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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW

02 June 2009 – 15 June 2009

DTRA

GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

Maxwell Air Force Base Helps Develop 'Nuke Ops'

The Montgomery Advertiser, 5 June 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Recent nuclear tests and concerns over nuclear proliferation in countries such as North Korea and Iran has the military and the Obama administration watching nuclear activities and policies carefully. *(526 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

United Nations Imposes Sanctions on North Korea

U.S. State Department, 12 June 2009, http://www.america.gov/

The U.N. Security Council unanimously voted June 12 to impose additional security and economic sanctions and a trade and arms embargo on North Korea for testing a nuclear device May 25 and a long-range ballistic missile in April. *(718 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

New Report Warns Against Applying Personnel Security Measures to Bioresearch Labs

Global Security Newswire, 9 June 2009, http://gsn.nti.org/

The federal government should not apply personnel security measures used widely at U.S. nuclear facilities to the nation's bioresearch laboratories, according to a recently published experts' report. *(717 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

GB Nerve Agent Leak Located at Blue Grass

Chemical Materials Agency, 2 June 2009, http://www.cma.army.mil/

The GB (Sarin) nerve agent leak detected last week in the chemical weapons storage site has been located by Blue Grass Chemical Activity Toxic Chemical workers. *(207 words)*
Click here for full text.

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

Last Oregon Chemical Weapons Stockpile Campaign Begins

PRNewswire, 4 June 2009, http://www.prnewswire.com/

Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) storage workers began delivering HD mustard-filled bulk containers or "ton containers" to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) at 10 a.m. this morning [June 4]. *(616 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

OPCW Delegation Visits Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Pueblo

OPCW, 4 June 2009, http://www.opcw.org/

At the invitation of the U.S. government, a delegation from the OPCW Executive Council visited the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado on June 2, 2009. *(361 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

OPCW Delegation Visits Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Umatilla

OPCW, 5 June 2009, http://www.opcw.org/

Following its visit to the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado on June 2, 2009, an OPCW delegation concluded a visit to the United States on June 4, 2009 by visiting the chemical weapons destruction facility located at Umatilla, Oregon. *(217 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

2021 Now Likely Date for Weapons Destruction

Richmond Register, 11 June 2009, http://www.richmondregister.com/

If Congress approves the Defense Department's increased funding request, announced last month, there is a 50 percent probability the chemical weapons stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot will be destroyed by 2021. *(409 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Nuclear Test Monitoring Network to Track Climate Change

The Daily Yomiuri, 5 June 2009, http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/

The Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO will initiate a plan to use global nuclear-test monitoring networks to observe the environment and natural disasters with the aim of connecting the effort to the Treaty. *(325 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT) (CONT.)

International Scientific Studies Conference Assessing the Capabilities of the Verification Regime

CTBTO, 10 June 2009, http://www.ctbto.org/

The ISS is a major global undertaking uniting around 450 scientists from over 70 countries in the most complex independent assessment to date of the CTBT's capability and readiness to detect nuclear explosions anywhere on the planet. *(367 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION (CTR)

Nunn-Lugar Work to Continue in Kazakhstan, Begin in Armenia

Press Release, June 5, 2009, http://lugar.senate.gov/

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar announced that the agreement allowing the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program to continue dismantling and destroying weapons and materials of mass destruction in Kazakhstan will continue for another seven years. *(598 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

Y-12 Weapons Plant No Longer to Receive International Checks

Knoxville News Sentinel, 7 June 2009, http://www.knoxnews.com/

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] no longer visit the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant on a monthly basis. *(620 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

IAEA Director General Reports to the Board on Nuclear Issues

Staff Report, 15 June 2009, http://www.iaea.org/

During today´s [June 15] opening of the Board of Governors, IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei reported on the successes of the Agency´s Technical Cooperation programme, on nuclear power, nuclear applications, security and safety as well as non-proliferation. *(498 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

START Talks "Productive," U.S. Negotiator Says

Global Security Newswire, 4 June 2009, http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/

U.S. and Russian negotiators are making progress toward an agreement that would replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the top U.S. delegate to the talks said today [June 4]. *(344 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

Russian General: New Arms Treaty Must Prohibit Weapons in Space

RIA Novosti, 10 June 2009, http://en.rian.ru/

A new strategic arms reduction pact with the United States must prohibit any kinds of offensive weapons in space, Russia's Strategic Missile Forces commander said on Wednesday [June 10]. *(393 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

Russians Visit Dyess as Part of START Treaty

U.S. Air Force Release, 10 June 2009, http://www.af.mil/

Dyess Air Force Base officials hosted a 10-person Russian-led team of inspectors who arrived May 29 here to visit the base as part of a START inspection. *(270 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

No Unilateral Steps on Strategic Weapons by United States, Russia

Itar-Tass, 11 June 2009, http://www.business-standard.com/

Russia and the United States will not take any unilateral steps on strategic offensive weapons, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said. *(178 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

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Maxwell Air Force Base Helps Develop 'Nuke Ops'

The Montgomery Advertiser, 5 June 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The Air Force has revised its nuclear operations doctrine for the first time in more than a decade, and people at Maxwell Air Force Base have been heavily involved in the process.

Col. Russell Smith, the doctrine development director at Maxwell Air Force Base, said although doctrine typically captures the best practices in operation, the "nuke ops" doctrine is primarily based on exercises and war games.

