



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



28 July 2009 – 10 August 2009

DTRA

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Russia, United States Lag on Chemical Arms Deadline

Arms Control Today, July 2009-August 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Although the CWC does not impose automatic sanctions in cases of noncompliance, there could be serious political fallout if Russia and the United States have not completely destroyed their stockpiles by the 2012 deadline... (1,134 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Reduction in Force at Newport Chemical Depot

CMA, 30 July 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

As part of the Army's progress toward closure of the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD), this week depot officials announced the impending layoff of approximately 180 employees. (309 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia's Maradykovsky Facility Destroys First Ton of Sarin

Global Security Newswire, 30 July 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

Russia's Maradykovsky facility has destroyed one ton of sarin gas, the first of 231 tons of the deadly nerve agent that the site plans to eliminate by the end of the year, ITAR-Tass reported yesterday [July 29]. (104 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Army is Studying Effects of Dumping Live Ammo in Sea

The Honolulu Star, 04 August 2009, <http://www.cwwg.org/>

For the past two years, the Army has reviewed more than 2 million documents under a congressional mandate to pinpoint and determine the effects of dumping of chemical and conventional weapons into the ocean—which was banned in 1972. (553 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Weapons Disposal Funds Approved for Blue Grass and Pueblo

Lexington Herald-Leader, 01 August 2009, <http://www.kentucky.com/>

Funds to accelerate the disposal of the chemical weapons stored at Kentucky's Blue Grass Army Depot were included in the defense spending bill that the U.S. House of Representatives passed on Thursday [July 30]. (257 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia on Pace to Meet Chemical Disarmament Deadline, General Says

Global Security Newswire, 10 August 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

Russia has reported destroying 37 percent of its arsenal of chemical warfare agents, Interfax reported last week. (143 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Obama Hopes to Win CTBT Ratification by May

Global Security Newswire, 10 August 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

The Obama administration is pushing for U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty before a key nonproliferation meeting in May 2010, Kyodo News reported Friday [August 7]. (160 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS (CCM)

Convention on Cluster Munitions

Arms Control Today, July 2009-August 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Albania, Niger, and Spain ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in June, bringing the total number of ratifying states to 10. (100 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

NNSA Marks Two-Year Construction Milestone at MOX Facility in South Carolina

NNSA, 31 July 2009, <http://nnsa.energy.gov/>

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today marked the second full year of successful construction of the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site (SRS) near Aiken, South Carolina. (401 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Conference on Disarmament Opens Third Part of 2009 Session

United Nations, 04 August 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The United Kingdom presented a new Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons-related initiative, the "Road to 2010" plan, which brought together the United Kingdom's detailed vision for a renewed nuclear global bargain on the key strategic challenges of the modern nuclear era. (592 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Russian Military Plans to Resume Bulava Missile Tests in August

RIA Novosti, 31 July 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

The Russian Defense Ministry said on Friday [July 31] it would not abandon the development of the troubled Bulava ballistic missile, and that tests could resume in August. (475 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Nuclear Weapon's Refurbishing Woes Draw Congressional Attention to Treaty

The Washington Post, 4 August 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Concern over the U.S. strategic nuclear stockpile... has triggered quiet maneuverings on Capitol Hill related to negotiations to extend the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

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

Russia Conducts Fewer Inspections of Nuclear Facilities than United States

Moscow Interfax, 04 August 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

Since the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) took effect, Russia has conducted fewer inspections of U.S. nuclear weapons than the United States in Russia. (152 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Russian Nuclear Arsenal Has 811 Carriers, 3,906 Warheads

Moscow Interfax, 04 August 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

The U.S. strategic nuclear forces have almost 400 more carriers and over 1,500 more warheads than Russia. (187 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE)

Russia Has Less Weapons, Military Hardware in European Part than CFE Allows

Moscow Interfax, 04 August 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia has less conventional weapons and military hardware in its European part than is allowed under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE). (179 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

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Russia, United States Lag on Chemical Arms Deadline

Arms Control Today, July 2009-August 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The likely failure of Russia and the United States, the holders of the world's largest stockpiles of chemical weapons, to meet a key treaty deadline for destroying their stocks is prompting varying responses from experts, in recent public statements and interviews, officials involved in the process emphasized the progress and commitment of the two countries, while independent experts expressed concern about the effect of the missed deadline on the nonproliferation regime.

Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) must irreversibly destroy their stockpiles of chemical weapons by April 29, 2012. As of June 24, 188 countries were parties to the convention, and two more countries had signed but not yet ratified it.

The CWC is testimony to how "successful and fruitful" the cooperation between Russia and the United States can be, Rogelio Pfirter, director-general of the treaty secretariat, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the Hague, said June 16. In a speech at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, Pfirter, whose term as OPCW director-general ends next year, declined to speculate whether the two countries would meet the CWC destruction deadline. He acknowledged that "time is short" because so many weapons remain to be destroyed by 2012.

But he also said it is important not to "trump up" possible scenarios. Other CWC member states should wait to see how Russia and the United States progress as the deadline approaches, he said. When his successor and the representatives of the CWC's member states wake up on the morning of April 30, 2012, they will need to reassess the status of the chemical weapons destruction effort and determine if the possessor states were negligent in meeting their commitments, he said.

In his remarks, Pfirter emphasized the progress made by Russia and the United States toward meeting the treaty's requirements. "I applaud the Russian government's commitment" to chemical demilitarization, he said. He also said he has "no doubt" about the U.S. commitment to the CWC, although estimates for when the United States will complete destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile have varied. In November 2006, the U.S. Department of Defense announced that destruction would not be complete until 2020 and 2023 at the chemical weapons depots in Pueblo, Colorado, and Blue Grass, Kentucky, respectively. Increased funding may hasten the demilitarization process, a knowledgeable U.S. official said.

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Russia's progress is expected to be slower. Although the May 2009 formal opening of the Shchuchye chemical agent destruction facility brings Russia one step closer to fulfilling its CWC obligations, there is still a sizable stockpile of Russian chemical weapons awaiting destruction. Jonathan B. Tucker, a senior fellow at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies in Washington, said he was highly skeptical that Russia will meet the treaty deadline. Although not disputing that assessment, the U.S. official said the United States believes that Russia has "demonstrated complete commitment" to its CWC obligations.

Russian Destruction Process

In addition to the challenge presented by the approximately 28,000 metric tons of chemical weapons in Russia that remain to be destroyed, some observers are concerned about the demilitarization process that Russia is using. At certain facilities, Russia has carried out the first part of the chemical weapons destruction process but has not taken the subsequent steps needed for complete destruction as specified in the CWC. For example, at the Leonidovka destruction site, Russia has drained the toxic fill from many munitions and used a chemical process to neutralize the warfare agents, but it has just started incinerating the delivery vehicles and the neutralized liquids, Pfirter explained in a speech to the OPCW executive council in April. For that reason, the OPCW has not yet formally recognized any chemical weapons destruction at Leonidovka despite much activity there.

Failure to destroy all chemical weapons components irreversibly can have serious repercussions for the nonproliferation regime, Tucker said. It would be relatively easy for someone to refill an empty munition with a chemical agent to reconstitute a chemical weapon, said Paul Walker, director of security and sustainability at Global Green USA. Security has improved at many of Russia's chemical weapons storage sites, he added, but the risk of refilling bomb or shell casings will remain as long as the munitions exist.

Walker further cautioned that Russia's partial demilitarization process could set a "dangerous precedent" if the OPCW grants Russia destruction credit for separating chemical weapons into their various components before it has irreversibly destroyed them. The danger is that a CWC non-signatory, such as Syria, might later accede to the CWC, demilitarize in a manner similar to Russia, receive credit for destruction prematurely, and then secretly recover the chemical warfare agent from the neutralized reaction mass or refill empty munitions with new agents, he said. According to the U.S. official, Moscow and the OPCW negotiated modified procedures specifically for Russia, granting it demilitarization credit earlier in the destruction process to help it meet the 2012 deadline. Walker said that Russia received destruction credit for neutralizing nerve agents at the Maradykovsky destruction site even though it has not destroyed the

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associated bomb casings. In another instance, the OPCW granted Russia destruction credit after it neutralized chemical agents but before it incinerated the reaction mass, Walker said. Although the OPCW has been fairly lenient to date on this issue, it might become stricter as the 2012 deadline approaches because Iran, which is a party to the treaty, has expressed concern about Russia's receiving credit for destruction prior to reaching an irreversible end point, Walker said.

