



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



03 June – 16 June 2008

**DTRA**

## ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

### **Russia Ends Plutonium Production at Seversk**

GSN, 05 June 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

All plutonium production has permanently ceased in Seversk, Russia, the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration announced today [June 5]. (194 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Swedish Watchdog Sees Growing Global Weapons Spending, but Upbeat on Arms Control Talks**

AP, 09 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Global weapons spending continued to grow last year, but there are increased hopes for arms control talks, with much depending on the U.S., the world's largest arms spender, a Swedish think tank said Monday [June 9]. (518 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **South Korea: North Korea to soon Get Energy Aid**

AP, 11 June 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

South Korea, the U.S. and three regional partners have agreed to speed up their delivery of energy aid to North Korea in exchange for its nuclear disarmament, a South Korean official said Wednesday [June 11]. (461 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Russia Proposes New European Security Structure**

Thai Press Reports, 13 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Russian President Dmitri Medvedev is proposing a new European security structure that appears aimed at replacing NATO and possibly reducing U.S. influence on the continent. (321 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **Russia Eliminates 10,500 Metric Tons of CW Material**

GSN, 04 June 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

Russia announced yesterday [June 3] that it had eliminated 10,500 metric tons of chemical warfare agents, more than one-fourth of its total stockpile, RIA Novosti reported. (193 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)(CONT.)

### **U.S. Army Lauds Progress on Chemical Weapons Disposal**

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The U.S. military says it has destroyed more than half of its stockpile of chemical warfare agents without harming communities near the disposal sites, the Associated Press reported today [June 5]. (517 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Germany Launches Disarmament Cooperation with Russia**

*Berlin, 10 June 2008, accessed via Open Source Center*

Together with Russian project partners, members of the Federal Government and the German Bundestag will today [June 10] lay the foundation stone for a new Russian chemical weapons destruction plant in Pochev in the Bryansk region of the Russian Federation. (302 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

### **India Will Not Sign CTBT: Prime Minister Says**

*Indo-Asian News Service, 11 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

India will not sign the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) that prevents it from conducting further nuclear tests and impinges on its sovereignty, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Wednesday [June 11]. (264 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

### **U.S. Tells Syria Not to Restrict U.N. Nuclear Probe**

*Reuters, 04 June 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>*

The United States on Wednesday [June 4] demanded Syria give free rein to U.N. nuclear investigators after diplomats said Damascus would bar access to some sites Washington believes are linked to a secret atomic reactor. (608 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

### **Australia Not to Sell Uranium to India; Sets up New Disarmament Body**

*PTI, 09 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Ruling out the sale of uranium to India until it signs the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), Australia today [June 9] announced setting up of a global body for nuclear disarmament, hoping to rope in "like minded" countries. (270 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Nuclear Official Calls for India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea to Join Disarmament Talks**

*AP, 10 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

The world may need a new nuclear weapons treaty that includes India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea, an Australian official said Tuesday [June 10]. (272 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Iran Rejects Six-Nation Proposal**

*Washington Post, 15 June 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>*

Iran said Saturday [June 14] that a package of incentives offered by six countries was "out of the question" because it includes a demand for the country to suspend uranium enrichment activities. (599 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## OTTAWA CONVENTION

### **UK Seeks 10 Year Extension of Deadline for Mine Clearance in the Falklands**

*Government News Network, 04 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

As provided for under Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention, the UK has submitted a request for a 10 year extension of the deadline to fulfill its obligation to clear all anti-personnel landmines in mined areas under its jurisdiction and control. (334 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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## STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

### **Russia Destroys 20 Ballistic Missiles in 2008 under START Treaty**

*RIA Novosti, 09 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Russia has destroyed and sent for scrap about 20 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) and 12 mobile missile launchers since the start of 2008, the Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) said on Monday [June 9]. (236 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **U.S. Inspects Russian Nuclear Missiles**

*GSN, 09 June 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>*

U.S. arms control officials have conducted 11 inspections of Russian strategic missile facilities this year, ITAR-Tass reported today [June 9]. (158 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

 [back to top](#)

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All plutonium production has permanently ceased in Seversk, Russia, the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration announced today [June 5].

