



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



1 December – 14 December 2009

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BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

U.S. Announces New Strategy for Biological Weapons Convention

Global Security Newswire, 09 December 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

The Obama administration has developed a strategy designed to boost the goals of the Biological Weapons Convention but stopped short of endorsing the creation of an international monitoring system to verify compliance with the pact. (896 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

U.S. Statements to the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

U.S. State Department, 30 November 2009, <http://www.state.gov/>

The Honorable Mr. Andrew C. Weber, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs

The safe, effective and environmentally sound destruction of more than 27 thousand metric tons of assorted chemical weapons is an enormous challenge. (791 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russian Plant Begins New Chemical Weapons Disposal Project

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

Russia has begun disposal of mixtures of lewisite and mustard blister agents at a chemical weapons disposal factory in the Kirov Region. (159 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

14th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the CWC Concludes

OPCW, 11 December 2009, <http://www.opcw.org/>

The 14th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the CWC ended on Friday, 4 December 2009 and adopted its final report by consensus. (728 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST- BAN TREATY (CTBT)

White House Gauges Senate Support for CTBT

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

A White House national security staffer yesterday sought out U.S. senators in hopes of determining whether there is sufficient support for ratification of the CTBT. (848 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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OTTAWA CONVENTION

U.S. Statement at the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World

U.S. Department of State, 1 December 2009, <http://www.state.gov/>

The United States is pleased to attend the Ottawa Convention's Review Conference for the first time. (380 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Arms Treaty Likely to Expire before New Pact Is Set

New York Times, 3 December 2009, <http://www.newyorktimes.com/>

American and Russian negotiators are racing to solve the remaining obstacles to a new arms control treaty that would cut the world's two largest nuclear arsenals by up to a third and replace a cold-war-era pact that expires Saturday. (869 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Opposes Monitoring of Missile Plants under New Deal with U.S.

RIA Novosti, 4 December 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia insists that the monitoring of missile manufacturing facilities should not be included in a new strategic arms reduction deal to replace the START I treaty. (430 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. and Russia Miss Treaty Deadline

New York Times, 5 December 2009, <http://www.newyorktimes.com/>

The United States and Russia missed their deadline on Friday to adopt a new arms control treaty, though they pledged that they would generally abide by the old one while they continued negotiating. (642 words) [Click here for full text](#)

U.S., Russia Push toward Post-START Agreement – Mullen

AFP, 8 December 2009, <http://www.yahoo.com>

The United States and Russia are both intent on reaching agreement on a successor to the START I treaty but it must be "ratifiable" by the U.S. Senate, the head of the U.S. military said Tuesday. (336 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START) (CONT.)

Russia to Keep Silo-Based Ballistic Missiles in Future

RIA Novosti, 8 December 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia's Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) will keep both silo-based and mobile ballistic missile systems in service until at least 2020, the SMF commander said on Tuesday. (275 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. Expresses Limited Optimistic on New Arms Control Deal with Russia

Xinhua News, 10 December 2009, <http://news.xinhuanet.com/>

The United States on Wednesday voiced its limited optimism over a new arms control treaty with Russia to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expired on Saturday. (331 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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U.S. Announces New Strategy for Biological Weapons Convention

Global Security Newswire, 09 December 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

The Obama administration has developed a strategy designed to boost the goals of the Biological Weapons Convention but stopped short of endorsing the creation of an international monitoring system to verify compliance with the pact, a senior State Department official said today.

The White House's [National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats](#)—released today—concluded that there is no comprehensive strategy to deal with "gaps" in efforts to prevent the proliferation of biological weapons and the abuse of science, Undersecretary of State Ellen Tauscher said at an annual meeting of the international agreement's member states in Geneva, Switzerland.

"President Obama fully recognizes that a major biological weapons attack on one of the world's major cities could cause as much death and economic and psychological damage as a nuclear attack," she said, according to a copy of her prepared remarks made available to Global Security Newswire.

The Biological Weapons Convention prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of weaponized disease agents such as anthrax, smallpox or plague.

