



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



23 February – 08 March 2010

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

OPCW Director-General Visits Washington D.C. for High Level Meetings

OPCW, 23 February 2010, <http://www.opcw.org/>

Following a visit to the U.S. chemical weapons destruction facility in Anniston, Alabama the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, visited Washington D.C. on 18 and 19 February 2010 for high-level meetings with U.S. officials. (295 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Chemical Weapons Detonation Won't Harm Environment, Study Finds

Global Security Newswire, 02 March 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

A federally mandated study has found that there would be "no significant impacts" to the environment through a U.S. Defense Department proposal to detonate a portion of the chemical weapons stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado, the Pentagon announced Friday. (573 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Reaffirms Commitment to Destroy Chemical Weapons by 2012

RIA Novosti, 03 March 2010, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia will complete the construction of chemical weapon destruction plants in 2011 and will destroy all chemical weapons stockpiles by 2012, a government official said on Wednesday. (257 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Blue Grass Depot Clears International Audit

Global Security Newswire, 05 March 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

The Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky passed an annual international inspection last month as part of verification procedures aimed at ensuring U.S. compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention, the U.S. Army Chemical Material Agency announced this week. (224 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

CTBT Organization Enhances Our National Security

State Department DipNote, 02 March 2010, <http://blogs.state.gov/>

Posted by Ellen O. Tauscher, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

Last month, the United States delivered a \$30 million payment to the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, the entity responsible for developing the organizational framework to administer the global nuclear test ban treaty once CTBT enters into force. (328 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

Training IAEA Inspectors

IAEA, 23 February 2010, <http://www.iaea.org/>

There are currently 250 inspectors and every year the IAEA runs an introductory course on the safeguards systems for the organization's newly appointed inspectors. (692 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

EU to Begin Press on Nuclear Standards

The New York Times, 08 March 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

The head of the European Commission was to begin a push Monday for European safety standards for nuclear power plants to become binding worldwide. (553 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

Statement by President Obama on the 40th Anniversary of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty

The White House, 05 March 2010, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Remarks by Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

Forty years ago today, in the midst of a Cold War, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) entered into force, becoming the cornerstone of the world's efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. (428 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

40th Anniversary of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty

State Department, 05 March 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>

Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State

We are reaffirming our NPT commitments to make progress toward nuclear disarmament and guarantee access to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes to all those abiding by their nonproliferation commitments. (379 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russian Envoy Calls for UN Resolution on Observing Nonproliferation Treaty

BBC Worldwide Monitoring, 05 March 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The UN Security Council should pass a resolution on compulsory compliance with the provisions of the NPT, Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna Roland Timerbayev has said. (203 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Nuclear Treaty Faces Tough Slog on Hill

The Washington Post, 04 March 2010, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

One of President Obama's signature initiatives—the completion of a new nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia—faces a steep challenge in obtaining Senate approval this year, lawmakers and staff members in both parties tell The Cable. (365 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Carries Out Successful Test of Sineva ICBM

RIA Novosti, 04 March 2010, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia successfully test-launched a Sineva intercontinental ballistic missile from a submarine in the Barents Sea on Thursday, a Defense Ministry spokesman said. (191 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Not to Enhance Nuclear Deterrent: Medvedev

Xinhua News, 05 March 2010, <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english2010/>

Russia does not intend to beef up its nuclear potential, but will keep nuclear weapons that are key to the country's independence, President Dmitry Medvedev said Friday. (246 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Obama Seeks to Reduce Role of U.S. Nuclear Weapons

Reuters, 05 March 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

President Barack Obama said on Friday a forthcoming review of the U.S. nuclear posture would reduce the number and role of nuclear weapons in Washington's national security strategy.

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

TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE)

Russia Not Happy with One-Sided Provisions in CFE Treaty—Envoy to NATO

Interfax, 05 March 2010, accessed via *Open Source Center*

Russia is ready to participate in the Treaty on the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, but not on crushing terms, Russia's permanent representative to NATO Dmitriy Rogozin has said.

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

FULL TEXT OF WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:



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OPCW, 23 February 2010, <http://www.opcw.org/>

Following a visit to the U.S. chemical weapons destruction facility in Anniston, Alabama the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, visited Washington D.C. on February 18-19, 2010 for high-level meetings with U.S. officials. He was accompanied on this visit by Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, who will succeed Ambassador Pfirter as Director-General in July.

