



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



15 July – 28 July 2008

DTRA

ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

House Foreign Affairs Approves Russia Nuke Deal, Applies Conditions

Inside U.S. Trade, 25 July 2008, <http://www.insidetrade.com>

The House Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday [July 24] approved a resolution to allow implementation of a May civil nuclear cooperation deal with Russia, but the bill would make export licenses conditional on a number of actions taken by Russia—most notably cooperation in an international effort to force an end to Iran's nuclear enrichment program. (435 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Umatilla Depot Begins 8-Inch VX Artillery Projectile Disposal

CMA, 15 July 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Umatilla Chemical Depot storage workers today [July 15] began delivering 8-inch diameter VX-filled artillery projectiles to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF), marking the official start of a new individual munitions campaign. (578 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

DoD Report on Progress toward Compliance with Destruction of U.S. Stockpile of Lethal Chemical Agents Sent to House

U.S. Fed News, 17 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics of the DoD has transmitted pursuant to [PL 110-181, Sec. 922], the Department's report on the progress toward compliance with destruction of the U.S. stockpile of lethal chemical agents. (94 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Completion of VX Neutralization Means Many Things to Valley

The Tribune-Star, 20 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

For more than 40 years, one of the last and deadliest remnants of the Cold War—2.5-million pounds of VX—has been sitting quietly in carbon steel barrels in Vermillion County... As of the end of this month, the last of that substance will be eliminated, as a three-year neutralization process comes to a close. (833 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OPCW Begins 9th Annual Associate Program

States News Service, 23 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The OPCW began its annual Associate Program on 18 July 2008 at the OPCW headquarters in The Hague... (352 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)(CONT.)

Oregon Reviews Options for CW Waste Disposal

GSN, 28 July 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission began reviewing alternatives Thursday [July 24] for the “best available technology” to eliminate secondary waste from chemical weapons disposal at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, the East Oregonian reported. (187 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

CONVENTION ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS (CCW)

Further Progress Made towards a New Protocol on Cluster Munitions

States News Service, 25 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

International negotiations to address the humanitarian challenges posed by cluster munitions made further progress this month as the Group of Governmental Experts to the CCW concluded its third 2008 Session today [July 25] at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. (451 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

Condoleezza Rice Holds Nuclear Weapons Talks with North Korea

Telegraph, 23 July 2008, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. Secretary of State, has held her first meeting with North Korea's foreign minister, urging him to accept new measures to verify the dismantling of the Stalinist state's nuclear weapons program. The talks were another sign of a thaw in relations with North Korea. (356 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Iran to End Cooperation in U.N. Nuclear Probe

Associated Press, 25 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Iran signaled yesterday [July 24] it will no longer cooperate with U.N. experts probing for signs of clandestine nuclear weapons work, confirming the investigation is at a dead end a year after it began. (443 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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OPEN SKIES TREATY

Open Skies Concept Builds Security; Could Be Used for Disasters

U.S. Fed News, 17 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

For more than six years aircraft have been flying across the territory of dozens of European nations, Russia and the United States collecting information about military activities to be shared by the members of the Open Skies Treaty. (838 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OTTAWA CONVENTION

Afghanistan Making Significant Progress in Mine Clearance

IRNA, 23 July 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

More than 38,000 anti-personnel mines have been cleared in the past six months across Afghanistan—one of the most heavily mined countries in the world—representing 10 percent of the total number cleared in the past 18 years, a senior United Nations official said Monday [July 21]. (541 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

China Donates 100,000 USD for Clearing Land Mines on Peru-Ecuador Border

Beijing Xinhua, 26 July 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

China donated 100,000 U.S. dollars for Peru to clear anti-personnel land mines in the border zone between Peru and Ecuador, the Peruvian Foreign Ministry said Friday [July 25]. (141 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE

U.S. Military to be Part of New Zealand Exercise

The Dominion Post, 22 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

A large United States military delegation will take part in an international security exercise in New Zealand in September. (307 words) [Click here for full text.](#)



