



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



10 March 2009 – 23 March 2009

DTRA

ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

Big Spending Bill Bars U.S. Cluster Bomb Exports

Associated Press, 12 March 2009, <http://news.google.com/>

The big spending bill that President Barack Obama signed this week includes a prohibition on most exports of cluster bombs, which can kill for years after their use in wars. (273 words)

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Entry into Force of Historic Treaty on Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia

M2 PressWIRE, 23 March 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The U.N. Secretary-General welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia... (294 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Destroying a Toxic Threat

The Moscow Times, 11 March 2009, <http://www.moscowtimes.ru/>

By Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, Director General of the OPCW

Russia should be commended for its firm commitment to fulfilling its obligations under the convention and its support for the work of the OPCW... (654 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Seven Plants Will Be Eliminating Chemical Weapons in Russia in 2011

ITAR-TASS, 12 March 2009, accessed via Open Source Center

Russia will honor all of its chemical arms disposal liabilities despite the financial crisis, the presidential representative in the Volga Federal District, Grigory Rapota, said in Moscow on Thursday [March 12]. (331 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Half of Mustard Agent Bulk Containers Destroyed at Utah Depot

Global Security Newswire, 19 March 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

Half of the Deseret Chemical Depot's stockpile of bulk containers filled with mustard agent have been destroyed, the U.S. Army announced this month. (177 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

Nuclear Deal on Track: U.S., India Determined to Go Forward

Indo-Asian News Service, 12 March 2009, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/>

The landmark India-U.S. civil nuclear deal is on track with both sides determined to go forward with an initiative that has raised their relationship to a new level. (300 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

N. Korea Removes Over 75 Percent of Used Fuel Rods: U.S. Report

Yonhap News, 15 March 2009, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/>

North Korea has removed more than 75 percent of the used fuel rods at its atomic facilities, a U.S. report showed Sunday, a sign that progress has been made towards denuclearization despite hang-ups in multilateral talks. (274 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Brown Pushes for World Reduction in Nuclear Weapons as He Makes Iran Offer

The Guardian, 17 March 2009, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

The United Kingdom is to push for a new multilateral deal to reduce the number of nuclear weapons stockpiled around the world, Gordon Brown said today [March 17], as he pledged that Britain was "ready" to reduce its own number of Trident warheads. (874 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

South Korea Might Reconsider PSI if North Launches Missile

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

A North Korean missile launch might spur South Korea to reconsider its refusal so far to participate in a U.S.-led program to prevent smuggling of weapons of mass destruction on the high seas, the Korea Herald reported today [March 16]. (485 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Russian Minister Welcomes Statements by United States in Favor of Multilateral Approaches to International Security and Disarmament

UN Office at Geneva, 7 March 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

Sergey Lavrov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, today [March 7] told the Conference on Disarmament that Russia welcomes the statements made by the new United States Administration in favor of multilateral approaches to the maintenance of international security and disarmament. (1,320 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program February Update

Press Release, 16 March 2009, <http://lugar.senate.gov/>

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar announced the following accomplishments for the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program in February... (490 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia, U.S. Could Agree on New START Treaty by December

RIA Novosti, 20 March 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia and the United States have every chance of reaching an agreement on a new arms reduction treaty to replace START by December this year, a Russian deputy foreign minister said on Friday [March 20]. (343 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Medvedev 'Counting On a Reset' With U.S.

The Washington Post, 20 March 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Friday [March 20] he was "counting on" the new U.S. administration to live up to its pledge to "reset" relations between the two countries, while a senior Russian diplomat sought to link the fate of a key nuclear arms control treaty to American concessions on missile defense. (681 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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Associated Press, 12 March 2009, <http://news.google.com/>

The big spending bill that President Barack Obama signed this week includes a prohibition on most exports of cluster bombs, which can kill for years after their use in wars.

Cluster bombs spread small bomblets, which greatly expands the kill zone. Many of the strewn weapons fail to explode until much later. Often they go off only after unsuspecting civilians pick them up.

The weapons' latest use in war was by the Israeli air force during its 2006 war in Lebanon against Hezbollah militants.

The U.S. Air Force used them in NATO's Balkan war in 1999 and again in the "shock and awe" attacks that began the Iraq war in 2003. The bombs were stopped because of the danger they caused for U.S. soldiers as well as Iraqi civilians.

Senators Dianne Feinstein, D-California and Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont, have introduced further legislation that would prohibit not only the export of the weapons but their use by the U.S. military.