Director-General Pfirter and Ambassador Üzümcü met with Ms. Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, and with Mr. Andrew Weber, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, Department of Defense. The Director-General congratulated Ms. Tauscher and Mr. Weber for the U.S. government's having completed the destruction of 70 percent of its declared chemical weapons stockpile, as verified by OPCW inspectors. He provided them an update on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and discussed the status of U.S. chemical weapons destruction activities. Ms. Tauscher and Mr. Weber reaffirmed the strong support of the United States for the work of the OPCW and for the full implementation of the CWC.

The Director-General and Ambassador Üzümcü also met with Ms. Karin Look, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance, and with Mr. Vann Van Diepen, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation.

In addition, they visited the Department of Commerce where they were received by Mr. Daniel Hill, Acting Under Secretary of Commerce, and met at the American Chemistry Council with Mr. Michael Walls, the Vice President of Regulatory and Technical Affairs.

The Director-General and Ambassador Üzümcü visited Capitol Hill where they met with senior staff members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

They also met with Dr. Paul Walker, Director of Global Green USA's Security and Sustainability program, and other NGO representatives.

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Global Security Newswire, 02 March 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

A federally mandated study has found that there would be "no significant impacts" to the environment through a U.S. Defense Department proposal to detonate a portion of the chemical weapons stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado, the Pentagon announced Friday.

The environmental assessment was conducted by the Pueblo depot and the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program, which is preparing for disposal operations in Colorado and at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. The study examined the possible environmental effects of installing and operating the Army's Explosive Destruction System and other explosive detonation technologies at the weapons site, according to an ACWA release.

"The environmental assessment concludes that no significant environmental impacts would occur as the result of the construction and operation of the EDS and/or other explosive destruction technology systems," according to a release from the Pueblo installation.

Chemical weapons disposal operations at Colorado are projected to wrap up in 2017 and disposal work is slated to finish four years later in Kentucky. Current projections indicate that there will be periods when no chemical weapons disposal work would be occurring in the United States, following the destruction of the last materials overseen by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency around 2012.

In order to bridge that gap, the Pentagon has proposed to use explosive technologies to eliminate a portion of the munitions stockpiled in Colorado and Kentucky while work on the chemical neutralization facilities in the two states continues.

Leaking munitions that have been placed in special containers would be destroyed in the initial phase of the proposed plan, according to the Pueblo release. The second phase would involve the blowing up of boxed munitions. When the Pueblo neutralization facility goes online, only troublesome ordnance and any remaining overpacked weapons would be destroyed by explosives.

"The proposed action would support the overall goals of (1) increasing the program's confidence to complete destruction of the [Pueblo Chemical Depot] inventory of chemical weapons by 2017, (2) maintaining the continuity of U.S. chemical weapons destruction operations, and (3) conducting the destruction activities in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner," the release states.

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Irene Kornelly, chairwoman of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission, told the Associated Press that the study did not provide sufficient details.

"They say, 'Well, we're going to have enough water to do the process' ... but they don't tell us how much water the process needs," Kornelly said.

Another member of the advisory panel, Ross Vincent, said he would have liked to see the Defense Department undertake a more detailed assessment that would have provided a greater degree of documentation and specifics as well as have a longer public review process.

"Now they want to do a major change in the project and they want to blow it off with a superficial document and a finding of no significant impact," Vincent said.

The public has two months, from February 27 to April 27, to comment on the document.

ACWA Program Manager Kevin Flamm said the study was comprehensive and pointed out that the public comment period extends a month longer than what is mandated by law.

"If the public feels we have overlooked some aspect, that's what the comment period is for," Flamm said.

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials and depot contractors informed the Pueblo City Council yesterday that they were on track to eliminate the 780,000 mustard munitions stockpiled at the depot between 2015 and 2017, the Pueblo Chieftain reported.

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Russia Reaffirms Commitment to Destroy Chemical Weapons by 2012

RIA Novosti, 03 March 2010, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia will complete the construction of chemical weapon destruction plants in 2011 and will destroy all chemical weapons stockpiles by 2012, a government official said on Wednesday.

