



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



26 August – 08 September 2008

DTRA

ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

Rice: United States Has Aided in Nuclear Regulation

The Washington Post, 8 September 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Sunday [September 7] defended the Bush administration's record on restraining the spread of nuclear weapons, asserting that the record shows "we have left this situation or this issue in far better shape than we found it." (609 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Anniston Marks Five-Year Anniversary

GSN, 22 August 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

Five years after beginning to destroy U.S. chemical weapons at an Anniston, Alabama, storage depot, officials are starting to plan for the future of the project's workers, the Anniston Star reported yesterday [August 23]. (193 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Colorado Sues over CW Disposal Schedule

GSN, 3 September 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The Colorado Public Health and Environment Department said yesterday [September 2] it had followed through on its plan to file a lawsuit demanding that all chemical weapons stored in the state be destroyed by 2017, the Associated Press reported. (547 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

New Incinerator Planned for Deseret Chemical Depot

GSN, 4 September 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The U.S. Defense Department is considering building another incinerator at the Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah to destroy a limited amount of weapons material, the Tooele Transcript Bulletin reported Tuesday [September 2]. (272 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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CONVENTION ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

Negotiations on Cluster Munitions in CCW Enter a Decisive Stage

States News Service, 28 August 2008, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The Fourth 2008 Session of the Group of Governmental Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the [CCW] will convene to... "negotiate a proposal to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations." (452 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Russia to Take Active Part in CTBT Inspection Exercises in Kazakhstan

Interfax-AVN, 1 September 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Kazakhstan will host exercises organized by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Organization, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday [September 1]. (194 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CTBTO-WMO Cooperation Enhances Nuclear Test-Ban Verification

M2 PressWIRE, 1 September 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The ability to detect the location of possible nuclear explosions will be significantly enhanced following the provisional entry into operation today (September 1, 2008) of a joint response system of the Preparatory Commission for the [CTBTO] and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). (393 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CTBTO Starts First Ever On-Site Inspection Simulation

M2 PressWIRE, 2 September 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The biggest and most ambitious project to date to test the preparedness of on-site inspections... started on September 1, 2008 in Kazakhstan. (600 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME (MTCR)

South Korean Government to Ease Control of Strategic Materials for Exporters on Compliance Program

Yonhap, 31 August 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Seoul said on Sunday [August 31] that it will ease control over strategic materials that can be used to make weapons of mass destruction for companies that follow a state-sponsored compliance export program. (343 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OPEN SKIES TREATY

Canada Takes Part in the 500th Open Skies Treaty Flight

Canadian Corporate Newswire, 27 August 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Canadian Forces personnel participated in a historic flight with Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg over Bosnia-Herzegovina on 20 August 2008 aboard a Belgian aircraft...

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

Belarusian, Russian Inspectors Fly Observation Mission over Poland

Russia & CIS General Newswire, 29 August 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Belarusian and Russian inspectors flew an observation flight over Poland on Friday [August 29] under the Open Skies treaty, the Belarusian Defense Ministry told Interfax. (48 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

U.S. Weighs Halt to Talks with Russia on Nuclear Arms Curbs (OPINION)

Jay Solomon and Gregory L. White

The Wall Street Journal, 29 August 2008, accessible at <http://georgiandaily.com/>

The Bush administration, escalating its response to Russia's actions in Georgia, has placed under review talks with Moscow focused on missile defense and nuclear weapons disarmament, according to U.S. officials... (911 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)(CONT.)

CSTO Favors New Agreement to Replace Expiring START

Interfax-AVN, 04 September 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) foreign ministers have called for a new agreement, which would replace the expiring Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [START] between Moscow and Washington. (132 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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Rice: United States Has Aided in Nuclear Regulation

The Washington Post, 8 September 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Sunday [September 7] defended the Bush administration's record on restraining the spread of nuclear weapons, asserting that the record shows "we have left this situation or this issue in far better shape than we found it."

Rice's remarks came a day after the administration succeeded in persuading a 45-nation group that regulates trade in nuclear equipment and materials [the Nuclear Suppliers Group, or NSG] to grant an exemption that allows civilian nuclear trade with India. The deal has been heavily criticized by nuclear experts because India is one of the few countries that has refused to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT].

