



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



05 May 2009 – 18 May 2009

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Corps Cleanup Watched Closely

The Washington Times, 06 May 2009, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/>

The Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to conclude its ordnance cleanup in the Spring Valley area next year, but experts urged residents to make certain the work is thorough.

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

Pentagon Accelerates Schedule for Weapons Disposal at Blue Grass

The Lexington Herald-Leader, 07 May 2009, <http://www.kentucky.com/>

The Pentagon plans to speed up by more than three years the destruction of chemical weapons at Blue Grass Army Depot in Madison County...

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

Pentagon Requests \$550M for Weapons Destruction

Richmond Register, 07 May 2009, <http://www.richmondregister.com/>

The U.S. Defense Department has requested \$550.4 million in next year's budget for destruction of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Army Depot and at a Pueblo, Colorado, depot.

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

Weapons at Depot Now Last to Go

The Lexington Herald-Leader, 14 May 2009, <http://www.kentucky.com/>

The Pentagon says a chemical weapons storage site in Kentucky will be the nation's lone stockpile to miss a 2017 deadline imposed by Congress for destroying the deadly munitions.

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

Chemical Waste to be Treated at Pueblo

The Pueblo Chieftain, 15 May 2009, <http://www.chieftain.com/>

Army representatives said Thursday [April 14] that waste products from the destruction of chemical weapons will be biologically treated on-site at the Pueblo Chemical Depot.

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

Army Responds to Auditors' Challenge on Chemical Weapons Records

Superfund Report, 18 May 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The Army's Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), in a series of recently adopted measures, is stepping up efforts to accurately track chemical agents destroyed under its management at chemical weapons stockpiles around the country after Army auditors last year criticized the agency's record-keeping.

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



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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

CTBT Firmly Back on the Agenda of NPT's Member States

CTBTO, 12 May 2009, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

The Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference is currently holding its third meeting from 4 to 15 May 2009 in New York, United States. (426 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

FISSILE MATERIAL CUT-OFF TREATY (FMCT)

Nuclear Experts Present Draft Fissile Materials Cutoff Pact

Global Security Newswire, 12 May 2009, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

A panel of nuclear experts yesterday [May 11] presented a proposed version of a long-awaited international treaty to ban the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons. (1,055 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

The Nuclear Realists [OPINION]

The Wall Street Journal, 14 May 2009, <http://online.wsj.com/>

A bipartisan Congressional commission on U.S. nuclear strategy released its report last week, and it deserved more attention than it got. It delivered a candid message that not many want to hear: We're a long way from a nuclear-free world. (348 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Third Preparatory Committee for 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review

U.N. Office for Disarmament Affairs, 15 May 2009, <http://www.un.org/>

The Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held its third session from 4 to 15 May at United Nations Headquarters in New York. (593 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

Thirty Four Nations Meet in Miami to Discuss Weapons of Mass Destruction Trafficking Prevention

U.S. Fed News, 18 May 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

U.S. Southern Command and the Office of the Secretary of Defense are hosting a meeting in Miami from May 12-14 to address the illicit trade of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials. (376 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Russia Waits for U.S. Proposals on Stored Nuclear Warheads

RIA Novosti, 12 May 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Moscow is awaiting Washington's proposals on control over the number of nuclear warheads stored by both countries, Russia's foreign minister said on Tuesday [May 12]. (276 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. Warhead Disposal in 15-year Backlog

USA TODAY, 13 May 2009, <http://www.usatoday.com/>

President Obama plans deep new cuts in the U.S. nuclear arsenal at a time when the government faces a 15-year backlog of warheads already waiting to be dismantled and a need for billions of dollars in new facilities to store and dispose of the weapons' plutonium. (573 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Kazakhstan to Continue Destroying Old ICBM Launchers

Global Security Newswire, 14 May 2009, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

The Kazakh Senate yesterday [May 13] approved an amendment that would extend by seven years an agreement with the United States to destroy ICBM silo launchers left over from Kazakhstan's days as a Soviet republic, Interfax reported. (186 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia, United States to Open START Talks May 19 in Moscow

RIA Novosti, 15 May 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

The first round of full-format Russia-U.S. talks on a new strategic arms reduction treaty will be held on May 19-21 in Moscow, a Russian Foreign Ministry official said Friday [May 15].

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



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TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE)

Russia Offers to Revive European Arms-Control Deal

The Associated Press, 14 May 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Russia said Thursday it was proposing a new version of a key European arms-control treaty it suspended more than a year ago, and could once again honor the agreement if the U.S. and its NATO allies accept the changes. (423 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

TREATY ON OPEN SKIES

Lithuania Accuses Russia of Violating Airspace Treaty

Agence France Presse, 15 May 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Lithuania demanded an explanation Friday [May 15] amid accusations that Moscow had breached a confidence-building treaty by seizing Vilnius' copy of footage of a Russian military flight over the Baltic state. (246 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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Corps Cleanup Watched Closely

The Washington Times, 06 May 2009, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/>

The Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to conclude its ordnance cleanup in the Spring Valley area next year, but experts urged residents to make certain the work is thorough.

Members of a panel that gathered last week expressed particular concern about the threat to the city's drinking water supply because of high levels of perchlorate, which is used in explosives that were used around American University and Sibley Hospital and near the Delacarla Reservoir.

The panel, which convened at a meeting of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee, examined challenges confronting the cleanup of chemical military pollution in Spring Valley and at more than 200 other sites across the country. Chemical weapons were found in Spring Valley in 1993 during construction of a residential development. The university was a World War I chemical weapons research and experimental station.