In 2001, the Bush administration withdrew from extended negotiations intended to create an inspections protocol for the 1975 compact. Officials claimed then that such a system would not increase confidence in the convention and would unduly burden U.S. biodefense research efforts and the biotechnology industry with increased inspection costs and bureaucratic hurdles.

"The Obama administration will not seek to revive negotiations on a verification protocol to the convention," Tauscher said today. "We have carefully reviewed previous efforts to develop a verification protocol and have determined that a legally binding protocol would not achieve meaningful verification or greater security."

She said ensuring compliance is "extraordinarily difficult" because of the ease with which biological weapons programs could be disguised as legitimate activities. In addition, rapid advances in biological research make it harder to detect violations.

"We believe that a protocol would not be able to keep pace with the rapidly changing nature of the biological weapons threat," Tauscher said. She did not elaborate.

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The United States does not want to return to the negotiation of an inspection protocol because doing so would enable other nations, such as Russia and Iran, to revive demands that could undermine the convention, an expert on biological weapons warned last week.

Russia has long sought to define the "types and quantities" of pathogens and toxins banned by the agreement, thereby limiting its scope, said Jonathan Tucker, a senior fellow with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. Iran has pursued dismantling the Australia Group controls on exports of dual-use technologies and materials relevant to biological weapons.

Today's announcement "did not come as a surprise," Tucker told GSN in a telephone interview. "There has been a growing awareness of the difficulty of the challenges posed by biological verification because of the globalization of biotechnology."

The White House will seek compliance with the compact through "enhanced transparency" about activities and by pursuing "compliance diplomacy" to address concerns, according to Tauscher.

Noting that some might disagree with the administration's decision, the undersecretary said the United States wants to develop a rigorous program of information exchange that builds on and modifies as necessary the existing "work program" approach. She was referring to the "intercessional process," in which separate annual meetings of experts and member nations consider issues related to the convention.

To that end, the administration intends to promote universal membership in the compact, according to Tauscher. Greater emphasis should be placed on "voluntary" measures to provide increased confidence that states are meeting their obligations under the convention; there must also be more participation in existing confidence-building measures, she said.

For example, the administration will work toward posting future confidence building measure submissions publicly through the Web site of the agreement's Implementation Support Unit and encourage other parties to follow suit.

The United States also will work to enhance cooperation with the World Health Organization and other international bodies to help countries deal with outbreaks of natural diseases. Such preparedness activities would help those nations deal with bioterrorism threats, she said.

The final prong of the administration's BWC strategy will aim to make the agreement "the premier forum" for dialogue of the full range of biological threats, including bioterrorism.

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The United States is making a "welcome contribution" to the global biodefense effort, said Swedish Ambassador Magnus Hellgren, who represented the 27-nation European Union and was one of about 100 diplomats who saw Tauscher's presentation, the Associated Press reported. He said he would withhold final judgment on the U.S. effort until the next BWC review conference in 2011.

The extended goal remains "to develop mechanisms to verify compliance with this convention," Hellgren said.

Tucker said member nations could pursue a "challenge only" inspection regime—similar to a never-used provision of the Chemical Weapons Convention—that would allow states to demand checks on other BWC member nations. However, there is a no "political will" to push for such a system right now, Tucker said.

"It's unfortunate but that's the nature of the beast. Biological weapons are different from chemical and nuclear weapons and need to be addressed in a different manner," he said.

Domestically, the administration's approach highlights improving intelligence regarding biological threats, enhancing policies to secure high-risk toxins, and establishing better data-sharing among law enforcement and health professionals.

Tauscher said the newly minted strategy strikes a balance between "supporting scientific progress and curbing and stopping the potential for abuse."

[\[Link to Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Ellen Tauscher's address to the Annual Meeting of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, Geneva, Switzerland, on December 9, 2009.\]](#)

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U.S. Statements to the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

U.S. State Department, 30 November 2009, <http://www.state.gov/>

The Honorable Mr. Andrew C. Weber, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs

... Earlier this year, President Obama entrusted me to provide oversight and leadership of our domestic chemical weapons destruction program. This is no small task, as the United States possessing the second largest chemical weapons stockpile in the world. The safe, effective and environmentally sound destruction of more than 27 thousand metric tons of assorted chemical weapons is an enormous challenge. However, it is one that we have made significant strides towards accomplishing, and I am proud to report on these achievements.

