



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



27 July – 09 August 2010

**DTRA**

## GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

### **UN Chief Announces Minister-Level Nuke Talks Next Month**

*Global Security Newswire, 04 August 2010, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>*

Ministerial-level discussions on eliminating the world's nuclear weapons are scheduled to take place next month in New York, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said yesterday. (300 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü Assumes Office as New OPCW Director-General**

*OPCW, 29 July 2010, <http://www.opcw.org/>*

Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü of Turkey has taken up office as the new Director-General of the OPCW, becoming the third person to hold that office since the Organization was established in 1997. (190 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Experts to Destroy Old Gas Shells**

*The Chronicle, 30 July 2010, <http://www.thechronicle.com.au/>*

A specifically designed chamber will be used to destroy 144 mustard gas shells found on the site of a World War II U.S. military base at Columboola, near Chinchilla [Australia]. (222 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

### **Army: Chemical Weapons off Hawaii Should Stay Put**

*Associated Press, 30 July 2010, <http://news.google.com/>*

Chemical weapons dumped in deep water five miles south of Pearl Harbor after World War II should remain at the site because moving them could pose more of a threat to people and the environment, the Army said Friday. (329 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Third Exercise on the Delivery of Assistance – ASSISTEX 3**

*OPCW, 03 August 2010, <http://www.opcw.org/>*

From October 11-15, 2010 the OPCW will conduct its third exercise on the delivery of assistance and protection to States Parties against the use of chemical weapons. (404 words)

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## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

### **Russia Extends Deadline for Destroying Chemical Weapons by Three Years**

*Moscow Interfax, 04 August 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

Russia has decided to extend the deadline by which it must destroy all of its chemical weapons stockpiles by 2.5 – 3 years because of financial and technical problems, the Foreign Ministry told Interfax on Tuesday. (257 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Pueblo Chemical Depot Completes Safe Mustard Agent Sampling Operation**

*U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 02 August 2010, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>*

Specially trained Army teams from Pueblo Chemical Depot and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, joined forces to complete an operation July 29 that involved obtaining both vapor and liquid agent samples from mustard agent stored at the depot. (404 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **UMCDF Destroys Oldest Mustard Ton Container Stored at UMCD**

*U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 03 August 2010, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>*

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) today destroyed the oldest mustard ton container stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. (326 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

### **UN Chief Seeks CTBT Entry into Force in 2012**

*Tokyo Kyodo World Service, 06 August 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon proposed Friday that the international community put the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty into force in 2012 and convene regular Security Council Summits to follow up on one last year. (174 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM)

### **Moldova Becomes First Country to Destroy Cluster Munitions**

*Moscow Interfax-AVN, 02 August 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

The Moldovan military have completed the destruction of the last cluster munitions from the National Army arsenals at a testing range of the Bulboaka military base. (218 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM) (CONT.)

### **Laos Takes Center Stage in Cluster Bombs Treaty**

*Interpress Service, 05 August 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

After being relegated to the shadows for decades by its more powerful neighbors, Laos is finally taking the lead role in a global campaign to ban the use of cluster bombs. (824 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

## CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

### **New Report Showcases U.S. Global Leadership in Landmine Clearance and Conventional Weapons Destruction Efforts**

*Department of State, 03 August 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>*

The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs has released the 9th Edition of *To Walk the Earth in Safety*, a report summarizing the accomplishments of the U.S. Conventional Weapons Destruction Program. (393 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

### **United States-India Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation Conclusion of Reprocessing Arrangements and Procedures**

*Department of State, 30 July 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>*

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Bill Burns and Indian Ambassador to the United States H.E. Meera Shankar today signed the Arrangements and Procedures Pursuant to Article 6(iii) of the Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy regarding the reprocessing of U.S.-obligated nuclear material in India. (240 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START)

### **“New START” Negotiator Says Russia Complied With Old Pact**

*Global Security Newswire, 30 July 2010, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>*

The top U.S. negotiator for the successor agreement to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty yesterday strongly refuted any suggestion that Russia had cheated on its obligations under the expired pact. (1,339 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **U.S. Senate Panel Delays Key Vote on Russia Arms Treaty**

*AFP, 03 August 2010, <http://www.spacedaily.com/>*

U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee chair John Kerry announced Tuesday that the panel would delay until mid-September its vote on approving a landmark nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia. (376 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Russia Accuses U.S. of Violating Old Arms Pacts**

*The New York Times, 07 August 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>*

Russia’s Foreign Ministry released a report on Saturday accusing the United States of violating dozens of provisions of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons treaties going back about a decade, apparently in a retort to American critics of a new arms treaty, who have been accusing Russia of violating past agreements. (592 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## PLUTONIUM MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSITION AGREEMENT (PMDA)

### **NNSA’s MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility and U.S. Plutonium Disposition Program**

*NNSA, 03 August 2010, <http://nnsa.energy.gov/>*

On August 1, 2007, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) broke ground on the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site near Aiken, South Carolina. (774 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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Ministerial-level discussions on eliminating the world's nuclear weapons are scheduled to take place next month in New York, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said yesterday.

The meeting of foreign ministers would occur September 24 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, Jiji Press reported. Speaking alongside Ban in Tokyo, Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada said his government and Australia would host the talks on nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament.