At the opening ceremony for the Shchuchye chemical weapons destruction facility, Russian Industry Minister Viktor Khristenko said that Russia is on schedule to meet the CWC deadline and that it will have destroyed 45 percent of its arsenal by the end of this year.

To date, the United States has destroyed about 60 percent of its stockpile. The United States "is very committed to finishing the job," the U.S. official said. In recent years, the Defense Department has sped up demilitarization by allocating more funds and building new destruction facilities, he said. In 2006 the United States was projected to have destroyed only about two-thirds of its stockpile by 2012; the current estimate of 90 percent destroyed by 2012 reflects the increased pace, he said.

Potential Repercussions

[...] Amending the CWC to extend the destruction deadline seems very unlikely, in large part because of the difficult process that the treaty has established for making amendments, Walker said. Russia and the United States are inclined to oppose that approach anyway because opening the CWC to amendment could bring about unwanted changes, Walker and the U.S. official said. Two examples are Iran's call for the abolition of export controls on certain chemical agents and other states' desire to reduce the monitoring of industrial plants that produce dual-use chemicals, the official said.

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Reduction in Force at Newport Chemical Depot

CMA, 30 July 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

As part of the Army's progress toward closure of the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD), this week depot officials announced the impending layoff of approximately 180 employees. The workers affected by this reduction, which will be effective in September, are employed by Parsons Corporation, the Army contractor that built, operated and now is dismantling the facility where more than 1,200 tons of chemical agent VX was destroyed. Workers completed destruction of the VX nerve agent stockpile in August 2008.

Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) Site Project Manager Anthony W. Reed said, "Our contractor is providing 60 days advance notice of a mass layoff to allow employees time to look at their options."

"While NECDF employees are making great progress in our closure operations, these achievements come at the cost of jobs," Reed added. Several of the workers being laid off will move to positions at other chemical agent disposal facilities.

"Newport workers are experts in their fields with countless hours of valuable training and hands-on experience. A variety of industries, as well as current chemical stockpile sites, would definitely benefit from their skills and knowledge," said Depot Commander Lt. Col. William Hibner.

The Army's plan to close the NECD under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law also has resulted in the elimination of nearly 150 positions with Mason & Hanger, which has operated the installation since 1986. Approximately 385 remaining contract and government positions at the installation will gradually be phased out until the Newport Chemical Depot Reuse Authority, the local entity appointed to develop land reuse plans for the depot property, assumes management control. The transfer is expected to occur prior to the September 2011 deadline established by BRAC law.

Newport is one of seven chemical stockpile sites currently managed by the U.S. Army Chemicals Materials Agency (CMA) and the third CMA installation to complete stockpile destruction.



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The effort to dispose of the substance at the Maradykovsky facility—which has stored more than 40,000 sarin bombs and missile warheads for half a century—is being overseen by several groups, including the United Nations. The effort is part of Moscow's 2006 pledge to destroy its stockpiled chemical weapons by 2012.

The Maradykovsky plant is the third Russian facility to begin the chemical weapons disposal process.

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Army is Studying Effects of Dumping Live Ammo in Sea

The Honolulu Star, 04 August 2009, <http://www.cwwg.org/>

For the past two years, the Army has reviewed more than 2 million documents under a congressional mandate to pinpoint and determine the effects of dumping of chemical and conventional weapons into the ocean—which was banned in 1972.

To date, the Pentagon has spent \$7 million to determine the location of these munition dumpsites in Hawaii, analyze the effects on the environment and determine ways to remove the unexploded ordnance.

