DEFENSE TREATY INSPECTION READINESS PROGRAM · READINESS THROUGH AWARENESS

# BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW

**09 September – 20 September 2010**

DTRA

## CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

### OPCW Delegation Visits a Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in the Russian Federation

*OPCW News, 09 September 2010, http://www.opcw.org/*

At the invitation of the government of the Russian Federation, a delegation from the OPCW Executive Council visited on 7 and 8 September 2010 the Pochep Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, located at Pochep, Bryanskaya Oblast. *(445 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

### ADEM Assesses Anniston Disposal Facility Fine

*Chemical Materials Agency, 09 September 2010, http://www.cma.army.mil/*

In a proposed consent order to be published this week, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has cited the operator of the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) for self-reported shortcomings. *(319 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

### Army Cuts Back Plan to Blow Up Colorado Chemical Arms

*Associated Press, 15 September 2010, http://www.kentucky.com/*

The Army has cut back on the number of mustard agent shells it wants to destroy in closed chambers at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. *(227 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

### Blue Grass Demil Plant 25 Percent Complete

*The Richmond Register, 16 September 2010, http://richmondregister.com/*

Construction of the chemical weapons destruction plant at the Blue Grass Army Depot is 25 percent complete, but the completion of the massive complex is still five years away. *(334 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

## FISSILE MATERIALS

### NNSA Announces Elimination of More than 400 Metric Tons of Russian HEU

States News Service, 09 September 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today announced that it has monitored the elimination of more than 400 metric tons (MT) of Russian highly enriched uranium (HEU) – the equivalent of more than 16,000 nuclear weapons – under a landmark nuclear nonproliferation program. *(363 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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## FISSILE MATERIALS (CONT.)

### Conference on Disarmament Adopts Annual Report and Discusses High-Level Meeting on Disarmament

*States News Service, 14 September 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

The Conference on Disarmament this morning adopted its annual report to the General Assembly and discussed the upcoming high-level meeting on disarmament that will take place on 24 September in New York. *(729 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

## INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

### U.S. 'Has Urged' India to Be 'Sensitive' to Concerns over Nuclear Liability Bill

*The Asian Age Online10 September 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

Washington has urged New Delhi to be sensitive to its concerns and those of American corporations while framing the rules for the nuclear liability bill which was recently passed by Parliament. *(427 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

### Russia, U.S. Request IAEA to Verify Weapons-Grade Plutonium's Disposition

*IAEA, 17 September 2010, http://www.iaea.org/*

On 16 September 2010, the IAEA´s Director General Yukiya Amano received a jointly signed letter from the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, and the U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton. *(185 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

### Stage Set for Premiere Global Nuclear Issues Conference

*IAEA, 20 September 2010, http://www.iaea.org/*

An intense week of discussion and exchange started on Monday, 20 September, when the IAEA´s General Conference (GC) officially opened. *(284 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

## NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START)

### Backers of Nuke Treaty Push for Republican Support

*Associated Press, 13 September 2010, http://www.washingtonpost.com/*

A senior senator offered a plan Monday aimed at overcoming objections by his fellow Republicans to a nuclear arms control treaty with Russia. *(434 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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

### U.S. Can't Risk Slow START [OPINION]

*State Department, 16 September 2010, http://www.state.gov/t/us/147267.htm*
*Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security*
*James Miller, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy*
For the past 15 years, our principal arms control agreement with Russia, START, has been based on President Ronald Reagan's guiding principle, "Trust, but verify." *(591 words)*
***Click here for full text.***

### Senate Panel Approves Arms Treaty with Russia

*New York Times, 16 September 2010, http://www.nytimes.com/*
President Obama's arms control treaty with Russia advanced to the Senate floor with bipartisan support on Thursday, giving it a major boost toward ratification despite the election-year polarization that has divided the parties over so many other issues. *(928 words)*
***Click here for full text.***

### Synchronous Ratification of New START Treaty Realistic: Russia

*Moscow ITAR-TASS, 17 September 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*
It is quite realistic to ratify the new START treaty before the end of this year, First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma International Affairs Committee Leonid Slutsky said. *(345 words)*
***Click here for full text.***

## PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

### Australia Hosting Regional Anti-Proliferation Forum

*BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific, 13 September 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis*
Australia will host the first regional operational experts' group (ROEG) meeting of Asia-Pacific member countries of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), in conjunction with Exercise Pacific Protector 10, in Cairns from 14-16 September. *(253 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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# TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE)

## Serdyukov Suggests New Treaty Instead of CFE

*Moscow Interfax, 17 September 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

Russia will not go back to complying with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) unless NATO countries accept Moscow's terms, said Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov. *(191 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

# FULL TEXT OF WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

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## OPCW Delegation Visits a Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in the Russian Federation

*OPCW News, 09 September 2010, http://www.opcw.org/*

At the invitation of the government of the Russian Federation, a delegation from the OPCW Executive Council visited on September 7 – 8, 2010 the Pochep Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility, located at Pochep, Bryanskaya Oblast. The delegation comprised the Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Jean-François Blarel, together with a representative from each of the other regional groups, a representative from the United States of America, and the OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Uzümcü.