While the amendment to the \$410 billion spending bill that Obama signed Wednesday mentions no time limit for the ban, congressional aides said it probably would be considered permanent by the military.

Under the law, the cluster bombs may not be transferred without guarantees from the potential customer that they would not be used where civilians were known to be present.

For the past year, the U.S. military has been under a similar ban on spending money to export cluster bombs. The amendment's sponsors expect it will be treated as a permanent ban.

"We hope this would lead to permanent change of policy, including the use of these weapons," David Carle, Leahy's spokesman, said Thursday.

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Entry into Force of Historic Treaty on Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia

M2 PressWIRE, 23 March 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The following statement was issued today [March 23] by the Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:

The Secretary-General welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia. Opened for signature on 8 September 2006, it has now been ratified by all five Central Asian States and entered into force on 21 March 2009.

The Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, for which the Government of Kyrgyzstan is the depositary, has five States parties: the Republic of Kazakhstan; the Kyrgyz Republic; the Republic of Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Treaty is of particular significance. This will be the first nuclear-weapon-free zone to be established in the northern hemisphere and will also encompass an area where nuclear weapons previously existed. It will also be the first nuclear-weapon-free zone that requires its parties to conclude with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and bring into force an Additional Protocol to their Safeguards Agreements with IAEA within 18 months after the entry into force of the Treaty, and to comply fully with the provisions of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the Treaty, the Secretary-General would like to urge the States concerned to address any outstanding issues that may affect its operation.

As the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons approaches, the Secretary-General trusts that the entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia will reinforce efforts to strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, underline the strategic and moral value of nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the possibilities for greater progress on a range of issues in the pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons.

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Destroying a Toxic Threat

The Moscow Times, 11 March 2009, <http://www.moscowtimes.ru/>

By Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, Director General of the OPCW

The Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force in April 1997 and is the first multilateral treaty that bans an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. It is comprehensive and nondiscriminatory, prohibiting the development, production or use of chemical weapons by all member states under conditions of strict verification. A core objective is the complete elimination of such weapons within the deadlines stipulated by the convention.

Chemical weapons contain some of the most toxic substances ever created, and the work of destroying them has been more daunting than the drafters of the convention might have anticipated. High levels of financial and technological resources must be invested to ensure that these highly dangerous chemical agents can be safely destroyed while also protecting the environment.

This month, Russia has opened yet another facility to destroy its chemical weapons at Shchuchye in the Kurgan region, in addition to three other destruction facilities that are currently operating in Kambarka in the Udmurtia republic, Maradykovsky in the Kirov region, and Leonidovka in the Penza region. A fifth facility in Gorny in the Saratov region has already finished neutralizing its chemical agents.

This is a praiseworthy development and a concrete demonstration of Russia's firm commitment to complete the destruction of its stockpiles within the deadlines set by the convention. Russia met the convention's intermediate deadline to destroy 20 percent of its chemical weapons by April 29, 2007, and it is now well-positioned to achieve the next intermediate deadline of 45 percent destruction by December 31, 2009.

The lion's share of the substantial financial resources needed to build and operate the new facility has been provided by Russia—another commendable demonstration of its commitment. This effort has been complemented with significant support for the Shchuchye project from a host of other convention member states, including Canada, many European Union members, New Zealand, Britain, and the United States.

Globally, 43 percent of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles have been destroyed to date, a laudable achievement by any measure. But this still leaves 57 percent to be eliminated before the final deadline set by the convention of April 2012. I am confident, however, that Russia, as well as the three other convention member states that still possess chemical weapons will all do their utmost to comply with their obligation to completely eliminate their stockpiles by the given

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deadlines. They deserve positive recognition for their firm commitment to the convention and for the concrete steps they are taking.

Russia can take satisfaction in playing a key role in one of the most successful international treaties in the sphere of disarmament and nonproliferation. As of today, the Chemical Weapons Convention has attracted the membership of 186 countries with 98 percent of the world's population and chemical industry—the fastest rate of accession for any disarmament treaty in history.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, or OPCW, which I lead, is the international agency charged with implementing the convention. It does so through four main areas: 1. ensuring the destruction of existing chemical weapons under strict verification; 2. conducting year-round inspections of industrial facilities to ensure the nonproliferation of toxic chemicals and precursors that could be used to make chemical weapons; 3. strengthening the capacity of convention member states for assistance and protection against the use, or threatened use, of chemical weapons; and 4. facilitating the exchange of information and expertise for the peaceful uses of chemistry.

