



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



27 January 2009 – 09 February 2009

DTRA

ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

Britain Seeks New Talks on Nuclear Disarmament

Associated Press Worldstream, 4 February 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Britain's Foreign Secretary David Miliband on Wednesday [February 4] called for new talks between major powers aimed at ridding the world of nuclear weapons. (343 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Pine Bluff Expected to Meet Chemical Weapons Disposal Deadline

Global Security Newswire, 27 January 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

The Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas is expected to meet the April 2012 international deadline for disposal of its stockpile of chemical weapons, the Pine Bluff Commercial reported Saturday [February 24]. (364 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Umatilla Prepares for Mustard Agent Disposal Campaign

Global Security Newswire, 29 January 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

The Umatilla Chemical Depot in Oregon is continuing preparations for disposal of more than 2,000 ton containers of mustard blister agent, the Hermiston Herald reported yesterday [January 28]. (159 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Deactivates First Batch of VX-Containing Bombs at Penza Region Facility

BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union, 1 February 2009; accessed via Lexis-Nexis.

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Storm Slows “Swift Solution”

Richmond Register (KY), 5 February 2009, <http://www.richmondregister.com/>

The recent inclement weather has put a temporary halt on Operation Swift Solution at the Blue Grass Army Depot, and operations are to begin again on Monday, February 9. (426 words)

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)(CONT.)

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Figures for the storage of lethal nerve agents at bases around the United States do not match accountings for disposal of the material, creating a small chance that some might be lost, the Deseret (Utah) News reported yesterday [February 8]. (227 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

India to Sign Nuclear Inspection Agreement on February 2

PTI, 31 January 2009, <http://www.hindu.com/>

Moving a step closer to international civil nuclear cooperation, India will sign a key inspection agreement with the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], in Vienna on Monday [February 2], Atomic Energy Department (DAE) sources said on Friday [January 30]. (352 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

President Obama Seeks Russia Deal to Slash Nuclear Weapons

The Times Online, 4 February 2009, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/>

President Obama will convene the most ambitious arms reduction talks with Russia for a generation, aiming to slash each country's stockpile of nuclear weapons by 80 per cent. (407 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Ready for Missile Cuts

Space War, 7 February 2009, <http://www.spacewar.com/>

Russia is ready to further reduce its nuclear missile arsenal in line with its national interests if talks go ahead with Washington on a new treaty, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday [February 7]. (240 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:



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Britain's Foreign Secretary David Miliband on Wednesday [February 4] called for new talks between major powers aimed at ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

Miliband published a policy document calling for a resumption of debate on disarmament, despite the West's fears over Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon and over the prospects of terrorists acquiring access to the technology.

The British foreign policy chief said that he hopes the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France can begin talks aimed at the eventual elimination of all nuclear arsenals. He proposed a five-nation conference later this year to discuss how to work toward the goal.

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and U.S. President Barack Obama have both called for new action to create a world free of nuclear weapons, Miliband said, in a foreword to the document.

"We need an assertive and cooperative strategy, founded on the premise that the goal of a nuclear weapons free world is achievable but it will require a long-term, sustained effort," he said.

Miliband set out a six-point plan calling for tougher anti-proliferation safeguards to prevent the spread of weapons rouge states or terrorists, new global cooperation to help supply developing countries with civilian nuclear energy programs and negotiations between the U.S. and Russia to agree significant reductions in their stockpiles.

He said there must be an extension of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty banning weapons tests, negotiations on prohibiting the further production of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium and a new dialogue between the world's five major nuclear powers.

"Progress on these six steps would mark a decisive break from the deadlock of the past decade," Britain's Foreign Office said in the policy document.

Brown said last year that Britain hoped to lead efforts "to prevent proliferation to new states, and to ultimately achieve a world that is free from nuclear weapons." Britain has cut its stock of nuclear warheads from 200 to 160. But Brown is pressing ahead with a 20 billion-pound (\$30 billion) nuclear missile program to replace Britain's current fleet of four nuclear-armed submarines with new vessels...

