



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



09 September 2009 – 21 September 2009

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BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

New Legislation Would Make United States Leader on Biosecurity

Global Security Newswire, 09 September 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

Legislation introduced yesterday to overhaul security at U.S. biological research facilities could enable the United States to become a global leader in a crucial aspect of the fight against bioterrorism. (1,066 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Army to Boost Checks of Pueblo Chemicals

The Denver Post, 10 September 2009, <http://www.denverpost.com/>

Today, Lt. Col. Rob Wittig plans to assure state officials that the Army will install a dozen air sensors and, by next spring, conduct weekly inspections of 94 underground igloos where 780,000 projectiles packed with mustard gas are stored. (536 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russian State Chemical Disarmament Commission to Hold Visiting Session

Moscow ITAR-TASS, 14 September 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia's State Chemical Disarmament Commission on Monday will hold a visiting session at a facility for the destruction of chemical warfare agents that is being built in Pochep. (674 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

NAS Study of Test-Ban Treaty Seen as Critical to U.S. Weapons Work

Greenwire, 10 September 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

A National Academy of Sciences panel charged with assessing technical issues around the national nuclear stockpile should consider how the nation's nuclear laboratories might respond to change...(332 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Clinton to Lead U.S. Team at CTBT Conference

Global Security Newswire, 16 September 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is set to lead the U.S. delegation at a conference aimed at promoting entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT], the White House announced yesterday [September 15]. (404 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)(CONT.)

Press Conference on Facilitating Entry into Force of CTBT

United Nations, 18 September 2009, <http://www.un.org/>

In advance of high-level meetings at United Nations Headquarters next week, Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary for the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), noted favorable political momentum. (635 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

Japanese Diplomat Amano Unanimously Confirmed as New IAEA Chief

RIA Novosti, 14 September 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Yukiya Amano was approved on Monday as the next head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to succeed Mohamed ElBaradei from December. (149 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

53rd IAEA General Conference Closes

IAEA, 18 September 2009, <http://www.iaea.org/>

The IAEA's 53rd General Conference of Member States concluded today [September 18] in Vienna, with over 1,400 delegates from IAEA Member States attending the week-long event. (327 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

Obama to Chair Landmark UN Nuclear Summit

United Nations (AFP), 20 September 2009, <http://www.spacewar.com/>

U.S. President Barack Obama chairs an unprecedented summit at the UN Security Council Thursday [September 24] to rally world support for nuclear nonproliferation and advance nuclear disarmament. (673 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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

UN Security Council Sets Final Nuclear Resolution Draft

Global Security Newswire, 21 September 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

The UN Security Council on Saturday finalized a draft resolution to be considered during a meeting Thursday on nuclear disarmament, Kyodo News reported. (515 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Russia's Strategic Missile Forces to Play War Games on September 8-11

RIA Novosti, 07 September 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia's Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) will conduct on September 8-11 large-scale command-and-staff exercises involving over 2,000 personnel... (198 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Pentagon Checks Arsenal in Race for Nuclear Treaty

The New York Times, 08 September 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

With the clock ticking on a year-end deadline, President Obama is pressing ahead with a top-to-bottom review of America's nuclear weapons to see how much the arsenal can shrink, as his negotiators are racing to wrap up a major new strategic arms control treaty with Russia.

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

Tauscher: No Return of the Reliable Replacement Warhead

The Cable, 15 September 2009, <http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/>

If there's one point at which both the Obama administration's drive to reset U.S. relations with Russia and its stated goal to rid the world of nuclear weapons converge, it's the ongoing negotiations to produce a successor to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)...

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

Russia, United States Quit Race to Replace START before December Deadline

Global Security Newswire, 21 September 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

U.S. and Russian diplomats have effectively abandoned efforts to negotiate a replacement to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty ahead of the pact's December 5 expiration date, the Washington Post reported today [September 21]. (556 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)(CONT.)

United States and Russia Face Tough Arms Control Talks

Associated Press, 21 September 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

A new round of Russian-U.S. arms control talks began Monday [September 21] and Russian military experts predicted they will not be easy... (633 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

THREAT REDUCTION

U.S. and Poland Signed Agreement on Countering the Proliferation of Nuclear Materials and Technologies

U.S. State Department, 11 September 2009, <http://poland.usembassy.gov/>

Ambassador Victor Ashe and Polish Undersecretary of State Hanna Trojanowska signed the "Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Area of Countering the Proliferation of Nuclear Materials and Technologies" on Friday, September 11. (290 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE)

Statement on the 2009 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC)

United States Mission to the OSCE, 15 September 2009, <http://osce.usmission.gov/>

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Carol Fuller to the Joint FSC-PC, Vienna

One important component of indivisible security is the comprehensive nature of security as embodied in the three dimensions of the OSCE: human, economic, and political-military. (925 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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New Legislation Would Make United States Leader on Biosecurity

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Legislation introduced yesterday to overhaul security at U.S. biological research facilities could enable the United States to become a global leader in a crucial aspect of the fight against bioterrorism, one of the bill's authors said yesterday.

"We hope this proposal ... will set an international standard for biosecurity," said Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joseph Lieberman (I-Connecticut) co-sponsor of legislation that would set security standards for the country's biotechnology industry for the first time.

The legislation would identify the most dangerous pathogens and then require the U.S. Homeland Security Department to establish security standards for laboratories that handle those materials, with measures such as risk assessments, personnel reliability programs and physical security. The bill also proposes providing U.S. technical assistance to countries seeking to bolster security at their laboratories, Lieberman said during a press conference on Capitol Hill.

Lieberman and Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) included the security requirement alongside a host of other proposals aimed at better preparing the nation for an act of bioterrorism. Among their recommendations are using the U.S. Postal Service to deliver medicine and creation of a nationwide communications strategy.

The proposals are intended to implement findings from the congressionally created Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism led by former Senators Bob Graham (D-Florida) and Jim Talent (R-Missouri). The two testified in December that security at U.S. laboratories was inadequate and predicted a WMD incident would occur somewhere in the world within the next five years, with a bioterrorism attack being more likely than a nuclear strike.

The bill also could allow the United States to take a leadership role at the 2011 Review Conference for the Biological Weapons Convention, according to Graham.

If the Senate passes the measure "we will go into that 2011 convention with the moral high ground to convince countries, which have been reluctant to undertake these kinds of [laboratory security] initiatives that we're prepared to do it. We're setting the gold standard for the world, they should follow," he said yesterday.

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"If we don't set that high standard, I despair as to how effective our leadership is going to be in that critical year of 2011," Graham said.

