



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



08 March – 22 March 2011

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BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

G-8 Diplomats Endorse Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference

Global Security Newswire, 16 March 2011; www.globalsecuritynewswire.org

Representatives from the world's leading industrial powers on Tuesday urged participants at this year's Biological Weapons Convention review conference to examine ways to bolster the nonproliferation regime. (459 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Statement of G-8 Foreign Ministers on the BWC Review Conference

Japanese Foreign Ministry, 16 March 2011; <http://www.mofa.go.jp/>

We, the G8 Foreign Ministers, affirm our unconditional support to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), which is both the first multilateral instrument banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction and the cornerstone of international efforts to prohibit biological and toxin weapons. (879 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Pine Bluff Chemical Weapons Stockpile End of Operations

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 08 March 2011, www.cma.army.mil

The Pine Bluff team safely completed disposal operations of 123,100 munitions and approximately 7 million pounds of agent on November 12, 2010, marking the elimination of the chemical weapons stockpile at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. (408 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Flameless Treatment of Chemicals Fails Test

Richmond Register, 11 March 2011, richmondregister.com

Breaking down toxic chemicals adhering to the metal parts contained in overpack materials of chemical munitions stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot cannot be accomplished via a proposed flameless technology. (789 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Umatilla Receives DEQ Approval for Rinsate Collection System

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 17 March 2011, www.cma.army.mil

On March 16, 2011, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality approved a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit modification request submitted by the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility to install a Rinsate Collection System. (310 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

CTBTO to Share Data with IAEA and WHO

CTBTO, 18 March 2011, www.ctbto.org

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) has started sharing its monitoring data and analysis reports with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). (305 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE TREATY (CFE)

Talks on Cuts in Tactical Nuclear Arms May Only Start After U.S. Removes Them from Europe – Moscow Source

Moscow Interfax-AVN Online, 22 March 2011, accessed via Open Source Center

American tactical nuclear weapons' removal from Europe to its national territory is a must for starting talks between Moscow and Washington on tactical nuclear weapons reduction, a high-placed military-diplomatic source told Interfax-AVN on Tuesday [March 22]. (236 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

NEW START TREATY (NST)

Russia, U.S. Start Work under New START

Voice of Russia, 22 March 2011, english.ruvr.ru

Russia and the United States have carried out the first information exchange on their nuclear stockpiles under the recently ratified [new] Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [New START], as stipulated by the [treaty's] protocol. (322 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

U.S. to Start Russia Arms Inspections: Official

Space Daily, 17 March 2011, www.spacedaily.com

A U.S. team may arrive in Russia next month to inspect the country's latest range of nuclear missiles under a new disarmament treaty signed by the two sides this year, the foreign ministry said Thursday. (307 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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NEW START TREATY (NST) (CONT.)

Russia Set to Continue Tests of Bulava Missile in June

RIA Novosti, 17 March 2011, en.rian.ru

The first test launch of Russia's sea-based Bulava ballistic missile this year will be carried out in June, missile designer Yury Solomonov said on Thursday. (207 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OPEN SKIES TREATY

First U.S.-Russia Joint Open Skies Observation Flight

U.S. State Department, 14 March 2011, www.state.gov

Today, the United States and the Russian Federation will begin the first ever joint U.S.-Russian Observation flight under the Treaty on Open Skies. (259 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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G-8 Diplomats Endorse Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference

Global Security Newswire, 16 March 2011; www.globalsecuritynewswire.org

Representatives from the world's leading industrial powers on Tuesday urged participants at this year's Biological Weapons Convention review conference to examine ways to bolster the nonproliferation regime.

"The possible misapplication of technological development in the area of life sciences and the risk posed by development or use of a biological or toxin weapon by states or nonstate actors are major issues for the international community," foreign ministers from the Group of Eight states said in a statement issued at the end of a two-day conference in Paris.

"We emphasize that strengthening the [convention's] regime plays a principal role in diminishing the threat of proliferation and acquisition of dangerous biological agents, deliberate misuse of life sciences and biotechnologies for development" of lethal pathogens, the diplomats said in the two-page document.

The [10-point statement](#) also reaffirmed the group's commitment to the tenets of the convention and called for fresh looks at the mechanisms that make up its current regime, such as existing confidence-building measures and the pact's support unit. [...]

