



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



03 November - 16 November 2009

DTRA

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

After Delay, Senate Committee Approves Biosecurity Bill

Global Security Newswire, 5 November 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

The U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee yesterday approved a bill intended to improve security at the nation's biological research facilities. (334 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Oregon Judge Rules for Army in Incineration Lawsuit

Chemical Materials Agency, 5 November 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

An Oregon judge denied a motion for summary judgment against the State of Oregon regarding Army chemical weapons destruction at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Oregon

(643 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Marshall Islands Ratifies Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty

CTBTO, 13 November 2009, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

The Marshall Islands has ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), becoming the 151st country to do so. (308 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

States Parties to CCW Protocol on Mines and Other Explosive Devices Prohibition Spotlights on Improvised Explosive Devices

United Nations, 4 November 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The Eleventh Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II will commence its work on November 11, 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. (433 words)

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CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW) (CONT.)

CCW Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to further Develop Its Implementation Mechanism at Third Conference

United Nations, 4 November 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) will be held November 9-10, 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

(810 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

States Parties to Conventional Weapons Convention to Take a Decision on Cluster Munitions

United Nations, 4 November 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW, which will be chaired by Ambassador Babacar Carlos M'baye of Senegal, will convene in Geneva on November 12-13, 2009.

(344 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

DOE, IAEA Collaborate to Put Decades of Nuclear Research Online

IAEA Press Releases, 27 October 2009, <http://www.iaea.org/>

Decades of nuclear research supported by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and its predecessor agencies are being made searchable on the World Wide Web ... (395 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

United Kingdom-Russia Committed to Non-Proliferation Treaty

States News Service, 3 November 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The UK and Russia reaffirmed their commitment to work together to achieve the goals of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on Tuesday November 3. (827 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)



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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

U.S. Officials Optimistic about New Nuclear Treaty with Russia

Washington Post, 8 November 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

After months of negotiations with Russia, Obama administration officials are hopeful about a breakthrough—possibly this week—that would enable the two sides to sign a successor to their most extensive nuclear weapons treaty before it expires December 5. (823 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Russian Experts Comment on New Russia-U.S. START Treaty [OPINION]

Russia Today (RT), 12 November 2009, <http://russiatoday.com/>

Comments [by the following] ... Russian experts [were provided] on [three questions asked by RT addressing] some of the most burning issues related to the talks on the new START treaty ... (1,198 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

In Asia, Obama, Medvedev See Nuke Pact Progress

Associated Press, 15 November 2009, <http://news.yahoo.com/>

President Barack Obama said Sunday the United States and Russia would have a replacement treaty on reducing nuclear arms ready for approval by year's end, an announcement designed as an upbeat ending to a summit with Asia-Pacific leaders. (498 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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After Delay, Senate Committee Approves Biosecurity Bill

Global Security Newswire, 5 November 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

The U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee yesterday approved a bill intended to improve security at the nation's biological research facilities.

One week after postponing a decision in order to give the Obama administration more time to weigh in on the legislation, the panel voted 8-1 in favor of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Prevention and Preparedness Act of 2009.

"This is an urgently needed bill, and I am pleased the committee has moved it forward," Chairman Joseph Lieberman (I-Connecticut) said in a statement.

It was unclear when the full Senate would take up the legislation.

The measure—sponsored by Lieberman and committee ranking member Susan Collins (R-Maine)—would require the Homeland Security Department to prepare security regulations for laboratories.

It would also divide the government's list of select agents and toxins into three tiers, subjecting facilities that handle the eight to ten most harmful pathogens to the highest security. Homeland Security would be in charge of regulating those laboratories while the Health and Human Services Department would oversee sites in the remaining two tiers.

Collins has estimated the measure could impact as many as 400 facilities and 15,000 individuals authorized to work with deadly pathogens. ...

The bill is derived from the recommendations of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism. ... In its report to Congress last December, the group urged the government to tighten oversight of facilities that handle such materials.

"Security gaps at laboratories that store and work with dangerous pathogens, both in the United States and around the world, are worrisome because of continued interest in biological weapons," the commission's report said. ...

Collins said the existing system for security at the nation's laboratories was flawed and that the committee had an "obligation to act. ... The WMD commission has warned us of the consequences of not acting," she said in a statement after the vote. "We must move swiftly to strengthen and improve our nation's biological defenses and security systems."

