



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



08 February – 25 February 2011

DTRA

GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

U.S. to Replace Nuke Delivery Platforms

Global Security Newswire, 14 February 2011, gsn.nti.org

The Obama administration's fiscal 2012 budget request calls for the United States to replace the land-, air-, and sea-based components of its nuclear deterrent, potentially setting the nation on a course that could cost hundreds of billions of dollars over five decades, Time magazine reported. (462 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Strengthening the International Framework to Prevent the Spread and Use of Nuclear Weapons [EXCERPT]

U.S. State Department, 16 February 2011, www.state.gov

Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security at the Third Nuclear Deterrence Summit, Washington, DC

This past year we showed that we can reduce the role and number of nuclear weapons and enhance our security. (1,216 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Nuclear Powers to Discuss Disarmament, Verification Issues

Global Security Newswire, 17 February 2011, gsn.nti.org

The five recognized nuclear powers [P-5] plan to convene later this year to discuss possible confidence-building measures toward atomic disarmament and other nonproliferation issues, a key U.S. diplomat said yesterday. (734 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

ASEAN Regional Forum 3rd Inter-Sessional Meeting on Nonproliferation and Disarmament

U.S. State Department, 23 February 2011, www.state.gov

Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance

The Report of the Obama Administration's Nuclear Posture Review, or NPR, emphasized that today, our greatest nuclear threat is no longer a large-scale nuclear exchange, but the danger that terrorists could acquire nuclear materials or, worse, a nuclear weapon. (1,735 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Discloses Rearmament Program Details

Xinhua News/English, 24 February 2011, english.people.com.cn

The Russian Armed Forces on Thursday announced a 10-year rearmament program involving the large-scale purchase of modern weapons, according to local reports. (286 words)

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BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

Pentagon's Defense Strategy against Bioweapons Outlined

Bio Prep Watch, 24 February 2011, www.bioprepwatch.com

Kenneth Myers, the director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and the director of the U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction, recently outlined how the Pentagon's lines of defense strategy is aimed at detecting, interdicting and defending against weapons of mass destruction. (283 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Depot Reaches Halfway Point in HD Mustard Disposal Campaign

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 07 February 2011, www.cma.army.mil

The Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) reached the halfway point in its last disposal campaign on February 5, 2011, when the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) destroyed the 1,318th ton container (TC) from the depot stockpile. (539 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Meeting to Evaluate 28th OPCW Proficiency Test for Designated Laboratories

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 10 February 2011, www.opcw.org

A meeting was held on February 10, 2011 at the Technical Secretariat in The Hague to conduct a preliminary evaluation of the results of the 28th Proficiency Test for OPCW Designated Laboratories. (273 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Obama's Budget Includes Funding for Chemical Weapons Disposal

Lexington Herald-Leader, 16 February 2011, www.kentucky.com

President Obama's budget request to Congress for fiscal year 2012 includes an adequate level of funding to maintain an accelerated pace of construction to dispose of the chemical weapons in Madison County and Pueblo, Colorado, a watchdog organization said Tuesday. (179 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Starts Maintenance Window

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

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility will pause processing of HD mustard ton containers and prepare for maintenance to its Metal Parts Furnace, starting today. (106 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Obama Administration to “Educate” Senate, Public on Test-Ban Treaty

Global Security Newswire, 17 February 2011, gsn.nti.org

The Obama administration plans to soon begin to "educate" the U.S. Senate and the public on the strides made in scientific research and nuclear blast monitoring since the country last considered the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty, a senior State Department official said yesterday. (968 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CONVENTION ON CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

U.S. Statement at First Round of Negotiations for a Protocol on Cluster Munitions in the CCW

U.S. Mission to the UN in Geneva, 21 February 2011, geneva.usmission.gov

Melanie Khanna, Legal Adviser, United States Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

The United States remains committed to negotiate a legally binding Protocol on Cluster Munitions in the CCW to mitigate the threat to civilian populations resulting from the use of cluster munitions. (526 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

FISSILE MATERIALS

Conference on Disarmament Hold Discussion on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Against the Threat of Nuclear Weapons

UN Office at Geneva, 10 February 2011, www.unog.ch

The Conference on Disarmament today discussed the fourth core issue of the Conference, effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapons States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, or so-called negative security assurances. (622 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Slow Progress towards U.S. Use of MOX

World Nuclear News, 21 February 2011, www.world-nuclear-news.org

While construction continues on a mixed oxide nuclear fuel plant at Savannah River, negotiations on where the fuel will be used remain in the early stages. (326 words)

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FISSILE MATERIALS (CONT.)

U.S., Russia Celebrate Graduation of Nuclear Security Experts

National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), 24 February 2011, nnsa.energy.gov

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced today that 32 students have received Material Protection Control and Accounting (MPC&A) engineering degrees this month at two different Russian institutes thanks to a NNSA program developed with the Russian State Nuclear Energy Corporation (Rosatom). (593 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Conference on Disarmament Discusses Way Forward on Nuclear Disarmament

UN Office at Geneva, 24 February 2011, www.unog.ch

The Conference on Disarmament held a plenary meeting this morning in which States discussed the way forward on nuclear disarmament. (483 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

UN Chief Urges Disarmament Forum to Start Work on Fissile Material Ban Treaty

UN News Service, 24 February 2011, www.un.org

The United Nations Conference on Disarmament (CD), the world's sole multilateral forum on the issue, must move ahead vigorously on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear devices or risk slipping into irrelevance, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned today. (281 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NEW STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (NEW START)

U.S., Russia to Begin Data Exchange under New START in March – Official

RIA Novosti, 17 February 2011, en.rian.ru/world

The United States and Russia will hold their first information exchange on nuclear stockpiles under the New START treaty on March 22, a U.S. assistant secretary of state said. (288 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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TREATY ON CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE (CFE)

NATO Reports Progress on CFE Ratification

Russia & CIS Military Newswire, 15 February 2011, accessed via Lexis Nexis

NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs James Appathurai has reported some progress in discussions on terms of the ratification of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE). (167 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

TREATY ON OPEN SKIES

Russian Mission Carries Out Observation Flight in Greece

Athens News Agency, 16 February 2011, accessed via Lexis Nexis

A Russian mission carried out an observation flight in Greece on Wednesday with a specially prepared Antonov AN-30B aircraft, with a corresponding Greek delegation on board. (63 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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The move toward replacing all three components of the nation's nuclear "triad" stems from the conclusions of the administration's Nuclear Posture Review [NPR], which asserts that "retaining all three triad legs will best maintain strategic stability at reasonable cost, while hedging against potential technical problems or vulnerabilities."

"Strategic nuclear submarines ... represent the most survivable leg of the U.S. nuclear triad," says the document, a Defense Department-led analysis of strategy and forces focusing largely on the next five to 10 years. "Today, there appears to be no viable near or midterm threats to the survivability of U.S. (submarines), but such threats – or other technical problems – cannot be ruled out over the long term."

