



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



26 February – 10 March 2008

**DTRA**

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **Pine Bluff Finishes Off VX Rockets**

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

The Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas has eliminated its stockpile of rockets carrying VX nerve agent. (157 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Blue Grass Depot Holds Last M55 Chemical Rockets**

GSN, 5 March 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The last segment of the U.S. arsenal of M55 chemical weapons rockets is held at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. (200 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

### **U.S. Provides \$23.8M for CTBTO**

GSN, 27 February 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The United States yesterday provided \$23.8 million for operations of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO. (174 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Experts Evaluating Nuclear Blast Detection System: CTBTO Commission**

AFP, 6 March 2006, accessed via Lexis Nexis

An anti-atomic weapons commission said on March 6 it had launched a study to determine whether a global system for detecting nuclear explosions worldwide will really work. (354 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

## CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE TREATY (CFE)

### **Russia Gives Partners Time to Ratify Adapted CFE Treaty**

Itar-Tass, 6 March 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia is giving its Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) partners some to make a decision in favor of its ratification, but it will no longer follow the logic of a master-slave relationship, Russia's permanent representative at NATO, Dmitry Rogozin, said. (423 words)

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## INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

### **Bush Issues Directive on Additional Protocol**

*Arms Control Today*, March 2008, <http://www.armscontrol.org/>

President Bush issued an executive order February 4 that called for relevant U.S. departments and agencies to take steps to implement an additional protocol to the U.S. safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency. (630 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **UN Approves New Sanctions against Iran**

*Associated Press*, 3 March 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

The U.N. Security Council approved a third round of sanctions against Iran on Monday with near unanimous support, sending a strong signal to Tehran that its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment is unacceptable and becoming increasingly costly. (780 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Iran Says Will Only Talk to IAEA on Atomic File**

*Reuters*, 5 March 2008, <http://www.reuters.com/>

Iran said on March 5 it would only discuss its nuclear program with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), U.N. atomic watchdog, rejecting a call by world powers to hold more talks with the European Union's foreign policy chief. (526 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **India, IAEA Reach Safeguards Agreement**

*GSN*, 5 March 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

India has essentially completed negotiations with the U.N. nuclear agency on a plan to allow international inspectors to monitor the nation's civilian nuclear activities, according to a Western diplomat. (494 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES (INF) TREATY

### **Russia Can Offer Low-Cost Response to U.S. Missile System**

*RIA Novosti*, 12 February 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

Russia possesses the relatively inexpensive technical capability to offer an appropriate response to U.S. missile defense deployment in Europe, the foreign minister told a news conference in Geneva on February 12. (506 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

### **Arab League Will Call for Leaving Nuclear Treaty if Israel Admits to Atomic Weapons**

*Associated Press, 5 March 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Arab countries will walk away from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) if Israel ever officially acknowledges it has nuclear weapons, the Arab League announced in a statement on March 5. (288 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Russia Advises Iran to Study Incentives from Major Powers and Suspend Enrichment**

*Associated Press, 5 March 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Russia advises Iran: Study the incentives the world's key powers are offering, including improved relations with the United States, and suspend uranium enrichment as the U.N. Security Council is demanding. (286 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Kazakhstan Urges Stricter Nonproliferation Policy**

*Interfax, 5 March 2008, accessed via Open Source Center*

Kazakhstan, which has voluntarily had the nuclear weapons it inherited from the Soviet era withdrawn from its territory, called on March 4 for a stricter nonproliferation policy to bar terrorists access to nuclear arms. (204 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## OPEN SKIES TREATY

### **Norwegian Inspectors Observe Russia and Belarus from Air**

*RIA Novosti, 4 March 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

A group of inspectors of Norway will perform the third observation flight above the territories of Russia and Belarus in 2008 on Swedish observation airplane SAAB-340B between March 3 and 7 in the framework of the international open sky treaty. (128 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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## PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

### **South Korea Might Join WMD Interdiction Program**

*GSN, 27 February 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>*

The new government in South Korea appears ready to consider joining the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), a multilateral program to halt transport of weapons of mass destruction, the Associated Press reported February 27. (153 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE REDUCTIONS TREATY (SORT) (MOSCOW TREATY)

### **Commander Says U.S. Must Update Its Nuclear Arsenal for the 21st Century**

*Associated Press, 4 March 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

The U.S. needs a new, modern arsenal of nuclear weapons to use as a deterrent to attacks from other nations for the remainder of the 21st century, the top military commander for strategic warfare said March 4. (534 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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

The Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas has eliminated its stockpile of rockets carrying VX nerve agent, the Associated Press reported February 29.