The visit took place in pursuance of a decision taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its 11th session in December 2006 on visits by the representatives of the Executive Council to chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDFs) and CWDF construction sites. The purpose of the visits is to "consider progress and efforts towards achieving complete destruction in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and any measures being taken to overcome possible problems in destruction programs in accordance with Part IV (A), paragraph 26 of the Verification Annex".

Three similar visits were previously conducted by the Council, two in the United States of America at the CWDFs located at Anniston, Alabama, in October 2007, and Pueblo, Colorado, and Umatilla, Oregon, in May-June 2009, as well as one visit in the Russian Federation at Shchuchye, in the Kurgansk region, in September 2008.

During the visit to Pochep, Mr. V Kholstov, Director of the Department for Fulfillment of Convention-related Obligations, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, and other representatives of the Russian Federation briefed the OPCW delegation on the overall implementation of the chemical weapons destruction program in the Russian Federation, the state of affairs at each destruction facility, with a focus on the CWDF located at Pochep, which is currently in final stages of construction.

The representatives of the Russian Federation outlined the efforts and measures undertaken to meet the country's obligations under the Convention as well as the technical and financial challenges involved in the process of eliminating this category of weapons of mass destruction. The visit also included a tour of the facility, soon to be commissioned, as well as ample opportunity for discussions, which were conducted in an open and transparent manner.

The chemical weapons destruction facility located at Pochep will destroy 7,498 MT of nerve agents in air-delivered chemical munitions (representing 18.8 percent of the CW stockpile

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declared by the Russian Federation) and it is expected to start the operations in the fourth quarter of 2010.

As part of the visit, the OPCW delegation met also in Moscow with the Chairman of the State Commission on Chemical Disarmament, Mr. G.A. Rapota and with the Deputy-Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Defense, Mr. I.E. Puzanov.

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## ADEM Assesses Anniston Disposal Facility Fine

*Chemical Materials Agency, 09 September 2010, http://www.cma.army.mil/*

In a proposed consent order to be published this week, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has cited the operator of the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) for self-reported shortcomings. ADEM also has proposed a civil penalty of $27,420 be paid to the State environmental department.

ADEM granted a permit to the Army and Westinghouse Anniston in 1997 to build, test, and operate the ANCDF. The permit requires that ANCDF operations follow strict procedures and that all variances be reported on a regular basis. ADEM's order reflects its recent review of the latest noncompliance issues reported by ANCDF operators. "The issues reported to ADEM reflect a very small percentage of all efforts that were accomplished in a compliant and safe manner," said Timothy K. Garrett, ANCDF government site project manager.

"We honestly document everything we do, even when we have shortcomings. We also document what was done to immediately bring operations back into compliance with the permit. Through cooperative efforts with the State regulators, I can assure the public and the work force their safety has not been compromised at anytime by ANCDF operations," Garrett said.

The ANCDF self-reported issues cited by ADEM included more than a dozen incidents out of thousands of items documented during the time period covered by ADEM.

Operations at the ANCDF have been ongoing because ADEM has determined the self-reported noncompliance issues have not been egregious enough to pose a safety risk to the community, the environment, or the work force.

Safe demilitarization of the Anniston chemical munitions stockpile began in August 2003. Since then, ANCDF operators have processed 198,399 mustard-filled munitions, or 66.1 percent of Anniston's mustard munitions. ANCDF operators completed the two nerve agent campaigns in December 2008 with the demilitarization of the last VX-filled land mine. Altogether, 361,802 nerve agent munitions have been processed. To date, a total of 560,201 munitions (84.6 percent) have been eliminated from Anniston's stockpile.

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## Army Cuts Back Plan to Blow Up Colorado Chemical Arms

*Associated Press, 15 September 2010, http://www.kentucky.com/*

The Army has cut back on the number of mustard agent shells it wants to destroy in closed chambers at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. The Army now wants to use explosions to destroy up to 40,000 shells, down from 125,000 in an earlier plan, the Pueblo Chieftain reported Tuesday.