Tad Davis, the Army's deputy assistant secretary for the environment, safety and occupational health, is in town this week to meet with Army officials, University of Hawaii scientists involved in several of the ocean monitoring and testing programs and members of the staffs of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

He also will attend a special session of the Nanakuli and Waianae neighborhood boards tomorrow night to discuss the ongoing environmental issues at Makua Military Reservation, where the Army hopes to resume limited live-fire exercises at the end of this month.

Besides Hawaii, there were chemical weapons sea disposal sites in the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and off Alaska.

Off Oahu there were three areas where chemical weapons were thrown overboard—two off Pearl Harbor. One is 10 miles south of Pearl Harbor where the ocean depth is 10,000 feet; another is five miles south of Pearl Harbor at a depth of 1,000 to 1,500 feet. The third is believed to be 10 miles west of Waianae where the depth is 10,000 feet.

About 2,000 conventional munitions—weapons that are not nuclear, chemical or biological—were dumped in the shallow waters off Waianae known as Ordnance Reef.

The Army Corps of Engineers hopes to begin clearing the reef and the ocean bottom of conventional munitions at Ordnance Reef, using robotic techniques beginning next summer. The Pentagon's goal is to clear the water from the shoreline to 120 feet of unexploded munitions.

Davis said the Army will conduct another series of tests sampling the water, sediment, fish and limu living in the Ordnance Reef area later this month and in September. This is part of an ongoing study—the first done in May 2006, followed by another one last winter.

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Davis said the Army, the university and other scientists are still studying the data and video obtained earlier this year by two UH deep-diving submersibles which scoured the ocean bottom at 1,500 feet, five miles south of Pearl Harbor.

The Army believes 16,000 M47-A2 bombs, containing 598 tons of mustard gas, were dumped there in 1944.

The Army says that between 1932 and 1944 chemical weapons such as blister agents lewisite and mustard gas and blood agents hydrogen cyanide and cyanogen chloride were disposed in the area.

There are no current plans to remove these canisters.

Davis said the deep-water survey "gave us a better understanding of disposal techniques."

It was believed before the survey was started that the chemical weapons were thrown overboard at one site. However, Davis said "the (disposal) vessel was moving on a certain course and disposing of the munitions since they were found in a line on the ocean floor."

Ocean dumping of munitions and other materials is illegal without a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency, according to the 1972 Ocean Dumping Act. The United States signed an international treaty in 1975 prohibiting ocean disposal of chemical weapons.

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Weapons Disposal Funds Approved for Blue Grass and Pueblo

Lexington Herald-Leader, 01 August 2009, <http://www.kentucky.com/>

Funds to accelerate the disposal of the chemical weapons stored at Kentucky's Blue Grass Army Depot were included in the defense spending bill that the U.S. House of Representatives passed on Thursday [July 30].

The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, H.R. 3326, was approved, 400 for and 30 against. The measure matched the Pentagon's request for increased funds in 2010 for the destruction projects in Madison County and at Colorado's Pueblo Depot Activity. The bill now goes to the Senate for a vote.

Rep. Ben Chandler of Versailles led the effort in the House to stabilize the funding for the disposal program. All six of Kentucky's congressmen voted for the bill, which makes defense appropriations through the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2010.

Last month, the Kentucky Citizens Advisory Board was told that increased funding over the long haul would cut six years off the completion date, from 2027 to 2021 and possibly more depending on the steadiness of funding, construction rates and other considerations.

A recent Pentagon report to Congress showed the accelerated completion date in Colorado shortened from 2020 to 2017.

Citizens Advisory Board co-chair Craig Williams said, "With Representative Chandler's diligence and leadership, we are closer to getting the level of support we need here in Kentucky and in Colorado to move forward aggressively."

Chandler said he was "pleased that the House fulfilled the president's request and was able to give the Blue Grass Army Depot the resources it needs to destroy these weapons in a safe, timely way for our Central Kentucky communities."



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Russia has reported destroying 37 percent of its arsenal of chemical warfare agents, Interfax reported last week.