The Biological Weapons Convention entered into force in 1975 and today has 162 member nations. The treaty prohibits the development, production, stockpiling and use of weaponized disease agents such as anthrax, smallpox or plague, as well as equipment and delivery systems intended for hostile use. It has no provisions for monitoring compliance. The member states will evaluate the operations of the pact at the Review Conference.

If enacted, the legislation would mandate security measures at facilities that work with 82 disease-causing select agents and toxins designated by Health and Human Services and Agriculture departments. The lawmakers did not specify what security measures would be required under the bill. Text of the legislation was not made available yesterday. Repeated phone calls to the committee's press office were not returned before deadline.

"We have developed a tiered approach [for security levels] based on the amount and the degree of risk posed by the pathogens being researched at a particular facility," said Collins, co-sponsor of the legislation and ranking member of the homeland security panel.

"The greater the risk the more stringent the security requirements," she said. The measure would affect some 400 research facilities and the nearly 15,000 individuals authorized to handle deadly pathogens, she added. Collins said the legislation was spurred in part by a recent Government Accountability Office report that urged the United States to more quickly implement security recommendations at laboratories handling the most lethal pathogens.

A \$50 million grant program over the next four years would be authorized for private laboratories to make the necessary security enhancements, Collins said.

Under the legislation, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton would build an "international biosecurity coalition" to provide training and assistance to other countries for laboratory security and global disease surveillance, according to Lieberman.

Domestically, the bill instructs the national intelligence director to improve U.S. intelligence capabilities related to WMD and terrorism and authorizes the establishment of a National Bioforensics Analysis Center to "identify" perpetrators of biological attacks.

It also would require a national strategy for dispensing antibiotics and other medicines to the public via the U.S. Postal Service in the event of a biological attack.

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"We are now spending billions of dollars to stockpile these antibiotics and other medicines but we still lack a plan for distributing them quickly and efficiently after an attack or an outbreak of disease," Lieberman said.

The legislation also mandates establishment of a communications strategy that would disseminate information to the public after a biological attack. He did not specify what technology would be employed in such a system.

"Such information would include the direction of deadly radioactive or biological plumes and instructions about whether to shelter in place or to evacuate," according to Lieberman.

Talent said that in the future the United States will have to spend billions more on programs like Project Bioshield, which is intended to promote development of countermeasures against weapons of mass destruction, to stave off the kind of biological attack the commission described last winter. He added he hoped the House of Representatives would take up a similar biosecurity bill.

Lieberman said he wants to see his legislation move to committee markup this fall and passed by the full Senate before the end of the year. He noted that the measure could face opposition from the life science community, which might oppose federally required security standards, and federal agencies the bill would affect.

The life science community would not oppose the bill if it makes existing laboratory regulations simpler, according to Gigi Kwik Gronvall, a senior associate at the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Biosecurity.

Most scientists would go along with "using risk management principles to evaluate how these pathogens should be regulated," Gronvall, who served as a science adviser to the WMD commission, said today in a telephone interview.

A tiered security system is an "excellent idea to focus resources on a truly select group of pathogens that everyone is concerned about," she said. "While every select agent is dangerous, they are not all equal and it's becoming conventional wisdom that either a stratification or a reduction of the select agent list is needed so that resources can be concentrated on where they need to be."

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Army to Boost Checks of Pueblo Chemicals

The Denver Post, 10 September 2009, <http://www.denverpost.com/>

As Army weapons caretakers searched for the source of a mustard-gas leak reported August 24, the Pueblo Chemical Depot commander was preparing Wednesday to meet with state health officials who are demanding more intense monitoring of a 57-year-old stockpile of internationally outlawed weapons.

Today, Lt. Col. Rob Wittig plans to assure state officials that the Army will install a dozen air sensors and, by next spring, conduct weekly inspections of 94 underground igloos where 780,000 projectiles packed with mustard gas are stored.

"The state thinks we should do it more frequently, so we're going to work with the state as best we can," Wittig said Wednesday.

Army officials estimated weekly inspections will cost at least an extra \$1 million a year.

On August 7, the state filed a lawsuit alleging violations of hazardous-waste laws—pressuring the Army to complete the long-delayed destruction of its chemical weapons.

The lawsuit seeks "to ensure that there is sufficient monitoring and safe storage ... until the chemical weapons are destroyed," said Mike Saccone, a spokesman for Colorado Attorney General John Suthers.

Two leaks detected in four months this year, one leak in 2007 and nine in 2005 have raised concerns that mustard gas, a carcinogen, could escape and harm people in nearby towns along the Arkansas River.

Over the past 35 years, about 90 leaks have been detected.

The Pueblo depot, a 35-square-mile base 120 miles south of Denver, was established during World War II by the Army to house and ship ammunition. During the Cold War, it was used for missile repair and maintenance.

In 1952, the Army began storing mustard-gas shells from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal northeast of Denver. A staff of about 250 now guards and maintains the weapons. The U.S. is obligated under the international Chemical Weapons Convention to destroy the weapons.

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Mustard gas and other deadly chemicals are packed into 2-foot-long steel shells shaped like wine bottles, which are vulnerable to pressure changes that can cause the amber, molasses-like mustard gas to leak.

"Unlike wine, it doesn't get better with age," said Gary Anderson, manager of the project to eventually destroy the weapons.

Over the past year, the Department of Defense has spent \$180 million to begin construction of a plant to neutralize and destroy every projectile by 2017.

About 450 workers, including ironworkers, carpenters, pipefitters and masons, are expected to be hired as \$247 million is spent over the next year.

Robots eventually will open projectiles and inject hot water and caustic soda, then biological agents. The steel shells could be melted for re-use.

Even in a worst-case, high-wind scenario, leaking mustard gas likely would pose little threat to nearby towns because mustard vapor is more than five times heavier than air, Wittig said.

"It was designed to keep people from using terrain. It falls to the ground," Wittig said. "Folks are safe."

Meanwhile, about 1,100 residents near the depot who have been issued radios hear sirens each Wednesday when the emergency-alert system is tested.

Sitting behind the counter Wednesday at Big Mike's Liquor in nearby Avondale, retired schoolteacher Virginia Vest, 62, said she looks forward to destruction of the weapons.

"You think about it," said Vest. "I hope they finally get it done."

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Russian State Chemical Disarmament Commission to Hold Visiting Session

Moscow ITAR-TASS, 14 September 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia's State Chemical Disarmament Commission on Monday will hold a visiting session at a facility for the destruction of chemical warfare agents that is being built in Pochep.

The meeting participants will consider issues of the progress of the construction of social infrastructure facilities in the areas where chemical weapons destruction and related waste utilization facilities are located. They will also discuss the situation regarding the fulfillment of provisions of the International Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention) in Russia in general, and will assess the global financial crisis effects on the fulfillment of the Federal Program for the destruction of chemical weapons and its financing this year.

