



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



02 December – 15 December 2008

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BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

Russia Backs Legally Binding Oversight System for BWC

GSN, 9 December 2008, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

Russia yesterday [December 8] expressed support for establishing a legally binding system to monitor compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention. (334 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Final Chemical Weapons Disposal Campaign Begins at Arsenal

CMA, 8 December 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Employees at the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA) and the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) successfully transported and processed the first mustard agent-filled ton container of the Arsenal's stockpile. (325 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Tenth Annual Meeting of OPCW National Authorities

OPCW, 04 December 2008, <http://www.opcw.org/>

The Tenth Annual Meeting of National Authorities was held at OPCW headquarters in The Hague from November 28-30, 2008. (331 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

United States to Prepare Chemical Weapons Waste Treatment Plan

GSN, 11 December 2008, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

The U.S. Defense Department is scheduled next week to begin developing a plan for treating waste produced by neutralizing chemical warfare materials at two sites. (291 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Japan Starts Test Removal of Chemical Weapons in China

Jiji Press, 13 December 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

The Japanese government on Saturday [December 13] started test removal of chemical weapons left by the defunct Japanese Imperial Army during World War II in Haerba Ling in the northeastern China province of Jilin. (215 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

Bush: World Must be “Firm and Patient” on North Korea

AFP, 15 December 2008, <http://www.spacewar.com/>

U.S. President George W. Bush said Monday [December 15] that he hoped Washington's partners in North Korean nuclear disarmament talks will stay "firm and patient" with the secretive regime. (293 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

Panel Cites “Tipping Point” on Nuclear Proliferation

Washington Post, 16 December 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

The development of nuclear arsenals by both Iran and North Korea could lead to "a cascade of proliferation," making it more probable that terrorists could get their hands on an atomic weapon, a congressionally chartered commission warned yesterday [December 15]. (456 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

United States, Russia Agree to Draft New Treaty to Replace START by Late 2009

Interfax-AVN, 16 December 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

The United States and Russia have agreed to work out a new treaty to replace [the] Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) after its expiration in December 2009, U.S. acting Deputy Secretary of State John Rood told Interfax on Monday [December 15]. (235 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE)

Russia Hopes to Adapt CFE, Sign New START Treaty

Interfax-AVN, 10 December 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Hopefully, the work of adapting the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty will yield a positive result, and a new strategic arms reduction treaty will be signed with the United States, Chief of the Russian General Staff Gen. Nikolai Makarov said on Wednesday [December 10]. (219 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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Russia Backs Legally Binding Oversight System for BWC

GSN, 9 December 2008, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

Russia yesterday expressed support for establishing a legally binding system to monitor compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention, Interfax reported.

The Foreign Ministry statement followed the meeting last week in Geneva of member nations to the treaty that bans the development, manufacture and possession of weapons that involve biological agents such as anthrax, smallpox or plague. The pact presently has no mechanism for checks on its 162 states parties.

"We are satisfied with the constructive discussion which included an exchange of experiences. The Russian delegation actively participated in this work and explained the need for high biological security standards, that are used in Russia," according to the statement.

"The most efficient way to achieve this goal is to develop and adopt a legally binding mechanism for monitoring" the treaty," the Foreign Ministry added.

The next review conference for the convention is scheduled for 2011. It "will be able to adopt real effective measures to strengthen the ban of biological and toxin weapons," according to Moscow.

The 2008 meeting is part of a series of sessions scheduled to address biological weapons topics between the 2006 review conference and the 2011 summit. On the agenda for this meeting were "national, regional and international measures to improve biosafety and biosecurity, including laboratory safety and security of pathogens and toxins," and "oversight, education, awareness raising, and adoption and/or development of codes of conduct with the aim of preventing misuse in the context of advances in bioscience and biotechnology with the potential of use for purposes prohibited by the convention," biological and chemical weapons expert Richard Guthrie said in the first of several reports from the meeting.

A number of nations and groupings of countries such as the Nonaligned Movement states offered statements during general debate on the first day of the meeting, Guthrie reported. Many addressed the importance of biosecurity and education, along with treaty universality and other topics.

There was discussion on the second day of the meeting on biosafety and biosecurity definitions and standards, Guthrie said. Discussion addressed the unlikelihood of producing a "one size fits

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all" understanding of biosafety and biosecurity by treaty states. Beginning on the second day, some talks occurred behind closed doors.