Ban is in Japan this week to participate in the country's commemoration of the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japan Times reported.

"I will visit Nagasaki and Hiroshima to send a very important and strong message to the world that the nuclear threat is real and we must do everything we can to build on the current global momentum toward a nuclear weapon-free world," the UN chief said to journalists. "We cannot find any more appropriate location than Hiroshima and Nagasaki to send out such a strong message."

Ban and Okada reaffirmed their commitment to have the United Nations and Japan work together to promote the eradication of all nuclear arms, Kyodo News reported. "We must strive and work harder to realize a world free of nuclear weapons and proliferation," Ban said.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said his government would join Tokyo in pushing for global nuclear disarmament at the UN session next month as the Southeast Asian nation prepares to make several antinuclear moves of its own, the Jakarta Post reported.

Natalegawa previously announced Jakarta would ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. Indonesia is also poised to use its chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN] in 2011 to push for resolution of all issues related to implementation of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone.

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OPCW, 29 July 2010, <http://www.opcw.org/>

Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü of Turkey has taken up office as the new Director-General of the OPCW, becoming the third person to hold that office since the Organization was established in 1997. He succeeds Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter of Argentina, who completed his second term as Director-General on July 24, 2010.

“I am extremely honored to assume the leadership of this great Organization, which in the short span of its existence has already distinguished itself as a successful example of effective multilateralism in action,” Director-General Üzümcü said.

“I would like to pay tribute to Ambassador Pfirter and the Technical Secretariat for the essential role they have played in the OPCW’s achievements, and to the States Parties for the strong commitment they have demonstrated in implementing the Convention. I look forward to building on these historic achievements and working closely with all stakeholders to realize our collective goal of a world free of chemical weapons.”

Ambassador Üzümcü is a career diplomat with extensive multilateral experience in political-military affairs and in disarmament and proliferation issues. Prior to becoming the OPCW Director-General he served as Turkey’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

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## Experts to Destroy Old Gas Shells

*The Chronicle*, 30 July 2010, <http://www.thechronicle.com.au/>

A specifically designed chamber will be used to destroy 144 mustard gas shells found on the site of a World War II U.S. military base at Columboola, near Chinchilla [Australia].

[The] Department of Defense awarded the contract for the destruction of the shells to Australian company Milsearch earlier this week. Milsearch will be working with an international team of U.S.-based personnel who have extensive experience in the destruction of old artillery munitions containing chemicals.

A Department of Defense spokesman said specialist equipment would be brought to Australia and set up on the site in the next few months. "The actual process of destruction, in a chamber specifically designed to destroy chemical munitions and capture and neutralize any emissions generated in the process, is expected to take seven to 14 days," the spokesman said.

Further remnants of the military base, including the remains of a sentry tower and small items such as the metal bands used in crates and packaging for ammunition, have been uncovered in ongoing surveys which began last month. No further intact munitions have been found since the 144 shells were discovered last year.

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons experts plan to visit Australia before the destruction takes place to conduct a verification inspection of the shells. The destruction is expected to be completed by June next year.

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*Associated Press, 30 July 2010, <http://news.google.com/>*

Chemical weapons dumped in deep water five miles south of Pearl Harbor after World War II should remain at the site because moving them could pose more of a threat to people and the environment, the Army said Friday.

Records show the Army dumped 16,000 bombs at the site after the war; each of the bombs contained 73 pounds of the chemical agent mustard.

J.C. King, assistant for munitions and chemical matters at the Army, said in a statement that the Army is reviewing a University of Hawaii study released earlier this week on the dumped weapons. Margo Edwards, a senior research scientist at the university, said the study showed the munitions aren't a hazard, but that they're deteriorating and should continue to be monitored.

Edwards' team made 16 dives in submersible vehicles to depths of 2,000 feet over three years as part of the study, and she saw more than 2,000 munitions on the ocean floor.

The spots where the military has dumped chemical weapons off Hawaii are too deep to normally be reached by the public. They're also marked on nautical charts and ships do not trawl in these areas.

King said the military's Explosives Safety Board believes the safest approach to underwater munitions is to leave them in place and to educate the public about what they should do when they find a shell. However, the board believes weapons that pose an imminent and substantial danger should be removed.

King said studies like those conducted by the university help the Army better understand the effect munitions may have on the environment and what effect the ocean may have on the weapons.

The Army intends to expand the area studied off Hawaii, if funding is available. The Army also plans to determine, in coordination with the rest of the military, how it should monitor underwater weapons dumping sites over time, King said.

The military used the ocean as a dumping ground for munitions between 1919 and 1970.

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## Third Exercise on the Delivery of Assistance – ASSISTEX 3

OPCW, 03 August 2010, <http://www.opcw.org/>

From October 11-15, 2010 the OPCW will conduct its third exercise on the delivery of assistance and protection to States Parties against the use of chemical weapons. The exercise, ASSISTEX 3, is being jointly planned with the Government of Tunisia and will be held at the 7 November Sport Complex at Rades, in Tunis.

The scenario for this multilateral exercise will focus on the OPCW's response to a request for assistance by a State Party that has been threatened and attacked with chemical weapons. Participants will include specialized teams from Tunisia and 14 other OPCW States Parties\*, from the OPCW Technical Secretariat in The Hague, and from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). [...]