The purpose of the detonation plan, which has encountered stiff opposition from some Pueblo groups, was to speed up the process.

The Environmental Protection Agency asked for data and modeling that would have meant a long delay in the explosives plan, said Kevin Flamm, manager of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program [ACWA]. The program oversees the destruction of chemical weapons at Pueblo and at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky.

About 780,000 obsolete shells containing mustard agent are awaiting destruction at the Pueblo depot under terms of an international treaty. Most will be neutralized with water and bacteria, but the Army has always planned to use explosions in closed chambers to destroy shells that are leaking or damaged.

Previously, officials estimated such shells would be number 400 to 1,000.

Kathy DeWeese, a spokeswoman for Flamm's program, said the higher estimate is "extremely approximate" and could change.

An environmental assessment on the plan to destroy 125,000 shells with explosives has been withdrawn. Officials said a new, more rigorous assessment will be completed next year on the scaled-back plan.

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## Blue Grass Demil Plant 25 Percent Complete

*The Richmond Register, 16 September 2010, http://richmondregister.com/*

Construction of the chemical weapons destruction plant at the Blue Grass Army Depot is 25 percent complete, but the completion of the massive complex is still five years away, said Craig Williams, co-chair of the Chemical Destruction Citizen's Advisory Board, at the board's quarterly meeting Tuesday evening.

After years of debate and delay, the project is moving forward with relentless momentum, Williams said as both the military and civilian project managers reported attainment of several progress milestones.

The first wall of the destruction complex's blast containment structure was set in place on September 11, 2010 using two giant cranes, according to Jeff Brubaker, the Defense Department's onsite manager for the project.

While some engineering work remains, all design work on the destruction complex and its equipment has been completed, said Mark Seely, project manager for Bechtel Parson Blue Grass, the civilian contractor for the construction.

Fabrication of the plant's three neutralization reactors, by a Louisville subcontractor, has been completed, and they have been installed at the depot, Seely said. Other equipment has been fabricated and will be shipped to the depot and installed when appropriate, as other equipment building continues. […]

Construction also is progressing on the foundation of the super-critical water-oxidation plant that will convert neutralized nerve and mustard weapons into ordinary hazardous waste, Brubaker said.

Last week, the head of the international treaty organization that monitors destruction of chemical weapons visited Kentucky to tour the depot and meet local officials, Brubaker said. Ahmet Uzümcü, director general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons [OPCW], and Robert Mikulak, the U.S. ambassador designate to OPCW, and others also inspected igloos where chemical weapons are stored as they await destruction, Williams said. […]

The Kentucky depot will be the last U.S. facility to complete destruction of its chemical weapons, probably in 2021, Williams said. Army depots in Alabama and Arkansas, which used incineration rather than chemical neutralization, have destroyed all of their nerve-agent weapons, Williams said. They continue to destroy mustard-agent weapons. […]

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## NNSA Announces Elimination of More than 400 Metric Tons of Russian HEU

States News Service, 09 September 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) today announced that it has monitored the elimination of more than 400 metric tons (MT) of Russian highly enriched uranium (HEU) – the equivalent of more than 16,000 nuclear weapons – under a landmark nuclear nonproliferation program.

The 1993 U.S.-Russian HEU Purchase Agreement is now 80 percent complete and by 2013 will convert 500 MT of HEU from dismantled Russian nuclear weapons into low enriched uranium (LEU) for peaceful nuclear energy use. Nearly half of all electricity generated in commercial nuclear reactors in the United States comes from fuel that has its origins in Russian nuclear weapons.

"This is the ultimate swords to plowshares program, and I commend the continued joint commitment of the United States and Russian Federation to the safe and irreversible elimination of excess fissile materials under this important bilateral agreement," said NNSA Administrator Thomas D'Agostino. "This milestone puts us one step closer to accomplishing the President's goal of securing or eliminating all weapons-usable nuclear materials worldwide."

The agreement requires the Russian Federation to convert weapons-origin HEU into LEU in Russia. The LEU is then delivered to the United States where it is fabricated into nuclear fuel and used in commercial reactors to generate approximately 10 percent of all electrical power nationwide.

NNSA's HEU Transparency Program monitors the Russian HEU to LEU conversion process to ensure that all LEU delivered to the U.S. under the agreement is derived from Russian weapons HEU. The Program implements extensive access and monitoring rights during 24 annual monitoring visits to four Russian HEU processing facilities. At these facilities, U.S. experts measure and observe HEU processing firsthand, and this information allows the U.S. to confirm that Russian HEU conversion activities fulfill the agreement's nonproliferation goals.