- We have met our 1 percent, 20 percent, and 45 percent treaty milestones.
- To date, we have destroyed 67.6 percent of our Category 1 chemical weapons, which includes 85.3 percent of our chemical rockets, the destruction of 96.6 percent of our nerve agent and destruction of all of our binary chemical weapons.
- We have destroyed all of our Category 3 chemical weapons.
- We have destroyed all of our former chemical weapons production facilities.
- We have completed destruction operations at three of our facilities.
- We have four destruction facilities currently operating at a cost of over one billion dollars and two additional sites under construction.
- To date, we have provided an estimated 20.5 billion dollars for the destruction of chemical weapons in the United States of America.
- Over the years, we have successfully addressed a wide range of safety and environmental concerns raised by local citizens living near our storage and destruction facilities and by state and local authorities.

We have made every effort to ensure that our chemical weapons are destroyed consistent with the [CWC]; safely, without harm to workers, people living near the facilities, or the environment; verifiably, under the eyes of OPCW inspectors; and as rapidly as feasible. ...

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As an example, we are now intensively assessing the possible use of small-scale well-proven technologies to supplement the neutralization technologies planned at our two sites under construction located in Pueblo, Colorado, and Blue Grass, Kentucky. We are consulting with members of the United States Congress and conducting outreach to the local citizens and stakeholders about this potential new destruction strategy. We hope to have a decision on this strategy soon, and will keep you and the OPCW fully informed.

The United States understands our obligations under the Convention, and we are fully committed to meeting the Convention's objectives, including verified destruction of 100 percent of our stockpile as rapidly and as safely as possible. We are also committed to proactive disclosure of our chemical weapons destruction program, including schedule and cost data, so that member states can evaluate our efforts for themselves.

To that end, we have provided: 90-day reports for the past two and a half years which track our progress made in three-month intervals; informal destruction presentations at every informal meeting of the Executive Council on CW Destruction to offer frank and honest information on our program, and one which I am pleased to provide here tomorrow at 2 pm; and site visits to our facilities which allow an opportunity for representatives to observe the enormity and technical complexity of ongoing destruction efforts firsthand.

The United States will continue to provide the transparency measures necessary to ensure that the member states of this Organization have confidence in our domestic efforts. ...

The United States views the threat posed by chemical weapons as a global concern and one that necessitates action by the international community. While we place a determined focus on destroying our stockpile of chemical weapons, we also contribute to the larger international destruction program as well.

Through the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program, which I have been able to spend much of my government career serving, the United States has contributed over a billion dollars to cooperative threat reduction programs aimed at furthering the goals of the [CWC].

Our projects in Russia range from the development of an analytical laboratory, to enhancing site security at Planovy and Kisner, to the destruction of former production facilities in Volgograd and Novocheboksarsk, and to the establishment of a chemical weapons destruction facility in Shchuchye. The latter commenced destruction operations in March of this year and continues to perform at an impressive pace.

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I offer my compliments to the Russian Federation for its continued efforts and to the international donor community who, through their generous contributions, reduced the global stockpile of chemical weapons. I'd like to congratulate the Russian Federation and especially Viktor Kholstov on the achievement of their 45 percent destruction deadline.

In addition to our partnership with the Russian Federation, the United States contributed over 45 million dollars to assist the Republic of Albania in eliminating 16.6 metric tons of chemical weapons agents at Qaf Molle, destroying 100 percent of its stockpile in a verified manner. ...

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Russian Plant Begins New Chemical Weapons Disposal Project

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

Russia has begun disposal of mixtures of lewisite and mustard blister agents at a chemical weapons disposal factory in the Kirov Region, RIA Novosti reported yesterday.

"Work has started at the Maradykovsky facility to destroy mustard-lewisite mixtures," said regional official Mikhail Manin. "Two and a half [metric] tons of this dangerous substance has been destroyed by now."

A total of 150.1 metric tons of mustard-lewisite mixtures, contained in 277 units of ammunition, is set to be eliminated at the facility, Manin said.

