



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



1 January - 14 January 2008

DTRA

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **Firm Probed Over Bill Padding / Prosecutors Building Case Over Chemical**

*The Daily Yomiuri, 1 January 2008, accessed via Open Source Center*

The Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office is expected to establish a case this month against the former president of a consultancy firm and others on suspicion of padding bills totaling about 120 million yen for a chemical weapons disposal project in China. (616 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

### **10,000th VX Rocket Eliminated at PBCDF**

*U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 4 January 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil>*

The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) eliminated the 10,000th VX nerve-agent filled rocket on Thursday evening, January 3, 2008. (256 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Newport Chemical Depot Reaches 75-Percent VX Destruction**

*U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 9 January 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil>*

Workers at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) have safely neutralized 75 percent of the VX stored at the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD). (273 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

### **Tear Gas Use in Iraq Raises Treaty Questions**

*Global Security Newswire, 11 January 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>*

A U.S. security contractor's use of a riot control gas in Iraq has raised questions regarding adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the New York Times reported today. (356 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## CONVENTION ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

### **Group of Governmental Experts of States Parties to Conventional Weapons Convention to Negotiate Proposal on Cluster Munitions**

*The United Nations Office at Geneva Press Release, 10 January 2008, <http://www.unog.ch/>*

The Group of Governmental Experts of the States Parties to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) will meet from 14 to 18 January 2008 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. (385 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

### **IAEA Welcomes U.S. Contribution of \$50 million to Nuclear Fuel Bank: Initiative is Among Multiple Proposals Under Consideration**

*International Atomic Energy Agency, 09 January 2008, <http://www.iaea.org/>*

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has recognized a recent \$50 million funding allocation by the U.S. Congress for purposes of a nuclear fuel reserve under the auspices of the Agency. U.S. President George Bush signed the funding allocation into law on December 26, 2007. (711 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Senator Urges U.S. Congress to Consider Nuclear Trade Agreement Ahead of India**

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U.S. Senator George Voinovich (R-Ohio) believes that Congress should consider signing off on the civilian nuclear trade agreement with India prior to its approval in New Delhi, the Press Trust of India reported yesterday. (364 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **U.S. Tells North Korea to Fully Declare Nuclear Activities**

*Reuters, 11 January 2008, <http://news.google.com>*

The United States urged North Korea on Friday to give a full declaration of its nuclear activities after Pyongyang missed an end-2007 deadline for presenting the inventory under a disarmament-for-aid deal. (476 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

### **Iran's Top Leader Demands End to U.N. Security Council Nuclear Oversight**

*Associated Press Worldstream, 12 January 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

In an unprecedented meeting, Iran's top leader told the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Saturday that the U.N. Security Council had no remaining justification for focusing on the country's nuclear program, state-run television reported. (551 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **New Satellite Photo Shows Construction at Syrian Site Bombed by Israel**

*Associated Press, 12 January 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

A satellite photograph of a Syrian site bombed by Israel in September appears to show new construction that resembles the site's former main building, the New York Times reported yesterday. (336 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) (CONT.)

### **IAEA Chief Concludes Visit to Iran**

*International Atomic Energy Agency, 13 January 2008, <http://www.iaea.org/>*

IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei, accompanied by Mr. Olli Heinonen, Deputy Director General for Safeguards and Mr. Vilmos Cserveny, Director for External Relations and Policy Coordination, visited Teheran from 11 to 12 January 2008. (175 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

## PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

### **Korea Denies Plan to Participate in U.S.-Led Security Initiative**

*Asia Pulse, 14 January 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

The transition team of President-elect Lee Myung-bak denied Saturday a local report that South Korea will participate in the U.S.-led initiative against the spread of weapons of mass destruction under the next government, saying it has no immediate plan to discuss the matter. (290 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

## FULL TEXT OF WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

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The Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office is expected to establish a case this month against the former president of a consultancy firm and others on suspicion of padding bills totaling about 120 million yen for a chemical weapons disposal project in China, sources said Monday.