The agenda of the State Commission's visiting session also includes the results of international cooperation between Russia and countries partners in the Global Partnership program and variants of conversion of facilities for the elimination of chemical weapons in Kambarka (Udmurtia) and the Gorny settlement (Saratov region).

The facility that is being built in Pochep will become Russia's sixth chemical weapons destruction facility. Since 1967 the country's largest arsenal of chemical warfare agents—sarin, soman, VX gases in the volume of 7.5 thousand tonnes (19 percent of the total Russian CWA stockpiles)—is stored there.

The Pochep facility is being built with support of Germany and Switzerland—Russia's partners in the Global Partnership program. It is planned to destroy the whole Pochep chemical weapons stock by 2012.

The CWC aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. States Parties, in turn, must take the steps necessary to enforce that prohibition in respect of persons (natural or legal) within their jurisdiction.

All States Parties have agreed to chemically disarm by destroying any stockpiles of chemical weapons they may hold and any facilities which produced them, as well as any chemical weapons they abandoned on the territory of other States Parties in the past.

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States Parties have also agreed to create a verification regime for certain toxic chemicals and their precursors (listed in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 in the Annex on Chemicals to the CWC) in order to ensure that such chemicals are only used for purposes not prohibited [by the CWC].

A unique feature of the CWC is its incorporation of the “challenge inspection,” whereby any State Party in doubt about another State Party's compliance can request the Director-General to send an inspection team. Under the CWC's challenge inspection procedure, States Parties have committed themselves to the principle of “any time, anywhere” inspections with no right of refusal.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC or Convention). The OPCW is given the mandate to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention, to ensure the implementation of its provisions, including those for international verification of compliance with it, and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among States Parties.

The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW is responsible for the day-to-day administration and implementation of the Convention, including inspections, while the Executive Council and the Conference of the States Parties are decision-making organs designed primarily to determine questions of policy and resolve matters arising between the States Parties on technical issues or on interpretations of the Convention. The chairs of the Executive Council and the Conference are appointed by each body's membership. The Technical Secretariat is headed by a Director-General, who is appointed by the Conference on the recommendation of the Council.

The OPCW Member States already represent about 98 percent of the global population and landmass, as well as 98 percent of the worldwide chemical industry. A state becomes a State Party, and thereby a member of the Organization, by one of three means—ratification, accession or succession. Instruments of ratification, accession or succession must be deposited with the designated Depository of the Convention, who is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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NAS Study of Test-Ban Treaty Seen as Critical to U.S. Weapons Work

Greenwire, 10 September 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

A National Academy of Sciences [NAS] panel charged with assessing technical issues around the national nuclear stockpile should consider how the nation's nuclear laboratories might respond to change, an Obama administration official said yesterday [September 9].

"Talk to the people—this is what it all comes down to, the people and the infrastructure" for nuclear-weapons work, Thomas D'Agostino, head of the National Nuclear Security Administration [NNSA], told the NAS panel.

D'Agostino, who heads the semiautonomous NNSA branch of the Energy Department, stressed that the intellectual capital housed in the nuclear weapons complex is a crucial component of the NNSA's technical capabilities.

The NAS panel is charged with updating a 2002 assessment of technical considerations that could come into play if the United States were to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), a goal of the Obama administration.

Changing the environment for nuclear testing could have dramatic impacts on the national laboratories in the nuclear weapons complex: Los Alamos, Sandia and Lawrence Livermore. In May, a congressional report said the labs should be reorganized to respond to a wider clientele of homeland security-related agencies, with potentially significant impacts on the scope of lab work and funding.

D'Agostino and others on the panel of federal officials involved in commissioning the upcoming NAS report said the administration stands ready to do anything necessary to help the assessment along.

"The CTBT is a priority for this president. Not just this administration, but this president personally," said Jon Wolfstahl, a representative of Vice President Biden's office. "We will be as responsive to you as humanly possible."

D'Agostino said NNSA has learned a lot about stockpile stewardship over recent years and that the annually recurring stockpile assessment has created a high degree of confidence in the agency's ability to maintain it without testing. Certifying the stockpile, conducting sophisticated simulations, manufacturing plutonium and uranium components, and assembling, disassembling and transporting components are key NNSA capabilities that would become even more important under a test-ban treaty, D'Agostino said.

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Clinton to Lead U.S. Team at CTBT Conference

Global Security Newswire, 16 September 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is set to lead the U.S. delegation at a conference aimed at promoting entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT], the White House announced yesterday [September 15].

The biannual event, scheduled for September 24-25 in New York, offers "a forum for discussions on how best to encourage states to sign and ratify this important nonproliferation treaty," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said in a prepared statement. Washington sent a delegation to the event in 1999 but skipped the next four sessions during the Bush administration.

The United States is one of 44 "Annex 2" nations that must ratify the pact before it can enter into force. It is also among nine holdouts from that group; the others are China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan. The Obama administration has made CTBT ratification one of its major nonproliferation goals. The Senate must sign off on such a move, which would formalize a longstanding but voluntary suspension of U.S. nuclear test blasts.

"U.S. participation in this year's conference will reaffirm the strong commitment of the Obama administration to support the CTBT and to work with other nations to map out a comprehensive diplomatic strategy to secure the treaty's entry into force," Gibbs said. "This commitment to realize the promise of the CTBT is part of the president's comprehensive agenda to prevent nuclear proliferation, and to pursue the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons."

Clinton will give the U.S. national statement at the meeting, while Undersecretary of State Ellen Tauscher plans several one-on-one meetings with other participants, the release states.

"Everyone is talking about what it takes" to make the test ban the global rule of law, Thomas D'Agostino, head of the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration, said yesterday. He said there is not yet consensus on the question, the Associated Press reported. D'Agostino was in Vienna, Austria, where he made his first-ever visit to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization [CTBTO]. "I wanted more information and to dig out the details" on the system for identifying nuclear blasts, he said, according to a CTBTO press release.

A panel of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences is preparing a report on "what it takes to ratify a comprehensive test-ban treaty," D'Agostino said. The document would address technical issues "and then we can take things from there," he added.

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Press Conference on Facilitating Entry into Force of CTBT

United Nations, 18 September 2009, <http://www.un.org/>

In advance of high-level meetings at United Nations Headquarters next week, Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary for the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), noted favorable political momentum, saying he expected at least one more state to ratify the test-ban treaty before long.

“We are living in a different world,” Mr. Tóth said during a Headquarters press conference this afternoon. “The climate is much better now. We have sunnier political weather.”

The Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) would start on 24 September, the same day the Security Council would gather at the Heads-of-State level for meetings that would focus on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. The Conference would bring together representatives of ratifying states, state signatories and states that had not yet signed or ratified the treaty to examine how to bring in remaining states in order for it to enter into force.

