of OPCW Member States:

Ambassador Rolf Ekeus (Sweden) – Chairman, Ambassador Noor Farida Ariffin (Malaysia), Ambassador Marcos Castrioto de Azambuja (Brazil), Ambassador Sergey Batsanov (Russia), Dr. Claude Eon (France), Dr. Gu Juesheng (China), Ambassador Abuelgasim Abdelwahid Sheikh Idris (Sudan), Ambassador Eric Javits (USA), Dr. Patricia Lewis (UK/Ireland), Ambassador Abdul Minty (South Africa), Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan (Argentina), Mr. Bunro Shiozawa (Japan), Ambassador Rakesh Sood (India), Dr. Ralf Trapp (Germany).

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Depot Workers Reach Safety Milestone

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 03 March 2011, www.cma.army.mil

Government workers at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) today achieved a major safety milestone – reaching and surpassing one million consecutive man-hours without a lost workday injury.

Today's unprecedented achievement is a first for the government workforce on this depot and the Army's six remaining U.S. Army's chemical demilitarization storage sites. Approximately two thousand man-hours are accumulated each day of safe work without a lost workday by the nearly 350 government workers at the depot. This consecutive safe hours string began in September 2009.

"This is a reflection of our worker's commitment to maintaining a safe work environment," said Col. Mark B. Pomeroy, depot commander. "When our employees work safely, it means we are keeping the community and environment safe as well," he added.

The achievement is all the more remarkable considering the challenging chemical hazards and heavy industrial type work that's done on the depot.

One measurement of the effectiveness of a company's safety culture is its rolling (or 12 month) recordable injury rate (RIR). OSHA describes a recordable injury as one that requires medical attention, ranging from stitches to broken bones and other serious injuries. DCD finished last month with an RIR of 0.9 (0.9 recordable injuries for every 100 man-years worked). A man-year is equivalent to fifty 40-hour work weeks or 2000 man hours. According to OSHA, that's comparable to people who work on computer design or in credit card offices.

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OPCW Delegation Visits U.S. Chemical Weapons Destruction Facilities and Holds High-Level Meetings in Washington D.C.

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 04 March 2011, www.opcw.org

From February 28 to March 4, 2011 a delegation from the OPCW Executive Council visited the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Utah, and held high level meetings in Washington D.C.

The delegation comprised the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Jean François Blarel, OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü, a representative from each of the OPCW regional groups, and a representative from the Russian Federation. In addition, at the invitation of the Government of the United States of America, representatives from five other Member States joined the delegation during the visit.

The visit took place in pursuance of a decision taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its Eleventh Session in December 2006 on visits by representatives of the Executive Council to chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDF) and CWDF construction sites, with the aim to further “consider progress and efforts towards achieving complete destruction in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and any measures being taken to overcome possible problems in a destruction program in accordance with Part IV (A), paragraph 26 of the Verification Annex.”

Four similar visits have previously been conducted by the Council. These include two in the USA – at the CWDFs located in Anniston, Alabama in October 2007, and at Pueblo, Colorado and Umatilla, Oregon in May-June 2009 – and two visits in the Russian Federation, at Shchuchye in the Kurgansk region in September 2008 and at Pochev, Bryanskaya Oblast in September 2010.

During this visit, high-level officials from the United States provided comprehensive briefings on the overall progress with regard to the destruction of the United States’ chemical weapons stockpile, the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program, the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant, and the ongoing efforts with a view to the destruction of chemical weapons at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

The visit at Pueblo included tours of the future destruction facility and of two chemical weapons storage igloos. The delegation noted the significant progress achieved in the construction of the new facility since the last visit to Pueblo by representatives of the Executive Council two years ago.



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Pueblo will destroy 2,371 metric tonnes of mustard agent stored in different types of projectiles and mortars by neutralization, followed by bio-treatment of the resulting hydrolysate. The construction of the future facility is now 80 percent complete.

While at Tooele, the OPCW delegation received details with regard to current operations, challenges identified in preparation for the mustard campaign, and the solutions implemented to overcome such challenges and accelerate the program. The Council representatives toured the Tooele facility, including visits to the small-scale liquid incinerator that will be used for the destruction of remaining small amounts of nerve agent and lewisite, and to the future location of a detonation chamber designated for the destruction of problematic chemical munitions, both scheduled to become operational in 2011. Furthermore, the OPCW delegation met with the inspection team deployed at Tooele to verify that the destruction of chemical weapons is carried out in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Tooele CWDF will destroy 12,121 metric tonnes of chemical-warfare agents, representing more than 43 percent of the entire stockpile of chemical weapons declared by the United States. To date, the facility has completed the destruction of 11,787 metric tonnes of Sarin, VX, and mustard agents, representing 97.25 percent of the original stockpile at this site, and is on track to complete destruction early next year.

