



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

Biological Weapons Convention Expert Meeting Concludes

United Nations, 28 August 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The 2009 Meeting of Experts from States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was held in Geneva from August 24-28, 2009. (776 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Lieberman, Collins Seek to Protect United States against Biological and Other Terrorist WMD Attacks

States News Service, 08 September 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman, ID-Conn., and Ranking Member Susan Collins, R-Me., Tuesday [September 8] introduced legislation to prevent and prepare for terrorist attacks from biological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD). (222 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Pentagon Must Meet Chemical Weapons Disposal Deadline, U.S. Lawmakers Say

Global Security Newswire, 26 August 2009, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

Two U.S. lawmakers from Kentucky yesterday [August 25] showed no signs of backing off the congressional demand that the nation's chemical-weapon arsenal be eliminated by 2017... (378 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Second Suit Filed by State against Army

The Pueblo Chieftain, 27 August 2009, <http://www.chieftain.com/>

Colorado state health authorities have filed a second lawsuit against the U.S. Army, alleging it needs to do more to protect the public from the dangerous weapons stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. (476 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

EPA Approves Closure of Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System

Chemical Materials Agency, 01 September 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil>

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) officials announced today [September 1] that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has accepted the Army's closure of its former Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS). (411 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)



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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Obama Boost Opens Door for Nuclear Test-Ban Pact

Reuters, 08 September 2009, <http://www.reuters.com/>

Backers of a global pact banning nuclear tests said on Tuesday [September 8] they would seize on U.S. President Barack Obama's disarmament initiatives to further their agenda at the United Nations this month. (413 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Obama Facing Hurdles to Nuclear Disarmament Goals

The Associated Press, 03 September 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Five months after President Barack Obama, with great fanfare, called for a world free of nuclear weapons, a crucial step toward that goal is running into resistance. (879 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

IAEA Revises Nuclear Power Projections Upward

IAEA, 08 September 2009, <http://www.iaea.org/>

The IAEA has released the latest update of its annual projections for the future of nuclear power, and both its low and high projections for 2030 are higher than they were last year.

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

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Russia, United States Drafting New Treaty to Replace START

Moscow ITAR-TASS, 05 September 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia and the United States have begun the drafting of specific articles of a new treaty, which is to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expires next December...

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

FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:



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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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DTRA

Biological Weapons Convention Expert Meeting Concludes

United Nations, 28 August 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The 2009 Meeting of Experts from States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was held in Geneva from August 24-28, 2009.

The Meeting was held to discuss and promote common understanding and effective action on "enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis, and containment of infectious diseases: (1) for States Parties in need of assistance identifying requirements and requests for capacity enhancement; and (2) from States Parties in a position to do so, and international organizations, opportunities for providing assistance related to these fields."

The Meeting was chaired by Ambassador Marius Grinius of Canada, and brought together nearly 500 participants from 95 countries, including almost 200 experts from government agencies; international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); regional disease surveillance organizations; academic institutions; NGOs; and private sector companies.

Referring to the extensive discussions held during the week, the Chairman said that "our topic could hardly be more timely and relevant. The H1N1 influenza pandemic is highlighting the crucial importance of building international and national capacities for disease surveillance and response".

Participants discussed how best to promote capacity building in the areas of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment, at the national, regional and international levels. Many delegations highlighted the global dimension of the topic, noting that, as the delegation of Georgia put it, "infectious diseases know no geographic boundaries; neither should we in combating them."

Many participants also spoke of the need to coordinate assistance, cooperation and capacity building activities. The Russian Federation was one of the many that emphasized the importance of international cooperation: "Separate states can no longer adequately prevent the spread of infectious diseases, even if they possess the capabilities to diagnose and control infectious diseases. We believe it important to develop and strengthen the Convention's potential for international cooperation in the peaceful uses of advances in bioscience."