The government said Friday [August 7] it is on schedule to destroy the entire stockpile by 2012, as promised.

"We will meet all deadlines," said Gen. Nikolai Abroskin, head of the Russian Federal Special Purpose Construction Agency. "There will be no delays in the implementation of the international convention. Today, the state authorities regard the federal program 'Destruction of Chemical Weapons Stockpiles in the Russian Federation' as one of the most successful programs in the country."

Under the international Chemical Weapons Convention, Russia must eliminate all chemical weapons by April 2012. Observers have expressed skepticism of Moscow's repeated affirmations of its ability to keep to that schedule.

Russia has already disposed of 15,000 metric tons of its 40,000-metric-ton arsenal of banned materials, according to government reports.

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Obama Hopes to Win CTBT Ratification by May

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The Obama administration is pushing for U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty before a key nonproliferation meeting in May 2010, Kyodo News reported Friday [August 7].

Washington has informed China, Japan, Russia and other nations of its intent to win Senate approval for the agreement ahead of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference, according to diplomatic sources connected to the United Nations.

Ratification would require support from two-thirds of U.S. senators, making the move a political challenge for President Barack Obama, the sources noted.

The pact cannot enter into force before it is signed and ratified by 44 "Annex 2" states—those that had nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons technology at the time the treaty could first be signed in 1996. The holdout nations are China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States.

U.S. ratification of the treaty could encourage Beijing and other governments to take the same step, according to Kyodo News.

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Albania, Niger, and Spain ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in June, bringing the total number of ratifying states to 10. The Treaty, which will enter into force six months after 30 countries ratify it, bans the use of nearly all cluster munitions.

In May, Jamaica and Nigeria signed the agreement, bringing the total number of signing states to 98. The treaty was opened for signature and ratification in December 2008. The Mine Ban Treaty, which served as a model for the CCM, was opened for signature and ratification in December 1997 and entered into force in March 1999.

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The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today marked the second full year of successful construction of the Mixed Oxide (MOX) Fuel Fabrication Facility at the Savannah River Site (SRS) near Aiken, South Carolina, by launching a new online multimedia kit on NNSA's website. The kit, which includes a photo gallery that chronicles the work completed to date and video highlighting the history and importance of the MOX program, is available at <http://nnsa.energy.gov/news/2469.htm>.

The MOX facility will use surplus weapon-grade plutonium to make mixed oxide fuel for use in existing nuclear power plants. 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. The MOX facility helps support a current U.S. arms control commitment with Russia in which each country has committed to dispose of at least 34 metric tons of surplus weapon-grade plutonium. Under International Atomic Energy Agency accounting, 34 metric tons of plutonium is enough to make more than 4,000 nuclear weapons. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev recently signed a joint statement on nuclear cooperation in Moscow that reaffirmed this commitment.

"The Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility is an important part of our nation's nuclear security agenda and demonstrates our resolve to meeting our arms control commitments," said NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino. "The progress made on the construction of the facility over the past two years brings us one step closer to eliminating surplus plutonium in a transparent and irreversible manner."

Groundbreaking on the facility occurred on August 1, 2007. In the two years since, significant progress has been made. Overall design, procurement and construction activities are proceeding on schedule and within budget. Eight of the seventeen auxiliary buildings needed to support construction and operation of the MOX facility have been finished, including the recently completed MOX Administration Building. At the MOX Process Building, more than 53,000 cubic yards of reinforced concrete, 50,000 cubic yards of unreinforced concrete, and 11,000 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.

In December 2008, NNSA also began construction on the nearby Waste Solidification Building, which will process liquid wastes from the MOX facility and pit disassembly operations.

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Conference on Disarmament Opens Third Part of 2009 Session

United Nations, 04 August 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The United Kingdom presented a new Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons-related initiative, the “Road to 2010” plan, which brought together the United Kingdom's detailed vision for a renewed nuclear global bargain on the key strategic challenges of the modern nuclear era. It underscored, among others, the United Kingdom's commitment to allowing access to peaceful civil nuclear power, and noted that the United Kingdom was establishing a new Nuclear Centre of Excellence to promote the development of cost effective nuclear power that was much harder for terrorists or States with hostile intent to divert for use in weapons programs. ...