In November, the site finished disposing of 232.6 metric tons of the nerve agent sarin.

Russia is slightly ahead of its chemical warfare material destruction schedule, having already destroyed 45 percent of its 39,967 metric ton stockpile as required under the Chemical Weapons Convention by the end of the year, Interfax reported. The country reached the 45 percent point on November 26 and has pledged to destroy all of its chemical weapons by the convention deadline of April 29, 2012.

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14th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the CWC Concludes

OPCW, 11 December 2009, <http://www.opcw.org/>

The 14th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP) to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) ended on Friday, December 4, 2009 and adopted its final report by consensus.

A total of 122 of the 188 States Parties to the CWC attended the Conference together with two signatory States, Israel and Myanmar, which participated as observers. The Conference also attracted eight international organizations, specialized agencies and other international bodies, as well as 30 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and chemical industry associations.

The Conference was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Vaidotas Verba, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the OPCW, and representatives of 10 States Parties were elected as Vice-Chairpersons*. The Conference elected 20 new members of the 41-member OPCW Executive Council for a two-year term that will start on May 12, 2010.**

Among its decisions taken during the 14th Session, the Conference:

- appointed H.E. Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü as the Director-General of the OPCW Technical Secretariat for a term of office beginning on July 25, 2010, and ending on July 24, 2014;
- approved a 2010 Program and Budget for the OPCW of €74,505,400, making it the Organization's fifth consecutive year of zero nominal growth of the budget;
- amended its earlier decision and granted an extension of the deadline by which the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya must destroy all of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles, to May 15, 2011, with the following new intermediate deadlines: phase 1 (1 percent) to be completed by November 1, 2010, phase 2 (20 percent) to be completed by December 15, 2010, and phase 3 (45 percent) to be completed by January 31, 2011;
- requested the Executive Council to intensify consultations to develop concrete measures and recommendations for ensuring the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI (international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry); it also requested the Technical Secretariat to organize a workshop in 2010 for the exchange of ideas among States Parties and relevant stakeholders which could assist, as appropriate, the policy-making organs of the OPCW in developing such concrete measures and recommendations;

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- adopted a decision on national implementation measures of Article VII obligations by which it urged States Parties that had yet to do so to notify the OPCW of the designation or establishment of their National Authority and to inform the OPCW of the steps they were taking to enact legislation and/or to adopt administrative measures to implement the Convention; it requested all States Parties to inform the Organization of any amendment to measures to implement the Convention and it urged States Parties to review their existing regulations in the field of trade in chemicals in order to render them consistent with the Convention; it also encouraged the Secretariat and States Parties to provide assistance for national implementation efforts and provided guidance on how to prepare annual reports on this subject;
- decided to continue the action plan on universality, noting that 33 new States Parties have joined the CWC as a result of the progress achieved since its adoption in 2003; and
- approved the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) by the OPCW for the reporting period beginning January 1, 2011.

On the sidelines of this year's Conference, Global Green USA convened a special 2-day meeting of more than 30 NGOs from around the world which culminated with the establishment of a new "Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition" to supplement the efforts of the States Parties in ensuring the full implementation of the CWC. The meeting participants discussed and agreed a charter for the coalition stipulating its main goals, objectives, activities, structure and operational modalities. Global Green USA will serve as the coalition's initial Coordination Hub and five NGO representatives selected on a regional basis will comprise its Advisory Committee

The official Conference documents and final report are available on the OPCW web site at www.opcw.org, together with the national statements of States Parties and information on the NGO events that were held on the sidelines of the Conference.

** Algeria, Cameroon, Germany, Guatemala, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russia, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, United States*

*** Africa – Algeria, Kenya, Libya, South Africa; Asia – Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Sri Lanka; Eastern Europe – Albania, Romania, Russia; Latin America and the Caribbean – Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador; and Western Europe and Other States – Canada, Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Turkey*

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White House Gauges Senate Support for CTBT

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

A White House national security staffer yesterday sought out U.S. senators in hopes of determining whether there is sufficient support for ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Washington Times reported.