 [back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

Other proposals included: strengthening exchange of information and cooperation between States Parties and relevant international organizations; assisting states parties in the full implementation of the 2005 WHO International Health Regulations; cooperation between the public and private sector on disease surveillance; investment in human resources training and infrastructure; the development of standard operating procedures for disease management; partnerships between labs in developed and developing countries; the development of new vaccines; ensuring the sustainability of new capacity in developing countries; the development of regionally-implemented health systems; and the establishment of a mechanism to promote the implementation of Article X of the BWC.

Summing up the discussions on assistance and cooperation in capacity-building, the Chairman said "We have heard about resources available, assistance extended, cooperation undertaken, and opportunities waiting. And just as importantly, we have heard about needs and challenges, shortfalls in capacity and resources, and obstacles and difficulties in coordination, cooperation and development."

In order to give the experts more opportunities to meet their counterparts and maximize networking, the 2009 Meeting of Experts again featured a poster session, held on Thursday August 27. The poster session enhanced the technical information available to delegations by allowing experts to present a poster on the details of their work. The Chairman, noting the utility of such events for promoting networking and interaction, said: "I hope some of the contacts made and informal discussions held this week will lead to the development of new avenues of cooperation for capacity building, and indeed to new and more effective assistance projects on the ground".

The results of the Meeting of Experts will be considered by the Meeting of States Parties, to be held in Geneva from December 7-11, 2009. The Meeting of States Parties will review the ideas and proposals presented at the Meeting of Experts, and produce a report aimed at promoting effective action to strengthen the operation of the Convention in the areas covered by the topic.

The Meeting of Experts is part of a four-year program mandated by the 2006 Sixth Review Conference of the BWC aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Convention and improving its effectiveness as a practical barrier against the development or use of biological weapons. The BWC prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. More formally referred to as the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the treaty opened for signature in 1972 and entered into force in 1975. It currently has 163 States Parties, with a further 13 States having signed but not yet ratified.

 [back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

Lieberman, Collins Seek to Protect United States against Biological and Other Terrorist WMD Attacks

States News Service, 08 September 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The following information was released by Connecticut Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:

As the nation prepares to mark the eighth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and the subsequent anthrax attacks, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joe Lieberman, ID-Conn., and Ranking Member Susan Collins, R-Me., Tuesday [September 8] introduced legislation to prevent and prepare for terrorist attacks from biological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2009 responds to a statement by the Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell in December 2008 and the findings of a Congressionally-mandated WMD commission that a WMD terrorist attack is more likely than not to occur by 2013 and that a biological attack is more likely than a nuclear attack.

"The approaching eighth anniversary of the 9/11 and anthrax attacks reminds us that we cannot let our guard down against the constant threat of terrorists intent on doing us harm," Lieberman said. "This legislation provides a comprehensive framework for protecting the United States from weapons of mass destruction and biological attacks, in particular, which the experts say is more likely than a nuclear attack.

"Our bill would strengthen security at labs using the most dangerous pathogens, improve our capabilities to assess the threat of terrorists acquiring WMD, ensure that citizens get critical safety information, and develop a means for quickly delivering life-saving drugs to areas that have been attacked.

"We dare not bury our heads in the sand and ignore the very real risks we face from a terrorist WMD attack. This legislation would help prevent such an attack and better prepare the nation to respond should one occur."

"As the Commission noted in its comprehensive report, terrorists have been active since the attacks of September 11, 2001. America must not become complacent. Terrorists haven't given up; they haven't gone away. Our enemies remain fixed on their avowed goal of committing mass murder," said Collins. "Nuclear proliferation and advances in biotechnology could give terrorists new means to wreak death and destruction around the world. That is why the Commission's report is a call to action. And this legislation answers that call by proposing

 [back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

aggressive, urgent steps that will help safeguard our nation, particularly against the threat of biological attacks."

The Lieberman/Collins legislation implements the recommendations of the Commission for the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, and would improve biosecurity by identifying the most dangerous pathogens and then requiring the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop security standards for laboratories that handle those pathogens, including risk assessments, personnel reliability programs, and physical security.

