



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

## GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

### **A Comprehensive Nuclear Arms Strategy [OPINION]**

*L.A. Times, 07 April 2010, <http://www.latimes.com/>*

*By Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States*

Today, the danger of deliberate, global nuclear war has all but disappeared, but the nuclear threats we face from terrorists and non-nuclear states seeking to acquire such weapons are graver than ever. (693 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Disposal of Plutonium from U.S.-Russian Disarmament is Likely to Take Decades**

*The New York Times, 08 April 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>*

The plutonium that is the key ingredient in thousands of nuclear weapons sidelined in the new arms control treaty between the United States and Russia is likely to be around for decades at least, according to experts. (945 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Key Facts about the Nuclear Security Summit**

*The White House, 13 April 2010, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>*

Not since 1945 has a U.S. President hosted a gathering of so many Heads of State and Government. This unprecedented meeting is to address an unprecedented threat—the threat of nuclear materials in the hands of terrorists or criminals. (1,442 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Lavrov Signed the 2000 Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement**

*Office of the Spokesman, 13 April 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>*

The Protocol signed today by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov marks a further major step in U.S. and Russian efforts to eliminate nuclear-weapon-grade materials, thereby making nuclear arms reductions irreversible and reducing nuclear dangers. (301 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### **Army Achieves Major Program Milestone**

*U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 19 April 2010, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>*

Today, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) announced that it completed its mission to destroy all non-stockpile material declared when the United States entered into the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). (487 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

DTRA

## COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

### **World Leaders Reinforce the Importance of CTBT Entry into Force**

CTBTO, 19 April 2010, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

The U.S. chief negotiator of the CTBT, Ambassador Stephen Ledogar, expands on a number of key issues from the Treaty's negotiations, which continue to be relevant for today's debate.

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

## FISSILE MATERIAL CUTOFF TREATY (FMCT)

### **UN Chief Urges Treaty to Ban Nuclear Material**

Associated Press, 12 April 2010, <http://www.bostonherald.com/>

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday urged negotiations to start immediately on a new treaty banning production of nuclear bomb material. (399 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

### **Building Blocks towards a Successful NPT Review Conference: CTBTO**

CTBTO, 14 April 2010, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

"The successful Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, the conclusion of the new strategic arms reduction treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States (New START), and the release of a revised U.S. Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) seeking to reduce the number and role of nuclear weapons are three substantial building blocks towards a successful Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)." (400 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

## STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

### **Obama, Medvedev Say Arms Treaty Marks New Era of Cooperation**

Bloomberg, 09 April 2010, <http://www.bloomberg.com/>

U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a treaty to cut their nuclear arsenals in a ceremony that both men said marks a new era of cooperation between the two nations. (846 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

## STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)(CONT.)

### **Senate May Not Approve START until Early 2011**

*Reuters, 13 April 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>*

It may be early next year before the U.S. Senate approves a major arms reduction treaty that President Barack Obama signed last week with Russia, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said on Tuesday. (357 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

### **What Is Meant By Strategic Arms: Protocol to the New Russian-U.S. START Treaty**

*RIA Novosti, 15 April 2010, <http://en.rian.ru/>*

The new START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) bilateral nuclear arms reduction treaty between Russia and the United States was signed by Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama on April 8, 2010 in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. (646 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

## FULL TEXT OF WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

 [back to top](#)

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**DTRA**

## **A Comprehensive Nuclear Arms Strategy [OPINION]**

*L.A. Times, 07 April 2010, <http://www.latimes.com/>*

*By Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States*

When I joined the Senate in 1973, crafting nuclear policy meant mastering arcane issues like nuclear stability and deterrence theory. With the end of the Cold War and a new relationship between our country and Russia, thankfully these subjects no longer dominate public discourse. Today, the danger of deliberate, global nuclear war has all but disappeared, but the nuclear threats we face from terrorists and non-nuclear states seeking to acquire such weapons are graver than ever.

On Tuesday, President Obama took an important step toward addressing these threats by releasing a plan that will reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy while ensuring that our nuclear arsenal remains safe, secure and effective for as long as it is needed. The Nuclear Posture Review outlines a strategy, supported unanimously by the national security cabinet, for greater security from nuclear dangers and implements the agenda that President Obama first outlined in Prague just over a year ago to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and to pursue the peace and security of a world without them.

This new strategy, a sharp departure from previous Nuclear Posture Reviews released in 2001 and 1994, leaves Cold War thinking behind. It recognizes that the greatest threat to U.S. and global security is no longer a nuclear exchange between nations, but nuclear terrorism by extremists and the spread of nuclear weapons to an increasing number of states. From now on, decisions about the number of weapons we have and how they are deployed will take nonproliferation and counter-terrorism into account, rather than being solely based on the objective of stable deterrence.