The Soviet Union began operating two reactors in the 1960s at Seversk—then known as Tomsk-7—for producing weapon-grade plutonium. They have been used since 1993 to provide heat and electricity for the surrounding area but continued to produce plutonium as a byproduct of operations.

The United States agreed in 2003 to contribute \$926 million to construct two fossil fuel power plants to replace Russia's last three plutonium-producing reactors.

One plant at Seversk closed in April, followed by the early shuttering today of the second reactor, according to a press release. The final site at Zheleznogorsk is set to close no later than 2010. That would end all Russian production of weapon-grade plutonium.

“Today's shutdown of the second reactor at Seversk brings us another step closer to eliminating the production of weapons-grade plutonium in Russia,” said William Tobey, NNSA deputy administrator for defense nuclear nonproliferation. “NNSA's commitment and investment in this effort will help prevent the proliferation threat of weapons of mass destruction by bringing to an end the production of this dangerous nuclear material.”

[back to top](#)

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## Swedish Watchdog Sees Growing Global Weapons Spending, but Upbeat on Arms Control Talks

*AP, 09 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Global weapons spending continued to grow last year, but there are increased hopes for arms control talks, with much depending on the U.S., the world's largest arms spender, a Swedish think tank said Monday [June 9].

In its annual report, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said arms spending grew 6 percent in 2007 from the previous year, but that it expects new arms control and disarmament talks in the next 12 months because of "a broadening consensus ... that more serious and effective arms control and disarmament measures" need to be implemented.

"Voices from across the political spectrum are coming to recognize again the value of arms control in the face of looming threats to humankind," said the research institute's director, Bates Gill. "It is clearly in the interest of citizens and governments alike to take pragmatic and positive steps in the right direction."

Gill said disarmament by the largest nuclear powers Russia and the U.S. will be particularly important in coming years and he hoped they would take decisive steps. Those would include a renewal of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the United States and Russia in 2009 and the Strategic Offensive Forces Reduction Treaty (SORT) in 2012.

An international nonproliferation conference in 2010 should also pressure nuclear states to disarm, Gill said.

"The priorities of the next U.S. administration will have a critical role in shaping the progress for arms control," he said. "Both presumptive presidential candidates for the U.S. presidency have said that they intend to reduce America's nuclear arsenal and that they will consider putting forward the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty for Senate ratification," Gill said.

The report said international military spending hit US\$1.34 trillion (euro860 billion) in 2007, with the United States spending 45 percent of the global total. It used more money on weapons last year than any other year since World War II US\$547 billion (euro351 billion), up 3.4 percent from 2006.

Britain came next with \$59.7 billion (euro38.28 billion), followed by China, which pushed past France into third place with \$58.3 billion (euro37.4 billion), the institute said.



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**DTRA**

Regionally, Eastern Europe increased military spending the most, mainly because of high spending by Russia, which used \$35.4 billion (euro22.7 billion) on weaponry, up slightly from \$34.7 billion (euro22.2 billion).

In December, Moscow suspended its participation in the 1990 Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), which the research institute said posed the greatest challenge yet to the treaty, which limits the number of conventional weapons on the continent.

The Swedish arms watchdog said the world's eight nuclear powers together had more than 25,000 nuclear warheads at the beginning of 2008, of which more than 10,000 were available for delivery by missiles and aircraft.

It did not include North Korea on that list, saying it could not verify that North Korea has "weaponized" its nuclear capability.

Russia had 5,189 operational warheads in January 2008, while the United States had 4,075, and both countries were developing new weapons as they modernize their forces.

Britain, France, China, India and Pakistan were also developing new missile systems capable of delivering nuclear weapons, the peace institute said.