Once the destruction of all existing chemical weapons stockpiles is completed, the ongoing long-term nonproliferation activities of the OPCW will naturally become the focus of more attention and resources.

Russia should be commended for its firm commitment to fulfilling its obligations under the convention and its support for the work of the OPCW. The many Russian technicians and workers who are responsible for implementing the chemical weapons destruction program play a crucial role, and their work is making a genuinely historic contribution to global peace and security.

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Seven Plants Will Be Eliminating Chemical Weapons in Russia in 2011

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Russia will honor all of its chemical arms disposal liabilities despite the financial crisis, the presidential representative in the Volga Federal District, Grigory Rapota, said in Moscow on Thursday [March 12]. Rapota chairs the state commission for chemical disarmament.

During a working meeting with the visiting director-general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Rogelio Pfirter, Rapota said that "all plans for the disposal of chemical weapons remain in force and no amendments will be introduced to either the technology or the schedule."

In part, Rapota pointed out that "despite the financial crisis Russia will be tackling the emerging problems with assistance from the international community, but at the same time it will mostly rely on its own capabilities."

Under the chemical weapons disposal plan Russia in 2010-2011 is to have seven facilities for the elimination of chemical warfare agents.

Rapota recalled that on March 5 the Shchuchye facility in the Kurgan Region went into operation. Currently, construction work is in progress at the Pochev facility in the Bryansk Region, and at Kizner, Udmurtia. Extra facilities are being created at the Maradykovsky plant, in the Kirov Region, Leonidovka, near Penza, and Kambarka, in Udmurtia. Rapota said the Gorny plant in the Saratov Region had already completed the disposal of chemical weapons and was now in the process of eliminating chemical waste. In particular, he underscored the priority of maintaining the security of the population and environmental protection throughout the chemical weapons elimination process.

Pfirter hailed Russia's commitment to its obligations assumed under the Chemical Weapons Convention. He confirmed the international community's determination to keep rendering assistance to Russia to help it implement its chemical weapons disposal plans.

This will be not only a contribution to the process of disarmament, but an investment into global security, Pfirter said.

The Paris convention of 1993 banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and requiring their elimination has been signed by 186 countries. It took effect on April 29, 1997.

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Half of Mustard Agent Bulk Containers Destroyed at Utah Depot

Global Security Newswire, 19 March 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

Half of the Deseret Chemical Depot's stockpile of bulk containers filled with mustard agent have been destroyed, the U.S. Army announced this month.

The Utah depot's incineration plant had eliminated roughly 3,200 ton containers. Disposal of 4.2-inch mortars carrying the blister agent is scheduled to begin next month.

Meanwhile, full-speed elimination of mustard agent is scheduled to resume within four weeks at the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Arkansas, the Pine Bluff Commercial reported yesterday.

The plant is operating at half capacity while the state reviews results from recent trial burns. During this period, it is burning charcoal filters left over from disposal of sarin nerve agent.

"During the 50 percent limit there will be less disruption of the incineration schedule than if we [burned the filters] while operating at 100 percent, so we chose to do it now all at once," said Jack Reber, project general manager for URS Corp.

When the facility is allowed to resume normal operations, it should on average destroy four bulk containers of mustard agent each day, Reber said.

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Nuclear Deal on Track: U.S., India Determined to Go Forward

Indo-Asian News Service, 12 March 2009, <http://www.hindustantimes.com/>

The landmark India-U.S. civil nuclear deal is on track with both sides determined to go forward with an initiative that has raised their relationship to a new level.

"I was really reassured by the determination to go through it," Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon said at a press conference in Washington on Wednesday [March 12] after three days of an intense dialogue with the new Obama administration.

Refuting suggestions that the nuclear deal was not as high a priority for President Barack Obama as it was for his predecessor George W. Bush, he said: "The civil nuclear initiative was a bipartisan effort passed by a Democratic Congress during a Republican administration. That's the strength of it."

The finalization of the deal had raised the India-U.S. relationship to a new level of cooperation from economy to energy, Menon said. "I think there is determination to go forward on both sides."

Menon, who discussed the nuclear deal with both Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and his counterpart Under Secretary for Political Affairs William Burns, said the deal was making 'steady progress'.

Noting that deal had already been signed, he said now it's a question of operationalization and bringing it down to the commercial level. For that India had already signed an additional protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency and was domestically taking steps to sign the civil nuclear liability convention.

To suggestions that non-operationalization of the deal in the absence of the convention was putting American firms at a disadvantage, Menon said India was in the midst of the legal process to sign the international convention that lays down the standard.