The review contains a clear rationale for the reductions called for under the New START treaty—a 30 percent reduction from the previous agreement. Because of advances in conventional capabilities and technologies such as missile defense, we need fewer nuclear weapons to deter adversaries and protect our allies than we did even a decade ago. Under the new review, we will retain only those weapons needed for our core requirements.

The plan also establishes a policy that the United States will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states, as long as they are party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and [are] in compliance with their nuclear nonproliferation obligations. This approach provides additional incentive for countries to fully comply with nonproliferation norms. Those that do not will be more isolated and less secure.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

The completion of a Nuclear Posture Review that is grounded in a commitment to American security will better protect us and our allies from nuclear threats. So will the signing of the New START treaty Thursday. And the unprecedented Nuclear Security Summit the president will host next week—with its focus on securing vulnerable nuclear materials around the world in four years—will advance these goals still further.

At the same time, the president is determined to ensure that our nuclear weapons remain absolutely safe, secure and effective. That is why he has asked Congress to increase funding for our nuclear complex by \$5 billion over the next five years, allowing us to upgrade aging facilities and recruit and retain the highly skilled scientists and engineers needed to sustain our arsenal. Our plan reverses a decade-long erosion in support for the national laboratories. This commitment will ensure that our arsenal remains ready.

We can achieve these objectives while upholding this country's nearly two-decade moratorium on nuclear tests and continuing our efforts to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT]. And although we will not develop new warheads or add military capabilities as we manage our arsenal for the future, we will pursue needed life-extension programs so the weapons we retain can be sustained. This approach has broad support, and, as Defense Secretary Robert Gates states in his preface to the Nuclear Posture Review, it is a "credible modernization plan necessary to sustain the nuclear infrastructure and support our nation's deterrent."

The president and I made a promise to the American people to protect them from nuclear risks. We have no higher obligation. Our strategy delivers on that promise and tackles the most immediate threats our planet faces.

 [back to top](#)

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The plutonium that is the key ingredient in thousands of nuclear weapons sidelined in the new arms control treaty between the United States and Russia is likely to be around for decades at least, according to experts. They say the process for destroying plutonium has not yet started to whittle down the surplus already created by previous agreements.

Plutonium can be consumed in nuclear power reactors, creating the possibility of a swords-to-plowshares conversion that would have the added benefit of making redeployment of the weapons impossible. But converting the weapons plutonium for civilian reactor use has proved much slower than expected.

Since the late 1990s, the United States has been trying to build a factory at the Savannah River Site, near Aiken, South Carolina, that would convert the plutonium to reactor fuel. Government officials once hoped that such fuel could be loaded into reactors in 2002. But construction did not begin until 2007 and even if all goes well, the plant will not be finished until 2016. The cost of the plant, once estimated at \$2.3 billion, is now \$4.8 billion. The plant is the largest nuclear construction project in the country.

The plan is to use the amount already declared surplus, 34 tons, over about 15 years, so if the new arms agreement results in more plutonium being declared surplus, it would not start to be converted to fuel until the 2030s, at the earliest, people involved in the project say.

“If we’re going to dismantle more warheads based on a new agreement, you’d have to stretch out the time,” said Alan Hanson, a vice president of Areva, a French company participating in the plant construction. “We’re stuck with the geometry of the building that’s under construction right now.”

Energy officials said the effort had slowed because of its expense. They must also build a factory that will take the plutonium metal from the bombs and convert it into a powdered oxide, the form in which it can be fashioned into fuel pellets, but there is not enough money to do all this at once, officials say.

And the civilian nuclear power industry is unenthusiastic about the product, which would substitute for the uranium they ordinarily use.

Duke Energy signed a contract to use some of the plutonium fuel assemblies on a test basis, but let the contract expire in 2008 because it wanted guarantees that the factory would deliver the fuel on schedule. The Energy Department would not agree.

 [back to top](#)

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## BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

And the Duke test uncovered a flaw in the fuel assembly design. Metals used in reactors tend to expand as they are bombarded with radiation, because the subatomic particles that sustain the radiation weaken bonds in the metal. But the test assemblies, built for the department by Areva, expanded more than expected. Engineers are now considering alternative metals.

Meanwhile the Energy Department is negotiating with the Tennessee Valley Authority, a federal agency that runs several power reactors. Current reactors are limited in how much plutonium they can substitute for their normal fuel, uranium, so the department needs half a dozen reactors as customers to consume the output of the fuel factory, 3.5 tons a year. A single reactor could accept the plutonium from about 150 weapons a year.

The Energy Department plans to sell the plutonium at a discount, to replace the uranium that the utilities usually buy.

“It’s frankly not as attractive” as uranium, said Ken Bromberg, assistant deputy administrator for fissile materials at the National Nuclear Security Administration [NNSA], part of the Energy Department.