The new doctrine, developed and written at Maxwell, replaces a 1998 document that contained Cold War terminology and practices that were not as significant as they once were, said Bob Poynor, a retired Air Force officer who worked with missiles during his career.

The revision had already started at the time of the 2007 "Minot incident" in which nuclear weapons were mistakenly transferred on a B-52 bomber from Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota to Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. In 2006, intercontinental ballistic weapons parts were mistakenly shipped to Taiwan.

The group working on the doctrine met and revised some of what it had already covered and decided to add a chapter on nuclear surety, safety and security. Those topics had only been parts of other chapters in the 1998 document.

After the Minot incident, Smith said they also looked at the war games conducted at Maxwell's Air University schools to make sure that the right lessons learned were being incorporated into the document.

The two nuclear mistakes prompted several Department of Defense level reviews and led the Air Force to create Global Strike Command, which will oversee much of the Air Force's nuclear activities and likely cause some structural reorganization.

Once that command is in place, Poynor said, the doctrine could need some minor changes to stay fresh. He also pointed out that what happened in Minot wasn't a doctrinal problem as much as management problem, but it brought significant attention to the topic.

The Air Force is the only service branch with a nuke ops doctrine, Smith said, but joint doctrine does exist that covers when and under what circumstances to use nuclear weapons.

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Recent nuclear tests and concerns over nuclear proliferation in countries such as North Korea and Iran has the military and the Obama administration watching nuclear activities and policies carefully.

The revised document also allows the Air Force to stay consistent with current U.S. policy, since that drives most things relating to nuclear operations, Poynor said.

On Wednesday, Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona) said he wants a nuclear free world.

"The Cold War ended almost 20 years ago, and the time has come to take further measures to reduce dramatically the number of nuclear weapons in the world's arsenal," he said at the U.S. Capitol. He was at an event unveiling a statue of Ronald Reagan, a proponent of reducing nuclear weapons.

In April, during a speech in Prague, Obama laid out his nuclear strategy and also spoke of a world without nuclear weapons. He said the U.S. will reduce the role of nuclear weapons in national security strategy, reduce warheads and stockpiles, and Obama is supporting U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and wants to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

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United Nations Imposes Sanctions on North Korea

U.S. State Department, 12 June 2009, http://www.america.gov/

The U.N. Security Council unanimously voted June 12 to impose additional security and economic sanctions and a trade and arms embargo on North Korea for testing a nuclear device May 25 and also for testing a long-range ballistic missile in April.

Ambassador Rosemary DiCarlo, an alternate U.S. representative to the United Nations, said the United States was pleased with the action by the Security Council. "This resolution provides a strong and united international response to North Korea's test of a nuclear device," she said.

"North Korea's behavior is unacceptable to the international community, and the international community is determined to respond," DiCarlo said. "North Korea should return without conditions to a process of peaceful dialogue."

The resolution, number 1874, was submitted to the Security Council on June 10 by the five permanent members of the Council — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and also Japan and South Korea. Significantly, the measure calls on U.N. members to inspect North Korean cargo ships and cargo-laden aircraft to seize and destroy any weapons or materials that are in violation of the U.N.-imposed sanctions.

"We're very pleased that the Security Council ... passed unanimously a brand-new resolution imposing tough, new, meaningful sanctions on North Korea in response to its nuclear test and its other provocative behaviors, including recent missile activity," U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said at the daily White House press briefing. "We had good cooperation from all of the permanent members of the Security Council, plus Japan and South Korea, and then, ultimately, all of the members of the council."

In a 2006 resolution, the Security Council prohibited North Korea from testing nuclear weapons and test-firing long-range ballistic missiles, and urged the North Korean regime to "abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner." That resolution was imposed after North Korea tested its first nuclear weapon.

The United States has been engaged in the Six-Party Talks along with China, which hosts the talks, North Korea, South Korea, Japan and Russia to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons development program.

The United Nations issued a prepared statement June 12 that said, "By unanimously adopting resolution 1874, the 15-member body condemned the 25 May nuclear test conducted in

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violation and flagrant disregard of relevant Council resolutions." The statement urged North Korea to "not conduct any further nuclear test or any launch using ballistic missile technology."

The five permanent Security Council members, Japan and South Korea sought the resolution after North Korea conducted an underground nuclear test on May 25 (9 p.m. EDT May 24). Following that nuclear test, North Korea test-fired six short-range, ground-to-air and ground-to-ship missiles.

On May 25, the Security Council unanimously condemned North Korea's nuclear test, including strong objections from Pyongyang's traditional allies China and Russia, according to U.S. officials. The resolution builds on and enforces sanctions not yet implemented from previous resolutions against North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

"If North Korea does not heed the unanimous call of the international community and return to negotiations to achieve the irreversible dismantlement of their nuclear and ballistic missile capacity, the United States and our allies and partners in the region will need to take the necessary steps to assure our security in the face of this growing threat," U.S. Special Representative Stephen Bosworth testified June 11 before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"In the interests of all concerned, we very much hope that North Korea will choose the path of diplomacy rather than confrontation."

DiCarlo said the new resolution strengthens sanctions in five critical areas:

- It imposes a total embargo on arms exports from North Korea and expands the ban on arms imports.
- It creates a new framework for nations to cooperate in inspecting cargo ships and airplanes suspected of carrying weapons of mass destruction and other banned goods.
- It calls on nations and international financial institutions to disrupt funds that could support North Korea's nuclear and missile development programs.
- It commits to create targeted sanctions on any additional goods, entities and individuals involved in North Korea's illicit behavior.
- It strengthens the mechanisms to monitor and tighten the implementation of this new sanctions regime.

