



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 May – 19 May 2008

DTRA

ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

Russia, U.S. Sign Civilian Nuclear Pact

Reuters, 6 May 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Russia and the United States signed a pact on Tuesday [May 6] allowing the world's two biggest atomic powers to boost their nuclear trade and work on new ways to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. (600 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. Officials Take Nuclear Facility Documents out of North Korea

GSN, 12 May 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

Five U.S. officials on Saturday [May 10] removed seven boxes filled with nuclear information from North Korea, the Associated Press reported. (518 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Eliminating Plutonium Production Key to Limiting North Korea Nukes (OPINION)

The Washington Post, 13 May 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

By Siegfried S. Hecker and William J. Perry

The Bush administration's North Korea strategy is being criticized from the right and the left for letting Pyongyang off the hook. Some advocate scuttling the six-party talks. Others suggest slowing our own compliance with the agreement to get North Korea to make a full declaration of its nuclear program first. We disagree with both positions. Our mantra should be: It's the plutonium, stupid. (821 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

New Russian President Vows to Fund Nuclear Weapons

Associated Press, 15 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

President Dmitry Medvedev made his debut as the commander in chief of Russia's armed forces Thursday [May 15], touring a missile base and promising to provide the funding needed for nuclear forces to counter global threats. (542 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Countries Gathering for Final Talks on Treaty to Ban Cluster Munitions

BBS News, 16 May 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

The more than 100 countries that will gather in Dublin, Ireland, on May 19 to negotiate a new international treaty aimed at banning cluster munitions should reject attempts to weaken the treaty, Human Rights Watch said today. Participating countries are scheduled to adopt the final text of the treaty on May 30. (741 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

VX Landmine Disposal Operations begin at Pine Bluff Arsenal

CMA, 5 May 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Employees at the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA) and the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) successfully transported and destroyed the first VX nerve-agent filled landmine of the Arsenal's stockpile. (318 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Newport Chemical Depot Reaches 90-Percent VX Destruction

CMA, 7 May 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Workers at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) have safely neutralized 90 percent of the VX stored at the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD). (246 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Studies by P.K. Kanaujia and Co-Authors Describe New Findings in Chemical Warfare

Bioterrorism Week, 12 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

New research, "Application of cation-exchange solid-phase extraction for the analysis of amino alcohols from water and human plasma for verification of Chemical Weapons Convention," is the subject of a report. (351 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

China Hopes to Destroy Japanese Abandoned Chemical Weapon Soon

Xinhua, 13 May 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

The Chinese government hopes to destroy abandoned wartime Japanese chemical weapons very soon, said Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi here on Tuesday [May 13]. (198 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

One-Third of Umatilla Chemical Agent Tonnage Destroyed

CMA, 13 May 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Workers at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) and Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) have safely transported and destroyed one-third of the chemical agent tonnage originally stored in the depot's chemical weapons stockpile. (412 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)(CONT.)

Deseret Chemical Depot: Verifying Agent Operations

U.S. Fed News, 15 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Under the Chemical Weapons Convention, the U.S. agreed to destroy its stockpile of chemical weapons... Since July 1997, a team of international inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has been present during disposal operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) to verify the destruction of the weapons. (344 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Udall, Salazar Hold Off DoD Efforts to Transport Pueblo Chemical Depot Wastes

U.S. Fed News, 15 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Rep. Mark Udall, D-Colo. (2nd CD), issued the following news release: [May 15] U.S. Reps. Mark Udall, D-Eldorado Springs, and John Salazar, D-Manassa, commended the inclusion of language in the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 5658) that prohibits the Department of Defense (DoD) from transporting away from the Pueblo Chemical Depot in the 2009 fiscal year the hazardous wastes left after chemical treatment of mustard agent. (405 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Russia Reports over 700 'Foreign' Nuclear Tests in Past 50 Years

RIA Novosti, 13 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Up to 730 nuclear tests have been conducted in the past 50 years by the U.S., China, France, India, and Pakistan, a Russian Defense Ministry official said on Tuesday [May 13]. (199 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

NPT Meeting Wraps Up in Geneva

GSN, 9 May 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

Members of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) today [May 9] wrapped up a two-week session in Geneva intended to lay the groundwork for the pact's 2010 review conference.

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



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NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)(CONT.)

Iran Gives New Proposals on Its Nuclear Program to the European Union

Associated Press, 14 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Iran's ambassador to the European Union said Wednesday [May 14] he presented a new package of proposals to EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana designed to resolve international concerns over his country's nuclear program and wider security issues. (605 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

OPEN SKIES TREATY

Canadian Mission to Perform Observation Flight over Belarus, Russia

Interfax-AVN, 13 May 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Canadian military experts will fly an observation mission over Belarus and Russia from Tuesday [May 13] to Friday [May 16], the Belarusian Defense Ministry told Interfax. (69 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Russian Plane to Fly over U.S., Canada on Surveillance Mission

Interfax-AVN, 19 May 08, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia will fly a second surveillance mission over the U.S. and its first over Canada this year under the Treaty on Open Skies using a Tupolev Tu-154M LK-1 aircraft from May 18 to 30, the Russian Defense Ministry's information and public relations department told Interfax on Saturday [May 17]. (217 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OTTAWA CONVENTION

Vietnam Canadian Mine Action Team Visits Vietnam

Thai Press Reports, 14 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

A Mine Action team led by Maurice Baril, former Chief of the Defense Staff of the Canadian Defense Forces and Special Advisor to the Canadian Ambassador for Mine Action is paying a visit to Vietnam from May 12-15. (137 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

Croatia Hosts WMD Exercise

AFP, 12 May 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

An international exercise that is part of a U.S.-led initiative to prevent the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction started in Croatia on Monday [May 12], the foreign ministry said. (144 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

U.S., Russia Have Disputes over Post-START Deal

Interfax, 8 May 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia and the United States remain divided on some points regarding a treaty to succeed the Russian-U.S. Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I), which expires at the end of 2009, U.S. Ambassador to Russia William Burns said. (239 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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Reuters, 6 May 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Russia and the United States signed a pact on Tuesday [May 6] allowing the world's two biggest atomic powers to boost their nuclear trade and work on new ways to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The civilian deal will open up the booming U.S. nuclear market and Russia's vast uranium fields to firms from both countries by removing Cold War restrictions that prevented bilateral trade potentially worth billions of dollars.

