DEFENSE TREATY INSPECTION READINESS PROGRAM · READINESS THROUGH AWARENESS

BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW

26 January – 08 February 2010

DTRA

GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

The President's Nuclear Vision [OPINION]

The Wall Street Journal, 29 January 2010, http://online.wsj.com/
By Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States
The United States faces no greater threat than the spread of nuclear weapons. *(808 words)*
Click here for full text.

Remarks on the Future of European Security

State Department, 29 January 2010, http://www.state.gov/
By Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State
… The United States has also been studying ways to strengthen European security and, therefore our own security, and to extend it to foster security on a global scale. *(892 words)*
Click here for full text.

Russia and United States Lead Calls to Reduce Nuclear Arsenals

The New York Times, 08 February 2010, http://www.nytimes.com/
On arms control, both sides tried to determine whether it was at all possible for President Barack Obama to realize his vision of a world without nuclear weapons. *(652 words)*
Click here for full text.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

UMCDF Resumes Mustard Agent Disposal Campaign

Chemical Materials Agency, 25 January 2010, http://www.cma.army.mil/
The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) has resumed mustard agent disposal after a pause to address requirements to avoid "boilovers" of ton containers while in the Metal Parts Furnace. *(262 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

Last Two U.S. Chemical Weapons Disposal Sites Funded at $550M

Global Security Newswire, 26 January 2010, http://gsn.nti.org/
Funding for preparation of the last two U.S. installations set to begin destruction of their chemical weapon stockpiles received a significant boost in the fiscal 2010 budget—roughly 30 percent over last year's allowance. *(1,033 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

U.S. Gains Momentum Destroying Chemical Weapon Stockpiles

Department of Defense U.S. Army Releases, 04 February 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The U.S. Army has destroyed more than 70 percent of its stockpiles of chemical weapons—some dating as far back as to the World War I era—as part of an elaborate, decades-long process slated to be largely completed by 2012, service officials said. *(962 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Administration's Stockpile Management Plan Underscores Effectiveness of U.S. Nuclear Arsenal without Testing and Importance of Test-Ban Treaty Ratification

States News Service, 29 January 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Experts from the nonpartisan Arms Control Association said today that the Obama administration's plan to increase long-term funding for the nuclear stockpile management program underscores the fact that the United States can maintain a reliable arsenal without resuming nuclear testing or building newly designed nuclear warheads. *(463 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

UNESCO and CTBTO Sign Agreement to Enhance Disaster Mitigation Efforts

CTBTO, 04 February 2010, http://www.ctbto.org/

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, signed an agreement on February 3 with Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, to enhance cooperation between the two organizations. *(246 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

FISSILE MATERIAL CUTOFF TREATY (FMCT)

India Reiterates Voluntary Moratorium on Nuclear Testing

Indo Asian News Service, 06 February 2010, http://in.news.yahoo.com/

Ahead of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, India has reiterated its commitment to voluntary unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing and has signaled its readiness to negotiate a verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT). *(263 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

U.S. Certifies India-IAEA Safeguards Agreement on Civil Nuclear Facilities

Indo-Asian News Service, 04 February 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

In yet another step towards full implementation of the India-U.S. civil nuclear deal, President Barack Obama has certified that India has placed its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. *(309 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

NNSA Administrator: Fy2011 Budget a "Direct and Tangible Display" of Commitment to Nonproliferation

States News Service, 03 February 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

These goals—investing in our nuclear security infrastructure and strengthening the NPT—are intertwined. *(600 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Russia, United States May Sign New Arms Cuts Treaty in March-April—Kremlin

RIA Novosti, 03 February 2010, http://en.rian.ru/

Russia and the United States may sign a nuclear arms reduction pact to replace the outdated START treaty in March or April, the Russian president's aide said on Wednesday. *(298 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

United States, Russia Close In on Nuclear Treaty

The Wall Street Journal, 03 February 2010, http://online.wsj.com/

U.S. and Russian arms control negotiators have reached an "agreement in principle" on the first nuclear arms reduction treaty in nearly two decades, administration and arms control officials said Tuesday. *(682 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

Russian, U.S. Lawmakers to Meet on Arms Control Treaty

Global Security Newswire, 05 February 2010, http://gsn.nti.org/

Russian and U.S. lawmakers plan to meet after an April nuclear security summit in Washington to discuss ratifying a successor to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, RIA Novosti reported today. *(390 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE)

Victoria Nuland Named Special Envoy for Conventional Armed Forces in Europe

Department of State, 02 February 2010, http://www.state.gov/

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is pleased to announce the appointment of Ambassador Victoria Nuland as Special Envoy for Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). *(140 words)* *Click here for full text.*

FULL TEXT OF WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

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The President's Nuclear Vision [OPINION]

The Wall Street Journal, 29 January 2010, http://online.wsj.com/
By Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States

The United States faces no greater threat than the spread of nuclear weapons. That is why, last April in Prague, President Obama laid out a comprehensive agenda to reverse their spread, and to pursue the peace and security of a world without them. He understands that this ultimate goal will not be reached quickly. But by acting on a number of fronts, we can ensure our security, strengthen the global nonproliferation regime, and keep vulnerable nuclear material out of terrorist hands.

For as long as nuclear weapons are required to defend our country and our allies, we will maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear arsenal. The president's Prague vision is central to this administration's efforts to protect the American people—and that is why we are increasing investments in our nuclear arsenal and infrastructure in this year's budget and beyond.

Among the many challenges our administration inherited was the slow but steady decline in support for our nuclear stockpile and infrastructure, and for our highly trained nuclear work force. The stockpile, infrastructure and work force played a critical and evolving role in every stage of our nuclear experience, from the Manhattan Project to the present day. Once charged with developing ever more powerful weapons, they have had a new mission in the 18 years since we stopped conducting nuclear tests. That is to maintain the strength of the nuclear arsenal.