The bill also would improve U.S. prevention against and preparedness for an attack in an effort to minimize casualties and prevent mass destruction. It would:

- Require DHS to designate the most dangerous pathogens which have significant potential to be used effectively in a biological attack.
- Require DHS to set new security standards for labs using the most dangerous pathogens, including risk assessments, personnel reliability programs, and staff training.
- Require a national strategy for dispensing antibiotics and other medicines to the public and expand a pilot program for using the Postal Service to dispense them.
- Require communications plans to convey instructions to the public—including whether to evacuate or shelter-in-place—in the critical moments after an attack.
- Support a National Bioforensics Analysis Center to identify the perpetrator of a WMD attack rapidly.
- Provide personal medical kits to emergency responders in order to enable them to respond quickly to a WMD attack without jeopardizing their own safety.
- Require DHS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide better terrorism threat and risk assessments to the public.
- Promote citizen and community preparedness for WMD attacks, including by authorizing grants to States.

In addition, the legislation requires the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) to develop a strategy for improving intelligence on WMD and terrorism, including hiring scientists and improving language capabilities.



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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

Finally, the legislation requires that the Secretary of State promote international adherence to agreements such as the Biological Weapons Convention, provide biosecurity training to countries that possess dangerous pathogens, and assist countries with training and equipment to improve global disease surveillance.

The WMD Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2009 is the latest example of the Committee's leadership in countering terrorism and preserving homeland security. Since 9/11, the Committee has authored a series of landmark legislation that: created the Department of Homeland Security, the DNI and the National Counterterrorism Center; reformed the Federal Emergency Management Agency after Hurricane Katrina; and implemented the full spectrum of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations.

 [back to top](#)

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DTRA

Pentagon Must Meet Chemical Weapons Disposal Deadline, U.S. Lawmakers Say

Global Security Newswire, 26 August 2009, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

Two U.S. lawmakers from Kentucky yesterday [August 25] showed no signs of backing off the congressional demand that the nation's chemical weapon arsenal be eliminated by 2017, the Louisville Courier-Journal reported.

The Defense Department's latest assessment is that, even with increased funding, chemical demilitarization operations at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky would not likely be complete before 2021. The installation is expected to be the last site to finish off its arsenal of materials banned by the Chemical Weapons Convention, which sets a 2012 deadline on the United States.

"There are people who say that [2017] can't be met," Senator Mitch McConnell (R) said following a visit with Representative Ben Chandler (D) to the unfinished Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. "But that's the law. That's about eight years from now. Let's get to work. We'll get the money."

The Defense Department will try to finish work at Blue Grass before the deadline arrives, said project site manager Jeff Brubaker. He noted, though, the difficulty of the work, which would include removing nerve agent from nearly 100,000 munitions. The pace of construction of the \$3 billion disposal plant is being restricted by funding, said John Schlatter, spokesman for contractor Bechtel Parsons Bluegrass. The company expects to complete construction in 2016; Schlatter did not indicate when work might be finished if additional funds were allocated.

The Pentagon appears likely to receive nearly \$550 million in the next budget for preparation of chemical weapons neutralization at Blue Grass and the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado. That is a significant increase from funding in previous years for the only two U.S. chemical storage sites yet to begin disposal operations.

During this budget process, Chandler managed to stop an effort to divert \$50 million of the money for other uses, said Craig Williams, head of the Chemical Weapons Working Group watchdog organization.

Concerns about leaks from decades-old munitions held in storage at Blue Grass and other technical issues make it particularly important to destroy the stockpile as soon as possible, Chandler said. "You always have concerns," Chandler said when asked about the revelations. "There is a real danger as long as these weapons exist."

 back to top

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DTRA

Second Suit Filed by State against Army

The Pueblo Chieftain, 27 August 2009, <http://www.chieftain.com/>

Colorado state health authorities have filed a second lawsuit against the U.S. Army, alleging it needs to do more to protect the public from the dangerous weapons stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot.