Officials of the special investigative squad of the prosecutors office also discovered Tokyo-based Pacific Consultants International (PCI) had reached an agreement with the government on the project to dispose of munitions left behind in China by the Imperial Japanese Army that gave the firm exclusive contracts in which it would bear no financial risk, the sources said.

The officials intend to investigate funds related to the project, which received large sums of government cash, in an effort to better understand how PCI was able to secure the lucrative agreement with the government.

After searching the company and related locations in October, investigators received about 100 boxes of materials voluntarily from the Cabinet Office, which awarded the contracts.

They also have questioned former PCI President Tamio Araki, 71, and President Masayoshi Taga, 62, who quit last month.

The government began the project to dispose of chemical weapons in China in fiscal 1999. Since March, 2004, Abandoned Chemical Weapons Disposal Corp. (ACWDC), a firm established by PCI's holding company, has been the only firm to win contracts awarded by the Cabinet Office on discretionary terms.

Over the three-year period through fiscal 2006, ACWDC won contracts worth about 23 billion yen, with some of the work subcontracted to a consortium established by PCI and others.

According to sources close to PCI, when ACWDC was established, PCI initially planned to jointly invest in ACWDC with a major heavy industrial firm.

However, since the heavy industrial firm considered the financial risk too great, PCI had to finance the establishment of ACWDC by itself.

The basic agreement ACWDC reached with the government was highly favorable to ACWDC as it stated the government would bear all financial risk and disposal contracts would be awarded exclusively to ACWDC.

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Shortly after the agreement was concluded, Araki, who was the president of Pacific Program Management (PPM) at the time, told PCI executives that his negotiations with the government enabled ACWDC to win contracts under a favorable agreement, and demanded that PCI distribute profits to PPM.

As a result, PCI devised a scheme to pad bills for contracts it was awarded and used the extra revenue to pay PPM.

PCI falsely claimed expenses for engineers seconded to PPM and sought payment for the expenses from the Cabinet Office through ACWDC.

The bill padding amounted to about 120 million yen from fiscal 2004 to fiscal 2005.

Investigators are looking into PCI on suspicion of breach of trust for providing profits to PPM. They also determined the bill-padding by PCI for projects from the government was an organized, fraudulent scheme conducted at the request of Araki.

The chemical weapons disposal project was designed to unearth, recover and detoxify chemical weapons abandoned in various parts of China by the Imperial Japanese Army.

Under the Chemical Weapons Convention, which went into effect in 1997, the government bears all expenses for the project.

The Haerbaling district of Jilin Province, China, is said to have the largest number of chemical weapons, with an estimated 300,000 to 400,000.

The government spent about 60 billion yen unearthing the weapons from fiscal 1999 to fiscal 2006, recovering about 38,000 by February 2007.

About 300 billion yen more is estimated to be needed to recover the remaining weapons.

In December, Fumio Kishida, state minister for Okinawa and northern territories said the government would invite companies to bid for projects as it would no longer award contracts on discretionary terms in fiscal 2008.

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The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) eliminated the 10,000th VX nerve-agent filled rocket on Thursday evening, January 3, 2008.

The disposal of the 10,000th rocket places PBCDF at more than 50 percent complete with VX rocket disposal operations.

“With the VX rocket campaign more than half-way complete, we continue to significantly reduce the risk to the community,” said Eddie Whitworth, acting PBCDF site project manager.

PBCDF achieved the 50 percent VX rocket disposal mark on Wednesday, January 2, 2008. To date, the combined total of munitions disposed of at PBCDF from both the GB and VX campaigns, is more than 100,000.

“We are proud of every milestone we achieve as it brings us closer to safely eliminating the stockpile at the Arsenal,” said David Reber, Washington Division’s project general manager.

VX rocket disposal operations began on October 11, 2007, when the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA) safely transported the first enhanced onsite containers (EONCs) carrying VX-filled rockets to PBCDF. The first VX rocket was eliminated on October 13, 2007.