Rice, speaking to reporters after she wrapped up a tour of North Africa with meetings with Moroccan officials, said that the agreement will "expand the reach" of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] because it will be able to monitor civilian reactors that India has agreed to place under international scrutiny. Reactors involved in India's weapons program, however, will remain off-limits.

Congress must still approve the India deal, but the international imprimatur is a significant personal victory for Rice. She set the agreement in motion just weeks after becoming the top U.S. diplomat in 2005, pushing for a dramatic change in policy that took even the Indian government by surprise.

In lengthy remarks, Rice also pointed to the breakup of a Pakistani nuclear smuggling ring, the creation of a proliferation monitoring group, and the administration's diplomacy on North Korean, Iranian, and Libyan weapons programs as other successes.

"I think this is a very strong record," Rice said. "These problems took a long time to emerge. They are not going to be resolved overnight. They won't be resolved by any single administration. But this nonproliferation-counterproliferation problem is in a very much better and a very different place than when we came."

Libya in 2003 agreed to give up its biological, chemical and nuclear weapons programs, a decision Rice called "a major breakthrough" and one that sparked a restoration in relations with the United States. Rice on Friday flew to Tripoli and met with Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi, becoming the first secretary of state in 55 years to visit the country.

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But the North Korean and Iranian efforts have achieved less success, many experts say. North Korea's nuclear program was frozen under an agreement struck in 1994 with the Clinton administration, but that deal collapsed in 2002 after the Bush administration accused Pyongyang of clandestine nuclear work. North Korea then restarted its nuclear reactor and produced enough plutonium for half a dozen weapons.

Last year, the United States, working with China, Japan, South Korea, and Russia, succeeded in persuading North Korea to halt the reactor and to begin to disable it. But in recent weeks, North Korea has backtracked, saying it would reassemble it because Washington has not lived up to its promises.

"Yes, this process has its ups and downs, but we do have a way forward," Rice said. The multilateral diplomacy established by the Bush administration, she said, "means that management of the North Korea problem is in the hands of those who have the right sets of incentives and disincentives to get to the proper outcome."

Iran has made great strides in a nuclear program that it insists is civilian but that the administration has said is weapons-related. But Rice pointed to three U.N. Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on Tehran for not halting its uranium enrichment.

Rice did not mention Iraq, which the United States invaded in 2003 on the grounds that it possessed vast stocks of weapons of mass destruction, in defiance of U.N. resolutions. No such weapons were ever found.

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Five years after beginning to destroy U.S. chemical weapons at an Anniston, Alabama, storage depot, officials are starting to plan for the future of the project's workers, the Anniston Star reported yesterday [August 23].

"There have been a lot of discussions in town and at the site about finishing [the job]," said project manager Tim Garrett. "The reality is we've got about 1,000 people working themselves out of a job."

Since beginning operations on August 9, 2003, the facility has incinerated more than 320,000 chemical weapons, including all GB nerve agent and 81 percent of VX-filled weapons. Crews are preparing to destroy mustard weapons after the VX munitions are completed in the near future, all while keeping an eye on safety, Garrett said...

Garrett did not offer a firm prediction for when all the site's weapons would be destroyed, but said officials were aiming for April 2012.

Meanwhile, no community members showed up for a public hearing last night to discuss site operator plans to conduct a test burn of mustard agent. The meeting had been announced the day before, and the public was given until the end of today to submit comments.

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Colorado Sues over CW Disposal Schedule

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The Colorado Public Health and Environment Department said yesterday it had followed through on its plan to file a lawsuit demanding that all chemical weapons stored in the state be destroyed by 2017, the Associated Press reported.

The state agency said the lawsuit had been filed with the federal court in Denver, though officials there said they had not seen it by the close of business yesterday.

The U.S. Defense Department is still building its disposal facility at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. Operations are set to begin in 2015 and end in 2020. However, Congress has demanded that all U.S. chemical weapons be destroyed by 2017.