All 44 nuclear-technology-holder states, or so-called Annex 2 states, who had participated in the negotiations of the treaty, culminating in its opening for signature in 1996, and possessed nuclear power or research reactors at the time, needed to ratify the treaty for the ban to take effect, Mr. Tóth explained. Nine of those 44 had not ratified it: China; the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea [North Korea]; Egypt; India; Indonesia; Iran; Israel; Pakistan; and the United States. And, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, India and Pakistan had yet to sign it.

United States President Barack Obama had pushed for ratification of the treaty. In an April speech in Prague, he promised that his administration would “immediately and aggressively pursue United States ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty”. The United States would participate in the Conference for the first time since 1999.

“I am very optimistic. We see a momentum building,” Mr. Tóth told correspondents. “The ratification of the United States will play a leadership role, and that leadership role is important.”

At the same time, however, he emphasized that each country must judge whether the treaty was in its own best interest. “The only country that can convince India on this issue is India.”

Responding to a correspondent’s question about the Pakistani Government’s position that it would sign the ban only after the Indian government did, Mr. Tóth said that the treaty formula

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was such that one country's ratification did not depend on another's.

On a question about Israeli ratification, Mr. Tóth said, "It would be an extremely important step, and the right step in my view, if Israel ratified the treaty."

He said Indonesia's government had indicated that it would ratify the treaty, and he was "very much encouraged" by the Chinese Foreign Minister Yan Jiechi's recent statement at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on China's commitment to promote its early ratification.

Regarding the Security Council's role on the test ban, Mr. Tóth said a strong joint statement by Council members and their commitment at the senior level was essential. "We need action, action, action and leadership, leadership, leadership."

During the press conference, the Executive Secretary also highlighted work on a global alarm system to monitor for nuclear explosions. Since its inception in 2000, more than 75 percent of 337 planned facilities within the International Monitoring System [IMS] had become operational worldwide and \$1 billion had been invested in it, he said, adding that, although the United States had not yet ratified the treaty, 39 of 42 planned monitoring facilities had been built in that country during the past decade.

"It is quite symbolic and it is quite concrete at the same time," he said. "We are moving from a blueprint, from a dream [...] to something which is a reality."

Annika Thunborg, Spokesperson of the Preparatory Commission, said that 149 of the 181 state signatories to the treaty had ratified it.

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Japanese Diplomat Amano Unanimously Confirmed as New IAEA Chief

RIA Novosti, 14 September 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Yukiya Amano was approved on Monday as the next head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to succeed Mohamed ElBaradei from December.

The IAEA General Conference unanimously backed Amano, who in June gained a narrow majority of the agency's governing board after six rounds of voting.

ElBaradei welcomed Amano's appointment: "I trust that he will lead the agency with vision, impartiality and courage," he told the General Conference.

Shortly after the conference vote, Amano said the IAEA should balance its dual role in nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear energy.

"Merely being a 'nuclear watchdog' does not suffice," the Japanese diplomat said, adding that the spread of nuclear weapons and nuclear terrorism "is an increasing threat for the international community."

ElBaradei, who along with the organization itself was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005, is due to retire on the last day of November after 12 years in office.

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53rd IAEA General Conference Closes

IAEA, 18 September 2009, <http://www.iaea.org/>

The IAEA's 53rd General Conference of Member States concluded today [September 18] in Vienna, with over 1,400 delegates from IAEA Member States attending the week-long event.

Following discussion, the General Conference adopted resolutions on the following items: the Agency's Program and Budget for 2010-2011; measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transportation and waste safety; nuclear security measures to protect against nuclear terrorism; strengthening the Agency's technical cooperation activities; strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications; strengthening the effectiveness and improving the efficiency of the safeguards system and application of the Model Additional Protocol; implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [North Korea]; application of IAEA safeguards in the Middle East; and Israeli nuclear capabilities. The item on the prohibition of armed attack or threat of attack against nuclear installations, during operation or under construction was included in a presidential statement.

The full texts of adopted resolutions and the presidential statement will be posted on the IAEA website as they become available.

As the Conference began, the Conference approved the appointment of Yukiya Amano of Japan as the next IAEA Director General, for a term of office from December 2009 to November 2013. The Conference also honored Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei with the title "Director-General Emeritus", in recognition of "his devotion to the objectives and functions of the IAEA and to the cause of international peace and security" during his 12-year tenure as Director-General.

A two-day Scientific Forum, looking at the role of nuclear energy for development, was conducted concurrently with the Conference and underscored energy's central role in advancing social and economic development worldwide. Several briefings on the Agency's work in areas such as nuclear energy, safety and security and technical cooperation also took place throughout the week...

The next IAEA General Conference—the 54th since its inception in 1957—is due to be held from September 20-24, 2010.

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Obama to Chair Landmark UN Nuclear Summit

United Nations (AFP), 20 September 2009, <http://www.spacewar.com/>

U.S. President Barack Obama chairs an unprecedented summit at the UN Security Council Thursday [September 24] to rally world support for nuclear nonproliferation and advance nuclear disarmament.

The summit—the first time the 15-member council will be chaired by an American president—comes as world powers step up efforts to curb Iran and North Korea's nuclear ambitions just as the United States and Russia have pledged to cut their own nuclear arsenals.

Obama, who has set combating nuclear proliferation as a priority and is committed to pursue a multilateral course, will chair the meeting as his country holds the rotating presidency of the council this month.

Prior to the summit, the U.S. president will make his United Nations debut this week, attending a climate change summit hosted by UN chief Ban Ki-moon Tuesday.

He will then step into the fray of high-stakes Middle East diplomacy by hosting a trilateral meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas to spur them to resume stalled peace talks.

As the UN General Assembly kicks off its general debate on Wednesday, Obama will deliver his maiden speech to the 192-member body and will be immediately followed at the rostrum by Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi, who is visiting UN headquarters for the first time in his 40 years in power.

Other speakers on that opening day include Presidents Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, Nicolas Sarkozy of France, Dmitry Medvedev of Russia, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

But Thursday's nuclear proliferation summit will be a high point of this week's diplomatic agenda, with U.S. officials stressing its aim is to reinvigorate the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which will be the subject of a key review conference next year.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Obama would use the meeting to "emphasize the importance of strengthening the international nuclear nonproliferation regime" and to stress the role the Security Council must play in enforcing compliance with nonproliferation obligations.

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Council members are expected to adopt a U.S.-drafted resolution that calls on states that have signed the NPT "to comply fully with all their obligations."