[back to top](#)

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## South Korea: North Korea to soon Get Energy Aid

AP, 11 June 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

South Korea, the United States and three regional partners have agreed to speed up their delivery of energy aid to North Korea in exchange for its nuclear disarmament, a South Korean official said Wednesday [June 11].

The five countries—also including China, Japan and Russia—reached the agreement Tuesday ahead of broader talks involving North Korea at the Korean border village of Panmunjom that began Wednesday, South Korean negotiator Hwang Joon-kook said.

Hwang said the five countries also agreed that North Korea must accelerate its stalled work to disable its nuclear facilities in return for the energy aid.

"In the past months, the six-party talks seemed stalled in appearance," Hwang said in opening remarks at Wednesday's meeting. "But I must say, intensive discussions and negotiations among the six parties continued."

Under last year's six-nation deal, North Korea agreed to disable its nuclear facilities in exchange for political concessions and the equivalent of 1 million tons of oil.

North Korea began disabling its main plutonium-producing facilities in November, but the process stalled because of a dispute over whether it kept a pledge to declare all its nuclear programs.

The five donor countries have so far sent North Korea only 384,000 tons of oil and other energy-related equipment, according to the South Korean Foreign Ministry. North Korea has frequently complained of delayed shipments.

North Korea says it has completed 80 percent of the disablement but has only received about 40 percent of the promised aid.

However, Hwang said after the opening session of the talks that the other countries dispute North Korea's claim of being nearly finished with disablement "considering the fact that more important phases are yet to be completed."

Last month, North Korea gave the U.S. technical logs from its Yongbyon nuclear complex, raising hopes for a breakthrough in the nuclear deadlock.

 [back to top](#)

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**DTRA**

If the documents are verified and North Korea submits its promised nuclear declaration, the U.S. is expected to remove the North from its terrorism and trade sanctions blacklists – a coveted goal of the North Korean government.

The U.S. State Department's top Korea specialist, Sung Kim, returned to Seoul on Wednesday after a two-day trip to North Korea for talks on the nuclear issue.

"We had detailed and substantive discussions on the issue related to the disablement," Kim told reporters of his meetings in the North, adding that more discussions will be held in coming weeks.

Kim was expected to meet South Korean officials before returning Thursday to Washington, according to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul.

 [back to top](#)

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## Russia Proposes New European Security Structure

*Thai Press Reports, 13 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Russian President Dmitri Medvedev is proposing a new European security structure that appears aimed at replacing NATO and possibly reducing U.S. influence on the continent, VOA Moscow Correspondent Peter Fedynsky reports.

President Medvedev says existing European security structures, NATO, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, do not meet the challenges of today.

Speaking in Moscow at a Russian Media Conference, Mr. Medvedev answered no to his own question of whether the Atlantic alliance is sufficient to resolve all of the problems of Old Europe.

The Russian leader says that in order to study what can become the basis for a new European security agreement, an appropriate summit could be held in which all the countries of Europe would participate on their own behalf, without delegating any authority to other entities.

Independent Russian military analyst Pavel Felgenhauer told VOA that Moscow is not pleased with NATO expansion or the OSCE. That 56-member organization criticized recent Russian elections as flawed, including the March vote that brought Mr. Medvedev to power.

But Felgenhauer called the Kremlin proposal stillborn.

He says what is being proposed is a Cold War-style agreement to divide Europe into spheres of influence. Felgenhauer says that agenda does not interest the West, which will reject it as unacceptable.

Felgenhauer notes that Moscow has a voice in NATO via the Russia-NATO council, but not a vote, which the analyst says is behind Russia's attempt to create an alternative organization in which it would be a full-fledged member.

The Medvedev proposal for a European security summit would also leave out the United States and Canada. At the same time, the Russian leader noted the responsibility his country shares with the United States in maintaining global stability and security.

He also expressed guarded optimism about U.S.-Russian relations, adding that Russia will cooperate on global challenges with whoever is elected as the next American president.