The [CWC] entered into force in 1997 and currently has 188 States Parties representing more than 98 percent of the world's population and chemical industry. The Convention aims to achieve a world free of chemical weapons by comprehensively prohibiting their development, production or use.

All States Parties are obligated to destroy any chemical weapons and associated production facilities they may possess, and collectively, to ensure that toxic chemicals and their precursors are only used for peaceful purposes. The OPCW verifies compliance with these provisions with a stringent regime of inspections covering all military and industrial sites of relevance to the Convention.

Another key provision of the Convention is that all States Parties pledge to provide assistance and protection to fellow States Parties against chemical weapons, as stated under Article X:

“8. Each State Party has the right to request and... to receive assistance and protection against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons if it considers that:

- (a) chemical weapons have been used against it;
- (b) riot control agents have been used against it as a method of warfare; or
- (c) it is threatened by actions or activities of any State that are prohibited for States Parties by Article I.”

*\*Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Iran, Libya, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and United Kingdom*

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Accordingly, the OPCW should be prepared to mobilize such assistance and to coordinate its activities with those of relevant national agencies and international organizations. The objective of ASSISTEX 3 is to provide a framework for evaluating the OPCW's level of preparedness to fulfill this mandate.

The first two ASSISTEX exercises were held in Zadar, Croatia in September 2002 and in Lviv, Ukraine in October 2005.

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## **Russia Extends Deadline for Destroying Chemical Weapons by Three Years**

*Moscow Interfax, 04 August 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

Russia has decided to extend the deadline by which it must destroy all of its chemical weapons stockpiles by 2.5 – 3 years because of financial and technical problems, the Foreign Ministry told Interfax on Tuesday.

"We are committed to our obligations under the convention on the prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons [CWC], whose priority is the absolute destruction of chemical weapons arsenals possessed by a number of countries, including Russia," the Foreign Ministry said.

"At the same time, we cannot conceal it that, amid the global economic crisis, we have faced objective financial and technical difficulties, which have prompted us to extend the dates set by the convention by 2.5 – 3 years, by which the Russian stockpiles of chemical weapons must be fully destroyed," it said.

Russia officially announced this decision at the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague in June-July this year, the Foreign Ministry said.

"Most member states of the organization took our objective difficulties with due understanding," it said.

April 29, 2012 is the deadline the convention set for its signatories to destroy their chemical weapons arsenals. Russia is making "as much of an effort as it can to destroy all of its chemical weapons stockpiles as soon as possible," it said.

As of July 2010, Russia had destroyed more than 19,500 tonnes of chemical weapons, or about half of its chemical weapon stockpiles, the Foreign Ministry said. When the program was started, specialists estimated the Russian stockpiles of chemical weapons at 40,000 tonnes.

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U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 02 August 2010, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Specially trained Army teams from Pueblo Chemical Depot and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, joined forces to complete an operation July 29 that involved obtaining both vapor and liquid agent samples from mustard agent stored at the depot. In a two part operation, actual sampling was safely completed on July 16, followed by the two types of samples being properly packaged and successfully transported under Army escort to two U.S. laboratories for analysis.

“This was a superbly coordinated and cooperative effort between the state and the Army in support of continued safe storage of the chemical stockpile and its ultimate destruction,” said Lt. Col. Rob Wittig, who commands the Pueblo Chemical Depot. “It also gave us an excellent real-world opportunity to test our procedures for command and control, emergency response, and oversight of chemical operations. We are all better prepared for the future because of this operation.”

The vapor and liquid samples were taken from 11 containers known as Department of Transportation, or DOT, steel bottles, about 25 inches high and 7 inches in diameter. The bottles have been in storage at the depot since the mid 1980s, when they were used to support a U.S. Army-directed agent sampling program. The vapor samples were transported to a San Antonio, Texas laboratory where they will be analyzed for mustard agent, as well as impurities and byproducts, as requested by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

The liquid agent samples, which totaled less than four liters (about 1.24 gallons), were transported to a West Jefferson, Ohio, laboratory where they will undergo testing in support of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant's (PCAPP) laboratory systemization efforts. Scott Susman, who serves as the acting site project manager for the destruction plant currently under construction at the depot, said the samples will ensure laboratory testing standards rely on the most current data available.

“The opportunity to perform these analyses will enhance our procedures and help us to maintain the highest levels of safety,” Susman said.

Aberdeen Proving Ground teams supporting the operation included the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center's (ECBC) Chemical Biological Services Team and the U.S. Army 20<sup>th</sup> Support Command, CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives) Analytical and Remediation Activity (CARA) Technical Escort Unit. The ECBC team performed the sample collection of agent from the bottles and completed the final packaging of the agent. The 20<sup>th</sup> Support Command escorted the samples to their final destinations.

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U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 03 August 2010, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) today destroyed the oldest mustard ton container stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot.

The 70-year-old ton container was manufactured in 1940. In 1946, it was filled with 1,768 pounds of mustard agent at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, near Denver, Colorado, and later transported to UMCD between 1962-1969, where it remained in storage until its disposal. Depot employees nicknamed the container “Grandpa.” Depot maps identified its storage structure as “Grandpa’s House.”