Opponents of the plutonium conversion technology say plutonium creates security concerns, because stolen plutonium fuel assemblies could be reprocessed into bombs, unlike stolen uranium fuel assemblies.

In the Clinton administration, the Energy Department proposed a quicker route to disposal. The department has tanks filled with millions of gallons of high-level liquid waste that it is slowly mixing with molten glass, to solidify for eventual burial. It proposed mixing the plutonium in with the glass.

But Mr. Bromberg said the Russians objected to that method because it seemed less permanent than using the plutonium in reactor fuel, where much of it would be broken down into materials that are hard to handle, and useless for bombs.

The Russians were supposed to destroy a like amount of plutonium, 34 tons, in parallel, and their program has also been delayed for years, partly because Western countries promised to raise \$2 billion to pay for the Russian program, but never did. The plan now is for Russia to consume the plutonium in a reactor that is already running and is designed to use plutonium; the United States is paying for modifications to the plant so it does not create more plutonium than it consumes.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

Whether the American queue of weapons plutonium awaiting conversion into reactor fuel will grow longer is not clear; first, a president would have to declare additional material as surplus. The new agreement with the Russians is over launchers and delivery systems, and does not require the dismantlement of weapons.

But eliminating weapons-usable material is a long-term goal, and the United States already has such a large plutonium surplus that it may be running out of storage places.

The inspector general of the Energy Department concluded in January 2009 that the Energy Department plant that disassembled the bombs, in Amarillo, Texas, may be filling up. The plant, called Pantex (for Panhandle of Texas), stores the plutonium “pits,” the softball-sized spheres at the heart of the bombs, in bunkers built by the Army in the 1930s for artillery shells. But the audit said the storage capacity was unclear because plant managers did not know how much space had already been consumed.

 [back to top](#)

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DTRA

## Key Facts about the Nuclear Security Summit

The White House, 13 April 2010, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Not since 1945 has a U.S. President hosted a gathering of so many heads of state and government. This unprecedented meeting is to address an unprecedented threat—the threat of nuclear materials in the hands of terrorists or criminals.

### The Promise of Prague

In April 2009, in Prague, President Obama spoke of his vision of a world without nuclear weapons even as he recognized the need to create the conditions to bring about such a world. To that end, he put forward a comprehensive agenda to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, reduce nuclear arsenals, and secure nuclear materials.

In April 2010, the United States took three bold steps in the direction of creating those conditions with the release of a Nuclear Posture Review that reduces our dependence on nuclear weapons while strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and maintaining a strong deterrent; signing a New START treaty with Russia that limits the number of strategic arms on both sides, and renews U.S.-Russian leadership on nuclear issues; and now has convened a gathering of world leaders to Washington to discuss the need to secure nuclear materials and prevent acts of nuclear terrorism and trafficking.

### The Threat

Over 2000 tons of plutonium and highly enriched uranium exist in dozens of countries with a variety of peaceful as well as military uses. There have been 18 documented cases of theft or loss of highly enriched uranium or plutonium, and perhaps others not yet discovered. We know that al-Qa'ida, and possibly other terrorist or criminal groups, are seeking nuclear weapons—as well as the materials and expertise needed to make them. The consequences of a nuclear detonation, or even an attempted detonation, perpetrated by a terrorist or criminal group anywhere in the world would be devastating. Any country could be a target, and all countries would feel the effects.

### The Solution

The best way to keep terrorists and criminals from getting nuclear weapons is to keep all weapons and materials, as well as the know-how to make and use them, secure. That is our first and best line of defense. We must also bolster our ability to detect smuggled material, recover lost material, identify the materials origin and prosecute those who are trading in these materials.



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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

## The Nuclear Security Summit

Just as the United States is not the only country that would suffer from nuclear terrorism, we cannot prevent it on our own. The Nuclear Security Summit highlights the global threat posed by nuclear terrorism and the need to work together to secure nuclear material and prevent illicit nuclear trafficking and nuclear terrorism.

The leaders of 47 nations came together to advance a common approach and commitment to nuclear security at the highest levels. Leaders in attendance have renewed their commitment to ensure that nuclear materials under their control are not stolen or diverted for use by terrorists, and pledged to continue to evaluate the threat and improve the security as changing conditions may require, and to exchange best practices and practical solutions for doing so. The Summit reinforced the principle that all states are responsible for ensuring the best security of their materials, for seeking assistance if necessary, and providing assistance if asked. It promoted the international treaties that address nuclear security and nuclear terrorism and led to specific national actions that advanced global security.