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The Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas is expected to meet the April 2012 international deadline for disposal of its stockpile of chemical weapons, the Pine Bluff Commercial reported Saturday [February 24]. The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility began operations in March 2005 and in December began its last campaign—incinerating mustard blister agent, which is set under contract to last three years.

“However, given the successes of the previous three disposal campaigns PBCDF actually began processing the mustard agent ton containers approximately nine months ahead of the contractual schedule,” said disposal facility project manager Mark Greer. “The mustard ton-container disposal campaign ... is expected to be completed by and possibly ahead of the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty deadline of April 29, 2012.”

The Defense Department, though, has acknowledged that it cannot eliminate its full chemical arsenal by that time. It would take another two years to completely shutter the Pine Bluff disposal plant, said David Reber, project general manager for plant operations contractor Washington Defense Group.

Officials in Pine Bluff are not considering options for extending the service life of the plant, Greer said, referring to a plan offered by two local elected officials to use an incinerator in Anniston, Alabama, to destroy chemical weapons stored in other states.

“At this time PBCDF is focused on our mission to safely dispose of the inventory of chemical weapons that is here now,” Greer said. “It is against federal law to transport chemical weapons across state lines. Unless Congress changes this law and we receive specific direction from the Department of Defense, it would be speculative for us to comment on or to investigate possible impacts to our disposal mission as a result of bringing in more chemical weapons.”

A variety of operations would continue at the Pine Bluff Arsenal after the disposal plant is closed, said commander Col. Bill Barnett. He called the site a “world leader in the design, manufacture and refurbishment of smoke, riot control and incendiary munitions, as well as chemical/biological defense operations items.”

Among the ongoing operations are production of chemical decontamination equipment and refurbishment of decontamination units and shelters for protection against biological and chemical agents, the Commercial reported.



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The Umatilla Chemical Depot in Oregon is continuing preparations for disposal of more than 2,000 ton containers of mustard blister agent, the Hermiston Herald reported yesterday [January 28].

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has been undergoing conversion since finishing off the depot's stockpile of VX nerve agent in November.

The incineration plant has installed a sealed "glovebox" that would be used to release hydrogen from the bulk containers. Up to five containers can be placed in the box at any one time.

The plant has added a new ventilation system and vent stack and made a number of other modifications, said facility project manager Doug Hamrick.

Equipment for dealing with "heels"—chunks of dried mustard agent found at the bottom of the containers—has also been built, while the plant's metal parts furnace has been upgraded to better process the heels, Hamrick said.

Disposal operations are scheduled to begin in April and could last up to two years.

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The first 1,000 aerial bombs containing dangerous VX toxic gases have been decontaminated at the chemical weapons destruction complex in the settlement of Leonidovka of Penza Region.

The facility's public relations office told ITAR-TASS today [February 1] that reaction masses received in the process of detoxification of poisonous substances were removed from bomb casings on 27 January.

"The process went on without a hitch," the public relations office said.

The Leonidovka facility was launched in June 2008. Tests of the equipment involving real media, that is to say, filling aerial bomb casings containing VX gases with chemical additives, started in September. The process was carried out in full compliance with international safety rules. Controlling bodies did not register any violations.

Currently, 22,743 pieces of ammunition containing VX gases are undergoing the stage of detoxification. "That's 4,370 tonnes—almost 85 per cent of the total amount of VX gases stored in military depots in Leonidovka in aerial bomb casings," the public relations office specified.

The construction of buildings and installation of equipment for the second complex is in full swing at the facility. The second complex, at which sarin and soman will be destroyed, is due to be launched at the end of the second quarter of 2009.

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Storm Slows “Swift Solution”

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The recent inclement weather has put a temporary halt on Operation Swift Solution at the Blue Grass Army Depot, and operations are to begin again on Monday, February 9.

The project began in November and the goal is to destroy the contents of three, “tonne” containers, one of which leaked in August 2007. The operation is now in phase three, which involves processing the wastes generated during the management of current and previous operations associated with these containers. When this is completed, the operational facilities will be shut down and the temporary structures and equipment will be shipped back to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

Army teams, including members from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), the Chemical Materials Agency and the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives [ACWA], are involved in the destruction effort, with cooperation and oversight from local and state government agencies and daily oversight from the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection.