Russia signed the Chemical Weapons Convention banning the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, and use of chemical arms in 1993, and ratified it in 1997. The country has destroyed 18,000 metric tons, or 45 percent of its chemical weapons stockpiles as of December 2009.

Gen. Nikolai Abroskin, head of the Federal Agency for Special Construction, said during a collegiate meeting at the agency that despite the recent financial crunch Russia would meet its obligations and destroy the remaining 22,000 metric tons of chemical weapons by 2012.

The country has allocated \$7.18 billion from the federal budget for the implementation of the program, and has so far built five chemical weapon destruction plants - in Gorny (Saratov Region), Kambarka (Republic of Udmurtia), Nizhny Novgorod, the Maradykovo complex (Kirov Region), and Siberia's Kurgan Region. Another two are under construction.

Abroskin said the completion of chemical weapon destruction facilities remained a priority in 2010.

"We should be able to launch the first stage of the facility in Pochep [Bryansk Region], and second stages of the facilities in Leonidovka [Penza Region] and Shchuchiye [Kurgan Region]...which will allow us to finish the construction of all chemical weapon destruction plants in 2011 and destroy all chemical weapons by 2012 in line with the federal program," he said.

By 2016 – 2017, Russia aims to finish all the remaining work under the project, including decontamination and equipment dismantlement, the official said.

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Five inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the international body that oversees implementation of the convention, visited the depot for four days in late February to carry out a physical examination of the weapons stockpile that included tabulating stocks inside every storage igloo, according to a CMA press release.

"Inspections are extensive and thorough," Depot Treaty Compliance Officer Deborah Boston said in a statement. "The inspectors physically count every munition stored in the Chemical Limited Area. I was greatly impressed by the professionalism and the courtesy of the international inspectors as they completed this exhaustive task."

The Kentucky depot has been audited 14 times under the convention and each time it has been deemed in full compliance.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Defense Department has submitted to the House Armed Services Committee a report on national efforts to meet the convention deadline of April 2012 for the destruction of all chemical munitions. U.S. officials have said it is not possible to meet that deadline, though they are hopeful that disposal work will be complete by the end of 2017 as mandated by Congress.

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CTBT Organization Enhances Our National Security

State Department DipNote, 02 March 2010, <http://blogs.state.gov/>

Posted by Ellen O. Tauscher, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.

Last month, the United States delivered a \$30 million payment to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Preparatory Commission, the entity responsible for developing the organizational framework to administer the global nuclear test ban treaty once CTBT enters into force.

This payment for 2009 and 2010 enhances our national security.

More than half of the \$30 million will be used to build additional International Monitoring System (IMS) stations, which supplement our ability to detect a nuclear explosion around the world. The rest of the money will sustain the day-to-day operations of existing IMS stations, support analysis of seismological and other data collected by the IMS network, and further develop the organization's ability to field inspectors when the Treaty enters into force.

While the Obama Administration is committed to securing the Senate's advice and consent to ratify the CTBT, the IMS continues to provide real time benefits even in the absence of the Treaty's entry into force.

Within hours in 2006 and 2009, the IMS detected North Korea's nuclear test explosions. IMS data validated independent assessments and provided a basis for the international community to take firm action in the United Nations against North Korea.

In addition, the CTBTO's work to develop the treaty's on-site inspection mechanism ensures that, once the treaty enters into force, the United States and others will have the leverage to draw upon this tool to detect cheating—a benefit denied us so long as the United States refuses to ratify this treaty.

Finally, the CTBTO can contribute to purposes apart from detecting possible nuclear weapons explosions. Following the devastating earthquake in Chile early Saturday morning, real time data from approximately 20 seismic and hydroacoustic IMS stations enabled a series of rapid alerts to provide advance warning to affected nations. IMS stations played a similar role immediately following the earthquake in Haiti.

America's involvement in, and support for, the CTBTO is another example of how international engagement can serve our own national interests.

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Training IAEA Inspectors

IAEA, 23 February 2010, <http://www.iaea.org/>

Students gather and chatter nervously at the end of an intensive, three-month course. They are waiting for exam results. The examiner asks for silence: "Thanks for showing up," he says. "We should now discuss the results of the test."