## The Communiqué

The Summit Communiqué is a high-level political statement by the leaders of all 47 countries to strengthen nuclear security and reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism and:

- Endorses President Obama's call to secure all vulnerable nuclear material in four years, and pledges to work together toward this end;
- Calls for focused national efforts to improve security and accounting of nuclear materials and strengthen regulations—with a special focus on plutonium and highly enriched uranium;
- Seeks consolidation of stocks of highly enriched uranium and plutonium and reduction in the use of highly enriched uranium;
- Promotes universality of key international treaties on nuclear security and nuclear terrorism;
- Notes the positive contributions of mechanisms like the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, to build capacity among law enforcement, industry, and technical personnel;

[back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

- Calls for the International Atomic Energy Agency to receive the resources it needs to develop nuclear security guidelines and provide advice to its members on how to implement them;
- Seeks to ensure that bilateral and multilateral security assistance would be applied where it can do the most good; and
- Encourages nuclear industry to share best practices for nuclear security, at the same time making sure that security measures do not prevent countries from enjoying the benefits of peaceful nuclear energy.

## The Work Plan

The Summit Work Plan represents guidance for national and international actions to carry out the pledges of the Communiqué. This detailed document lays out the specific steps that will need to be taken to bring the vision of the Communiqué into reality. These steps include:

- Ratifying and implementing treaties on nuclear security and nuclear terrorism;
- Cooperating through the United Nations to implement and assist others in connection with Security Council resolutions;
- Working with the International Atomic Energy Agency to update and implement security guidance and carry out advisory services;
- Reviewing national regulatory and legal requirements relating to nuclear security and nuclear trafficking;
- Converting civilian facilities that use highly enriched uranium to non-weapons-usable materials;
- Research on new nuclear fuels, detection methods, and forensics techniques;
- Development of corporate and institutional cultures that prioritize nuclear security;
- Education and training to ensure that countries and facilities have the people they need to protect their materials; and
- Joint exercises among law enforcement and customs officials to enhance nuclear detection approaches.

[back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

## Country Commitments

In addition to signing on to the Communiqué and Work Plan, many Summit participants have made commitments to support the Summit either by taking national actions to increase nuclear security domestically or by working through bilateral or multilateral mechanisms to improve security globally. These specific commitments will enhance global security, provide momentum to the effort to secure nuclear materials, and represent the sense of urgency that has been galvanized by the nature of the threat and the occasion of the Summit. Many of these commitments are outlined in National Statements.

## Next Steps

In preparation for the Summit, each participating entity named a Sherpa to prepare their leadership for full participation. This cadre of specialists, each of whom has both the expertise and leadership positions in their countries to effect change, is a natural network to carrying out the goals of the Summit. The Sherpas plan to reconvene in December to evaluate progress against Summit goals. Additionally, Summit participants plan to reach out to countries who were not able to attend the Washington Summit to explain its goals and outcomes and to expand the dialogue among a wider group. In 2012, leaders will gather again—this time the Republic of Korea—to take stock of the post-Washington work and set new goals for nuclear security.

 [back to top](#)

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## Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Lavrov Signed the 2000 Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement

Department of State, 13 April 2010, <http://www.state.gov/>

The Protocol signed today by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov marks a further major step in U.S. and Russian efforts to eliminate nuclear-weapon-grade materials, thereby making nuclear arms reductions irreversible and reducing nuclear dangers.

The Protocol amends and updates the U.S.-Russian Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement (PMDA) that was signed by Vice President Gore and Prime Minister Kasyanov in 2000. The PMDA commits each country to dispose of no less than 34 metric tons of excess weapon-grade plutonium and envisions disposition of more weapon-grade plutonium over time. The initial combined amount, 68 metric tons, represents enough material for approximately 17,000 nuclear weapons.

The Protocol reaffirms both countries' commitment to nuclear disarmament and the goal of a world free of nuclear danger by ensuring that excess weapon-grade plutonium is never again used for nuclear weapons or any other military purpose; by ensuring it is disposed in a safe, secure, transparent and effective way; and by strengthening barriers against accumulating new separated weapon-grade plutonium.

The Protocol updates the PMDA's agreed nonproliferation conditions and the monitoring and inspection framework as they apply to each side's disposition program. The amended PMDA will ensure the transparency of disposition activities and will allow, as appropriate, for International Atomic Energy Agency verification.

Both countries aim to begin actual disposition by 2018, after the necessary facilities are completed and operating. The Protocol will enable new cooperation to go forward between the United States and the Russian Federation, as will be agreed by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Russian State Corporation for Atomic Energy (Rosatom).

This cooperative effort exemplifies the goals of the Washington Nuclear Security Summit, by enhancing nuclear security through monitored elimination of excess weapon-grade material, as well as the Parties' obligations under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

 [back to top](#)

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DTRA

## Army Achieves Major Program Milestone

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 19 April 2010, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Today, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) announced that it completed its mission to destroy all non-stockpile materiel declared when the United States entered into the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), an international treaty mandating the destruction of our Nation's chemical warfare materiel.