A Colorado administrative order from June also sets 2017 as the mandatory end date for weapons disposal in the state. The lawsuit is a response to the Pentagon's anticipated appeal of the order.

"We believe the 2017 deadline is more than reasonable to complete treatment and destruction of the chemical weapons," said Gary Baughman, head of the health department's Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division.

"There have been so many delays," he said, "we felt we needed an enforceable schedule."

The Pentagon has already rejected plans that would have completed weapons disposal in 2012 or 2014, according to the lawsuit. Those proposals were "unaffordable at the time," said Defense Department spokeswoman Katherine DeWeese.

Roughly 780,000 artillery shells and mortar rounds containing mustard blister agent are stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot, the Denver Post reported.

DeWeese said that technical and budget issues prevent the completion of work before 2020. "All the pieces have to be tested and production will begin slowly," she said. "It would be difficult to have an arbitrary date."

The Chemical Weapons Convention requires the United States and all other member nations to eliminate their stockpiles of banned materials no later than 2012.

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Officials in Kentucky said last month they believe that all chemical weapons stored in the state can be destroyed by 2017, the Richmond Register reported.

The Pentagon has previously indicated that disposal operations at the Blue Grass Army Depot would not be finished before 2023. The Kentucky and Colorado sites are the only chemical depots that have not yet begun or completed chemical weapons destruction.

“We collaborated last year on a deadline of 2017 and you’ll hear people complain about whether it can or cannot be met,” Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said during a press conference. “Our view is that it can be met and we’re going to do everything we can to get the job done by 2017.”

Construction is under way on the disposal facilities at Blue Grass.

“It is quite an impressive thing to see all this infrastructure coming up out of the ground out there and finally having something tangible, something you can get your hands around as opposed to just another several years of discussions and dialogues,” said environmental activist Craig Williams, head of the Chemical Weapons Working Group...

Elsewhere, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission last month approved incineration as the method for destruction of bulk containers of mustard agent at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, the East Oregonian reported. Mercury is mixed in with mustard agent in some of the containers.

The Oregon Environmental Quality Department also considered neutralization technology and DAVINCH — “Detonation of Ammunition in a Vacuum Integrated Chamber.”

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New Incinerator Planned for Deseret Chemical Depot

GSN, 4 September 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The U.S. Defense Department is considering building another incinerator at the Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah to destroy a limited amount of weapons material, the Tooele Transcript Bulletin reported Tuesday [September 2].

The liquid incinerator would be used to destroy GA nerve agent and lewisite blister agent. Deseret already has a primary incinerator and two smaller liquid incinerators; a fourth system would help the site meet the 2012 deadline set by the Chemical Weapons Convention for full elimination of the U.S. chemical stockpile.

“The primary reason for doing it separate from our mustard [agent] destruction operation is to help the United States in meeting its treaty obligations,” said Ted Reyba, project manager for the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. “Mustard is scheduled to finish close to the treaty date, so doing something parallel is much more desirable.”

In addition, the existing liquid incinerators at Deseret are not meant to deal with arsenic found in lewisite, Reyba said.

An environmental assessment must be completed before the incinerator can be installed. The review is set for completion in December.

Meanwhile, the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky has reported no additional leaks from stored mustard agent munitions since early August, the Richmond Register reported last week.

Depot personnel discovered trace amounts of mustard vapor on July 28 and August 7. Two 155 mm projectiles were relocated to a separate storage igloo, which underwent rigorous monitoring for a period of days. No further leaks were found.

“The igloo has now been restored to its normal storage configuration and has passed several days of extensive low-level monitoring,” said Dick Sloan, spokesman for Blue Grass Chemical Activity.

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Negotiations on Cluster Munitions in CCW Enter a Decisive Stage

States News Service, 28 August 2008, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The following information was released by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG): The Fourth 2008 Session of the Group of Governmental Experts of the High Contracting Parties to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) will convene from September 1 to 5 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The Group will continue to "negotiate a proposal to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations". The consolidated Chair's text, which contains different positions expressed so far by delegations during the previous sessions and bilateral consultations, will serve as the basis for the negotiations, even though the final legal status of this document is still to be agreed upon. The Chair's text was presented at the end of the last session of the Group (July 7 to 25) by the Chairperson of the Group, Ambassador Bent Wigotski of Denmark, and was annexed to its procedural report (CCW/GGE/2008-III/3, Annex II).