The text further urges them to cooperate so that "the 2010 NPT Review Conference can successfully strengthen the treaty and set realistic and achievable goals" in all its three pillars: nonproliferation, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and disarmament.

The draft makes no direct reference to Iran and North Korea but points to Security Council resolutions enjoining Tehran to halt sensitive nuclear fuel work and Pyongyang to dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

And it calls on all non-signatory states to accede to the NPT "so as to achieve its universality at an early date" and to adhere to its terms in the meantime.

The summit will come just a week before the five Security Council permanent members—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France—plus Germany are due to take part in preliminary talks with Iran's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili on October 1.

Clinton warned Friday that Iran, which Washington and other Western nations fear is secretly developing nuclear weapons under the guise of its civilian nuclear program, would face further sanctions if it shies away from talks.

In April, Obama called for a world free of nuclear weapons during a speech in Prague.

The United States and Russia are seeking to agree on a successor to the landmark 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) before it expires on December 5.

The U.S. resolution also urges all nations to "refrain from conducting a nuclear test explosion" and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in order to "bring the treaty into force."

A separate high-level UN conference is scheduled for Friday to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT.

Drawn up in 1996, the CTBT has been signed by 181 countries and ratified by 149. But it needs to be ratified by nine others, including China and the United States, before coming into force.

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UN Security Council Sets Final Nuclear Resolution Draft

Global Security Newswire, 21 September 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

The UN Security Council on Saturday finalized a draft resolution to be considered during a meeting Thursday on nuclear disarmament, Kyodo News reported. The United States submitted the proposed document earlier this month.

The final version is six pages in length and highlights the importance of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. It calls for increased membership in that pact and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, and backs the creation of nuclear weapon-free zones.

U.S. President Barack Obama is expected to lead the Security Council session, which would include speeches by leaders from members of the 15-nation body. The resolution is expected to be approved, Kyodo reported.

During the meeting, Obama intends to "emphasize the importance of strengthening the international nuclear nonproliferation regime" and to assert that the Security Council has a key role in ensuring that nations meet their commitments under the regime, said U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Indian national security adviser M.K. Narayanan, whose nation has not joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or the test ban, said he is "not worried about the proposed resolution," the Indo-Asian News Service reported yesterday.

However, New Delhi also wants to ensure the document does not affect nuclear-energy deals established with the United States and other nations.

"We have talked to countries with whom we have entered into agreements, like France. We have also talked to the U.K. with whom we are negotiating an agreement. And I will be talking to Russia in a day or two," Narayanan told CNBC.

"This issue has already been raised. Americans have come to us and whatever happens to the resolution will not affect (the) civil nuclear agreement (between India and the U.S.)," he added.

Meanwhile, the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Friday approved a resolution that knocks Israel for holding what is believed to be the Middle East's sole nuclear arsenal, the Associated Press reported.

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Forty-nine of the body's 150 member nations voted in favor of the resolution, which "expresses concern about the Israeli nuclear capabilities" and notes "concern about the threat posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons for the security and stability of the Middle East."

Forty-five states opposed the resolution, the first such pronouncement in nearly two decades, and 16 abstained from the decision.

The decision was "openly hostile to the state of Israel," said Israeli envoy David Danieli, who charged Iran and Syria with "creating a smoke screen" to obscure their "pursuit of nuclear weapons."

Glyn Davies, the U.S. envoy to the UN nuclear watchdog, rejected an "attempt to use this resolution to criticize a single country."

"Such an approach is highly politicized and does not truly address the complexities at play regarding crucial nuclear-related issues in the Middle East," he said.

Countered Iranian envoy Ali Asghar Soltanieh: "The U.S. administration has received a message that they should not continue supporting Israel at any price."

The General Conference also signed off on the IAEA budget for 2010-2011, along with resolutions on plans for deterring nuclear terrorism and application of IAEA safeguards in Middle Eastern states, among other matters, the agency said.

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Russia's Strategic Missile Forces to Play War Games on September 8-11

RIA Novosti, 07 September 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia's Strategic Missile Forces (SMF) will conduct on September 8-11 large-scale command-and-staff exercises involving over 2,000 personnel, an SMF spokesman said on Monday.

"During the exercises, the SMF will practice operations control in scenarios involving conventional and nuclear warfare," the official said.

"A total of over 2,000 servicemen and 150 theater- and tactical-level command-and-control centers will take part in the drills," he said.

The exercise coincides with the start of the Russian-Belarusian large-scale Zapad 2009 exercises, which will be held on September 8-29 and involve around 13,000 service personnel on both sides.

Russia's SMF plans by 2016 to modernize its command-and-control systems in order to improve their ability to overcome missile defenses and increase the survivability of delivery vehicles.

At present, six types of silo-based and mobile ICBM systems are on combat duty with the SMF, including the heavy Voyevoda (SS-18 Satan), capable of carrying 10 warheads, and the Topol-M (Stalin) systems.

According to open sources, the total arsenal of Russia's SMF comprises 538 ICBMs, including 306 SS-25 Topol (Sickle) missiles and 56 SS-27 Topol-M missiles.

Silo-based missiles constitute 45 percent of the total ballistic missile arsenal. They carry about 85 percent of nuclear warheads deployed by the SMF.

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Pentagon Checks Arsenal in Race for Nuclear Treaty

The New York Times, 08 September 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

With the clock ticking on a year-end deadline, President Obama is pressing ahead with a top-to-bottom review of America's nuclear weapons to see how much the arsenal can shrink, as his negotiators are racing to wrap up a major new strategic arms control treaty with Russia.

The review, in tandem with reinvigorated talks between Washington and Moscow, will help determine how much further the two nuclear superpowers will cut their arsenals after the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, expires December 5.

The last time the Pentagon reviewed its nuclear posture, in 2001, it concluded that the American military could get by with 1,700 to 2,200 nuclear warheads at the ready, a level the Bush administration found comfortable even as it demurred over a binding treaty with Russia.

Now both sides want to go even lower. Russia is especially eager to lock in reductions, and Mr. Obama has made deep cuts a primary diplomatic goal. Their ambitions, and the impending deadline, make the Pentagon's review crucial, because it would help determine the bottom line, as well as which missiles, bombers and submarines to keep, how much to spend modernizing them and the implications of a changing world where small states, too, can acquire nuclear arms.

But not everybody is at ease with the prospect of such rapid change. Several officials involved in the effort said powerful constituencies—among arms specialists in the executive branch, Congress, the military and at the weapons laboratories—had conflicting views of how to proceed.

Although Mr. Obama has vowed that his long-term goal is eliminating nuclear weapons, there are significant disagreements about how fast and how deep reductions might be made while guaranteeing America's security in a world in which other nations maintain nuclear arsenals, others might be tempted to build them—and bomb-making knowledge can never be erased.