John Duncan (United Kingdom) wished to share a United Kingdom initiative related to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). On 16 July, Prime Minister Gordon Brown had announced the United Kingdom Government's “Road to 2010” plan. That paper brought together the United Kingdom's detailed vision for a renewed nuclear global bargain on the key strategic challenges of the modern nuclear era—i.e., the safe expansion of civil nuclear power; nuclear security; non-proliferation; and the reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons. It was a coherent strategy that they believed would lead them into the 2010 NPT Review Conference and beyond.

For the United Kingdom, the Review Conference was an opportunity to renew the bargain at the heart of the Treaty. For non-nuclear weapon States it was about the right to access civil nuclear power in return for continuing to forego nuclear weapons. For nuclear weapon States it involved showing leadership on the question of disarmament and being at the forefront of global solutions allowing wider and secure access to civil nuclear power. The “Road to 2010” plan set out a phased approach that would enable progress on non-proliferation and multilateral disarmament. The first stage would be improving transparency of current weapons capabilities as they sought greater control to prevent expansion; the second was verifiable multilateral reductions in arsenals; and the final stage was to create the security conditions and overcome the technical and political challenges of a world free from all nuclear weapons.

For its part, the United Kingdom would host a Conference on Confidence-Building Measures towards Nuclear Disarmament in London on 3 and 4 September 2009, bringing together policy officials and technical experts from the five recognized nuclear weapon States.

Moreover, to show its commitment to allowing access to peaceful civil nuclear power, as underlined in the “Road to 2010”, the United Kingdom was establishing a new Nuclear Centre of Excellence. The Centre would promote the development of cost effective nuclear power that

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was much harder for terrorists or States with hostile intent to divert for use in weapons programs. The Centre would receive 20 million pounds in funding from the Government over the first five years and would be developed in partnership with academia, industry and international partners. In addition, the United Kingdom was calling on international partners to establish nuclear security as a fourth pillar of the international nuclear framework—alongside non-proliferation, disarmament and access to civil nuclear power. That did not mean reopening the NPT itself, but ensuring that nuclear security issues were placed firmly on the international agenda.

Finally, the Road to 2010 also set out steps to strengthen international governance, and particularly the role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency. In that connection, the United Kingdom was planning to host a meeting of the main financial donors of the Agency to drive progress on future funding and staffing issues. ...

[For full text of article, please visit:

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Russian Military Plans to Resume Bulava Missile Tests in August

RIA Novosti, 31 July 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

The Russian Defense Ministry said on Friday [July 31] it would not abandon the development of the troubled Bulava ballistic missile, and that tests could resume in August. The missile, which is being developed by the Moscow-based Institute of Thermal Technology (MITT), has suffered six failures in 11 tests. The general director of the institute resigned last week over the failures, which are believed to represent a severe setback in the development of Russia's nuclear deterrent.

"Everything depends on the conclusions reached by an investigation commission," Deputy Defense Minister Vladimir Popovkin said, adding that the probe could be finalized as early as next week.

The Bulava (SS-NX-30) submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) carries up to 10 MIRV warheads and has an estimated range of over 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles). The three-stage solid-propellant ballistic missile is designed for deployment on new Borey class nuclear-powered strategic submarines.

The Russian military expects the Bulava, along with Topol-M land-based ballistic missiles, to become the core of Russia's nuclear triad.

Popovkin said more work has to be done to correct flaws in the Bulava's development, but that there was no alternative to the missile for a number of reasons.

"We have no choice—we already have one [Borey class] submarine, and have laid down more, so to start a new R&D project would be unrealistic," the official said.

Russia's newest Borey class strategic nuclear submarine, the Yury Dolgoruky, has completed the first round of sea trials in early July. Two other Borey class nuclear submarines, the Alexander Nevsky and the Vladimir Monomakh, are currently under construction at the Sevmash plant and are expected to be completed in 2009 and 2011. Russia is planning to build eight of these submarines by 2015.