The Fourth session is considered to be of high importance to reach an agreement on the core topics regarding prohibitions and regulations on the use of cluster munitions. Even though several matters have been largely settled, the Group will have to address, in particular, Article 4 of the new draft entitled "General prohibitions and restrictions", which will constitute a challenging issue. The Group of Governmental Experts will also cope with other essential topics, among them Article 2 on definitions, Article 5 on storage and destruction and Article 6 on transfers. The Chairperson noted that he will try his best at balancing between transparency and efficiency in the conduct of his business throughout the session.

The outcome of this session could be a new version of the Chair's text, which will be considered during the Fifth and final session of the Group for this year, to be held from November 3 to 7, 2008.

The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 10 April 1981 and entered into force on 2 December 1983. It has 107 States Parties. Guinea-Bissau and Iceland are the latest countries to join the Convention on August 6 and 22, 2008, respectively. Upon the deposit of the instrument of ratification, both countries also notified their consent to be bound by Protocols I, II and III, amended Protocol II, Protocol IV, Protocol V and the amendment to Article 1 of the Convention. The Convention as amended and all the Protocols will enter into force for Guinea-Bissau on February 6, 2009 and for Iceland on February 22, 2009. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is the depositary of the Convention.

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Russia to Take Active Part in CTBT Inspection Exercises in Kazakhstan

Interfax-AVN, 1 September 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Kazakhstan will host exercises organized by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) Organization, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday [September 1].

"The Integrated Field Exercise 2008 or IFE08 will take place on the former Soviet nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk on September 1 to 26," the ministry said.

"This inspection exercise is an important step in the development of an unprecedented and global mechanism of the [CTBT] verification, which must be ready by the time the Treaty enters into force," the ministry said.

"The Semipalatinsk test range would be ideal for the purpose of the exercises, the ministry said. "On-site inspection techniques and procedures will be tested," the ministry said.

"The Russian side is taking active part in the activity of the Preparatory Commission for the [CTBT], including the upcoming exercises," the ministry said.

"Success of the exercises and the international verification system is bound to display the efficiency of the emerging verification mechanism and promote the soonest entry into force of the [CTBT]," the ministry.

"We reaffirm our invariable adherence to the CTBT and once again call on all nations to sign and/or ratify the Treaty immediately," the ministry said.

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The ability to detect the location of possible nuclear explosions will be significantly enhanced following the provisional entry into operation today (September 1, 2008) of a joint response system of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

By applying a technique called Atmospheric Transport Modeling (ATM), the three-dimensional travel path of a radionuclide particle is backtracked from where it was detected by a monitoring station, to the area where it may have originated. This process is called source region attribution. Similar methods, although less sophisticated than those employed today, were already used in April 1986 by Swedish experts to attribute the radioactive cloud over Sweden to the Chernobyl reactor catastrophe—even before it became public.

Through the input of WMO's high-quality global meteorological data, the CTBTO will be able to considerably improve its ATM calculations for radioactive particles detected by one of the 80 radionuclide stations of the CTBTO International Monitoring System (IMS).

In the next step, referred to as data fusion, the results of ATM are compared to the data harvested through the other verification technologies (the so-called waveform technologies: seismic, hydroacoustic and infrasound). The synergy of both allows for a much more accurate location of a potential nuclear explosion. The more precisely the verification system can determine the location of a possible nuclear explosion at this point, the greater the chances of a subsequent on-site inspection finding concrete evidence of a recent nuclear test.

As the CTBTO-WMO response system becomes operational, the CTBTO will be able to send requests for assistance in the case of suspicious radionuclide detections directly to nine WMO Regional Specialized Meteorological Centers/National Meteorological Centers around the world. These centers will then submit their computations to the CTBTO as fast as is technically feasible but within 24 hours at the latest.