The Navy earlier this month indicated preparations were under way for building a new generation of submarines capable of firing nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles. "The Navy is committed to ensuring that an affordable replacement ballistic-missile submarine is designed, built, and delivered on time with the right capabilities to sustain the most survivable leg of our triad for many decades to come," said Rear Adm. David Johnson, the Navy's head of submarine acquisitions.

In January, Defense Secretary Robert Gates instructed the Air Force to move toward development of a next-generation strategic bomber. "A major area of new investment for the Air Force will be a new long-range, nuclear-capable penetrating bomber," Gates said on January 6.

The Defense Department has also begun considering blueprints for a potential successor to the nation's Minuteman 3 ICBMs, according to *Time*.

"Land-based ICBMs are an integral and enduring part of the nuclear triad," Gen. Robert Kehler told the Senate Armed Services Committee during his confirmation to lead the U.S. Strategic Command. Studies now in progress "will shape the plan and resource strategy to recapitalize our ICBM force beyond 2030," he said.

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Washington should consider trimming the nation's nuclear deterrent down to a "dyad" through the elimination of its land-locked nuclear force, Jeffrey Richardson, a senior scientist with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, wrote in late 2009.

The prospect "will provoke debate from certain camps, most notably, the pro-nuclear camp that feels unconstrained by fiscal resources and strives for a risk-free world," Richardson wrote in the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*.

U.S. leaders should acknowledge that the nation's strategic nuclear deterrent "should mitigate possible risk and provide a hedge against potential scenarios, but also acknowledge that the elimination of all risk is unachievable," he wrote.

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Strengthening the International Framework to Prevent the Spread and Use of Nuclear Weapons [EXCERPT]

U.S. State Department, 16 February 2011, www.state.gov

Ellen Tauscher, Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security at the Third Nuclear Deterrence Summit, Washington, DC

You know me and know my background as a Member of Congress from California's 10th Congressional District where I served for 13 years. I represented the smartest people in the world – and not just because they elected me seven times. Many of my constituents, not surprisingly, worked on some of our toughest national security and nonproliferation issues at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia California.

What some of you might know, or might not know, is that last summer I was diagnosed with cancer. I'm not alone here. Cancer is a great equalizer because it affects so many people. Still, I was shocked to have that kind of diagnosis. But the shock did not last long because I could not let it. I had to act. My next thought was I can beat this. And with the wonderful support of so many loved ones and friends, including Secretary Clinton and many of you who are here today, I did.

I have tried to bring that same can-do spirit to my work at the State Department. All of us who work on arms control and nonproliferation must share that attitude, that can-do attitude, because the consequences of accepting the status quo are too severe.

Both Secretary Clinton and President Obama know that. Just four months into his presidency, President Obama said that we can make the world safer from the threat of nuclear war and move toward a world without nuclear weapons. And, in Prague, he offered a path forward to do that.

This past year we showed that we can reduce the role and number of nuclear weapons and enhance our security. We ratified the New START Treaty with Russia, restoring stability, predictability and transparency to the strategic forces of both sides.

We succeeded in conducting a new Nuclear Posture Review [NPR]. We helped reach a consensus action plan at the [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] NPT Review Conference. We sponsored the first-ever Nuclear Security Summit. And we established an international fuel bank. These steps show that we can halt proliferation, we can prevent acts of nuclear terrorism, and we can promote safe civil nuclear power.

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And at the NPT Review Conference, Secretary Clinton made the number of nuclear weapons in our own arsenal public for the first time, sending a very clear signal to the rest of the world that security and transparency can go together. I urge other countries to join us in this effort.

Despite our goals, despite the steps we have taken significant challenges remain. North Korea and Iran continue to undermine the treaties and institutions that underpin the global nonproliferation regime.

North Korea continues its old pattern of behavior. While we remain open to resumed Six Party Talks if North Korea demonstrates an appropriate seriousness and sincerity on regional stability and denuclearization, we will take appropriate steps to counter North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and long range missiles, which pose a direct threat to the United States.

With respect to Iran, it has not been able to convince the international community that its nuclear program is peaceful. While the door remains open to negotiations with Iran, the United States will not settle for empty diplomacy and talks meant only to delay and avoid responsibilities.

As I said, we had significant accomplishments last year and we do not plan on letting up. Going forward, the Obama Administration will continue to work to reduce the role and numbers of nuclear weapons worldwide while ensuring that our nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, and effective so long as nuclear weapons exist. We can do both reductions and modernization of the complex.

Senate approval of the New START Treaty showed that the consensus for that approach – and I will admit that it is a fragile consensus – is intact. Investing in the science, people, and facilities supporting our stockpile allows us to safely reduce both deployed and non-deployed nuclear weapons.

We can seek deeper nuclear reductions and we are committed to seeking deeper nuclear reductions with Russia, including in strategic, non-strategic, and non-deployed weapons. We can ban nuclear testing and we can prohibit the production of more fissile material for nuclear weapons. There has been enough nuclear testing in the past and the world has all the fissile material for weapons that it needs.

Let me say a few words about the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT] and the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty [FMCT]. I can't say when we will ask for the Senate's advice and consent to the CTBT. To get there, we have a lot of work to do because nuclear testing is not a

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front-burner issue in the minds of most Americans. One reason is because we have not tested since 1992. To understand the gap in public awareness, just think that in 1961 thousands of housewives and mothers symbolically walked off their jobs to protest the arms race and nuclear testing. That same public level of concern about nuclear testing does not exist today, but it certainly does not mean that the issue is any less important.

It is up to us to educate the public and the Senate on the significant advances in both stockpile stewardship and our ability to monitor explosions. You will see us doing that in the coming months. The science, the ability to detect cheating and the absence of the need to test, make a compelling case for the CTBT. Ratifying the CTBT would bolster our credibility as we work to stop others from developing nuclear weapons and testing them.

As for the FMCT, everyone knows that there is one unwilling partner. We are going to keep working to persuade Pakistan that it has no reason to fear the start of talks. We believe any FMCT negotiations will be a multi-year process and the consensus-based rules of the Conference on Disarmament ensure that every state has every opportunity to protect its sovereign national interests.

Finally, we can protect ourselves and our allies, as well as cooperate with Russia on the issue of missile defense. We saw remarkable progress last year in Lisbon when the Alliance agreed for the first time to develop the capability for full coverage of all European members' territories and populations against ballistic missile threats. NATO also agreed with Russia to renew theater missile defense cooperation as well as work on a framework to further expand cooperation.

The Obama Administration will work to both implement the European Phased Adaptive Approach and seek cooperation on missile defense with Russia. Across the Administration, we are engaging our Russian counterparts. It is no secret that we believe that ballistic missile defense cooperation offers concrete benefits to the United States, our NATO allies, and Russia that will strengthen strategic stability over the long-term.

Last year, the Obama Administration worked to implement the various concrete steps that the President put forward in his speech in Prague. Each step was designed to enhance our national security, stabilize our relationship with Russia, and reaffirm the [NPT].

We have set in motion policies so that we are no longer clinging to excessive nuclear weapons. We have set in motion policies that reduce mistrust and the risk of miscalculation. This year, we plan to follow up on what we have accomplished and to move forward on the unfinished work that President Obama set forth in Prague.