The shape of the arsenal also is a point of contention. Some military planners advocate building a new generation of safer and more reliable warheads, while some administration officials fear that reopening nuclear assembly lines would undermine their efforts at nonproliferation.

The arms talks must deal not only with the limit on warheads, a ceiling that might be as low as 1,500 on each side, but also with arcane counting rules, verification measures and ancillary issues like the deployment of missile defenses.

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Tackling these extraordinarily complex issues at the same time on a tight schedule is an ambitious agenda, especially for an administration also trying to battle a deep economic crisis, overhaul the health care system and address global climate change.

“From a distance, it could look like, ‘How do you do all that?’ ” said Ellen O. Tauscher, the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. “It’s like the operation of a very high-end restaurant kitchen. It may look chaotic, but beautiful things come out of it.”

Senior Defense Department officials said the nation’s entire nuclear weapons architecture was under review, including such fundamental traditions as whether the nation still needs to maintain a triad of land-based missiles, submarine-launched missiles and bombers.

Mr. Obama laid out his vision in April, declaring in Prague that he would “reduce the role of nuclear weapons” and urge other countries to do the same, with the long-term goal of eliminating nuclear arms altogether.

Under a framework agreement signed in Moscow this summer by Mr. Obama and his Russian counterpart, Dmitri A. Medvedev, the new treaty is to reduce the ceiling on long-range nuclear warheads to 1,500 – 1,675 within seven years, down from the current limit of 2,200 by 2012, under the separate Moscow Treaty signed in 2002.

Total American warheads reached more than 32,000 in the 1960s but dropped to 10,500 just before START was signed in 1991. This year, the Federation of American Scientists reported that the United States had already reduced its deployed strategic nuclear warheads to 2,200, more than three years ahead of the Moscow Treaty schedule.

Under the prospective new treaty, to be negotiated by December with follow-up talks to look at even deeper cuts, the total of all types of long-range delivery vehicles—land-based missiles, submarine-based missiles and bombers—would be limited to 500 – 1,100, down from the 1,600 now allowed.

“For some it is not enough of a cut, for others it is too much, too fast,” said one senior Defense Department official, who like other officials interviewed spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to describe the internal, classified discussion of the review.

Another senior Pentagon official said the calculations not only were about specific numbers but also finding the right balance: “So long as there are nuclear weapons in the world, how do we

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sustain a safe, secure and effective nuclear deterrent for us, and that can be extended to our allies? How do you define that?”

As Washington hammers out an arms deal with Moscow, negotiators may also glean insights from the Russians that would help answer these questions, according to another senior State Department official.

Senior officials involved in the review point out that the configuration of today’s arsenal offers Mr. Obama some flexibility, even in advance of the final negotiations. Several hundred bombers and missile silos have been removed from nuclear use or decommissioned, yet still are counted under current treaty rules.

The United States has just under 900 operational nuclear warhead platforms, meaning that Mr. Obama could easily give up significant numbers of missiles or planes in negotiations because they have already been taken out of nuclear service, officials said.

The review will look closely at the contentious question of whether the arsenal should be used to threaten retaliation in case of catastrophic attack by an adversary using nonnuclear weapons, whether chemical, biological or even overwhelming conventional forces, against the United States or an ally. Reshaping the list of targets for America’s nuclear warheads, officials said, also is under discussion.

“With the end of the cold war and the development of new conventional technologies, the traditional purposes for U.S. nuclear weapons have become increasingly less relevant,” said Daryl G. Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, an independent advocacy group.

“We can and should limit the role of our nuclear weapons to a core deterrence mission,” he added, noting that deterring attacks on the United States and its allies “requires far fewer nuclear warheads and delivery systems.”

Over the decades, however, the United States consciously maintained ambiguity in public statements about its nuclear policy—when it would strike, what it would strike and in response to which actions by an adversary.

“We don’t want to box our leaders in,” said a senior Pentagon official. “They like to hedge against uncertainty. They like to have options.”

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Tauscher: No Return of the Reliable Replacement Warhead

The Cable, 15 September 2009, <http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/>

If there's one point at which both the Obama administration's drive to reset U.S. relations with Russia and its stated goal to rid the world of nuclear weapons converge, it's the ongoing negotiations to produce a successor to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expires in December.

To get the new agreement to a point where the Russians, and then Senate Republicans, can sign on, the administration has narrowed the scope of what the follow-on treaty will cover and made some choices about how and when it will move the process through Congress.

Senate Republicans are not completely unwilling to get behind a new nuclear reduction treaty, but they intend to bargain for concessions before supporting ratification. One key concession they will not get, though, is a revival of the Bush administration's plan to build a new class of nuclear warheads known as the Reliable Replacement Warhead [RRW], according to the State Department's top arms control official.

"I think there are a lot of people that still hope for the return of RRW and they are going to be sadly disappointed," Ellen O. Tauscher, the newly minted Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security told *The Cable* in her first interview after taking up her post.

In her previous role as head of the House Armed Services Strategic Forces subcommittee, Tauscher played a key part in beating back repeated Bush administration attempts to move forward with developing RRW, which supporters maintain is a needed hedge against the risk associated with the nation's aging stockpile of nuclear warheads.

But Tauscher has long argued, and the arms-control community agrees, that RRW is less preferable than other measures, such as refurbishing existing warheads, that could be used to modernize the U.S. nuclear stockpile. Moreover, they warn that building new warheads could set back nonproliferation efforts worldwide by creating a new arms race.

Regardless, Senate Republicans are sure to push for RRW when the new treaty comes before them, but Tauscher said the administration would hold firm, and is instead offering them a stockpile management plan that increases the confidence in existing warheads.

Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona, who had held up Tauscher's nomination before she was ultimately confirmed on June 25, successfully added an amendment to the Senate's version of the defense authorization bill that would require the administration to submit a plan for

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modernization of the nuclear complex at the same time it submits a new nuclear treaty for verification.

The House's version of the bill contains language that would fund "stockpile management" for the aging warheads, and "As far as I know, the stockpile management that's in the House bill negates the need for RRW," Tauscher said.

"I think there are people who are deeply concerned about the return of RRW and I think they are going to feel pretty good about stockpile management," she declared.

An article last month in Global Security Newswire reported that Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates was pushing internally to have RRW funds requested in the fiscal 2011 budget, due out in February, placing him in direct odds with Vice President Joseph Biden, who is set against the program.

The report also said that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was backing Gates, but State Department sources denied that Clinton had formed a set position either way.

Ultimately, the RRW program would be part of the Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration budget request and funds have been requested in the past as part of the Navy's research budget.