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Oregon Judge Rules for Army in Incineration Lawsuit

Chemical Materials Agency, 5 November 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

An Oregon judge denied a motion for summary judgment against the State of Oregon regarding Army chemical weapons destruction at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Oregon

Judge Michael H. Marcus, Judge for the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, denied the petitioner's motion for summary judgment and entered a judgment in favor of the State of Oregon and its co-defendants in the case, including the U.S. Army.

The case was filed one year ago on October 31, 2008.

Petitioners had challenged Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality on the approval of a Temporary Authorization Request for the trial burn of mustard agent containing elevated levels of mercury. Petitioners had questioned the use of incineration as the best available technology, claiming other, safer methods were readily available and should be used instead. Petitioners had also alleged that the state agency had allowed the Army to operate in violation of hazardous waste laws, without a Clean Air Act Permit, and without adequate characterization of wastes.

Hearings began on October 26, 2009, and, after three days of testimony and argument, Judge Marcus ruled against petitioners on all counts.

"We welcome Judge Marcus' ruling in this matter," said Conrad F. Whyne, Director, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA). "Our use of incineration has a proven track record in terms of safety and agent destruction.

"We recently marked the occasion of our destroying two million munitions since the international Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) treaty entered into force. Our operational experience has grown considerably over time and when we discovered mercury in our munitions in Utah, we quickly advanced lessons learned across the program. That took place in Oregon as well as our other sites," Whyne said.

"When we discovered the mercury issue, we took additional steps to ensure that the mercury found in the agent is contained within our agent destruction system. We will continue our mission to destroy the agent and remain committed to safety—the safety of our workers, our communities and our environment."



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Judge Marcus' ruling allows the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility to continue destruction of mustard-agent filled bulk containers at the site. These bulk containers hold the last chemical agent in the Umatilla portion of the national stockpile.

"We are confident in our technology in terms of eliminating the stockpile and in doing so safely and effectively," said Col. Robert B. Billington, Project Manager for Chemical Stockpile Elimination at the CMA. "Scientifically, our technology continues to withstand these kinds of legal challenges and Judge Marcus' ruling once again shows that the best available technology is truly in place to ensure public safety and environmental protection.

"Now we can shift our focus out of the courtroom and back to the mission at hand—safe, total and complete elimination of the stockpile and the risk it poses to our communities."

As of October 27 the Army had destroyed almost 66 percent of the original U.S. stockpile since entry into force of the CWC treaty. Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility workers have destroyed almost 41 percent of the Umatilla Chemical Depot's original stockpile of more than 3,700 tons of chemical agents. The site is currently in its last disposal campaign with the destruction of mustard agent.

The lawsuit is the sixth in an ongoing series of suits brought against operations at Umatilla. In each case, the suit was either dismissed or rulings were in the Army's favor. Petitioners have 30 days to file a Notice of Appeal to the Court of Appeals of the State of Oregon.

The CMA remains committed to the safety of the public, its work force and the environment. The CMA's four remaining destruction sites are on pace to complete operations in time to meet the 2012 CWC deadline. The CMA continues to safely store chemical agent munitions near Richmond, Kentucky, and Pueblo, Colorado.

For more information about the CMA, visit <http://www.cma.army.mil>.

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Marshall Islands Ratifies Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty

CTBTO, 13 November 2009, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

The Marshall Islands has ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), becoming the 151st country to do so.

The ratification of the CTBT by the Marshall Islands is highly symbolic. A total of 67 atmospheric nuclear tests were conducted by the United States at the Bikini and Enewetak Atolls between 1946 and 1958. Following negotiations between the United States and the Marshall Islands, the U.S. agreed in 1983 to reward compensation payments to those affected by its nuclear testing program. The Marshall Island Nuclear Claims Tribunal founded in 1988 continues to represent the interests of those affected by the nuclear testing program.

The Marshall Islands was one of the 71 countries that signed the CTBT on 24 September 1996, the day it opened for signature. Of the 15 Pacific Island States, 12 states have signed and 10 have ratified the CTBT. The remaining three non-signatories are Niue, Tonga and Tuvalu. Overall, the treaty enjoys near universality with 182 states having signed and 151 having ratified it.