In a statement to UMCDF workers for disposal of the oldest ton container in Umatilla’s storage as well as recent progress on disposal of mustard ton containers, Carmen Spencer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Elimination of Chemical Weapons), said “Thank you for the job you do every day, thanks for gutting it out through difficult times. UMCDF is positioned very well for continued success. Achieving the treaty date is within our reach.” Spencer will be visiting local, state and federal officials in the Hermiston-Pendleton area this week.

“Disposal of ‘Grandpa’ is another positive step forward in eliminating the chemical stockpile at Umatilla Chemical Depot.” said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, depot commander. “We remain focused on our mission to safely and compliantly destroy the remaining chemical stockpile to ensure increased safety of the surrounding communities and our nation.”

Unitary chemical munitions were shipped to the depot from 1962 to 1969. The Army planned to ship chemical weapons from Okinawa to the depot in the late Sixties, but Oregon Governor Tom McCall objected along with Northwest Congressional representatives.

President Richard Nixon later signed an order stopping further shipments of unitary chemical weapons to the depot.

The Depot itself will be celebrating its 69<sup>th</sup> birthday this October. Originally built to support the WWII effort, the Depot first received conventional munitions in 1941. All of the conventional munitions were removed from the depot in 1994 after years of depot support during World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and the Gulf War.

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*Tokyo Kyodo World Service, 06 August 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon proposed Friday that the international community put the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty into force in 2012 and convene regular Security Council Summits to follow up on one last year. [...]

"We should also build on the success of last year's Security Council Summit. My proposal: to convene regular Security Council Summits to follow up on our promises and commitments, starting next year," he also said.[...]

Citing a five-point action plan he offered two years ago to promote nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, Ban, meanwhile, invited the Japanese government to consider hosting a regional conference to advance those efforts.

He also reiterated his support for the goal of realizing a nuclear-free world in 2020 set by the Mayors for Peace, whose membership stood at 4,037 cities in 144 countries and regions including Hiroshima and Nagasaki as of July 1, calling it a "perfect vision." [...]

In the speech, Ban also touched on nuclear threats from North Korea and Iran, and urged the countries to take actions to dispel international concerns. [...]

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## **Moldova Becomes First Country to Destroy Cluster Munitions**

*Moscow Interfax-AVN, 02 August 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

The Moldovan military have completed the destruction of the last cluster munitions from the National Army arsenals at a testing range of the Bulboaka military base.

"The completion of the operation means that Moldova has become the world's first country to have destroyed cluster munitions from its military arsenals," the Defense Ministry said.

It was reported that the Moldovan National Army has, in particular, more than 800 projectiles and 78 cluster bombs made in 1961-1987. Their service life has long expired.

The mission to destroy cluster munitions was accomplished in line with Moldova's commitment to strengthen regional security. Under a memorandum agreement signed between the Moldovan Defense Ministry and Norwegian Peoples Aid, a nongovernmental organization, on December 14, 2009, the army has received technical aid for destroying cluster munitions.

The project is worth 108,000 euros, of which 61,000 were contributed by the Spanish government and 47,000 by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry.

Moldova signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in December 2008. The Convention bans production, storage, use and transportation of this kind of munitions. The document was signed by 98 nations. Russia, the United States and China, who manufacture and possess the largest arsenals of such munitions, as well as India, Pakistan and Israel, which consider them an efficient and indispensable weapon, have refused to sign the agreement.

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## Laos Takes Center Stage in Cluster Bombs Treaty

*Interpress Service, 05 August 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

After being relegated to the shadows for decades by its more powerful neighbors, Laos is finally taking the lead role in a global campaign to ban the use of cluster bombs. [...]

In November, Vientiane will be hosting the first meeting of state parties to a new disarmament treaty, the Cluster Munitions Convention (CCM), which came into force on August 1. This treaty has been ratified by 37 of the 107 countries that signed it since it was opened for endorsements in Oslo in December 2008.

Japan is the only other Asian country besides Laos to have ratified the convention. The Asian signatories to the treaty include Afghanistan, Indonesia and the Philippines.

"This convention is a humanitarian instrument in nature that aims to liberate ourselves from fear and threat of cluster bombs," said Saleumxay Kommasith, director general of the department of international organizations at the Lao foreign ministry. "We view our role in the cluster ban treaty as a contributor to the global effort to ban cluster munitions."

Vientiane's involvement is also a pillar of the country's non-belligerent foreign policy, Saleumxay told IPS. "Implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions is a means to maintaining peace and security in the region and in the world. It is part of the disarmament effort that the international community is pursuing."

Laos, in fact, will be a key testing ground of this landmark treaty, which seeks to ban the use, production and transfer of cluster bombs, in addition to destroying existing stockpiles of this deadly weapons within eight years and clear, in 10 years' time, land contaminated by cluster munitions. The CMC also calls on the international community to assist cluster munitions survivors and affected communities.

Laos' neighbors like Cambodia and Vietnam, which are also affected by cluster bombs, have not come on board the CCM but "will be keenly following its progress before signing up, we understand," said Alfredo Lubang, head of the Southeast Asia office of the non-governmental Nonviolence International, which has been campaigning for the CCM. "They have some reservations that once they sign, they will not be able to meet the obligations of the treaty."

"Success in Laos will depend on the global commitment by countries that have resources to give assistance to nations like Laos," added Lubang. "It is a major humanitarian challenge since so much land has to be cleared of cluster bombs and affected communities have to be helped."