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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Trust Still Needs Verification (OPINION)

The Washington Times, 18 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

By Richard Lugar

Russia's parliament overwhelmingly approved legislation that enables the United States and Russia to continue their 16-year cooperation to safeguard and destroy the vast Soviet nuclear, chemical and biological weapons arsenal, which to this day remains a danger to both countries. (746 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russian Minister Calls for more Active Work on New Strategic Arms Treaty

Interfax, 23 July 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has called for the process of preparing a treaty to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) to be speeded up. (160 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

Cases of ICBM Missile Engines RS-22 to be Used in Industry in Ukraine

Interfax, 24 July 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Ukraine will be able to introduce economically-justified procedures of scrapping the cases of the RS-22 solid propellant missile engines of the intercontinental ballistic missiles. (126 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:



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House Foreign Affairs Approves Russia Nuke Deal, Applies Conditions

Inside U.S. Trade, July 25 2008, <http://www.insidetrade.com>

The House Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday (July 24) approved a resolution to allow implementation of a May civil nuclear cooperation deal with Russia, but the bill would make export licenses conditional on a number of actions taken by Russia—most notably cooperation in an international effort to force an end to Iran's nuclear enrichment program.

H.R. 6574 would also amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (AEA) for all future civil nuclear deals, requiring congressional approval for each before they can go into effect...

The cooperation agreement forged under Section 123 of the AEA is a necessary prerequisite for the U.S. to export nuclear goods and services to Russia and to cooperate with Russia in nuclear business ventures in third countries....

Committee Chairman Howard Berman (D-CA) said...he expects Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Joseph Biden (D-DE) to move his own bill approving the so-called 123 Agreement with Russia without any conditions...[but no date has been set].

The Senate Finance Committee passed an Iran sanctions bill last month that would disapprove the Russia deal, in order to pressure Russia to back multilateral sanctions against Iran...A pro-123 agreement coalition source said...[such] conditions...[were] "deal killers"...

Berman indicated he would not seek to make approval of the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement contingent on cooperation on Iran. The India pact could come before Congress later this year, but only if it first receives [the] approval of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)...

H.R. 6574 requires the president to certify for each fiscal year that Russia has taken and continues to take measures to stop the export of weapons technology and dual use items and related services to Iran. These are defined as items controlled by the NSG, items in the Missile Technology Control Regime annex of 1996, biological and chemical weapons controlled by the Australia Group, items in schedules one and two of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and dual-use items controlled under the Wassenaar Arrangement.

An exception is included for services and technology related to the Bushehr nuclear power reactor in Iran. Russia has offered to supply fuel to this reactor so that Iran will not need to enrich its own uranium.

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The resolution also requires the president to certify that there has been no significant cooperation between any Russian national and the Iranian government to transfer goods and services related to weapons and dual-use items. If the president is unable to do so, he can instead certify that Russia has taken measures to stop and prevent significant cooperation... Thirdly, the president must certify that Russia is fully and completely supporting U.S. efforts to achieve "effective" sanctions on Iran...

[Full 1,180 word article is available at: <http://www.insidetrade.com>.]

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Umatilla Depot Begins 8-Inch VX Artillery Projectile Disposal

CMA, 15 July 2008, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Umatilla Chemical Depot storage workers today [July 15] began delivering 8-inch diameter VX-filled artillery projectiles to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF), marking the official start of a new individual munitions campaign. The first 8-inch VX projectiles or “shells” will soon be processed at UMCDF.

“Depot workers take a lot of pride in safely storing and transporting munitions to the disposal plant,” said Lt. Col. Bob Stein, depot commander. “Since starting agent operations in 2004, we’ve successfully completed several thousand munitions shipments without an accident or incident, and we plan to keep it that way.”

Since the start of agent operations at the UMCDF nearly four years ago, about 5,800 enhanced on-site containers (EONCs) loaded with munitions have been safely delivered from the depot storage areas to the disposal plant. The containers are designed to resist impacts, punctures, crushing and fire.