The CTBT and its entry into force enjoy renewed political prominence. The 106 states that gathered in September in New York for a conference to promote the treaty's entry into force called on all outstanding states to sign and ratify the treaty. The CTBT's entry into force was also supported at the September United Nations Security Council summit meeting at Heads of State level on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

The CTBT bans all nuclear explosions. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is building a verification regime to monitor the planet for compliance with the treaty. When complete, 337 facilities worldwide will monitor underground, the oceans, and the atmosphere for any sign of a nuclear explosion. To date, close to 250 facilities have been certified and send data to the International Data Centre at the CTBTO in Vienna, Austria.

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States Parties to CCW Protocol on Mines and Other Explosive Devices Prohibition Spotlight Improvised Explosive Devices

United Nations, 4 November 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The Eleventh Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II will commence its work on November 11, 2009, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The one-day Conference will be chaired by Ambassador Jānis Mažeiks of Latvia as President, who will be assisted by three vice-presidents from Germany, China, and Venezuela.

Last year, in conjunction with the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Protocol, the Conference decided to establish an open-ended Group of Experts to meet annually prior to the annual Conferences in a bid to reinvigorate the Protocol's implementation. Subsequently, the Group met this year (April 20-21, 2009, in Geneva) and was tasked to address two major issues: first, to review the operation and status of the Protocol, [which included] consider[ing] matters arising from the annual national reporting by States Parties as well as [the] development of technologies to protect civilians against indiscriminate effects of mines; second, [to consider] issues [pertaining to] improvised explosive devices. The discussion on these two issues was chaired by two separate Friends of the Chair from Morocco and Switzerland, respectively.

The Conference is expected to consider the reports of both Friends of the Chair on the issues under their respective responsibility. The Conference is also expected to take a decision on future work taking into account the important findings of the Group of Experts. An appeal by the States Parties to promote wider adherence to the Protocol is likely to be adopted as it has been the practice for many years.

The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW), negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations in 1979 and 1980, and subsequently adopted in 1980, contains three protocols prohibiting the use of weapons that employ fragments not detectable in the human body by X-ray (Protocol I); regulating the use of landmines, booby-traps and similar devices (Protocol II); and limiting the use of incendiary weapons (Protocol III).

The original Protocol II was amended on May 3, 1996 at the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, thus it became the Amended Protocol II. The number of States that have notified the Depository of their consent to be bound by Amended Protocol II rose from 45 at the time of the First Annual Conference in 1999 to the current total of 93 States. Georgia is the latest addition to the Protocol, which acceded on June 8, 2009. The Protocol will enter into force for Georgia on December 8, 2009.

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CCW Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to Further Develop Its Implementation Mechanism at Third Conference

United Nations, 4 November 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) will be held November 9-10, 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

The Conference this year will continue to focus on efforts to strengthen the treaty's implementation mechanism. These include the issues [concerning the] clearance of ERW; [providing] victim assistance; [providing] cooperation and assistance, [particularly in response to] requests for assistance; recording, retaining, and transferring information on the use of weapons that may become ERW; national reporting on the implementation of the Protocol; and generic preventive measures that could minimize the occurrence of ERW.

These substantive issues were discussed under separate coordinators at the Protocol V Meeting of Experts (Geneva April 22-24, 2009) thus preparing the groundwork for the Third Conference. The coordinators will report on the results of the respective discussions. [During the Conference,] they are expected to formulate concrete recommendations on how best to enhance the implementation of the Protocol.

The Conference will also address the universality of the Protocol. Thirteen more States have recently acceded to the instrument since the previous Conference, which makes 61 total States Parties to the Protocol. All substantive decisions of the States Parties as well as other procedural matters will be included in the Final Document of the Conference.

Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao of India will preside over the work of the Third Conference. He will be assisted by two vice-presidents of the Conference, Australia and Slovenia. They will also be supported by coordinators from Lithuania, Australia, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, and France who are responsible for the substantive issues under discussion.