The review conferences, conducted every five years, examine the implementation of the [BWC] during the intervening period and can recommend improvements to the nonproliferation program. The [conference] this December will be the seventh such meeting.

Overall, the statement is "extremely positive because the eight foreign ministers have gone out of their way to support the convention and the review conference and give it some political salience," according to policy analyst Jonathan Tucker. However, he noted, the consensus document "doesn't go into too many specifics."

The Biological Weapons Convention, which entered into force in 1975, prohibits the development, production and stockpiling of weaponized disease agents such as anthrax, smallpox and plague.

Attempts to establish a verification regime for the pact failed after the United States in 2001 withdrew from six and a half years of talks on the matter. Bush administration officials at the time asserted that such measures would not boost confidence in the agreement and would prove burdensome to U.S. biodefense research and the biotechnology industry.

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Since 2007, the United Nations in Geneva has hosted two meetings each year in which experts and delegates from BWC member nations to address a particular topic. Last year's sessions, which examined the potential use of biological weapons and how nations can improve their preparedness to respond to intentional or natural disease outbreaks, marked the fourth and final installment of the "intersessional process."

The events were bracketed by the 2006 review conference and the upcoming 2011 summit. This year's meeting "provides an opportunity to reaffirm the authority and increased relevance of this vital instrument for our collective security in an ever changing context," according to the foreign ministers from G-8 states Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.[...]

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G-8 Foreign Ministers Statement on the 7th BWC Review Conference

Japanese Foreign Ministry, 16 March 2011; <http://www.mofa.go.jp/>

[Text of “G-8 Foreign Ministers Statement on the 7th Review Conference for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention” following their meeting held March 15-16, 2011, in Deauville, France.]

1. We, the G8 Foreign Ministers, affirm our unconditional support to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), which is both the first multilateral instrument banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction and the cornerstone of international efforts to prohibit biological and toxin weapons. We value the work undertaken by States Parties in recent years.
2. The possible misapplication of technological developments in the area of life sciences and the risk posed by development or use of a biological or toxin weapon by States or non-state-actors are major issues for the international community. In this regard, we emphasize that strengthening of the BTWC regime plays a principal role in diminishing the threat of proliferation and acquisition of dangerous biological agents, deliberate misuse of life sciences and biotechnologies for development of biological and toxin weapons. The 7th BTWC Review Conference to be held in December 2011 in Geneva provides an opportunity to reaffirm the authority and increased relevance of this vital instrument for our collective security in an ever changing context. Tangible progress with respect to increasing mutual confidence in compliance is very much needed for the BTWC as one of the most important global arms control treaties.
3. We intend to pursue our consultations with all BTWC States Parties to establish a consensus on the major issues of the Review Conference and on the necessary actions to address these issues. We will support the efforts of the appointed President of this Review Conference, Ambassador van den Ijssel, to succeed in adopting a balanced and substantive final declaration, which will pave the way for tangible progress with respect to implementation of and compliance with the provisions of the Convention. We, the G8 Foreign Ministers, invite all States Parties to take an active part in the Review Conference and welcome their substantive contribution.
4. Guided by the objective of a more secure and safer world, and convinced that the use of such weapons is unacceptable to the conscience of humanity and would pose a grave threat to international security, we reaffirm our commitment to fully respect all obligations under the BTWC and in particular to never, under any circumstances, develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire, retain or use this type of weapon. We call upon all States Parties to the Convention to join us in the effort to effectively preclude the acquisition and use of biological

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weapons by both State and non-state actors and we will continue assistance and cooperation actions through all appropriate channels.