"This resolution will give us new tools to impair North Korea's ability to proliferate and threaten international stability," DiCarlo said.

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New Report Warns Against Applying Personnel Security Measures to Bioresearch Labs

Global Security Newswire, 9 June 2009, http://gsn.nti.org/

The federal government should not apply personnel security measures used widely at U.S. nuclear facilities to the nation's bioresearch laboratories, according to a recently published experts' report.

A major influx of funding for biodefense activities in recent years has produced greater concerns about the growing number of facilities and personnel conducting research with potentially lethal disease materials. This has led for calls from some sectors for increased regulation of such establishments.

Before instituting new requirements for nongovernment research institutions, Washington should "consider existing employment and biosafety training practices … as they may already contribute to vetting of personnel" and prevent "malicious actors or unstable personnel" from gaining access to pathogens that could be used in acts of bioterrorism, a new report by the American Association for the Advancement of Science recommends.

The May 29 study, titled "Biological Safety Training Programs as a Component of Personnel Responsibility," was conducted by two units within the association. More than two dozen experts in biosafety, biosecurity and the life sciences, along with architects and engineers, participated in a March workshop that formed the basis of the report […]

The study calls for greater government funding for safety training at research institutions and urges the facilities themselves to enact training requirements on their personnel.

As of February, 336 entities had registered to work with select agents through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agriculture Department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, according to the association's report. Those entities are spread throughout the government, academia and the private sector. The number of researchers and support staff registered to work with those materials now totals more than 14,600, the AAAS report says. The number of U.S. high-containment laboratories — those that handle disease agents for which there are no existing countermeasures — has risen from five to 15 since 2001.

Some skeptics question whether the threat of bioterrorism outweighs the risk of establishing new facilities — some in urban areas — that handle anthrax and a host of other potentially lethal disease-causing materials. Proponents counter that the sites conduct research that would strengthen defenses against biological threats, whether they occur naturally or arise through

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intentional acts. They argue that the biosafety and biosecurity measures in place at the facilities are sufficient to prevent trouble […]

In February, Senators Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Richard Burr (R-N.C.) reintroduced legislation aimed at increasing the safety and security of facilities that handle materials that could be used in acts of bioterrorism. The bill calls for relevant government agencies and independent experts to develop minimum biosafety and biosecurity training procedures for personnel at BSL-3 and 4 facilities. Sites that failed to provide the minimum level of training would be banned from working with select agents.

While the government does not have authority over private sites, a large portion of the industry voluntarily obeys federal guidelines, according to a source within the bioresearch field.

Personnel reliability programs traditionally have been used to evaluate whether an individual is trustworthy enough to work with sensitive material or technology at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California and other sites. Those programs — employed by Defense and Energy departments, among others — can include psychological screening, drug and alcohol abuse testing, background investigations, polygraph testing, credit checks and top-secret clearances, the study says.

“There are some lessons that can be learned from the nuclear field but we’re talking about a different culture here and different agents. The bigger difference being the agents,” according to Kavita Berger, project director at the AAAS Center for Science, Technology and Security Policy and co-leader of the new biosafety study. Biological researchers work with “things found in nature that aren’t inherently national security risks, but global health problems.” […]

The United States has not had a biological weapons program since President Richard Nixon renounced such activity in 1969, Berger said. Research today is focused on health issues and biodefense. To “retrofit” nuclear-style personnel security measures over existing bioresearch facilities would not be cost effective, she said […]

Berger said a consensus is forming around a tiered system approach to select agents but that there are still questions about how such a program would be implemented. She said it would be “interesting” to see if the concept is mentioned in the upcoming executive order’s policy recommendations when they are released next month […]

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GB Nerve Agent Leak Located at Blue Grass

Chemical Materials Agency, 2 June 2009, http://www.cma.army.mil/

The GB (Sarin) nerve agent leak detected last week in the chemical weapons storage site has been located by Blue Grass Chemical Activity Toxic Chemical workers.

The leak consisted of a small, barely detectable, amount liquid GB coming from one of the rockets in the igloo. The Toxic Chemical workers found the leaking munition during a physical inspection of the igloo's contents after periodic monitoring had detected the presence of GB vapor inside the igloo. A large powered filter was connected to the igloo after the initial detection to ensure that no agent vapor within the igloo could escape to the outside atmosphere.

The leaking rocket along with two other rockets stacked beneath it that were suspected of having a combination of agent contamination and decontamination fluid were overpacked in leakproof containers. Protocol calls for the igloo to be monitored for a number of days with no agent vapor detected inside the igloo before the overpacked rockets are taken to another igloo, one that is monitored every workday.

Although this leak posed no danger or risk to the citizens of Madison County, the county Emergency Management and the Commonwealth of Kentucky Emergency Management Agencies were notified of the leak and all activities taken to contain the leak.

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Last Oregon Chemical Weapons Stockpile Campaign Begins

PRNewswire, 4 June 2009, http://www.prnewswire.com/

Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) storage workers began delivering HD mustard-filled bulk containers or "ton containers" to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) at 10 a.m. this morning [June 4]. This marks the official start of the last individual chemical munitions disposal campaign at the depot.

"Our experienced crews are dedicated to safe and secure munitions movement and delivery to the disposal plant," said Lt. Col. Bob Stein, depot commander. "Deliveries have gone very well during the 12 previous munitions campaigns, but risk remains until the last ton container is gone."