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Global Security Newswire, 17 February 2011, gsn.nti.org

The five recognized nuclear powers [P-5] plan to convene later this year to discuss possible confidence-building measures toward atomic disarmament and other nonproliferation issues, a key U.S. diplomat said yesterday. France has offered to sponsor talks with its fellow nuclear states and permanent UN Security Council members – China, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States – to examine ways to make good on various commitments they made at the end of last year's Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] review conference, according to Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller.

The meeting would take place in Paris, possibly in June, and continue a process that began in September 2009 when the five nations came together for the first time to discuss verification and transparency measures related to disarmament, she said at a nuclear deterrence summit in Arlington, VA. Delegates to that two-day conference in London "looked at ways for participants to increase their mutual understanding by sharing definitions of nuclear terminology and information about their nuclear doctrines and capabilities," according to a release from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Officials also gave presentations on strengthening stability and increasing confidence among the nuclear powers through transparency and other measures.

"It is very notable at this point that we are turning that London experience into a process that will involve the P-5, over time, in an increasingly detailed set of discussions about how to verify and have confidence in reduction processes," Gottemoeller told the audience. The diplomat predicted that after the Paris meeting participants would move on to "stable project work" and commit to a series of meetings focused on verification and transparency. She did not elaborate.

Negotiated nuclear reductions to date have been dominated by the United States and Russia, most recently in their New START arms control pact. However, advancing toward President Obama's vision for a world free of nuclear weapons will require increased cooperation from other nuclear-armed states, according to Gottemoeller. Along with the P-5 states, India, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea are known or widely assumed to have nuclear-weapon programs, and there are concerns about activities in nations such as Iran.

Gottemoeller declined to discuss details of what might be discussed at the conference as officials are still negotiating the agenda. She said French officials are interested in having a nongovernment event occur alongside the meeting, providing an opportunity for a "public-private dialogue to take place." "Stay tuned. The news about that should be coming out fairly shortly," the diplomat said.

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The NPT review conference ended last May with the five nuclear powers agreeing to "accelerate concrete progress" on nuclear cutbacks and to provide an update on their efforts in 2014. They also pledged to look at downgrading the alert status of their weapons. However, the states refused to accept a plan that called for them to conduct disarmament strategy talks ahead of the 2015 review conference and afterward to hold senior-level talks on a "road map" for eliminating their nuclear arsenals.

Last year marked the first time that a review conference had offered detailed steps addressing the three "pillars" of the treaty – nonproliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of atomic energy, according to Gottemoeller.

One nonproliferation expert in attendance at yesterday's session welcomed the news of the upcoming conference. The second nuclear powers meeting is an "important opportunity to broaden the dialogue on nuclear disarmament beyond the U.S. and Russia ... all governments need to go into the discussions with a willingness to act in practical ways to increase nuclear weapons accountability and transparency," *Arms Control Association* Executive Director Daryl Kimball said by e-mail.

"It could be a step in the direction of more ambitious multilateral nuclear arms control measures involving the P-5 and later other nuclear-armed states," he added, noting that Obama made a commitment to such a process as a presidential candidate.

The Paris meeting also could make headway on a number of nonproliferation issues, according to Kimball, including nuclear test site transparency steps that would reinforce the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty once it enters into force; P-5 declarations of nuclear weapons holdings and fissile material stocks; and the opening of more dual-use nuclear facilities to International Atomic Energy Agency inspection, as France has done.

"It could also open the conversation on how and when other states might be ready to engage in formal nuclear arms control talks following, perhaps, the next round of U.S.-Russian nuclear reductions," he told *Global Security Newswire*.

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ASEAN Regional Forum 3rd Inter-Sessional Meeting on Nonproliferation and Disarmament

U.S. State Department, 23 February 2011, www.state.gov

Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance

The ASEAN Regional Forum is an important venue in which to discuss security issues. The process of bringing the issues of nonproliferation and disarmament to the fore within this forum began in 2007 and resulted in the first meeting taking place in Beijing in 2009 on nonproliferation. The following year, Singapore hosted the second meeting on peaceful uses of nuclear power. This year our focus is on the third pillar – disarmament – and we are very pleased to host this gathering.

It is fitting that Las Vegas was selected as the site of this meeting. From here, we are just 65 miles, or 105 kilometers, away from the Nevada National Security Site. Formerly known as the Nevada Test Site and before that the Nevada Proving Ground, this was the location established in 1951 to test U.S. nuclear weapons. Between 1951 and 1992, more than 900 tests were conducted at the site, the vast majority of which were underground tests. Since 1992, and as a signatory to the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty, the United States has not conducted a nuclear explosive test, in keeping with our commitment to the CTBT and our moratorium on nuclear testing.

On February 5th, I had the honor of attending the ceremony in Munich where Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov exchanged the instruments of ratification, which brought the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty – New START – into force. Entry into force of the treaty and its ensuing implementation make this a particularly opportune time to discuss next steps in arms control. I recently had the opportunity to discuss next steps with some of our NATO allies and I'm pleased to have this chance to speak with many of our Asian-Pacific partners.

It was nearly two years ago, in Prague, that President Obama spoke about his vision of a world without nuclear weapons, and recognized the need to create the conditions to bring about such a world, including by pursuing concrete steps on disarmament, nonproliferation, and nuclear security.

The Report of the Obama Administration's Nuclear Posture Review, or NPR, emphasized that today, our greatest nuclear threat is no longer a large-scale nuclear exchange, but the danger that terrorists could acquire nuclear materials or, worse, a nuclear weapon. The NPR further notes that, while our nuclear arsenal has little direct relevance in deterring this threat, concerted action by the United States and Russia – and indeed, from all nuclear weapon states – to further

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reduce their arsenals can assist in garnering worldwide support for strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation regime.

As you know, last year was a particularly eventful year in taking steps toward achieving the President's vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

In April, we released our Nuclear Posture Review, which I just mentioned, announcing that the United States will reduce not only the number of nuclear weapons in our arsenal, but also the role nuclear weapons play in our national security strategy. The NPR further went on to extend negative security assurances to all non-nuclear weapon states that are party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and in compliance with their nuclear nonproliferation obligations.

Then the New START Treaty with Russia was signed on April 8th. And later that month President Obama hosted the Nuclear Security Summit, during which approximately 50 world leaders reached a consensus that nuclear terrorism is one of the most challenging threats to international security, and joined the U.S. in its call to secure all vulnerable nuclear material in four years.

These events were quickly followed by the successful Review Conference of the NPT which, as you know, for the first time reached consensus agreement to advance all three pillars of the regime: nuclear nonproliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and the pillar we are discussing at this meeting: nuclear disarmament.

The accomplishments of the past year and entry into force of New START have created momentum for taking additional steps in nuclear arms control. The New START Treaty responsibly limits the number of strategic nuclear weapons and launchers that the United States and Russia deploy, while allowing the United States to maintain a credible nuclear deterrent.