U.S. ambassador to Russia, William Burns, signed the deal with the head of Russia's state nuclear corporation, Sergei Kiriyyenko, on the last full day of Vladimir Putin's presidency.

"The United States and Russia were once nuclear rivals — we are today nuclear partners," said Burns.

At the 2006 Group of Eight summit in St Petersburg, President George W. Bush and Putin ordered ministers to reach a deal but it has faced opposition from some U.S. congressmen because of Russia's nuclear cooperation with Iran.

A 123 agreement, so-called because it falls under section 123 of the U.S. Atomic Energy Act, is required before countries can cooperate on nuclear materials.

It is critical to the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, or GNEP, which the United States and Russia have discussed for more than a year as a way to expand peaceful nuclear energy development and mitigate proliferation risks.

"What this agreement allows us to do is to implement some very creative ideas that both Russia and the United States have put forward to deal with the growing challenge of proliferation of nuclear weapons," Burns said.

He said the deal would allow Washington and Moscow to move forward on proposals for international nuclear fuel centers, which would sell developing countries access to nuclear energy but remove the need for their own enrichment programs.

Russia and the United States control the largest arsenals of nuclear weapons in the world and both have ambitious plans to build hundreds of new reactors for power production.

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Some U.S. politicians have said nuclear cooperation with Russia should be shunned because Moscow is helping Iran build an atomic power station, but the Bush administration is keen to have the pact approved this year.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said in Washington that now that the deal has been signed, it would be sent to Congress for lawmakers to review "in due course."

When asked about speculation that Bush may not submit the deal to Congress — possibly leaving it for the next president to do — McCormack said: "Usually we don't sign agreements we don't intend to send to Congress for ratification."

Once the agreement is sent to lawmakers, it would go into force if Congress did not pass a disapproval resolution within 90 legislative days. Russia's parliament, controlled by Putin's party, must also ratify the treaty.

Russia, one of the world's biggest sellers of enrichment services, has been trying to break into the nuclear markets of the United States and European Union.

"The signing of this agreement opens a gigantic field of opportunities for the economic cooperation in the large and growing businesses linked to the civilian use of nuclear energy," Kiriyenko said after the signing.

Tuesday's agreement simplifies life for companies in both countries and allows them to strike deals on trade in nuclear materials directly among themselves.

Putin has reformed Russia's nuclear sector to boost competition and open it up to atomic firms such as Japan's Toshiba Corp, which owns U.S.-based Westinghouse Electric.

Russia has crafted a nuclear behemoth called Atomenergoprom — which officials say is an atomic version of Russian gas giant Gazprom — to compete with the biggest nuclear companies on the world market.

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U.S. Officials Take Nuclear Facility Documents out of North Korea

GSN, 12 May 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

Five U.S. officials on Saturday removed seven boxes filled with nuclear information from North Korea, the Associated Press reported.

Team leader Sung Kim was expected today in Washington with records on operations since 1986 of North Korea's plutonium-producing nuclear reactor and an associated fuel reprocessing site at the Yongbyon nuclear complex.

The 18,000 papers are intended to provide details of Pyongyang's plutonium program, which Washington has demanded as part of the ongoing effort to shutter North Korea's nuclear sector.

"We have to take them back and see," Kim, Korean affairs chief at the State Department, said Saturday after returning to South Korea.

U.S. officials hope the records will help them determine exactly how much weapon-usable plutonium North Korea has produced at Yongbyon. They would also be used to verify details of Pyongyang's anticipated accounting of its nuclear efforts, a requirement of a 2007 denuclearization agreement.

"These documents will be examined thoroughly by a team of U.S. verification and other experts," the State Department said Saturday.

"The United States and the other parties [in the six-nation talks] continue to press the D.P.R.K. to fulfill its declaration commitment under the October 3, 2007, agreement," the agency said. "Review of the operating records provided on May 8 will be an important first step in the process of verifying that North Korea's declaration is complete and correct."

The declaration was due December 31 during the second phase of denuclearization, which also includes disablement of the reactor, reprocessing plant and a fuel fabrication facility at Yongbyon. North Korea has completed eight of 11 steps of disablement and is removing fuel rods from the reactor under U.S. supervision. "Work on disablement activities continues," the State Department said.

China is also expected to receive copies of the North Korean documents, South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Moon Tae-young said Friday. Beijing could then pass the information onto the other six-party talks nations — Japan, Russia and South Korea, Agence France-Presse reported.

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“I think the next round of six-party talks will resume late this month or early June,” Moon said.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry official said talks would resume when U.S. officials had finished their review of the documents, AP reported. The outcome of that review is also critical to Pyongyang’s aim to be removed from U.S. economic sanctions lists.

One expert said the release of the documents indicates North Korea’s desire to see success in the six-party process, which has faltered this year amid the dispute over the declaration, Yonhap News Agency reported.