The project to eliminate 19,608 rockets containing a total of 196,000 pounds of liquid nerve agent began October 11, 2007. The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has already eliminated all weapons at the depot containing the nerve agent sarin.

“With both the [sarin] and VX rockets destroyed, the risk to the community has been reduced by 97 percent,” said Lt. Col. Clifton Johnson, who leads the disposal project.

All rockets at the depot have now been destroyed. Preparations are set to begin for an expected four-month project to eliminate land mines filled with VX. Afterward, the incinerator would undergo a final changeover period in advance of disposal of bulk containers filled with mustard blister agent.

The Pine Bluff Arsenal originally held 3,850 tons of chemical agent, 12 percent of the total U.S. Army stockpile.

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## Blue Grass Depot Holds Last M55 Chemical Rockets

GSN, 5 March 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The last segment of the U.S. arsenal of M55 chemical weapons rockets is held at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky, the Richmond Register reported yesterday.

The United States produced more than 400,000 of the rockets between 1961 and 1965, filling the weapons with sarin and VX nerve agents. The military never used the rockets in combat.

As of Friday, stockpiles of the weapons had been eliminated at Johnston Atoll in the Pacific; Tooele, Utah; Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Umatilla, Oregon; and Anniston, Alabama, the U.S. Army said.

Each munition contained 10 pounds of nerve agent. The rockets were considered the most dangerous chemical weapons in storage as they constituted a “complete weapon system” involving a warhead, explosives and motor.

The planned chemical weapons neutralization facility at Blue Grass has not yet been built. When operational, it is scheduled to eliminate 523 tons of sarin and VX contained inside 1940s-era rockets and projectiles, the Register reported.

Congress has demanded that all U.S. chemical weapons disposal be completed by 2017, five years beyond the deadline set under the Chemical Weapons Convention. Previous Defense Department estimates have placed the end date at 2023, with Blue Grass last to finish off its stockpile.

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## **U.S. Provides \$23.8M for CTBTO**

GSN, 27 February 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The United States yesterday provided \$23.8 million for operations of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

Washington has now earned its voting rights within the organization preparing for implementation of the global prohibition on nuclear test blasts. The United States lost voting rights last year when it failed to pay its full contribution.

Taking exchange rates into account, the funding provided yesterday is slightly less than the required U.S. contribution for 2008. It represents more than one-fifth of the organization's \$111 million operating budget for this year.

"This is a very welcome development," CTBTO Executive Secretary Tibor Toth said in a press release. "The United States is a major contributor to this organization. We are dependent on their funds to build up the verification regime."

The organization plans to build 35 monitoring stations in 2009 and to maintain operations at another 250 sites.

The treaty has yet to enter into force. It must first be ratified by China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States.

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## Experts Evaluating Nuclear Blast Detection System: CTBTO Commission

*AFP, 6 March 2006, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

An anti-atomic weapons commission said on March 6 it had launched a study to determine whether a global system for detecting nuclear explosions worldwide will really work.

The CTBTO Preparatory Commission, which is working to implement the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), said in a statement that 60 scientists from 30 different countries had met in the Austrian capital this week. They are to evaluate over the next 18 months the "readiness and capability" of the system currently being built.

"The CTBT verification regime has now reached a very advanced stage and is nearing completion and a comprehensive assessment has never been done before," said the head of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission, Tibor Toth.

"The time is ripe to undertake such scientific studies."

The results of the research would be published at an international conference in Vienna in June 2009, Toth said.

"The system has to be well calibrated, reliable and secure. We need to ask ourselves: does the system deliver what we expect it to deliver," said Yves Caristan, director of the Saclay Research Centre at the French Atomic Energy Commission, who will take part in the research.

The CTBT was established in 1996 to ban all nuclear explosions worldwide. It has been signed by 178 nations and ratified by 144 of them. The Preparatory Commission is the precursor to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), which will be set up once the treaty has been ratified by 44 key states that possess nuclear power or research reactors.

Nuclear powers France, Russia and the United Kingdom are among those that have ratified the treaty. But nine have yet to do so, including nuclear powers China, India, Pakistan and the United States, as well as Israel, which has never officially confirmed it has the bomb.