To date, the NNSA Program has conducted 290 monitoring visits to Russian HEU processing facilities, and U.S. experts monitor the elimination of 30 metric tons of HEU each year – the annual equivalent of 1,200 nuclear weapons. The Russian Federation also conducts reciprocal monitoring activities at U.S. facilities to confirm the peaceful use of all LEU delivered under the agreement.

The U.S. Enrichment Corp. and Techsnabexport, the executive agents for the agreement, manage the commercial aspects and logistics of the uranium shipments and transfers.

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## Conference on Disarmament Adopts Annual Report and Discusses High-Level Meeting on Disarmament

*States News Service, 14 September 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

The Conference on Disarmament [CD] this morning adopted its annual report to the General Assembly and discussed the upcoming high-level meeting on disarmament that will take place on September 24 in New York on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations.

At the beginning of this morning's meeting, Ambassador Anatole Fabien Marie Nkou of Cameroon, President of the Conference, said that the Conference was now in a position to adopt the 2010 report of the Conference on Disarmament. Before the adoption of the annual report, the United States, Syria, Australia, Italy, the Russian Federation and India took the floor to propose minor editorial comments and to inform the Secretariat that they had submitted additional documents to be included in the report.

After the adoption of the annual report, the President said that the Conference was alive and would continue to live. The report they just adopted provided the convincing proof that they had worked and they were very careful about the mandate entrusted to them. Leaving the fact that they had not been able to adopt a program of work aside, they still had done a lot of work. He said that this was probably the last meeting of the 2010 session, but that he was ready to convene a plenary or an informal if the need arose during the intersessional period. His mandate was not finished yet and he would make his final remarks in January.

In the discussion on the upcoming high-level meeting, Brazil said that it could not discern, throughout the session, a clear political will from the part of the nuclear weapon states. Brazil was not sure that all regional groups had the same desire to change the situation. The refusal to adopt a program of work and the avoidance of real negotiations on nuclear disarmament were political attitudes.

As the stalemate continued, with no early prospects for negotiations in sight, Canada said that the consensus rule under which the Conference operated might have been appropriate for the Cold War, but it was no longer suited to today's multi-polar environment in which the old regional blocks had lost their relevance. Canada, as the first President of the Conference in 2011, intended to invest its time and energy into achieving a consensus on a program of work that included negotiations.

The United States said that they were under no illusion that a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty [FMCT] would be negotiated rapidly; it would take years. This was why they had to start acting

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now. The Conference was not the sole disarmament negotiating forum; it was the sole standing one and there was room for other possibilities outside of the Conference.

France said they did not agree with the Brazilian assessment that there was no political will on the part of the five nuclear powers. Starting negotiations on a cut-off treaty had been their permanent and constant political will.

The United States, Australia and France also noted that at the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, States Parties had adopted an action plan which served as a roadmap and which also looked at the substantive work the Conference should deliver. Australia said that next week in New York, states would have a possibility to support this document. France said that the plan of action adopted there proved that the international community was ready to look at nuclear disarmament in a global and balanced matter.

India said that a substantive program of work had been adopted in 2009 and the Conference should be encouraged to return to that situation to allow it to start substantive work. India would also welcome a Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament. They hoped that all those who wished to strengthen the role of the organization in disarmament matters would join consensus on the convening of such a session.

Pakistan said the Conference on Disarmament had delivered two important instruments after the end of the Cold War. Thus, blaming the Conference as a relic of that period was not correct. Pakistan, as a concerned nuclear weapon state, would continue to deliver so that the Conference on Disarmament could achieve its mandate.

The third and last part of the 2010 session of the Conference on Disarmament will conclude on September 24, and the first plenary of the Conference's 2011 session will take place on January 24, 2011.

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## U.S. 'Has Urged' India to Be 'Sensitive' to Concerns over Nuclear Liability Bill

*The Asian Age Online10 September 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

Washington has urged New Delhi to be sensitive to its concerns and those of American corporations while framing the rules for the nuclear liability bill which was recently passed by Parliament.

U.S. ambassador to India Timothy Roemer is understood to have conveyed similar sentiments to South Block as both sides determine how to proceed with the last leg of the journey towards operationalizing the India-US nuclear deal.

The envoy's meeting coincided with the U.S. State Department making it known that it was in talks with New Delhi to see what changes can be made to the bill.

Sources confirmed Mr. Roemer's meeting but described it as routine.

Notwithstanding the U.S. concerns, South Block is of the view that the new bill does not change the liability of the supplier as it existed before, and that the provisions of the bill are consistent with the Vienna Convention.