Jeffrey Kraskin, a 50-year Spring Valley resident and a member in 2001 of the Health Policy Council of the Spring Valley Scientific Advisory Panel, served as panel moderator.

"We thought at the time that the discovery of chemical weapons in 1993 was the first modern-day find of munitions in our community," he said. "In reality, over the past 90 years, remnants of this amazing laboratory were known by our government and in the AU archives."

D.C. Council member Mary M. Cheh, Ward 3 Democrat, has scheduled a public hearing on the cleanup for May 11 at the Wilson Building.

Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Ginny Durrin is working on a documentary of the Spring Valley cleanup, called "Bombs in Our Backyard."

"The health issues need to be dealt with," she said, adding that indoor air testing is needed.

The issue that triggered the most reaction by the nearly 100 residents at the meeting was the potential threat to the area's water supply stemming from perchlorate that might be associated with still-buried chemical weapons.

Perchlorate is used in medicine to treat thyroid disorders, and it can be found in munitions, fireworks and air bags.

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The corps said it installed 38 monitoring wells in 2005 and 2006 to help determine whether the groundwater is contaminated and where it is flowing.

"Sampling results identified elevated levels of perchlorate. Further investigation is under way with more wells and sampling planned in 2009," the corps said on its Web site.

Erik Olson is a former deputy staff director for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and a specialist in public health and toxic substances.

"My concern is not the levels now, but where is the chemical coming from. Contamination appears to be moving slowly through the ground and eventually could be moving to the reservoir," he said. "We need comprehensive monitoring of the groundwater, comprehensive cleanup and full disclosure. We also need aggressive monitoring of our tap water to be sure it is safe."

An attempt by the Environmental Protection Agency to set national safety standards for perchlorate was derailed during the Bush administration. New EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, during her Senate confirmation hearings, committed to establishing new safety standards for perchlorate.

Harold Bailey, a Superfund lawyer who has represented U.S. municipalities, corporations and foreign governments dealing with the dangers of chemical, biological and conventional weapons testing and disposal, said: "What other states dealing with military pollution have learned is that they have to aggressively push the Army to be thorough and to commit the resources to do so. We need to learn from mistakes, not just play a blame game."

Nan Wells, an advisory neighborhood commissioner representing part of the Spring Valley community, expressed concern that much of the information about the cleanup cannot be shared with the public because of national security reasons.

"We have not been able to get a complete list of munitions and chemical weapons that have been uncovered and that are now stored behind Sibley Hospital," she said. "The information is restricted because of national security. So, you can store these things behind a hospital, near an assisted-living facility and near a residential community, but you can't tell the community what is stored there because it is so dangerous. Sometimes, the logic is challenging. ... We need the information to be public. We need to be able to report to the residents what is going on. As former President Ronald Reagan said, 'Trust, but verify.' That was a good motto then and it's a good motto now for our community."

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Pentagon Accelerates Schedule for Weapons Disposal at Blue Grass

The Lexington Herald-Leader, 07 May 2009, <http://www.kentucky.com/>

The Pentagon plans to speed up by more than three years the destruction of chemical weapons at Blue Grass Army Depot in Madison County, a move that includes an additional \$1.2 billion in construction at new disposal plants in Kentucky and Colorado, according to the Department of Defense.

Though the new Pentagon proposal includes a spending increase through 2015 to build the plants at the Blue Grass Army Depot and similar facility in Colorado, the Pentagon doesn't anticipate disposing of all of its chemical weapons until 2021—nearly a decade beyond the 2012 deadline set by the international Chemical Weapons Convention.

Kentucky lawmakers hailed the Pentagon's proposal as a step in the right direction.

"I am pleased that DoD has agreed with me about the importance of increasing funding for chemical weapons demilitarization," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

"The additional funding will help hasten the safe disposal of weapons at the Blue Grass Army Depot and once the acceleration options are implemented, I expect even more time can be cut from the schedule to bring it into compliance with the 2017 Congressional deadline."

The disposal of the old weapons stockpile at the Blue Grass facility is an on-going saga, one that has included battles over federal funding, a 2007 leak of sarin—a toxic, odorless and tasteless liquid nerve agent with a consistency similar to water—and continued grassroots efforts to better regulate and remove the waste.

"It got so bad in 2005 that the Kentucky and Colorado projects were put on 'caretaker status,' meaning no funds were available to move forward towards disposal," said Craig Williams of Berea, director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, an organization that has pushed for improved disposal.

In 2007, Congress approved a McConnell-backed measure that set a 2017 deadline on disposing of all chemical weapons stockpiles across the country.

The Pentagon's plans for the Kentucky and Colorado sites were always far behind that timetable. Most projections for those facilities didn't suggest starting disposal operations until 2017.

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In November, officials announced that the destruction of 157 gallons of nerve agent stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot would finally begin after more than a year of preparation and delays. However, just a few weeks after that announcement, an Army official overseeing the disposal of chemical weapons at Blue Grass said efforts were years off schedule, due to building redesign issues, and might not even start until 2021.

"This new funding announcement illustrates that the safety and well-being of the people of Central Kentucky is a priority in the Obama administration," said Rep. Ben Chandler, D-Versailles.

"Let's also hope that with this funding we can move up the timeline, bringing about a faster resolution to the destruction of this chemical weapons stockpile. This is a win for both Craig Williams and Sen. Mitch McConnell and a big win for the people of Madison County and the surrounding communities."

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Pentagon Requests \$550M for Weapons Destruction

Richmond Register, 07 May 2009, <http://www.richmondregister.com/>

The U.S. Defense Department has requested \$550.4 million in next year's budget for destruction of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Army Depot and at a Pueblo, Colorado, depot.