"Question one was relatively clear. 'Under the Additional Protocol, which following statements are correct?' The correct answer is F. Any questions?"

These are not your regular students. They are future IAEA safeguards inspectors and the Additional Protocol is just one of the many aspects of the organization's system of safeguards they need to understand.

After months of training the new recruits are now embarking on their first inspections at nuclear facilities around the world.

IAEA safeguards are measures through which the Agency seeks to verify that a state is not diverting nuclear material or equipment to develop or produce nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Activities include placing seals, installing cameras and verifying inventories, receipts and shipments at nuclear facilities.

States accept the application of such measures through the conclusion of safeguards agreements with the IAEA and the Agency currently applies safeguards to more than 170 countries and inspects over 900 nuclear facilities.

There are currently 250 inspectors and every year the IAEA runs an introductory course on the safeguards systems for the organization's newly appointed inspectors.

Therese Renis, an experienced inspector who conducts part of the introductory course, said: "We verify declared nuclear materials at declared facilities. But in addition to measuring nuclear material, reviewing accountancy and auditing the books, we're always looking for signs or indications of potentially undeclared nuclear materials and activities."

"So there is a whole set of tools the inspectors need to learn. They need to understand the safeguards system in general, the legal background, the underpinnings for the activities we conduct."

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She added that the inspectors need to learn how to use the various types of equipment they need in the field and how to record the results of their inspections once they come back to IAEA headquarters.

"Of course we can't teach the new inspectors everything, but we can arm them with the tools and skills they need to first go into the field and start to conduct their activities there," said Ms. Renis.

Thirteen fledgling inspectors, recruited from many different countries across the world, took part in the training course, which involved written and oral tests and concluded with an inspection exercise at an operating nuclear power plant.

"The course has been very demanding but also very fruitful," said one new inspector from Mexico adding that he sees his new position as both a "challenge and a privilege. ... This job gives me the opportunity to be part of a system that is working in favor of peace and security in the world," he said. ...

Another student from Nigeria, who was educated in nuclear physics and formerly employed by British Nuclear Fuels, said that he was attracted to the job because he wants to represent Africa on a global stage and be part of a team that "makes the world more peaceful." ...

And a new inspector from Indonesia, who worked for 20 years for the Indonesian Atomic Energy Agency as a senior safety engineer said: "I learned so much about the safeguards system, issues that I never knew before. For example, the legal aspects, the technical matters and how we carry out the verifications."

In general the inspectors travel for up to 100 days in a year and, depending on the location, could be away for up to four weeks. They visit a wide range of nuclear facilities, including power plants, research reactors, fuel fabrication and reprocessing facilities. In 2009 over 2000 inspections were performed.

Vacancies for new inspectors are posted periodically on the IAEA's website. Candidates need to have a university degree in engineering or science and experience in the nuclear field.

"There are a wide range of attributes and skills that are desirable, but we recognize that not all candidates will have all skills. So we look for the people with the right sets of skills that will complement the teams we already have at the IAEA," said Therese Renis.

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EU to Begin Press on Nuclear Standards

The New York Times, 08 March 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

The head of the European Commission was to begin a push Monday for European safety standards for nuclear power plants to become binding worldwide, a development that might benefit France as it competes to sell its expensive technology and expertise against countries offering cheaper alternatives.

José Manuel Barroso said in a speech to be delivered at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD] in Paris that the European Union [EU] was “the first big regional actor to make the main international norms for nuclear security internationally binding.”

...If member governments of the Union agree, the bloc is expected to present the proposal at a summit meeting scheduled for Washington in mid-April to be hosted by President Barack Obama, at which world leaders are to discuss balancing the goal of nuclear disarmament with the prospects for rapid growth in the civilian nuclear power sector.

The Union agreed to nuclear safety standards with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and adopted them into law last year. The standards include safe construction and operation of reactors, handling of radioactive materials, providing adequate levels of information to the public, using independent safety regulators, and decommissioning.

Many other nations using nuclear power also have similar standards. But [EU] officials said that making the rules legally binding in Europe had made them more enforceable and they want to see similar standards of enforcement globally. ...