“Each campaign brings us closer to keeping our commitment to eliminate the Oregon chemical weapons stockpile and its risk to surrounding communities,” said Mike Strong, the Army’s site project manager at Umatilla. “It’s great to get started on another campaign.”

The 8-inch VX projectiles campaign is the 11th individual munitions disposal campaign for the depot and disposal plant. It is expected to take about a month to destroy the projectiles. A total of 13 individual disposal campaigns will be required to completely eliminate the Oregon stockpile.

The UMCDF destroyed the last of 32,313 155mm diameter VX projectiles on June 27. During the next several weeks, the munitions processing equipment in the plant was reconfigured to handle the larger 8-inch projectiles, which hold about 14 pounds of VX nerve agent compared to about 6 pounds for the 155mm shells. Disposal workers processed 14,246 8-inch projectiles during the GB (sarin) nerve agent campaign.

When 8-inch VX projectiles are gone, the only VX munitions remaining will be land mines. The “change over” from projectiles to mines is expected to take about two months, and mine processing is scheduled to be completed by early next year if there are no significant delays.

The plant will then change over to process HD mustard blister agent stored in bulk containers, also known as “ton containers.” HD mustard will be the third and final type of agent disposal



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campaign at Umatilla, and its eventual elimination will mark the end of the Oregon chemical weapons stockpile.

The first chemical munitions disposal campaign in Oregon began on Sept. 7, 2004, with the first shipment of GB rockets. Since that time, the following munitions disposal campaigns have been successfully and safely completed:

- 4 GB (sarin-filled) bulk containers or “ton containers” completed Jan. 5, 2006.
- 27 GB 500-pound bombs completed May 18, 2006.
- 2,418 GB 750-pound bombs completed June 9, 2006.
- 91,442 GB rockets and warheads completed Aug. 9, 2006.
- 14,246 GB 8-inch diameter artillery projectiles completed Jan. 3, 2007.
- 47,406 GB 155mm diameter artillery projectiles completed July 8, 2007.
- One VX bulk container or “ton container” completed Nov. 26, 2007.
- 156 VX aircraft-mounted spray tanks completed Dec. 24, 2007.
- 14,519 VX rockets and warheads completed Jan. 23, 2008.
- 32,313 VX 155mm projectiles completed June 27, 2008.

When the Umatilla chemical munitions destruction mission is complete, 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. Chemical munitions have been stored at the depot since the 1960s.

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DoD Report on Progress toward Compliance with Destruction of U.S. Stockpile of Lethal Chemical Agents Sent to House

U.S. Fed News, 17 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The House Armed Services Committee has received an executive branch communication from the Department of Defense [DoD].

The [DoD] Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics...has transmitted pursuant to [PL 110-181, Sec. 922], the Department's report on the progress toward compliance with destruction of the U.S. stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions by the extended Chemical Weapons Convention deadline of April 29, 2012 and not later than Dec. 31, 2017.

For more information about this report, contact U.S. Fed News through its Washington, D.C.-area office, (703) 304-1897 or by e-mail at: myron@targetednews.com.

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Completion of VX Neutralization Means Many Things to Valley

The Tribune-Star, 20 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

For more than 40 years, one of the last and deadliest remnants of the Cold War—2.5-million pounds of VX—has been sitting quietly in carbon steel barrels in Vermillion County, part of a stockpile of chemical weapons the United States has been trying to dispose of for more than a decade.

As of the end of this month, the last of that substance will be eliminated, as a three-year neutralization process comes to a close. The Newport Chemical Depot, where the deadly nerve agent VX was produced in the 1960s, has been disposing of the agent since May 2005. Currently, more than 97 percent of the stockpile has been neutralized.

The completion of the project will mean different things to various people. For employees at the Depot, many of whom have spent the better part of their careers at the facility, the end is bittersweet. The citizens of west-central Indiana who have feared the worst in the event of a spill, leak or explosion are beginning to feel a sense of relief. For the facility itself, time will tell how the secure, 7,000-acre property will be used in the future.