Responding to an initiative launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2000, the Protocol was negotiated by the CCW Group of Governmental Experts and was subsequently adopted in 2003 by the CCW States Parties. Protocol V covers post-conflict remedial measures of a generic nature [intended] to minimize the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war. Under the Protocol, each State Party and each party to an armed conflict shall bear the responsibility to clear explosive remnants of war or to assist in such clearance. In particular, the parties to an armed conflict shall survey, mark and clear ERW in areas under their control or jurisdiction after a conflict; where appropriate, provide technical, material and

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financial assistance for the removal of ERW left by their armed forces in areas not under their control; record information on explosive or abandoned ordnance and share that information with organizations involved in clearance activities; and take all feasible precautions to protect civilians from the effects of ERW, including marking and fencing off dangerous areas and warning them of the risks.

During the Third Review Conference (Geneva, November 7-17, 2006) the States Parties adopted a special Declaration to mark the Entry into Force of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War on November 12, 2006. At the time, 26 CCW States parties expressed their consent to be bound by the Protocol. The number of States Parties has significantly increased from 35 in 2007, to 48 in 2008, to 61 as of November 3, 2009, comprising: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada (May 19, 2009), Chile (August 18, 2009), Costa Rica (April 27, 2009), Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador (March 10, 2009), El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia (December 22, 2008), Germany, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Latvia (September 16, 2009), Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali (April 24, 2009), Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan (February 3, 2009), Paraguay (December 3, 2008), Peru (May 29, 2009), Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal (November 6, 2008), Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Macedonia, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates (February 26, 2009), United States (January 21, 2009), and Uruguay.

The Conferences of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V are held annually to review the status and operation of the Protocol. The informal Meetings of Experts are organized prior to the annual conferences and represent the key integral part of Protocol V's implementation mechanism. They were established with the purpose of providing a forum for consultation and cooperation among the States parties where those in need of assistance can discuss and receive assistance from those in a position to provide such assistance. The discussion of the expert meetings are chaired by coordinators who report on their work to the annual conferences.

The Third Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War will be followed by the Eleventh Annual Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Amended Protocol II, which will be held on 11 November 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

For more information, please refer to the official website of the Protocol at:

<http://www.unog.ch/CCW/ProtocolV>



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States Parties to Conventional Weapons Convention to Take a Decision on Cluster Munitions

United Nations, 4 November 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

The Meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW), which will be chaired by Ambassador Babacar Carlos M'baye of Senegal, will convene in Geneva on November 12-13, 2009.

The States Parties are expected to consider the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on cluster munitions. The Group met twice this year (Geneva, 16-20 February and 14-17 April 2009) to continue efforts to reach an agreement under the guidance of its chair, Mr. Gustavo Ainchil of Argentina.

The States Parties will focus on the status and implementation of the Convention, with particular focus on the compliance mechanism established by the 2006 CCW Review Conference, as well as the holding of the (next) Fourth CCW Review Conference in 2011. The consideration of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Promote the Universality of the Convention and its annexed Protocols, and the implementation of the CCW Sponsorship Program will also be taken up at the Meeting.

The Meeting will continue its consideration of ensuring adequate support for the implementation of the CCW, which in turn would secure the continuity and stability of the professional services provided to the States Parties in assisting their implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. Last year the Meeting decided to defer the decision on this matter to the 2009 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties.

Moreover, the Meeting will also consider the issue on Mines Other Than Anti-Personnel Mines. This issue has been in the agenda of the annual meetings since the review conference in 2001.

The CCW was opened for signature at New York on April 10, 1981 and entered into force on December 2, 1983.

The Convention currently has 110 States Parties. Since the 2008 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties, two states have joined: Kazakhstan on July 8, 2009 and the United Arab Emirates on February 26, 2009. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is the depositary of the Convention.

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DOE, IAEA Collaborate to Put Decades of Nuclear Research Online

IAEA Press Releases, 27 October 2009, <http://www.iaea.org/>

Decades of nuclear research supported by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and its predecessor agencies are being made searchable on the World Wide Web, as part of a collaborative effort between the DOE and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The project aims to give researchers, academics, and the general public access to vast volumes of valuable nuclear-related research over the internet.

As part of its knowledge preservation mandate, the IAEA's International Nuclear Information System (INIS) works to preserve nuclear knowledge by digitizing historic nuclear energy research documents dating from 1970 through the early 1990s. Collections from over 29 countries are now digitally available and several additional digital preservation projects are ongoing or are being established, particularly in the Latin America and Caribbean regions.