Previously, the department had projected a \$300.4 request to destroy the stockpiles.

"The Pentagon has stepped up in dramatic fashion and delivered on commitments it made to U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, last December to fully fund the chemical weapons disposal projects," said Craig Williams, director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group.

The weapons stored at the depot between Richmond and Berea and at the Colorado depot are to be "demilitarized" by chemical neutralization rather than incineration, as was done at other storage facilities.

The neutralization program, known as the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), has been "the misguided target of funding cuts for many years," Williams said.

"Inadequate funding has retarded progress towards eliminating the risks associated with the weapons and undermining the United States' commitments under an international treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention."

Since the decision on what technology to use at the ACWA sites was made in 2003, some Pentagon officials had repeatedly sought to undercut the ACWA budget, Williams said.

"It got so bad in 2005 that the Kentucky and Colorado projects were put on 'caretaker status,' meaning no funds were available to move towards disposal," he said.

Repeated efforts by the Kentucky and Colorado Congressional delegations, spearheaded by McConnell, have kept the program funded at levels needed to make some progress, Williams said, "Now, a more vigorous effort can be made to destroy the weapons."

The latest Pentagon request bodes well for future funding, according to Williams, McConnell and U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler, D-Ky.

"It was critical that the Defense Department seek adequate funding in its 2010 budget, and it is equally critical that Congress follow through on the appropriation," Williams said. "Otherwise,

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communities around these two depots will remain at risk and the United States will fail to meet its treaty obligations."

In 2007, Congress mandated that all chemical weapons in the United States be destroyed by 2017—five years beyond an already extended treaty deadline. At previously projected funding levels, the weapons would not have been destroyed until 2023. If the latest Pentagon request is funded, destruction could be completed by 2020, Williams said.

He said ACWA and its contractors, along with Kentucky and Colorado citizens advisory commissions, continue to look at options to expedite demilitarization at both locations while ensuring safety to the workforce and surrounding communities.

In a statement to the CWWG, McConnell said, "If acceleration options are implemented, I expect even more time can be cut from the schedule to bring it into compliance with the 2017 Congressional deadline."

U.S. Ben Chandler, D-Sixth District, told the CWWG, "If this request is funded, we can move the timeline forward, bringing about a faster resolution to the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile. This is a big win for the people of Madison County and the surrounding communities."

Williams said an accelerated schedule could realize a savings of almost a billion dollars over the life of the projects.

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Weapons at Depot Now Last to Go

The Lexington Herald-Leader, 14 May 2009, <http://www.kentucky.com/>

The Pentagon says a chemical weapons storage site in Kentucky will be the nation's lone stockpile to miss a 2017 deadline imposed by Congress for destroying the deadly munitions.

Although Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond holds just 2 percent of the World War II-era rockets set to be eliminated under an international treaty, it will be the last to start the process and the last to finish, according to a report sent to Congress.

Under the estimate, Blue Grass will begin destroying its weapons in 2019 and finish in 2021. Another storage site in Pueblo, Colorado, that also plans to use chemical neutralization rather than incineration will begin in 2014 and end in 2017.

Jean Reed, the Pentagon's deputy assistant for biological defense and chemical demilitarization, said it is impossible for either site to achieve a 2012 destruction deadline mandated under the international treaty. However, 90 percent of the American stockpile will be destroyed by then, using incinerators at other sites, he said.

In the report to Congress, the Defense Department also addressed the possible shipment of chemical warfare agent hydrolysate, the by-product of neutralizing the agents, off-site to incineration facilities far away from the stockpile locations in Pueblo and Blue Grass. On-site destruction of hydrolysate at Pueblo and Blue Grass will continue, unless technical difficulties arise, according to a news release.

"This is yet another piece of good news for Madison County and Central Kentucky," Rep. Ben Chandler, D-Versailles, said in the release. "Disposing of hydrolysate at BGAD not only eliminates the possibility of an accident during transport, but also keeps this work in the experienced hands of the hard-working people of Kentucky."

That decision, which was reached after years of studies and recommendations from government officials, was made to comply with the original plan to treat the material on-site.

"This has been a key issue of concern for this community and we have consistently opposed putting this material on the highways, recognizing the risks associated with such movement," Madison County Judge-Executive Kent Clark said.

The destruction date for the deadly munitions in Colorado and Kentucky has been a moving target for years.

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Reed said he was confident that this one will stick but made no promises. ... Reed said delays were partly due to increased construction costs and the redesign of a building at the Blue Grass Army Depot that will be used in the destruction of the munitions.

The new finish date is two years earlier for Blue Grass and three years earlier for Pueblo than a projection made last fall. That is because President Barack Obama's budget request calls for a major funding boost for the program—including \$250 million more in 2010.

Reed said additional money beyond that wouldn't be able to further speed up the time frame, but less could slow it down.

While the Pueblo stockpile is larger than the one in Richmond, it houses only mustard agent. Blue Grass is more complicated because it also holds VX and GB.

When one steel container holding liquid sarin leaked at Blue Grass, an emergency operation was conducted to destroy it and two others ahead of schedule. Reed said that operation had no bearing on the timetable for destroying the larger stockpile.

Carmen Spencer, deputy assistant of the Army for elimination of chemical weapons, said the mustard rockets in Kentucky will be last to go under the program.

"It is the priority of the department to destroy nerve agent projectiles first because they represent the greatest potential risk to the public," he said.

Congress last year set its 2017 deadline for destroying all weapons after a request from Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican.

Craig Williams of the watchdog group Chemical Weapons Working Group said he had been holding the Pentagon to that date. Although he acknowledged disappointment that deadline now will be missed for Kentucky, he said he was hopeful the new schedule is achievable.