In an October 1999 vote, Senate backing for the treaty fell far short of the 67 votes required for ratification. The document's detractors contended it could aid the spread of nuclear weapons while hindering the United States' ability to ensure the efficacy of its own arsenal.

However, the GOP at that time could not collect the 60 votes that would permanently take U.S. ratification of the treaty off the table.

The Obama administration is promoting the pact as a component of its arms control efforts. It is hopeful that a federal study and a comprehensive intelligence assessment now in the works could help boost Senate support for ratification.

The United States is one of 44 "Annex 2" nations that must ratify the pact before the global ban on nuclear test blasts can enter into force. It is also among the nine holdouts within that group. The others are China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan.

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U.S. Statement at the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World

U.S. Department of State, 1 December 2009, <http://www.state.gov/>

Following is the text of a statement delivered by the U.S. delegation in Cartagena at the Second Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction:

The United States is pleased to attend the Ottawa Convention's Review Conference for the first time. We congratulate Colombia for hosting this important conference. In 1997 the international campaign to ban landmines gathered 855,000 signatures on a petition that eventually spurred the creation of the Ottawa convention. This global social movement showed citizens taking responsibility for their fellow citizens and alerting all of us to the dangers posed by landmines.

Our acceptance of President Uribe's invitation affirms that the United States shares the humanitarian concerns of parties to the Ottawa Convention. The Administration is strongly committed to continued U.S. global leadership in eliminating the humanitarian risks posed by landmines. No country does more to support humanitarian mine action in strong support of the Convention's goals, including in landmine clearance, mine risk education, and victim assistance. The United States has provided more than \$1.5 billion toward humanitarian mine action and removing explosive remnants of war in 47 countries.

Equally significant, the United States has ended use of all non-detectable mines, both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines. The United States will also end all use of persistent mines, both anti-personnel and anti-vehicle, by the end of next year, in 2010.

The United States continues to abide by its obligations as a member of the Amended Mines Protocol to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

The Administration's decision to attend this Review Conference is the result of an on-going comprehensive review of U.S. landmine policy initiated at the direction of President Obama. This is the first comprehensive review since 2003. As such, it will take some time to complete, given that we must ensure that all factors are considered, including possible alternatives to meet our national defense needs and security commitments to our friends and allies to ensure protection of U.S. troops and the civilians they protect around the world.

The Administration applauds the significant accomplishments to date by the Convention in addressing the harmful effects of indiscriminate landmines and is committed to a continued U.S. leadership role in humanitarian mine action.

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Arms Treaty Likely to Expire before New Pact Is Set

New York Times, 3 December 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

American and Russian negotiators are racing to solve the remaining obstacles to a new arms control treaty that would cut the world's two largest nuclear arsenals by up to a third and replace a cold-war-era pact that expires Saturday.

The delegations are working marathon hours in Geneva to resolve differences over verification and to settle other details of an agreement that would reduce the number of deployed strategic warheads, missiles, bombers and submarines to their lowest levels in a half century. A mostly complete text has been written and translated, and there have been discussions about where to hold a signing ceremony.

But it appears unlikely that they will complete their work by the time the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty of 1991, known as START, expires, or that it can be ready for President Obama to sign when he visits Europe next week.

The idea of a ceremony next week had particular appeal because of the resonance of signing an arms control treaty on the same trip that Mr. Obama receives his Nobel Peace Prize, allowing him to position himself as a peacemaker even as he is escalating the war in Afghanistan.

Mr. Obama's goal of eventually ridding the world of nuclear arms is more popular in Europe and elsewhere than is the eight-year-old war in Afghanistan.

As recently as this week, officials in Geneva were talking about holding a signing ceremony in Reykjavik, Iceland, the scene of the 1986 summit meeting where Ronald Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev came close to an agreement to eliminate nuclear weapons altogether. Other sites under consideration were Geneva and Helsinki, Finland.

But a White House official, who was not authorized to speak for attribution about the talks, said that "it's not going to happen" next week and that negotiators were now aiming for the end of the year. "We are working this hard, but it will only get done if it is a good agreement that advances our national interests," the official said.