… Last year, the Strategic Posture Commission led by former Defense Secretaries William Perry and James Schlesinger warned that our nuclear complex requires urgent attention. …The same skilled nuclear experts who maintain our arsenal play a key role in guaranteeing our country's security now and for the future. State-of-the art facilities, and highly trained and motivated people, allow us to maintain our arsenal without testing. They will help meet the president's goal of securing vulnerable nuclear materials worldwide in the coming years, and enable us to track and thwart nuclear trafficking, verify weapons reductions, and to develop tomorrow's cutting-edge technologies for our security and prosperity.

To achieve these goals, our budget devotes $7 billion for maintaining our nuclear weapons stockpile and complex, and for related efforts. This commitment is $600 million more than Congress approved last year. And over the next five years we intend to boost funding for these important activities by more than $5 billion. Even in a time of tough budget decisions, these are investments we must make for our security. We are committed to working with Congress to ensure these budget increases are approved.

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This investment … will strengthen our ability to recruit, train and retain the skilled people we need to maintain our nuclear capabilities. It will support the work of our nuclear labs, a national treasure that we must and will sustain. Many of our facilities date back to World War II, and, given the safety and environmental challenges they present, cannot be sustained much longer. Increased funding now will eventually enable considerable savings on both security and maintenance. It also will allow us to clean up and close down production facilities we no longer need.

Our budget request is just one of several closely related and equally important initiatives giving life to the president's Prague agenda. Others include completing the New START agreement with Russia, releasing the Nuclear Posture Review on March 1, holding the Nuclear Security Summit in April, and pursuing ratification and entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We will by these initiatives seek to strengthen an emerging bipartisan consensus on how best to secure our nation. These steps will strengthen the nonproliferation regime, which is vital to holding nations … accountable when they break the rules, and deterring others from trying to do so.

Reflecting this consensus, Senator John McCain has joined the president in endorsing a world without nuclear weapons—a goal that was articulated by President Ronald Reagan, who in 1984 said these weapons must be "banished from the face of the Earth." This consensus was inspired by four of our most eminent statesmen—Messrs. Henry Kissinger, William Perry, Sam Nunn and George P. Shultz.

Some critics will argue that we should not constrain our nuclear efforts in any way. Others will assert that retaining a robust deterrent is at odds with our nonproliferation agenda. These four leaders last week in these pages argued compellingly that "maintaining high confidence in our nuclear arsenal is critical as the numbers of these weapons goes down. It is also consistent with and necessary for U.S. leadership in nonproliferation, risk reduction and arms reduction goals."

This shared commitment serves our security. No nation can secure itself by disarming unilaterally, but as long as nuclear weapons exist, all nations remain ever on the brink of destruction. As President Obama said in Prague, "We cannot succeed in this endeavor alone, but we can lead it, we can start it."

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Remarks on the Future of European Security

State Department, 29 January 2010, http://www.state.gov/
By Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State

… The United States has … been studying ways to strengthen European security and, therefore our own security, and to extend it to foster security on a global scale. … Europe…includes the United States as its partner…[and] Russia. … [I]n this century, security cannot be a zero-sum game. The security of all nations is intertwined. And we have a responsibility to work to enhance each other's security, in part by engaging with others on … new ideas and approaches.

Now, the Russian Government under President Medvedev has put forth proposals for new security treaties in Europe. Indivisibility of security is a key feature of those proposals. And that is a goal we share, along with other ideas in the Russian proposals which reaffirm principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the NATO-Russia Founding Act. However, we believe that these common goals are best pursued in the context of existing institutions, such as the OSCE and the NATO-Russia Council, rather than by negotiating new treaties, as Russia has suggested—a very long and cumbersome process.

I want to emphasize, though, even though we may have differences with Russia, the United States is very proud of what our two countries have accomplished together during the past year. … Together, we have made progress on a range of … matters, including … negotiating a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty …

In this interconnected age, and particularly on this integrated continent, a threat that originates in one country can quickly become a regional or even global crisis. To keep Europe safe, we must keep the channels of communication open by being forthright about our policies and approaches.

That begins with transparency. The United States supports a more open exchange of military data, including visits to military sites and observation of military activities and exercises because when nations are uncertain about the military capabilities of their neighbors, that uncertainty can foster suspicion and even lead to conflict. As we work together to advance security across the continent, we must be able to trust each other enough to share information that could in real time make a difference in protecting the lives of our citizens.

To this end, the Conventional Forces in Europe [CFE] Treaty needs our attention. For more than 20 years, the CFE Treaty has been a cornerstone of conventional arms control, transparency, and confidence-building. But this valuable regime is in danger of crumbling. Two years ago, Russia suspended the implementation of the CFE Treaty, while the United States and our allies continue to do so. …

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We must not allow the transparency and stability that the CFE regime has provided to erode further. We should revive discussions on the way forward with our allies, Russia, and other signatories. Our goal should be a modern security framework that takes into account developments in Europe since the original treaty was drafted, limits military deployments, and strengthens the principles of territorial integrity, non-first use of force, the right of host countries to consent to stationing foreign troops in their territory.

It is only through such an approach that we can provide the reassurance that no country is secretly preparing its forces to attack another. I meet with foreign ministers and defense ministers and heads of state on a regular, ongoing basis. And there is still a great deal of concern on the part of Central and Eastern Europeans that something may be happening they're not aware of, that some action may be taken that is directed at them. So to achieve our goal of greater transparency, we will consult closely with our allies on how we can best put this fundamental principle into practice. …

[P]eople everywhere have the right to live free from the fear of nuclear destruction. … Well today, the United States and Russia are close to concluding a new START treaty to dramatically reduce the size of our strategic nuclear arsenals. But now we face increased threats—that nuclear materials will fall into the wrong hands or that certain states will develop or even choose to use them.