 [back to top](#)

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GSN, 04 June 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

Russia announced yesterday [June 3] that it had eliminated 10,500 metric tons of chemical warfare agents, more than one-fourth of its total stockpile, RIA Novosti reported.

The nation has agreed to destroy its entire 40,000-metric-ton arsenal by 2012, as required by the Chemical Weapons Convention.

“With the proper financing, we will certainly be able to fulfill all our obligations,” said Lt. Gen. Valery Kapashin, who leads the Federal Department for the Safe Storage and Destruction of Chemical Weapons.

Moscow has allocated more than \$7 billion toward chemical weapons disposal. It plans to operate destruction facilities at seven storage sites. Work is finished at the Gorny disposal plant while operations continue at Kambarka and Maradykovsky. Weapons destruction is scheduled to begin this year at the Shchuchye plant.

Moscow to date has received slightly more than 25 percent of the \$2 billion pledged by other nations for the disposal effort under the Global Partnership against the Proliferation of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, RIA Novosti reported.

However, one expert has noted that Russia in determining foreign funding figures does not count money given to firms contracted by Western nations to support chemical weapons disposal.

[back to top](#)

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The U.S. military says it has destroyed more than half of its stockpile of chemical warfare agents without harming communities near the disposal sites, the Associated Press reported today [June 5].

“We really haven’t had a serious incident throughout the life of the program concerning chemical weapons,” said Greg Mahall, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency. “We’re very proud of our safety record.”

The Defense Department stored 31,500 tons of lethal substances such as sarin, VX and mustard agent at nine locations around the continental United States and on the Johnston Atoll in the South Pacific. Disposal operations have been completed at two sites and are under way at another five storage depots.

The Chemical Weapons Convention requires the United States to eliminate its stockpile of banned materials by 2012. Pentagon officials have said that operations might continue through 2023, largely due to two disposal plants that have yet to be built in Colorado and Kentucky. Congress last year demanded that weapons disposal be finished by 2017.

The total cost is expected to reach \$34 billion.

All sites operating today involve incineration of chemical agents and munitions. Opponents have filed lawsuit against burning of chemical weapons and continue to question the Army’s assertion that emissions pose no threat, AP reported.

“If you go by their body count so far, I guess it has been a success,” said Craig Williams, head of the Kentucky-based Chemical Weapons Working Group, which has pushed the Pentagon to use disposal technology other than incineration. “The fact is we still don’t know what is coming out of the stacks or what the long-term effect will be.”

At least one resident near a chemical depot in Anniston, Alabama expressed little concern about the potential danger posed by weapons incineration.

“I’ll be glad when it’s gone, but I don’t think about it very much,” said Joyce Walker. She and other residents have not bothered to open safety gear provided by the military.

 [back to top](#)

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**DTRA**

The depot has eliminated its stocks of rockets and artillery shells that contained VX and sarin nerve agents, leaving thousands of land mines filled with VX and mustard agent munitions still to be destroyed.

“From a risk perspective to the community, over 98 percent of the risk is gone,” said Anniston site manager Timothy Garrett. “The risk with the land mines is so small it’s hard to put on a chart, and there is no risk to the community from the mustard gas.”

The Army and the Oregon Environmental Quality Department, after 11 years and three risk assessments, have concluded that weapons incineration at the Umatilla Chemical Depot poses no threat to area residents, the Hermiston Herald reported yesterday.

The conclusion is that “chemical weapons bad, incineration good,” according to state senior environmental toxicologist Bruce Hope. “It’s not like we’re arriving at the decision half-cocked,” he said.

A toxicologist for an environmental group disputed the finding, saying the facility is emitting harmful materials such as mercury and arsenic.

“We have to assume that they are the worst,” said Peter deFur of Environmental Stewardship Concepts. “The primary concern is the air.”

[back to top](#)

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## Germany Launches Disarmament Cooperation with Russia

*Berlin, 10 June 2008, accessed via Open Source Center*

Together with Russian project partners, members of the Federal Government and the German Bundestag will today [June 10] lay the foundation stone for a new Russian chemical weapons destruction plant in Pochep in the Bryansk region of the Russian Federation.