“A condition has been created so that related nations can wrap up the second stage when the six-way talks are resumed,” said Professor Kim Youn-chul of Korea University in Seoul.

When the second phase of denuclearization is complete, the agreement calls on North Korea to fully dismantle its atomic complex. Another expert questioned whether Pyongyang is truly prepared to meet its obligations, the Christian Science Monitor reported today.

“Fundamentally, I don’t think the North Koreans will be very correct and honest in their declaration,” said Kim Tae-woo of the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses. “It’s impossible they will give up their nuclear option.”

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Eliminating Plutonium Production Key to Limiting North Korea Nukes (OPINION)

The Washington Post, 13 May 2008, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

By Siegfried S. Hecker and William J. Perry

The Bush administration's North Korea strategy is being criticized from the right and the left for letting Pyongyang off the hook. Some advocate scuttling the six-party talks. Others suggest slowing our own compliance with the agreement to get North Korea to make a full declaration of its nuclear program first. We disagree with both positions. Our mantra should be: It's the plutonium, stupid.

North Korea does have the bomb — but a limited nuclear arsenal and supply of plutonium to fuel its weapons. The Yongbyon plutonium production facilities are closed and partially disabled.

In separate visits to North Korea in February, we concluded that the disablement was extensive and thorough. We also learned that Pyongyang is prepared to move to the next crucial step of dismantling Yongbyon, eliminating plutonium production. This would mean no more bombs, no better bombs and less likelihood of export. After this success, we can concentrate on getting full declarations and on rolling back Pyongyang's supply of weapons and plutonium.

We must not miss this opportunity, because we have the chance to contain the risk posed by North Korea's arsenal while we work to eliminate it. As dismantlement proceeds, negotiations should focus concurrently on the plutonium declaration, the extent of the uranium enrichment effort and Pyongyang's nuclear exports.

Pyongyang's declaration of 30 kilograms of plutonium (sufficient for roughly four to five bombs) falls short of the estimate of 40 to 50 kilograms, based on our past visits. We believe that North Korea is prepared to produce operating records and permit access to facilities, equipment and waste sites for verification. Obtaining and verifying its declaration of plutonium production and inventories is imperative. Let's proceed.

Pyongyang continues to claim that it has made no efforts to enrich uranium, despite strong evidence to the contrary. Although it appears unlikely that these efforts reached a scale that constitutes a weapons threat, a complete accounting is required. Dismantlement of the Yongbyon facilities should not, however, be postponed to resolve this issue. In October 2002, the Bush administration accused North Korea of covert uranium enrichment, only to have Pyongyang withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and produce plutonium to fuel the arsenal that we are now attempting to eliminate.

Nuclear exports are of greater concern. As recently revealed evidence demonstrates, North Korea sold nuclear technology to Syria, much as it sold missile technology. North Korea must

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cooperate if we are to get to the bottom of the Syrian incident and ensure that it is not repeated elsewhere. Israel eliminated the Syrian threat, for now, by bombing the reactor at Al Kibar. But it is imperative that Pyongyang reveal the nature and extent of its export operations and, most important, whether it has similar deals underway with Iran.

We do not advocate letting Pyongyang off the hook, but a "confession" regarding Syria is not the critical issue. We have good knowledge of what the North Koreans supplied to Syria. What we really need is information from North Korea that will help us deal with potential threats. For example, was North Korea acting alone, or was it part of a more sophisticated proliferation ring involving Pyongyang's trading partners and suppliers? North Korea's leadership must resolve all three declaration issues fully, and these will take time to verify.

To ultimately succeed in the peaceful elimination of nuclear weapons, we must understand why North Korea devoted its limited resources to going nuclear. The September 2005 six-party joint statement addresses many of these concerns, promising mutual respect for national sovereignty, peaceful coexistence, and a commitment to stability and lasting peace in Northeast Asia, as well as normalization of relations. Given the acrimonious history of our relations, such steps require a transformation in the relationship between North Korea and the United States, a change that will first require building trust — step by step.

The six-party negotiations have put us on that path, and there is much evidence of winds of change blowing in North Korea that will make navigating that path easier (the recent New York Philharmonic concert in Pyongyang is one such symbol of change; the joint industrial facility at Kaesong is another). But North Korea's reluctance to provide full declarations and the Syria revelations have moved us in the wrong direction.

Nevertheless, walking away from the talks or slowing them at this point would be counterproductive. Instead, in its remaining months, the Bush administration should focus on limiting North Korea's nuclear capabilities by concluding the elimination of plutonium production. If it can also get answers on the Syrian operation and resolve the question of uranium enrichment, it will put the next administration in a stronger position to finally end the nuclear threat from North Korea.

Siegfried S. Hecker and William J. Perry are with the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. Hecker was director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory from 1986 through 1997. Perry was secretary of defense from 1994 through 1997.

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New Russian President Vows to Fund Nuclear Weapons

Associated Press, 15 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

President Dmitry Medvedev made his debut as the commander in chief of Russia's armed forces Thursday, touring a missile base and promising to provide the funding needed for nuclear forces to counter global threats.

Medvedev inspected Topol-M intercontinental ballistic missiles and spoke to officers at the base near Teikovo, a town in the Ivanovo region some 150 miles northeast of Moscow.

"I'm impressed by both the weapons and the level of training," Medvedev said after inspecting the missiles, which are concealed by the military in a dense pine forest. "It's good that the military is getting new missiles like the Topol-M."

Missiles from the base were displayed in the May 9 Victory Day parade, when Russia showcased its combat vehicles and other military hardware on Red Square in Moscow for the first time since the Soviet collapse.

Medvedev said that he "felt a drive" when he watched the missiles and other weapons rolling across the square. He promised that such parades will continue and may even be expanded.