Noting that the convention would begin to operate when reactors come into place, he said international standards should be enough assurance for companies intending to sell nuclear technology to India.

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N. Korea Removes Over 75 Percent of Used Fuel Rods: U.S. Report

Yonhap News, 15 March 2009, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/>

North Korea has removed more than 75 percent of the used fuel rods at its atomic facilities, a U.S. report showed Sunday, a sign that progress has been made towards denuclearization despite hang-ups in multilateral talks.

According to the report by the Congressional Research Service, the North has removed 6,100 out of 8,000 used fuel rods as of the end of February with efforts underway to fully disable nuclear facilities at its Yongbyon complex.

The report comes as the six-party talks on the North's atomic programs have been stalled since December, when North Korea refused to agree to a verification protocol for its nuclear facilities.

Tensions have mounted on the Korean Peninsula since Pyongyang said it will launch a "satellite" early next month, a move that neighboring countries suspect is a ruse to test-fire a missile.

The communist country on Friday again sealed the border crossing to an inter-Korean industrial park, the second time in a week. Hundreds of South Korean workers remained stranded at the complex, and the cross-border delivery of goods and raw materials has also been suspended.

Despite these developments, the report noted that progress has been made in disabling nuclear facilities.

South Korean officials visited the North in January to discuss purchasing unused fuel rods but failed to reach an agreement, the report noted, adding the destruction of the rods will not begin until all of the spent ones are removed.

Removing the rods is one of the few remaining steps that Pyongyang has to take to disable the Yongbyon complex under a 2007 aid-for-denuclearization deal with the other six-party members—South Korea, the United States, China, Russia and Japan.

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Brown Pushes for World Reduction in Nuclear Weapons as He Makes Iran Offer

The Guardian, 17 March 2009, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

The United Kingdom is to push for a new multilateral deal to reduce the number of nuclear weapons stockpiled around the world, Gordon Brown said today [March 17], as he pledged that Britain was "ready" to reduce its own number of Trident warheads.

In his first speech on nuclear disarmament since May, Brown said that a new deal to reduce world stockpiles of atomic weapons was close.

"Britain has cut the number of its nuclear warheads by 50 percent since 1997 ... If it is possible to reduce the number of UK warheads further, consistent with our national deterrence requirements and with the progress of multilateral discussions, Britain will be ready to do so," he said. "We must begin by reducing the number of nuclear weapons still out there in the world ... Between them, the U.S. and Russia retain around 95 percent."

In the same speech the prime minister renewed his offer to Iran for international help in developing a civil nuclear power industry providing Tehran ends its uranium enrichment program.

The prime minister said Iran's atomic program had become a "critical" threat in his first comments on the country since a February International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) report showed that Tehran had not suspended enrichment. Brown laid out plans for a "uranium enrichment bond" whereby nuclear power-producing countries would guarantee the supply of enriched uranium to those countries that were not self-sufficient, providing safeguards were in place.

The government would also like to see enhanced powers of inspection. Insiders said the speech was the prime minister's chance to present his plan ahead of Barack Obama's visit to the UK for the G20 summit on 2 April.

The IAEA said last month that Tehran had succeeded in enriching a tonne of uranium, technically giving it enough for a single warhead.

The United States has developed its position on Iran's non-civilian nuclear program since Obama's inauguration. The U.S. president sent a secret letter to the Russian president, Dmitry Medvedev, suggesting that the deployment of America's proposed \$4bn-a-year missile shield in eastern Europe could be halted if Moscow persuaded Tehran to abandon its nuclear weapon

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ambitions. Obama views Russia as critical to his efforts to halt Iran's suspected nuclear weapons program.

However, it is thought that the new U.S. administration is holding off from developing a distinct new line until Iranian elections in June.

At Lancaster House in London today, Brown set out means to help non-nuclear states acquire the new sources of energy they need while still meeting international commitments halving carbon emissions by 2050—something Downing Street aides said would require the building of 32 nuclear reactors around the world each year for the foreseeable future.

The prime minister said: "Iran is a test case for this new philosophy of the right to civil nuclear power with sanctions for rule breakers. Let me be unequivocal: Iran has the same absolute right to a peaceful civil nuclear program as any other country. Indeed, the UK and international community stand ready to help Iran achieve it.

"But let me be equally clear that Iran's current nuclear program is unacceptable. Iran has concealed nuclear activities, refused to cooperate with the IAEA, and flouted UN Security Council resolutions. Its refusal to play by the rules leads us to view its nuclear program as a critical proliferation threat.