The Federal Government has been working actively since 2002 as part of the G8 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction. As part of this, the Federal Foreign Office is providing financing of up to 140 million Euro for the construction of a building with technical equipment to incinerate reaction masses as well as residuals from the destruction of chemical weapons. In this part of the plant, the empty munitions shells are also put beyond use.

The Federal Foreign Office has to date provided support to the tune of 200 million Euro for the destruction of chemical weapons in the Russian Federation. Following on from the chemical weapons destruction plants in Gornyy and Kambarka commissioned in 2002 and 2006 respectively which were also built with German support, Pochep is the third joint large-scale project.

Pochep is home to the largest of the seven stockpiles for chemical agents in terms of amount in the Russian Federation. There are some 7,500 tons of the nerve gases VX, Sarin and Soman, most of which is contained in more than 67,000 shells.

The agreement under international law for the cooperation in Pochep was concluded in March 2007 on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement dating back to 1992. The plant is to be built on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office by a German contractor and be operational by late 2009.

Germany's commitment is to be seen in the context of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which aims to achieve the global destruction of all chemical weapons by 2012 at the latest.

 [back to top](#)

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## India Will Not Sign CTBT: Prime Minister Says

*Indo-Asian News Service, 11 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

India will not sign the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) that prevents it from conducting further nuclear tests and impinges on its sovereignty, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Wednesday [June 11].

Addressing new recruits of the Indian Foreign Service at a function, the prime minister also stressed that the nuclear deal India had signed with the U.S. protected its "national interests".

"Despite the fact that we are not a signatory to the NPT (Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty), and we have also said that if the CTBT came into being we will not sign it, there is no pressure from the U.S. on India to sign the NPT or any other international arrangement of that sort to enter into nuclear cooperation for civil energy," Manmohan Singh said.

Though it has not signed the CTBT, India has put a moratorium on further tests since the nuclear tests at Pokhran in May 1998. The Left parties and opposition parties have warned that if India signs the nuclear deal with the U.S., it would be prevented from conducting further tests.

The prime minister's remarks on the nuclear deal that has run into stiff opposition from the Left parties appears to be another attempt to clear some of the apprehensions.

"For the first time we got the U.S. to appreciate that India is a nuclear weapons state, that India has the right to develop nuclear power to protect its strategic interests, and that it is a decision that must be made by the people of India not subject to any international supervision or any international interference," Manmohan Singh added.

 [back to top](#)

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## **U.S. Tells Syria Not to Restrict U.N. Nuclear Probe**

*Reuters, 04 June 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>*

The United States on Wednesday [June 4] demanded Syria give free rein to U.N. nuclear investigators after diplomats said Damascus would bar access to some sites Washington believes are linked to a secret atomic reactor.

The United States says Syria was close to completing a reactor with North Korean help that could have yielded plutonium for nuclear arms before it was bombed by Israel last September.

The U.N. nuclear watchdog began an inquiry after receiving U.S. intelligence documentation in April.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) director Mohamed ElBaradei said on Monday that Syria, which had not responded to IAEA requests for explanations since the bombing, would allow in United Nations inspectors on June 22-24 to pursue the inquiry.

Informed diplomats said Syria would let inspectors examine the al-Kibar site in its northeast desert, but not go to three other locations believed to house facilities or equipment for producing plutonium from fuel from the reactor.

That prompted Gregory Schulte, U.S. ambassador to the IAEA, to demand that Syria not hinder agency investigators in any way.

"The United States welcomes the announcement that the IAEA will visit Syria and stands ready to support a rigorous IAEA investigation into Syria's clandestine nuclear activities," Schulte said in a statement sent to Reuters.

"It is imperative that Syria fully cooperate with the IAEA and in no way hinder the investigation either by further delaying an inspection or by refusing the IAEA unfettered access to any site requested by the IAEA," he said.