With entry into force of the treaty, we have – after more than a year-long hiatus, because the START Treaty expired in December 2009 – begun implementing an extensive regime of mutual monitoring and information exchange. The New START Treaty sets the stage for further limits on and reductions in nuclear arms. As President Obama stated when he signed the New START Treaty, once the treaty enters into force, the United States intends to pursue with Russia further reductions in strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons, including non-deployed nuclear weapons.

The Nuclear Posture Review stipulated that the United States will sustain safe, secure, and effective nuclear forces so long as nuclear weapons exist. U.S. nuclear force reductions will be

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implemented in ways that maintain the reliability and effectiveness of our extended deterrent for allies and partners. At the same time, the NPR highlighted the importance of extending forever the 65-year record of non-use of nuclear weapons.

While negotiated nuclear reductions have to date been dominated by U.S. and Russian negotiations, advancing toward the vision of a safe, secure world without nuclear weapons will increasingly require strengthening cooperation on WMD issues of concern to both nuclear weapons and nonnuclear weapons states.

For example, the P-5 are currently engaged in a dialogue on issues relating to verification, transparency and confidence-building measures, topics on which France will host a conference later this year.

Last year, the United States released newly declassified information on the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile. As of September 30, 2009, the U.S. stockpile of nuclear weapons consisted of 5,113 warheads. This constitutes an 84 percent reduction from the stockpile's maximum in 1967 and a greater than 75 percent reduction since the fall of the Berlin Wall. In addition, 8,748 nuclear warheads were dismantled between 1994 and 2009. We believe that increasing the transparency of global nuclear stockpiles is important to nonproliferation efforts and to pursuing follow-on reductions.

At this conference, you will have the opportunity to consider the relationship between disarmament and nonproliferation and explore new approaches to regional and international cooperation as well.

As we look ahead to the future, I would like to turn to two areas in which we hope to make progress. The first is the urgent need to begin multilateral negotiations on a verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT), and the second is our commitment to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The need for an FMCT has been emphasized by multiple NPT Review Conferences, most recently this past May, and it was a central point in President Obama's April 2009 Prague speech.

An FMCT is an essential and achievable step on a long path towards disarmament, and one that ARF members also can contribute to. The United States is eager to begin these discussions at the Conference on Disarmament [CD], either in formal plenary sessions or in meetings on the margins of the CD. We are extremely disappointed that at least one state continues to block negotiations, frustrating the will of the wide majority of CD members and calling into question the CD's standing as the world's principal disarmament negotiating forum.

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But we are also not standing still. We are stepping up our bilateral and multilateral engagement on technical FMCT issues, with a view to moving the issues forward. In this regard, I was very pleased with the technical discussions of FMCT issues that were conducted last week by members of the CD.

Although these were conducted as a side event and not formal negotiations, they were nonetheless very useful in helping to lay the necessary groundwork for commencing such negotiations. The discussion, spanning three days, was free-flowing, with active participation of most CD members. We believe these discussions serve to further illustrate the desire to begin substantive work on an FMCT.

While useful, we understand that these discussions are also not sufficient. The goal is to negotiate. Achieving a verifiable FMCT is an essential condition for a world free of nuclear weapons. If the international community is serious about drawing down, we must constrain the ability to build up.

At the NPT Review Conference, Secretary Clinton reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). For some time, we have been doing the “homework” necessary for a successful CTBT ratification effort. Much has changed since the U.S. Senate declined to provide its consent to ratification of the CTBT in 1999, which was in part due to Senate concerns regarding verifiability of the treaty and stockpile reliability.

With regard to the first concern, the CTBT’s Preparatory Commission has made great progress in the last decade toward establishing the treaty’s verification regime. Today, the International Monitoring System is more than 80 percent complete.

As for concerns with stockpile reliability, the implementation of the U.S. Stockpile Stewardship Program has enabled our scientists to understand better how to ensure the safety and security of these weapons in the absence of nuclear explosive testing. We also committed in the Nuclear Posture Review not to develop new nuclear warheads or pursue stockpile stewardship approaches that support new military missions or provide for new military capabilities.

The United States has increased its level of participation in all of the activities of the CTBTO’s Preparatory Commission, especially with respect to the treaty’s verification regime.

Ratification of the CTBT represents an essential step on the path toward a world without nuclear weapons. We believe that the national security of the United States, and all states, will be enhanced when the test ban enters into force.

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The nuclear arms control agenda is ambitious and will require enormous efforts from governments, NGOs, think tanks, academics, scientists, advocates and the global community. I am looking forward to hearing the results of the CSCAP meeting later this morning.

Each of the steps I have discussed will move us closer to President Obama's vision of reducing – and ultimately eliminating – nuclear weapons. As he said when he signed the New START Treaty: "this is a long-term goal, one that may not even be achieved in my lifetime. But I believed then, as I do now, that the pursuit of that goal will move us further beyond the Cold War, strengthen the global nonproliferation regime and make the United States and the world safer and more secure."

Thank you again for being here. I look forward to having the chance to discuss with you these issues and others in greater detail.

Thank you.

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Russia Discloses Rearmament Program Details

Xinhua News/English, 24 February 2011, english.people.com.cn

The Russian Armed Forces on Thursday announced a 10-year rearmament program involving the large-scale purchase of modern weapons, according to local reports.

The Russian Army planned to buy more than 600 warplanes, 1,000 combat helicopters and 100 warships, including 20 submarines, First Deputy Defense Minister Vladimir Popovkin was quoted by local media as saying.

Russia would spend 19 trillion rubles (more than 650 billion U.S. dollars) under the program, Popovkin said, adding that 100 Ka-52, Ka-226, Mi-28N and Mi-26 helicopters would be purchased this year alone.

Also slated for 2011 was the introduction of Russia's new Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), currently being tested, while 10 brigades would be armed with Iskander-M tactical missiles by 2020, Popovkin said.

He said the Russian Defense Ministry was scheduled to develop a heavy ICBM to replace RS-18 and RS-20 missiles. The new missile would carry 10 warheads and replace the Topol ICBM, which carries with three warheads.

Currently, the Topol mobile missile system is the main Russian strategic first-strike missile.

In addition, the official revealed the Russian Army would receive 56 anti-aircraft S-400 systems as well as the newest S-500 system, which must be developed by 2013.

However, Popovkin said Russia would purchase only "limited amounts" of foreign-made military equipment and armaments, which would be confined to those which Russian industry did not produce.

He said French-made Mistral helicopter carriers had been included in the rearmament program.

Popovkin also promised the Defense Ministry would not fund long-lasting technical and scientific research that bore no practical results.

Shortly after a brief war with Georgia in August 2008, Russia unveiled military reform plans aimed at modernizing its armed forces, improving their efficiency and raising the living standards of servicemen and women.

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Pentagon's Defense Strategy against Bioweapons Outlined

Bio Prep Watch, 24 February 2011, www.bioprepwatch.com

Kenneth Myers, the director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency [DTRA] and the director of the U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction, recently outlined how the Pentagon's lines of defense strategy is aimed at detecting, interdicting and defending against weapons of mass destruction.

"How do we make it harder?" Myers said, according to *AF.mil*. "How do we create more lines of defense between the threats and the American people?"