Ironically, India's difficulty in accommodating all of Washington's onerous expectations is matched only by the U.S.'s reluctance to dismantle export controls and licensing, leading to further delays in operationalizing the nuclear deal.

As the U.S. keeps up the pressure on India to cushion the impact of the bill for American corporations, the U.S. itself remains unrelenting on revisiting its domestic requirement of end-use assurance from India on the use of nuclear equipment and materials.

A bone of contention is the "part 810" of the "10 CFR" (Code of Federal Regulations) of the U.S. dealing with assistance to foreign atomic energy activities. It requires an undertaking that the nuclear technology will be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

The U.S. Department of Energy wants an explicit undertaking to be made by the Indian government, and not by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), which, in New Delhi's reckoning, will be the designated "operator" of the American-built nuclear reactors to be set up in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

The U.S. Department of Energy is the competent authority that will have to issue the "Part 810" license to American companies for engaging in nuclear commerce with India, after it has made

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a determination that such trade is not prejudicial to the U.S. non-proliferation objectives or inimical to its defense and security.

For its part, New Delhi contends that it has implicitly given this pledge at the time of negotiating the text of the 123 Agreement with the U.S.

Since then, it has shown an interest in harmonizing its export controls and also sought membership of the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

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## Russia, U.S. Request IAEA to Verify Weapons-Grade Plutonium's Disposition

*IAEA, 17 September 2010, http://www.iaea.org/*

On 16 September 2010, the IAEA´s Director General Yukiya Amano received a jointly signed letter from the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, and the U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, requesting that the IAEA undertake "an important verification role under the amended Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America Concerning the Management and Disposition of Plutonium Designated as No Longer Required for Defense Purposes and Related Cooperation".

The amended Agreement between the Russian Federation and United States creates a "framework for cooperation and establishes the infrastructure for disposition of weapon-grade plutonium designated as no longer required for each side´s defense programs, initially 34 metric tons each or enough for thousands of nuclear weapons."

The disposition agreement calls on the Russian Federation and the United States to undertake "all necessary steps to conclude appropriate agreements with the IAEA to allow it to implement verification measures with respect to each Party´s disposition program" and to prepare "the necessary legally-binding verification agreements in 2011".

[The full text of the letter can be accessed at:
***http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/2010/infcirc806.pdf***]

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## Stage Set for Premiere Global Nuclear Issues Conference

*IAEA, 20 September 2010, http://www.iaea.org/*

An intense week of discussion and exchange started on Monday, September 20th when the IAEA´s General Conference (GC) officially opened. This is the Agency's fifty-fourth General Conference. Held annually, the Conference is also the Agency´s highest policymaking body.

Senior officials and representatives from 151 IAEA Member States are gathering to address issues ranging from the IAEA´s budget and plan of work for the coming year, to resolutions on development and security issues.

IAEA Deputy Director General David Waller explains that the GC works almost like a "three-ring circus". Member States representatives´ discussions hold center stage. Simultaneously, Member States and the Secretariat develop research and technical cooperation plans, nuclear regulators´ meet and the IAEA´s Scientific Forum is held.

"This year´s Scientific Forum will be focusing on combating cancer in developing countries," says Waller.

Although the media often refers to the IAEA as "the UN´s nuclear watchdog", its mission and work addresses much more than nuclear non-proliferation, such as establishing and refining nuclear safety standards, improving human and animal health, agriculture and resource management. A number of events and meetings to be held during the GC reflect the diversity of the IAEA´s work.

Nuclear technology now comprises a broad spectrum of activities, including power generation, industrial applications, and food and water security.

"Nuclear technology, in my view, is the most powerful technology that we have. Its application covers mankind´s every activity," says Kwaku Aning, the Secretary of IAEA´s Policy Making Organs.

Waller and Aning stress that the GC is the most important networking opportunity for the nuclear world. They both emphasize the annual meeting´s crucial role as the premier global forum for exchanging ideas and enhancing collaboration to ensure the peaceful applications of nuclear technology.

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## Backers of Nuke Treaty Push for Republican Support

*Associated Press, 13 September 2010, http://www.washingtonpost.com/*

A senior senator offered a plan Monday aimed at overcoming objections by his fellow Republicans to a nuclear arms control treaty with Russia.

The proposal by Indiana Senator Richard Lugar came as Obama administration officials made a last-minute push for the New START agreement ahead of a vote Thursday in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

While the panel is expected to endorse the treaty, prospects are uncertain in the full Senate, where Democrats need at least eight Republican votes for ratification.