"Our task for the next few years is to make sure that the Strategic Missile Forces receive the necessary funding to respond to modern threats and the current situation on the planet," Medvedev said in televised remarks during a meeting with servicemen. "Certain progress has been made recently, and we mustn't lose the tempo."

He also promised to raise officers' salaries.

Medvedev, who was sworn in on May 7, has cast himself as a liberal and avoided the harsh anti-Western rhetoric of his predecessor and mentor, Vladimir Putin.

Most observers, however, expect Medvedev to continue the policies of Putin, who has taken an increasingly assertive posture on the international scene and vowed to strengthen the military.

Putin, now the prime minister, fiercely opposes a U.S. plan to deploy missile defense sites in Poland and the Czech Republic, as well as NATO plans to grant membership to Ukraine and Georgia. Putin has threatened to point nuclear missiles at countries that take part in the U.S. missile defense shield, and he opted out of a key Soviet-era arms control treaty.

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Topol-M missiles are capable of hitting targets more than 6,000 miles away. They are deployed in both silo-based and truck-mounted versions.

"It's a new step in missile design," Strategic Missile Forces chief, Gen. Nikolai Solovtsov, said in describing the Topol-M to Medvedev.

Putin and other officials have boasted about the Topol-M's ability to penetrate any missile defense.

Its designer, Yuri Solomonov, has said the missile drops its engines at a significantly lower altitude than earlier designs, making it hard for an enemy's early warning system to detect a launch. Solomonov also has said the missiles' warhead and decoys closely resemble one another in flight.

Windfall oil revenues have allowed the Kremlin to buy weapons and fund the development of new missiles. The deployment of Topol-Ms, however, has proceeded slowly, and Soviet-built ballistic missiles have remained the backbone of the nation's nuclear forces.

While the government put cash into modernizing ground-based missiles, the naval component of Russia's nuclear forces has deteriorated. Soviet-built nuclear submarines frequently need repairs and rarely leave their bases. The first in a series of new nuclear submarines is to be commissioned this year, but the nuclear-armed missile developed for it has failed tests.

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Countries Gathering for Final Talks on Treaty to Ban Cluster Munitions

BBS News, 16 May 2008, <http://news.google.com/>

The more than 100 countries that will gather in Dublin, Ireland on May 19 to negotiate a new international treaty aimed at banning cluster munitions should reject attempts to weaken the treaty, Human Rights Watch said today. Participating countries are scheduled to adopt the final text of the treaty on May 30.

Some countries will likely lobby to exempt certain weapons from the treaty, to insert a transition period postponing the ban for several years, or to secure the ability to assist others using cluster munitions in joint military operations.

"As it stands, the draft treaty is a strong, comprehensive ban on cluster munitions. Any attempts to water it down should be rejected completely," said Steve Goose, director of the Arms division at Human Rights Watch and co-chair of the international Cluster Munition Coalition. "Those kinds of revisions will only undermine the intended purpose of the ban, which is to save lives."

Cluster munitions are large weapons that open in mid-air and randomly scatter dozens or hundreds of individual submunitions (or "bomblets") over a large area. Countries are agreeing to ban them because they kill and injure too many civilians during combat due to their wide area effect, and continue to pose a threat long after an attack because so many fail to explode on impact but remain dangerous, functioning like antipersonnel mines.

The draft treaty prohibits the use, production, and trade of cluster munitions, and establishes a six-year deadline for the destruction of all existing stocks of the weapon. But it also goes far beyond the ban by requiring the clearance of contaminated areas -- with a deadline -- as well as assistance to victims and affected communities.

"The treaty is a powerful mix of disarmament and humanitarian law, with specific requirements for on-the-ground humanitarian actions," said Goose. "It has the potential to save countless lives now and for generations to come."

The treaty process was launched in Oslo, Norway in February 2007 when 46 nations agreed to conclude by the end of 2008 an agreement prohibiting cluster munitions "that cause unacceptable harm to civilians." The treaty text was developed during international meetings in Peru, Austria, and New Zealand, with more than 140 countries participating in at least part of the process.

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There will likely be three main areas of contention during the two-week negotiations. First, some states — most notably Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom — are seeking exceptions from the ban for certain weapons in their own arsenals, claiming they are still needed militarily and that they will not cause as much harm as other cluster munitions.

Second, some countries are seeking a "transition period" of more than seven years during which they would still be able to use banned cluster munitions, claiming that they cannot give up the weapons until they have developed military alternatives. The strongest calls for a transition period are likely to come from France, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, all of whom acknowledge that the weapons cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

Third, some states are seeking to delete or gut a provision in the treaty that prohibits states parties from assisting others firing cluster munitions during joint military operations. Those most vocal on the "interoperability" issue include Australia, Canada, Japan, and the United Kingdom. The United States has been pressuring many of its allies on this matter behind the scenes.

The negotiating countries include most of the world's users, producers, and stockpilers of cluster munitions. Among the notable no-shows are the United States, China, Russia, India, Pakistan, and Israel, all of which are major producers and stockpilers of cluster munitions.

"It is regrettable that the US and a handful of other states continue to insist on their need to use a weapon that the rest of world is banning because it causes unacceptable harm to civilians," said Goose. "But we believe that a strong new treaty will stigmatize cluster munitions to such a degree that it will be difficult for any country to use them without international condemnation."

Once the participating states adopt the final text of the treaty on May 30, no further changes can be made. The treaty will then be opened for signature to all countries — even those not present during the negotiations — in Oslo, Norway on December 2-3, 2008. After signing the treaty, countries still need to ratify it, usually through legislative approval, before it becomes legally binding.