"A submarine costs about 60 billion rubles [about \$2 bln], and the development of a new missile would cost up to 30 billion rubles [\$1 bln]—these are serious expenses... But the most important thing is the years [spent on development], because we urgently need to change our sea-based strategic delivery vehicles," Popovkin said.

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The future development of the Bulava has been questioned by some lawmakers and defense industry officials, who have suggested that all efforts should be focused on the existing Sineva SLBM.

The RSM-54 Sineva (NATO designation SS-N-23 Skiff) is a third-generation liquid-propellant submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) that entered service with the Russian Navy in July 2007. It can carry four or 10 nuclear warheads, depending on the modification, and has a maximum range of over 11,500 kilometers (about 7,100 miles).

Russia carried out successful test launches of two Sineva missiles from two Delta IV class nuclear-powered submarines in service with the Northern Fleet, located under an ice floe near the North Pole, on July 13-14.

The results of the tests confirmed that the Sineva would stay in service with the Russian Navy until at least 2015.

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Nuclear Weapon's Refurbishing Woes Draw Congressional Attention to Treaty

The Washington Post, 4 August 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Concern over the U.S. strategic nuclear stockpile, illustrated by problems with a classified material called "Fogbank," has triggered quiet maneuverings on Capitol Hill related to negotiations to extend the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

That treaty expires at year's end.

"Fogbank" plays a key part in the W-76, the nuclear warhead on the Navy's Trident II sub-launched intercontinental ballistic missile and the country's most numerous and important strategic nuclear weapons. Initially deployed in 1978, about 3,000 were produced with a planned 30-year life. In 2000, planning began for refurbishing about 2,000 W-78 warheads under the ongoing life-extension program being used to upgrade existing U.S. nuclear systems.

Initial delivery of the reconditioned W-76 warheads was to begin in 2007 and take nine years. But according to a March 2009 Government Accountability Report, the program ran into a problem—"Fogbank." It turned out that there initially was no replacement for this key element of the W-76, and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) "had lost knowledge of how to manufacture the material because it had kept few records of the process when the material was made in the 1980s and almost all staff with expertise on production had retired or left the agency," according to the GAO.

In 2000, NNSA considered a cheaper material but dropped that idea because, in part, the Los Alamos National Laboratory's "computer models and simulations were not sophisticated enough to provide conclusive evidence that the alternate material would function exactly the same as Fogbank," the GAO said.

Then followed a series of apparent blunders. Though remanufacturing Fogbank was recognized as a high-risk program, a determination was made to build a new Fogbank production facility while, at the same time, using an existing pilot plant to test the manufacturing process. There were safety issues with the new facility, the pilot plant was minimally utilized, and when production began a year behind schedule, the Fogbank produced was unusable. In 2007, NNSA decided to reverse itself, and with a \$23 million initiative, try to produce an alternative material while pushing ahead with making new Fogbank.

The current plan is to get the alternative product certified by the end of this year and use it if additional problems develop as the Fogbank facility goes into full-scale production.

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The Fogbank experience showed all the weaknesses in the U.S. nuclear program that critics have harped on for years—potential failures within refurbishing systems, lack of a trained nuclear workforce and lack of modernized facilities.

With that background in mind, on July 23, a bipartisan group of six senior senators wrote President Obama. The group, which included John F. Kerry (D-Mass.) and Carl M. Levin (D-Mich.)—chairmen of the Foreign Relations and Armed Services committees, respectively—and Richard G. Lugar (Ind.) and John McCain (Ariz.)—the two ranking Republicans—said that when the new START treaty is submitted for ratification, it should be accompanied by a 10-year funding estimate to support enhancement of the U.S. nuclear stockpile. They also want it to include cost figures, beginning with the fiscal 2011 budget, that show how much will be available to modernize the aging nuclear weapons manufacturing complex and to maintain a competent workforce able to create new weapons, if necessary.

Finally, they want numbers to prove that the administration is prepared to maintain the nuclear weapon delivery systems—strategic submarines, sub- and land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, and long-range bombers, all of which need replacements.