The HD mustard disposal campaign is expected to take between one and two years to complete.

"We begin this final campaign with the same dedication to safe disposal of chemical munitions that we've had since the first disposal campaign that began in 2004," said Mike Strong, the Army's site project manager at UMCDF. "Safety of workers, community and environment has always been and remains our highest priority."

"As always, we'll focus on environmental compliance and safety during the mustard campaign," said Bob Dikeman, project general manager for Washington Defense Group of URS Corporation's EG&G Division. Washington Defense Group built and operates the disposal plant for the Army. "We expect to continue to meet the high standards of state oversight officials."

A safe, slow and deliberate startup of mustard agent processing is planned, similar to past campaigns. The mustard ton containers hold bulk agent only and don't have any explosive components. Destruction of the last munitions in the Umatilla stockpile that contained explosives -- VX nerve agent land mines -- was completed on November 5, 2008.

Disposal of HD mustard containers is the 13th individual chemical munitions disposal campaign for the depot and disposal plant. Previously, the Army successfully destroyed six different types of GB or sarin-filled munitions plus six types of VX-filled munitions. Most of those munitions contained explosive components. A total of 217,969 GB and VX munitions have been safely destroyed to date. The United States and other nations are destroying chemical weapons stockpiles in compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) international treaty.

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The first chemical munitions disposal campaign in Oregon began on Sept. 7, 2004, with the first movement of GB-filled M55 rockets to the disposal plant. Since that time, the following 12 chemical munitions disposal campaigns have been safely completed:

- 4 GB (sarin-filled) bulk containers or "ton containers" completed Jan. 5, 2006. This was a Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) mission.
- 27 GB 500-pound bombs completed May 18, 2006.
- 2,418 GB 750-pound bombs completed June 9, 2006.
- 91,442 GB rockets and warheads completed Aug. 9, 2006.
- 14,246 GB 8-inch diameter artillery projectiles completed Jan. 3, 2007.
- 47,406 GB 155mm diameter artillery projectiles completed July 8, 2007.
- One VX bulk container or "ton container" completed Nov. 26, 2007. This was a Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) mission.
- 156 VX aircraft-mounted spray tanks completed Dec. 24, 2007.
- 14,519 VX rockets and warheads completed Jan. 23, 2008.
- 32,313 VX 155mm projectiles completed June 27, 2008.
- 3,752 VX 8-inch projectiles completed August 6, 2008.
- 11,685 VX land mines completed Nov. 5, 2008.

Some of the disposal campaigns ran simultaneously. The disposal plant has multiple processing lines and is capable of safely disposing of different types of munitions at the same time.

When the Umatilla chemical munitions destruction mission is complete, toxic areas in the disposal plant will be thoroughly cleaned and disassembled according to environmental permits. The Umatilla Chemical Depot is slated for closure per the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law. Chemical munitions have been safely and securely stored at the depot since the 1960s. The depot first opened in 1941.

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OPCW Delegation Visits Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Pueblo

OPCW, 4 June 2009, http://www.opcw.org/

At the invitation of the U.S. government, a delegation from the OPCW Executive Council visited the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado on June 2, 2009. The delegation comprised the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Jorge Lomónaco Tonda, together with a representative from each of the other regional groups, a representative from the Russian Federation, and the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter.

The visit took place in pursuance of a decision taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its 11th session in December 2006 on visits by the representatives of the Executive Council to chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDF) and CWDF construction sites. The purpose of the visits is to "consider progress and efforts towards achieving complete destruction in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and any measures being taken to overcome possible problems in a destruction programs in accordance with Part IV (A), paragraph 26 of the Verification Annex".

Two similar visits were previously conducted by the Council, one to the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in the U.S. state of Alabama in October 2007, and the second to the Shchuchye Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in the Kurgansk region of the Russian Federation in September 2008.

During the visit to Pueblo, U.S. officials briefed the OPCW delegation on the overall implementation of the U.S. chemical weapons destruction program, including in particular details on the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant and the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program. The visit also included a tour of the construction site of the future facility as well as of two chemical weapons storage igloos.

The chemical weapons destruction facility located at Pueblo will destroy 2,371 metric tonnes of mustard agent stored in different types of projectiles and mortars by neutralization, followed by bio-treatment of the resulting hydrolysate. In December 2006, the U.S. was granted an extension to complete the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons by 29 April 2012. To date, the U.S. has destroyed a total of 16,958.5 metric tonnes, or more than 61% of its declared stockpile.

The OPCW delegation will also visit today the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in the state of Oregon.

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OPCW Delegation Visits Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Umatilla

OPCW, 5 June 2009, http://www.opcw.org/

Following its visit to the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado on June 2, 2009, an OPCW delegation concluded a visit to the United States on June 4, 2009 by visiting the chemical weapons destruction facility located at Umatilla, Oregon.

During the visit to Umatilla, U.S. officials provided briefings on the U.S. Chemical Demilitarization Program and in particular on the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. In the course of this visit, the OPCW delegation also toured the chemical weapons destruction facility and met with the OPCW inspection team deployed at the site to verify that the destruction of chemical weapons is carried out in accordance with the provisions and requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

The Umatilla Chemical Weapons Disposal Facility will destroy 3,374 metric tonnes of chemical warfare agents. To date, the facility has completed the destruction of all GB and VX agents, representing 37% of the original stockpile at that site, and will this week start the destruction of the remaining 2,122 metric tonnes of mustard agent.