VX rockets are the second chemical weapons disposal campaign. The estimated duration of the VX rocket campaign is approximately six months. Following completion of VX rocket disposal operations, there will be a changeover period during which the facility will be made ready for and personnel will be trained in VX landmine disposal operations.

Prior to chemical weapons disposal operations the Pine Bluff Arsenal had safely stored 3,850 tons of chemical agent, 12 percent of the Army’s original chemical weapons stockpile, for more than 60 years.

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Workers at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) have safely neutralized 75 percent of the VX stored at the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD).

The depot reached the 75-percent destruction milestone Tuesday, January 8. "Employees at the depot have always operated with the safety of the work force, surrounding communities and environment as the top priority and will continue until the entire VX stockpile is gone," said NECD Commander Lt. Col. Brian Lynch. "We take pride in our successes and strive each day to uphold the standards of our mission."

According to the NECDF Site Project Manager Jeff Brubaker, "We anticipate completion of neutralization of the Newport stockpile during the summer of 2008. Completing safe destruction of 75 percent of the stockpile is an important accomplishment for the Newport team and reflects positively on their commitment to safely complete agent operations."

The Chemical Weapons Convention mandates completion of agent destruction by April 2012. The Newport team anticipates completing operations well in advance of this required date. Doug Reehl, Parsons Vice President and Project Manager for the NECDF congratulated the entire Newport team. "Together we have safely destroyed 75 percent of the Newport VX stockpile," said Reehl. "Through your diligence and hard work, we are making the world a safer place."

NECD is one of the nation's chemical agent storage and destruction sites managed by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency. For nearly 40 years, the Newport work force has safely stored more than 1000 tons of liquid chemical agent. Workers began destroying the VX stockpile utilizing neutralization technology on May 5, 2005. On April 26, 2007, NECDF workers reached the 50-percent destruction milestone.

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## Tear Gas Use in Iraq Raises Treaty Questions

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A U.S. security contractor's use of a riot control gas in Iraq has raised questions regarding adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the New York Times reported today.

A helicopter and armored vehicle released CS gas near a military checkpoint in Baghdad in May 2005, inflicting temporary blindness upon drivers, passersby and 10 U.S. soldiers. The vehicles were both part of a convoy operated by Blackwater Worldwide.

"This was decidedly uncool and very, very dangerous," the top officer at the scene, Army Capt. Kincy Clark, wrote on the day of the incident. "It's not a good thing to cause soldiers who are standing guard against car bombs, snipers and suicide bombers to cover their faces, choke, cough and otherwise degrade our awareness."

The United States is a state party to the CWC, which allows the use of riot control agents for law enforcement but bans them from warfare.

Under a 1975 presidential order, the U.S. military can employ riot control agents in certain circumstances for defensive purposes. However, the president or a senior officer selected by the commander in chief must first sign off on using the gas.

"It is not allowed as a method or means of warfare," said Michael Schmitt, an international law professor at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. "There are very, very strict restrictions on the use of CS gas in a war zone."

A Blackwater spokeswoman indicated that the CS gas was used accidentally by personnel who meant to use a smoke canister while securing a motorcade route. The North Carolina firm under its State Department contract at the time was not prohibited from using riot control agents while providing security services in Iraq. Its current contract prevents use of such materials.

The incident did not violate international law, according to State Department lawyers.

The CWC "allows for use of riot control agents, such as CS, where they are not used as a method of warfare. The use of a riot control agent near a checkpoint at an intersection in the circumstances described is not considered to be a method of warfare," according to a State Department statement.

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*The United Nations Office at Geneva Press Release, 10 January 2008, <http://www.unog.ch/>*

The Group of Governmental Experts of the States Parties to the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) will meet from 14 to 18 January 2008 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The session will be presided over by Ambassador Bent Wigotski of Denmark.

The Group of Governmental Experts is mandated by the Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW (7 to 13 November 2007) to “negotiate a proposal to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations.” The Group is also authorized to “make every effort to negotiate this proposal as rapidly as possible and report on the progress made to the next Meeting of the High Contracting Parties in November 2008.”