Cooperation between the CTBTO and the WMO dates back to 2000 and was enshrined in an Agreement in 2003. Annual atmospheric backtracking exercises between the CTBTO and WMO Centers take place since 2003, with the next one scheduled to take place within the next few months. In addition, unannounced system tests will be carried out every quarter...By offering the use of its Global Telecommunications System for data exchange, WMO enabled the experts to make great advances toward designing what later became the model for the current IMS.

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CTBTO Starts First Ever On-Site Inspection Simulation

M2 PressWIRE, 2 September 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The biggest and most ambitious project to date to test the preparedness of on-site inspections—a key element of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty's (CTBT) global alarm system—started on September 1, 2008 in Kazakhstan. The 2008 Integrated Field Exercise (IFE08) will examine inspection methods and procedures and test their functioning and effectiveness.

The CTBT bans all nuclear explosions on Earth. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is building a global system to monitor the Earth for signs of nuclear explosions. On-site inspections constitute the system's final verification measure. They complement the International Monitoring System (IMS) with its 337 facilities located worldwide and the data analysis conducted at the International Data Centre (IDC) in Vienna.

Hypothetical State of Arkania to be inspected

The exercise will simulate a complete on-site inspection, testing most elements of the on-site inspection regime. In order to provide a realistic setting, a scenario has been developed involving the hypothetical State of Arkania and a nuclear explosion that—based on IMS data and IDC analysis—is suspected to have been conducted on its territory. Following a request for an on-site inspection, a mandate was prepared and a team created consisting of international and CTBTO experts.

Before moving to the former Soviet Union nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk to conduct the on-site inspection simulation, first meetings took place Monday in Almaty, Kazakhstan, between the inspection team and representatives of "Arkania," the inspected State Party. Both groups consist of international and CTBTO experts. Details of the on-site inspection were discussed, including the mandate, the plan, techniques, and equipment.

Testing the CTBT verification regime

"We want to see where we stand with the four elements of the verification regime," said Tibor Toth, CTBTO Executive Secretary, commenting on the purpose of the exercise. Mr. Toth explained that following the announcement of a nuclear test explosion by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] in October 2006, three key elements of the CTBTO global system proved to meet the expectations as set out in the Treaty. "As the fourth element, on-site inspection was not put to the test then, but the exercise will now show that the entire verification regime is working as prescribed by the CTBT," Toth said.



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Kazakhstan's contribution to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament

It is no coincidence that Kazakhstan is hosting this first large scale integrated field exercise. The Central Asian state has an impressive record in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, having closed the former Soviet Union nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk and renounced the stockpile of nuclear weapons upon gaining independence in 1991.

"Nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament are very important for Kazakhstan," said Bolat Akchulakov, Vice-Minister of Energy, Mineral Resources and Environmental Rehabilitation of Kazakhstan. "Knowing about the serious consequences of nuclear testing, Kazakhstanis [are] highly committed to strengthening the non-proliferation regime as a guarantee for international security," he added. Mr. Akchulakov also referred to Kazakhstan's active role in the establishment of the Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in 2006.

Kazakhstan's active support for the CTBT

Kazakhstan is an active supporter of the CTBT and the CTBTO, having signed the Treaty in 1996 and ratified it in 2001. In addition to the five IMS stations located on its territory, Kazakhstan has played an active role in developing the on-site inspection regime by hosting three previous exercises in 1999, 2002, and 2005.

"We have already done a lot in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The conduct of IFE08 in our country will further strengthen the non-proliferation regime, support the CTBT, and promote the entry into force of the Treaty," said Akchulakov.



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South Korean Government to Ease Control of Strategic Materials for Exporters on Compliance Program

Yonhap, 31 August 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Seoul said on Sunday [August 31] that it will ease control over strategic materials that can be used to make weapons of mass destruction for companies that follow a state-sponsored compliance export program.

The Ministry of Knowledge Economy said the move, which will go into effect on Monday, is designed to get more companies to join the program and reduce red tape for those that are following set standards to prevent shipments of materials that can be used to make weapons of mass destruction.

It said the move will allow companies to cut back on paperwork submitted to the government and extend the companies' export licenses for sensitive materials if they diligently follow guidelines from two years to three years.