Administration officials were expressing confidence that the treaty, considered one of President Barack Obama's top foreign policy achievements, was gaining support from Republicans despite the rarefied political environment ahead of the November congressional election.

"There is a great deal of momentum toward ratification," said the treaty's chief U.S. negotiator, Rose Gottemoeller, at an event at Georgetown University on Monday.

Delays in negotiating the treaty and moving toward ratification have pushed consideration into the political season ahead of November's elections, when Republicans are reluctant to allow a policy victory for the Obama administration.

Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev signed the treaty in April. It would shrink the limit on strategic warheads to 1,550 for each country, down about a third from the current ceiling of 2,200. It also would implement changes in current procedures that allow both countries to inspect each other's arsenals and verify compliance.

Lugar, the Foreign Relations Committee's ranking Republican and a longtime advocate of arms control, was circulating an amendment to the resolution of support for the treaty offered by the committee's chairman, Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts.

The amendment, obtained by The Associated Press, includes assurances about a host of concerns that Republicans have raised about the treaty, including whether it would limit U.S. missile defense. The amendment says it is the sense of the U.S. Senate that the treaty does not limit U.S. missile defense except for a provision that forbids converting existing offensive missile launchers into missile defense assets.

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The resolution also says that a unilateral statement by Russia after the treaty was signed in April, in which Moscow made clear that it could withdraw from the treaty if it should feel threatened by U.S. missile defense systems, "does not impose a legal obligation on the United States."

Because some Republicans have said that before ratifying the treaty they want to be sure that the Democrats will pass a big boost in money for maintaining and modernizing the U.S. nuclear stockpile, the Lugar amendment also includes provisions that would require the White House to consult with the Senate on funding levels to ensure adequate funding.

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## U.S. Can't Risk Slow START [OPINION]

*State Department, 16 September 2010, http://www.state.gov/t/us/147267.htm*
*Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security*
*James Miller, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy*

For the past 15 years, our principal arms control agreement with Russia, START, has been based on President Ronald Reagan's guiding principle, "Trust, but verify."

But START, which allowed us to monitor and inspect Russia's strategic nuclear arsenal, expired last December. Now, we have only trust – and that's not enough in an uncertain world.

The Senate can change that by voting for New START, which sets lower limits on both U.S. and Russian strategic warheads and long-range missiles and bombers and restores a strong verification regime.

If the Senate approves the treaty – a two-thirds vote is required – we will be able to regain and improve upon our ability to verify what Russia is doing with its nuclear arsenal.

Without New START, our knowledge of Russia's nuclear forces is likely to erode and the risks of misunderstandings and miscalculations will grow. Worst-case assumptions are then likely to fuel military planning in both countries, increasing costs and decreasing trust.

This new treaty could provide a vital window into Russia's strategic nuclear arsenal and help track it. The new inspection regime draws on our experience over the past 15 years with the original START.

As with START, each side will provide extensive data on its strategic forces and will be able to conduct on-site inspections of the other side's forces and related facilities. New START provides for up to 18 short-notice inspections of 35 Russian sites per year – a better ratio than START, which permitted 28 annual inspections of 70 facilities.

Under the new treaty, inspectors are to count each warhead on a missile, rather than using the old START method of checking whether a missile exceeds its permitted warhead load. Each missile and heavy bomber would also have a unique identifier, like a bar code, to enable better tracking of the weapon's movement or change in deployment status.

Moreover, under New START, a single inspection would provide more data than under the expired agreement. But it is also important to understand what the treaty does not do. It will not affect our ability to modernize our delivery systems and nuclear complex or to develop the most effective missile defenses.

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Our commitment to modernizing our nuclear capabilities and to fielding effective missile defenses is backed by substantial investments in these missions. The Obama administration plans to spend at least $180 billion to upgrade the nuclear complex and to sustain associated weapons systems over the next decade. An additional $45 billion is slated for missile defenses over the next five years.

These investments – as well as New START – reflect an emerging bipartisan consensus that we can enhance our national security through bilateral reductions in nuclear weapons but that those weapons must be safe, secure and effective.

As officials who worked to complete the new treaty, we can vouch for our negotiators' efforts to get the best possible agreement. But don't take our word for it.

Presidents from both political parties decided that we are better off with arms-control agreements than without them. In the past, the Senate has approved arms-control agreements like this by overwhelming bipartisan votes, including the original START, approved 93-6, and the Moscow Treaty, negotiated by President George W. Bush and approved 95-0.

New START also has the unanimous support of our military leaders and the backing of five former secretaries of defense, six former secretaries of state and seven former heads of the military command in charge of our nuclear weapons.