This milestone also marks the destruction of the largest inventory of recovered chemical warfare materiel (RCWM) to date—more than 1,200 munitions—with a stellar safety record. CMA's U.S. Army Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) began operations at the Pine Bluff Explosive Destruction System (PBEDS), located at Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA), Arkansas, in June 2006, to destroy items such as 4.2-inch mortars and German Traktor rockets captured during World War II. PBEDS completed destruction operations on April 14.

"The Army's Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project is the Nation's best equipped organization to provide safe, successful destruction of such a diverse inventory of recovered chemical munitions," said Carmen Spencer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Elimination of Chemical Weapons. "This accomplishment exemplifies the excellent work we have come to expect from this dedicated group."

Munitions were assessed at PBA before treatment in NSCMP's Explosive Destruction System (EDS), a neutralization technology that provides safe, environmentally responsible treatment of RCWM.

Developed as an alternative to open detonation, the transportable EDS provides on-site treatment and neutralization of RCWM and prevents the release of vapor, blast and munition fragments from the process. Operators confirm complete neutralization of the chemical agent by sampling liquid and air prior to opening the EDS.

"This milestone underscores our commitment to the CWC," said CMA Director Conrad Whyne. "This accomplishment could not have been possible without the commitment of all the workers, led by the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project, including Pine Bluff Arsenal, Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, 20<sup>th</sup> Support Command, CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity-West, Sandia National Laboratory, Idaho National Laboratory, Science Applications International Corporation and supporting work forces. Their levels of technical expertise make it possible for us to fulfill our mission while protecting the public, workers and environment."

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

The NSCMP research and development team, faced with the unique and diverse inventory of recovered munitions at PBEDS, invented patent-protected processes and cutting-edge vessel enhancements.

“The PBEDS project presented many challenges, but we worked through all of them, achieving a significant milestone,” said Laurence Gottschalk, Project Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel. “Everyone involved should be proud of their contributions.”

NSCMP engineers and chemists received a U.S. National Patent for developing a technology that improves the detoxification of lewisite, a World War II-era German arsenic-based compound.

Before their work, the Army was challenged by disposal of lewisite and other arsenical compounds. System enhancements included the Advanced Fragment Suppression System, which reduces the amount of solid waste generated by up to 80 percent, significantly cutting costs and supporting NSCMP’s commitment to environmental stewardship.

For photos and more information on the PBEDS mission and operator testimonials, please visit the NSCMP virtual newsroom at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/pbeds.aspx>

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

DTRA

## World Leaders Reinforce the Importance of CTBT Entry into Force

CTBTO, 19 April 2010, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

“No nation, and no people, should ever again be faced with a burden such as ours. And there is really only one way to assure that—through full global acceptance and ratification of this treaty.” With these words, President Jurelang Zedkaia of the Marshall Islands describes the legacy of nuclear weapon testing on his country in Spectrum 14, the latest issue of the biannual publication of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

This theme is also touched on by Kanat Saudabayev, the Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, whose country closed the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site—the second largest in the world—in August 1991. Mr. Saudabayev summarizes the 13 years of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the CTBTO and his country’s strong support for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), “one of the key instruments in the area of international security” and emphasizes the importance of “its speedy entry into force.”

Spectrum 14 also includes articles by the Foreign Minister of Australia, Stephen Smith, who states that “Australia will continue to promote the critical importance of the CTBT to our neighbors in the Asia Pacific region.” The Foreign Minister of Mexico, Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, reiterates her country’s strong commitment to a CTBT in force, and also calls upon all States to “promote the development and operation of the International Monitoring System.”

The U.S. chief negotiator of the CTBT, Ambassador Stephen Ledogar, expands on a number of key issues from the treaty’s negotiations, which continue to be relevant for today’s debate. He reminds readers that “the CTBT, as its name suggests, imposes a comprehensive ban on all nuclear explosions, of any size, in any place” and that all the five nuclear weapon States, “did commit themselves to the treaty text.”

With regard to the CTBT verification regime, he explains that, as “the build-up of the treaty’s International Monitoring System approaches completion, it certainly becomes very hard to evade detection by carrying out a clandestine nuclear test.”

Looking to the future, Ambassador Ledogar concludes that, with the CTBT now firmly back on the U.S. political agenda, the implications of ratification are greater than ever and “will act as a catalyst for remaining Annex 2 States such as China and Indonesia to ratify as well as providing the United States with greater leverage over countries of concern.”