North Korea, which has tested a nuclear bomb, and Iran, which is suspected of seeking to acquire one, have also yet to ratify. The other two countries holding out are Egypt and Indonesia.

The CTBTO preparatory commission has some 340 facilities around the world as part of its verification regime to monitor any signs of nuclear explosions.

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## Russia Gives Partners Time to Ratify Adapted CFE Treaty

*Itar-Tass, 6 March 2008, accessed via Open Source Center*

Russia is giving its Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE) partners some time to make a decision in favor of its ratification, but it will no longer follow the logic of a master-slave relationship, Russia's permanent representative at NATO, Dmitry Rogozin, said on March 6.

"It goes without saying that we give our allies and partners the time to make a decision to ratify the adapted version of the CFE treaty, but in general one should proceed from the assumption that Russia in its new quality, having gained strength and revived its national spirit, will no longer follow the logic of a master-slave relationship. We are not slaves, we are a great power," Rogozin said.

According to the official, many in NATO have taken note of how quickly Russia was emerging from the comprehensive crisis it was in at the beginning of 1990s.

"They had not anticipated we would be addressing our problems at such a pace and that Russia would be building muscle that fast," Rogozin said. "They had not anticipated we would shrug off the colonial-type arrangements that had imposed on Russia a type of restrictions no decent country can afford to tolerate."

Russia's permanent representative at NATO recalled his recent conversation with the U.S. ambassador, in particular, the question he put to the American official: "In what way would you respond, if you were told to report to Moscow the redeployment of every single artillery piece and every single tank from Kansas to Arkansas?"

"Under the CFE treaty we were to notify our partners and to ask their permission to move our military hardware," Rogozin said.

Asked about Kosovo, the Russian representative said that NATO was in the process of discussing that theme, although the alliance was not the main organization addressing this issue.

"Kosovo's recognition as an independent state by some countries at the U.S. initiative is none of NATO's business. But the alliance keeps some military units there. Practically every day we press for the demand KFOR should not abuse its mandate and by no means go beyond the bounds of the task set to it by the United Nations. NATO forces must not be engaged in any activities on the side of Kosovo's Albanians," Rogozin said.

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"In reality, we suspect that precisely the opposite is happening there. There have been attempts to force UN officials out of Kosovo, to recognize Kosovo as a separate territory, and to open a European Union mission there. Kosovo's recognition continues in a sprawling fashion and this process may be over by July."

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## Bush Issues Directive on Additional Protocol

*Arms Control Today*, March 2008, <http://www.armscontrol.org/>

President George W. Bush issued an executive order February 4 that called for relevant U.S. departments and agencies to take steps to implement an additional protocol to the U.S. safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The United States signed its additional protocol in 1998 but has yet to complete the process allowing its entry into force.

The 1997 Model Additional Protocol enhances the scope of IAEA safeguards to improve the IAEA's ability to detect undeclared nuclear activities. The United States, as a nuclear-weapon state under the 1968 nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, is not required to adopt IAEA safeguards, but does so as a voluntary confidence-building measure.

The February 4 executive order requires that the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Energy, Justice, and State; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; and other appropriate agencies "issue, amend, or revise, and enforce such regulations, orders, directives, instructions, or procedures as are necessary" to implement the U.S. additional protocol.

In February 2004, Bush called on the Senate to ratify an additional protocol while calling on other countries to do the same. The Senate complied the following month by issuing its consent to ratification. As part of the ratifying legislation, the Senate required the president to certify that appropriate procedures to manage inspectors' access to facilities are in place due to concerns that inspections may compromise information of "direct national security significance." During their ratification consideration, some senators wanted to place additional restrictions on the inspection process, but these were rejected out of fear they would cause other countries to place similar restrictions.

The Senate passed the implementing legislation needed to direct U.S. agencies to carry out such procedures about two years later, in November 2006. The executive order fulfilled one of the requirements of this legislation, which called on the president to designate the agencies responsible for implementing the legislation and the protocol.

A former State Department official told *Arms Control Today* February 15 that, in the interagency process of drafting the regulations for carrying out this legislation, the terms of implementation "grew more and more restrictive," primarily at the urging of the Defense Department and the National Security Council. The former official explained that these restrictions related to the level and scope of access for inspections, as well as the personnel involved in the decision-making process regarding implementation.

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The former official said that the primary concern on the part of the Defense Department related to the potential risk that the inspection process may compromise sensitive national security information. As a nuclear-weapon state, all U.S. defense-related facilities are exempt from safeguards. However, a number of military-related facilities are co-located with civilian facilities. These dual-use facilities were at the core the Defense Department's concerns and desired restrictions.