"What we've got today is finally a definitive projection of what we're looking at," Williams said.

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Chemical Waste to be Treated at Pueblo

The Pueblo Chieftain, 15 May 2009, <http://www.chieftain.com/>

Army representatives said Thursday [April 14] that waste products from the destruction of chemical weapons will be biologically treated on-site at the Pueblo Chemical Depot.

Money added to the defense budget allows for the process, said Jean Reed, Army deputy assistant for chemical demilitarization in a phone interview Thursday. An additional \$250 million was added to the 2010 budget, bringing the amount to \$545.2 million.

"The money will be used to increase labor costs," he said. "Actual destruction operations in Pueblo will start in the fourth quarter of 2014 and conclude in the fourth quarter of 2017, with the work being done 24/7."

The 2017 date is one mandated by Congress for the completion of the project, missing the treaty date with Russia by five years. The United States had based that date on moving the waste, known as hydrolysate, off the depot. But such a move would be problematic if not impossible Reed said, because of individual states blocking the waste from traveling through their boundaries.

"There's no realistic option for 2012," Reed said. "The transportation's not the only reason. We are also precluded by law." He said the boost in funding and decision to bio-treat the waste in Pueblo accelerated the process by as many as three years, from a 2020 completion estimate.

But, he warned, any completion estimate is contingent on year-to-year funding by Congress. "We're fully committed to a 2017 date," Reed said. "But don't buy any lottery tickets on them."

The Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Ky., will begin its destruction process in 2019 and be completed in 2021. Like Pueblo, Blue Grass has mustard agents, but also houses nerve agents. Pueblo has mostly 1.55 mm howitzer canisters of mustard agent, about 780,000 projectiles in all, said Carmen Spencer, another Army chemical weapons specialist.

Ross Vincent, local chairman of the Sierra Club and member of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission, was happy about the news. "This is good news for Pueblo," he said Thursday. "Because some bureaucrat in Washington wanted to save a buck, they wanted to truck the waste to a plant near a poor neighborhood in Port Arthur, Texas.

"This will be good for Pueblo jobs (since another plant will be built and jobs to operate the plant will be needed) and addresses environmental justice issues."

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Asked whether he was hopeful the long-delayed process is finally on track, Vincent said, "I am as hopeful as I've ever been. We have a congressman (Rep. John Salazar) on the (House) Appropriations Committee, a senator (Mark Udall) on the (Senate) Armed Services Committee and a committed congressional delegation."

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Army Responds to Auditors' Challenge on Chemical Weapons Records

Superfund Report, 18 May 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The Army's Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), in a series of recently adopted measures, is stepping up efforts to accurately track chemical agents destroyed under its management at chemical weapons stockpiles around the country after Army auditors last year criticized the agency's record-keeping. CMA says it has taken corrective action to ensure the accuracy of its records.

The auditors in their August 26 report, obtained by Inside EPA via a Freedom of Information Act request, did not suggest that chemical agents scheduled for destruction were unaccounted for, but did find flaws in CMA's record-keeping. Specifically, they found fault with records on so-called ton containers that hold agents such as mustard at stockpile sites in one-ton drums, rather than actual munitions. Documentation showing chemical agents have been destroyed is crucial to meeting the requirements of an international treaty known as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which is binding on the United States.

In the report, Agent Accountability at Chemical Agent Disposal Facilities, the auditors conclude: "Our review showed that amounts recorded as destroyed in the Chemical Accountability Management Information Network (CAMIN) weren't always accurate for chemical agent filled ton containers."

"As a result, the agency didn't have complete assurance that amounts recorded in the system were accurate which increased its chances for heightened levels of program scrutiny by federal, State and international organizations that have a vested interest in the elimination of chemical weapons," the auditors say. The report is available on InsideEPA.com.

The auditors say the primary cause of the discrepancies found was inaccurate weighing of ton containers exacerbated by the hardened "heels" of agent that form in the containers.

CMA did not contest the findings and now says it has taken action to improve record-keeping by accounting for destruction of both the drained agent and "heels." After adjusting for the "heels," CMA says it "has reviewed procedures for recording ton container agent destruction in CAMIN and has determined the amount of agent listed on the Certificate of Destruction as demilitarized is the amount in CAMIN, the official accountable record," CMA says in a written response to questions.

After its review, CMA concluded that "no regulatory changes are needed," the response adds. However, in its formal response to the auditor's report, CMA acknowledges the importance of

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CAMIN numbers being accurate, as these are sent to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which monitors the country's compliance with the CWC.

"Adjusting the weights of the ton containers in CAMIN would require, at a minimum, a supplemental treaty declaration," the CMA says, suggesting instead that "an 'Ad Hoc' report within CAMIN is capable of showing the variances from the declared weight on record and the drained weight and the residual agent heel destroyed."

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CTBT Firmly Back on the Agenda of NPT's Member States

CTBTO, 12 May 2009, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

The Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference is currently holding its third meeting from 4 to 15 May 2009 in New York, United States. The meeting is marked by a positive attitude towards the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Almost all delegations—including the United States—emphasized the importance of the CTBT and its early entry into force. This positive approach towards the CTBT contributed to the overall positive atmosphere at the meeting leading to, among other important decisions, the adoption of the 2010 Review Conference agenda.

In his address to the Conference, Executive Secretary Tibor Tóth highlighted the CTBT's role for strengthening the NPT: "Progress on the CTBT's entry into force is one of the most important catalysts ... progress can be achieved in a relatively short time. The Treaty already exists. It has been signed by 180 and ratified by almost 150 States. Its verification regime is close to completion. And it has been tried and tested."