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

On the verification side, Spectrum 14 covers a number of themes ranging from the use of hydroacoustic data for monitoring large whales, to ways that developing countries benefit from the CTBTO's capacity building activities, to different machine learning concepts, and the main lessons learned from the Integrated Field Exercise 2008, the largest ever on-site inspection exercise carried out by the CTBTO in Kazakhstan in September 2008.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

DTRA

## UN Chief Urges Treaty to Ban Nuclear Material

Associated Press, 12 April 2010, <http://www.bostonherald.com/>

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday urged negotiations to start immediately on a new treaty banning production of nuclear bomb material. The secretary-general told reporters before heading to Washington to attend a nuclear security summit hosted by President Barack Obama that he has repeatedly called for the 65-nation Conference on Disarmament to start treaty talks because "nuclear terrorism is one of the greatest threats we face today."

"That is why, in Washington, I will call on all world leaders to come together, perhaps at the United Nations in September, to further advance this essential cause for humankind," Ban said.

In January, Pakistan delayed the start of talks on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty that would ban production of highly enriched uranium and plutonium, insisting that any deal must also require its archrival India to reduce its existing stockpile of nuclear material. Obama last year called for a verifiable ban on new nuclear material under a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty. The administration of former U.S. President George W. Bush had objected to such a deal.

The Conference on Disarmament, based in Geneva, can only move forward by consensus. It has failed to produce any deal of substance since the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT].

The secretary-general said "it was encouraging that the Conference on Disarmament had agreed to the program of work" for 2010, which it has not done for several years. But they have not made any substantial progress in terms of their work, so I'm urging them to make progress in their substantive discussions, and particularly in preventing the production of fissile material," Ban said. The UN chief said that in Washington he will be calling for all countries to ratify the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and the CTBT banning nuclear tests.

A five-year review of the NPT is scheduled next month, and Ban said "we can see new momentum toward our ultimate ambition, a world free of nuclear weapons."

The NPT is considered the cornerstone of global nuclear disarmament efforts. Nuclear powers India and Pakistan and Israel, which is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, are not parties to the NPT. North Korea, which has conducted two nuclear tests, pulled out of the NPT.

The approvals of nine nations are still required for the CTNT to take effect—the United States, North Korea, Pakistan, India, Iran, Israel, China, Egypt and Indonesia.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

DTRA

## Building Blocks towards a Successful NPT Review Conference: CTBTO

CTBTO, 14 April 2010, <http://www.ctbto.org/>

“The successful Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, the conclusion of the new strategic arms reduction treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States (New START), and the release of a revised U.S. Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) seeking to reduce the number and role of nuclear weapons are three substantial building blocks towards a successful Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT),” said Tibor Tóth, the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

“The Nuclear Security Summit demonstrates the determination of the international community to confront head-on the dangers posed by nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. As underlined at the summit, effective nuclear security practices facilitate the fulfillment of nonproliferation obligations,” noted Tóth. “Responding collectively to nuclear security concerns sets the stage for further cooperative measures to promote nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, including entry into force and universality of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).”

“President Obama’s commitment to seek U.S. ratification of the CTBT during his Prague speech a year ago has now been enshrined in a revised U.S. nuclear posture,” the CTBTO Executive Secretary said. “The NPR identifies U.S. ratification and entry into force of the CTBT as principal means of reinforcing the nonproliferation regime. It also recognizes the role of the CTBT in diminishing reliance on nuclear weapons, reducing nuclear competition, and making progress towards nuclear disarmament,” he added. “The strength of the U.S. commitment to the test ban is a welcome development in the efforts to free the world from the dangers posed by nuclear weapons.”

“New START illustrates that negotiations towards reducing the size of the nuclear arsenals and maintaining a robust verification regime are indispensable in realizing President Obama’s vision of a world free of nuclear weapons,” Tóth said. “But as the U.S. President underlined during his remarks at the signing ceremony last week, New START is an important first step forward, but only one on a longer journey.”

“Looking forward to the NPT Review Conference, I see an inextricable link between the CTBT and the NPT,” underlined Tóth. “The CTBT is one of the measures around which an international consensus has been established. Opened for signature in 1996, the CTBT bans all nuclear explosions. Ratified by 151 States and signed by 182, this treaty has reached near universalization.”

 back to top

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

“Building upon these positive developments and seeking concrete action towards entry into force of the CTBT, the international community can contribute greatly to the success of the NPT Review Conference,” Tóth concluded.

 [back to top](#)

News articles and publications found on the DTIRP website are compilations of open source current news articles and commentary concerning significant arms control treaty and related national security issues. The publications aim to give a balanced representation of how the public, other government organizations, and the media may view these arms control and threat reduction programs and issues. They are intended to serve the informational needs of Department of Defense (DoD) officials in the continuing assessment of defense policies, programs and actions. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions. The views and opinions expressed in these articles are not necessarily those supported by DoD, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, or the DTIRP.



# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

DTRA

## Obama, Medvedev Say Arms Treaty Marks New Era of Cooperation

Bloomberg, 9 April 2010, <http://www.bloomberg.com/>

U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed a treaty to cut their nuclear arsenals in a ceremony that both men said marks a new era of cooperation between the two nations.

The promise of cooperation by the two leaders comes as Obama pushes the international community to escalate pressure on Iran over its nuclear program and take steps to stop the spread of atomic material that can be used for weapons.

“This day demonstrates the determination of the United States and Russia—the two nations that hold over 90 percent of the world’s nuclear weapons—to pursue responsible global leadership,” Obama said at a news conference with Medvedev after they signed the accord yesterday in Prague.

The arms treaty was signed just days after Obama released a document outlining his nuclear policy that shifted U.S. doctrine to focus more on the threat from extremist groups and nations such as Iran and North Korea rather than confrontation with nuclear powers such as Russia. It also leads into a summit on securing nuclear materials that Obama is hosting April 12 and 13 in Washington.

The treaty requires each nation to limit deployed strategic warheads to no more than 1,550, from 2,200 allowed now, and no more than 800 deployed and non-deployed land-, air- and sea-based launchers. It also establishes updated measures to verify compliance.

### Ratification

The accord is subject to ratification by the U.S. Senate and the Russian parliament. Obama said he expects Senate approval this year—the last three arms reductions treaties passed the Senate with more than 90 votes—and Medvedev said there will be “no delay” from Russia.

It replaces the original START agreement signed July 31, 1991, months before the collapse of the Soviet Union, by then-Presidents George H.W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev. That accord took effect in 1994 under President Bill Clinton. Two years later, Clinton signed a comprehensive test ban treaty with Russia, the U.K. and 90 non-nuclear nations that pledged an end to all nuclear weapons testing. It was never ratified by the Senate.

While the two sides are still at odds over U.S. plans to deploy a missile defense system, Obama and Medvedev pledged to keep talking to resolve those differences.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

The signing of the treaty “will open a new page for cooperation between our two countries,” Medvedev said.

## Dealing with Iran

A key test will be on Iran. Obama needs the support of Russia, along with China, at the United Nations in negotiations under way on a new sanctions regime against Iran. The United States and its allies say Iran is working to develop a nuclear weapon, a charge that the government in Tehran denies.

Iran was one of the topics during an 85-minute meeting between Obama and Medvedev that preceded the signing ceremony.

While Medvedev said he supports keeping up pressure on Iran, there are limits to how far Russia will go on sanctions. He said he and Obama had a “frank” discussion about what “can be done and what cannot be done” to punish Iran. “Iran is not responding to many constructive proposals that have been made, and we cannot turn a blind eye toward this,” he said. Medvedev repeatedly said he would support “smart sanctions” that don’t punish the Iranian people.

Obama said there would be “ramped-up” negotiations in the coming weeks. “My expectation is that we are going to be able to secure strong, tough sanctions on Iran this spring,” Obama said.

## Sanction Limits

Speaking with reporters afterward, Russia’s deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said his country wouldn’t support restrictions on gasoline imports to Iran. “A total embargo on deliveries of refined oil products to Iran would mean a slap, a blow, a huge shock for the whole society and the whole population,” he said. “We definitely are not prepared to consider” such moves.

Michael McFaul, Obama’s adviser for Russian and Eurasian affairs, said there is little difference between the U.S. and Russian stances on sanctions that would affect Iranian citizens. Still, he said measures affecting the energy sector are “not off the table.”

Obama and Medvedev also pledged to overcome their differences on the missile defense system the U.S. plans to deploy to guard against an attack by rogue nations, such as Iran.

back to top

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

## Missile Defense

The Russian government issued a statement yesterday reiterating its position that it reserved the right to withdraw from the [new] START treaty if there was a “qualitative or quantitative” buildup of a U.S. missile defense.

The White House played down any friction. Brian McKeon, deputy national security adviser to Vice President Joe Biden, wrote on the White House Web site that such statements have been part of arms-reduction treaties dating to the Nixon administration.

The United States remains “committed to continuing to develop and deploy” the missile defense system and that is not restricted by the treaty, wrote McKeon, who will be leading the effort to win U.S. Senate ratification of the treaty.

Medvedev said Russia wants to work with the United States on the issue. “This is a flexible process,” he said.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

DTRA

## Senate May Not Approve START until Early 2011

Reuters, 13 April 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

It may be early next year before the U.S. Senate approves a major arms reduction treaty that President Barack Obama signed last week with Russia, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said on Tuesday. Reid, a Democrat, said he could not imagine Republicans rejecting the pact, which would reduce the deployed nuclear warheads of the United States and Russia by about 30 percent and follows up on the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

Senate [advice and] consent is required for the new START treaty to go into force. But the chamber faces a large workload between now and congressional elections in November .... Obama's Democrats have a majority in the Senate but not the required 67 votes, or the two-thirds, needed to pass a treaty, so some Republican votes will be needed.