… President Obama declared the long term goal of a world without nuclear weapons. As long as these weapons exist, the United States will maintain a safe, secure, and effective arsenal to deter any adversary, and we will guarantee that defense to our allies. But we will begin the work of reducing our arsenal. And as we do so, we will spare no effort to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and to secure existing stockpiles and materials.

In April in Washington, President Obama will host a Nuclear Security Summit to draw high level attention to the threat posed by nuclear terrorism and to galvanize support for tough measures to secure vulnerable nuclear material across the globe. And in May, we will reaffirm and reinforce the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] at its review conference. And we continue to work with other nations and the United Nations to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials to terrorists and non-nuclear states.

We will seek to ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT] and to negotiate a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty [FMCT]. And we are conducting a comprehensive Nuclear Posture Review to chart a new course that strengthens deterrence and reassurance for the United States and our allies while reducing the role and number of the nuclear weapons we have. …

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Russia and United States Lead Calls to Reduce Nuclear Arsenals

The New York Times, 08 February 2010, http://www.nytimes.com/

[On arms control … at the Munich Security Conference this weekend, both sides … tried to determine whether it was at all possible for President Barack Obama to realize his vision of a world without nuclear weapons. … U.S. and Russia officials said here that they believed the Cold War … was truly over.

Publicly, the Americans have taken the lead toward curbing nonproliferation in a remarkable bipartisan consensus. They sent former secretaries of states as well as defense secretaries to Munich—including Henry Kissinger, Sam Nunn, George Shultz and William Perry—and other leading advocates of arms control.

"In a new international landscape, the role of nuclear weapons has changed," said Richard Burt, chairman of the Global Zero Initiative in Washington and a veteran U.S. arms control negotiator. "For better or for worse, nuclear weapons contributed to stability through deterrence," Mr. Burt told the Munich audience. "But now there is the competition between the forces of integration and the forces of disintegration, making the world a more dangerous place." Weapons of mass destruction could fall into the hands of terrorists or rogue states, he added.

To curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the United States and Russia said during the weekend that they hoped to conclude a new agreement that would envisage deep cuts in land-based strategic missiles. Such an accord would build on the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, known as START II, which called for the elimination of almost three-quarters of the nuclear warheads and all the multiple-warhead land-based missiles held by the United States and the former Soviet republics. START II was ratified by the U.S. Senate in January 1996 and by the Russian legislature in April 2000 [but never entered into force].

[T]he Americans and Russians said at Munich that a new strategic arms reduction treaty would be only the first step. "Russia and the United States bear a special responsibility for the disarmament process," said Sergei Ivanov, Russia's first deputy prime minister. "At the same time, it would be an obvious simplification to boil it all down only to Russian-American relations. Nuclear disarmament is a common objective for all parties to the Nonproliferation Treaty."

A conference in May called to review the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, or NPT, is important for Mr. Obama as he tries to promote a new global consensus on nuclear nonproliferation. The NPT, which entered into force in 1970, was claimed at the time as one of the most effective tools in curbing the spread of nuclear weapons. The five permanent members of the U.N Security Council—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France—have signed the NPT,

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but other nuclear states, including Israel and India, have not. "The NPT risks unraveling unless we do something about the challenges," … [Senator John] Kerry said at the Munich conference.

Mr. Obama wants to go further by having the United States ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty [CTBT], ban the production of fissile material worldwide, and give the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] more authority and resources to tighten the NPT regime. Even if the United States and Russia do take the lead in reducing nuclear weapons, however, other nuclear armed countries may not follow suit.

Mayankote K. Narayanan, former national security adviser of India, gave no hint in Munich that India would either sign up to the NPT or reduce its nuclear arsenal. U.S. and Russian officials are not convinced that Pakistan would reduce its nuclear weapons, … [a]nd it is not clear whether Britain, China, and France would react to American and Russian reductions with reductions of their own.

The Obama administration is not prepared to wait for their responses. "If we do not change our thinking, we will face the chance of a nuclear weapon attack," Mr. Kerry said. But neither Mr. Kerry nor Mr. Ivanov said they believed that a world free of nuclear weapons was possible in their lifetimes.

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UMCDF Resumes Mustard Agent Disposal Campaign

Chemical Materials Agency, 25 January 2010, http://www.cma.army.mil/

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) has resumed mustard agent disposal after a pause to address requirements to avoid "boilovers" of ton containers while in the Metal Parts Furnace. The facility last processed ton containers on October 27, 2009. The UMCDF resumed processing Sunday and disposed of its first ton container at 4:13 p.m.

The UMCDF started mustard agent processing in June 2009 and has since eliminated 160 ton containers of mustard agent while operating in a shakedown (or testing) phase, in preparation for the upcoming Agent Trial Burn and Comprehensive Performance Test. On December 23, 2009, the UMCDF submitted to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) a supplemental package to its existing Agent Trial Burn Plan. The submittal included adjusted shakedown and trial burn strategies, including lower processing rates, to address carbon monoxide emission requirements related to boilovers. DEQ has given UMCDF permission to resume shakedown operations while it continues to review the Agent Trial Burn Plan and solicit public comment.

"Resuming mustard disposal operations and completing the destruction of Umatilla's remaining chemical weapons stockpile is important in meeting our obligation to ensure the long term safety and security of the surrounding communities," said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, depot commander. "We are committed to making sure that everything we do, we do safely," said Mike Strong, the Army's site project manager at UMCDF.