Tóth also met bilaterally with several delegations to discuss pending ratifications and prospects for entry into force. Nine countries have yet to ratify the CTBT for its entry into force: China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Israel and the United States have already signed the Treaty, whereas the DPRK, India and Pakistan have not yet signed it. United States Assistant Secretary of State for Verification, Compliance and Verification, Rose Gottemoeller, assured Tóth that the Obama administration is making the necessary preparations for the U.S. ratification process. He received a similar assurance about China's ratification from Ambassador Cheng Jingye, Director-General of Arms Control and Disarmament at the Chinese Foreign Ministry. Tóth also met with Heads of Delegation from Egypt and Indonesia and impressed upon them the urgency of their ratifications.

A central theme of Tóth's statements and bilateral meetings was his emphasis on the importance of the upcoming Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty on 24 and 25 September 2009, which he described as potentially the largest gathering of foreign ministers in the area of nonproliferation and disarmament. In his meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Executive Secretary was assured of the U.N.'s full support for the Treaty. Mr. Ban Ki-moon agreed to convene the September Conference at the highest possible level and confirmed his own interest to make a statement at the meeting.

Tóth also met with Academy Award winning actor/producer and UN Messenger for Peace, Michael Douglas. Mr. Douglas expressed strong support for the objectives of the CTBT and emphasized his willingness to support initiatives leading to the Treaty's entry into force.

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Nuclear Experts Present Draft Fissile Materials Cutoff Pact

Global Security Newswire, 12 May 2009, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

A panel of nuclear experts yesterday presented a proposed version of a long-awaited international treaty to ban the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons. The 27-page document, prepared by the International Panel on Fissile Materials, covers the definition, verification, implementation and organization issues associated with such a pact.

"We worked on a draft treaty as a kind of exercise for how could you do it," former Dutch diplomat and arms control negotiator Arend Meerburg said during a panel discussion at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Negotiation of a fissile material cutoff treaty was endorsed without a dissenting vote in 1993 by the U.N. General Assembly, said Princeton public and international affairs professor Frank von Hippel, co-chairman of the study group. Talks at the Conference on Disarmament have stalled over the years largely due to disagreements on verifying the terms of the pact and whether it should ban the use of pre-existing nuclear material stocks for weapons, he said.

U.S. President Barack Obama said last month that establishing a cutoff treaty would be one of the "concrete steps toward a world without nuclear weapons."

"To cut off the building blocks needed for a bomb, the United States will seek a new treaty that verifiably ends the production of fissile material intended for use in state nuclear weapons," the president said in an April 5 speech in Prague. "If we are serious about stopping the spread of these weapons, then we should put an end to the dedicated production of weapons-grade materials that create them. That's the first step."

The five nuclear powers designated by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States—observe a self-imposed moratorium on the production of fissile material for weapons. There is uncertainty surrounding other nuclear arsenal holders India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea, von Hippel said.

Meerburg said the panel supported a total halt to production of fissile materials for weapons. This approach would lead to nuclear reprocessing plants and programs being dismantled, rather than "standing idle" and eventually converted to civilian use, he explained.

The draft treaty designates plutonium, enriched uranium, neptunium and americium as the covered fissile materials. The last two materials have not been included in previous nuclear treaties but "should have been added a long time ago," according to Meerburg. The draft treaty

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states neptunium and americium also could be used for "weapons manufacture and are therefore sometimes referred to as 'alternative nuclear [weapons] materials.'"

The document also defines what it means to produce fissile materials, including separating fissile materials from irradiated nuclear material through reprocessing or any other process; increasing the weighted concentration of uranium 235 and uranium 233 in any mixture of uranium isotopes to a level equivalent to or greater than 20 percent; or increasing the fraction of plutonium by any isotopic separation process.

Verification "challenges" for ensuring a full halt to production of weapon-purposed fissile materials would be found at sites including shuttered nuclear facilities, active uranium enrichment or plutonium reprocessing plants and military nuclear sites, according to Alexander Glasser, a scholar at Princeton's Program on Science and Global Security. All such sites would require on-site inspections, he said.

The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty should be the "benchmark" for verification under a fissile material treaty, Glasser said. The draft treaty says each member state must accept the International Atomic Energy Agency's verification safeguards.

The document proposes the creation of a "Conference of State Parties" to enforce a possible treaty. Meerburg was adamant that the study group wanted to avoid standing up a large organization because they envision verification work being performed by the U.N. nuclear watchdog.

"We need to form a place where the state parties can meet, if needed, and maybe then only once a year, just before the general conference of the [International Atomic Energy Agency]," the former ambassador explained. "It's a safety valve for if things go wrong." The panel imagined a small secretariat in Vienna handling a bulk of the treaty work, he said.

Perhaps as important as what is contained in the draft treaty is what is left out. For instance, the document shies away from a requirement in place for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which requires ratification by 44 specific nations before entering into force.

Instead, a fissile materials treat would take effect upon "ratification by [40] states including at least [four] states with at least one significant quantity of unsafeguarded fissile material as determined by the [International Atomic Energy Agency] director general," the document states.

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To demand that 44 particular countries sign on is "not such a good idea for this Treaty," Meerburg said. "It would lead to a very long delay. We think it would be more important to have at least a number of nuclear weapons states involved so you can further develop the regime change necessary and put pressure, after some time, on nuclear countries that have not joined immediately."

He said that treaty membership by any combination of the five NPT nuclear powers would influence other states that possess nuclear arsenals but "to have it as condition that all eight or nine countries have to be part would mean you are very far away from enforcing this treaty also," according to Meerburg.