"I am going to do everything I can to advance this as quickly as I can," Reid told reporters when asked about the prospects for the [new] START treaty.

"It may take until the first of the year to get it done. But I think it's important that we try to get this done. ... This treaty is important. And ... although I've been surprised in the past, I can't imagine the Republicans saying no to this," he said. Reid spokesman Jim Manley said that Reid still expected the Senate to approve the pact by the end of this year.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, in Washington for a 47-nation nuclear security summit, urged ratification of the new START deal, saying this would mean "that President Obama and I did not work in vain."

In a speech at the Brookings Institution, Medvedev said that if the pact is not ratified, "it would mean that we returned to some kind of Soviet times."

The treaty is expected to be submitted to the Senate in May and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry says he wants to hold hearings soon afterward.

Senate Republicans have not said they will oppose the treaty, but some of them have warned it will be difficult for the Senate to approve the pact without a program to modernize the remaining U.S. nuclear weapons.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

DTRA

## What Is Meant By Strategic Arms: Protocol to the New Russian-U.S. START Treaty

RIA Novosti, 15 April 2010, <http://en.rian.ru/>

The new START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) bilateral nuclear arms reduction treaty between Russia and the United States was signed by Presidents Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama on April 8, 2010 in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic.

The New START treaty is organized into three, increasingly detailed, tiers. The first is the 12-page treaty text itself. The second tier consists of a 138-page protocol to the treaty, which contains additional rights and obligations associated with treaty provisions. These two documents detail the basic rights and obligations. The third tier consists of technical annexes to the protocol.

The protocol to the treaty defines the treaty's terminology and sets out procedures for observing the treaty and monitoring compliance.

Although the bulk of the document is aimed at specialists, Part One entitled Terms and Their Definitions is very interesting. In effect, this is the only current legal set of terms regarding strategic nuclear arms.

First, a few words about the term "ICBM base." The new START treaty sets no limits on the bases for land-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) systems of the RT-2PM Topol (SS-25 Sickle), RT-2UTTKh Topol-M (SS-27 Sickle B) and RS-24 Yars (SS-X-29) classes.

Under Article IV of the treaty, each party can only base deployed ICBM launchers at ICBM bases.

Under the protocol, the term "ICBM base" means: (a) for mobile ICBM launchers, an area in which one or more basing areas and one associated maintenance facility are located.

Unlike the START-I treaty, this definition says nothing about the size of such an area, the number of basing areas, or the number of ICBM launchers which can be deployed simultaneously outside these areas.

And now a few words about the definitions of the nuclear triad's main elements.

 [back to top](#)

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# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 April – 19 April 2010

**DTRA**

The term "intercontinental ballistic missile" or "ICBM" still means a land-based ballistic missile with a range of at least 5,500 kilometers. This is the shortest distance between Russian territory and the continental United States, excluding Alaska.

The term "heavy bomber" means a bomber of any type that satisfies either of the following criteria: (a) its range is greater than 8,000 kilometers; or (b) it is equipped for long-range nuclear air-launched cruise missiles (ALCMs) with a range in excess of 600 kilometers.

The bomber's 8,000-km range allows it to take off from Russian territory, to hit a target on U.S. territory (or vice versa) and to return to its home base with no more than one in-flight refueling. This definition was first coined during the initial Soviet-U.S. strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) in the 1970s.

At that time, the parties disagreed on the Tupolev Tu-22M3 Backfire bomber which has a range of 7,000 km. The United States insisted that the bomber be listed as a heavy bomber and agreed not to consider it as such after the U.S.S.R. pledged not to equip the Tu-22M3 with aerial refueling systems and not to use it to launch ALCMs with a range above 600 kilometers.

Under the treaty, the term "submarine-launched ballistic missile" or "SLBM" means a ballistic missile with a range in excess of 600 kilometers of any type that is contained in, or launched from, a submarine.

This reduction in missile range is absolutely logical because concealed and maneuverable submarines can approach the coast and receive strategic capabilities even when equipped with missiles having a shorter range than ICBMs.

Although long-range cruise missiles have the same capabilities, this and previous START treaties give strategic-arms status to air-launched cruise missiles alone. The deployment of sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs) is currently limited by a 1991 Soviet-U.S. agreement to remove all tactical nuclear weapons from naval surface ships and submarines.

This definition covered Soviet S-10 Granat (SS-N-21 Sampson) and U.S. BGM-109A Tomahawk nuclear-tipped long-range cruise missiles.

Although conventional modern SLCMs can play an important strategic role, numerous Russian proposals on limiting this class of naval weapons have not been supported to date.

 [back to top](#)

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