The VX stockpile was produced at the Newport complex between 1961 and 1968 as a weapon in case of a nuclear or other attack. VX—the most toxic nerve agent ever created, according to the Council on Foreign Relations—was never used by the American military. There have been no deaths from VX at the Depot...Of all the [chemical stockpile] locations, the chemical VX was produced only at Newport.

In 1992, the United Nations drafted the Chemical Weapons Convention, an arms-control agreement that outlaws the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. The agreement was ratified in 1997. A deadline of 2004 was set for destruction to be complete.

During the 1990s, the topic of VX disposal caused much controversy and concern among citizens in nearby communities. The Army initially planned to incinerate the agent, as it planned to do at several other U.S. storage sites. The Army told Congress that there was not sufficient time to develop alternative technologies for destruction [and] to meet the 2004 deadline.

When the plan to incinerate was announced in 1994, many citizens were alarmed...The Army and local response agencies created the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) to help educate and protect the community in the unlikely event of an accident involving the VX. An alternative—neutralization—was developed in direct response to public outcry over the prospect of incineration. Destruction deadlines were extended to 2007,

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and now, to 2012. The neutralization process thoroughly mixes the agent with heated sodium hydroxide and water to create a less-toxic, caustic wastewater solution, similar to drain cleaner.

The process involves moving the one-ton steel containers of VX from storage to the disposal facility. The VX then is drained from the container into steel reactors, where neutralization, a process involving both manual and remote-control manipulation, occurs. The byproduct of the process, called hydrolysate or caustic wastewater, is held in special tanks before being tested at an on-site lab to confirm the VX has been destroyed. The wastewater then is stored onsite before being shipped to a processing facility in Texas.

Safety has been a concern at the Depot ever since the earliest days of the VX program... Clyde Cutrell, 87, of Newport, worked at the facility for more than three decades... Cutrell inspected containers of VX nerve agent for leaks... [and] part of Cutrell's job in the early years was to help warn those on the receiving end of VX shipments of potential leaks in train box cars.

VX has not been shipped since 1969, and since... [those early days] the Army has placed more than 70 air-monitoring stations in and around the facility to detect extremely low levels of agent, according to Jeffrey Brubaker, site project manager. More than 4,400 samples are taken daily, and the monitors continuously sniff the air, then give a reading within minutes. Each monitor is calibrated daily. If agent vapor is detected, sirens sound to alert those in the facility...

Employees who work in and around the facility are required to carry M40 chemical gas masks in case a warning is raised. Visitors are required to carry "escape hoods" while near the facility. In addition, depot personnel responsible for handling VX carry pharmaceutical antidote kits, with Atropine and 2-PAM Chloride, which in combination counteract the symptoms of VX exposure.

The Newport facility is currently undergoing a closure process under the congressionally mandated Base Realignment and Closure program. The facility first will be decontaminated, and processing areas will be dismantled in accordance with environmental permits. In preparation for closure, the Army has [also] been conducting a rigorous environmental program, focusing on soil and water remediation.

The hydrolysate transport mission will be completed in September... Depot closure activities, including decontamination and dismantling, could continue until 2011.

[Full 1,030 word article is available at: http://www.tribstar.com/news/local_story_201225101.html.]

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OPCW Begins 9th Annual Associate Program

States News Service, 23 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The following was released by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW):

The OPCW began its annual Associate Program on 18 July 2008 at the OPCW headquarters in The Hague, the ninth in a series that was launched by the Organization in 2000. The Associate Program aims to provide greater understanding of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) to chemists and chemical engineers from OPCW Member States with developing economies, focusing on the promotion of the peaceful uses of chemistry.

The program enhances...States [Parties'] national capacity to implement the CWC by offering training in chemistry for personnel from industry, universities and government agencies, and facilitates trade through the adoption of best practices in the chemical industry. It also broadens the pool of future recruits for National Authorities, institutions and economies of Member States as well as for the Technical Secretariat.