“Safety was the number one consideration in the decision to halt operations,” said Johnnie Allen, BGCA civilian executive assistant. “The extended period of area-wide power outages, hazardous road conditions on the installation and unavailability of appropriate support personnel and facilities severely impacted the team’s ability to safely perform the mission, and the operation was therefore temporarily suspended.”

A limited crew is on site to perform maintenance and monitoring of the temporary facility and the filtration units to ensure the safety of the work force and community, according to Stephanie Parrett of the Blue Grass Outreach Office in Richmond. Operations are expected to be completed in the late February, early March time frame, according to Katherine B. DeWeese, communications and congressional affairs, U.S. Army Element ACWA.

Operation Swift Solution is an Army initiative that started operations November 12, 2008, to destroy the contents of three steel containers commonly referred to as “tonne containers,” that held a corrosive mixture of the nerve agent GB and its breakdown product. The work is being performed by Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) operators who are extensively trained and experienced in chemical operations, especially in neutralization and destruction of chemical warfare materiel, DeWeese said.



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“Due to the unknowns regarding the nerve agent and its breakdown products in the containers, there were some initial challenges, but they were overcome by rigorous planning, analytical studies and pre-operational testing,” she said.

Operation Swift Solution has been a 24/7 operation since the beginning with the average workday being between 14 and 15 hours.

[Visit http://www.pmacwa.army.mil/ky/swift_solution.htm for previous advisories and additional information.]

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A U.S. Army Audit Agency report indicates that officials believe the material was eliminated rather than missing.

However, "The (Army Chemical Materials) Agency [CMA] didn't have complete assurance that amounts recorded in the system were accurate, which increased its chances for heightened levels of program scrutiny by federal, state and international organizations that have a vested interest in the elimination of chemical weapons," according to the document obtained by the newspaper through a Freedom of Information Act request.

The intent of the audit was "to determine whether the agency accounted for destroyed chemical agents" at seven U.S. chemical weapons storage sites.

While it generally lauded the bases' accounting, the report said the figures for storage of nerve agent in bulk containers did not line up with destruction figures.

"They did not have effective procedures in place to ensure amounts destroyed were accurately recorded in the (electronic recording) system. Consequently, CMA didn't have complete assurance that amounts recorded in the system were accurate," the report said.

The redacted version of the report did not indicate all the specific storage depots at which problems were found, but the Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah was among that group, the News reported.

The depots should develop databases for recording disposal figures and quickly addressing any accounting problems, auditors said. The CMA said it accepted the auditors' findings and would make the recommended fixes unless they necessitated amendments to international agreements. ...

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India to Sign Nuclear Inspection Agreement on February 2

PTI, 31 January 2009, <http://www.hindu.com/>

Moving a step closer to international civil nuclear cooperation, India will sign a key inspection agreement with the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], in Vienna on Monday [February 2], Atomic Energy Department (DAE) sources said on Friday.

The agreement with the IAEA is a pre-condition for the civil nuclear deal with the United States that will end 34 years of nuclear isolation and allow the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) to supply material and technology for India's ambitious nuclear power program, the sources said.

India's Ambassador Saurab Kumar will sign the inspection deal with the IAEA, which will be ratified later by New Delhi, they said. Chief Indian negotiator Ravi Grover is already in Vienna to finalize the inspection deal. He is also working on mandatory Additional Protocol requirements.

DAE said this is an important step to place 14 reactors under IAEA safeguards. This is also the way forward in immediately utilizing the already ordered uranium from French power major AREVA, they added.

The imported fuel from AREVA is proposed to be used in the unit two of Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant at Kota, already under safeguards, sources said.

On August 1, 2008, the Board of Governors of the IAEA authorized Director General Mohammed ElBaradei to conclude with India an India-specific Safeguards Agreement (ISSA) and subsequently implement the ISSA. A month later, the NSG agreed to lift the ban on nuclear trade with India.