The two sides appear close on the question of limits. Mr. Obama and President Dmitri A. Medvedev had already narrowed the range for a cap on warheads to between 1,500 and 1,675 during a meeting in July, down from about 2,200 each side has now. They are likely to agree to lower the ceiling on delivery vehicles—intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-based

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missiles and strategic bombers—to below 800, from 1,600, according to an American official, although that would not result in significant reductions because the United States has about 800 and Russia about 620.

The most significant differences center on verification and monitoring. “There’s been a huge amount of progress just in the last week,” said the American official, who also was not authorized to discuss the negotiations with reporters. But “there’s going to have to be political heavy lifting in the next few days,” the official said.

Konstantin I. Kosachev, chairman of the international affairs committee in Russia’s Parliament, said final differences “require serious effort and compromise in the remaining time,” according to his office. Speaking from Geneva, he said the delegations were continuing “tense, intense and substantive work practically around the clock.”

Even if an agreement is reached in the coming days, the new treaty would need to be ratified by the Senate and the Russian Parliament, which could take months, so the two sides are working on a bridge agreement to continue inspections, verification and monitoring after START expires.

One monitoring program, however, will not continue. The American observation station at Votkinsk, about 600 miles east of Moscow, will close by Saturday. Under Start, the station is staffed by Americans who monitor manufacturing of Topol-M ballistic missiles and other arms. The Kremlin has long chafed at the presence of an American outpost deep in its territory, since it closed its own monitoring station in the United States years ago.

Russia has taken a harder line on monitoring in part because its military and diplomatic establishment believes that a weakened Moscow in the waning days of the cold war made concessions that infringed upon its sovereignty.

“Russia is not interested in having the same scope of verification procedures that were in the earlier treaty,” said Anton V. Khlopkov, director of the Center for Energy and Security Studies in Moscow. “There is this conclusion that these measures were too much, and too extensive.”

But any concessions on verification could draw criticism in Washington, where Mr. Obama needs at least seven Republican votes in the Senate to ensure ratification. In a floor speech last month, Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona, the Republican whip, said that verification had not “gotten the attention it deserved all along.”

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Baker Spring, an analyst at the Heritage Foundation, said the administration should limit only warheads, not delivery vehicles, because such a limit could also restrict missiles that could be used as conventional weapons. “The administration is risking getting itself into trouble,” he said.

But Daryl G. Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, a research and advocacy group, said the treaty was an important step. “We’re 20 years after the cold war,” he said. “The only reason most of these weapons exist is to deter the use of them by the other.”

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Russia Opposes Monitoring of Missile Plants under New Deal with U.S.

RIA Novosti, 4 December 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia insists that the monitoring of missile manufacturing facilities should not be included in a new strategic arms reduction deal to replace the START I treaty, a source said on Friday.

With the expiration of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) on December 5, U.S. inspectors left on Friday a machine building plant in the city of Votkinsk, located about 1,000 kilometers (621 miles) east of Moscow, to end their monitoring mission at the missile manufacturing facility, which lasted for over two decades.

A source close to ongoing Russia-U.S. talks on a replacement to the START I treaty said Moscow wants the new deal to not include monitoring of the Votkinsk plant, as Russian inspectors have not been monitoring similar facilities in the U.S. since 2001 and "there are plenty of other arms control measures that could be implemented by both sides."

Washington insists on the continuation of monitoring at the Votkinsk plant, which produces all Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), including advanced Topol-M and RS-24 missiles.

The U.S. also wants to establish closer monitoring of Russia's mobile Topol-M systems.

Under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) concluded between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1987, the missile production facility at Votkinsk was selected for long-term on-site monitoring by U.S. inspectors.

The corresponding site for the Soviet Union in the United States was the Hercules missile production facility in Salt Lake City, Utah, which Russian inspectors left in 2001 after the last American-made ICBMs rolled off the assembly line as the U.S. decided to produce solely long-range cruise missiles.

The 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the core of Russian-U.S. nuclear disarmament, expires on Saturday. Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama announced at their first meeting in April that the two countries would replace the START 1 treaty as part of their efforts to "reset" bilateral ties, which have been strained in recent years.