Syria, which has said the bombed site was a disused military building and that it has no clandestine nuclear program, has not confirmed publicly the IAEA visit.

But a senior Syrian official told an Arab League meeting outside an IAEA governors' conference in Vienna on Tuesday that the IAEA trip would go ahead and inspectors would get access to the al-Kibar site, diplomats in the meeting said.

 [back to top](#)

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## BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



03 June – 16 June 2008

**DTRA**

Syrian Atomic Energy Agency chief Ibrahim Othman told them, however, that Damascus would not permit checks of other sites Washington had urged inspectors to examine as possible places for processing nuclear material, diplomats said.

They said the position of Syria, which is in a state of war with Israel, was that the other sites were off-limits military installations essential to national security and irrelevant to the IAEA because they had no nuclear connection.

Syria was granting inspectors access to al-Kibar as a one-off gesture to dispel international doubts and it expected the IAEA to close the file after the June mission, they said.

"There is concern Syria will not let inspectors move around freely or gather samples of whatever is relevant for their inquiry. The IAEA will clearly need more than one visit to approach any conclusions," said a senior non-Arab diplomat attending the 35-nation IAEA governors meeting.

Some nuclear analysts, citing satellite photos, say Syria bulldozed and swept clean the al-Kibar zone after the bombing and erected a new building over it, possibly to erase evidence.

Washington produced for reporters in April before-and-after aerial photographs of the alleged reactor as well as detailed interior images of what it said were important components.

Syria has one old research reactor under IAEA monitoring.

President Bashar Assad said earlier this week Syria was not seeking nuclear firepower but wanted access to peaceful atomic energy through a collective Arab project recently announced.

Syria is a close ally of Iran, whose secretive uranium enrichment program has been under IAEA investigation since 2003 due to Western suspicions of a covert drive for atom bombs.

Iran says it wants only nuclear-generated electricity but restrictions imposed on IAEA inspections mean the agency has been unable to verify Tehran's program is wholly peaceful.

[back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



03 June – 16 June 2008

**DTRA**

## **Australia Not to Sell Uranium to India; Sets up New Disarmament Body**

*PTI, 09 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Ruling out the sale of uranium to India until it signs the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), Australia today [June 9] announced setting up of a global body for nuclear disarmament, hoping to rope in "like minded" countries.

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd today announced creation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament Commission during his visit to Japan after laying a wreath in Hiroshima, the site of first atomic bombings in 1945.

The commission to be co-chaired by the former foreign minister Gareth Evans will examine the work of two similar earlier panels, the Australian-led Canberra Commission and Japan's Tokyo Forum, to develop a plan of action for the next NPT review conference in 2010.

The first task of the panel will be to report to a major international conference of experts in Australia late next year.

"Australia has the largest known uranium reserves in the world. We can, therefore, understand the different concerns that different countries bring to this debate," he said denying that the plan was a way to allow Australia to sell uranium to India, which is not a signatory to the NPT.

Rudd said he understood the Indian arguments, and said the US Administration had also put India's case to him, but Labor party was firmly behind the NPT.

India would not be able to circumvent the NPT by joining the commission as "the commission that I'm proposing is a non-government body," he was quoted as saying by 'The Australian'.

Japan, the only country to have come under nuclear attack, will be asked to take part, as will other nations, Rudd told students at Kyoto University.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



03 June – 16 June 2008

**DTRA**

## Nuclear Official Calls for India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea to Join Disarmament Talks

*AP, 10 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

The world may need a new nuclear weapons treaty that includes India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea, an Australian official said Tuesday [June 10].

Former foreign minister Gareth Evans, who was appointed chairman of a new international body for nuclear disarmament, said nuclear powers who currently refuse to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) had to be included in a new process if the world were to abandon nuclear weapons.