At present, there are 42 domestic companies on the program, of which 12 are large conglomerates. The numbers are very small compared to 4,000 firms in the United States, 6,500 in Germany, and 1,600 in Japan. Roughly 62 percent of the companies are exporters of semiconductors and LCDs, while 9.5 percent manufacture heavy industrial products and machine tools, the ministry said.

South Korea in recent years has stepped up its efforts to regulate the export of sensitive materials in accordance with a worldwide ban. In the past, smaller companies have been found to have unwittingly broken the rules because they were unaware of what could not be shipped.

Violations can lead to criminal and administrative action that can have negative consequences for both companies and South Korea. Seoul has opened a comprehensive online screening service to prevent companies from accidentally exporting strategic materials.

The world's 11th-largest trading nation is a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group that seeks to control the export of nuclear materials and equipment; the Australia Group, which aims to prevent the spread of chemical and biological weapons; and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which aims to control the proliferation of missiles and space-launch vehicles.

It also joined the Wassenaar Arrangement in 1996, which limits exports of dual-use goods and technologies. Such goods can be turned into sophisticated weapons.

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Canada Takes Part in the 500th Open Skies Treaty Flight

Canadian Corporate Newswire, 27 August 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Canadian forces personnel participated in a historic flight with Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg over Bosnia-Herzegovina on August 20, 2008 aboard a Belgian aircraft, which undertook the 500th observation mission conducted under the Open Skies Treaty, which promotes openness and transparency among its signatories.

"The participative role that we are fulfilling during this particular mission and others like it, not only allows us to actively contribute to the mission, but also re-enforces Canada's support for the Open Skies Treaty as a multilateral, cooperative endeavor," said Major John Nowak, mission team leader.

The Treaty formally entered-into-force [in] January 2002 and is designed to enhance trust, confidence, and collective understanding by providing all participating states with the means through which to obtain information on military or other activities of interest or concern to them. Open Skies is one of the most wide-ranging international treaty mechanisms established to date designed to foster openness and transparency of military forces and their activities.

Canada is an active participant in the international proliferation security regime and is a signatory to several treaties dedicated to the elimination, reduction and control of weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms. The Open Skies Treaty illustrates Canada's commitment to developing greater openness and trust amongst states and lowering the potential for conflict.

For more information about the Open Skies Treaty, the OSCE, and observation flights, please see: <http://www.osce.org/about/13516.html/>

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Belarusian, Russian Inspectors Fly Observation Mission over Poland

Russia & CIS General Newswire, 29 August 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Belarusian and Russian inspectors flew an observation flight over Poland on Friday [August 29] under the Open Skies treaty, the Belarusian Defense Ministry told Interfax.

"The observation flight was carried out aboard a Russian Antonov An-30B observation aircraft to ... [monitor] military activities in Poland," the defense ministry said.

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U.S. Weighs Halt to Talks with Russia on Nuclear Arms Curbs (OPINION)

Jay Solomon and Gregory L. White

The Wall Street Journal, 29 August 2008, accessible at <http://georgiandaily.com/>

The delay could cast uncertainty over the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [START], which restricts the number of long-range nuclear weapons each side [U.S. and Russia] is allowed to have. The Bush administration, escalating its response to Russia's actions in Georgia, has placed under review talks with Moscow focused on missile defense and nuclear weapons disarmament, according to U.S. officials...

Washington and Moscow had been planning a round of talks, tentatively expected for mid-September, to discuss START and to address Russian concerns about a U.S.-backed missile defense system being deployed in Europe.

"All of these meetings could now be frozen" during the rest of George W. Bush's presidency, said one U.S. official. "What [Secretary of State Condoleezza] Rice said is that it's not business as usual...."

Separately, the administration and congressional leaders have indicated they are putting on hold a nuclear cooperation deal between the United States and Russia that is aimed at combating proliferation. The White House confirmed Thursday that it may pull its support for the deal, which would have allowed for greater U.S.-Russia cooperation in developing proliferation-resistant reactors, as well as in supplying and storing nuclear fuels.