Disposal of HD mustard containers is the 13th and final individual chemical munitions disposal campaign for the depot and disposal plant. The mustard disposal campaign is expected to take between one and two years to complete.

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Last Two U.S. Chemical Weapons Disposal Sites Funded at $550M

Global Security Newswire, 26 January 2010, http://gsn.nti.org/

Funding for preparation of the last two U.S. installations set to begin destruction of their chemical weapon stockpiles received a significant boost in the fiscal 2010 budget—roughly 30 percent over last year's allowance.

The major appropriations hike comes as Washington looks to demonstrate to the international community that it is maintaining a good faith effort to finish destroying its chemical arsenal soon as possible, even if there is no chance of meeting the Chemical Weapons Convention deadline of April 2012.

The Defense Department's Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives [ACWA] program received $550 million in fiscal 2010, which began on October 1 of last year. Funding was fully set only last month. The ACWA program is in charge of munitions destruction operations at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado and the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency [CMA] has conducted disposal work at the remaining seven other stockpile sites.

To date, the Pentagon has destroyed more than 70 percent of the country's original declared arsenal of 31,500 tons of chemical warfare materials. Stockpiles at Pueblo and Blue Grass represent 10 percent of the stockpile and are respectively expected to be destroyed by 2017 and 2021—meaning both would miss the already extended international disposal deadline and the Kentucky site would continue operations past the congressionally mandated end date of 2017. …

Lawmakers in Colorado and Kentucky have pressed for more money for chemical agent neutralization sites, and Defense Secretary Robert Gates requested $545 million to cover construction, administrative and research and development costs, officials and observers said. Congress added another $5 million.

No amount of funding is expected to allow disposal work to accelerate to the point of meeting the Chemical Weapons Convention schedule or even Congress' 2017 mandate. "We clearly cannot make 2012," said ACWA Program Manager Kevin Flamm. "As much as we would love to be in that situation, that just is not in the realm of possibility."

The program has been constrained by funding levels and setbacks in development of the disposal facilities, along with legal restrictions that would make it impossible to transfer the Colorado and Kentucky stockpiles to states with operating disarmament facilities.

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The latest funding does, though, allow the Pentagon to push ahead with awarding some major construction contracts. That will support its aim to finish work at Pueblo in 2017 rather than the earlier anticipated date of 2020 and at Blue Grass in 2021 rather than 2023. …

All parties to the convention were supposed to have destroyed any chemical stockpiles by April 2007. Several received schedule extensions, with the United States successfully requesting the maximum five-year allowance. Congress entered the fray three years ago with its own demand as it became increasingly apparent that the country would not be able to make the deadline.

In its efforts to catch up to lawmakers' demand for full chemical disarmament by 2017, the ACWA program is considering new options to speed weapons disposal schedules. Washington is also working to demonstrate to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons [OPCW], the monitoring agency for the convention, that it is sincerely striving to destroy its chemical agents as quickly as possible.

Defense officials are searching for technological ways to bridge an anticipated gap in disposal work so that operations can proceed continuously. In December, ACWA representatives briefed residents near Pueblo and Blue Grass on their proposal to use a method called Explosive Destruction Technology to eliminate some munitions at both installations. …

Under the current schedule, there are two projected periods when no disposal work would be going on in the country. The first gap is projected to begin in January 2012, when the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency finishes operations, and end in January 2015, when the chemical neutralization facility at Pueblo comes online. The second break is projected to last from December 2017 to October 2018—the time between the point at which the Pueblo site finishes work and the Blue Grass facility comes online.

Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives officials are proposing to use mobile Explosive Destruction Technology systems that would allow disposal operations to begin at Pueblo in 2012 while the full Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant there is still under construction. Flamm said officials are considering several EDT options that include a trailer-mounted mobile system used by the U.S. Army for years to destroy recovered chemical munitions and the commercial DAVINCH system that has been employed in Japan and Belgium. …

Using explosive technologies would be expected to shorten disposal work by months, not years, Flamm said. The technology might be applied to 15 percent of the chemical weapons stockpiles at each site, according to Flamm. Explosive technology is being considered for 125,000 mustard agent-filled munitions in Colorado and 15,000 mustard- and nerve-agent filled projectiles in

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Kentucky. Congressionally mandated citizens' advisory commissions in both states have opposed the use of the technology beyond the small amount of munitions deemed too dangerous to send through the agent neutralization process. … Williams said the Kentucky advisory commission was presently opposed to the proposal but would wait and see if and how it was applied in Colorado before objecting further. An ACWA assessment on the feasibility of using Explosive Destruction Technology has been sent to the Defense Department for review.

Progress on destroying the other 90 percent of the United States chemical weapons stockpile continues relatively unabated. As of January 20, the Army had eliminated 22,263 tons of chemical agent—70.7 percent of the United State's original declared tonnage, according to CMA spokesman Greg Mahall. The agency's fiscal 2010 budget is $1.56 billion. That is down slightly from the agency's fiscal 2009 budget of $1.6 billion. Approximately $1.15 billion of this year's funding is set to go to operations and maintenance, Mahall said.

Three of the agency's seven sites have completed their work. Weapons disposal operations continue at the Anniston Army Depot in Alabama, the Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas, the Umatilla Chemical Depot in Oregon, and the Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah. The Army's working estimates for disposal work to be finished is: June 2013 for Utah; January 2013 for Umatilla; December 2012 for Anniston; and May 2011 for Pine Bluff, according to Mahall. …

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U.S. Gains Momentum Destroying Chemical Weapon Stockpiles

Department of Defense U.S. Army Releases, 04 February 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The U.S. Army has destroyed more than 70 percent of its stockpiles of chemical weapons—some dating as far back as to the World War I era—as part of an elaborate, decades-long process slated to be largely completed by 2012, service officials said.