"Thanks to the collaborative work of the IAEA and its Member States, scientists and students in the nuclear field now have instant access to important research and technical information over the internet," said IAEA Deputy Director General for Nuclear Energy Yury Sokolov. "Our INIS program continues to work to preserve and provide access to publications and documents on the peaceful applications of nuclear technology."

The DOE project is one of the larger programs in the INIS project, and includes more than 180,000 documents from the DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI). OSTI is the U.S. representative to INIS and has had its own digitization focus in recent years. The novel partnership highlights the longstanding mutual benefits of DOE participation in INIS. In essence, it opens up previous research on the safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy by making it freely and quickly available to scientists and engineers. ...

To date, over 50,000 U.S. technical reports have been digitized through the INIS-OSTI partnership—results stemming from billions of dollars of research and development—and posted on the DOE Information Bridge website. This progress, combined with the OSTI digitization effort, represents about one-half of the documents slated for eventual web accessibility.

INIS was established to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The INIS Database contains 3.1 million bibliographic records and 225,000 full-text documents and was opened to the public for free, unrestricted, online access in April 2009. The DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information was established to make research accessible and useable so that science can more rapidly advance. To learn more about OSTI, visit <http://www.osti.gov>.

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United Kingdom-Russia Committed to Non-Proliferation Treaty

States News Service, 3 November 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The following information was released by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO): The UK and Russia reaffirmed their commitment to work together to achieve the goals of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on Tuesday November 3. The aims of the NPT are a safer world for all without nuclear weapons, and access for all to the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The statement was signed by the Foreign Secretary David Miliband and the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov during David Miliband's recent visit to the region.

Read the statement:

We, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, recognize the vital role of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in addressing the key security challenges of the 21st century, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to work together to achieve its goals: a safer world for all without nuclear weapons, and access for all to the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We welcome multilateral efforts aimed at reinforcing the NPT, most recently the unanimous commitment expressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1887. The Russian Federation and United Kingdom will work closely with P5 and NPT partners to ensure that the forthcoming 2010 Review Conference reinvigorates and strengthens the NPT by agreeing a balanced action plan for its three mutually reinforcing pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

We reaffirm the commitment of our two countries to seeking a safer world for all and, in cooperation with non nuclear-weapon states, to creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons. We recognize that demonstrable progress on disarmament is vital to achieving international consensus on non-proliferation and that the nuclear weapon states must continue to take credible disarmament steps that will command the confidence of all the non-nuclear weapon states. Agreement before the end of this year on a new legally binding treaty to further reduce U.S. and Russian strategic offensive arms will be a major contribution to this shared endeavor.

We believe that the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime must be advanced through a ban on the explosive testing of nuclear weapons, and a global cap on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices. To this end, we call for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and for the immediate start

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of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. The proliferation of nuclear weapons undermines the security of all nations. We reaffirm that all states must ensure strict compliance with their non-proliferation obligations under the NPT.

Recent developments have highlighted the need to give the IAEA additional powers of verification. We are committed to ensuring the IAEA has the necessary authority and capacity to assure compliance with non-proliferation obligations. We believe the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement must be set as the universally recognized norm for verifying the implementation by NPT parties of their non-proliferation obligations.

We will not overcome the twin challenges of climate change and the security of energy supply necessary for sustainable development without a wider use of nuclear energy. It is therefore paramount that the 2010 NPT Review Conference identifies viable ways of ensuring safe and secure access for all NPT Parties to the benefits of nuclear energy provided that they comply fully with their non-proliferation obligations. These initiatives should also ensure that the long-term development of civil nuclear power can take place in a culture of openness, transparency and confidence.

To meet these objectives, and to facilitate the development of nuclear energy without costly and technologically complex investment in nuclear fuel cycle capability, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom have presented proposals to the IAEA to provide guaranteed access to nuclear fuel supply services. The time is now right to move forward and establish mechanisms to meet the supply requirements of the future.