As part of the visit, the OPCW delegation met with representatives of the Citizens' Advisory Commissions in the states of Colorado and Utah and was received by Mr. Greg Bell, the Lieutenant Governor of Utah.

On the last day of the visit to the United States, the Executive Council representatives held discussions in Washington, D.C. with Senator Richard Lugar; with Ms. Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security; and with Dr. George W. Look, Senior Director for Arms Control and Nonproliferation, National Security Staff.

In December 2006, the United States was granted an extension to complete the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons by April 29, 2012. To date, the United States has destroyed a total of 23,406 metric tonnes, or more than 84.29 percent of its declared stockpile.

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Official Thinks OK of Nuclear Test-Ban Possible

Las Vegas Review-Journal, 26 February 2011, www.lvrj.com

Imagine a world without nuclear weapons. It probably won't happen in President Barack Obama's lifetime, but that's the course his administration has set. And though it might seem to be a lofty goal, Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, told a gathering of international associates in Las Vegas this week that U.S. Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT] is "an essential step on the path toward a world without nuclear weapons."

In her address Wednesday to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN], Gottemoeller, the chief U.S. negotiator in new strategic arms reduction talks, said countries backing the treaty along with the United States are inching their way toward resolving Senate concerns that rejected ratification in 1999.

"Our view is there is a very good case to be made that the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty is now at a point" where Senate ratification is possible, she said in a telephone interview Friday [February 25]. "President Obama has said he recognizes this is a long-term goal, not a goal that can likely be achieved in his lifetime. But by putting the goal out there it really gets us working the problem."

The most pressing problem, according to the Obama administration's Nuclear Posture Review report, is keeping nuclear weapons and special nuclear materials out of the hands of terrorists.

"Our greatest nuclear threat is no longer a large-scale nuclear exchange, but the danger that terrorists could acquire nuclear materials, or worse, a nuclear weapon," Gottemoeller said in her remarks to the ASEAN gathering at the Monte Carlo.

Since 1999, strides have been made to address the Senate's concerns for verifying the test ban treaty and answer questions about how it would affect the U.S. stockpile stewardship program, the effort by national laboratories and the Nevada National Security Site to ensure the stockpile is safe and reliable in the absence of full-scale nuclear weapons tests. Full-scale tests were put on by a moratorium that U.S. presidents extended indefinitely after the last test in 1992.

"I think we have a lot more evidence that the stockpile stewardship program is working well," Gottemoeller said.

As for the issue of verifying the treaty, the International Monitoring System [IMS] – a seismic network for detecting nuclear tests – is 80 percent complete, she said.

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Annika Thunborg, spokeswoman for the Comprehensive [Nuclear] Test-Ban Treaty Organization [CTBTO], said the United States has 37 of the 340 monitoring stations that are in 89 countries. In addition, U.S. funding of more than \$25 million per year accounts for one-fifth of the organizations funding.

“The monitoring system is very large to make sure no nuclear tests go undetected,” she said.

Gottemoeller said it was fitting that the ASEAN Regional Forum was held in Las Vegas, 65 miles from the Nevada National Security Site and 60 years after the first nuclear weapons test was conducted at the site.

“We felt it was very important in terms of talking to countries from across the region that they would have the opportunity to recognize the legacy of the Nevada Test Site,” she said.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations forum participants included representatives from China, Singapore, Pakistan and India. Some of them, including Thunborg, visited the Atomic Testing Museum on Friday to learn about the test site’s history.

Thunborg said the tour was “very informative” with an emphasis on the U.S. views. “It gives an American perspective on nuclear weapons. The Cold War history would benefit from having a larger international perspective,” she said, noting that there should be more information on the downwinders movement and how other countries besides the United States and the former Soviet Union conducted nuclear tests.

“One thing that was missing was more mention of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty,” Thunborg said.

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U.S. Seeks Funds for Test-Ban Monitoring

Arms Control Association, March 2011, www.armscontrol.org

The Obama administration's fiscal year 2012 budget request includes \$33 million for the U.S. contribution for the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization's (CTBTO) ongoing work to build, operate, and maintain the International Monitoring System [IMS].

To date, 264 of the system's total 337 monitoring stations have been built and are certified.

Previous U.S. government reports have noted that several of the stations provide monitoring capabilities in sensitive regions not fully covered by U.S. national technical means of intelligence.

The annual budget for the CTBTO is approximately \$110 million, and the current annual U.S. assessment is approximately \$25 million. The \$33 million request for fiscal year 2012 matches the administration's fiscal year 2011 request.

However, in the continuing resolution for federal funding, which covers the first five months of the current fiscal year, Congress approved funding for the CTBTO at an annual rate of \$30 million. By March 4, Congress must pass a bill funding the remaining seven months of the fiscal year or approve another stopgap funding measure.