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The daunting challenge in this communist-ruled country, as well as its neighbors, stems from the deadly legacy left over from the United States' war in Vietnam, which ended in [...]1975. During that conflict that also spread to Vietnam's neighbors, U.S. warplanes dropped more than two million tonnes of bombs over Laos. This, according to UN data, is more than the explosives dropped in Europe during World War II.

These air strikes, which saw U.S. planes launch nearly half a million bombing missions from 1964 to 1973, targeted the destruction of the North Vietnamese troops' supply route called the Ho Chi Minh Trail, which also passed through eastern Laos. Most of these explosives – some 270 million – were cluster munitions, better known in Laos as 'bombies'. After being dropped from larger bombs that contained 300 to 600 cluster bombs, these bombies fanned out across a wide area on undulating terrain.

Nearly four decades later, U.S.-made cluster munitions continue to exact a heavy price, according to the National Regulatory Authority for Unexploded Ordnance/Mine Action in Laos. Close to 30 percent of these bombies "failed to detonate" and "approximately 80 million bombies remained in Laos after the war," it reveals. The civilian toll has been grim as well. Over 50,000 people have been killed or injured as a result of unexploded ordnance (UXO) accidents between 1968 and 2008, states the UXO regulatory body. "Forty-one out of the 46 poorest districts in Laos have UXO contamination."

"Laos has more experience with cluster munitions than any other country around the world," said Stan Barbant, a senior adviser on UXO at the United Nations Development Program's Vientiane office. "It knows the ... long-term consequences of cluster munitions on people and communities." "The problem generated by the use of cluster munitions and other weapons 40 years ago is just huge," Barbant told IPS from the Lao capital. "The major weakness (in current international help to clear UXO in Laos) is victim assistance."

But the new treaty does provide for help for UXO victims that humanitarian groups here welcome. "The government of Laos has identified nine target provinces for UXO clearance," said Linthong Siphavong, spokesman for the Laos office of the Mine Advisory Group (MAG), a British humanitarian organization. "

The national growth and poverty eradication scheme promotes UXO decontamination as one of three key poverty-related programs." This is because poverty rates are higher in villages contaminated by bombies. According to the UN World Food Program, UXO contamination has "been an obstacle to agriculture production, thus reducing the potential livelihood outcomes."

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## New Report Showcases U.S. Global Leadership in Landmine Clearance and Conventional Weapons Destruction Efforts

Department of State, 03 August 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>

The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs has released the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of *To Walk the Earth in Safety*, a report summarizing the accomplishments of the U.S. Conventional Weapons Destruction Program, including the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action Program, the world's largest such operation to help countries safely dispose of landmines and excess arms and munitions.

In 2009, the Department of State provided \$130 million in mine clearance and weapons destruction assistance in 32 countries, as well as programs to assist conflict survivors and inform area residents of potential risks from unexploded munitions. Among the 57-page illustrated report's highlights is Afghanistan, where, despite the many challenges, U.S.-pioneered community-based demining initiatives are helping hundreds of families with training and employment as demining personnel, as well as follow-on agricultural and vocational training that complements local development projects. This is a trend the United States hopes will continue and be adopted by other countries.

Working in close cooperation with the Department of Defense, U.S. Agency for International Development's Leahy War Victims Fund, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of State has helped destroy over 1.4 million small arms and light weapons and 80,000 tons of munitions around the world since 2001. In addition, this interagency partnership has collaborated with several governments and international organizations since 2003 to destroy nearly 32,000 excess or poorly secured man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS), shoulder-fired missiles that pose a serious potential threat to global aviation in the hands of terrorists or insurgents.

The latest edition of *To Walk the Earth in Safety* is available online, along with archived previous reports at <http://www.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rpt/walkearth/index.htm>. To receive a printed copy of *To Walk the Earth in Safety*, send an e-mail with your name and full address, including postal or zip code, to Stacy Davis in the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement at [DavisSB@state.gov](mailto:DavisSB@state.gov).

The United States is the world's single largest financial supporter of conventional weapons destruction. Since 1993, the United States has promoted peace and security through the commitment of nearly \$1.8 billion for the safe disposal of small arms, light weapons, and munitions, as well as for removal of landmines and other explosive remnants of war in nearly 50 countries. For more information, please visit the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement at [www.state.gov/t/pm/wra](http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra).

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## United States-India Agreement for Nuclear Cooperation Conclusion of Reprocessing Arrangements and Procedures

Department of State, 30 July 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Bill Burns and Indian Ambassador to the United States H.E. Meera Shankar today signed the Arrangements and Procedures Pursuant to Article 6(iii) of the Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy regarding the reprocessing of U.S.-obligated nuclear material in India.

Upon entry into force, the Arrangements and Procedures will enable reprocessing by India of United States-obligated nuclear material at a new national reprocessing facility to be established by India dedicated to the reprocessing of safeguarded nuclear material under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. These Arrangements and Procedures will facilitate participation by United States firms in India's expanding civil nuclear energy sector.

This arrangement, negotiated and concluded under President Obama, reflects the Administration's strong commitment to building successfully on the landmark U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative and is a prerequisite for U.S. nuclear fuel suppliers to conduct business with India. Previously, the United States had extended such reprocessing consent only to the European Union (EURATOM) and Japan.

The Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative has facilitated significant new commercial opportunities across India's multi-billion dollar nuclear energy market, including the designation of two nuclear reactor park sites for U.S. technology in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. Increased civil nuclear trade with India will create thousands of new jobs for the U.S. economy while helping India to meet its rising energy needs in an environmentally responsible way by reducing the growth of carbon emissions.

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## **“New START” Negotiator Says Russia Complied with Old Pact**

*Global Security Newswire*, 30 July 2010, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

The top U.S. negotiator for the successor agreement to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty yesterday strongly refuted any suggestion that Russia had cheated on its obligations under the expired pact.

"Russia was in compliance with START's central limits during the treaty's lifespan," Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "Moreover, the majority of compliance issues raised under START were satisfactorily resolved. Most reflected differing interpretations on how to implement START'S complex inspection and verification regime." [...]

The [New START] treaty must be approved by lawmakers in Moscow and Washington before entering into force. The White House in May formally submitted the agreement to the Senate, where 67 votes are needed for the pact to achieve ratification in the United States. At least eight of those votes would have to come from Republicans in this Congress. [...]

Gottemoeller's comments came after the State Department this week released an unclassified report on nations' compliance with nonproliferation and arms control agreements over the last five years, including the Biological Weapons Convention [BWC] and the Chemical Weapons Convention [CWC].

Foggy Bottom asserted that Russia had addressed a number of concerns cited in a similar 2005 report regarding its compliance with the first START pact, including issues on mobile missiles and examinations of re-entry platforms. For instance, Russia's re-entry vehicle "covers" in some cases hampered U.S. inspectors from ascertaining whether the top section of a missile contained more than the number of warheads attributed to a weapon of that type under the agreement, according to the unclassified report.

As of 2005, Moscow had also failed to declare certain road-mobile ICBM launchers when they first left their production facility, as required by the treaty. That issue, too, was resolved. Yet Russia failed to address other compliance deficiencies ahead of the 1991 agreement's end date last year, according to the report. The unclassified document does not elaborate on specific problematic areas.

"Notwithstanding the overall success of START implementation, a number of long-standing compliance issues that were raised in the START treaty's Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission remained unresolved when the treaty expired on December 5, 2009," the report

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states. It also notes that the former Cold War adversaries "worked through diplomatic channels" to achieve "effective resolution of compliance issues and questions."

The Russian Foreign Ministry yesterday criticized "tendentious evaluations in the report concerning Russia's fulfillment of the provision of the START treaty." "It may be recalled that the Russian side promptly took all necessary measures to address these concerns and at the time of termination of the START treaty the U.S. did not express any claims concerning implementation of the treaty," the ministry said in a prepared statement.

Gottemoeller asserted that the "START treaty was well-implemented and its implementation was a success, in our view." While "compliance issues did arise" over the course of the agreement's 15-year lifespan because there were "difference in interpretation at times," she told lawmakers. When the treaty went out of force last December "not all those questions had a chance to be resolved," according to Gottemoeller. "It's my understanding that most of them were minor technical issues."

Her comments did not sit well with the Armed Services Committee's ranking Republican, John McCain (Arizona), who demanded to know whether Russia was in compliance with its international obligations and to "learn why our negotiators agreed to a significantly weaker verification regime than that of the original START treaty it is to replace."

Under the proposed arms control agreement, each side could conduct up to 18 "short notice" on-site inspections each year, according to Edward Warner, who served as the Defense Department's representative to the treaty negotiations. The previous treaty allowed 28 such visits each year.

Inspections are to be divided into two groups. "Type 1" inspections would be conducted at operating bases for ICBMs, SLBMs and nuclear-capable heavy bombers and would examine both deployed and nondeployed systems, he told the panel.

The new agreement requires fewer inspections annually at operating bases, while achieving many of the results, according to Warner. "That means less disruption to our operating forces on an annual basis," he said.

"Type 2" inspections would focus on nondeployed strategic systems, as well as confirming that "formerly declared facilities" had been eliminated or converted to other uses, said Warner, who served as the U.S. chairman of the inspections working group during the negotiation of the treaty. Sites covered under these inspections would include storage facilities and test ranges, he said.

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Each side would be allowed to conduct 10 "Type 1" inspections and eight "Type 2" inspections annually, Warner told lawmakers, adding that the number of installations subject to scrutiny has dropped to 35 from 70 under the first treaty. Inspections through that agreement covered facilities in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, as the Soviet nuclear complex was spread across those now-independent nations.

"That really means this argument that we have a much weaker inspection regime I think is very questionable," Warner told the committee.

Allegations of cheating would be raised in the Bilateral Consultative Commission, the body stood up to oversee implementation of the new agreement, or at "higher political levels," he said.

When asked by McCain if cheating matters, Gottemoeller replied: "Absolutely, sir." She went on to say that if the Russians intended to cheat "it would be an enormously serious matter for the United States of America. It would be taken up at – in diplomatic channels and, if serious enough, at the highest political level."

The senator also sharply criticized the proposed treaty for its potential to stymie U.S. missile defenses, returning to what has become a familiar line of attack for GOP lawmakers.