Mike Saccone, spokesman for the Colorado Attorney General's office, said Wednesday, "We are seeking to ensure that there is sufficient monitoring and safe storage of the chemical weapons at the Pueblo Chemical Depot."

The lawsuit seeks a judge's order requiring the Army to comply with the Colorado Hazardous Waste Act and seeks unspecified monetary penalties for allegedly violating the act.

State health officials have been critical in recent years of the Army's policy of only quarterly inspections of the igloos, where 780,000 aging weapons are stored. The artillery shells and mortar rounds, containing mustard agent, are more than 60 years old and occasionally leak vapor.

The state Department and Public Health and Environment filed the lawsuit earlier this month in Pueblo District Court and the Army this week moved the lawsuit to U.S. District Court.

The department sued the depot last fall seeking a court order to establish what Saccone characterized as "an enforceable treatment schedule" in the disposal of the highly toxic weapons that contain mustard gas. The goal of the state was to get a court order backing up a congressionally mandated timetable to dispose of the weapons.

The attorney general's office is representing the health department in the lawsuits.

The new lawsuit alleges the Army depot is violating the act because depot officials "continue to operate without the required monitoring" of the stored weapons.

A depot spokesman said Monday crews found a low level of mustard agent vapor leaking inside an earthen-covered igloo during routine inspections. The igloo stores 106mm artillery shells.

The new lawsuit also alleges several deadlines have passed without the officials "providing the required documentation" to the health department describing "the detailed procedures and equipment used at the facility to sample, analyze and monitor the waste chemical weapons in the stockpile storage units."



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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

The documentation, known as a “waste analysis plan,” was due in 2006, the health department asserts. The lawsuit claims the Army submitted a deficient plan in 2006. The state alleges the plan was deficient “because it did not contain adequate methods and monitoring procedures for safe storage and management of the waste chemical weapons” as required by department regulations.

“Following several rounds of negotiations, on May 28, 2009, the department issued a modified (waste analysis plan) that (the Army) objected to,” the lawsuit asserts. “In doing so, the department reached a final determination that PCD’s waste analysis procedures ... did not provide for adequate protection of human health,” according to the lawsuit.

The department says the act provides for penalties of up to \$25,000 per day per violation. The department wants penalties calculated from the date of various deadlines to provide the documentation being missed.

 [back to top](#)

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EPA Approves Closure of Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System

Chemical Materials Agency, 01 September 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil>

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) officials announced today [September 1] that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has accepted the Army's closure of its former Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS). In a letter dated August 18, 2009, EPA Region IX official John Beach wrote that "EPA finds that the Army has fulfilled the requirements of its JACADS Permit," and that the EPA, "accepts the Army's closure of the facility as a clean closure."

CMA Director Conrad F. Whyne said, "The official closing of JACADS has been a thorough and meticulous process. As a program, we have benefited from the lessons learned from working with the EPA." Mr. Whyne noted, "This is our first RCRA permitted lethal agent incineration facility to close and I offer my heartiest congratulations and a 'job well done' to the men and women of the JACADS team and our EPA partners. They have made the chemical weapons of Johnston Atoll history; they have made the world a safer place."

JACADS, the Army's first full-scale chemical weapons destruction facility, safely completed its mission of weapons destruction in 2000, facility demolition in 2003 and the last Army employees left Johnston Atoll by the end of 2003. This mission was accomplished while protecting the workers and the remote atoll's delicate environment.

Located on an atoll 800 miles southwest of Hawaii, JACADS represented a major milestone in CMA's history. During a 14-year period, more than four million pounds of nerve agents, GB and VX, as well as blister agent HD, were safely destroyed and the disposal facility was dismantled. Chemical agents contained in 412,798 munitions, including projectiles, rockets, bombs, and ton containers, were eliminated, reducing the overall U.S. stockpile by six percent.

The Army worked with the EPA to close the facility according to environmental standards. Closure activities involved cleaning and removing all hazardous wastes, equipment and systems used for disposal operations. Analyses were performed in all related areas to ensure that the Army met the EPA's stringent criteria.