The Commerce Department also expressed concerns regarding the cost of the implementation process in light of continual delays and uncertainty that the protocol would ever be concluded. The former State Department official explained that the Commerce Department was reluctant to spend scarce funds on vulnerability assessments and managed-access measures at a time that it was not yet clear that these activities would be needed.

Resolving the terms of these managed-access procedures continues to delay U.S. ratification of its additional protocol. Nonetheless, Washington has sought the widespread adoption of the Model Additional Protocol as an important nonproliferation goal. Susan Burke, then-acting assistant secretary of state for nonproliferation, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee January 2004 that "a key nonproliferation goal of the United States has been to increase non-nuclear-weapon state adherence to the [Model] Additional Protocol." She added, "Entry into force of the U.S.-IAEA additional protocol would provide a powerful tool in furthering this goal."

Washington has placed particular emphasis on the need for Iran to implement its additional protocol in order to provide greater transparency regarding its nuclear activities.

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## UN Approves New Sanctions against Iran

Associated Press, 3 March 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

The U.N. Security Council approved a third round of sanctions against Iran on Monday with near unanimous support, sending a strong signal to Tehran that its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment is unacceptable and becoming increasingly costly.

For the first time, the resolution bans trade with Iran in goods which have both civilian and military uses and authorizes inspections of shipments to and from Iran by sea and air that are suspected of carrying banned items.

The vote was 14-0; Indonesia abstained. Iran's U.N. Ambassador Mohammad Khazee told the council before the vote that the government would not comply with the "unlawful action" against its "peaceful nuclear program."

"Iran cannot and will not accept a requirement which is legally defective and politically coercive," he said. "History tells us that no amount of pressure, intimidation and threat will be able to coerce our nation to give up its basic and legal rights."

Iran insists its enrichment activities are intended only for peaceful civilian purposes, but the U.S., the European Union and others suspect its real aim is to make atomic weapons. Enriched uranium can be used as fuel for nuclear energy or nuclear weapons.

The resolution introduces financial monitoring on two banks with suspected links to proliferation activities, Bank Melli and Bank Saderat. It calls on all countries "to exercise vigilance" in entering into new trade commitments with Iran. The resolution also orders countries to freeze the assets of 12 additional companies and 13 individuals with links to Iran's nuclear or ballistic missile programs and requires countries to report the travels of those Iranians. It bans travel by five individuals linked to Iran's nuclear effort.

Most of the new individuals subject to sanctions are technical figures. But one, Brig. Gen. Mohammad Reza Naqdi, is prominent in the Revolutionary Guards, an elite military corps, and close to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The resolution says he has worked to get around previous U.N. sanctions.

Britain and France, who co-sponsored the resolution, delayed the vote until Monday in hopes of winning over four non-permanent council members who had raised a variety of concerns – Libya, Indonesia, South Africa and Vietnam.

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One concern the countries raised is a recent International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report saying suspicions about most past Iranian nuclear activities had eased or been laid to rest. The Libyan and Indonesian envoys had stressed that this indicated Iranian cooperation, and questioned the need for more sanctions.

The resolution adopted Monday does welcome Iran's agreement with the IAEA, the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog, to resolve outstanding issues about its past nuclear program. It also reiterates that incentives offered by Germany and the five permanent council nations – the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France – in 2006 remain on the table if Iran suspends enrichment. But the Americans and their European allies stressed that the report from the U.N. nuclear watchdog confirmed that Iran has continued to enrich uranium and demanded that Tehran suspend its uranium centrifuge program. The IAEA also reported that Iran rejected new documents that link Tehran to missile and explosives experiments and other work connected to a possible nuclear weapons program. Iran called the information false and irrelevant, the IAEA said.

Monday's council meeting was delayed for nearly two hours because of a dispute over plans by Britain, France and Germany to present a resolution critical of Iran before the IAEA board.

Diplomats said Russia learned about the planned resolution and complained about not being informed. Grigory Berdennikov, the chief Russian delegate to the IAEA, said in Vienna that "we are not happy about developments here in Vienna – we were not informed." A European diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Russians asked that no resolution be presented in Vienna as a condition for voting on the sanctions resolution in New York. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks were private.