The treaty does not propose binding limits on such systems, though its preamble notes a connection between offensive and defensive weapons. Moscow issued a unilateral statement before the treaty's signing declaring that it could pull out of the accord if Russian leaders determined their nuclear deterrent was threatened by any buildup of U.S. missile defenses.

McCain called the statement a "clear, legally binding limitation on our missile defense options."

## *Other Treaties*

McCain also grilled Gottemoeller over whether Russia was complying with the conventions prohibiting the development and use of biological and chemical weapons. "We now have a report from the State Department that the compliance issues from the last START treaty remain unresolved, and that the [CWC] has not been adhered to, and they may not be in compliance with international convention banning biological weapons," he said.

The compliance report says it is uncertain whether Russia has fulfilled its commitments under the [BWC]. Meanwhile, the State Department could not say whether Russia fully declared its

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chemical weapons capabilities and whether it is meeting its arsenal destruction and verification commitments. The diplomat said she believes that Russia is working hard to eliminate its chemical stocks; however there is a "lack of clarity" on its biological weapons program. She noted that when the program was revealed in the 1990s, the then-Soviet Union said it would provide information on the effort.

Those details have yet to be released, according to Gottemoeller.

Last month, Russia acknowledged it would not meet the 2012 CWC deadline for total elimination of its chemical warfare materials. The United States has also said it could not keep to that schedule.

In its statement, the Russian Foreign Ministry said the report is a "rehash of old complaints about Russia's adherence to the [CWC] and [BWC]."

"The lingering so-called uncertainty on the American side about whether Russia fulfills its obligations under Article I of the [BWC] (not to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire or retain biological agents, toxins, biological weapons, equipment and means of delivery not intended for peaceful purposes) could have been eliminated a decade ago, if in 2001 the U.S. had not blocked multilateral negotiations on the development of a verification mechanism for the convention," the Foreign Ministry said.

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## U.S. Senate Panel Delays Key Vote on Russia Arms Treaty

AFP, 03 August 2010, <http://www.spacedaily.com/>

U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee chair John Kerry announced Tuesday that the panel would delay until mid-September its vote on approving a landmark nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia.

"My hope is that we can do this expeditiously when we come back, and I will postpone the committee vote on the treaty until immediately after the August recess," he said, one day before the panel had been due to take up the pact.

Committee approval would send the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) to the entire Senate, where 67 votes are needed for ratification, a process President Barack Obama has said he would like to see completed in 2010. [...]

Kerry confidently later told reporters on a conference call that the delay was "not in the least" a sign that the agreement was in trouble, declaring "we could pass it on the floor" right now.

The New START, which Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed in a landmark ceremony in Prague in April, commits the two former Cold War foes to slashing their nuclear arsenals. Each nation will be allowed a maximum of 1,550 deployed warheads, about 30 percent lower than a limit set in 2002. They are also restricted to 700 air, ground and submarine-launched nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Some Republican senators have indicated they are inclined to back the pact but say they worry about the effects on the U.S. nuclear deterrent and that they want to energize work at national nuclear laboratories to ensure the safety and reliability of the U.S. arsenal.

Kerry cited his desire to secure a large bipartisan majority in favor of the treaty – as has historically been the case for major arms control agreements – and the vast amount of material for lawmakers to review, but warned further delay could harm U.S. national security.

"We currently have no verifiability, no regime in place with Russia," for monitoring nuclear arsenals, said Kerry, who highlighted the importance of approving the treaty amid efforts to curb Iran's suspect atomic drive. [...]

The president needs "to be able to show that we and Russia, who hold 95 percent of the world's nuclear weapons, are moving in the right direction," he said, setting a target date of September 15-16 for committee action.

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## Russia Accuses U.S. of Violating Old Arms Pacts

*The New York Times*, 07 August 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Russia's Foreign Ministry released a report on Saturday accusing the United States of violating dozens of provisions of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons treaties going back about a decade, apparently in a retort to American critics of a new arms treaty, who have been accusing Russia of violating past agreements.

The 10-page report detailed lapses in security at Los Alamos National Laboratory, cited reports on security threats posed by private laboratories in the United States conducting research on potential military pathogens and noted what it called failures by the United States to provide telemetry on test missile launchings.

It also rekindled complaints that the United States and other NATO nations had disregarded a 1997 agreement with Russia limiting the deployment of forces in former Eastern Bloc countries, and noted that the American missile defense program employed decoy rockets seemingly belonging to a class of missiles banned under a treaty on intermediate range nuclear weapons.

The United States responded to the accusations with a terse comment rejecting Moscow's claims. "We have met our obligations under START," said Megan Mattson, a State Department spokeswoman.

The Senate is considering ratification of a new nuclear weapons treaty, called New Start, signed in April by President Obama and President Dmitri A. Medvedev of Russia, and opponents had pointed to a State Department report that says Russia violated past arms control treaties, at times denying access to inspectors. The report cited several compliance disputes but said Russia had lived up to the treaty's "central limits."

The Obama administration had hoped that the treaty would be ratified by this summer, as a first step toward much harder and more sweeping agreements to curb the spread of nuclear weapons. But a Senate committee has delayed a vote until September.

Ratification requires approval by two-thirds of the Senate, which means at least eight Republican votes. But within the Republican Party there is a debate on whether to support the agreement, which Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor and a possible 2012 presidential candidate, called Mr. Obama's "worst foreign policy mistake yet."