We hope that senators continue that tradition by voting to approve New START today.

*[Published as Op-Ed in POLITICO: **http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0910/42235.html**]*

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## Senate Panel Approves Arms Treaty with Russia

*New York Times, 16 September 2010, http://www.nytimes.com/*

President Obama's arms control treaty with Russia advanced to the Senate floor with bipartisan support on Thursday, giving it a major boost toward ratification despite the election-year polarization that has divided the parties over so many other issues.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 14 to 4 to approve the treaty known as New Start, with three Republicans joining Democrats after negotiating an accompanying resolution addressing conservative concerns about missile defense and modernization of the nuclear arsenal.

The vote was a rare instance in which Mr. Obama has won more than token Republican support for a signature initiative. But he still faces a battle to secure final approval on the Senate floor, where under the Constitution the treaty needs a two-thirds vote, meaning at least eight Republicans. With many Republicans still opposed, Democrats are likely to delay a floor vote until a lame-duck session after the election on November 2nd.

Mr. Obama considers the treaty one of his most tangible foreign policy achievements and the centerpiece of his effort to rebuild relations with Russia after years of tension.

Signed by Mr. Obama and President Dmitri A. Medvedev in Prague in April, the treaty would bar each side from deploying more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads or 700 launchers starting seven years after final ratification.

Perhaps just as significantly, it would establish a new inspection and monitoring regime to replace the longstanding program that lapsed last year with the expiration of the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty of 1991, or Start. The nine months since the end of that treaty have been the only period since the cold war when the two nuclear powers did not have a system for exchanging information and allowing inspectors on the ground.

"This is an historic vote that renews the bipartisan tradition that's vital in tackling the grave threat posed by nuclear weapons," said Senator John Kerry, Democrat of Massachusetts and the committee chairman. "This bipartisan vote sends an important signal that even in the most partisan, polarized season, ratifying this treaty is not a matter of politics. It's a national security imperative."

In an interview afterward, Mr. Kerry expressed confidence that enough Republicans would join to pass the agreement on the floor, but acknowledged that it was unlikely to receive the overwhelming vote that past arms control treaties had received.

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"I hope that we can ratify it by the end of the year," he said. "In today's world, if we get about 70 or 70-plus, it would be a very big victory."

Mr. Kerry worked closely with the White House and his Republican counterpart, Senator Richard G. Lugar of Indiana, to shape a resolution of ratification that would bring over several Republicans. Mr. Lugar offered a final draft dealing with concerns of his fellow Republicans, winning the support of Senators Bob Corker of Tennessee and Johnny Isakson of Georgia.

"Rejecting this treaty would inhibit our knowledge of Russian military capabilities, weaken our nonproliferation diplomacy worldwide and potentially reignite expensive arms competition that would further strain our national budget," Mr. Lugar said.

But dissenting Republicans contended that the treaty would undercut national security by giving Russia a tool to fight against American plans to build a missile defense system in Europe. They argued that Russia has skirted the requirements of other treaties in the past and could not be trusted, and they contended that the treaty would potentially limit new conventional missile programs.

"Under this treaty, the U.S. allows limits on missile defense and conventional prompt global strike, while accepting weakened verification measures," Senator Jim Risch of Idaho said. "It is unclear what concessions were made by Russia."

The resolution of ratification offered by Mr. Lugar with Mr. Kerry's support would not alter the treaty itself, but would set out the Senate's understanding of what the pact means, a common way for lawmakers to put their stamp on a treaty without reopening negotiations.

Among other things, it reaffirmed that the treaty imposes no limitations on missile defense beyond a clause barring the United States from using old intercontinental missile silos or submarine launchers for antimissile interceptors.

It likewise made clear that the treaty would not prevent the United States from developing systems to use long-range missiles with conventional rather than nuclear warheads.

During a break in the panel's deliberations on Thursday, Mr. Kerry, Mr. Lugar and administration officials huddled in a back room with one of the treaty's most outspoken Republican critics, Senator Jim DeMint of South Carolina. They agreed to add additional language he wanted expressing the desire to move beyond mutually assured destruction as a nuclear strategy.

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In the end, Mr. DeMint missed the final committee vote, and his office did not respond to a request for comment. His fellow Republicans – Mr. Risch and Senators John Barrasso of Wyoming, Roger Wicker of Mississippi and James M. Inhofe of Oklahoma – voted against the treaty.

Mr. Lugar's resolution also laid out a commitment to modernize the nation's nuclear weapons complex, a top Republican priority, although it is not binding. The Obama administration has proposed a 10-year plan to upgrade the nuclear complex, but Republicans led by Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona have been pushing to lock in the commitment as much as possible and make sure enough money will be available.