Discussion on the third day regarding biological oversight addressed three areas: "oversight of science," "education and awareness raising" and "codes of conduct," according to Guthrie. Delegates also discussed universalization and other matters that were not formalized on the agenda.

Additionally, work began on a final report from the meeting. Negotiations continued behind closed doors Thursday on the report. Delegates issued their final report shortly after noon Friday.

"The final report ... contains more detailed language about the subject matters that were under discussion," Guthrie stated. "The use of language is very careful to ensure that nothing might be construed as a decision or recommendation.

The United Nations posted an informal copy of the report on Friday. A formal version is expected to go online before long, according to Guthrie.

The next states parties meeting is scheduled for December 7-11, 2009. The topic for discussion is "with a view to enhancing international cooperation, assistance and exchange in biological sciences and technology for peaceful purposes, promoting capacity building in the fields of disease surveillance, detection, diagnosis and containment of infectious diseases: (1) for states parties in need of assistance, identifying requirements and requests for capacity enhancement; and (2) from states parties in a position to do so, and international organizations, opportunities for providing assistance related to these fields."

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Final Chemical Weapons Disposal Campaign Begins at Arsenal

CMA, 8 December 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Employees at the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA) and the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) successfully transported and processed the first mustard agent-filled ton container of the Arsenal's stockpile. December 4, PBCA safely transported the first enhanced onsite container (EONC) carrying mustard agent-filled ton containers to PBCDF. December 7, PBCDF processed the first ton container.

"With the start of the last chemical weapons disposal campaign we are one step closer to finishing the storage mission and making our community safer with the elimination of all our stockpile," said Lt. Col. Cliff Johnston, PBCA commander.

The ton containers are the last disposal campaign at the Arsenal. Unlike the previous disposal campaigns that dealt with nerve agent, mustard is a blister agent. Following the completion of disposal operations, PBCDF will begin its facility closure phase. During this time the disposal facility will be decontaminated and dismantled in accordance with the site's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit.

"Current estimates predict the duration of the ton container disposal campaign to be about three years," said Mark Greer, PBCDF site project manager. "We are confident that we will complete disposal operations by the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty date of 2012."

Chemical weapons disposal operations began at the Arsenal in March 2005 with the GB nerve-agent filled rockets. The second disposal campaign, VX nerve-agent filled rockets, ended in February 2008; and the third disposal campaign, VX nerve-agent filled landmines, ended in June 2008.

"Our employees did an excellent job completing this outage, and will continue to move forward with operations with the safety of the workforce and public as our top priority," said David Reber, project general manager for Washington Defense Group, EG&G Division of the URS Corporation, which operates the plant for the Army.

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



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Tenth Annual Meeting of OPCW National Authorities

OPCW, 04 December 2008, <http://www.opcw.org/>

The Tenth Annual Meeting of National Authorities was held at OPCW headquarters in The Hague from 28 to 30 November 2008. A total of 190 participants from 92 States Parties attended the meeting, including from all regional groups—Africa (25), Asia (23), Eastern Europe (18), Latin American and the Caribbean (9), and West Europe and Other States (17). Lebanon, a State not Party, also participated and informed the Technical Secretariat that the government deposited its instrument of accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 20 November 2008.

The OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pflirter, opened the meeting by noting that 177 of the 184 States Parties to the CWC have now established National Authorities, and urged the remaining seven States Parties to do so at the earliest as the starting point for national implementation of the Convention. The Director-General added that the OPCW has made rapid strides in achieving universality and welcomed Lebanon's decision to join the Convention. He expressed the hope that other States not Party in the Middle East will follow Lebanon's example as soon as possible.

Director-General Pflirter stressed the crucial role played by National Authorities to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention. He acknowledged that many National Authorities continue to have capacity constraints and reiterated the Technical Secretariat's commitment to provide them assistance in the form of implementation support and capacity building programs. This includes training in the use of Electronic Declaration software for National Authorities (EDNA), which has been developed by the Technical Secretariat for National Authorities to make their declarations to the OPCW electronically.

The thematic focus of the meeting was to provide the chemical industry's perspective on the implementation of the CWC, and the Technical Secretariat provided information on recent initiatives relating to Article VI declarations and verification issues. Participating National Authorities shared their experiences in national implementation, and regional groups discussed ways and means to foster regional and sub-regional cooperation in implementing the Convention.