The treaty bars the United States and Russia from deploying more than 1,550 strategic warheads and 70 launchers each, though it allows the countries to store far more, a loophole to be addressed by future treaties.

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The Russian report seemed clearly aimed at American policy makers, Sergei A. Karaganov, a dean of the faculty of international relations at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, said in an interview.

“It is an issue balancing accusations on the American side with counteraccusations, which are more numerous on the Russian side,” said Mr. Karaganov, adding that the point of the report was to say that “nobody is holy” in observing arms agreements.

In Washington, policy analysts have cited partisan motives for delaying ratification, to prevent Mr. Obama from scoring a political victory before Congressional elections or to leverage the vote to get more money for the national laboratories that maintain the nuclear arsenal.

“These things are viewed exclusively in the domestic political battle,” Samuel Charap, a fellow at the Center for American Progress, said in an interview, “but they have consequence for the bilateral relationship.”

The Russian report cited a number of complaints against policies of the Bush administration. The United States, it said, had converted B-1 bombers to carry conventional weapons, rather than destroying them to meet treaty obligations. And assurances that such weapons could not be quickly retooled for nuclear bombs were inadequate.

Citing the Department of Agriculture’s own reports, it said control over laboratories studying plant pathogens was weak.

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## **NNSA's MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility and U.S. Plutonium Disposition Program**

NNSA, 03 August 2010, <http://nnsa.energy.gov/>

On August 1, 2007, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) broke ground on the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site near Aiken, South Carolina. One of the largest construction projects in the Southeastern United States, the MOX facility currently employs 1,850 construction workers, designers and engineers. In addition to its economic impact, the MOX facility will play an important role in U.S. national security and energy policy.

### *Supporting Nuclear Nonproliferation*

During the April 2010 Nuclear Security Summit, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov signed a protocol amending the 2000 Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement (PMDA), which commits each country to dispose of no less than 34 metric tons (MT) of excess weapon-grade plutonium and envisions disposition of more weapon-grade plutonium over time. The combined amount, 68 metric tons, represents enough material for approximately 17,000 nuclear weapons.

The Protocol reaffirms both countries' commitment to nuclear disarmament and the goal of a world free of nuclear danger by ensuring that excess weapon-grade plutonium is never again used for nuclear weapons or any other military purpose; by ensuring it is disposed of in a safe, secure, transparent and effective manner; and by strengthening barriers against accumulating newly separated weapon-grade plutonium.

To implement this agreement in the United States, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is building a Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility, a capability to disassemble nuclear weapons pits and convert the resulting plutonium into a form suitable to be made into MOX fuel, and a Waste Solidification Building to handle the waste resulting from pit disassembly and MOX operations at the Savannah River Site (SRS).

### *How It Works: Converting Swords to Plowshares*

The MOX facility will blend surplus weapons-grade plutonium with depleted uranium oxide to make mixed oxide fuel for use in existing nuclear power plants. Once the MOX fuel assemblies have been irradiated in commercial power reactors, the plutonium can no longer be readily used for nuclear weapons. It will take approximately 15 years for the MOX Facility to process the 34 MT of plutonium.



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The facility is an important part of the United States' efforts to make sure that plutonium can no longer be readily used for nuclear weapons purposes while simultaneously generating electricity for utility customers.

### *Status of Construction*

Construction at the MOX facility began in August 2007 and significant progress has been made in the three years since construction began. Ten of the sixteen auxiliary buildings needed to support construction and operation of the MOX facility have been finished, with a new electrical substation on track to be completed in September 2010. At the MOX Process Building, more than 75,000 cubic yards of reinforced concrete, 50,000 cubic yards of unreinforced concrete, and 15,000 tons of rebar have been installed.

Operations are set to begin at the MOX facility in 2016. The MOX facility will help provide a pathway out of South Carolina for the surplus plutonium brought to SRS for disposition.

### *Based on Proven Technology*

MOX fuel fabrication technology is well established and mature, and MOX fuel is used in more than 30 commercial reactors worldwide. The design of the U.S. MOX facility is based on proven French technology currently in use at the MELOX and LaHague facilities in France. The facility at SRS is being designed and built to meet U.S. conventions, codes, standards, and regulatory requirements, and will be licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC authorized construction of the facility in 2005 and is currently reviewing the contractor's application for an operating license.

### *Benefits of MOX Strategy*

Disposing of excess fissile materials has been a U.S. national security & nonproliferation objective since 1994 and has been endorsed by every President and Congress since that time. Under the 2000 Agreement, the United States and Russia will dispose of 68 metric tons of surplus plutonium.

The MOX facility will help to reduce security and storage costs of surplus plutonium which are estimated to be hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

In addition to its critical nonproliferation benefits, the U.S. MOX strategy supports additional NNSA and DOE missions by:

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- Facilitating Complex Transformation efforts to reduce the size of the NNSA nuclear security enterprise by consolidating materials to SRS from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Pantex Plant, the Hanford Site, and the Rocky Flats Site,
- Establishing the capability to dispose of additional plutonium from future weapons dismantlements, and
- Disposing of surplus U.S. weapon-grade plutonium demonstrates that the United States is living up to its nonproliferation commitments by drawing down its nuclear arsenal in a transparent and irreversible manner.

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