When the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty was first opened for signature in 1968, organizers did not wait for countries recognized as nuclear weapon states to sign on before the document could be enforced, said Zia Mian, a scholar at Princeton's Program on Science and Global Security. France and China did not enter the compact "for a very long time," Mian said.

Developing verification procedures and gaining the momentum "required to have the treaty enforced and not limited by the politics of the most reluctant countries would be a benefit," Mian said.

Von Hippel concluded that while the technical challenges of verification for a possible fissile materials treaty are "significant," they are not as daunting as the political challenges of negotiating such a compact.

He said Russia likely would soon consider such a treaty while the United Kingdom and France are "quite interested." He said China was interested at one point. India and Pakistan "are not ready" and would have to be "encouraged to join," and Israel has declared that a fissile materials treaty would not solve the "problem" with Iran's nuclear program.

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The Nuclear Realists [OPINION]

The Wall Street Journal, 14 May 2009, <http://online.wsj.com/>

A bipartisan Congressional commission on U.S. nuclear strategy released its report last week, and it deserved more attention than it got. It delivered a candid message that not many want to hear: We're a long way from a nuclear-free world.

Led by former Defense Secretaries William Perry and James Schlesinger, the commission is blunt on this point: "The conditions that might make possible the global elimination of nuclear weapons are not present today and their creation would require a fundamental transformation of the world political order." Until then, the report says, the U.S. must have a strong and credible nuclear deterrent.

To do so, the U.S. must maintain its triad of nuclear-delivery systems—bombers, missiles and submarines—a course of action that will require some "difficult investment choices." It also calls for modernization of the U.S. nuclear stockpile and the "transformation" of the aging physical and intellectual capital of the national nuclear laboratories.

The commission doesn't directly endorse the now-canceled Reliable Replacement Warhead program—a political hot potato that President Obama rejects and Defense Secretary Robert Gates supports. But it does so indirectly by countering two of the arguments against it—that it might lead to the need for nuclear testing and that it might undermine U.S. credibility on nonproliferation. The commission finds both risks to be minimal.

The commission warns that "we may be close to a tipping point" as more countries seek to go nuclear, in part because they may not have confidence in the reliability of U.S. nuclear weapons or that the U.S. would be willing to use them. It supports a "strengthening" of the international treaty system, including the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, as well as nontreaty efforts such as the Proliferation Security Initiative. It also endorses a strong missile defense—including against more "complex" threats, such as technologies that help incoming missiles penetrate U.S. defenses. It couldn't reach a consensus on the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty, which Mr. Obama wants the Senate to ratify.

The commission's recommendations provide a welcome dose of nuclear realism. The Administration and Congress ignore them at the nation's peril.

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Third Preparatory Committee for 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review

U.N. Office for Disarmament Affairs, 15 May 2009, <http://www.un.org/>

The Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held its third session from 4 to 15 May at United Nations Headquarters in New York. This was the last of three sessions of the Preparatory Committee that will be held prior to the 2010 Review Conference.

This session, which was open to all parties to the Treaty, observer States, specialized agencies, international and regional intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, addressed both substantive and procedural issues related to the Treaty and the upcoming Review Conference in 2010. The 10 days of meetings were chaired by Ambassador Boniface G. Chidyausiku of Zimbabwe.

One hundred nineteen States parties participated in this third session. Palestine participated as an observer, as did the following specialized agencies and international and regional intergovernmental organizations: the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, the European Commission, the League of Arab States, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive-Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. Representatives of the United Nations attended the session and provided secretarial support.

The purpose of this session was to prepare for the 2010 Review Conference by taking into account the deliberations and results of the previous two sessions held in 2007 and 2008, and to conclude various procedural issues for the 2010 Review Conference, while also making every effort to produce a consensus report containing recommendations to the Review Conference.

Following a general exchange of views on all aspects of the implementation of the Treaty, during which more than 60 statements were made, the Committee's early meetings were devoted to the procedural issues for the Review Conference in 2010, which were successfully finalized at the session. This includes the provisional agenda and draft rules of procedure, as well as the unanimous endorsement of the candidacy of Ambassador Libran N. Cabactulan of the Philippines for the presidency of the 2010 Review Conference.

The meeting also decided that the 2010 Review Conference will be held from 3 to 28 May in New York.

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Several meetings were dedicated to substantive discussion on the following three clusters of issues: the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, disarmament and international peace and security; non-proliferation, nuclear-weapon-free zones and safeguards; and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Within this framework, the Committee also discussed security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; regional issues, including the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and reaffirmed in the final document of the 2000 Review Conference; and other provisions of the Treaty such as Article X on withdrawal from the Treaty.

In the margins of the meeting more than 50 side events were held by States parties, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, which included film screenings, discussions on the nuclear fuel cycle, disarmament and non-proliferation education, IAEA safeguards and prospects for nuclear weapons abolition. Seventy-seven non-governmental organizations participated in the session with more than a dozen addressing the Committee in a meeting set aside specifically for their presentations.

The Treaty, which entered into force in 1970 and was extended indefinitely in 1995, requires that review conferences be held every five years. The Treaty is regarded as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. Its objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament, and to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

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Thirty Four Nations Meet in Miami to Discuss Weapons of Mass Destruction Trafficking Prevention

U.S. Fed News, 18 May 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The U.S. Department of Defense's Southern Command issued the following press release:

U.S. Southern Command and the Office of the Secretary of Defense are hosting a meeting in Miami from May 12-14 to address the illicit trade of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and related materials. Dr. Gary Samore, Special Assistant to the President and White House Coordinator for Arms Control and Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism delivered the keynote speech to attendees Tuesday.