"As of January 26, 2010, the United States has destroyed 22,322 tons of the original 31,500 tons," said Greg Mahall, chief of Public Affairs for the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA). The U.S. arsenal—which used to include 31,500 tons of chemical weapons such as Sarin, VX and Mustard agents—is systematically being destroyed at an increased pace, Mahall said.

"It is a tremendous success story. Not only is the U.S doing all it can to meet its international commitments, but more importantly the Chemical Materials Agency is contributing to the national security of the United States in the process. These weapons in the wrong hands can do harm. They are safely and securely storing and destroying them while providing maximum protection to the public and environment," said Carmen Spencer, deputy assistant Secretary of the Army (Elimination of Chemical Weapons).

The Army's Chemical Stockpile Elimination mission, which destroyed more than 3,084 tons of chemical weapons at four facilities during 2009, has been working since the early 90's—several years before the 1992 drafting of an international Chemical Weapons Convention arms control agreement calling for the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and a prohibition on their use and production. "Production went into a moratorium based on direction from President Nixon in the late 60's," Mahall said.

Article I of the CWC, initially signed in 1993 and now ratified by as many as 188 countries, states in part: "Each State Party undertakes to destroy chemical weapons it owns or possesses, or that are located in any place under its jurisdiction or control, in accordance with the provisions of this convention."

Recognizing the weapons had become obsolete, the U.S. did not wait for ratification of the CWC Treaty, Mahall said. "We began destroying our agents at Johnston Atoll [a remote outpost in the central pacific 825 miles southwest of Hawaii] in 1990," said Mahall. "The weapons had a limited tactical use and had been overcome in America's arsenal by other more potent weapons in the nuclear age. The U.S. quit making them, which means stocks on hand sat in storage deteriorating."

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The Annual Status Report on the Disposal of Chemical Weapons and Materiel for Fiscal Year 2009 states that $1,548 million was appropriated during the year for chemical agents and munitions destruction. "CMA remains committed to our storage and destruction mission and remains vigilant to safely completing that mission while protecting the workforce, the public, and the environment," wrote CMA director Conrad F. Whyne in the report.

In addition to the weapons stored on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific, chemical weapons stockpiles were dispersed among eight locations within in the continental U.S. at Army facilities in Anniston, Alabama, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Tooele, Utah, Umatilla, Oregon, Aberdeen, Maryland, Newport, Indiana, Blue Grass, Kentucky, and Pueblo, Colorado.

Destruction of the stockpiles at Blue Grass, Kentucky, and Pueblo, Colorado, now falls under Department of Defense (DoD) management with Army assistance; the remaining sites are currently part of the Army's Chemical Stockpile elimination program. "All of the nerve agent under CMA destruction has been destroyed with the exception of a small amount of GA (Tabun) in Utah. Comparatively small amounts remain in storage awaiting destruction in Kentucky," said Mahall.

Water and sodium hydroxide-based neutralization methods were used to destroy stockpiles at facilities in Aberdeen, Maryland and Newport, Indiana—and incineration technology is employed at other Army locations including Anniston, Umatilla, Tooele, and Pine Bluff, Army officials said. The stockpiles at Pueblo and Blue Grass are being destroyed under DoD auspices using water oxidation and neutralization methods, stockpile destruction at Pueblo will be finished by 2017, and destruction at Blue Grass is slated to be finished by 2021, Spencer said.

Chemical weapons such as mortars, projectiles or 155mm artillery shells are disassembled and incinerated inside robustly engineered plants adjacent to the storage igloos where the chemical weapons are kept, Mahall said. "Robotics reverse-assemble these weapons—unscrewing the nose cone, pulling out the fuse and draining the agent out of the weapon. Then you have two different destruction streams. The hard substances and the liquid agents," said Mahall. "The liquid agents will be stored in a holding tank then sprayed into a furnace called the liquid incinerator.

Basically, destruction is a matter of time and temperature. The agents have high, natural BTU quotients and burn quite well. At a temperature of 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit agent will be destroyed completely in a matter of one-to-two seconds." The bullet, rocket or bomb casings—the hard substances—are placed on a conveyor belt, put into a metal furnace and burned for at least 15 minutes at temperatures up to 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit to ensure total destruction of whatever agents might be left, Mahall said.

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Given the nature and age of the agents involved, safety and environmental concerns are emphasized and placed at a premium. "A tremendous amount of money has gone in meeting the environmental standards and we have exceeded environmental standards. Our safety record is unparalleled," said Spencer.

The areas where the incineration takes place are built for safety with 22-inch thick concrete walls, Mahall said. "Plus, the plant has a cascading negative air system where air is pulled in so that if a weapon would release gas due to some of sort of structural failure, any vapors would caught up in the cascading air system and kept in the plant," Mahall said. "Also, carbon air filters would decontaminate the plant air in the event that anything does leak out before that air is released outside engineering controls."

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Administration's Stockpile Management Plan Underscores Effectiveness of U.S. Nuclear Arsenal without Testing and Importance of Test-Ban Treaty Ratification

States News Service, 29 January 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The following information was released by the Arms Control Association:

Experts from the nonpartisan Arms Control Association said today that the Obama administration's plan to increase long term funding for the nuclear stockpile management program underscores the fact that the United States can maintain a reliable arsenal without resuming nuclear testing or building newly designed nuclear warheads.

In an opinion editorial by Vice-president Joseph Biden in today's edition of The Wall Street Journal, Biden said that the administration plans to increase the National Nuclear Security Administration's nonproliferation and stockpile management program budget by $600 million in the coming fiscal year (about 10 percent above current levels) and by approximately $5 billion over the next 5 years.