5. Full and effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention by all States Parties is required to achieve its objectives. Aware of the importance of the intersessional work of the Convention to achieve this objective, we are determined to engage in discussions with all States Parties on a new and substantive work program addressing the central issues of the Convention, including looking at more effective ways to enhance assurance of compliance with the BTWC as well as the implications of relevant scientific and technological developments for all appropriate articles of the Convention.
6. We are likewise determined to work with States Parties and others to devise ways to strengthen the Convention and its regime, with a view to considering and taking relevant decisions at the 7th Review Conference. We will also support the strengthening of the current UNSG mechanism for investigating cases of alleged use of chemical and biological weapons in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 42/37.
7. We commend the quality of the work conducted by the Implementation Support Unit over the past five years. We pledge our full support to renewing the ISU's mandate and, if necessary, to consolidating it, following an assessment of its tasks and resources by the Review conference.
8. Transparency among States Parties is an essential condition for confidence. With this in mind, it is necessary to ensure confidence building measures of the Convention remain relevant and useful in order to reflect recent scientific and technical developments. We are determined to pursue with all States Parties work to improve transparency and to step up efforts to increase participation in the confidence building measures. We call upon States that have not yet submitted their confidence-building measures to do so on a regular basis so that their initial objective can be met. Like the European Union, whose efforts we commend, we will continue to assist States that wish to benefit from technical assistance in submitting their confidence-building measures.
9. The involvement of civil society, particularly the academic and industrial sectors, is essential to the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention. We will therefore step up such engagement to fully take account of scientific and technical developments in the biological area. We will likewise work on better awareness raising among those involved in the development of life sciences in order to limit the possibilities of misuse of technical developments, including supporting dual-use education programs on bioethics.
10. The universality of the Convention is indispensable. We will make every effort to achieve this objective and urge all States that have not already done so, to accede to the Convention.

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U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 08 March 2011, www.cma.army.mil

The Pine Bluff team safely completed disposal operations of 123,100 munitions and approximately 7 million pounds of agent on November 12, 2010, marking the elimination of the chemical weapons stockpile at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. While the site is now in closure, everyone involved with the Pine Bluff effort paused recently to commemorate their achievements. A ceremony was held March 10, 2011, at the Pine Bluff Convention Center.

Current and former employees and members of the community gathered to celebrate the end of operations. The overarching theme was, "Our noble mission safely completed." Notable guests included Lt. Gen. James H. Pillsbury, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command; Conrad Whyne, Director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA); Col. Franz J. Amann, Commander of Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBA) and Lt. Col. Nathaniel Farmer, Commander at the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA).

The PBA has a rich history; the original mission in 1941 was to provide critical support to the nation's pending war effort. That mission, however, varied over the past 70 years, but the focus remained within chemical munitions production and storage. On Jan. 15, 1999, the U.S. Army issued a Notice to Proceed to begin construction activities for the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF).

The PBCDF, which covers 92 acres, is located on the north end of PBA. The actual disposal facility sits on 30 acres. Operations began on March 28, 2005, when workers at the PBCA delivered the first Enhanced Onsite Container (EONC) carrying two pallets of M55 rockets. Throughout the mission, PBCA made 5,879 deliveries of EONC's without incident.

Operations at PBCDF included four disposal campaigns – M55 rockets filled with GB nerve agent, VX rockets, M23 VX landmines and mustard ton containers. Once the chemical agent was safely eliminated, the site entered into closure, which will last approximately two years as the facility is decontaminated and dismantled in accordance with applicable permits. Some of PBCDF's buildings may be left for future use by the Arsenal. After physical plant closure activities are complete, the contract closeout phase will last another year.

In addition to Pine Bluff, the CMA has completed stockpile disposal operations and closed three locations – Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Indiana in 2008, Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland in 2006 and Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in the South Pacific in 2000. CMA continues the safe destruction of chemical weapons at Anniston, Alabama, Tooele, Utah, and Umatilla, Oregon.

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Flameless Treatment of Chemicals Fails Test

Richmond Register, 11 March 2011, richmondregister.com

Breaking down toxic chemicals adhering to the metal parts contained in overpack materials of chemical munitions stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot cannot be accomplished via a proposed flameless technology.

At its quarterly meeting Tuesday, the Chemical Destruction Citizens Advisory Board (CDCAB) learned that tests of a device that would heat small amounts of PCBs and other toxic chemicals (incidental to chemical neutralization of the nerve- and mustard-agent weapons) to 2,200 degrees had failed.

The test results were presented by Rick Rife, deputy project manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, the contractor for the chemical-agent destruction project at the depot. The heating device is an existing technology normally used at temperatures no greater than 1,800 degrees, Rife said. A temperature of 2,200 degrees is required, however, to break down molecules of PCB, a preservative contained in wood and other materials in which some of the weapons are packed.

Parts of the device itself began to malfunction or break down at the higher temperatures, he said. Natural-gas fueled combustion, a proven technology, will be used instead. Bechtel Parsons wanted to use a flameless process in deference to the Madison County community's "aversion to combustion," Rife said.

Most of the nation's chemical weapons, which are being destroyed in accordance with an international treaty, have been or are being destroyed by incineration. The chemical neutralization alternative was chosen for depots in Kentucky and Colorado and some other sites, in large part because Madison Countians led a campaign which questioned the safety and effectiveness of incineration.