We reaffirm our support for the principle and practice of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones, which contribute greatly to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and to enhancing regional and international security. We reiterate our willingness to pursue consultations with States Party to NWFZ Treaties where difficulties remain. We reaffirm the intention of our countries to provide the necessary support to states in the Middle East to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and create a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. We support confidence building measures leading to the implementation of the resolution on the establishment of this zone adopted at the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

By working together with P5 partners and with all States Party to the NPT we will ensure that the 2010 Review Conference succeeds in consolidating and strengthening the broader nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime to bring us closer to a safer world for all.

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U.S. Officials Optimistic about New Nuclear Treaty with Russia

Washington Post, 8 November 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

After months of negotiations with Russia, Obama administration officials are hopeful about a breakthrough—possibly this week—that would enable the two sides to sign a successor to their most extensive nuclear weapons treaty before it expires December 5.

The optimism stems from a trip to Moscow in late October by national security adviser James L. Jones, who gave his Kremlin counterpart a package of proposals for the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) according to U.S. and Russian officials. Moscow has not yet formally responded, but high-level Russian officials have reacted positively, senior U.S. officials said.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said in remarks released Saturday that both sides "have every chance to agree on a new treaty, determine new [weapons] levels and control measures and sign a legally binding document [by] the end of the year." With U.S. policymakers and the Pentagon united behind Jones's proposals, Kremlin policymakers have gone back to the Russian military to get its approval or perhaps recommendations for counterproposals.

Securing a replacement for the 1991 treaty is a critical first step in President Obama's ambitious global arms-control agenda. Analysts and lawmakers have watched nervously as the agreement's deadline approaches, fearing a lapse in the complex verification procedures that are credited with providing stability between the nuclear giants. Both sides have discussed leaving those procedures in place until a new pact goes into effect.

U.S. officials' optimism contrasted with concerns expressed recently by American and Russian analysts that the talks have not produced final agreement on key issues: limits on nuclear-capable launchers; verification procedures; U.S. proposals to put conventional warheads on strategic land- and submarine-based ballistic missiles; and missile defense systems. The United States remains reluctant to give much ground on a Russian request for strong language linking disarmament to missile defense.

The new START agreement will contain relatively modest cuts in the 1,700 to 2,200 deployed warheads allowed to each side under a June 2002 agreement between President George W. Bush and then-Russian President Vladimir Putin. At a summit in July, Obama and Medvedev agreed on a new ceiling of 1,500 to 1,675 for each side.

A more contentious issue has been reducing the number of nuclear-capable bombers and land- or submarine-based missiles, with the Russians pressing for deeper cuts than the U.S. side. The Russians have proposed that the current limit of 1,600 each be slashed to 500; U.S.

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negotiators have suggested 1,100. Jones's proposal was a "judicious compromise," a U.S. official said, without disclosing a figure. Outside speculation has put the number at about 700.

The Russians still want that total to include any strategic missile launchers that carry conventional rather than nuclear warheads, a position the U.S. negotiators may accept. Another debate focuses on verification programs. The Russians have talked of halting U.S. inspections of their missile factories because they have no equal role in the United States, which is no longer building strategic intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Although a new accord seems within reach by December 5, it is still not likely to win ratification in the U.S. Senate for months. With that in mind, Sen. Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) introduced a bill Thursday that would allow Obama to temporarily extend, on a reciprocal basis, privileges to Russian arms inspection teams that travel to the United States. "Allowing a break in verification activities is not in the interest of the United States or Russia," Lugar said on the Senate floor.

Senior U.S. officials told The Washington Post that they also want to put in place a "bridge mechanism" when the treaty expires to allow for the continuation of inspections, exchanges of data, and notification about the testing and movement of weapons and other changes. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the talks.

The United States and Russia control more than 90 percent of the world's nuclear weapons, and both sides have said they hope that shrinking their stockpiles will inspire other nations to support tougher measures to prevent the spread of the deadly weapons to countries such as Iran.

A Russian response to Jones's proposals is expected soon, perhaps when both sides return to the negotiating table in Geneva on Monday. "We hope that this will be the last round and that by December 5 we will have agreed on a new accord," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko told the Interfax news agency, according to Agence France-Presse.

Ellen O. Tauscher, the undersecretary of state who oversees arms control and who accompanied Jones to Moscow, said, "There are issues that we have to work through, but there is also a path forward."