In December 2006, the United States was granted an extension to complete the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons by 29 April 2012. To date, the United States has destroyed a total of 16,958.5 metric tonnes, or more than 61% of its declared stockpile.

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2021 Now Likely Date for Weapons Destruction

Richmond Register, 11 June 2009, http://www.richmondregister.com/

If Congress approves the Defense Department's increased funding request, announced last month, there is a 50 percent probability the chemical weapons stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot will be destroyed by 2021.

Joe Novad, deputy program manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), gave that assessment Tuesday to the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB).

The 50 percent probability assessment was based on the program's past difficulties with funding, technical and logistical issues, he said. The Pentagon has request $545.2 million for the project in its 2010 budget. The chemical weapons stored at Pueblo, Colo., likely will be destroyed by 2017, Novad said.

After Novad presented the updated timeline, and his assessment of it being realized, CDCAB member Doug Hindman expressed his dissatisfaction.

"When we started this process, we were looking at 1994 as the target date for completed destruction," Hindman said.

He reminded Novad of the 2012 extended international treaty deadline, the 2017 Congressional mandate and asked that a detailed explanation of the delays be given at the next CDCAB meeting, Sept. 8.

With full funding each year and no technical problems, Novad said destruction could be achieved earlier 2021.

CDCAB Co-chair Craig Williams said he believed destruction by 2020 or even earlier was possible.

Novad said Defense Secretary Robert Gates, appointed by President George W. Bush and retained by President Barrack Obama, was personally involved in the decision to seek increased funding for ACWA.

Williams said U.S. Mitch McConnell, R-KY, who "put the bug in Gates' ear," was behind the secretary's action.

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Novad also said the Defense Department has approved on-site treatment of the hydrolysate that results from the chemical neutralization of the weapons. Supercritical water oxidation will be used in Kentucky, while Colorado will use a bio-treatment method.

Williams also had praise for ACWA manager Kevin Flamm, who “stood his ground against his Pentagon superiors” to win on-site hydrolysate treatment approval.

“Some heavy lifting by the Kentucky congressional delegation” backed up Flamm’s effort, Williams said.

“If you want to do something positive,” he said, “you can write a letter to your congressman and U.S. senators thanking them for helping win approval of on-site hydrolysate treatment.”

Novad said transporting the hydrolysate offsite for treatment was still an option if technical difficulties with on-site methods threaten to delay project completion.

Critics of water oxidation have said it has not been proven effective on the scale at which it will be used at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

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Nuclear Test Monitoring Network to Track Climate Change

The Daily Yomiuri, 5 June 2009, http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) will initiate a plan to use global nuclear-test monitoring networks to observe the environment and natural disasters with the aim of connecting the effort to the Treaty if it takes effect in the future.

Such monitoring networks include observation facilities for radioactive substances. The preparatory commission, based in Vienna, will hold the first meeting over the plan in the city on Wednesday [June 10] to talk about how to coordinate the monitoring facilities established around the world.

The CTBT is a treaty banning all nuclear tests including those in space, in the atmosphere, underwater or underground. It was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1996, and Japan ratified the Treaty the following year.

To take effect, at least 44 nations that have a nuclear power plant or an experimental reactor have to ratify the Treaty, which has not yet happened. Several such countries, including China and the United States, have not ratified the Treaty.

The CTBTO's task is to analyze and verify data should the Treaty come into force.

Some of the monitoring facilities established by ratifying countries around the world already have begun to operate individually, but they are not in full-fledged operation as a monitoring network.

By using the monitoring networks to observe the global environment and for disaster prevention, the preparatory commission plans to foster cooperation between the monitoring networks and related countries, which the commission hopes will help reinforce the surveillance system against nuclear tests.

The plan will be conducted within the framework of the International Scientific Studies Project established last year under the umbrella of the preparatory committee. Experts from Japan will participate in the project, including officials of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency.

At the first meeting, an additional meeting will be held on ways of using the monitoring networks to verify developments in North Korea's nuclear programs after Pyongyang conducted a nuclear test in late May.

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International Scientific Studies Conference Assessing the Capabilities of the Verification Regime

CTBTO, 10 June 2009, http://www.ctbto.org/

"Science gave us the atomic bomb, but science also gave us the means to control it and create a world free of nuclear weapons." With these words Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger opened the International Scientific Studies (ISS) Conference today, Wednesday June 10, at the famous Hofburg, the seat of the former Austrian-Hungarian monarchy.

The ISS is a major global undertaking uniting around 450 scientists from over 70 countries in the most complex independent assessment to date of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty's (CTBT) capability and readiness to detect nuclear explosions anywhere on the planet. Participants will also focus on how the CTBT's global alarm system can benefit from future scientific and technological developments.

The International Scientific Studies (ISS) Conference comes two weeks after the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) announced a nuclear test on May 25, 2009. The findings of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization (CTBTO) findings on this event will play an important role at the Conference. Spindelegger referred to his condemnation of the DPRK's action as "an irresponsible provocation in a time where there are promising developments in the field of global disarmament."

In his address to the roughly 600 participants of the Conference, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed that the DPRK's action underscored "the urgency of the early entry into force of the [CTBT]."