"Iran therefore faces a clear choice: continue in this way and face further and tougher sanctions, or change to a UN-overseen civil nuclear energy program that will bring the greatest benefits to its citizens."

Brown also reaffirmed his long-term commitment to see the world "getting to zero", which would see the international community commit to abolishing nuclear weapons. Brown's adviser on nuclear non-proliferation, the Liberal Democrat peer Lady Williams, called on him to take action on what she called a "drastic decline of British nuclear knowledge".

She said: "Nagasaki was 70 years ago and there are now left very few people who know anything about it. There is now a very real worry that there will not be enough skilled people to fill the inspections."

A Downing Street spokesman suggested patience was running out, saying: "The government made a generous offer to Iran in the summer—we will help you with enrichment of uranium—but so far we have not had a satisfactory response to that."

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Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has previously rejected similar offers, most recently last summer from the so-called E3+3 group – Britain, France and Germany, plus the United States, Russia and China.

The defense secretary, John Hutton, told BBC Radio 4's Today program that Brown's speech was "a restatement of what our policy is and an invitation to Iran—and I think a very important one—to come back within the framework of international law and develop its civilian nuclear power program in a way that doesn't pose the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation".

Hutton said Britain backed Iran's right under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but remained concerned that Tehran was in breach of five UN Security Council resolutions regarding its nuclear activities.

"We are entitled to regard it as a proliferation threat," he said. "The consequences for Iran are very clear—they can continue facing international isolation or they can come back within the framework of international law."

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South Korea Might Reconsider PSI if North Launches Missile

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

A North Korean missile launch might spur South Korea to reconsider its refusal so far to participate in a U.S.-led program to prevent smuggling of weapons of mass destruction on the high seas, the Korea Herald reported today [March 16].

"That is a possibility because the Proliferation Security Initiative is aimed at containing weapons of mass destruction, and if North Korea develops and attains such capabilities, there will be a need to prevent proliferation. So from this point of view, the launch may raise the need to review full membership," South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan said Friday.

Seoul to date has been only an observer to the program in order to avoid aggravating Pyongyang, which is known to export missiles and other weapons and is suspected of supporting Syrian nuclear activities.

Some officials and analysts have argued that PSI membership would give Seoul an additional lever to help modify Pyongyang's behavior.

[North Korea] has indicated it plans early next month to launch a rocket that would put a satellite into orbit. South Korea and other nations have expressed concern that the launch is actually intended to test the North's ballistic missile technology.

Pyongyang sees the test as an opportunity to ensure the stability of the government and to send a message to Seoul and Washington, two of the nations involved in deadlocked talks on North Korea's nuclear program.

"But the North would be further isolated internationally," Yu said. "There is a reason why the North has chosen the path it did, and while it may achieve its goal, there will be consequences to suffer, and the North will be bracing for them."

Any launch would be a violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1718, which was passed following North Korea's 2006 nuclear test and prohibits ballistic missile and atomic activities, Yu said. He acknowledged that it could be difficult to have all Security Council members sign onto new sanctions.

"Japan, Russia, China and the United States all have their own concerns and stances, and we cannot criticize this. It is important that they find a common denominator. What is significant is that China and Russia also firmly believe that North Korea's persistence in developing

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intercontinental ballistic missiles are not helpful to international peace and security. It would be based on this belief that they would by all means seek to halt North Korea's development plans," Yu said.

The U.S. State Department also invoked the 2006 resolution Friday in warning North Korea against a launch, the Korea Times reported.

"As to what will happen and when things happen, I'll have to leave that for a future discussion," said spokesman Gordon Duguid. "Most interpret a launch, as well, as being a violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1718. I think the isolation that North Korea feels on this issue is something that should be noted by us, if it's not being taken to heart there."

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Russian Minister Welcomes Statements by United States in Favor of Multilateral Approaches to International Security and Disarmament

UN Office at Geneva, 7 March 2009, <http://www.unog.ch/>

Sergey Lavrov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, today told the Conference on Disarmament that Russia welcomes the statements made by the new United States Administration in favor of multilateral approaches to the maintenance of international security and disarmament. Russia was prepared, as was suggested by its American partners, to “reset” their relations. Conclusion of a new legally binding Russian-American treaty on strategic offensive arms could become a priority step in that direction.