India already has six of its reactors under various safeguards agreements that include units 1 and 2 of Tarapur in Maharashtra, units 1 and 2 of Kota (RAPS), Rajasthan and two units at Koodankulam, Tamil Nadu. Along with eight other reactors, these six will also be placed under the umbrella of the India-specific Safeguards Agreement. Under the separation plan, RAPS units 5 and 6 will be placed under IAEA inspection in 2009 and RAPS units 3 and 4 in 2010.

In 2012, units 1 and 2 of Kakrapar atomic power stations in Gujarat and in 2014, units 1 and 2 of Narora atomic power plants in Uttar Pradesh would be brought under international inspection, sources said.

[For more information on the official signing of the India-IAEA Safeguards Agreement, visit: <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2009/indiaagreement.html>]



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President Obama Seeks Russia Deal to Slash Nuclear Weapons

The Times Online, 4 February 2009, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/>

President Obama will convene the most ambitious arms reduction talks with Russia for a generation, aiming to slash each country's stockpile of nuclear weapons by 80 per cent. The radical treaty would cut the number of nuclear warheads to 1,000 each, *The Times* has learnt. Key to the initiative is a review of the Bush Administration's plan for a U.S. missile defense shield in Eastern Europe, a project fiercely opposed by Moscow.

Mr. Obama is to establish a non-proliferation office at the White House to oversee the talks, expected to be headed by Gary Samore, a non-proliferation negotiator in the Clinton Administration. The talks will be driven by Hillary Clinton's State Department.

No final decision on the defense shield has been taken by Mr. Obama. Yet merely delaying the placement of U.S. missiles in Poland and a radar station in the Czech Republic—which if deployed would cost the United States \$4 billion annually—removes what has been a major impediment to Russian co-operation on arms reduction. Any agreement would put pressure on Britain, which has 160 nuclear warheads, and other nuclear powers to reduce their stockpiles.

Mr. Obama has pledged to put nuclear weapons reduction at the heart of his presidency and his first move will be to reopen talks with Moscow to replace the 1991 U.S.-Soviet Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expires in December. Under that pact, the two countries have cut their respective stockpiles from roughly 10,000 to 5,000.

"We are going to re-engage Russia in a more traditional, legally binding arms reduction process," an official from the Administration said. "We are prepared to engage in a broader dialogue with the Russians over issues of concern to them. Nobody would be surprised if the number reduced to the 1,000 mark for the post-START treaty."

Efforts to revive the START talks were fitful under Mr. Bush and complicated by his insistence on building a missile defense shield. "If Obama proceeds down this route, this will be a major departure," one Republican said. "But there will be trouble in Congress."

The plan is also complicated by the nuclear ambitions of Iran, which launched its first satellite into space yesterday, and North Korea, which is preparing to test a long-range ballistic missile capable of striking the United States.

Mr. Obama views the reduction of arms by the United States and Russia as critical to efforts to persuade countries such as Iran not to develop the Bomb.



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Space War, 7 February 2009, <http://www.spacewar.com/>

Russia is ready to further reduce its nuclear missile arsenal in line with its national interests if talks go ahead with Washington on a new treaty, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday [February 7].

"In the last two-and-a-half years of the previous (U.S.) administration we tried to get a clearer reaction to our numerous proposals to start work on a new treaty to replace the START treaty that expires in December," Lavrov said on Russian television.

"We are ready to go further along the path of cuts and limits, naturally taking account of Russia's national security interests," Lavrov said.

"We are ready for talks that would allow the maintenance of limits and reductions in strategic weapons and we are pleased the new administration in Washington is treating this problem as a priority," he said in the television interview.

The comments came as security chiefs gathered in the German city of Munich for an international security conference this weekend, with Russia represented by Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov.

Moscow has long sought talks on replacing the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), a landmark Cold War disarmament pact between the United States and the then-Soviet Union which expires at the end of this year.

In January, prior to her confirmation as the new U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton promised to quickly renegotiate START, which was signed in 1991 and led to steep reductions in the American and Russian nuclear arsenals. ...

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