"The first line of defense is at the source," Myers said. "The second line is detection (and) interdiction of these threats before they reach the American people. But the other major part of the DTRA responsibility is that last line of defense, here at home, and that's consequence management."

Myers told *AF.mil* that his agency staff is responsible for much of the science and development behind the technology used to counter biological and chemical weapons, calling himself the banker for the chemical and biological defense funds.

To counter biological weapons, for example, DTRA specialists work both to stop the spread of disease agents and to also develop vaccines against them. Myers said that he has seen first-level success in the agency's Marburg and Ebola work.

Myers told *AF.mil* that it could take 20 years for the pharmaceutical industry to create an effective vaccine against a new threat.

"Our number one goal is to shorten these timeframes, that is, to try to get solutions to the warfighter ... and the American people, should we face these types of threats," Myers said, according to *AF.mil*.

According to Myers, it is the potential for biological or nuclear weapons to be used against American citizens that drives his agency to move quickly to put defenses in place.

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Depot Reaches Halfway Point in HD Mustard Disposal Campaign

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), 07 February 2011, www.cma.army.mil

The Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) reached the halfway point in its last disposal campaign on February 5, 2011, when the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) destroyed the 1,318th ton container (TC) from the depot stockpile.

The HD mustard disposal campaign started in June 2009. Officials are projecting completion of this final campaign late this year, a little more than seven years after the first munition was destroyed in the fall of 2004.

“We will continue to dispose of the remaining mustard ton containers with the same persistence and dedication to safety as we have demonstrated since beginning destruction activities in September 2004,” said Gary Anderson, UMCDF Army Site Project Manager.

Steve Warren, project general manager for URS, which built and operates the incineration plant, added, “Safe operations and environmental compliance will continue to guide our operations.”

“In the last several months, we have been waging a strong campaign toward total elimination of the chemical weapons stockpile at Umatilla,” said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, UMCD commander. “Reaching the halfway point in the last chemical disposal campaign is a significant milestone toward achieving the goal of safe and compliant disposal of that stockpile.”

Disposal of HD mustard containers is the 13th individual chemical munitions disposal campaign for the depot and disposal plant. The project successfully destroyed six types of GB or sarin-filled munitions and six types of VX-filled munitions. A total of 217,969 GB and VX munitions have been destroyed. Both GB and VX are nerve agents, and most of those munitions contained explosive components. Mustard is a blister agent.

The United States and other nations are destroying chemical weapons stockpiles in compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) international treaty, with a deadline of 29 April 2012.

The following 12 chemical munitions disposal campaigns were safely completed before the start of the mustard campaign:

- 4 GB (sarin-filled) bulk containers or “ton containers” completed January 5, 2006. This was a Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) mission.
- 27 GB 500-pound bombs completed May 18, 2006.

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- 2,418 GB 750-pound bombs completed June 9, 2006.
- 91,442 GB rockets and warheads completed August 9, 2006.
- 14,246 GB 8-inch diameter artillery projectiles completed January 3, 2007.
- 47,406 GB 155mm diameter artillery projectiles completed July 8, 2007.
- One VX bulk container or “ton container” completed November 26, 2007. This was a Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) mission.
- 156 VX aircraft-mounted spray tanks completed December 24, 2007.
- 14,519 VX rockets and warheads completed January 23, 2008.
- 32,313 VX 155mm projectiles completed June 27, 2008.
- 3,752 VX 8-inch projectiles completed August 6, 2008.
- 11,685 VX land mines completed November 5, 2008.

Some of the disposal campaigns ran simultaneously, since the plant has multiple processing lines and is capable of safely disposing of different types of munitions at the same time.

When the Umatilla chemical munitions destruction mission is complete, toxic areas in the disposal plant will be thoroughly cleaned and disassembled according to environmental permits.

The Umatilla Chemical Depot is slated for closure per the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) law. The depot opened in 1941 and chemical munitions have been stored here since the 1960s. The land eventually will be returned to public use.

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Meeting to Evaluate 28th OPCW Proficiency Test for Designated Laboratories

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 10 February 2011, www.opcw.org

A meeting was held on February 10, 2011 at the Technical Secretariat in The Hague to conduct a preliminary evaluation of the results of the 28th Proficiency Test for OPCW Designated Laboratories.

The OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, welcomed the participants in the test and congratulated them for their work. He stressed that the capabilities of Designated Laboratories represent a significant deterrent against possible breaches of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and are therefore an important confidence-building mechanism that benefits all States Parties.

“In this regard, the role of laboratories around the world in the functioning of what is now a well-honed and unique verification mechanism is of crucial importance,” the Director-General said. “I therefore congratulate you on your important work which is vital to the success of our mission.”

The Director-General also noted that he has visited several Designated Laboratories and been very impressed by the competence of their staff.

OPCW Designated Laboratories are a lynchpin of the Organization's verification regime and its capacity to investigate possible violations of the Convention. They must be able to perform off-site analysis of chemical samples collected by OPCW inspectors from chemical production facilities, storage depots and other installations, or from the site of an alleged use of chemical weapons, and provide forensic proof if a violation of the Convention has occurred.

The Proficiency Tests are conducted on a twice yearly basis and are open to all interested laboratories from OPCW Member State. Applicants need to achieve high scores on three consecutive tests to be awarded the status of Designated Laboratory.

There are currently 18 OPCW Designated Laboratories in Europe, Asia and the United States of America.

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Obama's Budget Includes Funding for Chemical Weapons Disposal

Lexington Herald-Leader, 16 February 2011, www.kentucky.com

President Obama's budget request to Congress for fiscal year 2012 includes an adequate level of funding to maintain an accelerated pace of construction to dispose of the chemical weapons in Madison County and Pueblo, Colorado, a watchdog organization said Tuesday.

A total of \$477.1 million is requested for the fiscal year, which includes \$75.3 million in construction funding and \$401.8 million in research, development and funding for tests and evaluations. The request contains enough funding to continue supporting the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program in Kentucky and Colorado.

"We all welcome the fact that the funds needed are being asked for, but we still are concerned with how Congress will respond," said Craig Williams, director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group. "With the deficit being front and center in all budgetary issues, they may try to scale this project back. We certainly hope that doesn't happen, as we've witnessed great progress over the past two years."

Construction of the pilot plant to destroy chemical weapons in Madison County is 35 percent complete. The Colorado project is 75 percent complete.

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Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Starts Maintenance Window

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

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility will pause processing of HD mustard ton containers and prepare for maintenance to its Metal Parts Furnace, starting today. This annual maintenance was scheduled for May and moved forward due to needed maintenance on the inner furnace door. The maintenance is expected to last 14 days.

During this maintenance a cooling coil for an inner furnace door will be replaced and piping will be run for the Rinsate collection system, which is expected to be operational in April [2011].

UMCDF is completing its final destruction campaign of chemical agents and is expected to incinerate the final mustard chemical agent by December [2011].

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Obama Administration to “Educate” Senate, Public on Test-Ban Treaty

Global Security Newswire, 17 February 2011, gsn.nti.org

The Obama administration plans to soon begin to "educate" the U.S. Senate and the public on the strides made in scientific research and nuclear blast monitoring since the country last considered the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty [CTBT], a senior State Department official said yesterday.