Under its provisional program of work, the Group of Governmental Experts will negotiate on the humanitarian, military, technical and legal aspects of the use of cluster munitions. Meetings of its military and technical experts will assist the Group in these efforts.

Although there is not yet an official definition of “cluster munitions”, in general these munitions can be described as conventional weapons that can be launched from air, land or sea-based systems consisting of large munitions (contained or dispenser) filled with smaller sub-munitions (clusters or bomblets) which are scattered over the targeted area. The controversy mainly resides in the humanitarian impact on civilian populations of these weapons both during the conflict as well as hazardous unexploded explosive ordnances after the end of hostilities.

The issue of the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions has been discussed within the CCW since the Second Review Conference in 2001, although it was under a more general theme of explosive remnants of war. This session is expected to build in particular on the results of the Group of Governmental Experts’ session held in June 2007, at which cluster munitions was discussed in all its aspects.

The Convention was opened for signature at New York on 10 April 1981 and entered into force on 2 December 1983. It currently has 103 States Parties, and six countries have signed but not yet ratified the Convention. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is the depositary of the Convention.

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The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has recognized a recent \$50 million funding allocation by the U.S. Congress for purposes of a nuclear fuel reserve under the auspices of the Agency. U.S. President George Bush signed the funding allocation into law on December 26, 2007.

"I have long been advocating the establishment of assurance of supply mechanisms in view of increasing demand for nuclear power and to strengthen non-proliferation," said IAEA Director General Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei. "At the core of such mechanisms will be a fuel bank of last resort, under IAEA auspices. Such a bank would operate on the basis of apolitical and non-discriminatory non-proliferation criteria, and I welcome the recent action by the U.S. Congress as a positive step in this regard. In addition to the \$50 million already pledged by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), it brings such a fuel bank closer to realization. I also have welcomed the Russian proposal for a fuel bank under IAEA control and a German initiative calling for the creation of an international enrichment centre, open to participation by all interested States."

The U.S. contribution matches an earlier commitment of \$50 million made by the NTI, an organization devoted to non-proliferation efforts. This contribution was made by NTI advisor Warren Buffett in September 2006 with the stipulation that one or more IAEA Member States contribute an additional \$100 million (or low-enriched uranium [LEU] equal in value) to the reserve. With the recent US commitment, a final \$50 million pledge is needed to meet the NTI's funding requirement.

Former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, Co-Chairman of the NTI, also recognized the U.S. government's \$50 million pledge as further progress towards creation of a system for nuclear fuel assurances.

"An IAEA-controlled fuel bank is essential to reducing global nuclear dangers because the same nuclear enrichment technology that is used to make nuclear reactor fuel can also be used to make material for a nuclear weapon," said Nunn, in a statement. "The law signed [on 26 December] is an important step forward to help prevent the spread of this nuclear technology to dozens of countries around the world and can be used to help release NTI's \$50 million contribution to a fuel bank."

The concept of a multilateral LEU supply bank is not a new one, and has in fact been discussed in past decades. Assurances of supply of nuclear fuel, including nuclear fuel reserves (or

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banks), could provide States confidence in obtaining nuclear fuel for electricity generation and protect against disruption of supply for political reasons. The risk of such disruptions could possibly dissuade countries from initiating or expanding nuclear power programs or create vulnerabilities in the security of fuel supply that might in turn drive States to invest in national uranium enrichment capabilities with possible additional proliferation risks. Thus, multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, in general, have the potential to facilitate peaceful use of nuclear energy while providing the international community with additional assurance that the sensitive parts of the nuclear fuel cycle are less vulnerable to misuse for non-peaceful purposes.

In addition to the NTI plan, several other proposals for the creation of a reliable fuel supply have been submitted to the IAEA and are currently under consideration.

A Russian proposal seeks the establishment of a joint enrichment facility at the country's pre-existing Angarsk Electrolysis Chemical Complex, which is already a manufacturer of LEU. An IAEA controlled LEU reserve would be located at Angarsk.