Even if the flameless technology had been successful, a gaseous effluent would still have to be treated with a series of charcoal filter beds. One bed of charcoal filters should be sufficient to remove any contaminants in the effluent, but six will be used to ensure effectiveness, Rife said.

"Real-time monitors" will test the composition of anything passing through by the filters. If any pollutant gets through any of the filters, "We will know immediately," Rife said. Where and how the charcoal filter beds will be disposed remains to be determined, he said.

Filter disposal has created controversy at some other locations, said Craig Williams, CDCAB co-chair. Members of the Citizens Advisory Council, a public panel that originally monitored the

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project and is now associated with the CDCAB, had hoped that no other community would have to accept waste from the Kentucky site, he said. That was one reason the local group wanted to use on-site super-critical water oxidation to treat the product of chemical-agent neutralization, Williams said. One advantage of the combustion technology is that fewer charcoal filters will be needed, Rife said. The change should not affect cost or timing of the project, he said.

As in the past, bureaucracy and funding, along with technology, continue to be the project's main issues. Dr. Tom Hopkins, the Secretary of Defense's deputy assistant for treaties and threat reduction, gave an update of the review required because the project will exceed cost estimates by more than 25 percent. Five Defense Department teams are conducting the review and should have a recommendation for the Defense Secretary by mid-June, Hopkins said.

To meet the requirements of the Nunn-McCrudy Act, the secretary will have to certify to Congress that the project is essential to national security, that new cost estimates are reasonable and that the cost, performance and schedule of alternatives are less favorable.

Because chemical weapons destruction is required by treaty, the national security requirement will be the easiest to justify, Hopkins said. The project has passed a previous Nunn-McCrudy review, he said, but a prediction of the outcome would be presumptive and could be seen as tainting the current review.

Williams said he remained confident the review would not derail the project and may even be beneficial, because it could "clarify the (project's) funding profile." On a positive note, President Obama's annual budget request to Congress contained "a couple of million dollars more" that previously sought for the project, he said.

The review has not held up work on the project, which is 30 percent complete, said Jeff Brubaker, the government's site manager for the project in Kentucky. A CDCAB committee, in cooperation with the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, has begun working on ways to retain the high-paying jobs that will be associated with the project.

While other projects may be found to employ the workers, any part of the destruction plant that has come in contact with nerve agent cannot be reused and will be torn down, said Conrad Whyne, director of the Army's Chemical Materials Agency and interim manager of the Assemble Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program.

Both the Kentucky and Colorado projects, which will use chemical neutralization, are part of the ACWA program.

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U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 17 March 2011, www.cma.army.mil

On March 16, 2011, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality approved a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit modification request submitted by the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility to install a Rinsate Collection System.

“The new Rinsate Collection System provides the U.S. Army and our contractors another tool to ensure the United States achieves the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty date of April 2012,” said Gary Anderson, site project manager for the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

The first step in the destruction of a HD mustard agent ton container is to drain the liquid HD. This leaves a solid in the TC known as heel (the solid portion created from years of settling during storage).

The UMCDF currently sprays the inside of a drained ton container containing heel with high-pressure hot water to partially mobilize the heel and transfer the resulting mixture of heel and water, referred to as HD rinsate, to one or more recipient TCs. The recipient TCs of HD rinsate are treated in the Metal Parts Furnace, roughly doubling the amount of TCs that must be processed in the MPF.

“Installation and testing of the Rinsate system has been ongoing under a temporary authorization request approved by the Oregon DEQ on Oct. 1, 2010,” said Steve Warren, project manager for the URS system contractor. “The team of professionals who designed, fabricated and installed the systems have done an outstanding job of getting the critical system ready to operate.”

The RCS is an additional method of treatment for the HD rinsate by transferring the liquid directly to storage tanks and then processing through one of two Liquid Incinerators. The system is expected to be operational in April.

UMCDF is in its 13th and final campaign of destroying chemical agent. To date, UMCDF has destroyed 1,402 TCs with 1,233 remaining. UMCDF anticipates destroying the last mustard agent by December.

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CTBTO to Share Data with IAEA and WHO

CTBTO, 18 March 2011, www.ctbto.org

The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) has started sharing its monitoring data and analysis reports with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The CTBTO is responding to respective requests communicated on March 17 to use its data in assessing the situation following the recent nuclear accident in Fukushima and the possible dispersion of radioactive substances in Japan and the wider region.