Even if a new treaty is signed soon, there is no chance it will be sent to the Senate for ratification before next year. Administration officials recognize that they have to prepare extensive backup material based on questions already raised by key Republicans, including Sen. Jon Kyl (Arizona), who has been monitoring the talks.

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Russian Experts Comment on New Russia-U.S. START Treaty [OPINION]

Russia Today (RT), 12 November 2009, <http://russiatoday.com/>

Comments by the following Russian experts to questions on issues related to the talks on the new START treaty:

- Aleksey Arbatov—Head of the Center for International Security of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations; and head of the project on nuclear non-proliferation in the Moscow Carnegie Center;
- Evgeny Minchenko—Director of the International Institute for Political Expertise; and
- *Aleksey Fenenko*—leading research fellow at the Institute of International Security Studies of the Russian Academy of Science.

Question 1: *Do you share the optimism, steadily expressed by the two negotiating sides concerning the process and the perspectives of signing the new START treaty by December 5 this year?*

Aleksey Arbatov: Well, I hope the agreement will be signed, although I can imagine how truly complicated this process is and how many rounds of talks we have yet to conduct. There are huge complexities in the process as I know, but still—unless some unexpected political events take place—the agreement should be signed by December, or by spring at the very latest...

Evgeny Minchenko: Call me a pessimist or a very cautious optimist here, but I see a few fundamental problems... One of them is that Obama already declared that America would try to achieve a complete refusal from nuclear weapons. For Russia, as many experts say, that would be a serious problem, because in that case, or even if the reduction of nuclear weapons reaches a certain level, America's advantage in conventional arms becomes totally overwhelming. I would call that a basic conceptual problem.

Aleksey Fenenko: Yes, I am generally optimistic about signing the new START treaty—it can be signed in December, or next January, or next February—it is not significant anymore since we agreed with the U.S. on the most fundamental issue: Russia and the U.S. will have about 1,500 nuclear warheads—it is close to the raw limits set by the 2002 Moscow SORT treaty. The difference is that the new agreement should involve an inspection mechanism. At the same time it is possible it will not be an obligation treaty, but a declaration similar to SORT, an idea mentioned by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in Helsinki on April 20 this year.

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Question 2: *What are the major stumbling blocks in the negotiation process?*

Aleksey Arbatov: The main problem is that the U.S. is simply not interested in any reduction or limitation of Russian strategic weapons—they are being reduced on their own, because the old systems are being laid off and the new ones are put in operation in very small quantities. Americans are rather interested in keeping a regime of transparency, whereas Russia is primarily interested in the actual reduction of American strategic weapons—not only the warheads, but rather the rocket delivery systems. This very asymmetry in targets makes signing the treaty very complicated. As for transparency, Russia thinks only those checks are needed in the new treaty—and no others!

Of course there are also political reasons for signing the treaty, such as Obama's commitments during the election campaign, his appeal for a nuclear-free world, the coming meeting on non-proliferation next year, when the U.S. will need to present something to convince other nations to impose various limitations to encourage non-proliferation regime... However, these are mostly tactical reasons, not strategic... Meanwhile, unlike the U.S., Russia vitally needs the agreement to keep parity with the States—it is a matter of prestige, world status, geographical position and so on...

Evgeny Minchenko: First of all, it is the AMD problem. Yes, Americans have abandoned their plans for the bases in Poland and the Czech Republic, but they will be recreating it in a different form. Another complicated issue is the issue of calculation—shall we take into account sea-based facilities, warheads in the depots, only those on the carriers, or all of them? We have different views on almost every one of these issues.

So it is obvious that in terms of image for both Obama and Medvedev that it is important to reach some consensus, but there are objective obstacles and national interests of both countries—all that makes these talks very complicated ... Of course, certain compromises can be found—perhaps, it will not be a new global version of the previous treaty, but some less fundamental, local document...

Aleksey Fenenko: Well, it is not a technical, but rather a political problem. We remember that the U.S. withdrew from the ABM [Anti-Ballistic Missile] treaty, undermining the very basic principle of strategic stability, which we were building together with the U.S. since the 1960s ... In 2002, the two countries signed the Moscow declaration [Treaty] on a new strategic relationship. It said both countries should consult each other on all the issues of missile defense deployment. However, further conflict around AMD is actually a sign of the devaluation of the Moscow declaration and its principles...