"I can't say when we will ask the Senate for its advice and consent to the CTBT. To get there we have a lot of work to do because nuclear testing is not a front-burner issue for the American people," Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Ellen Tauscher said during a panel discussion at a nuclear deterrence summit in Arlington, Virginia.

"It is up to us to educate the public and the Senate on the significant advances on both stockpile stewardship and our ability to monitor explosions," the diplomat added. "You will see us doing that in the coming months."

The administration long ago signaled it would attempt to ratify the [CTBT] after the New START agreement was finalized; however, the White House has not committed to a firm time line for winning necessary Senate approval, especially in the wake of vehement Republican opposition to the freshly minted U.S.-Russian nuclear arms control deal.

When lawmakers last considered the pact in 1999, opponents, including retiring Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl (Ariz.), argued it would prohibit tests that might be necessary to verify the reliability of the U.S. stockpile. Skeptics have also wondered whether treaty states might be able to cheat and conduct nuclear tests in secret.

The United Nations in 1996 adopted the prohibition on nuclear test explosions, which now has 182 member nations. Supporters say it is key to preventing additional nations from developing nuclear weapons.

The United States is one of 44 "Annex 2" countries that must ratify the pact before it can enter into force. It is also among nine holdouts; the others are China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan

The treaty's global system of nuclear test blast monitoring sites is expected to be 90 percent complete before the start of 2013, the head of the agreement's implementing body said last year. Today the network boasts 258 formal monitoring installations.

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One reason nuclear testing has fallen off the radar for many people is that the United States has observed a self-imposed moratorium on atomic bomb blasts since 1992, Tauscher said.

The United States subsequently established the Stockpile Stewardship Program, which works without conducting test detonations to ensure the country's nuclear weapons would perform as expected. Physicists and engineers inspect weapons in the arsenal to monitor the effects of aging, and carry out non-nuclear tests and computer simulations to anticipate problems and devise fixes. They can then repair or remanufacture aging components without altering warhead design details.

In addition, the level of social consciousness about atomic matters is nowhere near as prevalent it was during the height of the Cold War, when there were massive protests against the ever-escalating arms race and frequent nuclear tests, according to Tauscher. "That same level of public concern about nuclear testing does not exist today but it certainly does not mean that the issue is any less important," she told the audience.

"The science, the ability to detect cheating and the absence of the need to test make a compelling case for the CTBT," the diplomat said. "Ratifying the CTBT would bolster our credibility as we work to stop others from developing nuclear weapons and testing them."

A foreign dignitary on the same panel agreed with Tauscher's assessment, saying that U.S. ratification would enhance nonproliferation efforts around the globe. "The first thing that would reinforce additionally our ability to work on nonproliferation would be certainly CTBT," said Sergei Kislyak, Russian ambassador to the United States.

He added that non-nuclear states are suspicious that the United States could resume tests again because it has not ratified the agreement.

Washington's inability to approve the treaty to date is probably due to the country's "internal politics," according to Kislyak, noting he is not entitled to comment on such matters. "I would like to say that we are looking for the United States to show leadership at this stage to bring the CTBT into force."

Still, the Russian diplomat warned that even Senate approval might not be enough to enact the global agreement. "I would say that if you do not ratify, the treaty, in the long run, is doomed to failure," he said. "If you do ratify it's not yet an automatic guarantee that we will bring it into force anytime soon, but we will be all together pushing this issue on the international agenda."

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Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty [FMCT]

In addition to its efforts on the test ban pact, the White House will continue to push for a treaty prohibiting production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, despite the continued opposition of Pakistan, according to Tauscher.

Last year the United States and others threatened to pursue such an agreement outside the international Conference on Disarmament [CD]. The 65-nation body, which must make decisions by consensus, has been deadlocked for more than a decade in its efforts to promote disarmament initiatives. Pakistan has resisted repeated attempts to negotiate a fissile material treaty, saying such a pact would give a strategic advantage to fellow nuclear-armed state and rival India.

"Everyone knows that there is one unwilling partner," Tauscher told the audience. "We are going to keep working to persuade Pakistan that it has no reason to fear the start of talks." Tauscher said that the administration believes any cutoff treaty negotiations "would be a multiyear process" and based on the conference's established consensus rules.

Kislyak added that the pact is also on Moscow's agenda and that Russia is working closely with the United States in its push to broker talks.

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U.S. Statement at First Round of Negotiations for a Protocol on Cluster Munitions in the CCW

U.S. Mission to the UN in Geneva, 21 February 2011, geneva.usmission.gov

Melanie Khanna, Legal Adviser, United States Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

Opening Statement by the United States Delegation at the First Round of Negotiations in 2011 for a Protocol to the CCW to Combat Negative Humanitarian Effect of Cluster Munitions

As Prepared for Delivery:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and congratulations on your Chairmanship of our work this year. On behalf of the members of my delegation, we are extremely pleased to be here today to carry out the mandate of the GGE as agreed by CCW States Parties last November. As you have reminded us, that mandated calls on the GGE to “continue its negotiations informed by the Chair’s Text on a draft protocol on cluster munitions, and taking into account other past, present, and future proposals” to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, “while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations.”

Mr. Chairman, let me confirm today that the United States remains committed to negotiate a legally binding Protocol on Cluster Munitions in the CCW to mitigate the threat to civilian populations resulting from the use of cluster munitions, and you have our full support. We realize many governments represented here are parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). However, many other States, including the United States, have determined that their national security interests cannot be fully ensured consistent with the terms of the CCW.

A comprehensive international response to the humanitarian concerns associated with cluster munitions must include action by those States that are not in a position to become parties to the CCM because those States produce and stockpile the vast majority of the world’s cluster munitions. The U.S. stockpile alone is more than 5 million cluster munitions with over 700 million sub-munitions. The United States believes that it should be possible to reach agreement in the CCW on a protocol on cluster munitions that will have significant humanitarian benefits. The U.S. Delegation is committed to working cooperatively with delegations across the spectrum of views represented here to achieve this positive result.

We know that negotiations on a cluster munitions protocol in the CCW will continue to be difficult, and we realize that strong differences remain. Nevertheless, we believe that it is worth devoting a significant effort to achieve a successful result. A CCW protocol that imposes meaningful requirements on the countries that hold 85-90 percent of the world’s stockpiles of cluster munitions would be an important step forward from a humanitarian standpoint.

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On behalf of the United States, let me reaffirm that we have come prepared to listen to all reasonable proposals and comments regarding the existing text. Having said that, we believe that the Chair's existing text reflects much valuable work and that it represents a sound and – as the Brazilian Ambassador has said – “realistic” basis for discussions that have the potential to lead to a consensus outcome here – and that, Mr. Chairman remains our goal.

To that end, we hope to make a short presentation at some point this week, whenever you decide appropriate, that we hope will help illustrate the real significance of the Chair's current draft, including pre-1980 date, and address some of the assertions just made by Norway about these weapons.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Conference on Disarmament Hold Discussion on Effective International Arrangements to Assure against the Threat of Nuclear Weapons

UN Office at Geneva, 10 February 2011, www.unog.ch

The Conference on Disarmament [CD] today discussed the fourth core issue of the Conference, effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, or so-called negative security assurances.