CMA has completed destruction of the chemical weapons at Newport, Indiana, Aberdeen, Maryland and Johnston Island. Final chemical agent destruction operations are under way at CMA's four remaining destruction sites: Anniston, Alabama, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Umatilla, Oregon, and Tooele, Utah. CMA's destruction sites should complete operations in time to meet the 2012 Chemical Weapons Convention treaty deadline. CMA continues to safely store chemical agent munitions near Richmond, Kentucky and at Pueblo, Colorado. For more information about CMA, visit <http://www.cma.army.mil>.

 [back to top](#)

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Obama Boost Opens Door for Nuclear Test-Ban Pact

Reuters, 08 September 2009, <http://www.reuters.com/>

Backers of a global pact banning nuclear tests said on Tuesday [September 8] they would seize on U.S. President Barack Obama's disarmament initiatives to further their agenda at the United Nations this month.

Obama has voiced his support for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) which has yet to take force because his nation is among nine with significant nuclear activities that have not ratified it.

"The time has arrived, even more than ever, to push ahead the non-proliferation regime," Omar Zniher, Morocco's ambassador to international organizations in Vienna, where the CTBT agency is based, told a news conference.

Morocco and France are coordinating the drive to get nuclear states such as India, Pakistan and North Korea to sign the treaty. Others yet to ratify include Egypt, Iran and Israel.

Senior officials of states in the CTBT as well as the U.N. Security Council will meet on September 24-25 at the United Nations in New York to debate the pact—the first time in a decade that the United States will join such talks on the treaty.

Obama's predecessor George W. Bush gave short shrift to nuclear diplomacy and arms control, although the U.S. Senate's failure to ratify the treaty dates back to 1999, during the Clinton administration.

U.S. politicians said at the time there was no foolproof way to verify compliance with the treaty. But supporters say verification technology has since improved dramatically.

Obama has vowed fresh efforts to secure Senate ratification. His administration and Russia have highlighted the need to rid the world of nuclear arsenals starting in their own backyards.

The U.N. talks will coincide with a special meeting of the Security Council on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament to be chaired by Obama.

Tibor Toth, executive secretary of the CTBT implementing agency, said that while the U.S.-Russian commitment to gradual disarmament was an important step, a global test ban pact was also an achievable goal given the changed diplomatic climate.

 [back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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DTRA

"I think a new license for life has been given to multilateralism and nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. There is a need to have a return for the investment," he said.

"This is the treaty which comes the closest to delivering something meaningful."

Some 180 countries have signed the treaty and around 150 have ratified it. It cannot take force until the outstanding nine nuclear states sign and ratify.

If the United States gets on board, supporters say it will provide a strong impetus for the others to follow.

 [back to top](#)

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Obama Facing Hurdles to Nuclear Disarmament Goals

The Associated Press, 03 September 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Five months after President Barack Obama, with great fanfare, called for a world free of nuclear weapons, a crucial step toward that goal is running into resistance.

There is little indication Obama will have the votes he needs for a cornerstone of his nonproliferation efforts: Senate ratification of a nuclear test ban treaty. If Obama can't get the treaty approved, he probably will have a hard time persuading the rest of the world to rein in nuclear weapon programs.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, an advocacy group based in Washington, said the Obama administration needs to "work faster and harder" to build support in the Senate.

The absence of progress comes as a backdrop to the special U.N. session to be chaired by Obama later this month. The summit, September 24, on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial session will seek broad consensus on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

Political realities have made focusing on the test ban treaty difficult. Obama's top priorities these days are passing a massive health care overhaul and overcoming violence in Afghanistan. On arms control, his administration is now focused on another goal: securing a successor to a bilateral treaty with Russia that expires in December.

The treaty with Russia would amount to a small step toward the goal of a nuclear-free world that Obama outlined in April in a sweeping speech before a crowd of 20,000 in Prague. In the same speech, he promised to focus on the test ban treaty.