"President Obama has pledged to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons," said Samore. "However, we cannot achieve this objective if, while we are seeking to rid ourselves of nuclear weapons and other forms of weapons of mass destruction, others are pursuing their acquisition with equal if not greater vigor. It is for this reason that the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) remains a critical component of international nonproliferation policy."

The meeting includes the participation of experts from around the world in an effort to share best practices and strengthen capabilities among countries that share a commitment to the PSI. PSI is a global effort to stop trafficking WMD, its delivery systems, and related materials to and from states and non-state actors of proliferation concern. Thirty-four countries are attending the meeting in downtown Miami. The U.S. last hosted a PSI Operational Experts Group Meeting three years ago with representatives from 20 nations. Today, more than 90 nations support PSI including the following from the Western Hemisphere: U.S., Canada, Argentina, the Bahamas, Belize, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, and Paraguay.

The multinational meeting provides a venue to enhance the WMD interdiction capabilities, organize PSI exercises to improve interoperability, and strengthen security relationships in the region and around the world. Ambassador Paul Trivelli, Civilian Deputy to the Commander and Foreign Policy Adviser at U.S. Southern Command, is scheduled to address the delegates in attendance Thursday.

"Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States share a collective interest in preventing the proliferation of WMD in our hemisphere," said Trivelli, former U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua, commenting on the importance of this week's event. "Regional PSI events like the meetings and training exercises SOUTHCOM hosts help us to better coordinate efforts to interdict trafficking and shut down the networks that profit from illicit trade."

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Russia Waits for U.S. Proposals on Stored Nuclear Warheads

RIA Novosti, 12 May 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Moscow is awaiting Washington's proposals on control over the number of nuclear warheads stored by both countries, Russia's foreign minister said on Tuesday [May 12].

According to some sources, the U.S. is not planning to include control over currently stored nuclear warheads in the provisions of a new strategic arms reductions treaty aimed to replace the START treaty due to expire in December this year.

"As to stored nuclear warheads, it is important to understand how they will be counted [toward the new limit]. We are waiting for U.S. proposals in order to analyze them in line with the principle of equally-assured security," Sergei Lavrov told reporters on Tuesday.

"We are not saying 'no' to the current U.S. standpoint. We want to wait and see how the U.S. formulates it in legal terms. We are convinced that the new treaty must cover all [nuclear] warheads and all delivery vehicles," the minister added.

The first round of "full-format" talks on the new treaty is due to take place in Moscow on May 18, with the aim of drawing up a draft deal before Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama meet in July.

Russia and the United States have a good chance of reaching an agreement on the Treaty by the end of the year, Lavrov said.

"The informal rounds of talks ... have helped both countries understand that they have a good chance of overcoming differences and agreeing terms on controls over strategic offensive weapons and global nonproliferation," he said.

Lavrov recently visited the U.S. to prepare for the Obama-Medvedev summit and met with Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other officials.

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U.S. Warhead Disposal in 15-year Backlog

USA TODAY, 13 May 2009, <http://www.usatoday.com/>

President Obama plans deep new cuts in the U.S. nuclear arsenal at a time when the government faces a 15-year backlog of warheads already waiting to be dismantled and a need for billions of dollars in new facilities to store and dispose of the weapons' plutonium.

The logjam of thousands of retired warheads will grow considerably based on a promise made in April by Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to get their stockpiles far below levels set by current disarmament pacts.

Yet much of the infrastructure needed to dispose of those weapons don't exist yet, according to federal audits and other records reviewed by USA TODAY.

Dismantling the retired warheads—not counting the additional weapons that Obama wants to eliminate—will take until 2024, according to the National Nuclear Security Administration, which runs the weapons program. The schedule for disposing of the plutonium cores from those weapons runs past 2030.

Building the necessary plants and storage facilities "is expensive ... (and) is going to take a long time," says Linton Brooks, a former arms negotiator who headed the nuclear security administration from 2002 to 2007. "That doesn't stop the president from taking more warheads off missiles and bombers and (adding to) the backlog. It means the queue gets a lot longer."

Among the challenges:

- The Texas storage site for the plutonium "pits" from dismantled weapons could have capacity shortages by 2014, according to an inspector general audit earlier this year and a separate 2008 report by a federal oversight board.
- A plant to convert those pits into a form that can be processed into fuel for nuclear power reactors—the current disposal plan—hasn't been sited and isn't slated to be built until 2021. Projected cost: nearly \$4 billion.
- A \$4.8 billion plant being built to do final processing of the plutonium into mixed oxide reactor fuel at the Savannah River (S.C.) nuclear weapons site isn't slated to be running until 2016.

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Obama's 2010 budget plan would boost spending for weapons disposition by \$4 million, or 5 percent, to \$84 million, according to the nuclear administration.

Timelines for eliminating the current backlog of retired warheads and the added weapons Obama wants to cut will depend on how far the reductions ultimately go, says Tom D'Agostino, head of the nuclear administration. He notes that a "nuclear posture review," due this fall, will help determine how much more storage and dismantlement capacity is needed.

"There are infrastructure hurdles, but ... until that review is done, substantial infrastructure changes would be premature," D'Agostino says. "I'm very impressed with the dismantlement rate," he adds, noting it has risen more than 150 percent since 2006.

Specific disassembly figures are secret, but a study of available data by the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Federation of American Scientists finds that, despite the rate increase, the Bush administration dismantled the fewest warheads per year since the Eisenhower era. About 2,700 warheads remain deployed, 2,500 are in operational reserve and 4,200 are awaiting disassembly, the report says. Cuts by Obama could add a few thousand to that.