A German plan calls for multilateral uranium enrichment under the auspices of the IAEA and calls for a third-party State to provide an extraterritorial area for a uranium enrichment plant. The plant would be financed by countries who would act as buyers of the plant's nuclear fuel.

As an increasing number of nations plan for the development of civilian nuclear energy, concern has grown over the potential for diversion of nuclear material and technology from peaceful to military use. The establishment of a nuclear fuel supply system has been considered as a means of not only minimizing this risk, but also in assisting nations in their peaceful development of nuclear power. Providing a reliable fuel supply to nations with a burgeoning nuclear power program eases the economic cost and nuclear weapons-related risks intrinsic with building enrichment capabilities.

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## Senator Urges U.S. Congress to Consider Nuclear Trade Agreement Ahead of India

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U.S. Senator George Voinovich (R-Ohio) believes that Congress should consider signing off on the civilian nuclear trade agreement with India prior to its approval in New Delhi, the Press Trust of India reported yesterday.

“A decision will have to be made as to whether or not we should take the position of whether or not India is willing to support the 123 agreement and get it through their parliament,” Voinovich said in a teleconference.

“Our passing it would be very significant to members of the parliament in India ... who can say ‘Look, the U.S. has passed it, the Nuclear Suppliers are comfortable with it and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is happy with it and all we need now is get it passed and that will make it a reality,’” he said.

The agreement has faced opposition from both ends of the political spectrum in New Delhi. Opponents have argued that restrictions in the deal would undermine India’s sovereignty and impair its nuclear program. “Would our passage help give [Indian leaders] some more clout in terms of getting it through the parliament? That’s something we would have to look at,” Voinovich said.

He noted that U.S. and Indian officials must win approval for the deal from the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group. The organization of nuclear exporters has to approve a special exception for shipping nuclear materials to India because New Delhi has not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and does not allow international supervision of all of its nuclear activities. “[Indians] should feel good that the agreement with the NSG ... the United States can take care of that. We are not worried about that,” he said.

Voinovich also expressed optimism that India can reach a required safeguards agreement with the IAEA “in the next couple of months.” “We have also got to get a sign-off on the IAEA ... a couple of years ago [IAEA officials] told me that India spends more time talking with them than many of the countries that have signed the Nonproliferation Treaty. I don’t think there’s going to be any problem with [IAEA chief Mohamed] ElBaradei getting it signed,” he said.

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## **U.S. Tells North Korea to Fully Declare Nuclear Activities**

*Reuters, 11 January 2008, <http://news.google.com>*

The United States urged North Korea on Friday to give a full declaration of its nuclear activities after Pyongyang missed an end-2007 deadline for presenting the inventory under a disarmament-for-aid deal.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill held talks with Russia's chief negotiator in Moscow after a tour of Asia to discuss the deal, which would award fuel oil or aid for making the declaration and dismantling its nuclear facilities.

"They are obliged to give a complete and correct declaration, a declaration which would cover all their nuclear materials, all their nuclear facilities and all their nuclear programs and any nuclear cooperation they have with anyone," Hill told reporters after talks.

"That is what we are expecting," he said, declining to give any new deadlines for the declaration.

North Korea says it has accounted for its nuclear programs as required.

The United States says none of the countries party to the deal -- a result of six-party talks between the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia -- has seen the final declaration.

Russia's chief negotiator on North Korea, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Losyukov, expressed frustration with the speed of the process.

"We are unanimous in our regret at the slow movement we have within the process, but at the same time we recognize that this is a very difficult and bumpy road which we have to go along," he told reporters at a joint briefing with Hill.

## DISARMING

If North Korea lives up to the deal, the energy starved state would get 1 million tons of heavy fuel oil or equivalent aid, and Washington would take it off its terrorism black list.

North Korea has been cooperating in disabling its three main nuclear facilities -- an ageing reactor, a plant that makes nuclear fuel and another that turns spent fuel into arms-grade plutonium -- U.S. and South Korean officials have said.