Mr. Lavrov said the world had to acknowledge its inability to overcome a stalemate in the field of multilateral disarmament. The stalemate situation in the Conference’s activities that had continued for over 10 years clearly reflected an unfavorable state of affairs in the field of international security. Russia was aware of its special responsibility as a nuclear state and permanent member of the UN Security Council for nuclear disarmament and strengthening of the weapons of mass destruction non-proliferation regime. Russia had fully met its obligations under START and implementation of the Moscow Treaty (SORT) was well underway. It was now time to take new steps in this area aimed at making the world more secure.

Mr. Lavrov read out a statement by Dmitry A. Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation, on this issue, in which he said that on December 5 this year, the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START) would expire. The importance of this instrument for ensuring international peace and stability could hardly be overestimated. Today, they were facing a pressing need to move further along the road of nuclear disarmament. In accordance with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Russia was fully committed to reaching the goal of a world free from these most deadly weapons.

The Russian President said a future agreement should be legally binding. It was of no less importance that the instrument should be forward-looking—and should limit not only warheads, but also strategic delivery vehicles, i.e. intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers. Russia deemed it necessary to exclude possible deployment of strategic offensive arms outside national territories. Mr. Medvedev emphasized that Russia was open to dialogue and was prepared for negotiations with the new United States Administration.

Mr. Lavrov said today they were witnessing a growing number of international initiatives on nuclear disarmament. Russia appreciated the focus of these initiatives on solving global security issues on a multilateral basis and was willing to positively contribute to their consideration.

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However, progress towards "global zero" could only be achieved through strengthened strategic stability and strict adherence to the principle of equal security for all. In its turn this suggested the need to carry out a set of measures required for a sustainable and consistent disarmament process. Among those measures were further advancement of nuclear disarmament by all nuclear-weapon States, with their "gradual" engagement in efforts already being undertaken by Russia and the United States; to prevent weaponization of outer space; to prevent operational deployment of strategic offensive weapons equipped with conventional warheads, i.e. the building of the so-called "compensatory" potential; to ensure that States do not possess a "nuclear upload potential"; to prevent attempts aimed at using membership of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to implement military nuclear programs; and to ensure verifiable cessation of conventional capabilities' development coupled with efforts to resolve other international issues, including settlement of regional conflicts. He drew particular attention to the relationship between offensive and defensive weapons. Real progress in nuclear disarmament could not be achieved in a situation when unilateral efforts to develop strategic ABM systems undermined this relationship. This was fraught with erosion of strategic stability and unbalancing of the system of checks and balances that ensured global parity.

The Russian Foreign Minister said that Russia, acting in the spirit of strategic openness, proposed a constructive alternative to unilateral plans in this crucial area, i.e. to unite efforts of all States interested in counteracting potential missile threats. The package proposal with regard to developing cooperation remained on the negotiating table. Russia would develop and elaborate it.

Ensuring an effective and sustainable implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was of pivotal importance for global security, and enhancement of its universality remained a priority. Strengthening of the international nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear arms limitation regime was inextricably linked to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Russia had advocated its early entry into force. The moratorium on nuclear tests, with all its importance, could not serve as a substitute for legal obligations. Therefore Russia called upon all States whose accession was necessary for the [CTBT's] entry into force, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones contributed to strengthening nuclear nonproliferation regime, achieving peace and security regionally and globally. The verification activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) needed to be made more effective. The Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement, ratified by Russia in 2007, was an efficient tool of enhancing IAEA capacities in this field. Growing interest in peaceful nuclear energy was a trend of current economic development. Energy security and climate were necessarily linked to

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peaceful nuclear applications, which should be used more widely in full accordance with the NPT States Parties' inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This opened up new opportunities for international cooperation, primarily to ensure stable and secure supplies of nuclear fuel for countries developing their nuclear energy sector, subject to due compliance with the requirements of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The ability to adequately and timely respond to the threat of nuclear terrorism was a prerequisite for ensuring security of every State and of the entire world community. The Russian-American Global Initiative to Combat Acts of Nuclear Terrorism put forward in 2006 was a major contribution to this cause.