Other American officials were more upbeat on the prospect of the disarmament talks going ahead before Mr. Bush leaves office, given the importance his administration has placed on limiting the spread of nuclear weapons. A Pentagon official was still optimistic the planned meeting could take place, despite the review.

The government of Russian President Dmitry Medvedev voiced concerns Thursday about any potential delay in disarmament talks, noting they're in the national security interests of both countries. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said failure to replace or amend START could set a dangerous precedent for global nuclear disarmament.

"We, as before, are ready for a concrete dialog with the American side," said Andrei Nesterenko, in a written response to questions from *The Wall Street Journal*. "It would be unacceptable to leave a legal vacuum in such a crucial area as reducing strategic nuclear weapons."



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Mr. Nesterenko added that the United States has failed for more than a year to provide Moscow with a draft of how START might be updated. Without that, he said, "the next round of consultations would hardly be substantive."

Broad Review

The talks over START are part of a broader effort by the Bush administration to forge closer cooperation with [Russia].

But as a result of the Georgia conflict, Mr. Bush in recent days has called for a broad review of all U.S. engagement with Russia, said U.S. officials. "We are in the process of re-evaluating our relationship with Russia," Ms. Perino told reporters. "We are doing that in concert with our international partners."

Vice President Dick Cheney will travel to Georgia and Ukraine next week to discuss further responses to Russia's actions. Previewing the trip, a senior administration official said Thursday that the vice president will reassure leaders in Georgia and Ukraine of U.S. support, and also seek to work out a new "long-term strategic framework" with U.S. allies. The official said Mr. Cheney will highlight the need for alternative routes for oil and gas from the Caspian region that bypass Russia.

Bush administration officials said the United States may join Europe in enacting economic sanctions against Moscow for its refusal to pull out all of its troops from Georgia.

The September talks were expected to be headed by John Rood, the State Department's undersecretary for arms control, and Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak.

The United States and Russia are still far apart in agreeing to a new framework for the START agreement. The Kremlin has been seeking specific numbers and verification protocols for reducing the U.S. nuclear-arms stockpile, according to U.S. officials. The Bush administration wants a less-stringent pact that allows for some verification but doesn't tie Washington to specific levels of warheads.

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama and [Republican presidential candidate] Sen. [John] McCain have voiced support for pursuing arms control agreements with Russia. But it could be difficult for a new U.S. leader to get negotiations back on track.



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"There's the danger that things could be left in such a poisonous state that the next administration has no options and finds it difficult to get on a productive track," said Robert Einhorn, who served as a senior arms control official in the Clinton administration.

National security analysts worry that a breakdown in dialogue over U.S. missile defense plans for Europe could be particularly destabilizing for U.S.-Russia relations. The Bush administration has said in recent days that it hopes to expand its missile defense system to protect more members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]. Currently, radar and missile interceptor batteries are scheduled to be housed in Poland, the Czech Republic, Denmark, and the U.K.

The United States has repeatedly said the program is focused solely on guarding against the threat posed by rogue states, such as Iran. But the Bush administration's agreement with Poland this month to host missile batteries on Polish soil fueled Russian charges that Moscow is being targeted.

In December, the Kremlin told the United States and its NATO allies it was suspending its implementation of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty [CFE], which limits the amount of military hardware that countries can deploy in Europe. Moscow also has hinted in recent months that it could withdraw from the Reagan-era Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty [INF], which guards against the deployment of medium-range missiles.

John McKinnon contributed to this article.

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CSTO Favors New Agreement to Replace Expiring START

Interfax-AVN, 4 September 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) foreign ministers have called for a new agreement, which would replace the expiring Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [START] between Moscow and Washington.

"We welcome the bilateral intention to reduce strategic offensive weaponry to the minimal possible level announced in the Sochi declaration of the Russian-U.S. strategic relationship of April 6, 2008, and to continue the drafting of a legally binding accord, which would replace the START expiring on December 5, 2009," the ministers said.

"We believe that the new agreement could incorporate the best provisions of the existent START and, simultaneously, suggest new lower verifiable amounts of strategic carriers [intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-based ballistic missiles, and heavy bombers] and their warheads," the statement runs.

[Note: The CSTO includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.]

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