"The administration's approach is consistent with independent technical assessments that have found that the U.S. nuclear arsenal can continue to be refurbished through non-nuclear tests and evaluations and, as necessary, the remanufacture of warhead components to previous design specifications," said Daryl G. Kimball, Executive Director of the Arms Control Association and Director of the Project for the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT].

Department of Energy studies completed in 2006 indicate that weapons plutonium is not affected by aging for more than 85 years, and the JASON independent technical review panel concluded in last September that "lifetimes of today's nuclear warheads could be extended for decades, with no anticipated loss in confidence." These findings indicate that new-design replacement warheads are not needed to maintain reliability. A 2002 National Academy of Science panel, which included three former nuclear weapons lab directors, found that the current Stockpile Stewardship Program provides the technical capabilities that are necessary to maintain confidence in the safety and reliability of the existing nuclear stockpile, "provided that adequate resources are made available...and are properly focused on this task."

"Contrary to myth, the U.S. nuclear arsenal is not 'degrading.' In fact a major effort to refurbish warheads and modernize the weapons complex has been underway for some time. Even without this additional funding, confidence in the ability to maintain U.S. warheads in the absence of nuclear test explosions has been increasing," said Tom Z. Collina, ACA's Research Director.

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"We urge the administration and Congress to focus the nuclear weapons laboratories' resources on core stockpile surveillance and maintenance tasks, refrain from research and development on new-design warheads, and guard against unnecessary alterations to existing warheads that could undermine their reliability," Collina added.

"There is no technical or military reason to resume U.S. nuclear weapons testing. At the same time, it is in U.S. national security interests to do all we can to prevent others from conducting nuclear tests, which could allow them to prove new and advanced nuclear warhead designs. It is time for the administration to work with the Senate to reconsider and approve the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty," concluded Kimball.

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UNESCO and CTBTO Sign Agreement to Enhance Disaster Mitigation Efforts

CTBTO, 04 February 2010, http://www.ctbto.org/

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, signed an agreement on February 3 with Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), to enhance cooperation between the two organizations, notably for the benefit of tsunami early warning systems.

The verification regime of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) uses cutting-edge technologies and scientific methods to monitor the planet for nuclear explosions. The resulting data offer a wide range of civil and scientific applications.

At the signing ceremony, Ms Bokova noted that: "The agreement will lead to greater synergy between UNESCO and the CTBTO, especially for capacity-building in developing countries. Besides their importance in disaster mitigation, the data received by the CTBTO from its global network of monitoring stations can advance research on ocean processes and marine life and contribute to sustainable development." …

Following the devastating tsunami on December 26, 2004, UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the CTBTO agreed to explore the potential of using data from the CTBT's International Monitoring System (IMS) for tsunami warning purposes. The CTBTO is currently sending data to tsunami warning centers in Australia, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, and the United States, increase their ability to issue more rapid warnings.

The CTBT bans all nuclear explosions. The CTBT's verification regime will comprise 337 facilities worldwide when complete. Monitoring data have a number of other possible uses including research on the Earth's core, monitoring of earthquakes and volcanoes, climate change research, atmospheric monitoring and biological research.

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India Reiterates Voluntary Moratorium on Nuclear Testing

Indo Asian News Service, 06 February 2010, http://in.news.yahoo.com/

Ahead of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, India has reiterated its commitment to voluntary unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing and has signaled its readiness to negotiate a verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT).

India also drew the attention of the world community to the dangers of proliferation of nuclear weapons in its neighborhood, a reference to the A.Q. Khan network of nuclear smuggling in Pakistan, and warned against the threat of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of jihadi and non-state actors.

“Despite our well known reservations on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), India is committed to its voluntary unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing,” Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Special Envoy Shyam Saran told Global Zero Summit on nuclear disarmament in Paris Wednesday.

The conference held discussions on eliminating all nuclear weapons by 2030.

'We are prepared to negotiate a verifiable FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. We are not a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and cannot respond to calls for universal adherence to that treaty as a non-nuclear weapons state,' he said.

Saran reiterated India's commitment to universal verifiable nuclear disarmament and stressed its “impeccable and universally acknowledged credentials on nonproliferation”, that led the Nuclear Suppliers Group to re-open nuclear trade with India in September 2008.

India has refused to sign the NPT and CTBT on grounds that these treaties are “discriminatory” and divide the world into the nuclear haves and have-nots.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will represent India at the Nuclear Security Summit that US President Barack Obama will host in Washington in April. …

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U.S. Certifies India-IAEA Safeguards Agreement on Civil Nuclear Facilities

Indo-Asian News Service, 04 February 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

In yet another step towards full implementation of the India-U.S. civil nuclear deal, President Barack Obama has certified that India has placed its nuclear facilities under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

Obama made the Congressionally-mandated certification Wednesday in a presidential memorandum to the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton asking her to have it inserted in the Federal Register that records all government actions.

Obama's confirmation that India has formally agreed to provide the UN nuclear watchdog access to a specified number of nuclear reactors takes the deal yet another step closer to implementation of the landmark deal. Military facilities are excluded from the safeguards agreement.

But a couple of other crucial steps are still pending. India and the United States are still negotiating an agreement on reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel. The two sides are said to be on track to complete the talks by August as provided under the deal.

India also needs to approve liability protection for U.S. companies. The Indian cabinet has approved the necessary legislation, but it has yet to be placed before parliament.

In a presidential memorandum released by the White House, Obama wrote: "I hereby determine and certify that:

1. The agreement between the government of India and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards to civilian nuclear facilities, as approved by the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency on August 1, 2008 (the 'Safeguards Agreement'), has entered into force; and

2. The government of India has filed a declaration of facilities pursuant to paragraph 13 of the Safeguards Agreement that is not materially inconsistent with the facilities and schedule described in paragraph 14 of the Separation Plan present in the national Parliament of India on May 11, 2006, taking into account the later initiation of safeguards that was anticipated in the Separation Plan."