The 2008 program has been expanded as part of the Technical Secretariat's recent initiative of strengthened cooperation with Africa. The initiative seeks to increase participation of African Member States in programs and activities that promote the peaceful uses of chemistry and enhance national protective capacities.

As a result, this year's program has been expanded to 27 participants from 25 countries, (including 13 participants from 11 African countries): Argentina, Botswana, Congo, Fiji, Ghana, Iran, Jamaica, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Serbia, South Africa (2), Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe (2).

The 9-week curriculum will provide Associates a wider understanding of advanced industrial practice with an emphasis on chemical safety. Associates will be hosted by chemical plants in Denmark, France, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland, and will participate in a 3-week "Chemical Engineering-Oriented Skills Development Course" at the University of Surrey, UK. All of these Member States and their national chemical industry associations have extended their support to the Programme.

In addition, the Government of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has made a financial contribution for meeting the costs related to the university segment in Surrey, while the Government of Japan has made an in-kind contribution.

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Oregon Reviews Options for CW Waste Disposal

GSN, 28 July 2008, <http://www.nti.org/>

The Oregon Environmental Quality Commission began reviewing alternatives Thursday for the “best available technology” to eliminate secondary waste from chemical weapons disposal at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, the East Oregonian reported.

The commission in 1997 approved the use of sulfur-impregnated carbon filters for eliminating residual mercury from bulk storage containers once used to hold Lewisite. The containers are slated for destruction next year.

The commission ruled in 2004 that the filters were “demonstrated technology ... integral” in destroying the mercury, said Rich Duval, head of the commission’s chemical demilitarization program.

An activist organization challenged the decision, however, and a court ruled the commission would have to review its options.

"At the time, no one called it 'best available technology' because no one knew we had to," Duval said.

Depot officials supported continued use of carbon filters to capture incinerated chemical residue, and a Japanese firm described a system that would detonate chemical components in a vacuum chamber. Duval presented a neutralization process once used at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland as a third alternative, but warned the process had not been tested on mercury.

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Further Progress Made Towards a New Protocol on Cluster Munitions

States News Service, 25 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The following information was released by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG):

International negotiations to address the humanitarian challenges posed by cluster munitions made further progress this month as the Group of Governmental Experts to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) concluded its third 2008 Session today [July 25] at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

For three weeks, military, technical and legal experts worked in a productive environment in an effort to address humanitarian harm caused by cluster munitions. The Group is entrusted to "negotiate a proposal to address urgently the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions, while striking a balance between military and humanitarian considerations", a mandate adopted by the States parties in November last year. In total, 78 States Parties, 2 signatory States, 18 observer States and 7 non-governmental organizations took part in the meeting.

The Group, chaired by Ambassador Bent Wigotski of Denmark, negotiated a text of a new instrument on cluster munitions in meetings of its military and technical experts conducted under the chairmanship of Major General Lars Fynbo of Denmark, as well as intensive consultations spearheaded by Friends of the Chair: Mr. Craig Maclachlan of Australia on cooperation and assistance, Mr. Markus Reiterer of Austria on Victim assistance, Lt. Col. Jim Burke of Ireland on definitions, and Mr. Ryuichi Hirano of Japan on protection of civilians and civilian objects.

Facilitators were also appointed to deal with the sensitive issues on technical improvements, which include the aspects of accuracy, reliability and testing of cluster munitions. A Chair's Paper contained in document CCW/GGE/2008-III/2 was the basis of the negotiations.

Progress was made on many aspects of the problem of cluster munitions. This enabled the Chairperson to provide delegations with a new version of the Chair's Paper, which is annexed to the session's Procedural Report. The new version will be examined by the Group at its next session in September.

The humanitarian impact of cluster munitions has been discussed within the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects since 2001, first—under a broader theme of explosive remnants of war, and since last year—as the main item of the agenda of the Group of Governmental Experts.