The administration's latest budget request for the U.S. contribution to the CTBTO exceeds the current-year assessment in order to address shortfalls in past years in Washington's contributions to the monitoring system. According to the Department of State, the United States is nearly \$13 million in arrears because of outstanding amounts due for 2010.

An administration source said the United States "is committed to fully paying its share of Preparatory Commission activities in full and on time." The administration also is seeking an additional \$7.5 million for fiscal year 2012 to fund specific projects "to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the [Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban] Treaty's verification regime."

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Russia Demands Universal Observance of CTBT

Global Security Newswire, 02 March 2011, gsn.nti.org

Russia has pressed all governments that are not yet Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT] signatories to join the agreement, *Interfax* reported yesterday. The pact has been ratified by 153 nations, including Russia and 34 more of the 44 states whose full endorsement is required for the international prohibition on nuclear test blasts to enter into force. Holdouts among that group of [44] “Annex 2” states are China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States.

“The disarmament agenda includes a number of priority issues that need to be resolved and can be resolved today,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told the international Conference on Disarmament [CD] in Geneva, Switzerland. “The task of enacting the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty as soon as possible is particularly important. We once again call on all of the countries that have not yet signed and ratified the treaty to do so.”

“Unilateral moratoriums on nuclear tests are useful, but they cannot substitute this obligation, which is key to global security,” Lavrov said.

The official also called for the withdrawal of all nonstrategic nuclear weapons to their countries of origin, *Interfax* reported. Russia is believed to have 2,000 battlefield nuclear bombs deployed within its borders, while a recent analysis estimated that no more than 200 U.S. tactical weapons remain fielded at bases around Europe.

The United States last month expressed willingness to pursue dialogue with Russia on potential further curbs to tactical and other nuclear weapons, *RIA Novosti* noted today.

All nuclear powers should reduce their atomic arsenals in keeping with Russian and U.S. efforts to that end, Lavrov said. The New START pact, which took effect on February 5, calls for Moscow and Washington to each cap their deployed strategic nuclear warheads at 1,550, down from a limit of 2,200 required by 2012 under an earlier treaty. It also sets a ceiling of 700 deployed warhead delivery systems, with another 100 allowed in reserve.

“The joining of all nuclear-declared states without exception to the process of limiting and reducing their own arsenals is becoming increasingly urgent,” Lavrov said yesterday. “Taking into account the principles of equality, parity, and equal and indivisible security fixed in the treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive armaments, it becomes a sort of ‘a golden standard’ for reaching accords in the military-political dimension of international relations.”

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The Kremlin's lead diplomat also called for consideration of a draft pact proposed by Russia and China in 2008 to prohibit the fielding of space-based armaments. An increase in the ability of governments to field orbital armaments and attack space-based assets "will be increasing its destabilizing influence," Lavrov said.

"We assume that [a space-based weapons] treaty should fix the legal commitments on parity basis, without dividing the countries into those that 'can' have weapons in space and those that 'cannot'," the diplomat said.

"We're hoping for the soonest beginning of substantive work on the Russian-Chinese project," he said. "If we do not get down to it without delay, we may lose time. We are confident that preventing the appearance of weapons in space is extremely necessary for the predictability of the strategic situation on the earth."

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Preparations for the CCW Fourth Review Conference Underway while Negotiations on Cluster Munitions Continue

States News Service, 01 March 2011, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The Group of Governmental Experts of the States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) devoted time during its first 2011 session held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, [Switzerland] from February 21-25, 2011, to discuss preparations for the CCW Fourth Review Conference (scheduled for November 14-25, 2011, in Geneva).

The Group held two meetings on this issue, notably to discuss the organizational aspects of the review conference and the Convention's universalization, respectively. Under the President designate of the Fourth Review Conference, Ambassador Gancho Ganev of Bulgaria, the Group decided to recommend for adoption by the Fourth Review Conference the provisional agenda and the rules of procedure of the review conference. The President designate also underscored that the universalization of the Convention and its Protocols will be one of the key elements of his presidency and that the implementation of the Plan of Action on the Universality of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, adopted by the 2006 Third Review Conference, will be thoroughly reviewed during the review conference.

Aside from the preparations for the Fourth Review Conference, the Group of Governmental Experts continued negotiations on the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations. The negotiations were chaired by Minister Jesus S. Domingo of the Philippines, who was reappointed by the 2010 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties. The Chairperson was assisted by Lt. Col. Leonidas F. Hidalgo of the Philippines Armed Forces, as Chairperson of the Meetings of the Military and Technical Experts. Moreover, Lt. Col. Jim Burke of Ireland, Ms. Anesa Kundurovi of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Mr. Philip Kimpton of Australia also facilitated the negotiations as the Friends of the Chair.