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The disabling of North Korea's nuclear reactor is a key part of a complex nuclear deal struck after years of diplomatic wrangling and Pyongyang's test of a nuclear bomb in late 2006.

Hill said the next round of talks would take place soon but declined to give a date: "I think the Chinese will be looking to call a six-party meeting."

China is the host of the six party talks. Earlier, *Istar-Tass* news agency quoted Hill as saying the next round of the talks could take place in the next few weeks.

Russia will complete a delivery of 50,000 tons of fuel oil to North Korea this month under an agreement reached at the six-party negotiations, Losyukov told reporters.

"I think that around January 20-21 we will complete the delivery of our portion to North Korea of the oil which was envisaged by the six-party talks," Losyukov said. "So it can not be used as a pretext to slow the process down."

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## Iran's Top Leader Demands End to U.N. Security Council Nuclear Oversight

*Associated Press Worldstream, 12 January 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

In an unprecedented meeting, Iran's top leader told the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Saturday that the U.N. Security Council had no remaining justification for focusing on the country's nuclear program, state-run television reported.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all state matters in Iran, told Mohamed ElBaradei that the IAEA should exclusively handle Iranian nuclear questions, saying resolution of the controversy would be a "great success" for the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

Many Iranian officials, including hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, have called Security Council pressure unjustified, especially in the wake of recent IAEA reports saying Iran had increased cooperation with the agency. But Saturday's statements were the first of this nature by Khamenei.

"There is no justification for Iran's nuclear dossier to remain at the U.N. Security Council," state TV quoted Khamenei as telling ElBaradei.

ElBaradei, who arrived in Tehran on Friday, urged Iran to "accelerate" its cooperation with the agency so he could address outstanding questions before he presents his next report to the IAEA Board of Governors in March.

Ahmadinejad said during a separate meeting with ElBaradei on Saturday that he hoped the IAEA would not be influenced by the "pressure of big powers" while probing Iran's nuclear program.

The U.S. and many of its allies have accused Iran of using its nuclear program as a cover for future weapons development; a claim Tehran denies, saying its activities are focused on electricity generation.

"Some countries assume that the IAEA has been set up to enforce their policies," state TV quoted Ahmadinejad as saying. "This assumption disturbs natural and just conditions."

Khamenei said Iran would not succumb to U.S. pressure on its nuclear program.

"The Americans wrongly assume that they will be able to break the Islamic Republic of Iran by pressuring Iran over the nuclear issue, but they will not be able to bring the Iranian nation to its knees by raising this issue or other issues," state TV quoted him as saying.

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Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, told EIBaradei that Iran would not agree to U.N. Security Council demands that it suspend uranium enrichment, but insisted Tehran would not use the process to make weapons.

"Iran, while insisting on its obvious rights in attaining and using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, is committed to its obligations under the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]," state TV quoted Jalili as saying.

EIBaradei's trip overlaps with President George W. Bush's Middle East tour and comes as tensions between Washington and Tehran remain high following an incident Sunday in the Persian Gulf between the countries' respective navies.

Bush's attempt to rally international pressure against Iran's nuclear program has been complicated by a U.S. intelligence report released last month saying Iran stopped its atomic weapons program in 2003 and had not resumed it.

Tehran says it never worked on atomic weapons and wants to enrich uranium only to produce fuel for reactors that would generate electricity. The U.S. and its allies say that even if Iran no longer has an active weapons program, it could easily resume such work unless strong international oversight is put in place.

In November, an IAEA report said Iran had been generally truthful about key aspects of its nuclear history, but warned that its knowledge of Tehran's present atomic work was shrinking.

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## **New Satellite Photo Shows Construction at Syrian Site Bombed by Israel**

*Associated Press, 12 January 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

A satellite photograph of a Syrian site bombed by Israel in September appears to show new construction that resembles the site's former main building, the New York Times reported yesterday.