Mohamed ElBaradei, the director general of the IAEA, praised the EU's security standards in November, before he stepped down from that job, and he said they should be made binding on all other nations. The IAEA operates under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], which is meant to assure that plutonium made in civilian reactors is not transferred to military use.

The initiative shows the [EU is] seeking to ensure that nations using nuclear energy put in place systems, and possibly equipment, with standards as high as Europe's, to ensure the peaceable spread of the technology. But the initiative was not designed to promote European technologies or designs in particular, according to the [EU] officials. ...

Nuclear power still is hugely sensitive in Europe nearly a quarter-century after the disaster in Chernobyl in Ukraine, when a Soviet-era reactor melted down and radioactive particles were blown over parts of Western Europe.

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Seeking to address some of those concerns, Mr. Barroso also will announce plans for new legislation promoting the permanent burial of the waste deep underground in geologically stable areas.

Around the world, waste and spent fuel are stored on an interim basis in pools of water or in casks, many near ground level. That leads to concerns about the vulnerability of the materials to disasters like terrorist attacks, and it raises persistent questions about whether the materials can be effectively monitored for periods that exceed recorded human history many times over.

The legislation suggested by Mr. Barroso would oblige member states to adhere to standards on waste disposal, and it would oblige member states to put in place national programs to handle waste. But the legislation would not mandate a date to establish underground disposal sites.

There are no long-term facilities for disposing or burying high-level nuclear waste anywhere in the world, although a Finnish company, Posiva, is digging a tunnel at Olkiluoto in anticipation of final approval for storing waste a quarter of a mile underground. ...

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Statement by President Obama on the 40th Anniversary of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty

The White House, 05 March 2010, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Remarks by Barack Obama, President of the United States of America

Forty years ago today, in the midst of a Cold War, the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) entered into force, becoming the cornerstone of the world's efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Today, the threat of global nuclear war has passed, but the danger of nuclear proliferation endures, making the basic bargain of the NPT more important than ever: nations with nuclear weapons will move toward disarmament, nations without nuclear weapons will forsake them, and all nations have an “inalienable right” to peaceful nuclear energy.

Each of these three pillars—disarmament, nonproliferation and peaceful uses—are central to the vision that I outlined in Prague of stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and seeking a world without them.

To promote disarmament, the United States is working with Russia to complete negotiations on a new START treaty that will significantly reduce our nuclear arsenals. Our forthcoming Nuclear Posture Review will move beyond outdated Cold War thinking and reduce the number and role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy, even as we maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent. In addition, we will seek to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and negotiate a treaty to end the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons.

To prevent proliferation, we will build on the historic resolution that we achieved at the United Nations Security Council last September by bringing together more than 40 nations at our Nuclear Security Summit next month with the goal of securing the world's vulnerable nuclear materials in four years. At this spring's treaty review conference and beyond, we will continue to work with allies and partners to strengthen the NPT and to enforce the rights and responsibilities of every nation, because the world cannot afford additional proliferation or regional arms races.

Finally, to ensure the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the United States seeks a new framework for civil nuclear cooperation among nations, including an international fuel bank and the necessary resources and authority to strengthen the International Atomic Energy Agency. For nations that uphold their responsibilities, peaceful nuclear energy can help unlock advances in medicine, agriculture and economic development.

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It took years of focused effort among many nations to bring the NPT into force four decades ago and to sustain it as the most widely embraced nuclear agreement in history. On this 40th anniversary, the United States reaffirms our resolve to strengthen the nonproliferation regime to meet the challenges of the 21st century as we pursue our ultimate vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

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40th Anniversary of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty

State Department, 05 March 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>

Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State

Forty years ago today, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) entered into force, setting up a framework of norms and rules to curtail the spread of nuclear weapons. In the decades since, more states have relinquished nuclear weapons—or decided against pursuing them—than have acquired them, in large measure because of the international consensus embodied in the NPT.

The Obama administration is working to renew that consensus. We are reaffirming our NPT commitments to make progress toward nuclear disarmament and guarantee access to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes to all those abiding by their nonproliferation commitments. Our diplomats, including Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation Susan Burk, have been traveling the globe to bolster international support for the Treaty. And in May, the nations from around the world will convene at the United Nations in New York for the NPT Review Conference, which takes place every five years.