Moscow and Washington have been in intensive negotiations since July, when the presidents agreed the treaty's outline, which included cutting nuclear arsenals to 1,500-1,675 operational warheads and delivery vehicles to 500-1,000.

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Officials in Moscow and Washington said recently the new pact is unlikely to be ready by December 5, but expressed the hope that the document would be signed by the end of the year. The chief of the Russian General Staff said earlier that the ongoing talks had run into disagreements on inspection and verification procedures.

Russian and U.S. negotiators are expected to meet in Geneva on Saturday for the next round of talks on the preparation of the new arms reduction document.

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U.S. and Russia Miss Treaty Deadline

New York Times, 5 December 2009, <http://www.newyorktimes.com/>

The United States and Russia missed their deadline on Friday to adopt a new arms control treaty, though they pledged that they would generally abide by the old one while they continued negotiating.

The two sides were stepping up talks in Geneva in hopes of shortly concluding the new agreement, which would cut the world's two largest nuclear arsenals by up to a third. The cold war-era pact, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty of 1991, known as START, expires early Saturday.

Neither side blamed the other for the delay, which was apparently caused in part by an abundance of highly technical matters that need to be addressed. Negotiators have been focusing this week on issues related to monitoring and verification.

In a joint statement, the White House and the Kremlin declared their "commitment, as a matter of principle, to continue to work together in the spirit of the START treaty following its expiration, as well as our firm intention to ensure that a new treaty on strategic arms enters into force at the earliest possible date."

On Friday, President Obama discussed progress on the treaty with Russia's president, Dmitri A. Medvedev, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with the Russian foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, in Brussels.

While both sides said they would essentially honor the old treaty after the deadline, one major change was clear: an American monitoring post in Russia that kept track of Russian missile production was closed on Friday.

The post, in the city of Votkinsk, 600 miles east of Moscow, was authorized under the old treaty, and Russia had blocked any effort to keep it under the new one or to provide for a temporary extension. The Russian military had long objected to the presence of American observers based in the heart of Russia.

Under the old treaty, the United States and Russia also had the right to use periodic inspection teams in the other country to guarantee that the treaty was being followed. In October, the Obama administration expressed concern that if the deadline for a new pact passed and official authority for inspections lapsed, the United States would be unable to monitor the Russian nuclear stockpile.

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According to the understanding that was announced Friday by the two countries, they might conceivably be able to send ad hoc inspection teams in this interim period. But both countries seem to be hoping that it will not come to that—that a new treaty will be signed and ratified in time for an official inspection program to occur.

Over all, the outlines of the new treaty are already apparent. At a summit meeting in Moscow in July, Mr. Obama and Mr. Medvedev narrowed the range for a cap on warheads to between 1,500 and 1,675, down from about 2,200, which each side has now.

The two countries are also expected to lower the ceiling on delivery vehicles—intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-based missiles and strategic bombers—to below 800, from 1,600.

In Washington on Friday, Robert Gibbs, the White House spokesman, said that after the deadline, the United States and Russia “will simply maintain where the agreement has been for the last 15 or 20 years” until a new treaty is approved.

A senior American official, who was not authorized to speak to the news media and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said negotiators in Geneva “are focusing on getting final issues solved” and expressed optimism that a new treaty would be completed in the coming days.

In a statement, the Russian Foreign Ministry also offered a positive take.

“The future treaty should become another milestone in disarmament and nonproliferation,” the ministry said, “marking the transition to a higher level of interaction between Russia and the United States and reaffirming the common goals of the two countries in the promotion of mutual and global security.”

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U.S., Russia Push toward Post-START Agreement – Mullen

AFP, 8 December 2009, <http://www.yahoonews.com>

The United States and Russia are both intent on reaching agreement on a successor to the START I treaty but it must be "ratifiable" by the U.S. Senate, the head of the U.S. military said Tuesday. The two sides failed to reach an agreement before the December 5 expiration of the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, a cornerstone of the Cold War arms control regimes that kept in check the two nuclear-armed superpowers.

But Admiral Michael Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev have "spoken to the importance of solving these differences and getting to the point where we have an agreement."

While declining to go into details of the negotiations, Mullen said officials at the highest levels of both governments were involved in the deliberations.