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United States to Prepare Chemical Weapons Waste Treatment Plan

GSN, 11 December 2008, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

The U.S. Defense Department is scheduled next week to begin developing a plan for treating waste produced by neutralizing chemical warfare materials at two sites, the Richmond, Kentucky, Register reported.

Congress in January would receive the proposal formulated by Pentagon staffers and Kevin Flamm, head of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives [ACWA] program.

Flamm's agency is preparing for disposal of chemical weapons stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky and the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado. Both sites—using facilities that have yet to be built—would use chemical neutralization to treat the weapons agents. However, that produces a liquid known as hydrolysate which itself must undergo another treatment, supercritical water oxidation.

The question is whether to build the secondary treatment plants at the storage depots or to ship the wastewater to an existing off-site facility.

Transporting the hydrolysate to another site could save between \$120 million and \$180 million at Blue Grass and would make construction and eventual remediation at the site easier, Flamm said. It could, though, face strong opposition from a number of sources, including residents of the recipient communities.

A House bill submitted by Representative Mark Udall (D-Colorado) would prohibit the Pentagon from relocating chemical weapons neutralization waste.

State officials in Kentucky approved a permit for the Blue Grass disposal plant in the belief that the site would house the oxidation facility as well, said Doug Hindman, co-chairman of the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board. They could rethink their decision if that does not occur, he and others said during a meeting Tuesday.

Flamm said that safety would be a priority in whatever decision is made. "This is a question of risk management," he said.



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Japan Starts Test Removal of Chemical Weapons in China

Jiji Press, 13 December 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

The Japanese government on Saturday [December 13] started test removal of chemical weapons left by the defunct Japanese Imperial Army during World War II in Haerba Ling in the northeastern China province of Jilin.

By starting the work in Haerba Ling, where 300,000 to 400,000 abandoned shells, a majority of such weapons in China, are believed to be buried, the government aims to complete eliminating all the abandoned weapons by 2012, the deadline under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The government has so far removed some 45,000 shells across China.

In the test removal, the government aims to find out the types and conditions of abandoned shells to decide on the specifications of removal devices and study safety measures for manual excavation.

At one of the two Haerba Ling pits where the weapons are buried, Japan's Cabinet Office plans to remove about 1,000 shells by January 19, 2009, with support from the Chinese government.

From Japan, 40 people, including retired Self-Defense Forces members, will participate in the work, for which about 2.1 billion yen is earmarked in the budget for fiscal 2008 to next March.

In Haerba Ling, the government plans to build facilities to process the collected weapons to make them harmless.

Mobile equipment will be built for processing the already removed and stored shells.

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Bush: World Must be “Firm and Patient” on North Korea

AFP, 15 December 2008, <http://www.spacewar.com/>

U.S. President George W. Bush said Monday [December 15] that he hoped Washington's partners in North Korean nuclear disarmament talks will stay "firm and patient" with the secretive regime.

Fresh talks last week failed to yield a formal verification mechanism for ensuring North Korea tells the truth about its nuclear programs, after the communist state refused to sign up to a Chinese-drafted proposal.

"The key is to be firm and patient with a structure that will enable the next president, or the next president after that, to be able to solve the problem diplomatically," Bush told reporters on board his official Air Force One airplane.

He was speaking between surprise visits to Iraq and Afghanistan, his last before he leaves the White House next month.

"Right now, what you're watching is that the leader of North Korea is trying to test the process," Bush said, referring to the diplomatic efforts grouping China, Japan, Russia, North and South Korea, and the United States.

"The objective is to keep our partners firm on the understanding that the six-party process is the best way to solve the North Korean issue," said Bush, who underlined "we need to have a verifiable process" of denuclearization.

"In the old process it used to be 'we will give you what you asked for and hope that you'll respond.' Now it is 'here's what you must do if you want our help,'" he said.

North Korea agreed to give up its nuclear programs in return for energy aid and diplomatic concessions under a deal worked out by the six-nation talks negotiators.

Washington said after the talks collapsed last week that shipments of fuel would be suspended, but Pyongyang responded by threatening to slow down work aimed at dismantling its nuclear facilities.



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Panel Cites “Tipping Point” on Nuclear Proliferation

Washington Post, 16 December 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

The development of nuclear arsenals by both Iran and North Korea could lead to "a cascade of proliferation," making it more probable that terrorists could get their hands on an atomic weapon, a congressionally chartered commission warned yesterday.