The resolution drafted by the Europeans would have praised progress made in the IAEA investigation, but noted that the investigation was incomplete because Iran had refused to answer questions about its alleged weapons experiments. It also said the IAEA board – not the agency's leaders – had the final authority to declare the investigation into Iran's past nuclear programs closed.

The council first imposed sanctions in December 2006, ordering all countries to stop supplying Iran with materials and technology that could contribute to its nuclear and missile programs. It also ordered countries to freeze the assets of 10 Iranian companies and 12 individuals. Iran expanded its enrichment program, so the council imposed new sanctions in March 2007, this time banning Iranian arms exports and ordering countries to freeze the assets of 28 additional individuals and organizations.

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## Iran Says Will Only Talk to IAEA on Atomic File

Reuters, 5 March 2008, <http://www.reuters.com/>

Iran said on March 5 it would only discuss its nuclear program with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), U.N. atomic watchdog, rejecting a call by world powers to hold more talks with the European Union's foreign policy chief.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's comments, carried on state media, were his first since the U.N. Security Council voted on March 3 for a third round of sanctions because Iran has refused to halt work the West fears is aimed at making nuclear weapons.

Tehran insists its plans are peaceful and has long called for its nuclear file to be returned to the IAEA, instead of being handled by the Security Council.

A statement by world powers on March 3 said the group wanted European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana to meet Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, to try to reopen talks with an offer of incentives for Iran to halt its work.

"From now on our nuclear issue is with the agency only and we will not negotiate with anyone outside the agency about Iran's nuclear issue," the president was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

In remarks carried by Iran's ISNA news agency, Ahmadinejad said: "It is not acceptable to us that some people outside the agency would want to negotiate about Iran's nuclear issue."

A senior Iranian official, who asked not to be named, said the president was ruling out discussions with Solana on this basis. "This carrot and stick policy does not work with us. So they should review their policy," the official said.

"We are in a new chapter, a new time for talks without limitations or preconditions," the official said, adding Iran was ready to discuss issues such as energy, regional security, trade relations or nuclear power plants which Iran wants.

Ahmadinejad said the latest sanctions resolution, which followed two previous ones in December 2006 and March 2007, "lacks legal credibility," IRNA reported.

Solana has been leading talks with Iran on behalf of the five permanent Security Council members – the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia – plus Germany in a bid to try to end the standoff.

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Britain's envoy, John Sawers, reading out the statement to the Council by the six powers, said they were willing to beef up the incentives Solana delivered to Tehran in 2006 if Iran suspended uranium enrichment but did not elaborate.

The enrichment process is the part of Iran's program that most worries the West because it can be used for making power plant fuel or, potentially, material for weapons.

When Solana met Jalili in January, Solana's spokeswoman had said the meeting had been designed to keep a channel of communication open. Solana has held several rounds of meetings with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator without any breakthrough.

The resolution imposed more travel and financial curbs on Iranian individuals and companies, expanded a ban on trade in items with both civilian and military uses, and called for increased vigilance over Iranian financial institutions.

Iran has dismissed the impact of two previous rounds of sanctions, saying it has a cushion of crude revenues thanks to windfall earnings as the world's fourth largest oil producer.

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## India, IAEA Reach Safeguards Agreement

GSN, 5 March 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

India has essentially completed negotiations with the U.N. nuclear agency on a plan to allow international inspectors to monitor the nation's civilian nuclear activities, a Western diplomat said here March 4.

"The Indian safeguards agreement is done," the diplomat said while noting that the text has not yet been signed. "No more talks in Vienna" would be needed, added the diplomat, who is familiar with activities at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) headquartered here.

Formally completing the inspections agreement would satisfy a key precondition of implementing a U.S.-Indian nuclear trade deal that would enable New Delhi to purchase U.S. nuclear materials and technology even though it does not belong to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and does not permit international monitoring of its entire nuclear program.

Procedurally, three steps were needed to enact the trade deal: exempting India from U.S. nuclear nonproliferation laws, modifying international nuclear trade guidelines, and completing an agreement giving IAEA inspectors access to India's nuclear power facilities.

The first step was accomplished in late 2006, the second remains pending, and third has been virtually completed.

Opponents to the deal in New Delhi, however, have successfully scuttled it for the time being, with lawmakers from the left and the right complaining that the agreement would give the United States excessive influence over Indian nuclear policies. Particularly troubling to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is opposition from key supporters of his ruling coalition.