Getting to 'Da'

The U.S. and Russian sides met in Geneva earlier this month to negotiate the START treaty's successor, with the U.S. delegation led by Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance Rose Gottemoeller.

Obama and Putin are scheduled to meet on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh later this month, according to diplomatic sources, and Secretary Clinton will travel to Russia in October. Tauscher will either go with her or follow soon after to make the final push.

Decisions about when to seek Senate ratification will follow after that, said Tauscher, who wants to see the new agreement ratified by the start of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference at the end of April.

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To bridge the time between the expiration of START and the ratification of the follow-on treaty, a "collar" will probably be placed around the new agreement that extends the verification measures of START until the new treaty can be approved, Tauscher said.

A senior U.S. administration official, speaking on background, gave The Cable the details of what will and won't be included in the new agreement.

For example, the fraught issue of missile defense will not be discussed, although there will be a statement acknowledging the general relationship between offensive and defensive capabilities, as was alluded to in the July 8 Joint Understanding signed by Presidents Obama and Medvedev, the official said.

Any discussion of Russian tactical nuclear weapons will also be left out of the new treaty, the official explained, but could be part of the next round, which insiders are calling "the follow on to the follow on."

Verification of some non-nuclear U.S. systems probably will be included in the new treaty, the official noted.

But there will be no provisions determining how each side can configure its nuclear forces within the limits, the official said, and there will be no linkage to parallel efforts to get Russia to help persuade Iran to be more cooperative over its nuclear program.

"START is in its own lane and we try to keep it there," the official said. ...

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Russia, United States Quit Race to Replace START before December Deadline

Global Security Newswire, 21 September 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/>

U.S. and Russian diplomats have effectively abandoned efforts to negotiate a replacement to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty ahead of the pact's December 5 expiration date, the Washington Post reported today [September 21].

U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev agreed in July to cut their nations' respective deployed strategic nuclear arsenals to between 1,500 – 1,675 warheads under the new pact. The two countries are now required under a 2002 deal to hold no more than 2,200 operationally fielded warheads by 2012.

Progress in negotiating a START successor has slowed amid Washington's efforts to remove conventionally armed long-range weapons and disused bomber aircraft from consideration under the new agreement.

The presidents signed off on a reduction of nuclear delivery vehicles to between 500 – 1,100, down from the 1,600 allowed today. Moscow has pressed for cutting to the low end of the spectrum; a potential compromise could allow for 700 – 900 nuclear-capable missiles and bombers on each side, according to former Russian nuclear missile chief Viktor Yesin.

The slowdown in the talks has prompted a new effort by U.S. officials to maintain the present pact and its critical arms control monitoring provisions.

A State Department official said the need to ready teams of negotiators from both nations was a major cause for the delay.

"It's been 20 years since we negotiated an agreement of this kind," according to the official.

Although officials remain optimistic that Obama and Medvedev could ink a START replacement by December, efforts to win congressional approval for pact could extend well into 2010. The Obama administration's recent decision to scrap a Bush-era European missile defense proposal could stiffen opposition to a START successor among Republicans, complicating ratification efforts, according to the Post.

The move "makes clear that the administration ignored the input of senators of both parties who warned that linking START and missile defense would be ill-advised," said Senator Jon Kyl (R-Arizona).

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Still, the change in U.S. missile defense policy could give a boost to the ongoing U.S.-Russian talks. "The overall atmospherics will be improved" in the talks as a result of the move, the State Department official said.

Yesin said the likelihood of any agreement being signed by December 5 was only 50 percent. The work could become increasingly difficult should the sides remain apart after the deadline, he said.

"It would have a negative impact on the whole reset of [U.S.-Russian] relations," according to Yesin.

The sixth START negotiation session was scheduled to open today in Geneva, RIA Novosti reported. The sides could enter initial discussions this week on the specifics of the new pact, analysts told the news agency.

Russia expects to conduct four or five more START negotiation sessions with the United States before December.

Medvedev yesterday said that the probability of settling on a deal this year was "high enough."

Moscow will continue to fund the maintenance of its strategic nuclear arsenal as required, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Vladimir Popovkin said Saturday, according to Interfax.

"We need to develop the strategic nuclear forces to guarantee the existence of the country and protection from attacks. It is our shield," the official said in a radio interview.

"Everyone should know that if someone attacks (Russia) we have something to respond with and, trust me, it will be a hard response," Popovkin said.

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United States and Russia Face Tough Arms Control Talks

Associated Press, 21 September 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

A new round of Russian-U.S. arms control talks began Monday [September 21], and Russian military experts predicted they will not be easy, despite President Barack Obama's decision to scrap plans for an Eastern Europe-based missile shield that Moscow opposed.

Russian and U.S. diplomats are trying to negotiate a successor to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, before it expires on December 5. The agreement is seen as crucial for both nations to keep an eye on one another's nuclear stockpiles and also add credibility to their efforts to persuade countries such as Iran and North Korea to abandon their nuclear programs.

As talks got under way in Geneva, retired Maj.-Gen. Vladimir Dvorkin said Obama's decision to dump the Bush-era plan for missile defense installations in Poland and the Czech Republic removed a major stumbling block. Russian officials had vociferously opposed the plan, claiming it was meant to weaken Russia.

But Dvorkin, the former head of a military think-tank that developed Moscow's strategy in arms control talks, said that their differences are yet to be resolved.

Moscow and Washington have been arguing about which weapons will be subject to cuts, what will be the rules for counting nuclear warheads and how intrusive inspections of military facilities could be, Dvorkin told a news conference in Moscow.

"Negotiations aren't going easily," said retired Col. Gen. Viktor Yesin, the former chief of staff for the Russian military's Strategic Missile Forces.

He told the news conference that Moscow wants an end to intrusive U.S. inspections at the main Russian missile factory in Votkinsk, 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) east of Moscow, while the U.S. wanted to continue them.

"There are still many obstacles negotiators have to deal with," Yesin said.

The latest round of talks on a successor to START were expected to continue until October 2, U.S. officials said.

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Even if the parties fail to reach agreement quickly enough for the deal to be ratified before START expires, they may begin observing terms of the new deal immediately, Dvorkin said. "Nothing horrible will happen if the deal isn't ratified by December 5," he added.

Dvorkin said that Obama's move to scrap the missile shield in Eastern Europe has created favorable conditions for prospective Russian cooperation with the United States and NATO on joint missile defense. "If we do that, it will be even more important than START," he said, adding that cooperation on a missile shield would dramatically boost mutual trust.

The latest call for pooling efforts in missile defense came from NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. On Friday, he urged the U.S., Russia and NATO to consider linking their missile defense systems against potential new nuclear threats from Asia and the Middle East.