Member States enjoy equal access to verification information

Tibor Tóth, the Executive Secretary of the CTBTO, informed Member States about the continued access to daily updates on monitoring data and analysis reports, including data from radionuclide stations and information on the possible spread of a radioactive release.

All CTBTO Member States are granted equal access to all verification-related information. Currently, 120 Member States make use of this opportunity. Scientists and experts in over 1,200 academic and scientific institutions all over the world receive CTBTO data and analysis information. As interest in CTBTO monitoring data has increased over the past few days, more scientific institutions are being granted access to this pool of information, upon request.

Global network to detect nuclear explosions

The CTBTO is building a global verification system to detect nuclear explosions in an effort to verify a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. When complete, its 337-facility network of seismic, hydroacoustic and infrasound stations will watch underground, the oceans and the atmosphere, and its radionuclide stations will sniff the air for tell-tale signs of a nuclear explosion.

Nearly 270 monitoring stations, of which 63 are radionuclide sensors, are already operational and send data to the International Data Centre in Vienna, Austria, for processing and analysis. While the system is designed to detect nuclear blasts, it also picks up a vast amount of data that could potentially be used for civil and scientific purposes.

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Talks on Cuts in Tactical Nuclear Arms May Only Start After U.S. Removes Them from Europe – Moscow Source

Moscow Interfax-AVN Online, 22 March 2011, accessed via Open Source Center

American tactical nuclear weapons' removal from Europe to its national territory is a must for starting talks between Moscow and Washington on tactical nuclear weapons reduction, a high-placed military-diplomatic source told Interfax-AVN on Tuesday [March 22].

"Before starting talks the United States must withdraw tactical nuclear weapons, currently deployed in European countries, to its national territory," he said in comments on Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Rose Gottemoeller's statement that tactical nuclear arms reduction must be the next stage in slashing the Russian and American nuclear arsenals after the signing of the new strategic arms reduction treaty.

In addition to this, talks on tactical nuclear arms cuts must take into account the current imbalance in conventional arsenals, including the arsenals of smart weapons, he said. "The United States and NATO countries' superiority in these weapons could be minimized by an adapted Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty. Anyway, concrete talks on tactical nuclear arms can only be launched after an adapted CFE treaty takes effect," he said.

Tactical nuclear weapons cuts must not upset the current global strategic stability, he said. "Nuclear weapons are not being cut for the cutting sake, but for strengthening security. Therefore, this issue should be tackled thoroughly and consistently," the expert said.

The United States' tactical nuclear weapons are located in five European countries: Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Turkey, according to unofficial sources.

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Russia, U.S. Start Work under New START

Voice of Russia, 22 March 2011, english.ruvr.ru

Russia and the United States have carried out the first information exchange on their nuclear stockpiles under the recently ratified [new] Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty [New START], as stipulated by the [treaty's] protocol. [...]

As laid down in the [treaty], Russia and the United States should inform each other about the structure of their strategic nuclear weapons in writing. The information to this end comes from the Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers established at Russia's Joint Staff and the U.S. State Department. Senior Fellow of the Moscow-based Center for International Security Viktor Yesin revealed some details of the information provided.

"The parties will indicate the location of the so-called missile bases, airfields housing heavy bombers or strategic aircraft and bases of nuclear submarines carrying long-range ballistic missiles. Furthermore, each base will have to provide information on the structure of its missile complexes, as well as the number of missiles and nuclear warheads. One of the focal points will be the location of facilities storing the so-called non-deployed [anti-ballistic missile] ABM and submarine missile launchers counted under the [New] START treaty," Viktor Yesin explained.

Upon the end of the information exchange process, the two sides will start reciprocal inspections to verify that the reality accords with the declarations. Bases to undergo such inspections will be selected at random, pursuant to quotas laid down in the treaty. They envisage 10 visits to nuclear facilities on each side per year, with the parties choosing the sites independently.

Under the new arms reduction treaty, the next decade should see Russia and the United States cutting their nuclear arsenals to a maximum of 1,550 nuclear warheads and 700 deployed launchers. Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov recently said that Russia will do away with a number of its outdated warheads to create new weapons complying with the parameters set by the agreement.

At present, Russia has approximately 4,000 nuclear warheads and 800 deployed launchers – submarines, bombers, and ballistic missiles.