Four communist parties have threatened to drop their support, thus forcing early elections, if Singh seeks to implement the trade deal. The parties did, however, reportedly allow Singh to negotiate the safeguards agreement with the nuclear agency as long he promised not to sign it without receiving their approval.

Negotiations have now been completed, an agency official confirmed today, saying that if any small changes to the text were needed, they could be done "by picking up the telephone."

It was not known when or if the safeguards deal would actually be signed.

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U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher today reaffirmed the Bush administration's stand that the Indian government must soon approve the deal if it is to be enacted in Washington, Reuters reported.

"Time is very tight. But I think we can make this happen," Boucher said, identifying July as the deadline for Congress to receive the agreement. That comes shortly before its summer recess and then the November presidential election.

Singh told Indian lawmakers that his government is still pushing the deal forward. "We ... continue to seek the broadest possible consensus within the country," he said. "The cooperation is good for us, for our energy security and for the world."

Singh's comments suggested he would ignore opposition in order to move the deal through India's parliament, said nuclear analyst R.R. Subramanian, who supports the agreement.

"The nuclear deal is the hobby horse of the prime minister," Subramanian said. "His statement is a clear indication that the government is ready to bid goodbye to the leftists."

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## Russia Can Offer Low-Cost Response to U.S. Missile System

RIA Novosti, 12 February 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

Russia possesses the relatively inexpensive technical capability to offer an appropriate response to U.S. missile defense deployment in Europe, the foreign minister told a news conference in Geneva on February 12.

Russia has been unnerved by NATO's ongoing expansion and Washington's plans to deploy missile defense bases in Central Europe, which it says are needed to deter possible strikes from Iran and other "rogue states."

"When we are told that the [U.S.] third missile deployment area is not aimed against Russia, we have to be guided not by [stated] intentions, but facts, real potential... I can assure you that our response will not cost as much. We have the technical capability for an appropriate response that will not be a crippling burden on Russia's economy, but obviously it is better to avoid this," Sergei Lavrov said.

He said Iran has no long-range missiles and is unlikely to acquire them in the foreseeable future, adding that even if Tehran wanted to, Iran would be unable to create such missiles in less than a decade.

He described Western efforts to repulse a non-existent threat as excessive.

The minister said Moscow had made an unofficial proposal to work out a new multilateral agreement, based on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) and including obligations to eliminate all intermediate and shorter range missiles.

He said Russia advocated the creation of open and transparent collective security systems to achieve "a new equilibrium" in the world after the end of the Cold War.

He also said global strategic stability cannot remain the exclusive domain of Russian-U.S. relations, although the two countries would continue to play a lead role there.

Lavrov said Russia and the United States have yet to reach agreement on a new treaty to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START 1).

"We still have some time, but time is running out," he said.



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The U.S. administration is planning to construct a base for 10 two-stage missile interceptors in Poland, modify its X-band radar on the Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific and relocate it to the Czech Republic, and to deploy a new forward-based radar to an unspecified location.

The 2008-2013 budget for the project is estimated at about \$4.8 billion.

In his 2008 FY Budget proposal, Bush asked Congress to approve the allocation of \$310 million for the deployment of U.S. missile defenses in Europe, but lawmakers cut the amount by 27% to \$225 million.

Earlier this month, Tehran successfully launched the Explorer-1 research rocket, which is reportedly capable of carrying a satellite into orbit, and unveiled the country's first domestically built satellite, named Omid, or Hope. However, it gave assurances that the country's achievements in space technology and research pose no threat to global peace and stability.

Iran is currently involved in a long-running dispute with the West over its controversial uranium enrichment program, with two sets of UN sanctions against Tehran in effect.

The U.S. and its allies fear that both programs may serve as a cover for the development of nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles.

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## Arab League Will Call for Leaving Nuclear Treaty if Israel Admits to Atomic Weapons

*Associated Press, 5 March 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Arab countries will walk away from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) if Israel ever officially acknowledges it has nuclear weapons, the Arab League announced in a statement on March 5.

As Arab foreign ministers met at the Cairo headquarters of the Arab League to prepare for their annual summit at the end of the month, they also issued a series of statements on regional issues, including extremely sensitive matter of Israel's refusal to join the NPT.

"As soon as Israel announces it has nuclear weapons, the Arab will announce their withdrawal from the Nonproliferation Treaty," the statement said.

Israel is widely believed to be the only country in the Middle East to have nuclear weapons, though it maintains a policy of "ambiguity," insisting it will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the region, without confirming or denying their existence.