"The national security team in the United States, and I would also add in Russia, are very focused on bringing this out to a positive conclusion," he said at a news conference.

Mullen said the differences stemmed in part from "the asymmetries in our nuclear structures, if you will—whether it's the kind of launcher, or where we have them, or those kinds of things."

"But we do need in the United States, from our perspective, we do need a treaty that is ratifiable, that can be ratified by our Senate," he said.

A reported sticking point is Russia's opposition to continuing U.S. inspections of missile facilities.

With the expiration of the START I treaty, a U.S. inspection team on Friday quit their post at Russia's leading missile production plant in Votkinsk, about 580 kilometers (360 miles) north of Moscow, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow said.

The broad outlines of the successor treaty had been agreed in July at a summit in Moscow. At the meeting, Obama and Medvedev agreed to reduce the number of warheads on either side to between 1,500 and 1,675 and the number of "carriers" capable of delivering them to between 500 and 1,100.

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Russia to Keep Silo-Based Ballistic Missiles in Future

RIA Novosti, 8 December 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia's Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) will keep both silo-based and mobile ballistic missile systems in service until at least 2020, the SMF commander said on Tuesday.

"To successfully accomplish the set tasks, the SMF will continue to have silo-based missile systems, which can provide an immediate response [to threats] and mobile systems featuring high survivability," Col. Gen. Andrei Shvaichenko said.

The general said the development of the SMF will stress the introduction of advanced missile systems although the existing systems will be kept operational until their extended service life expires.

"By the end of 2016, the missile systems with extended service life will constitute no more than 20 percent of the total, while the share of new missile systems will be about 80 percent," Shvaichenko said.

At present, six types of silo-based and mobile ICBM systems are on combat duty with the SMF, including the heavy Voyevoda (SS-18 Satan), capable of carrying 10 warheads, and the Topol-M (Stalin) systems.

According to open sources, the total arsenal of Russia's SMF comprises 538 ICBMs, including 306 SS-25 Topol (Sickle) missiles and 56 SS-27 Topol-M missiles.

Silo-based missiles constitute 45 percent of Russia's total ballistic missile arsenal. They carry about 85 percent of nuclear warheads deployed by the SMF.

The SMF commander said the number of missile systems and warheads in service in the future would depend on a new strategic arms reductions agreement between Russia and the U.S.

The new document to replace the START-I treaty, which expired on December 5, could significantly reduce the number of nuclear weapons possessed by both sides. ...

The draft treaty is expected to be ready by the end of 2009.

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U.S. Expresses Limited Optimism on New Arms Control Deal with Russia

Xinhua News, 10 December 2009, <http://news.xinhuanet.com/>

The United States on Wednesday voiced its limited optimism over a new arms control treaty with Russia to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expired on Saturday.

"Obviously, our hope is to get one done, but we can't plan for a signing ceremony until something's done, and we've certainly made no arrangements for that," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters at the daily press briefing.

According to the spokesman, the negotiators from the two sides have still been talking on the replacement of START treaty. "We're getting closer and making progress on an agreement. But there are still issues that have to be worked out that stand in the way of that ultimate agreement."

"We are optimistic that we can get one. Whether or not that happens by Copenhagen at this point's just hard to say," Gibbs added. ...

Negotiators from the two countries, led by Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller and her Russian counterpart Anatoly Antonov, have been busy talking in Geneva, in order to resolve remaining differences.

In a joint statement issued on Friday, Presidents Obama and Medvedev said they will continue to work together in the spirit of the START treaty following its expiration, in order to ensure that a new treaty on strategic arms enter into force at the earliest possible date.

Steven Pifer, an expert on arms control and proliferation in Brookings Institution, told Xinhua that the main differences may be related to two big issues. One is reaching agreement on the number of launchers, and the other is the verification questions.

But the expert believes that the two countries can wrap up the final details.

"If they don't get it done in December, I think they will get it done early next year. Both presidents have made repeatedly clear that they want the treaty and both sides have strong motivations," said Pifer, adding "it is not a question on whether will get the treaty but on when will get the treaty."

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