"We've got to bring in India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea all those that are presently with weapons but outside that framework," Evans told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"What you're trying to do is create a framework in which rather than being outsiders, these guys once again become insiders. That may mean thinking about a whole new nuclear weapons treaty," he added.

Evans' appointment as head of the Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament Commission was announced by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on Monday.

Rudd said the new body hopes to recruit "like-minded countries" to strengthen the NPT.

The 190-nation NPT was established in 1980 to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and technology and to further the goal of nuclear disarmament. Review conferences are held every five years to assess implementation of the treaty.

"The objective is to take the work already done ... and to seek to shape a global consensus in the lead-up to the NPT review process in 2010," Rudd told reporters in Kyoto after he announced the commission during a speech at a university.

Rudd said the Australia-led commission which he hoped other countries would join would present recommendations to an international conference of experts at the end of 2009.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



03 June – 16 June 2008

**DTRA**

## Iran Rejects Six-Nation Proposal

*Washington Post*, 15 June 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Iran said Saturday [June 14] that a package of incentives offered by six countries was "out of the question" because it includes a demand for the country to suspend uranium enrichment activities.

The European Union (EU) foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, presented the proposal to Iranian authorities Saturday on behalf of the United States, China, France, Germany, Britain and Russia. He told reporters in Tehran, the Iranian capital, that the offer was "generous and comprehensive and a starting point for real negotiations" on the country's nuclear program.

But Iranian officials said even before the offer was formally made that they would not consider any proposal that included halting its uranium enrichment as a condition to talks.

"If the package includes suspension, it is not debatable at all," Gholam Hossein Elham, Iran's government spokesman, told reporters at his weekly news conference, the Iranian press agency Farsnews reported. "The stance of the Islamic Republic is clear. Any precondition regarding suspension would be out of the question."

Iran says its nuclear research and facilities are solely for peaceful purposes. But the United States and some European countries reject that assertion, accusing Iran of using its civilian program as a cover for developing a nuclear weapons program.

Emphasizing Iran's rights according to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Solana said: "We are ready to fully recognize Iran's right to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes."

The proposal promises Iran light-water nuclear reactors and built-in cooperation with the six countries. It also includes binding guarantees for supplying fuel to these installations and cooperation between the two sides on the management of nuclear waste.

Non-nuclear parts of the proposal involve regional security cooperation and trade liberalization between Iran and the six countries. It also mentions technological assistance for Iran's telecommunications infrastructure and support to help modernize its agriculture sector, education and emergency responses.

Independence from the influence of other countries is an important theme for the Iranian authorities, who say the nuclear issue is an international litmus test that will indicate how world powers will respond to developing countries.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



03 June – 16 June 2008



In April, Iran offered its own proposal, which calls for a "new and more advanced plan for interaction" and "agreement on collective commitments to cooperate" on various political, economic, regional, international, nuclear and "energy security" issues. It also seeks steps to "bolster the stability and the advancement of democracy in the region."

The main difference between it and the proposal offered Saturday is that Iran does not accept any preconditions to talks, such as the suspension of enrichment.

Solana and representatives of five of the six countries -- the United States did not send an envoy -- did not meet with Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. They instead met with Iran's new chief negotiator, Saeed Jalili, and Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki.

The Bush administration warned that Iran's rejection of the package would lead to new sanctions and "further isolation," a senior State Department official said in a conference call on the condition of anonymity.

"The Security Council members would be disappointed in a rejection by Iran of this package. So, yes, I do expect more international action," he said.

But despite Elham's remarks, the State Department official said subsequent comments in the Iranian press "sort of leave the door open."

President Bush, speaking from Paris, said he was "disappointed" by the reports that Iranian leaders had rejected the incentives. "It's an indication to the Iranian people that their leadership is willing to isolate them further," he said.

Bush did not say what additional steps against Iran the United States would take or whether he believed European countries would agree to them.