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



08 March – 22 March 2011

DTRA

U.S. to Start Russia Arms Inspections: Official

Space Daily, 17 March 2011, www.spacedaily.com

A U.S. team may arrive in Russia next month to inspect the country's latest range of nuclear missiles under a new disarmament treaty signed by the two sides this year, the foreign ministry said Thursday.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov exchanged documents formally bringing the New START treaty into force in Munich on February 5.

Besides slashing existing nuclear warhead and missile ceilings, the treaty allows the two sides to inspect each other's nuclear facilities – seen as a vital confidence-building measure.

Full on-site inspections are allowed within 60 days of the treaty going into effect, and a top Russian diplomat said Thursday they could potentially begin in April.

"The first inspection check may occur two months after the New START treaty's signature," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as saying by Interfax.

"The inspection may not occur before the first two months" are up, he added.

Ryabkov's comments came moments after one of Russia's top nuclear weapons designers said he expected the first U.S. team to arrive this week.

Yury Solomonov, who heads the Moscow Institute of Thermal Technology that is developing the Bulava submarine ballistic missile, said the first inspectors would check on Russia's latest Yars intercontinental ballistic missile.

He said the U.S. side had already inspected Russia's earlier Topol-M missiles under terms of the old START treaty that expired at the end of 2009.

"So it is only natural that the U.S. side would want to see the new missiles, which have not been shown before," Solomonov was quoted as saying by Interfax.

He added that the first U.S. team would stay in Russia until March 22.

New START reduces previous warhead ceilings by 30 percent and limits each side to 700 deployed long-range missiles and heavy bombers. The original 1991 pact expired at the end of 2009.

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



08 March – 22 March 2011

DTRA

Russia Set to Continue Tests of Bulava Missile in June

RIA Novosti, 17 March 2011, en.rian.ru

The first test launch of Russia's sea-based Bulava ballistic missile this year will be carried out in June, missile designer Yury Solomonov said on Thursday. "The launch will be carried out as soon as the ice melts...sometime in June," Solomonov said.

The Bulava (SS-NX-30) SLBM carries up to 10 MIRV warheads and has a range of over 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles). The Russian Navy plans to deploy the Bulava on the new Borey class strategic submarines.

Despite several previous failures, officially blamed on manufacturing defaults, the Russian military has insisted that there is no alternative to the Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missile, and pledged to continue testing the missile until it is ready for service with the Navy.

In the last test in late October, a Bulava missile was successfully test-fired from the Dmitry Donskoi nuclear-powered submarine in the White Sea, hitting a target on a test range in Russia's Far East Kamchatka region some 6,000 kilometers to the east.

Solomonov said that the next launch could be carried out either by the Dmitry Donskoi or Yury Dolgoruky submarines. Russia is planning to conduct at least four test launches of the Bulava missile this year. If they are successful, the missile will be put in service by yearend.

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



08 March – 22 March 2011

DTRA

First U.S.-Russia Joint Open Skies Observation Flight

U.S. State Department, 14 March 2011, www.state.gov

Today, the United States and the Russian Federation will begin the first ever joint U.S.-Russian Observation flight under the Treaty on Open Skies. On March 14-18, this historic joint mission will be conducted over the territory of Sweden on a Russian aircraft with a team of Russian, American and Swedish personnel.

This observation flight will complete a series of joint missions conducted among Russia, Sweden and the United States that began three years ago: in 2008, Russia and Sweden flew a joint mission over the United States; and in 2009, Sweden and the United States flew together over the Russian Federation.

None of these joint flights was envisioned when the treaty was first drafted, but improved trust gained through over 750 observation flights conducted by treaty parties since 2002 has opened new opportunities for greater cooperation among its members.

The Treaty on Open Skies establishes a regime for unarmed aerial observation flights over the territories of its signatories. Stretching from Vancouver in the west to Vladivostok in the east, the Treaty on Open Skies is one of the most wide-ranging international arms control efforts ever undertaken to promote openness and transparency in military forces and activities. As such, the Treaty provides a key mechanism in support of U.S. Euro-Atlantic security objectives.

The United States is committed to promoting and implementing transparency and confidence-building measures with Russia, Sweden, and all of our Open Skies Treaty partners. We consider this joint effort an important contribution to that commitment, as well as a stronger security environment for all Open Skies Treaty parties.

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