That policy was shaken late last year when Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert appeared to acknowledge Israel's possession of nuclear weapons in an interview with German television. He later maintained he was misunderstood.

Arab countries, all of which are signatories to the treaty, have long called for a nuclear-free Middle East and expressed their concern over Israel's apparent possession of nuclear weapons.

They said that if Israel admitted to having the weapons, they would call on the UN Security Council to pressure Israel to destroy its nuclear arsenal and bring its other atomic installation under international inspection.

If this did not happen, Arab countries would leave the treaty and not sign any new one until Israel itself joined.

While no Arab country is known to be actively seeking nuclear weapons, several countries in the region have expressed interest in starting civilian nuclear programs with foreign cooperation.

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## Russia Advises Iran to Study Incentives from Major Powers and Suspend Enrichment

*Associated Press, 5 March 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Russia to neighbor and friend Iran: Study the incentives the world's key powers are offering, including improved relations with the United States, and suspend uranium enrichment as the U.N. Security Council is demanding.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said there is broader consensus among the world's powers today on how to deal with Iran and a new reality on the ground that will hopefully create the right conditions for Tehran to halt enrichment.

But in Tehran, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini on March 4 called a new Security Council resolution imposing a third round of sanctions "worthless" and politically motivated.

Hosseini said Iran will move ahead with its uranium enrichment program, according to the official news agency IRNA.

Speaking to reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York on March 4, Churkin highlighted the unity of the six countries that have been in the forefront of efforts to ensure that Iran's nuclear intentions are peaceful and not aimed at producing atomic bombs.

Foreign ministers of the six—United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany—issued a joint statement after Monday's council vote reaffirming their dual-track approach: They would sweeten a package of economic incentives and political rewards offered in June 2006 if Iran suspends enrichment, but would push for even more sanctions if Tehran continued its defiance.

"We hope [it] is being very carefully read in Tehran because it does indicate some very important motives ... and intentions of the six in working with Iran," Churkin said. He said the entire 15-member Security Council had "rallied" around the statement.

Churkin said the ministers have dealt with Iran respectfully and have called for further diplomatic efforts and approaches to create the conditions to open negotiations.

As a first step, European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana was asked to meet Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, to address the interests and concerns of both sides, he said.

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The ministers reiterated Iran's right as a member of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) to develop, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. They said once the international community is confident Iran's nuclear program is peaceful, it will be treated like any other non-nuclear weapon state.

Churkin said Iran does not have to worry about supplies of enriched uranium for years, anyway, now that Russia has provided the fuel for the Bushehr nuclear power plant it helped Iran build.

"That new reality on the ground should provide another incentive, another opportunity for Iran to be more accommodating to the requirement of enrichment suspension," he said.

Churkin said the U.S. has shifted from objecting to Russian participation in Bushehr to supporting the reactor project, which he called "an indication of the goodwill of the international community."

When Iran previously suspended enrichment for two years, it was only negotiating with Britain, France and Germany, Churkin said, but now the U.S., Russia and China have joined the effort.

"I would suggest that greater opportunities are there for Iran if it responds positively to the offers by the six including ... overcoming its problems with the United States of America," he said.

With Russia a "good neighbor and a good friend of Iran" participating "it can play its positive role in the course and the outcome of the process."

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said Monday the ministerial statement shows the commitment of the six countries to a diplomatic solution.

He reiterated President Bush's statement that if Iran suspends enrichment and reprocessing activities, it will have no better partner than the United States.

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## **Kazakhstan Urges Stricter Nonproliferation Policy**

*Interfax, 5 March 2008, accessed via Open Source Center*

Kazakhstan, which has voluntarily had the nuclear weapons it inherited from the Soviet era withdrawn from its territory, called on March 4 for a stricter nonproliferation policy to bar terrorists access to nuclear arms.

"We are convinced that there is need for non-NPT mechanisms of effective pressure on countries possessing nuclear weapons and create instruments of pressure on countries that may seek to leave that treaty in the future," Kazakh Foreign Minister Marat Tazhin told a plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

The NPT is the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, also known as the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

"The process of nuclear disarmament is evidently stagnant. The international community has been unable to solve problems of disarmament and nonproliferation due to a lack of consensus and political will," Tazhin said.

The chief target of his criticism was "the main instrument of nuclear nonproliferation, the NPT," Tazhin said.