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



03 June – 16 June 2008

**DTRA**

## **UK Seeks 10 Year Extension of Deadline for Mine Clearance in the Falklands**

*Government News Network, 04 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

As provided for under Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention (anti-personnel mine ban convention) the UK has submitted a request for a 10 year extension of the deadline to fulfill its obligation to clear all anti-personnel landmines in mined areas under its jurisdiction and control. The only mined areas under the jurisdiction and control of the UK are located on the Falkland Islands. The request will be considered by States Parties to the Convention in November 2008.

There have never been any civilian injuries in over 25 years since the conflict ended. The mined areas are clearly marked, fenced and monitored. When landmines do surface and potentially pose a threat in and around the mined areas they are cleared by an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team that is permanently based on the Falkland Islands. The ongoing work by the EOD team means the mined areas pose a minimal risk to the Falkland Islanders.

A joint UK-Argentine Feasibility Study on the clearance of landmines in the Falkland Islands completed in October 2007 set out the significant environmental, technical and geographical obstacles these mined areas present for any de-mining operation. It concluded that the clearance of mines from all the mined areas would be challenging, but technically possible. The Study also highlighted the serious environmental damage to the Falkland Islands fragile ecosystem that any de-mining operation will have and the major remediation effort required to counter this.

Following the completion of the Feasibility Study the UK is now considering next steps. The Falkland Islanders were regularly consulted while the Feasibility Study was being carried out and any future decisions will be made in consultation with the Falkland Islands Government.

The UK is not alone in submitting an extension request. At least 16 other countries are also expected to do so before the November 2008 meeting of States Parties.

The UK is the third largest donor to international mine clearance operations, contributing around £10 million a year. This demonstrates the UK's firm commitment to the Ottawa Convention.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



03 June – 16 June 2008

**DTRA**

## Russia Destroys 20 Ballistic Missiles in 2008 under START Treaty

*RIA Novosti, 09 June 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Russia has destroyed and sent for scrap about 20 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) and 12 mobile missile launchers since the start of 2008, the Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) said on Monday [June 9].

"Since January 2008, the SMF have destroyed and sent for scrap about 20 ICBMs whose service life has expired," the SMF said in a statement, adding the missiles were scrapped as part of the START-1 treaty, set to expire on December 6, 2009.

In addition, a total of 12 mobile missile launchers have been dismantled during the same period under the close monitoring of U.S. inspectors, the statement said.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) was signed by the United States and the Soviet Union on July 31, 1991, five months before the Soviet Union collapsed, and remains in force between the United States, Russia, and three other ex-Soviet states.

Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine have since disposed of all their nuclear weapons or transferred them to Russia. The United States and Russia have reduced the number of delivery vehicles to 1,600, with no more than 6,000 warheads.

Russia's nuclear arsenal currently totals about 4,147 warheads on 848 delivery vehicles, while the U.S. deploys 5,914 warheads on 1,225 delivery vehicles, according to the U.S.-based Arms Control Association.

Russia's SMF said U.S. experts had conducted a total of 340 inspections of ballistic missile launch sites in Russia since the START-1 treaty came into force on December 5, 1994.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



03 June – 16 June 2008

**DTRA**

## U.S. Inspects Russian Nuclear Missiles

GSN, 09 June 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

U.S. arms control officials have conducted 11 inspections of Russian strategic missile facilities this year, ITAR-Tass reported today [June 9]. The visits were made in accordance with the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), due to expire next year.

In addition to the 11 onsite inspections, “the American side two times asked for presenting mobile launchers for observation by U.S. national technical means of verification,” said a statement from the Russian strategic missile forces. “National technical means” typically refers to satellite imagery.

“Since the START coming into force, a total of 40 inspections at [strategic forces] facilities have been carried out and 93 mobile launchers have been presented for control by the U.S. national technical means of verification,” the statement added.

About 20 Russian strategic missiles have been destroyed or prepared for destruction this year under treaty terms, ITAR-Tass reported.

Meanwhile, Russia plans to deploy 11 modern Topol-M missile launchers this year, army Commander Sergei Karakayev said last week.

[back to top](#)

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