During the discussion, speakers pointed out that the demand for negative security assurances had been on the international arms control and disarmament agenda since the 1960s. Many people said that non-nuclear weapon states who had agreed to give up their nuclear ambitions by signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] had a legitimate right to guarantees from nuclear weapon states that those weapons would not be used against them. Many speakers said that unilateral assurances were well and good, but they were not sufficient; these assurances could be amended at any time and were no substitute for a universal, legally binding instrument.

Throughout the discussion delegates noted that the only guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons was the complete elimination of these weapons. But since complete nuclear disarmament remained elusive, this gap could be bridged through an international legally binding agreement on negative security assurances, especially relevant for those countries that were not part of any military alliance and did not have the benefit of extended nuclear deterrence to ensure their security in a nuclear weaponized world. Negative security assurances were cost free for nuclear states since they did not require any additional burden on them in terms of nuclear disarmament or nuclear arms reduction. The option of using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states was not only strategically untenable, but also morally reprehensible. While nuclear deterrence through mutually assured destruction between nuclear weapon states might be justifiable, the use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states could only be compared to the most hideous form of genocide.

Numerous speakers expressed their support for nuclear weapon free zones as a way to advance the disarmament and non-proliferation agenda. Nuclear weapon free zones made a valuable contribution to international security and stability by building trust and confidence and encouraging all parties to work together in order to facilitate the early entry into force of their respective protocols. In particular, nuclear weapon free zones were an important manifestation of the negative security assurances concept and they were the concrete building blocks for what ultimately would be the realization of a world free from nuclear weapons. The 2010 Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference called for the concrete advancement of the process leading to a Middle East nuclear weapon free zone.

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There were many speakers who cautioned that nuclear weapon free zones were a panacea. While acknowledging the value of nuclear weapon free zones, it was noted that in several cases the signature or ratification of such protocols by nuclear weapon states had been accompanied by unilateral declarations or reservations aimed at retaining the possibility of using nuclear weapons in certain circumstances. Further, there were areas of the world in which it was difficult to envisage nuclear weapon free zones being established because of the presence of nuclear weapons in them or states covered by nuclear umbrellas. It seemed illogical that any non-nuclear weapon states' possibility of receiving negative security assurances should be negated by the sovereign decisions of its neighbors based on their own perceptions of their national security.

There was also some difference of opinion about the proper forum for the discussion of legally binding negative security assurances; should the discussions take place in the context of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or the Conference on Disarmament? As had been the case in previous meetings, speakers pointed out that until the Conference adopted a program of work, they could not commence substantive work on any of the agenda items they had spent the last two weeks discussing.

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Slow Progress towards U.S. Use of MOX

World Nuclear News, 21 February 2011, www.world-nuclear-news.org

While construction continues on a mixed oxide [MOX] nuclear fuel plant at Savannah River, negotiations on where the fuel will be used remain in the early stages.

The \$4.8 billion Savannah River MOX Plant is being built by Shaw Areva MOX Services to combine 34 tonnes of 'surplus' plutonium oxide with uranium oxide to create fuel for conventional power reactors. Russia is disposing of an identical amount of plutonium through a bilateral arms reduction deal that eliminates explosive fuel from some 17,000 unwanted nuclear weapons.

While finding a customer for the MOX is of course vital for America's plans, a lengthy trial and approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC] is required before MOX can be used as routine in a commercial U.S. reactor.

Managing the disposal for the U.S. government, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) had been working with Duke Power by way of a trial in Catawba 1 using MOX assemblies manufactured in France. This trial ended fairly successfully in mid-2008 despite the expansion of fuel rods beyond Areva's acceptance limit, which is well below regulatory limits. At that time, Areva asserted that the trial would not have to be repeated.

Several months later however, Duke Power allowed its contract with NNSA to lapse, opening the question of where the Savannah River MOX would eventually be used. In July 2009 NNSA announced that [the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)] was set to negotiate MOX trials, but the latest announcement of a "letter of intent" concerning "mutual desire to begin discussions on the potential use of MOX in TVA's nuclear power plants" indicates little progress.

TVA is owned by the U.S. government and operates four nuclear power reactors at three sites in Alabama and Tennessee. "Opening discussions with TVA is an important step forward," said Areva Inc CEO Jacques Besainou. Besides a leading role in the design and construction of the plant, Areva will also supply any additional test assemblies and market the MOX fuel produced once operation starts in 2016.

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U.S., Russia Celebrate Graduation of Nuclear Security Experts

National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), 24 February 2011, nnsa.energy.gov

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced today that 32 students have received Material Protection Control and Accounting (MPC&A) engineering degrees this month at two different Russian institutes thanks to a NNSA program developed with the Russian State Nuclear Energy Corporation (Rosatom). The program, initiated in 1996, has graduated more than 188 experts in MPC&A since 1999.

“Today’s graduation is an important example of our cooperative efforts to promote international security by developing the next generation of nuclear security professionals,” said Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation Anne Harrington. “Continued U.S. investment in joint programs such as this one demonstrate the shared commitment of the United States and the Russian Federation to programs that help implement the goals of the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit. Working with our international partners, we are making progress toward enhancing global peace and security.”

During today’s ceremony 17 students received engineering degrees in MPC&A from the National Research University of Resource-Efficient Technologies – Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU). Earlier this month the National Research Nuclear University (MEPhI) graduated 15 students in another NNSA cooperative MPC&A degree program.

"The need to educate and raise qualification level in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation has never been so great as today," said TPU Rector Petr Chubik. "Education is the most important, yet underused tool for the strengthening of peace, disarmament and non-proliferation."

“Since 1997 the National Research Nuclear University MEPhI has been conducting training in the field of physical protection, control, and accounting of nuclear materials,” said NRNU-MEPhI Deputy Rector Edward Krychkov. “This activity has been important for the Russian nuclear industry and has been carried out in close collaboration with NNSA and the National Laboratories. We hope that our cooperation will grow stronger and continue to benefit the peaceful use of nuclear energy in our countries.”

In 1996, with the endorsement from Minatom (now the State Atomic Energy Corporation “Rosatom”), NNSA and faculty at the MEPhI developed curriculum for a two year Master’s degree program in MPC&A to train the next generation of nuclear security experts needed to support safety and security activities at Russian nuclear facilities. Classes began in August 1997, and the first students graduated in May 1999. The project has since expanded to include

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a five and a half year engineering degree program which is available at both MEPhI and TPU. In 2009 NNSA ended its financial support for the Masters Program at MEPhI, and since then MEPhI has continued to offer this program. The development of each program was a joint effort between NNSA and MEPhI and TPU, with the universities providing classrooms, some equipment and professors' time to teach courses.