Mr. Lavrov said Russia supported revitalization of multilateral diplomacy, primarily within the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament. Preventing weaponization of outer space was of particular importance among disarmament issues. When Russia and China introduced a draft international Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space at this Conference last February, they felt that it was easier to prevent weaponization of outer space than to get rid of new stockpiles of weapons afterwards. Russia and China would soon introduce a document summing up the outcome of the Conference debate and outlining their response to the comments received regarding the draft treaty. A year ago at the Conference Russia also introduced draft basic elements of an international legal agreement on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter range (ground-launched) missiles. Russia reiterated its call for a detailed discussion of this initiative that had gained a great deal of support. Russia was also prepared to start negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons purposes (FMCT), which would become an important milestone in the processes of nuclear disarmament and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

In conclusion, Mr. Lavrov said in Russia's view, the efforts made to harmonize the priority items on the agenda of the Conference on Disarmament in order to resume its substantive work were inextricably linked with the general search for ways to overcome the present-day crisis phenomena: be it in financial and economic, military and political, environmental or other areas. They could only solve the problems they were facing now through joint action, by restoring trust in global politics and making collective efforts meeting the interests of all States and the world community as a whole. Russia was open to a constructive dialogue and stood ready to work jointly with its partners. The right moment had come today, for the first time after the end of the Cold War, for making real progress in resuming the global disarmament process on a broad agenda. He was convinced that they should not miss this opportunity.

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Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program February Update

Press Release, 16 March 2009, <http://lugar.senate.gov/>

U.S. Senator Dick Lugar announced the following accomplishments for the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program in February:

- 8 Intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) destroyed;
- 4 nuclear weapons transport train shipments secured; and
- 1 biological monitoring station built and equipped in Georgia.

The biological monitoring station was the fifth station built and equipped in Georgia. The stations are intended to establish the first line of defense against infectious diseases by detecting outbreaks earlier and serving as a liaison with medical experts in the region and the United States. Of the 17 monitoring stations built to date, one is in Azerbaijan, five in Georgia, two in Kazakhstan, one in Ukraine, and eight in Uzbekistan. The Nunn-Lugar Program is also increasing security in cooperation with host governments to ensure that dangerous diseases and pathogens are appropriately safeguarded and inventoried.

In November 1991, Lugar (R-IN) and Senator Sam Nunn (D-GA) authored the Nunn-Lugar Act, which established the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. This program has provided U.S. funding and expertise to help the former Soviet Union safeguard and dismantle its enormous stockpiles of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, related materials, and delivery systems. In 2003, Congress adopted the Nunn-Lugar Expansion Act, which authorized the Nunn-Lugar program to operate outside the former Soviet Union to address proliferation threats. In 2004, Nunn-Lugar funds were committed for the first time outside of the former Soviet Union to destroy chemical weapons in Albania, under a Lugar-led expansion of the program. In 2007, Lugar announced the complete destruction of Albania's chemical weapons.

The Nunn-Lugar scorecard now totals:

- 7,504 strategic nuclear warheads deactivated,
- 752 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) destroyed,
- 496 ICBM silos eliminated,
- 143 ICBM mobile launchers destroyed,
- 633 submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) eliminated,
- 476 SLBM launchers eliminated,
- 31 nuclear submarines capable of launching ballistic missiles destroyed,
- 155 bomber eliminated,
- 906 nuclear air-to-surface missiles (ASMs) destroyed,
- 194 nuclear test tunnels eliminated,

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- 429 nuclear weapons transport train shipments secured,
- upgraded security at 24 nuclear weapons storage sites, and
- built and equipped 17 biological monitoring stations.

Perhaps most importantly, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus are nuclear weapons free as a result of cooperative efforts under the Nunn-Lugar program. Those countries were the third, fourth and eighth largest nuclear weapons powers in the world.

Beyond nuclear, chemical and biological elimination, the Nunn-Lugar program has worked to reemploy scientists and facilities related to weapons of mass destruction in peaceful research initiatives. The International Science and Technology Centers, of which the United States is the leading sponsor, engaged 58,000 former weapons scientists in peaceful work. The National Nuclear Security Administration's Global Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention program has funded over 750 projects, engaging thousands of former weapons scientists at over 180 facilities and resulting in the creation of 2,300 new peaceful high-tech jobs.

Lugar makes annual oversight trips to Nunn-Lugar sites around the world.

The Nunn-Lugar program: <http://lugar.senate.gov/nunnlugar/>

The Nunn-Lugar scorecard: <http://lugar.senate.gov/nunnlugar/scorecard.html>

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Russia, U.S. Could Agree on New START Treaty by December

RIA Novosti, 20 March 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russia and the United States have every chance of reaching an agreement on a new arms reduction treaty to replace START by December this year, a Russian deputy foreign minister said on Friday [March 20].