"My administration will immediately and aggressively pursue U.S. ratification," he said.

The administration says it is now working behind the scenes to build congressional support for the test ban treaty.

"We are pushing very hard on all fronts," White House spokesman Mike Hammer said.

But supporters of that goal outside the administration say they have not seen evidence of urgency.

 back to top

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

"If this pace continues, there is little chance he will achieve the goals he outlined," said Joseph Cirincione, president of the San Francisco-based Ploughshares Fund, which advocates the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Negotiated in the 1990s, the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty specified 44 nuclear-capable countries that must give formal approval before it can take effect. Eight countries besides the United States have yet to ratify the treaty: China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan. In 1999, during the Clinton administration, the Senate rejected ratification overwhelmingly, with all but three Republicans voting against.

Many countries see ratification of the treaty as a test of U.S. commitment to phase out nuclear weapons.

If the Senate doesn't ratify it, Obama could have difficulty persuading countries to support other goals, such as strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, at a review conference in May. The administration also wants a treaty to prohibit further production of weapons-grade nuclear material.

The White House says it already has achieved goodwill because other countries have seen that the U.S. is committed to reducing the world's nuclear weapons.

"We have heard from many countries that President Obama's ambitious nuclear agenda and multilateral approach have created a very positive international climate and goodwill for strengthening global nonproliferation efforts and advancing arms control," Hammer said.

The administration needs 67 votes in the 100-member Senate to ratify the test ban treaty, which means it will need support from some of the 40 Republicans. No Republican has yet declared support, and key Republicans remain skeptical.

Senator Richard Lugar, R-Indiana, a well-regarded arms control and nonproliferation expert, recently told The Associated Press that the administration should build its case and wait at least until the second half of 2010 to push for a vote. But some supporters say that will be too close to congressional elections in November, and they worry that after that Obama may not have the large Democratic majority he now enjoys.

Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Arizona, who opposes deep reductions in arsenals and led opposition to the 1999 vote on the test ban treaty, remains opposed. He believes a test ban would constrain the United States and undermine its technological superiority.

 [back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

Kyl and other opponents also say it will be difficult to verify whether other countries are conducting secret tests and to ensure that the U.S. arsenal can be maintained and improved without testing.

The administration argues that technological advances, including the capability of computer simulation, have made testing unnecessary and have also made it easier to detect tests in other countries. It has commissioned a National Academy of Sciences report on how to maintain the arsenal and an intelligence estimate on detecting nuclear explosions. The administration hopes the reports, expected early next year, will help win ratification.

Kyl told the AP he believes he can defeat Obama's push for the treaty. "I think they are dead set on ratifying it," he said. "That doesn't mean it is going to happen."

The resistance comes as the administration is already deep into negotiations with Russian counterparts to finish a follow-on agreement to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expires in December. The administration hopes ratification of that treaty will give the issue momentum.

Prospects look much better for that treaty, with some Republicans already on board. Kyl said he could support it if the administration backs funding to modernize nuclear stockpiles and infrastructure.

 [back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

IAEA Revises Nuclear Power Projections Upward

IAEA, 08 September 2009, <http://www.iaea.org/>

The IAEA has released the latest update of its annual projections for the future of nuclear power, and both its low and high projections for 2030 are higher than they were last year.

The low projection foresees an installed global nuclear power capacity of about 510 gigawatts (GW(e)) in 2030, a 40 percent increase over the 370 GW(e) currently installed in 2009. The high projection foresees 810 GW(e), well more than a doubling. These revised projections for 2030 are 8 percent higher than last year's projections.

The upward shift in the projections is greatest for the Far East, a region that includes China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Modest downward shifts in the projections were made for North America and for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. For all other regions there is a generally modest upward shift. The one exception is a higher upward shift in the high projection for the Middle East and South Asia, which includes India and Pakistan. There the high projection for 2030 shifted upward by 15 GW(e).