At the opening of the session the Chairperson underscored that his philosophy of the "three T's" approach – transparency, teamwork and time management – would continue to guide the work of the Group of Governmental Experts throughout his chairmanship. The Group met in both plenary and informal settings.

The Chairperson noted that the informal meetings provided a valuable opportunity to stimulate interactive dialogue among delegations in an effort to find ways for moving forward. During the session the United States delegation made a presentation on the "Shelf Life of U.S. Cluster Munitions."

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In his closing remarks Chairperson Domingo urged delegations that the work on cluster munitions would “require a lot of good will from all sides, including a constructive attitude and an open mind.” He stated that this year the States Parties must seriously decide on the fate of cluster munitions in the CCW context. He also said that the momentum which the Group had created in its first session should be maintained, especially in preparation for the Group’s second session. He and his team will prepare a new Chair’s paper based on the deliberations during the first session, which would be circulated to delegations in time for the beginning of the next session.

The second session of the Group of Governmental Experts will take place in Geneva from March 28 to April 1, 2011.

Background

The humanitarian impact of cluster munitions has been discussed within the CCW since 2001, first under a broader theme of explosive remnants of war, and since 2007 as the main item of the agenda of the Group of Governmental Experts. Although the Group has invested much effort during the last four years in drafting a new protocol on prohibitions and restrictions on the use of cluster munitions, there still exist divergent views on the content. Amidst such controversy, the States Parties eventually reached consensus to renew for another year the mandate of the Group at the 2010 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW. [...]

The Meeting of the High Contracting Parties decided to convene the Fourth Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention from November 14-25, 2011 at Geneva. The Meeting also decided to designate Ambassador Gancho Ganjev of Bulgaria as President of the Fourth Review Conference, and appointed Minister Jesus S. Domingo of the Philippines as Chairperson of the Group of Governmental Experts.

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Secretary Clinton Urges Treaty to Halt Production of Nuclear Bomb Material

Bloomberg, 28 February 2011, www.bloomberg.com

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called for an international treaty to bar production of plutonium and uranium for use in nuclear bombs, saying it was a crucial step to fulfilling President Barack Obama's vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

"Nearly 20 years after the end of the Cold War, the world has more than 20,000 nuclear weapons. As I speak to you today, centrifuges around the world are spinning out more enriched uranium," Clinton told a meeting of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament [CD] yesterday in Geneva [...]. Halting production of bomb-grade materials "is in the interest of every country," Clinton said, urging the UN to open negotiations on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty [FMCT] "without further delay."

The Obama administration says a successful treaty would halt production of material for nuclear weapons worldwide and would reduce the risk that plutonium or bomb-grade uranium would fall into the hands of terrorists. [...]

'No Justification'

"Our patience is not infinite. There is no justification for a single nation to abuse the consensus principle and forever thwart the legitimate desire of the 64 other states to get negotiations under way on an agreement that would strengthen our common security," Clinton said.

If the stalemate continues, "then the United States is determined to pursue other options," she said.

Alternatives may include separate talks outside the UN's Conference on Disarmament to negotiate a verifiable fissile material production halt, according to Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association. [...]

Nuclear Security

[...] If the world is "serious about reducing the possibility that fissile material could fall into terrorists' hands, then we must reduce the amount of such material that is available," Clinton said in Geneva.

The U.S. also supports "reducing stocks of separated plutonium and highly enriched uranium and minimizing the future use of highly enriched uranium for civilian purposes," Clinton said,

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adding that the Obama administration has made significant progress toward those goals with Russia and other countries.

Clinton referred to last year's Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, where 47 countries agreed to lock down vulnerable nuclear materials within four years, and completion of a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [New START] with Russia that will cut deployed strategic warheads to the lowest numbers since the 1950s.

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Kremlin to Seek Ratification of Plutonium Disposal Pact

Global Security Newswire, 04 March 2011, gsn.nti.org

The Kremlin is set to send a bill to Russia's State Duma for ratifying a deal with the United States on eliminating stockpiled weapon-grade plutonium, *ITAR-Tass* reported.

The updated version of the 2000 Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement [PMDA] recommits the two countries to each disposing of at least 34 metric tons of excess plutonium beginning in 2018. Moscow has certified the material it would eliminate under the pact is not needed to meet Russian security objectives.

Ivan Kamenskih, deputy head of the Russian nuclear energy firm Rosatom, and Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov would represent the Kremlin in legislative proceedings on the pact's ratification.

The United States is expected to provide \$400 million in assistance for the disposal of surplus Russian plutonium, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry. Moscow would set aside \$2.5 billion for the effort.

The plutonium would be eliminated "through recycling, through dilution of this material, and its use at nuclear power plants," Ryabkov said. "The Americans do the same on the parity basis."

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