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VX Landmine Disposal Operations begin at Pine Bluff Arsenal

CMA, 5 May 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Employees at the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA) and the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) successfully transported and destroyed the first VX nerve-agent filled landmine of the Arsenal's stockpile.

The morning of May 3, PBCA safely transported the first enhanced onsite container (EONC) carrying VX-filled landmines to PBCDF, and later that afternoon PBCDF destroyed the first VX landmine.

"The VX landmines are the third of four disposal campaigns for us," said Lt. Col. Cliff Johnston, PBCA commander. "We are excited to be this far along in our operations."

Chemical weapons disposal operations began at the Arsenal in March 2005 with the GB nerve-agent filled rockets. The second disposal campaign was the VX nerve-agent filled rockets, which ended in February 2008.

"We have begun landmine disposal operations safely and several months ahead of schedule," said Mark Greer, PBCDF site project manager. "Current estimates place the end of landmine disposal operations at later this summer."

Following the completion of VX landmine disposal operations, there will be a changeover period during which the facility will be prepared for and personnel will be trained in mustard ton container disposal operations. The mustard blister-agent filled ton containers will be the last disposal campaign.

"Our employees are committed to continue their outstanding record of safe disposal operations as we now have the opportunity to focus on mines for the first time," said David Reber, project general manager for Washington Defense Group, EG&G Division of the URS Corporation, which built and operates the plant for the Army.

Prior to chemical weapons disposal operations, the Pine Bluff Arsenal safely stored 3,850 tons of chemical agent or 12 percent of the Army's original chemical weapons stockpile for more than 60 years. With the completion of the GB rocket and VX rocket campaigns, PBCDF has eliminated more than one million pounds of chemical agent, 15 percent of the total chemical agent in the Arsenal's original stockpile.

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Newport Chemical Depot Reaches 90-Percent VX Destruction

CMA, 7 May 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Workers at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) have safely neutralized 90 percent of the VX stored at the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD).

The depot reached the 90-percent destruction milestone this morning (May 7). “I am proud of each member of the Newport team. Employees here are leaders of strong safety practices and will continue to be until all operations are complete,” said Depot Commander Lt. Col. Brian Lynch.

According to the NECDF Site Project Manager Jeff Brubaker, “We are predicting agent neutralization operations to be completed by summer’s end. Reaching the safe destruction of 90 percent of the stockpile makes us realize just how close we are to completing our project mission. The Newport team should be very proud of the work they are performing in order to make our nation safer.” Workers began destroying the Newport VX stockpile utilizing neutralization technology on May 5, 2005.

Once agent neutralization operations are completed, the site will focus efforts on thorough decontamination of the equipment and demolition of the buildings used for agent neutralization operations. It is anticipated that this stage of the project will take approximately 18 to 24 months to complete.

The Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty mandates completion of agent destruction by April 2012. Newport is one of the five active chemical agent storage and destruction sites managed by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency. For nearly 40 years, the Newport work force has safely stored more than 1000 tons of liquid chemical agent.

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Studies by P.K. Kanaujia and Co-Authors Describe New Findings in Chemical Warfare

Bioterrorism Week, 12 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

New research, "Application of cation-exchange solid-phase extraction for the analysis of amino alcohols from water and human plasma for verification of Chemical Weapons Convention," is the subject of a report.

"The analysis of nitrogen containing amino alcohols, which are the precursors and degradation products of nitrogen mustards and nerve agent VX, constitutes an important aspect for verifying the compliance to the CWC (Chemical Weapons Convention). This work devotes on the development of solid-phase extraction method using silica-and polymer-based SCX (strong cation-exchange) and MCX (mixed-mode strong cation-exchange) cartridges for N,N-dialkylaminoethane-2-ols and alkyl N,N-diethanolamines, from water," researchers in Gwalior, India report.

"The extracted analytes were analyzed by GC-MS (gas chromatography-mass spectrometry) in the full scan and selected ion monitoring modes. The extraction efficiencies of SCX and MCX cartridges were compared, and results revealed that SCX performed better. Extraction parameters, such as loading capacity, extraction solvent, its volume, and washing solvent were optimized. Best recoveries were obtained using 2 mL methanol containing 10% NH₄OH and limits of detection could be achieved up to 5 x 10⁻³ microg mL⁻¹ in the selected ion monitoring mode and 0.01 microg mL⁻¹ in full scan mode. The method was successfully employed for the detection and identification of amino alcohol present in water sample sent by Organization for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the official proficiency tests. The method was also applied to extract the analytes from human plasma," wrote P.K. Kanaujia and colleagues.

The researchers concluded: "The SCX cartridge showed good recoveries of amino alcohols from human plasma after protein precipitation."

Kanaujia and colleagues published their study in the Journal of Chromatography A (Application of cation-exchange solid-phase extraction for the analysis of amino alcohols from water and human plasma for verification of Chemical Weapons Convention. Journal of Chromatography A, 2008;1185(2):167-77). For additional information, contact P.K. Kanaujia, Vertox Laboratory, Defence Research & Development Establishment, Jhansi Road, Gwalior 474002, India. Publisher contact information for the Journal of Chromatography A is: Elsevier Science BV, PO Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, Netherlands. This article was prepared by Bioterrorism Week editors from staff and other reports. Copyright 2008, Bioterrorism Week via NewsRx.com.

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China Hopes to Destroy Japanese Abandoned Chemical Weapon Soon

Xinhua, 13 May 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

The Chinese government hopes to destroy abandoned wartime Japanese chemical weapons very soon, said Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi here on Tuesday [May 13].