A key to the treaty's success has been its legally binding structure, which holds member nations accountable, discourages proliferation, and brings the benefits of nuclear energy to all corners of the world. As President Obama said in Prague last year, "Rules must be binding. Violations must be punished. Words must mean something." Unfortunately, a few states, such as North Korea and Iran, continue to defy the international community and their own obligations. We are working with our partners to convince these states to change their course.

The United States is taking other steps to address worldwide nuclear threats and build on the NPT's foundation. We are negotiating a verifiable arms reduction treaty with Russia. President Obama is hosting a Nuclear Security Summit in April to prevent nuclear terrorism. Our forthcoming Nuclear Posture Review will move beyond outdated Cold War thinking and reduce the number and role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy, even as we maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent. And the administration will seek ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and pursue a verified fissile material cut-off treaty.

President Obama set forth a vision last April on moving toward a world free of nuclear weapons. The NPT regime is integral to that vision and on this anniversary we reaffirm our commitment to lead the world's effort to renew and revitalize this historic agreement.

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Russian Envoy Calls for UN Resolution on Observing Nonproliferation Treaty

BBC Worldwide Monitoring, 05 March 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The UN Security Council should pass a resolution on compulsory compliance with the provisions of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna Roland Timerbayev has said.

"The UN has the right to pass a resolution according to which complying with the treaty on guarantees would become obligatory," Timerbayev said on Friday [March 5] at a Moscow conference on issues of nuclear nonproliferation.

The treaty on guarantees, signed by 95 countries, makes it possible to monitor not only actions regarding nuclear weapons which individual states announce to the international community, but also information which they prefer to hide, the diplomat said.

Timerbayev also said that the UN Security Council could pass a resolution according to which a state that has announced that it is withdrawing from the NPT would be obliged to return all technology and nuclear material that it had received when it signed the treaty.

The ambassador also proposed increasing the notice period for withdrawing from the NPT from three months to one year.

Meanwhile, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Sergio Duarte, who was taking part in the conference, proposed concentrating work on promoting compliance with the NPT instead of punishing those that violate it.

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Nuclear Treaty Faces Tough Slog on Hill

The Washington Post, 04 March 2010, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

One of President Obama's signature initiatives—the completion of a new nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia—faces a steep challenge in obtaining Senate approval this year, lawmakers and staff members in both parties tell *The Cable*.

Negotiations on the treaty, a successor to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), were supposed to have been completed in December when the old agreement expired, but the U.S. and Russian sides have failed to reach a deal.

The delay has led many on Capitol Hill to warn that there is just not enough time to go through a lengthy ratification process that Congress hasn't attempted in years. Many are also skeptical that leading critics of the administration's arms-control policies will allow ratification to go through, even when it reaches the Hill.

Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John F. Kerry (D-Mass.), who will be responsible for shepherding the treaty through the Senate, said its survival will depend on when it materializes and whether the administration is able to keep contentious issues such as missile defense out of the document.

"It depends on when we get it; we haven't seen it," Kerry said in an interview. "The administration is appropriately holding out for what we need to make the treaty verifiable, and that will help it pass."

"It's going to be hard to get it ratified," said Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl M. Levin (D-Mich.). Hill staffers said reviewing and clarifying questions about the treaty would take at least six months—and then there is the August recess.

Kerry said there are legitimate disagreements with the Russians, mainly over how to address U.S. missile defense plans, but the administration has to try to minimize issues that could "be exploited" by leading GOP skeptics such as Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.).

"If it has those kinds of questions, it could be problematic," Kerry said. As for whether there are 67 votes for it in the Senate, Kerry said, "I have no idea."

Committee ranking member Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) was more optimistic. "I remain hopeful that it will be signed and that there will be time assigned on the floor for debate and a vote this year," he said.

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Russia Carries Out Successful Test of Sineva ICBM

RIA Novosti, 04 March 2010, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia successfully test-launched a Sineva intercontinental ballistic missile from a submarine in the Barents Sea on Thursday, a Defense Ministry spokesman said.

He said the missile was launched at 7:50 a.m. Moscow time (04:50 GMT) from the Tula (Delta IV-class) submarine. The RSM-54 Sineva (NATO designation SS-N-23 Skiff) is a liquid-propellant submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) designed for Delta IV-class submarines that can carry up to 16 missiles each.