In the mid-1990s, Kazakhstan refused to have former Soviet nuclear weapons deployed on its territory any longer and closed down the Semipalatinsk nuclear arms testing ground, then the world's largest.

In September 2006, Kazakhstan and other regional countries signed a treaty proclaiming Central Asia to be a zone free from nuclear weapons.

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## Norwegian Inspectors Observe Russia and Belarus from Air

*RIA Novosti, 4 March 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

A group of inspectors of Norway will perform the third observation flight above the territories of Russia and Belarus in 2008 on Swedish observation airplane SAAB-340B between March 3 and 7 in the framework of the international open sky treaty.

In the course of the flight along the preliminarily approved route specialists from Russia and Belarus on board of the airplane will control observance of conditions of the treaty during use of the observation equipment.

During the same period, a group of Russian and Italian inspectors will perform an observation flight above the territory of Croatia at observation airplane An-30B.

Specialists from Russia, Italy and Croatia on board of the airplane will control the use of observation equipment, as well as the observation of provisions of the treaty.

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## South Korea Might Join WMD Interdiction Program

GSN, 27 February 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The new government in South Korea appears ready to consider joining the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), a multilateral program to halt transport of weapons of mass destruction, the Associated Press reported February 27.

“It is appropriate to examine whether there is a way to more actively participate” in the PSI, Yu Myung-hwan said today during his confirmation hearing as foreign minister.

President Lee Myung-bak took office this week. The previous government in Seoul had participated in the program only as an observer to avoid angering North Korea. The Stalinist state has threatened “catastrophic consequences” should South Korea join the program, but Lee has pledged to boost ties with Washington and to take a harder line with Pyongyang.

Nations participating in the PSI, including the United States, Russia, Japan, Australia and the United Kingdom, have signed a statement of interdiction principles and conduct exercises simulating raids on ships suspected of carrying unconventional weapons.

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## **Commander Says U.S. Must Update Its Nuclear Arsenal for the 21st Century**

*Associated Press, 4 March 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

The U.S. needs a new, modern arsenal of nuclear weapons to use as a deterrent to attacks from other nations for the remainder of the 21st century, the top military commander for strategic warfare said March 4.

Air Force Gen. Kevin Chilton, head of the military's Strategic Command, said if the Defense Department develops an improved, more reliable nuclear weapon, the U.S. will be able to reduce the number of warheads it keeps on hand.

"So long as there are other countries in the world that possess enough nuclear weapons to destroy the United States of America and our way of life, we will have to deter those types of countries," Chilton told reporters at a breakfast meeting. "So I am not in favor of unilateral disarmament."

Comparing today's threat to the Cold War, when the U.S. was at loggerheads with the Soviets, Chilton said the principal deterrent was the "massive nuclear threat of destroying each other's countries."

Now, he said, the threat is different, thus the deterrent must also be more nuanced ranging from nuclear warheads to conventional weapons and cyber-capabilities. And he said the existing warheads in the U.S. inventory today are "too big, bigger than they need to be."

Critics, however, worry that any such moves by the United States could trigger another international arms race, and a rush by other countries such as Russia and China to develop more effective, more usable nuclear weapons.

"This is something we should be very careful about the signal we send to other nuclear powers in the world," said Hans M. Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project for the Federation of American Scientists. "We don't want Russia and China to make more usable and tailored weapons capabilities."

Kristensen said members of Congress have already expressed concerns that developing weapons with lower yields would make them more usable.

"It's a good thing that we have weapons that are not very usable," he said. "The worst situation would be where they are more likely to be used."

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Chilton noted that the United States has significantly reduced the number of nuclear weapons it now has in its active arsenal. By 2012, he said, the number would be reduced to about one-quarter of the total during the Cold War.

The 2002 Moscow treaty requires that the U.S. reduce its operationally deployed warheads to 1,700-2,220 by December 2012. In an exchange of data early last year, the Russians claimed to have 4,162 strategic warheads and the United States 5,866 in its arsenal.

Chilton said the military can use as a deterrent either a large stockpile or a more modern, responsive weapon in smaller numbers. And he advocated the latter, saying that would be a smarter way to reduce the nuclear inventory.

At the same time, he acknowledged that the warheads are powerful and terrible weapons.

"I'm a father too, with children, and I would love to have them grow up in a nuclear-free world," Chilton said. "But ... I also want them to grow up free. And as long as we have other nations out there with nuclear capabilities ... then we need to have a nuclear deterrent force that can do the mission of preserving our freedoms."

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