Wang made the remarks while meeting with Rogelio Pfirter, director-general of the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Wang said considering the risk to lives, property and the environment, the Chinese government was greatly concerned about chemical weapons left by Japanese troops in World War II.

Wang hoped the OPCW would continue playing its positive role.

Wang praised the important contribution made by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) to safeguarding world peace and security, and reiterated China's support for the CWC.

Pfirter expressed appreciation for China's efforts in promoting the comprehensive and effective fulfillment of the CWC, saying the OPCW Technical Secretariat would continue taking an active part in disposing of abandoned wartime chemical weapons in China.

Pfirter, on behalf of the OPCW, extended sincere condolences for the Chinese people in the earthquake-hit region. The earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter scale, rocked southwest China Monday afternoon, killing at least 11,921 people.

Assistant Foreign Minister He Yafei held talks with Pfirter on the same day.

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One-Third of Umatilla Chemical Agent Tonnage Destroyed

CMA, 13 May 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Workers at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) and Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) have safely transported and destroyed one-third of the chemical agent tonnage originally stored in the depot's chemical weapons stockpile. This also means 86 percent of the total number of munitions in the Umatilla stockpile has been destroyed. The destruction milestone was reached last week.

"This is a community milestone as well as a credit to our workers," said Mike Strong, UMCD Army site project manager. "It took years of effort and partnership to safely build, test and operate the plant to get us to this point."

"Most important is that this milestone was achieved safely and while protecting the environment," said Doug Hamrick, project general manager for Washington Defense Group. Washington Defense built and operates the disposal plant for the Army. "Our work force is dedicated to maintaining that standard as we work to complete our mission."

The United States is destroying its chemical munitions according to the international Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) treaty. The CWC treaty measures chemical weapons disposal in terms of agent tonnage destroyed rather than number of munitions. About 60 percent of the entire Umatilla stockpile tonnage is mustard blister agent in large bulk containers or "ton containers," which have not yet been destroyed.

"Safely handling and moving each munition is essential," said Lt. Col. Bob Stein, depot commander. "We must remain vigilant until we finish moving and destroying the last chemical weapon in our stockpile."

The UMCD is currently processing 155mm diameter VX artillery projectiles. Overall, the UMCD is a little more than half way through the VX nerve agent disposal campaign. Workers have destroyed about 237 tons of VX agent contained in 14,519 rockets and warheads, 156 aircraft spray tanks, and more than 20 thousand 155mm projectiles. The remaining VX agent is contained in 8-inch diameter artillery projectiles and land mines.

The last of 1,014 tons of GB (sarin) nerve agent were destroyed July 8, 2007. The completed Umatilla GB campaign included about 155,500 chemical munitions including 91,442 rockets and warheads, more than 2,400 bombs, and more than 51,000 artillery projectiles.

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When all VX is gone, only mustard blister agent will remain on the depot. At the current rate of processing, the last of the VX munitions will be destroyed by early 2009. Then, after several months to prepare the plant for processing mustard ton containers, the final campaign to destroy mustard agent is planned to begin before the end of 2009.

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Deseret Chemical Depot: Verifying Agent Operations

U.S. Fed News, 15 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency issued the following weekly update:

Under the Chemical Weapons Convention, the United States agreed to destroy its stockpile of chemical weapons, of which 44.5 percent were originally stored at Deseret Chemical Depot.

Since July 1997, a team of international inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has been present during disposal operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) to verify the destruction of the weapons. As part of the team's oversight responsibility, agent sampling activities are performed to satisfy OPCW requirements.

Agent samples are taken from munitions monthly to confirm that the agent type is that which has been declared by the United States. The on-site inspectors typically choose munitions that were previously tagged in storage by the OPCW, or they randomly select and tag munitions as they are unpacked and prepared for the disposal process.

Facility workers in protective gear carefully remove samples as OPCW inspectors monitor the collection process from the Control Room. The process is observed through closed-circuit television (CCTV) and communication is transmitted by headsets worn by the workers.

The sample is placed into a collection vial and an OPCW seal is applied to prevent tampering. This seal remains in place until the sample is transported to the on-site laboratory. An inspector must be present as the seal is removed and the sample is analyzed to confirm the agent type.

"The fact that we have been so successful in pulling these samples is remarkable when you consider the circumstances: we have personnel wearing our highest level of protective equipment, wearing three sets of gloves, handling these tiny agent pipettes and vials all while ensuring that we don't lose sight of the vial on our CCTV system," TOCDF Treaty Compliance Coordinator John Wallace explains. "Then, the entrants have to tighten the small lid onto the vial and apply to OPCW seal; it's really a testament to the entrants that they can perform this evolution so well."

Throughout disposal operations, TOCDF workers have removed agent samples from approximately 600 munitions.

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Udall, Salazar Hold Off DoD Efforts to Transport Pueblo Chemical Depot Wastes

U.S. Fed News, 15 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Today U.S. Representatives Mark Udall (D-Colorado)... and John Salazar (D-Colorado)... commended the inclusion of language in the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 5658) that prohibits the Department of Defense (DoD) from transporting away from the Pueblo Chemical Depot in the 2009 fiscal year the hazardous wastes left after chemical treatment of mustard agent...

The Pueblo Chemical Depot holds 2,611 tons of liquid mustard agent and is part of the DoD's Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program, which is responsible for destroying the chemical weapons stored at Pueblo and at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), ratified by Congress in 1997, requires these munitions to be destroyed by 2012. Because of schedule delays, management problems, and funding shortfalls for the ACWA program, the DoD has said that the United States will not meet the Conventions' deadline.