The Israeli air strike has been shrouded in mystery for months. Israel has maintained an almost total silence since the Sept. 6 air strike, which Syria said hit an unused military installation.

Media reports, some quoting unidentified U.S. officials, have said the strike hit a nuclear installation linked to North Korea. Damascus denies it has an undeclared atomic program, and North Korea has said it was not involved in any such project.

The image released Friday came from DigitalGlobe, a private company in Longmont, Colo., the New York Times reported. The image shows a tall, square building under construction that appears to resemble the site's former main structure. The photo was taken from space on Wednesday, the newspaper said.

It could not immediately be independently verified that the satellite photograph was the site hit in the Israeli air strike. A telephone message left yesterday at DigitalGlobe was not immediately returned.

Syrian officials were not available for comment, and an Israeli government official said the government was not reacting to the report.

Some analysts have said the satellite images taken before and after the Israeli strike supported suspicions that the target was indeed a reactor and that the site was given a hasty cleanup by the Syrians to remove incriminating evidence. But other analysts have said the satellite images are too grainy to make any conclusive judgment.

Meanwhile, the head U.N. nuclear watchdog, Mohamed ElBaradei, said his agency would like to inspect the Syrian site, according to an interview with the London-based pan-Arab newspaper al-Hayat dated Tuesday. He also said the photographs so far have indicated that the site was not a nuclear facility.

Syria has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and allowed agency experts to inspect its only known nuclear facility - a small, 27-kilowatt reactor, according to diplomats linked to the U.N. watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

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## IAEA Chief Concludes Visit to Iran

*International Atomic Energy Agency, 13 January 2008, <http://www.iaea.org/>*

IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei, accompanied by Mr. Olli Heinonen, Deputy Director General for Safeguards and Mr. Vilmos Cserveny, Director for External Relations and Policy Coordination, visited Teheran from 11 to 12 January 2008.

During meetings with senior officials, that included meetings with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, discussion took place on ways and means to accelerate implementation of safeguards in Iran as well as additional confidence-building measures. While progress in the implementation of the workplan agreed between the IAEA Secretariat and Iran in August 2007 was noted, an agreement was reached on the timeline for implementation of all the remaining verification issues specified in the workplan. According to the agreed schedule implementation of the workplan should be completed in the next four weeks.

During the visit discussion also took place on the importance of the implementation of the Additional Protocol as well as on other confidence-building measures called for by the Security Council. Furthermore, Iran also provided information on its research and development activities on a new generation of centrifuges.

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## **Korea Denies Plan to Participate in U.S.-Led Security Initiative**

*Asia Pulse, 14 January 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

The transition team of President-elect Lee Myung-bak denied Saturday a local report that South Korea will participate in the U.S.-led initiative against the spread of weapons of mass destruction under the next government, saying it has no immediate plan to discuss the matter.

"We may contemplate the matter on a long-term basis, but not now," said Lee Dong-gwan, spokesman for the transition team.

A key official of the team said Friday that the incoming government was weighing a Foreign Ministry suggestion that the country should consider becoming a full member of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), aimed at stopping the spread of such weapons by countries like North Korea.

The ministry made the suggestion in its first policy briefing for the transition team on Jan. 4, citing a need to keep a strong alliance with Washington, the official said.

Currently an observer in the program, South Korea has been under growing U.S. pressure to be a full participant in the interdiction drive in line with stringent U.N. sanctions imposed on North Korea over its nuclear test in 2006.

"It is true that the PSI issue was partly discussed during the January 4 briefing," the spokesman said. "Although some shared the need to participate in the PSI, we agreed to take a cautious approach to the issue considering overall changes of strategic conditions in inter-Korean relations."

He said there should be no more confusion over the incoming government's position on the participation.

The liberal government of President Roh Moo-hyun has refused to accept U.S. requests to fully participate in the PSI, fearing it may provoke North Korea.

Lee, who takes office on February 25, has vowed to take a tougher stance on Pyongyang and maintain closer ties with the United States.

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