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Question 3: *How has America's refusal to build radars in Poland and the Czech Republic affected the negotiation process? Is America's AMD system still an issue at all?*

Aleksey Arbatov: No, it is obviously not an issue anymore—Americans have abandoned the previous plans and will definitely never come back to them. As for the other systems that they are planning to create—it is exclusively the missile defense facilities destined for the seat of war. And they completely fall under the borderline, officially agreed by the two states in the documents, signed in 1997. It clearly separated these missile defense systems, which can be created, from strategic missile defense, which was prohibited by AMD agreements. So the new systems, which the U.S. is planning to develop in the near future—they completely fall under those agreed allowed limits.

Evgeny Minchenko: America's refusal from building the radar bases in Poland and the Czech Republic has not solved the problem at all—it is rather a matter of our image than something practical. They will now develop a new system and continue building the global AMD system—it is their strategic target and they will never abandon that general trend. That means there is a question of correlation of nuclear arsenals, means of delivery and general capabilities of their AMD system. Let us assume we now reduce the quantity of warheads and carrier rockets—but what happens next when Americans continue developing their AMD system—and they definitely will—will they soon go into space with it?

Aleksey Fenenko: I believe the issue is still there. On September 10, Obama said the U.S. rejected their recent plans. However, they have two agreements with Poland and the Czech Republic—they are not ratified, but they do exist and the U.S. has not denounced them. So the next U.S. president can get back to them and push the idea of constructing the bases again. So to me it does not look like [the AMD plans] have been dropped, rather they are a means of controlling Russia. [The U.S.] can obviously say: "Either you agree with our vision of the next START treaty, or we go back to building the radars."

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In Asia, Obama, Medvedev See Nuke Pact Progress

Associated Press, 15 November 2009, <http://news.yahoo.com/>

President Barack Obama said Sunday the United States and Russia would have a replacement treaty on reducing nuclear arms ready for approval by year's end, an announcement designed as an upbeat ending to a summit with Asia-Pacific leaders.

While publicizing progress with Russia on arms control—part of Obama's agenda to advance nuclear disarmament—the president and other leaders bowed to the obvious on climate change. They discussed a compromise agreement for a 192-nation gathering next month in Copenhagen ...

The whirlwind of summitry is part of Obama's first presidential trip to the region. Its emphasis on big issues like climate change, disarmament and the economic crisis is part of Obama's approach to persuade new emerging powers like China to share in the burden of managing global challenges. ...

Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev met on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific summit of APEC nations to announced good progress in negotiations on an updated pact to replace the START nuclear arms agreement that expires on December 5.

Sitting, gesturing and leaning toward his Russian counterpart, Obama said the pair discussed a successor to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and described "excellent progress over the last several months." "I'm confident that if we work hard and with a sense of urgency, we'll be able to get that done," Obama said, adding technical issues remain.

Medvedev said he hoped negotiators would "finalize the text of the document by December."

Obama and Medvedev agreed in April to reach a new nuclear arms reduction pact to replace and expand upon the one that was signed by former President George H.W. Bush and Soviet leader Michael Gorbachev.

During a July summit in Moscow, Obama and Medvedev further agreed to cut the number of nuclear warheads each nation possesses to between 1,500 and 1,675 within seven years.

U.S. officials say the two nations now have agreed on the broad outlines of a new treaty, which could be signed during Obama's travels to Europe in early December to accept the Nobel Peace Prize. ...

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During his Asia trip, Obama also pushed for continued pressure on Iran and its nuclear program. Appearing with Medvedev, Obama said "we are now running out of time." "Unfortunately, so far it appears Iran has been unable to say yes," to the proposal on uranium reprocessing, Obama said.

Medvedev continued: "We are prepared to work further and I hope our joint work will reach a positive result. In case we fail, other options remain on the table." He has said further sanctions against Iran were possible if it did not open its nuclear program to inspections to prove it was not trying to build a bomb.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council—the U.S., Britain, France, Russia and China—along with Germany have engaged Iran on its nuclear program, most recently with a deal for it to ship enriched uranium to Russia for further processing as fuel for an aging reactor used for medical treatments. ...

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