Last year, Congress mandated that DoD complete all chemical weapons destruction activities by 2017. The DoD has suggested that a 2017 deadline at Pueblo cannot be reached if wastes are treated on-site. DoD is again studying whether to transport these wastes for treatment off-site, despite approved plans to treat the wastes at the Pueblo Chemical Depot, and despite the fact that construction of an on-site biotreatment facility has already begun. In addition, studies have shown that shipping these wastes would not yield benefits. The community of Pueblo and the Colorado Citizens' Advisory Commission, established by law to represent community interests, have repeatedly expressed their preference for treating the wastes on site.

"There is no question that the ACWA program has been poorly managed for years," said Rep. Udall. "But...Pueblo needs the jobs that the biotreatment process will provide, and the community deserves the certainty that clean-up will be completed in a timely fashion. This process should not be further delayed. The legislation John and I secured sends an important message to [DoD] — that Congress won't sit by and let DoD drag this process along, risking further delays, ballooning costs, and failing to meet the federal government's obligation to complete chemical weapons destruction by 2017.

"There is no question that the best possible solution for the people of Pueblo is the on-site treatment of waste," said Rep. Salazar. "I commend Mark for securing this important language in the Defense Authorization bill. Our bill prevents the Department of Defense from shipping waste off-site, making sure jobs stay in Pueblo and keeps the process on track."

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Russia Reports over 700 'Foreign' Nuclear Tests in Past 50 Years

RIA Novosti, 13 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Up to 730 nuclear tests have been conducted in the past 50 years by the United States, China, France, India, and Pakistan, a Russian Defense Ministry official said on Tuesday.

Col. Gen. Vladimir Verkhovtsev, head of the Defense Ministry Special Monitoring Service, which was established 50 years ago, said in an interview with the *Krasnaya Zvezda* daily that many of the tests registered by his agency had never been reported by the media.

The figures do not include nuclear tests conducted by Russia or the Soviet Union.

"Being a party to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), Russia has access to data recorded by more than 320 stations belonging to the NTBT international monitoring system," he said, adding that his service was able to register nuclear explosions with yields of 1 kiloton and upwards throughout the world.

He said one of the service's main goals has been monitoring the implementation of international treaties banning or limiting nuclear tests.

The general said the service's own laboratories were stationed throughout Russia, mainly in remote areas such the Upper North and the Far East.

The first test of an atomic weapon took place in New Mexico in the U.S. on July 16, 1945 [history of nuclear testing omitted...]

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NPT Meeting Wraps Up in Geneva

GSN, 9 May 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

Members of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) today wrapped up a two-week session in Geneva intended to lay the groundwork for the pact's 2010 review conference.

Meeting Chairman Volodymyr Yelchenko of Ukraine released a summary yesterday describing the wide variety of viewpoints expressed by treaty participants, but he reported no agreements beyond scheduling the next annual session for May 2009 in New York.

In a somewhat unusual move, the five nuclear-armed nations recognized by the treaty issued a joint statement today stressing that the nonproliferation component of the pact took primacy over those nations' nuclear disarmament obligations. The Treaty requires the nuclear powers to work in good faith toward total nuclear and general disarmament and also obligates the non-nuclear nations to remain so. The balance of these obligations has been debated since the treaty was opened for signature in 1968.

"We reaffirm that all states party must ensure strict compliance with their nonproliferation obligations under the NPT," says the joint statement from China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. "The proliferation of nuclear weapons undermines the security of all nations [and] imperils prospects for progress on other important NPT goals such as nuclear disarmament."

The statement singled out Iran. "The proliferation risks presented by the Iranian nuclear program continue to be a matter of ongoing serious concern to us," says the statement, presented by British Ambassador John Duncan.

For its part, Iran criticized the nuclear nations' lack of disarmament progress. "While there has not been any actual nuclear disarmament, some limited steps far from nuclear disarmament have been over-exaggerated," said Ambassador Ali Asghar Soltanieh in a statement delivered today.

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Iran Gives New Proposals on Its Nuclear Program to the European Union

Associated Press, 14 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Iran's ambassador to the European Union said Wednesday he presented a new package of proposals to EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana designed to resolve international concerns over his country's nuclear program and wider security issues.

Ambassador Ali Asghar Khaji said Iran wanted to play a role alongside global powers such as the United States, the 27-nation EU, Russia, China and others to address what he called pressing security issues related to the spread of nuclear weapons.

"Hopefully the offer will be welcomed by the world powers and they will take it seriously," Khaji told reporters.

He said the package which also was given to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, officials in China, Switzerland and Russia called for an overhaul of an international treaty meant to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Iran's envoy to the EU refused to provide details about the plan, but said its proposals were linked to a wide range of top-of-agenda security issues that the international community had to address with Iran, including terrorism, dictatorships, occupation and energy security.

"These issues must be dealt with together," Khaji said.

He said Iran, as a signatory of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, had every right to generate nuclear power, reiterating that Tehran does not plan to develop weapons, something the West fears Iran is currently doing.

Khaji called for an end to what he called current "double standards" by which other signatories like the U.S. continued to develop new weapons while telling others they could not.

"In our defense doctrine, nuclear weapons have no place," Khaji said.

The announcement of Iran's package came as Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov urged international mediators to provide security guarantees to Iran that it is not under threat of military action. He was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies that this would help in bringing Iran back to negotiations.



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Khaji, meanwhile, also accused the United States and its NATO allies of exacerbating the problem of terrorism.

"In Iraq and Afghanistan, there are more than 40 countries with a military presence and hundreds of billions of dollars spent," Khaji said. "Why has terrorism become stronger in the region? Because the phenomenon of terrorism has not yet been addressed efficiently. ... They have ignored its root causes."