"There is ample time before December to work out a serious and detailed document," Sergei Ryabkov said.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) signed between the Soviet Union and the United States in 1991 places a limit of 6,000 strategic or long-range nuclear warheads on each side. The treaty expires in December 2009. Ryabkov also said that Moscow was pinning great hopes on a forthcoming meeting between President Dmitry Medvedev and his U.S. counterpart, Barack Obama, scheduled for April 1 in London.

"The widely discussed 'reboot' initiated by our American partners has really begun. We are doing well. We hope that further development of the dialogue and its reinvigoration ... will enable us to build up the positive quality of bilateral relations," he said.

Relations between the former Cold War archrivals have been strained in recent years over a host of differences, including the planned U.S. missile defense in Eastern Europe and Russia's armed conflict with U.S. ally Georgia in August.

The two countries' top diplomats made a symbolic reboot to improve ties when they met in Geneva earlier this month.

Ryabkov warned, however, that Russia would never mindlessly go along with the U.S. plans for a missile shield.

"We are ready for cooperation on the missile shield, but not in the role of a draft horse that puts on a harness and pulls in the direction ordered by a teamster," he said.

The United States has cited Iran's controversial nuclear program as one of the reasons behind its plans to deploy a missile base in Poland and radar in the Czech Republic. The missile shield has been strongly opposed by Russia, which views it as a threat to its national security. Top Russian officials have repeatedly expressed their hope that President Obama will not follow through with the missile defense plans of his predecessor, George W. Bush.

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Medvedev 'Counting on a Reset' With U.S.

The Washington Post, 20 March 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Friday [March 20] he was "counting on" the new U.S. administration to live up to its pledge to "reset" relations between the two countries, while a senior Russian diplomat sought to link the fate of a key nuclear arms control treaty to American concessions on missile defense.

The statements come less than two weeks before Medvedev is scheduled to meet President Obama for the first time on the sidelines of the Group of 20 economic summit in London. Expectations for a breakthrough in U.S.-Russian relations at their April 1 meeting have been on the rise, with both sides voicing optimism and putting talks to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty at the top of the bilateral agenda.

"The surprising term 'reset' . . . really reflects the essence of the transformations we would like to see," Medvedev said, referring to promises by Vice President Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to "press the reset button" on ties with Russia after a rocky few years during the Bush administration. "We are counting on a reset. I hope it will take place."

Medvedev was speaking at the start of a meeting with a delegation led by Henry Kissinger and three other former U.S. cabinet secretaries. It was the second time in as many weeks that he has conferred with a high-level mission from the United States. Kissinger also met privately with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in a meeting shown briefly on state television.

"We come away very hopeful . . . that our two presidents are going to make very substantial progress," former senator Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), a member of Kissinger's delegation, said after two days of meetings with Russian officials.

In a separate news conference, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said he expected Medvedev and Obama to emerge from the meeting with a "concrete and clear" signal on the future of the relationship, and agreement on the "parameters" of a pact to replace START, the landmark arms control treaty scheduled to expire in December.

But Ryabkov said negotiations on new limits on nuclear warheads and weapons must be linked to the future of U.S. plans to build a missile defense shield in Eastern Europe that Russia has repeatedly condemned.

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As the two countries agree to reduce their nuclear arsenals, he argued, the impact of missile defenses on the balance of power naturally increases. "It would be irresponsible both politically and militarily to close our eyes to this fact," he said.

Ryabkov added that the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty barring missile defense systems had served as a foundation for the sharp reductions in nuclear weapons of the past two decades. The Bush administration unilaterally withdrew from the ABM treaty in 2002 to proceed with development of the missile defense shield.

Obama has previously expressed reservations about the technical feasibility of missile defense, and he said in a recent letter to Medvedev that there would be less need for the shield if the threat of Iran developing nuclear weapons could be diminished, a suggestion seen as an incentive for Russia to apply pressure on Iran.

But it is unclear whether Obama is willing to put the program on hold, whether that would satisfy Russia, and what he would ask from Moscow in return. Any decision to abandon missile defense could disappoint U.S. allies in Eastern Europe, especially in Poland and the Czech Republic, where the governments have agreed to host U.S. installations for the shield.

The Czech government postponed a parliamentary vote on the proposal this week because it did not have enough votes to pass it.

Ryabkov stopped short of saying missile defense would be a deal-breaker for a START agreement, and some analysts argue that Russia has limited leverage because it cannot afford a new arms race.

A deal to replace START is considered important because a 2002 treaty [SORT] mandating further nuclear cuts depends on its verification mechanisms. But the United States and Russia remain divided on several issues, including a U.S. proposal to eliminate limits on long-range weapons that don't carry nuclear warheads.

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