Mr. Kyl, the Senate's second-ranking Republican, had no comment on Thursday. Mr. Corker made clear this week that while he was voting yes in committee, he still wanted a firmer commitment on modernization money before supporting the treaty on the floor. That suggests several more weeks of negotiations to find an accommodation.

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## Synchronous Ratification of New START Treaty Realistic: Russia

*Moscow ITAR-TASS, 17 September 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

It is quite realistic to ratify the new START treaty before the end of this year, First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma International Affairs Committee Leonid Slutsky said. He called 'crucial' the vote at the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, which recommended the Senate to ratify the treaty with 14 votes to four.

"Russia is fully prepared for ratification, but it will be keep to the principle of synchronous ratification. Anyway, the treaty will be ratified before the end of this year," he said.

The treaty meets Russia's strategic interests, Slutsky said. "The start of the ratification of the Russia-U.S. disarmament deal is a landmark event important not only for Russia-U.S. relations but also for world nuclear security," he said.

Meanwhile, State Duma International Affairs Committee Chairman Konstantin Kosachyov said the committee was prepared to urgently resume the discussion of the treaty. "The committee will rapidly resume the discussion if necessary. The next meeting of the committee is due on September 23," he said.

Kosachyov confirmed that Russia would not hurry with the ratification. "Fourteen Senators supported the treaty, and only four voted against. That shows that the treaty has a large chance for ratification at the Senate," he said.

The final vote at the Senate is likely after the midterm elections, which will take place in November. "The Senate has a chance to vote for this document before the November 3 election. If not, the existent Senate will have one or two weeks of work left," Kosachyov said earlier.

"The devil is in the details, so it is the question of whether or not the Americans want to supplement the treaty with a comment. Such comments will not be legally binding, but they may seriously spoil the general atmosphere of concord between the negotiating parties," Kosachyov said. "The linkage between offensive and defensive strategic armaments is the main irritant. It is believed in Russia that the linkage is not sufficiently pronounced, and the opinion is the opposite in the United States."

"In my opinion, this is a balanced and non-discriminative document, which meets the interests of both countries," he added. […]

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## Australia Hosting Regional Anti-Proliferation Forum

*BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific, 13 September 2010, accessed via Lexis Nexis*

Australia will host the first regional operational experts' group (ROEG) meeting of Asia-Pacific member countries of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), in conjunction with Exercise Pacific Protector 10, in Cairns from September 14-16.

Defense will host the ROEG meeting, which brings together more than 120 personnel from key operational agencies in 19 PSI participant countries.

Australia is a founding member and active supporter of the PSI. PSI members are committed to cooperating practically to stop illicit trafficking in weapons of mass destruction-related materials and their delivery systems.

The ROEG meeting will strengthen regional cooperation and coordination on the PSI and enhance the operational capabilities of member countries to interdict or disrupt suspect shipments of goods that could be used in a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) program.

The PSI was established in 2003 and comprises 96 participant countries whose activities are coordinated by a 20-country operational experts' group, which includes Australia.

Exercise Pacific Protector 10, which is led by the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and running in conjunction with the ROEG, will demonstrate Australia's capability to interdict an aircraft suspected of transporting a cargo of proliferation concern.

The two-part exercise will involve a range of operational Australian agencies and will focus on the role of illicit brokers in WMD procurement and supply. No Defense assets will be involved in the exercise.

The Cairns ROEG and Exercise Pacific Protector 10 will send a strong signal to would-be proliferators that regional countries are politically and practically committed to stopping illicit trade in WMD.

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## Serdyukov Suggests New Treaty Instead of CFE

*Moscow Interfax, 17 September 2010, accessed via Open Source Center*

Russia will not go back to complying with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) unless NATO countries accept Moscow's terms, said Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov, adding that nations should develop a new arms control treaty that would meet today's realities.

"We shall see how prepared our partners are, but we are not changing our positions with regard to the treaty and we stated clearly that our moratorium will continue unless our terms are accepted and we are offered options that we find suitable," Serdyukov told Russian journalists in Washington.

"There is no need to rush this issue," he said.

Russia's withdrawal from the CFE "from the military point of view had no impact on the security interests of the states," he said.

A new treaty on conventional arms in Europe should be developed, which "would be more modern and meet today's realities," he said.

"Even our U.S. partners understand that the version of it (the treaty) that existed cannot work any longer," Serdyukov said.

At the talks with Western partners it was agreed to resume the work of groups of experts on CFE problems, he also said.

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