Khaji said Tehran also remained open to further negotiations with Solana, who is representing other world powers in trying to get Iran to suspend its nuclear enrichment program.

Solana welcomed Iran's proposals, which he received from Khaji on Tuesday, said Cristina Gallach, spokeswoman for the EU foreign policy chief.

"He is going to study them ... and he agreed to pass it on" to other states involved in negotiations with Iran: Britain, Germany and France, Gallach said.

She said no new talks had yet been scheduled between Solana and Iranian counterparts to discuss the nuclear issue.

World powers agreed earlier this month to try again to sway Iran to start negotiations over its nuclear plans, offering a repackaged set of incentives to accompany the threat of U.N. sanctions.

Khaji said Iranian officials look forward to seeing the offer.

The original 2006 offer still stands. It would give Iran a chance to trade away worrisome elements of its nuclear program for economic and political incentives and the possibility of a better relationship with the United States, the EU and others.

"It would certainly be in their interest to look at it, consider it and, we think, accept the proposals that are out there," deputy U.S. State Department spokesman Tom Casey told reporters in Washington.

Tehran so far has turned down that invitation, refusing to suspend its enrichment program before entering full-scale talks over its nuclear program.

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 May – 19 May 2008

DTRA

Canadian Mission to Perform Observation Flight over Belarus, Russia

Interfax-AVN, 13 May 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Canadian military experts will fly an observation mission over Belarus and Russia from Tuesday to Friday, the Belarusian Defense Ministry told Interfax.

"A Canadian mission will perform observation flights over Belarus and Russia under the Treaty on Open Skies from May 13 – 16 aboard an S-130N surveillance aircraft to control military activities," the Defense Ministry said.

The Canadian mission will also comprise representatives of Belgium, Hungary and Poland.

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 May – 19 May 2008

DTRA

Russian Plane to Fly over U.S., Canada on Surveillance Mission

Interfax-AVN, 19 May 08, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia will fly a second surveillance mission over the United States and its first over Canada this year under the Treaty on Open Skies using a Tupolev Tu-154M LK-1 aircraft from May 18 – 30, the Russian Defense Ministry's information and public relations department told Interfax on Saturday.

The plane will take off from the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the United States and the Trenton airfield in Canada. The range of the flights will be 4,900 kilometers and 5,400 kilometers.

"The flight routes will be determined and agreed upon with the observed parties, proceeding from weather conditions in various parts of the United States and Canada, taking into account the surveillance equipment's capabilities, restrictions for its use stipulated in the Treaty, and flight safety regulations," it said.

An Antonov An-30B Bulgarian surveillance aircraft will also land at the Kubinka airfield outside Moscow on May 19 for similar flights over Russia and Belarus.

"Nineteen U.S. and Bulgarian inspectors will arrive in Russia to perform a joint surveillance flight over the Russian and Belarusian territories," it said.

The flight's range will be 5,500 kilometers. During the flight, Russian and foreign inspectors will control the employment of surveillance equipment and the observance of agreed-upon parameters and routes of the surveillance mission and the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies, it said.

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 May – 19 May 2008

DTRA

Vietnam Canadian Mine Action Team Visits Vietnam

Thai Press Reports, 14 May 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

A Mine Action team led by Maurice Baril, former Chief of the Defense Staff of the Canadian Defense Forces and Special Advisor to the Canadian Ambassador for Mine Action is paying a visit to Vietnam from May 12 – 15.

The Canadian embassy told a press conference in Hanoi on May 13 that the visit aims to promote dialogue with the Government of Vietnam on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer or Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (or Ottawa Convention).

On December 3, 1997, a total of 122 governments signed the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer or Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

Since the Convention took effect on March 1, 1999, around 156 nations in the world have ratified or participated in the Convention.

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06 May – 19 May 2008

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Croatia Hosts WMD Exercise

AFP, 12 May 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

An international exercise that is part of a U.S.-led initiative to prevent the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction started in Croatia on Monday [May 12], the foreign ministry said.

The seven-nation exercise is aimed at "strengthening national capacities to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and testing procedures of the Adriatic Sea countries in exchange of relevant information," it said.

Dubbed Adriatic Shield 08, the exercise is being held under the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) that was launched by the United States in 2003.

The PSI, in which around 85 countries participate, is aimed at stopping terrorists and rogue states from getting hold of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

The three-day exercise — centered on the northern Adriatic towns of Rijeka and Opatija — is co-organized by Poland and the United States, with Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia also taking part.

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



06 May – 19 May 2008

DTRA

U.S., Russia Have Disputes over Post-START Deal

Interfax, 8 May 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia and the United States remain divided on some points regarding a treaty to succeed the Russian-U.S. Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expires at the end of 2009, U.S. Ambassador to Russia William Burns said.

"I think there are two major issues. One is form and the other is content," Burns told Interfax.

"On form, we have made some progress. The United States in Sochi made clear our commitment to a legally binding post-START agreement," Burns said with reference to a meeting between former Russian president Vladimir Putin and U.S. President George W. Bush in Sochi, Russia, last month.

"But there do remain differences over content, and the United States prefers a streamlined agreement which is based largely on the Moscow Treaty as opposed to a much more detailed treaty the size of a telephone book," the ambassador said.

"And so, we have some differences to try and resolve between us over the issue of content. But our two presidents made clear again in Sochi their determination to work to narrow those differences, to make maximum progress this year, in 2008, because the START treaty expires at the end of 2009," the diplomat said.

Asked whether the United States believes the control mechanism should be sustained, Burns said, "We certainly need to preserve the kind of measures which reassure one another. And the United States and Russia over many years have worked on these kinds of issues.

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