"It appears that we are at a 'tipping point' in proliferation," the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States said in an interim report to lawmakers that was released yesterday.

The bipartisan panel, led by former defense secretaries William J. Perry and James R. Schlesinger, added that actions by Tehran and Pyongyang could lead other countries to follow, "and as each nuclear power is added, the probability of a terror group getting a nuclear bomb increases."

Congress established the commission this year to "examine and make recommendations" on strategic policy and force structure, as well as to consider other ways to counter the nuclear threat. The final report and recommendations were due this month, but after a slow start to its work, the panel pushed that date back to April.

In the interim report, the commission called for a global nonproliferation strategy as the best way to keep nuclear materials out of terrorists' hands. Such a U.S. effort "would require intense cooperation with other nations, especially other nuclear powers" and with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the panel added. It called for strong U.S. financial, technical and political support to the IAEA, a target of criticism from the Bush administration.

At the same time, the commission called for the United States to begin discussing with allies how to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty. That pact, the commission said, provides a legal framework but lacks the tools to make it work. "Its effectiveness has been undermined by errors in how it has been interpreted and by failures of enforcement by the U.N. Security Council," the panel said.

The interim report took no position on the Bush administration's effort to produce a new nuclear warhead under the now-deferred Reliable Replacement Warhead program. Instead, the commission said, its final report will "define the most efficient and effective way to maintain a credible, safe, secure and reliable deterrent for the long term."



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Eliminating nuclear stockpiles should remain a national goal, the panel said, although it conceded that nuclear weapons may be needed into "the indefinite future," albeit at a size "appropriate to existing threats." The commission added: "The U.S. deterrent must be both visible and credible, not only to our possible adversaries, but to our allies as well."

The panel also encouraged the incoming Obama administration to consider resubmitting the Comprehensive [Nuclear] Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT] to the Senate for ratification, but not until the nation's nuclear laboratories and U.S. Strategic Command submit "clear statements" on the risks involved by such a measure.

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United States, Russia Agree to Draft New Treaty to Replace START by Late 2009

Interfax-AVN, 16 December 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

The United States and Russia have agreed to work out a new treaty to replace [the] Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) after its expiration in December 2009, U.S. acting Deputy Secretary of State John Rood told Interfax on Monday [December 15].

"This is an ambitious objective but both sides are committed to working toward that goal," the diplomat said.

He said the United States had recently provided the Russian side with the draft text of a treaty that should replace START.

"The fact that we presented the full text of a treaty to our Russian colleagues demonstrates our sincerity in this regard. And we had the first opportunity since presenting our text to Russia to discuss it with Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry representatives today," the high-ranking U.S. diplomat said.

"I think I would agree with the Russian Foreign Ministry that there were no breakthroughs today. But I do think that I am leaving Moscow with a clearer understanding of Russia's positions on subjects like a follow-on for the START treaty and missile defense. And we also discussed a range of other topics on which we are working very constructively together such as nuclear terrorism, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and so on," Rood said.

"We had a serious, frank and, I think, constructive dialogue between our two large delegations. We continue to regard this dialogue as extremely important for our countries," he said.

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Russia Hopes to Adapt CFE, Sign New START Treaty

Interfax-AVN, 10 December 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Hopefully, the work of adapting the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty will yield a positive result, and a new strategic arms reduction treaty (START) will be signed with the United States, Chief of the Russian General Staff Gen. Nikolai Makarov said on Wednesday [December 10].

"I think we will reach the positions that will allow the CFE treaty to be adapted and to sign a strategic arms reduction treaty," Makarov told foreign military attaches.

Makarov set out Russia's key demands regarding the CFE Treaty.

In particular, for Russia to lift its moratorium on the CFE this treaty should lower permitted arms levels primarily for the NATO nations.

Moreover, the CFE Treaty should set these arms levels on a par basis, he said.

"Thirdly, flank restrictions should be canceled," Makarov said.

All countries, including the Baltic States, should be made parties to the CFE Treaty, he added.

Also, "we need to start modernizing the adapted conventional arms [CFE] treaty," the general said.

Russia has also submitted to the United States its proposals on a new strategic arms reduction treaty instead of the current START treaty that expires on December 5, 2009, said the chief of the General Staff.

"We need a new agreement that will be plain, simple and clear in order to ensure control over strategic weapons," Makarov said.

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