"No effort has really been made to transform (the nuclear weapons program) to meet the mission of nuclear weapons elimination," says Robert Alvarez, a scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies and former senior adviser at the Energy Department, which oversees the nuclear administration. Program funds "have gone mostly to maintain what we now recognize is an oversized nuclear stockpile."

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Kazakhstan to Continue Destroying Old ICBM Launchers

Global Security Newswire, 14 May 2009, <http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/>

The Kazakh Senate yesterday [May 13] approved an amendment that would extend by seven years an agreement with the United States to destroy ICBM silo launchers left over from Kazakhstan's days as a Soviet republic, Interfax reported.

The amendment to the agreement, which also covers nuclear proliferation prevention and responses to emergencies, now awaits the signature of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

A Kazakh official yesterday also told senators of ongoing efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring potential radiological "dirty bomb" material from a Soviet-era nuclear test site, Interfax reported. The government has reinforced physical barriers and plans to deploy 200 additional troops to guard tunnels at the shuttered Semipalatinsk site in eastern Kazakhstan.

"One hundred and eighty-one tunnels were once closed down on the Degelen site," Aset Magauov, deputy energy and mineral resources minister, told the Senate. "But after September 11, the United States raised the issue of strengthening the physical barriers in them. An agreement was signed precisely for this reason and we continued this work with the United States' financial backing and with Russia's technical assistance to lift all potential threats of 'dirty bombs' emerging."

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



05 May 2009 – 18 May 2009

DTRA

Russia, United States to Open START Talks May 19 in Moscow

RIA Novosti, 15 May 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

The first round of full-format Russia-U.S. talks on a new strategic arms reduction treaty will be held on May 19-21 in Moscow, a Russian Foreign Ministry official said Friday [May 15].

He said they would be "the first substantive discussion" of a new treaty, not "simply an exchange of opinions."

The Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty (START), signed in 1991, makes it incumbent on Russia and the United States to reduce nuclear warheads to 6,000 and their delivery vehicles to 1,600 each. The treaty expires on December 5 this year.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said last month that any new deal to replace START must also cover delivery systems.

Medvedev and U.S. President Barack Obama agreed at their first meeting in London in April on an immediate start to talks on a new strategic arms reduction treaty.

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



05 May 2009 – 18 May 2009

DTRA

Russia Offers to Revive European Arms-Control Deal

The Associated Press, 14 May 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Russia said Thursday [May 14] it was proposing a new version of a key European arms-control treaty it suspended more than a year ago, and could once again honor the agreement if the U.S. and its NATO allies accept the changes.

The statement by Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko signaled that the Kremlin hopes for better ties with Washington under President Barack Obama. Nesterenko said Russia is proposing to negotiate revisions in the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty with the U.S. He added that other nations could also join the talks.

The 1990 treaty limits the number of tanks, aircraft and other heavy non-nuclear weapons that could be deployed west of the Ural Mountains the edge of European Russia. A new revised version was signed in 1999, but NATO countries have not ratified it and in 2007 Russia suspended its participation.

"Russia believes that chances to revive the treaty still exist," Nesterenko said at a briefing. He said Russia had formally submitted its proposals for changes in the treaty to other partners in the CFE treaty earlier this month.

Russia said the original treaty became obsolete after several former Soviet republics and satellite nations joined NATO. Former President Vladimir Putin, who now serves as a powerful prime minister, has said that the CFE treaty limited the nation's ability to respond to threats on its own territory. Putin once likened the restrictions Russia faces under the existing treaty to a situation in which the U.S. would have to seek Russian approval before it sent troops from California to Texas.

The West has insisted that Russia must honor a promise to pull out its troops from Georgia and the breakaway region of Trans-Dniester in Moldova before NATO moves to ratify the revised treaty. Russia shrugged off the demands as irrelevant.

Nesterenko said Russia wants to remove "discriminatory" restrictions on deployment of military forces on its territory, to lower weapons numbers and to make sure that new NATO members observe the revised treaty.

"A U.S.-Russian draft package solution, if substantially improved, could serve as a basis for breaking the deadlock," Nesterenko said. "The main task is to make it really well-balanced."

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



05 May 2009 – 18 May 2009

DTRA

Russia's ties with the U.S. plummeted to a post-Cold War low under the Bush administration amid sharp disputes over American missile defense plans and Russia's war with Georgia in August.

The Obama administration has signaled a desire to improve ties with Moscow and sought to quickly negotiate a successor deal to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, which expires at year's end.

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



05 May 2009 – 18 May 2009

DTRA

Lithuania Accuses Russia of Violating Airspace Treaty

Agence France Presse, 15 May 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Lithuania demanded an explanation Friday [May 15] amid accusations that Moscow had breached a confidence-building treaty by seizing Vilnius' copy of footage of a Russian military flight over the Baltic state.

The defense ministry said in a statement that Russian officials had committed a "serious violation" by confiscating a tape of a May 7 overflight of Lithuanian territory by Moscow's arms control experts and representatives of Belarus.

Foreign ministry spokesman Rolandas Kacinskas told the Baltic News Service that Russia's embassy in Vilnius had been summoned to explain the incident, which Defense Minister Rasa Juknevičienė said she hoped was simply a "blunder".

The flight footage was seized Thursday at Moscow's international airport from members of the Lithuanian military, the defense ministry said.

Under the Open Skies Treaty—which was brokered a year after the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union to help reduce East-West tensions and came into force in 2002—the signatory nations may conduct surveillance flights in one another's airspace to verify that arms control agreements are being respected.

A country's flights reports are meant to be available to the other 33 States Parties, and representatives of the surveyed country are present while the footage is developed and obtain a copy of it. ...

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