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The 1980 Convention was opened for signature at New York on April 10, 1981 and entered into force on December 2, 1983. It currently has 105 States Parties, and six countries have signed but not yet ratified the Convention. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is the depositary of the Convention.

The fourth 2008 session of the Group of Governmental Experts will take place in Geneva from September 1-5, 2008.

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Condoleezza Rice Holds Nuclear Weapons Talks with North Korea

Telegraph, 23 July 2008, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. Secretary of State, has held her first meeting with North Korea's foreign minister, urging him to accept new measures to verify the dismantling of the Stalinist state's nuclear weapons program. The talks were another sign of a thaw in relations with North Korea...

North Korea tested an atomic device in October 2006—but last year it agreed to full nuclear disarmament in return for economic aid.

Dr Rice told Pak Ui-chun, her North Korean counterpart, that his country must move quickly to reassure Washington that his country is keeping this deal.

"We didn't get into specific timetables, but the spirit was good because people believe we have made progress," she told journalists after the meeting in Singapore, which included the four other foreign ministers comprising the six-country group dealing with North Korea.

"I think this is quite significant," said Yang Jiechi, the Chinese Foreign Minister. "It shows the six parties have the political will to move forward with the process." ...

North Korea perhaps represents America's clearest shift to a more conciliatory [and pragmatic] approach [to foreign policy]. In June, Washington removed Pyongyang from its list of state sponsors of terrorism and released vital fuel and food supplies.

In return, North Korea demolished a cooling tower at its Yongbyon nuclear facility and pledged completely to dismantle this highly sensitive plant, where the plutonium for its handful of atomic bombs was produced.

North Korea also produced a declaration about its weapons program, disclosing that it possessed enough plutonium for about seven nuclear weapons. But so far, North Korea has not disarmed a single nuclear bomb and still possesses its small arsenal. Moreover, the declaration was believed to be partial and did not include its vital uranium enrichment facilities. If these remain intact, North Korea could retain the ability to produce more bombs.

After the talks, the first at foreign minister level between the U.S. and North Korea since 2004, a foreign ministry spokesman in Pyongyang said that Mr. Pak had pledged that his country will "implement its own obligations," including verification, "closely following the implementation by other parties on the principle of action-for-action." ...

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Iran to End Cooperation in U.N. Nuclear Probe

Associated Press, 25 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Iran signaled yesterday [July 24] it will no longer cooperate with U.N. experts probing for signs of clandestine nuclear weapons work, confirming the investigation is at a dead end a year after it began.

The announcement from Iranian Vice President Gholam Reza Aghazadeh compounded skepticism about denting Tehran's nuclear defiance, just five days after Tehran stonewalled demands from six world powers to halt activities capable of producing the fissile core of warheads.

Besides demanding a suspension of uranium enrichment—a process that can create fuel for nuclear reactors and payloads for atomic bombs—the six powers have pressed Tehran to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency's probe.

Iran, which is obligated as a signer of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty not to develop nuclear arms, raised suspicions about its intentions when it admitted in 2002 that it had run a secret nuclear program for nearly two decades in violation of its commitment.

The Tehran regime insists it halted such work and is now only trying to produce fuel for nuclear reactors to generate electricity. It agreed on a "work plan" with the Vienna-based IAEA a year ago for U.N. inspectors to look into allegations Iran is still doing weapons work.

At the time, IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei hailed it as "a significant step forward" that would fill in the missing pieces of Tehran's nuclear jigsaw puzzle—if honored by Iran. He brushed aside suggestions Iran was using the deal as a smokescreen to deflect attention from its continued defiance of a U.N. Security Council demand for a halt to uranium enrichment.

The investigation ran into trouble months after it was launched. Deadline after deadline was extended because of Iranian foot-dragging. The probe, originally meant to be done by late last year, spilled into 2008.