Triggering the letter were competing amendments passed in the House and Senate versions of the fiscal 2010 Defense Authorization Bill. The House language, written by Rep. Michael R. Turner (R-Ohio), would prohibit use of funds to reduce strategic nuclear weapons under a new treaty with Russia—unless the president certified there were sufficient verification measures and that neither U.S. missile defense systems nor conventional offensive weapons were under limits. It would also have to be determined that the U.S. nuclear weapons programs were adequately funded.

The Senate amendment, originated by Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) but modified by colleagues, is much less harsh. It calls for Obama to provide a report to Congress that includes the information contained in the July 23 letter.

In a floor statement last Wednesday, Kerry said, "I would encourage the administration to see that requirement not as a burden, but as an opportunity." He applauded Senate colleagues for not adopting the House approach, which he described as "trying to bar U.S. compliance with a treaty before the treaty has even been negotiated."

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Russia Conducts Fewer Inspections of Nuclear Facilities than United States

Moscow Interfax, 04 August 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

Since the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) took effect, Russia has conducted fewer inspections of U.S. nuclear weapons than the United States in Russia, said first deputy head of the Russian National Nuclear Threat Reduction Center Sergei Ryzhkov.

"Since the treaty took effect, 464 inspections of American strategic arms facilities have been carried out. The United States has held 559 similar inspections in Russia," Ryzhkov said in an interview with the newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda, published on Tuesday.

Russia conducts over 170 inspections each year under the basic international agreements alone, he said. "It carries out over 40 inspections each year under the START I Treaty, performs over 50 observation flights under the Open Skies treaty, over 80 inspections under the 1999 Vienna Document and four inspections under agreements with China," the expert said.

"An analysis of the inspections conducted suggests that the signatory states mostly abide by the agreements reached," Ryzhkov said.

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Russian Nuclear Arsenal Has 811 Carriers, 3,906 Warheads

Moscow Interfax, 04 August 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

The U.S. strategic nuclear forces have almost 400 more carriers and over 1,500 more warheads than Russia.

"The United States currently has 1,195 carriers and 5,573 warheads, and Russia 811 carriers and 3,906 warheads," Sergei Ryzhkov, first deputy head of the Russian National Nuclear Threat Reduction Center, said in an interview with the newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda*, published on Tuesday.

The two countries' nuclear arsenals are the outcome of a 15 year- long implementation of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), signed on July 31 1991, he said.

When the Treaty was signed, the United States had 2,246 carriers and 10,563 warheads, and the former Soviet Union 2,288 carriers and 8,757 warheads, according to Ryzhkov.

The Treaty went into effect on December 5, 1994, and it expires on December 4, 2009. Under the Treaty, the number of carriers (intercontinental ballistic missiles, sea-based ballistic missiles and heavy bombers) was to have been reduced to 1,600, and the number of warheads to 6,000 by December 5, 2001.

"The Russian Federation and the United States have honored their obligations to cut their strategic offensive arms within the set timeframe," said Ryzhkov.

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Russia Has Less Weapons, Military Hardware in European Part than CFE Allows

Moscow Interfax, 04 August 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia has less conventional weapons and military hardware in its European part than is allowed under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

"As of May 1 2009, the levels of weapons and military hardware, located in the region to which the CFE Treaty applies, are as follows: 4,574 combat tanks; 9,460 combat armored vehicles; 5,538 artillery systems, 1,967 combat aircraft and 410 strike helicopters. These levels are far below the limit, documented in the CFE Treaty," Sergei Ryzhkov, first deputy head of the Russian National Nuclear Threat Reduction Center, said in an interview with the newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda.

The CFE Treaty was signed on December 19 1990 and took effect on November 9 1992.

On November 29 2007 Russia suspended the application of the CFE Treaty and related international agreements, which led to an end of international inspections of Russian military installations, Ryzhkov said.

The application of the CFE Treaty was suspended after some of the NATO members, including former members of the Warsaw Pact, refused to ratify an adapted CFE Treaty, signed in Istanbul on November 19 1999.

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