Graduates from the three programs have gone on to MPC&A related careers with such organizations as Rosatom, the Federal Environmental, Industrial, and Nuclear Supervision Service of Russia (Rostechnadzor), the Institute of Physics and Power Engineering (Obninsk), Mayak Production Association (Ozersk), Kursk Nuclear Power Plant, Kurchatov Institute, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The degree programs were developed by NNSA's MPC&A program, which works in Russia and other countries to secure and eliminate weapons-usable material. By securing materials at their source, the NNSA strengthens the first line of defense against nuclear theft and terrorism.

The graduation of the next generation of Russian nuclear security experts comes as the Obama Administration is seeking continued investment to strengthen nuclear security at home and abroad. Last week, President Obama submitted to Congress the Administration's FY 2012 budget request that includes more than \$60 million for NNSA's nuclear security sustainability programs like this, which develop and maintain international MPC&A infrastructure.

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Conference on Disarmament Discusses Way Forward on Nuclear Disarmament

UN Office at Geneva, 24 February 2011, www.unog.ch

The Conference on Disarmament [CD] held a plenary meeting this morning in which states discussed the way forward on nuclear disarmament. During opening remarks, Pedro Oyarce, President of the [CD] noted that there was a debate about whether to initiate a phased program for nuclear disarmament with a specified time limit or whether to look at other options for developing an international convention on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Oyarce said that it was important for states to put forward ideas about how best to approach nuclear disarmament, rather than repeating what had already been said. For example, Mr. Oyarce asked whether the will existed among Member States to negotiate a phased program with a multilaterally agreed time schedule that led to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons or whether it would be feasible to aim first for the negotiation of an agreement to restrict the use of nuclear weapons.

One speaker noted that despite the arms reduction mottos, nuclear weapon states had based their security on perpetuating nuclear weapons and they remained frozen in the Cold War paradigm. The security of the world was hostage to this way of thinking and it only fuelled the nuclear arms race. The international community has had to wait for more than two decades to witness an endorsement of the long sought goal of complete nuclear disarmament at the Review Conference. The violation of this by some countries should not be permitted. Despite the obligations undertaken by states under [NPT] Article 6, the continued development and stockpiling of nuclear weapons continued to threaten international peace and security.

It was also pointed out that the goal of nuclear disarmament would be accomplished only when accompanied by the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Thus, the basic mission of nuclear disarmament should be the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons; non-proliferation apart from nuclear disarmament was nonsensical. Priority should be given to concluding an international convention prohibiting the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons states should immediately stop the improvement and development of nuclear weapons systems and adopt a comprehensive program with an agreed time frame for the reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. They should also give up nuclear doctrines based on first-use of nuclear weapons, pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and respond to the call for negotiations to conclude a relevant international convention.

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One speaker felt that there was the false notion that the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty [FMCT] was the most important item on the agenda. The Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] reflected the international community's commitment to nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament.

Unfortunately, there was a growing impression that most nuclear weapon states presumed they had a permanent right to retain these weapons. There could be no progress made as long as these states refused to negotiate on their existing stockpiles.

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UN Chief Urges Disarmament Forum to Start Work on Fissile Material Ban Treaty

UN News Service, 24 February 2011, www.un.org

The United Nations Conference on Disarmament (CD), the world's sole multilateral forum on the issue, must move ahead vigorously on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear devices or risk slipping into irrelevance, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned today.

"We have collectively done much to move the disarmament agenda forward in recent years," he told his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, which is currently meeting in New York. "But now, we must intensify these efforts or risk the very real possibility of sliding backwards. This is why disarmament and non-proliferation are among my top priorities for 2011."

Established in 1979, the 65-member CD focuses on cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, prevention of nuclear war, and prevention of an arms race in outer space. UN Office at Geneva (UNOG) Director-General Sergei Ordzhonikidze is its Secretary-General.

At a high-level meeting at UN Headquarters in New York last September, many leaders voiced deep concern at the CD's inability to overcome its differences and urged it to start its substantive work this year.

Mr. Ban noted that there is almost universal support within the CD to start negotiating a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, but some members have suggested exploring alternative arrangements outside the CD.

"Such a parallel mechanism risks weakening the CD's relevance and credibility," he said, welcoming last month's joint statement by China and the United States reaffirming support for the early start of negotiations within the forum.

Addressing the CD in Geneva last month, Mr. Ban called on it to overcome its decade-long deadlock and begin substantive work, warning that its very credibility is at stake.

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U.S., Russia to Begin Data Exchange under New START in March – Official

RIA Novosti, 17 February 2011, en.rian.ru/world

The United States and Russia will hold their first information exchange on nuclear stockpiles under the New START treaty on March 22, a U.S. assistant secretary of state said.

The previous such exchange between the world's largest nuclear powers was held in July 2009, when the START 1 agreement was still in force, said Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance.

Under the new arms control deal, which replaces the expired START 1 agreement, the sides are to hold their first information exchange within 45 days after it came into force on February 5.

Data exchanges are to be held every six months.

The treaty will provide the U.S. with a "comprehensive picture about lifecycle of Russian strategic forces," and the Russian side "will have the same," Gottemoeller said.

"Notifications of this treaty will be much more extensive in the number of ways and details. One particular feature of the notification is more details than in past," the U.S. official added.

"We will be using a unique identifying number to sign each missile, sea launcher, intercontinental missile, groundbase system or bomber," she went on. "They will have unique identifier that will be included in all notifications about their movement, deployment status."

She also said that the U.S. prepares for a visit by Russian inspectors to its nuclear objects, which is to be held in April.

The new treaty on strategic arms reduction, signed in April by the presidents of Russia and the United States, Dmitry Medvedev and Barack Obama, trims nuclear arsenals of both nations to a maximum of 1,550 nuclear warheads, down from the current ceiling of 2,200. The treaty was ratified by the parliaments of the two states late last year.

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NATO Reports Progress on CFE Ratification

Russia & CIS Military Newswire, 15 February 2011, accessed via Lexis Nexis

[North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)] Deputy Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs James Appathurai has reported some progress in discussions on terms of the ratification of the [adapted] Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE).

The terms of the CFE's revision are currently being discussed, Appathurai told reporters at Interfax's main office on Monday. Things are moving in the right direction, he said.

Appathurai acknowledged that some issues were still to be coordinated but that the reports he had seen indicated a breakthrough in the past two weeks, which raised hopes that the CFE ratification principles could be agreed upon in the near future.

Appathurai emphasized the importance of flank restrictions. A situation when country needs to obtain permission for the deployment of a foreign military contingent on its territory has been and remains one of the key CFE principles.

Earlier, Russia insisted on removing the principles of flank restrictions from the adapted version of the CFE. Russia also wants the new [adapted] treaty to take into account the conventional weapons of new NATO member-states.

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Russian Mission Carries Out Observation Flight in Greece

Athens News Agency, 16 February 2011, accessed via Lexis Nexis

A Russian mission carried out an observation flight in Greece on Wednesday [February 16, 2011] with a specially prepared Antonov AN-30B aircraft, with a corresponding Greek delegation on board.

The observation flight is part of the Open Skies Treaty, whose purpose is the promotion of the climate of trust and transparency between the countries participating, securing prospects of control and balance in conventional forces and activities.

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