CTBTO Executive Secretary, Tibor Tóth, described the scientific community's response to the ISS project as "overwhelming" and expressed his profound gratitude towards the Austrian hosts and the countries that have provided voluntary financial contributions to the project: Australia, Czech Republic, France, Spain and Sweden. Tóth added that: "If 'Big Science' is needed to build and test nuclear weapons, then 'Big Verification' (with a capital "V") is needed to monitor compliance with the [CTBT]."

Dr. Ola Dahlman of Sweden, the project leader of the ISS, described the "dramatic scientific and technical development" having taken place in the years since the CTBT's opening for signature in 1996 as one of the main reasons for conducting the ISS project. According to Dahlman, other factors were the fact that most of the stations of the International Monitoring System are now in place and the increased political interest in the CTBT.

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Nunn-Lugar Work to Continue in Kazakhstan, Begin in Armenia

Press Release, June 5, 2009, http://lugar.senate.gov/

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar announced that the agreement allowing the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program to continue dismantling and destroying weapons and materials of mass destruction in Kazakhstan will continue for another seven years.

Nunn-Lugar work in Kazakhstan continues to cover a broad spectrum of weapons of mass destruction, and thanks to the Nunn-Lugar program, Kazakhstan, formerly the fourth largest nuclear weapons power in the world, has been nuclear weapons free for more than a decade.

Notably, three biological monitoring stations have been built and equipped in Kazakhstan. The stations are intended to establish the first line of defense against infectious diseases by detecting outbreaks earlier and serving as a liaison with medical experts in the region, the WHO, and the United States.

During Lugar's visit to Kazakhstan January 9-11, 2008, a team of American scientists working under the Nunn-Lugar program quietly entered the country to begin the careful packaging of bubonic and pneumonic plague samples in accordance with international safety standards for the transport of dangerous biological materials. The samples were safely transported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Fort Collins, Colorado, marking the successful completion of a five-year negotiation involving Lugar and Nunn-Lugar program officials to secure, transport and develop a research program for the pathogens.

Continuing its expansion and already established work with biological weapons, the Nunn-Lugar program is beginning work in Armenia. Nunn-Lugar will partner with Armenia to build necessary capacity for the country to meet International Health Regulations established by the World Health Organization. The rules require countries to report immediately certain disease outbreaks and public health events to the WHO.

In November 1991, Lugar (R-IN) and Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA) authored the Nunn-Lugar Act, which established the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. This program has provided U.S. funding and expertise to help the former Soviet Union safeguard and dismantle its enormous stockpiles of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, related materials, and delivery systems. In 2003, Congress adopted the Nunn-Lugar Expansion Act, which authorized the Nunn-Lugar program to operate outside the former Soviet Union to address proliferation threats. In 2004, Nunn-Lugar funds were committed for the first time outside of the former Soviet Union to destroy chemical weapons in Albania, under a Lugar-led expansion of the program. In 2007, Lugar announced the complete destruction of Albania's chemical weapons.

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The Nunn-Lugar scorecard now totals:

- 7,514 strategic nuclear warheads deactivated
- 752 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) destroyed
- 498 ICBM silos eliminated
- 143 ICBM mobile launchers destroyed
- 643 submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) eliminated
- 476 SLBM launchers eliminated
- 31 nuclear submarines capable of launching ballistic missiles destroyed
- 155 bomber eliminated
- 906 nuclear air-to-surface missiles (ASMs) destroyed
- 194 nuclear test tunnels eliminated
- 438 nuclear weapons transport train shipments secured
- Upgraded security at 24 nuclear weapons storage sites
- Built and equipped 18 biological monitoring stations

Perhaps most importantly, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus are nuclear weapons free as a result of cooperative efforts under the Nunn-Lugar program. Those countries were the third, fourth and eighth largest nuclear weapons powers in the world.

On May 29, 2009, Lugar attended the official opening ceremonies for the Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Shchuchye, Russia. Located in Siberia, the new facility was funded by the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program. Nunn-Lugar previously secured the nearly 2 million munitions containing VX nerve agent and other chemicals weapons. The shells now will be drained and destroyed, and the deadly chemicals neutralized.

Lugar makes annual oversight trips to Nunn-Lugar sites around the world.

The Nunn-Lugar program: ***http://lugar.senate.gov/nunnlugar/***
The Nunn-Lugar scorecard: ***http://lugar.senate.gov/nunnlugar/scorecard.html***

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Y-12 Weapons Plant No Longer to Receive International Checks

Knoxville News Sentinel, 7 June 2009, http://www.knoxnews.com/

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] no longer visit the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant on a monthly basis. The last inspection took place April 15, a federal spokesman at Y-12 confirmed.

In 1994, the Clinton administration volunteered to put 10 tons of weapons-grade uranium under IAEA safeguards at the Oak Ridge plant. The material was declared surplus to defense needs, and the inspection program was to demonstrate the U.S. commitment to never again use this material in nuclear weapons. The nuclear material was kept in a special vault, secured with technology to detect any tampering. Once a month, international inspectors would arrive in Oak Ridge to visit the vault, assess conditions there and conduct tests to make sure none of the uranium had been removed or altered in any way.

"The Y-12 National Security Complex no longer has any fissile material under IAEA safeguards," Steven Wyatt, a spokesman for the National Nuclear Security Administration [NNSA], said last week.

Although the inspections ended just a few weeks ago, the IAEA was informed of U.S. plans to discontinue the inspections a couple of years ago. The stated reason is that Y-12 plans to decommission "Vault 16," where the material was kept, and the rest of Building 9720-5, where much of the plant's stockpile of highly enriched uranium is stored.