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NNSA Administrator: Fy2011 Budget a "Direct and Tangible Display" of Commitment to Nonproliferation

States News Service, 03 February 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

In his first public remarks since the President's FY2011 Budget Request was sent to Congress on Monday, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Administrator Thomas D'Agostino called it a "direct and tangible display of the President's commitment to this mission, and a demonstration of the critical role NNSA plays in implementing the President's unprecedented nuclear security agenda."

Speaking to an International Nuclear Materials Monitor (INMM) workshop on the upcoming Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference, Administrator D'Agostino said the $2.7 billion President Obama requested for nonproliferation programs—up 25.8 percent from FY2010—support strengthening global nonproliferation efforts by bolstering NNSA programs that play a critical role in meeting the President's goal of securing vulnerable nuclear material within four years.

D'Agostino also highlighted the connection between strengthening NNSA's infrastructure and strengthening nuclear nonproliferation efforts. As D'Agostino noted, "the same state-of-the art facilities and highly trained and motivated people that allow us to maintain our arsenal without testing also help meet the President's goal of securing vulnerable nuclear materials worldwide in the coming years."

The following are excerpts of Administrator D'Agostino's remarks as prepared for delivery:

On the emerging consensus in Washington: "Between Vice President Biden's op-ed in the Wall Street Journal on Friday, and the President's budget request on Monday, I believe that we are reaching a critical juncture. We are beginning to see what the Vice President called 'an emerging bipartisan consensus' on a path forward for our nuclear security strategy. The President's budget request reverses the decline in support for the nuclear security enterprise, which will enable us to implement the ambitious agenda he laid out in his Prague speech."

On the connection between strengthening the NNSA and strengthening the NPT: "These goals—investing in our nuclear security infrastructure and strengthening the NPT—are intertwined. The same state-of-the art facilities and highly trained and motivated people that allow us to maintain our arsenal without testing also help meet the President's goal of securing vulnerable nuclear materials worldwide in the coming years. They are critical to maintaining our ability to track and thwart nuclear trafficking, verify weapons reductions, and to develop tomorrow's cutting-edge technologies for our security and prosperity."

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On President Obama's budget request: "Overall, the NNSA nonproliferation budget increases nearly 26 percent over FY2010—a direct and tangible display of the President's commitment to this mission, and a demonstration of the critical role NNSA plays in implementing the President's unprecedented nuclear security agenda. I applaud the President for his leadership on these issues and look forward to working with Congress to get this budget passed."

On securing vulnerable nuclear material: "President Obama's FY2011 Budget Request makes clear that the United States will do its part. It includes a 67 percent increase our Global Threat Reduction Initiative to accelerate the removal and disposition of high priority vulnerable nuclear material overseas and convert additional HEU-fueled research reactors to the use of less proliferation-sensitive low enriched uranium fuel. It requests a 10 percent increase in Nonproliferation and Verification research and development (R&D) funding, expands security and detection programs of our Second Line of Defense and Megaport programs, and enhances efforts in safeguards, export control, and our other nonproliferation programs."

On strategic arms reductions: "Under President Obama's leadership, the United States is demonstrating concrete progress towards the goal of a world without nuclear weapons, while continuing to emphasize the critical importance of a stable, reliable international nonproliferation regime to further disarmament success. For this reason, the United States is taking steps to reduce both the numbers and the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy, and urge other nations to do the same."

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Russia, United States May Sign New Arms Cuts Treaty in March-April—Kremlin

RIA Novosti, 03 February 2010, http://en.rian.ru/

Russia and the United States may sign a nuclear arms reduction pact to replace the outdated START treaty in March or April, the Russian president's aide said on Wednesday. "The wordings have been mainly agreed on, some minor disagreements remain," Sergei Prikhodko said.

Disagreements over verification and control procedures prevented Moscow and Washington from signing a new deal before the New Year break to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START 1), which expired on December 5. President Dmitry Medvedev and his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama ordered a speedy completion of the deal last week. A new round of talks on the treaty began on Monday.

Another Kremlin official said on condition of anonymity on Wednesday that U.S. experts close to the negotiations have named Prague as a possible venue for the signing of the deal. "Moscow has not rejected the choice," he said. "The treaty is likely to be signed in a third country." …

The Kremlin official also said the new treaty will heed Moscow's concerns about the U.S. missile defense plans, but did not elaborate further. The United States dropped an earlier plan for an antimissile defense system in Europe, which also included an interceptor missile base in Poland, earning a strong welcome from Moscow. But last month, Washington said it was dispatching Patriot missiles to Poland. …

Russia has been alarmed by the growing NATO presence on its western borders and threatened to respond to any change in the military balance on the borders.

A senior Russian lawmaker, meanwhile, flew to the United States on Wednesday to prepare a coordinated ratification of a new strategic arms reduction treaty. The new treaty's outline, as agreed on by the Russian and U.S. leaders, includes cutting nuclear arsenals to 1,500-1,675 operational warheads and delivery vehicles to 500-1,000.

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United States, Russia Close In on Nuclear Treaty

The Wall Street Journal, 03 February 2010, http://online.wsj.com/

U.S. and Russian arms control negotiators have reached an "agreement in principle" on the first nuclear arms reduction treaty in nearly two decades, administration and arms control officials said Tuesday. The deal, which was widely expected, would bring down deployed nuclear warheads and sharply limit the number of missiles and bombers that can deliver them.