The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomed Rasmussen's remarks, but said in a statement Monday that prospects for Russian-NATO cooperation on missile defense will depend on the U.S. administration's new approach to missile defense in Europe.

It remains unclear whether Moscow will make any significant concessions to Washington in response to Obama's move.

Russia's Deputy Defense Minister Vladimir Popovkin said Saturday that Russia will scrap a plan to deploy short-range missiles to the Kaliningrad region near Poland in response to Obama's decision to dump the missile shield in Eastern Europe.

But on Monday, the chief of the Russian military's General Staff, Gen. Nikolai Makarov, said that a "political decision" on the potential deployment of Iskander missiles is yet to be made by President Dmitry Medvedev.

The confusion appeared to reflect the Kremlin's annoyance with Popovkin for making the announcement, rather than hesitation about the issue. "Such important statements can't come from a low level," Dvorkin said.

Medvedev had threatened to order the deployment of Iskanders in Kaliningrad, if the U.S. pushed ahead with plans for missile-defense installations in Poland and the Czech Republic.

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U.S. and Poland Signed Agreement on Countering the Proliferation of Nuclear Materials and Technologies

U.S. State Department, 11 September 2009, <http://poland.usembassy.gov/>

Ambassador Victor Ashe and Polish Undersecretary of State Hanna Trojanowska, Government's Plenipotentiary for Nuclear Energy, signed the "Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Area of Countering the Proliferation of Nuclear Materials and Technologies" on Friday, September 11 at the Ministry of Economy in Warsaw.

This agreement provides a legal framework for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration's activities in the Republic of Poland. These activities include the return to the Russian Federation of nuclear fuel from the MARIA and EWA research reactors in Otwock-Swierk that was supplied by the Soviet Union or the Russian Federation.

This agreement is part of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI), whose mission is to reduce and protect nuclear and radiological material located at civilian sites worldwide. To date, NNSA has cooperated in 28 successful shipments of more than 900 kilograms of Russian-origin highly enriched uranium fresh and spent fuel from Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Libya, Uzbekistan, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, and the former East Germany.

Ambassador Ashe said, "The signature of this Agreement is an example of the international community working collectively to reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism, and is the kind of concrete international security action that increases both U.S. security and that of our allies. The United States Government looks forward to continued cooperation with the Government of Poland to implement our mutual commitment to promoting nuclear nonproliferation."

In a speech in Prague earlier this year, President Obama outlined his commitment to secure nuclear material around the world within four years and build on our efforts to detect and intercept nuclear materials in transit. NNSA's Global Threat Reduction Initiative, and shipments like this, are a critical element of efforts to achieve those objectives.

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Statement on the 2009 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC)

United States Mission to the OSCE, 15 September 2009, <http://osce.usmission.gov/>

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Carol Fuller to the Joint FSC-PC, Vienna

We gather here today to take a look back and the results and accomplishments of the 2009 Annual Security Review Conference. Our discussions as well are intertwined with the dialogue we have undertaken under the umbrella of the Corfu Process. We have already had two productive exchanges—one last week looking at international norms and principles and one just this morning when we considered cooperative security and the varying levels of security in the OSCE area. Accordingly, our session this afternoon is timely and welcome.

As we consider the results of the ASRC, it is important to recall that the security dimension that the ASRC represents is only one of the three OSCE dimensions that reflect our comprehensive view of factors that affect European security. And while on the one hand, we are reviewing commitments and implementation in each of the dimensions during the Corfu process dialogue, on the other, we should integrate observations from the Corfu dialogue back into each of the dimensions. As an example, at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in a few weeks time in Warsaw, the U.S. Delegation will be sponsoring a side event where a security expert will explore the vital link between the implementation of human dimension and durable European security.

The most notable feature of this year's ASRC was the address by Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov. In his remarks, Foreign Minister Lavrov fleshed out Russia's thinking on the current challenges facing European security and provided some ideas on how we might address them. This built on the speech last year by President Medvedev, which has served as the impetus and basis for our Corfu Process discussions.

Madam Chair, Mr. Chairman, we share much of the vocabulary of concern that Foreign Minister Lavrov used in his remarks. However, the conclusions we drew from that meeting take us to a different destination. The OSCE acquis built up over four decades has clearly brought Europe to a more secure place, as we discussed this morning. Nevertheless, recent trends and events have also exposed some genuine limitations of implementation.

Foreign Minister Lavrov, in his statement to the ASRC, emphasized the importance of the indivisibility of security and said it should be the basis for our discussions on European security. We agree that this is an important concept, and it is one which the United States fully supports. It is important, however, to be clear what we mean by this term, which is found in such important foundational documents as the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, and the Rome Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of NATO Member States and the Russian Federation.

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One important component of indivisible security is the comprehensive nature of security as embodied in the three dimensions of the OSCE: human, economic, and political-military.

Another important component is the indivisibility of security among states. In that regard, we believe that all states have a right to freely choose their own alliances, and no state should be allowed a “sphere of privileged interests.” A third and related element is the recognition, particularly in the security environment we face today, that the security of Europe and Eurasia is inextricably bound up with global security. Finally, a fourth principle of the indivisibility of security is the appreciation that security within states impacts security among states. Defined in this context, then, we fully share Foreign Minister Lavrov’s view that security in Europe is indeed indivisible.

As to the ASRC working sessions, we found them stimulating and worthwhile. We share the conclusions from the first session that the OSCE should improve its instruments and mechanisms with respect to conflict prevention, have a unified approach and more effectively utilize its institutions and field missions to that end. In that respect, and in the spirit of constructive engagement with our partners, we plan to distribute shortly a proposal for an OSCE Crisis Prevention and Response Mechanism that could be enacted either through a PC or Ministerial Decision. We welcome the comments and reactions of other delegations and look forward to making tangible progress in this important area.

At the arms control session, we agreed with those who urged that the CFE treaty remain a cornerstone of European security. We further agreed that priority should be given to countering any further erosion of the CFE regime and to preventing an adverse impact on other arms control instruments. In that respect, we hope that intensified negotiations on a draft parallel actions package will help us resolve the impasse over the CFE. It might be useful to consider targeted proposals to improve the Vienna Document that don’t require reopening it for negotiation. We also believe that our focus should be on seeking ways to improve implementation of existing CSBMs and commitments.

The final session on counterterrorism provided a powerful illustration of the kinds of new threats facing the OSCE area and provided some valuable insights into opportunities for a shared response. We share the view that the OSCE is uniquely suited to look at the broad array of factors, such as socio-economic characteristics and ethnic, religious and ethnic environments, which can fuel radicalization leading to terrorism. This is clearly an area where we can, and should, look at cross-dimensionality. We look forward to working with partners of the OSCE to develop some targeted proposals of cooperation to combat these threats...

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