Construction of a new $549 million storage center, known as the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility, was completed last year, and Y-12's weapons-grade material will be consolidated there, with loading expected to start next year.

B&W Y-12, the government's Oak Ridge contractor, is currently relocating the enriched uranium from Vault 16 to another area, Wyatt said. "It is expected that all of the material will be removed from the vault by March 2010," he said.

There are no plans for international inspections at the new high-security facility, officials have said on multiple occasions.

While the material previously under IAEA safeguards will be relocated to another storage area and may eventually be included in the new Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility, government officials have emphatically stated that it will be segregated from the weapons stockpile and will never again be used in a weapon.

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In a statement released last year, the NNSA said, "The U.S. government's agreement with the IAEA is that none of the 10 tons can ever be used for military explosive purposes. At Y-12, we are extremely careful to keep these materials segregated and tracked so that this can never happen."

Federal officials are reluctant to discuss in detail the reasons for ending the program or talk on the record about anything with U.S. policy implications.

However, several years ago, David Wall, a nuclear engineer on the federal staff at Y-12, talked about how the Oak Ridge attitude toward the inspections changed over time. Initially, the inspections were viewed as annoying and inconvenient, he said.

"Well, this is primarily a political gesture, as with everything in the nuclear business," Wall said in an interview. "We want to be able to tell the world, Hey, we have voluntarily subjected ourselves to these very intrusive inspections - and here's the key piece - at one of our most-sensitive weapons facilities. And we voluntarily have put under safeguards some 10 tons of materials ... And so the political mileage that is hoped to be gained out of this, you want to brag to the rest of the world, 'We're allowing them to come in here, so what's your problem, Iran?' "

There reportedly is only one U.S. nuclear facility where the IAEA still conducts inspections. That is a facility at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site in South Carolina, where about 2 metric tons of plutonium is kept under IAEA safeguards.

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IAEA Director General Reports to the Board on Nuclear Issues

Staff Report, 15 June 2009, http://www.iaea.org/

During today´s [June 15] opening of the Board of Governors, IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei reported on the successes of the Agency´s Technical Cooperation program, on nuclear power, nuclear applications, security and safety as well as non-proliferation. He also made the case for the proposed IAEA low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel bank and focused on critical budgetary issues for 2010-2011.

Technical Cooperation: Human health, food and agriculture, and safety were the three largest areas of activity for Technical Cooperation last year. The Director General said he was pleased that the FAO/IAEA Joint Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture is no longer under threat of termination and that the WHO/IAEA Joint Programme on Cancer Control was launched last month.

Nuclear Power: He also reported that the Agency should expect continued high demand for its assistance from Member States exploring the nuclear power option, despite the global financial crisis.

Nuclear Security: Dr. ElBaradei emphasized the central role nuclear security plays in enabling further development of nuclear technologies. "At a time when security risks are growing, it would be irresponsible for the Agency - and incomprehensible to the public - not to have a robust, well funded and independent nuclear security program," he said.

Budget: In proposing the Programming Budget for 2010-2011, the Director General called for the Board to of invest in the IAEA´s programs which are important for enriching the lives of millions worldwide, instead of implementing cost-cutting measures.

He said the consequences of continued inadequate funding include gaps in the nuclear verification system, inability to respond effectively to another Chernobyl-type disaster, and limp responses to the pressing human needs in developing countries. He said that despite the financial crisis, "the increase we propose is dwarfed by the magnitude and range of the risks the Agency has to address."

LEU Fuel Bank: Dr. ElBaradei said the proposed LEU bank would be a last resort available to countries facing a shut-down of their nuclear power programs for reasons unrelated to market activity. "The purpose of the IAEA LEU bank and of the Russian proposal is to provide assurance of supply over and above countries´ existing rights. It is intended to avoid a repeat of the type of disruption for political reasons seen in the past."

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Verification of Non-Proliferation: During today´s opening session, the Director General also spoke about the lingering difficulties faced with the Democratic People´s Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic.

He said diplomacy is the only viable means of bringing the DPRK back to the NPT, and commended the US initiative to engage Iran in direct dialogue "without preconditions and on the basis of mutual respect." He however reiterated how necessary it is for Iran to implement the measures called for by the UN Security Council and by the IAEA´s Board of Governors.

Dr. ElBaradei once again called on Syria to be fully cooperative and transparent, allowing IAEA inspectors access to the destroyed building on the Dair Alzour site.

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START Talks "Productive," U.S. Negotiator Says

Global Security Newswire, 4 June 2009, http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/

U.S. and Russian negotiators are making progress toward an agreement that would replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, the top U.S. delegate to the talks said today [June 4].

"We have been here in Geneva for the past three days with the U.S. delegation, engaged in productive talks with our Russian counterparts," Undersecretary of State Rose Gottemoeller said of the second round of negotiations on the follow-on to the pact that is scheduled to expire December 5. She noted the intention to reduce both nations' nuclear stockpiles below the 1,700 to 2,200 operationally deployed warheads allowed under the 2002 Moscow Treaty, Agence France-Presse reported.

"[U.S. President Barack] Obama and Russian President [Dmitry] Medvedev have instructed that the new agreement achieve reductions lower than those in existing arms control agreements, and that the agreement should include effective verification measures drawn up from our experience in implementing START," Gottemoeller told the Conference on Disarmament.