Rose Gottemoeller, the Obama administration's lead negotiator, flew to Geneva Monday to help draft the final text and begin what could still be an arduous process of translating the agreement into treaty language, an administration official said. "There may be finessing and fine tuning, but the issues, from our perspective, are all addressed," the official added.

The deal would bring the ceiling for deployed nuclear weapons down to between 1,500 and 1,675 per side, from the 2,200 agreed to in 1991, but nuclear delivery systems would fall more sharply, to between 700 and 800 each from the current limit of 1,600. In fact, both sides have already reduced their nuclear armed bombers, submarines and missiles to below 1,000.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, a Washington based advocacy group, said the agreement is a milestone, the first arms control treaty to not only set goals on warhead deployments but to establish strict limits, with verification measures to hold each side to those limits. …

"At our Nuclear Security Summit in April, we will rally nations behind the goal of securing the world's vulnerable nuclear materials in four years," Mr. Obama said in a statement Tuesday that was read at a "Global Zero" nuclear arms summit in Paris.

The breakthrough on a follow-on treaty to the now lapsed Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty came two weeks ago when National Security Adviser James Jones and Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, went to Moscow to work through two issues on verification, the sharing of data on missile flight tests and inspections at missile production facilities, White House officials said.

The deal was approved in principle last week during a phone conversation between Mr. Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. Under the agreement, the Russians will share flight test data, something they had resisted as they develop more modern ballistic missiles. But monitoring of a key ballistic missile site in Russia, which ended in 2008, won't resume, according to officials familiar with the accord.

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A senior Russian official said major issues are getting resolved and talks are "in the home stretch." The Kremlin is hopeful a deal could be finalized in a few weeks or so, the official said.

The U.S. administration official cautioned that the final drafting could take a week to two months, depending on snags that could arise. When the U.S. and Russian presidents announced the arms control talks in April of last year, they set a deadline of Dec. 5 to complete them. That deadline slipped, and White House aides are hesitant to declare victory now.

But Mr. Kimball said the deal will clear the way for the broader Obama nuclear agenda. When the accord is formally unveiled, he said, both sides are expected to announce "consultations" on more ambitious arms talks that would further bring down strategic nuclear forces and limit the deployment of smaller, battlefield nuclear weapons.

The administration is also pushing for the ratification of an international nuclear test-ban treaty, negotiated during the Clinton administration, ahead of a United Nations conference to review the fraying nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty later this year. Mr. Obama hopes the efforts made with Russia and on the test ban will strengthen his hand as he tries to further isolate the Iranian and North Korean nuclear weapons programs.

The nuclear deal comes as U.S. officials are increasingly optimistic that Russia is also getting behind a new economic sanctions package on Iran. The Obama administration has coordinated closely with Moscow on the issue and jointly presented a nuclear fuel swap agreement to Tehran in October in a bid to reduce tensions. Iran's rejection of the deal, however, has angered Russia and pushed the Kremlin closer to the U.S. position, said American and Russian officials.

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Russian, U.S. Lawmakers to Meet on Arms Control Treaty

Global Security Newswire, 05 February 2010, http://gsn.nti.org/

Russian and U.S. lawmakers plan to meet after an April nuclear security summit in Washington to discuss ratifying a successor to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, RIA Novosti reported today. U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev pledged last July to cut their nations' respective strategic arsenals to between 1,500 and 1,675 deployed nuclear warheads under the new treaty.

Negotiators have reportedly also agreed to reduce each state's arsenal of nuclear delivery vehicles—missiles, submarines and bombers—to between 700 and 800, down from the 1,100-vehicle limit set by the leaders in July. "The work on the text (of a new treaty) is almost completed. After the presidents sign the treaty ... it will be the task of the (U.S.) Senate and Russia's Federal Assembly ... to ratify the agreement," said Mikhail Margelov, chairman of the Russian Federation Council's international affairs committee.

Margelov said many members of the two bodies lack familiarity with the work that was needed to implement the 1991 arms control pact, which expired in December. "That is why a large educational work is needed," he said in Washington. "That is why we agreed today with my colleague from the Senate, Senator Ben Nelson of Nebraska (D), to organize immediately after the April nuclear summit a joint meeting of our ... working group here, in Washington ... in order to discuss our working schedule, as the presidents agreed on the coordinated ratification of the treaty."

"It would be a mistake to claim that we need the ratification of the new START treaty more than the Americans," the lawmaker added, according to ITAR-Tass. "We also have a lot of those wishing to increase the armaments, and they also have enough of such people. Therefore, we equally need the ratification."

The U.S. State Department yesterday avoided confirming recent reports that an agreement on the treaty was imminent and that it might be signed this spring in Prague, Agence France-Presse reported. "We are optimistic that with the START negotiations having reconvened this week in Geneva, that ... the remaining issues can be resolved and negotiations completed rather quickly," said spokesman P.J. Crowley.

"With that said, I wouldn't put a particular timeline on it," he said. "Let's get across the finish line, and then we can figure out where we go from there," ITAR-Tass quoted him as saying.

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Victoria Nuland Named Special Envoy for Conventional Armed Forces in Europe

Department of State, 02 February 2010, http://www.state.gov/

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is pleased to announce the appointment of Ambassador Victoria Nuland as Special Envoy for Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE).

Ambassador Nuland and her staff will work under the daily direction of Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Ellen Tauscher in close coordination with the Bureau of European Affairs, the Bureau of Verification, Compliance and Implementation, and an interagency team, to develop new approaches to addressing security challenges in the Euro-Atlantic area and to develop ideas to modernize our current conventional arms control structures.

She also will work with our NATO Allies and our European partners in conventional arms control, including Russia, on diplomatic solutions.

Ambassador Nuland is a 26-year veteran of the Foreign Service with past postings as U.S. Ambassador to NATO and at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

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