The Sineva, which is already in service, is seen as a rival to the troubled Bulava, which has been specifically designed for the new Borey-class submarines but whose future development has been called into question by some lawmakers and defense industry officials over a string of failed tests.

However, the Russian military has insisted that there is no alternative to the Bulava and pledged to continue testing the missile until it is ready to be put into service with the Navy.

The Bulava has officially suffered seven failures in 12 tests. Some analysts suggest that in reality the number of failures was considerably larger, with Russian military expert Pavel Felgenhauer contending that of the Bulava's 12 test launches, only one was entirely successful.

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Russia Not to Enhance Nuclear Deterrent: Medvedev

Xinhua News, 05 March 2010, <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english2010/>

Russia does not intend to beef up its nuclear potential, but will keep nuclear weapons that are key to the country's independence, President Dmitry Medvedev said Friday.

"We do not need to build up the potential of our strategic deterrence, but possession of nuclear weapons is crucial to pursuing independent policies and to safeguarding sovereignty," Medvedev said at a meeting with Defense Ministry officials.

Russia has been seeking a policy aimed at "maintaining peace, preventing armed conflicts, and contributing to the resolution of post-conflict problems," he said.

Medvedev reiterated that Moscow and Washington had come very close to clinching a new arms control deal.

"We managed to come very close to a new nuclear arms reduction treaty that will further cut relevant arms in a relatively short period of time through intensive talks with the United States," he was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Earlier this week, Medvedev said during a visit to Paris that Russia and the United States were "close to an accord concerning all the issues" of their nuclear disarmament negotiations.

Russia and the United States last year began talks on a replacement for the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-1) that expired on December 5. But they failed to reach a deal before the end of 2009.

An outline of the new arms deal, agreed to by Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama last July, includes each country cutting its number of nuclear warheads to between 1,500 and 1,675.

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Obama Seeks to Reduce Role of U.S. Nuclear Weapons

Reuters, 05 March 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

President Barack Obama said on Friday a forthcoming review of the U.S. nuclear posture would reduce the number and role of nuclear weapons in Washington's national security strategy.

"In addition, we will seek to ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and negotiate a treaty to end the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons," Obama said in a statement marking the 40th anniversary of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

A 1999 vote on U.S. ratification of the CTBT fell 19 votes short of the 67 needed for approval by the Senate, which at the time was controlled by Republicans. Ratification now is expected to be similarly difficult under a Democratic majority.

"Our forthcoming Nuclear Posture Review will move beyond outdated Cold War thinking and reduce the number and role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy, even as we maintain a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent," Obama said in the statement.

Obama will host a summit on April 12-13 bringing together representatives from as many as 43 countries to help secure the world's loose nuclear material.

He called last year in Prague for a world without nuclear weapons and has made nonproliferation a priority.

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Russia Not Happy with One-Sided Provisions in CFE Treaty—Envoy to NATO

Interfax, 05 March 2010, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia is ready to participate in the Treaty on the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), but not on crushing terms, Russia's permanent representative to NATO Dmitriy Rogozin has said.

"Russia has always been in favor of maintaining arms control in Europe and this stance remains topical. But we keep repeating that today the ball is in NATO's court," Rogozin told Interfax today, commenting on NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen's appeal to Moscow to resume negotiations on the CFE treaty.

Rogozin said that Russia had formulated its concerns about the treaty's implementation long ago. "We are not happy with the one-sided nature of certain provisions of the CFE treaty. These are, first of all, the so-called flank limits which put our country in a unique situation," Rogozin said.

"The uniqueness of the situation consists, particularly, in that we are obliged to coordinate with the USA and their NATO allies the movement of a single Russian tank from the north to the south of Russia," he said.

Rogozin went on to say that it was difficult to imagine a situation whereby "the American people would agree with the fact that the U.S. government would not be able to move one gun from Kansas to Arkansas without Moscow's permission."

That is why Russia insists on considering all issues, including the CFE treaty, in the spirit of partnership, Rogozin said. "They should be resolved in the interests of strengthening stability and security in Europe and of the transparency of military planning," he said.

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