The sides agreed this week "to hold the next round of talks in the second half of June," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a release. The presidents are set to be briefed on the status of negotiations at their planned meeting next month in Moscow.

A START replacement treaty would serve as one part of a larger international nonproliferation and disarmament campaign, Gottemoeller said in discussing a landmark agenda accepted last week at the 65-nation Conference on Disarmament.

Among the issues to be considered is a treaty that would prohibit production of fissile material for nuclear-weapon purposes, Reuters reported.

"There should be no misapprehensions or illusions on the difficulty of our task," Gottemoeller said told delegates. "This treaty has been on the international agenda for most of the nuclear age. It is time that we stopped talking about having [a fissile material cutoff treaty] and got to work to complete it."

Although the negotiation of fissile material cutoff treaty would mark a major achievement, the "finish line" would remain worldwide nuclear disarmament, she said.

Gottemoeller also demanded greater deference to international nonproliferation rules and "consequences for those who violate them."

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Russian General: New Arms Treaty Must Prohibit Weapons in Space

RIA Novosti, 10 June 2009, http://en.rian.ru/

A new strategic arms reduction pact with the United States must prohibit any kinds of offensive weapons in space, Russia's Strategic Missile Forces commander said on Wednesday [June 10].

"Our country is interested in including limitations not only on the number of nuclear warheads, but also on the number of their delivery vehicles in the new arms reduction treaty. We also stand for maintaining the ban on the deployment of strategic weapons, offensive and defensive, outside national borders, the prohibition of any kinds of offensive weapons in space, and a more efficient use of inspection and data exchange mechanisms established in line with the START treaty," Col. Gen. Nikolai Solovtsov said.

Russia and the United States are currently negotiating a replacement to the Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty (START), which expires in December. The Treaty obliges Russia and the United States to reduce nuclear warheads to 6,000 and their delivery vehicles to 1,600 each. In 2002, a follow-up agreement on strategic offensive arms reduction was concluded in Moscow. The agreement, known as the Moscow Treaty, envisioned cuts to 1,700-2,200 warheads by December 2012.

According to a report published by the U.S. State Department in April, as of January 1 Russia had 3,909 nuclear warheads and 814 delivery vehicles, including ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) and strategic bombers. The same report said the United States had 5,576 warheads and 1,198 delivery vehicles.

However, the United States is currently developing a new national missile defense program that is widely seen as a revival of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) program drawn up in the 1980s, nicknamed 'Star Wars'. Under the SDI, ground and space-based forces were to protect the United States from a nuclear missile attack.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama agreed during their London meeting in early April on an immediate start to talks on a new strategic arms reduction treaty. The first round of full-format negotiations was held in Moscow on May 19-21, and the sides described it as a success. The second round of discussions on a replacement for the START treaty took place on June 1-3 in Geneva.

Russian presidential spokeswoman Natalya Timakova said on June 2 a new draft strategic arms reduction deal to replace the START treaty may be ready before U.S. President Barack Obama's visit to Moscow on July 6-8.

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Russians Visit Dyess as Part of START Treaty

U.S. Air Force Release, 10 June 2009, http://www.af.mil/

Dyess Air Force Base officials hosted a 10-person Russian-led team of inspectors who arrived May 29 here to visit the base as part of a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [START] inspection.

The inspection team updated data relating to the 7th Bomb Wing's compliance with terms of the START treaty.

The purpose of the team's trip was to inspect the 7th BW's bombers and weapons storage to ensure Dyess AFB had no air launched cruise missiles or the capability to carry ALCMs and to ensure the base is compliant with the Treaty.

"Dyess was found to be in compliance with the START treaty," said Mike Simpson, the Dyess AFB treaty compliance officer. "Everything went like clockwork."

Mr. Simpson credited the preparation of all base agencies and units that were inspected for the START team to be able to conduct their inspections quickly and effectively.

Under the terms of the Treaty, officials from the republics of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine are allowed to inspect specific military facilities to take a look at its strategic capabilities. The START treaty was signed December 5, 1994. The last visit to Dyess AFB by a START inspection team was August 2008.

"The Treaty allows them to come and inspect us twice a year on a short-notice basis," Mr. Simpson said.

The START team was escorted by Mr. Simpson, Master Sgt. Douglas Metcalf and eight other base personnel to specific negotiated locations. The inspection team spent approximately eight hours devoted to inspections and reports during their stay, Mr. Simpson said.

As part of the process, American teams also inspect military installations in the former Soviet Union.

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No Unilateral Steps on Strategic Weapons by United States, Russia

Itar-Tass, 11 June 2009, http://www.business-standard.com/

Russia and the United States will not take any unilateral steps on strategic offensive weapons, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

"At the summit in Moscow on July 6-8, the delegations should report the progress on the new (START) treaty to the president. Neither Russia nor the United States plan unilateral steps in this field," he said yesterday [June 10].

Lavrov hoped that the same approach "will apply to strategic defensive weapons, including missile defense."

"Russian-U.S. talks are held daily on various issues, including strategic offensive weapons. At their meeting in London, President Dmitry Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama instructed their delegations to draft a new treaty instead of START-1," Lavrov said.

The minister said that both Medvedev and Obama showed interest in conducting dialogue on missile defense, strategic offensive weapons and instructed their governments to consider interaction between these spheres to reach a mutual understanding.

"This is a packet agreement. Non-violation of parity in this field is particularly important. We will be guided by these principles. And no unilateral steps are expected in this field," Lavrov said.

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