The low projection for each region assumes that recent trends continue and there are few changes in the laws and regulations affecting nuclear power. It is intended as a conservative but plausible projection.

The high projection assumes trends become more favorable for nuclear power. It assumes that recent rates of economic growth and electricity demand, especially in the Far East, continue. It also assumes that national policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are strengthened, which makes electricity generation from low-carbon technologies, like nuclear power and renewables, more attractive. The high projection is intended as an optimistic projection, from the perspective of nuclear power, that is still plausible and technically feasible.

The low and high projections are developed by experts from around the world who are assembled by the IAEA each spring. They consider all the operating reactors, possible license renewals, planned shutdowns and plausible construction projects foreseen for the next several decades. They build the projections project-by-project by assessing the plausibility of each in light of, first, the low projection's assumptions and, second, the high projection's assumptions.

The financial crisis that started in late 2008 has affected the prospects of some projects, but its impact has been different in different parts of the world. The regional pattern of revisions in the projections reflects, in part, the varying impacts of the financial crisis in different regions.

 back to top

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

The general upward revision in both the low and high projections reflects the experts' judgment that the medium- and long-term factors driving rising expectations for nuclear power have not changed substantially. The performance and safety of nuclear power plants continue to be good. Concerns persist about global warming, energy supply security, and high and volatile fossil fuel prices. All studies still project persistent energy demand growth in the medium and long term.

What has changed in the last year is that the commitments of governments, utilities and vendors to their announced plans, and the investments they are already making in those plans, are generally perceived as becoming firmer over time. That raises confidence.

Another change is the Safeguards Agreement between India and the IAEA in August 2008. The Nuclear Suppliers Group subsequently exempted India from previous restrictions on nuclear trade, which should allow India to accelerate its planned expansion of nuclear power.

 [back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

Russia, United States Drafting New Treaty to Replace START

Moscow ITAR-TASS, 05 September 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia and the United States have begun the drafting of specific articles of a new treaty, which is to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expires next December, a representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry said here on Saturday, commenting on the results of the fifth round of the talks, which was held in Geneva from August 31 to September 2.

The parties "discussed the key provisions of the future treaty," the official said. The Russian and American negotiators began "to draft specific articles of the treaty and agreed to transfer the work on them to special working groups."

The next round of the Russian-American consultations on the drafting of the follow-up treaty on strategic offensive armaments will be held in Geneva on September 21.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko said previously, commenting on the results of the fifth round of the consultations, that "the discussions were effective and useful." "On the whole, we are satisfied with the way the dialogue with the U.S. on START problems is going on," he said.

According to Nesterenko, the fifth round of the consultations "was held in a constructive and businesslike atmosphere." The parties continued to discuss the parameters of the follow-up treaty "laying special emphasis on the elements, mentioned in the document on joint understanding of START problems by the Russian and American presidents, which was signed in Moscow on July 6."

Nesterenko reminded that Russian and American experts created working groups, in which discussions on specific problems are held. "Both delegations compare their stands on the problems, which are put on the agenda of their meetings, hoping to reach agreement before the deadline set at the Russian-American summit," Nesterenko continued.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov confirmed this week that the Russian and American negotiators were expected to submit to Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama a report on the drafting of the follow-up treaty on strategic offensive armaments before the beginning of the G20 summit, due to be held in Pittsburgh on September 24-25. The document is to be signed before the end of the year. "No one has set other time limits so far," Lavrov added.

 back to top

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



25 August 2009 – 08 September 2009

DTRA

The Russian and American Presidents adopted a document during their talks in Moscow on July 6, entitled "Joint Understanding on Strategic Offensive Armaments." It says that the leaders of the two countries resolved that a new legally binding treaty, to replace START, should be drafted. Medvedev and Obama agreed that within seven years after the new treaty came into force, the Russian and U.S. strategic carriers would be kept within the limits of 500-1,100 pieces, and the warheads for them within the limits of 1,500-1,675 pieces."

 [back to top](#)

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