Iran remains defiant. It dismisses as fabricated evidence supplied by the United States and other members of the IAEA's governing board purportedly backing allegations that Iranians continue to work on nuclear weapons.

Officials say that among the evidence given to the IAEA are what seem to be Iranian draft plans to refit missiles with nuclear warheads; explosives tests that could be used to develop a nuclear

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detonator; and a drawing showing how to mold uranium metal into the shape of warheads. There are also questions about links between Iran's military and civilian nuclear facilities.

Yesterday, Aghazadeh appeared to signal that his country was no longer prepared even to discuss the issue with the IAEA.

Investigating such allegations "is outside the domain of the agency," he said after meeting with ElBaradei. Any further queries on the issue "will be dealt with in another way," he said, without going into detail.

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Open Skies Concept Builds Security; Could Be Used for Disasters

U.S. Fed News, 17 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The U.S. Mission to the European Union released the text of the following speech:

For more than six years aircraft have been flying across the territory of dozens of European nations, Russia and the United States collecting information about military activities to be shared by the members [States Parties] of the Open Skies Treaty.

The bywords of the 2002 international arms-control treaty are openness, transparency and cooperation.

Open Skies is designed to enhance mutual understanding and confidence by offering all 34 participants the right to gather information over the territory of all members through short-notice, unrestricted aerial observation of military and other activities of concern to them.

The photo imagery is collected with the consent and participation of the observed nation and then shared among all interested treaty members.

Hugh Neighbour, the chief U.S. arms control delegate, says the aerial inspection teams always display a cooperative attitude as they complete their mission, from the pre-flight aircraft inspection, to negotiating the flight plan, to monitoring sensor operations.

Speaking at a July 14 commemoration ceremony in Vienna, Austria, celebrating the planned 500th flight, Neighbour said there is no doubt the Treaty "has made a significant contribution toward security and stability in the European area and beyond."

Neighbour, who just completed service as chairman of the plenary meeting of the Open Skies Consultative Commission (OSCC), said the hundreds of flights that have taken place since the Treaty entered into force have "collectively built more confidence ... than the treaty's authors could have envisioned."

The Treaty specifies the maximum number of flights each country must accept annually. Typically around 100 flights are conducted each year, with four or five occurring weekly over territory extending from Vancouver, Canada, east all the way to Vladivostok, Russia.

The Treaty is of unlimited duration and open to any interested nation. Its members are Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Ukraine, Turkey, Spain, Slovakia, Romania, Portugal, Poland, Norway, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Iceland, Hungary, Greece, Germany,

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Georgia, France, Denmark, the Czech Republic, Canada, Bulgaria, Belgium, Belarus, Bosnia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Croatia, Estonia and Slovenia. Kyrgyzstan has signed the treaty but not yet ratified it.

OPEN SKIES CAN BE ADAPTED FOR NEW USES

"No satellite imagery can compete with an Open Skies flight when it comes to the element of openness and cooperation," Hungarian diplomat Marton Krasznai said.

Diana Marvin told www.America.gov that it has evolved from a pure arms-control treaty to more of a confidence- and security-building measure. It is a way for all participants to conduct military-to-military cooperation, especially with new NATO members.

Marvin, the senior adviser to the U.S. Secretary of State on Open Skies, said a number of unanticipated issues have cropped up since the Treaty was written. Originally, no one envisioned that aircraft would be used by other nations for observation to the extent that they are now.

Today, Sweden's aircraft are used by Germany, Finland, the United States and a number of Baltic nations. "There has been more pooling of resources," Marvin said. Countries have been "very creative about leasing arrangements," she said, and even the United States has reaped the economic benefits of renting certified aircraft from Ukraine, Bulgaria, Sweden and Hungary.

In the early days, she said, no one expected that more than two countries (the observing country and the country receiving the flight) would share a flight. Now that is done routinely.

She offered a recent example of Russia and the United Kingdom sharing a flight over Georgia. Sweden and Russia also recently shared a flight over the United States; that was the first time any nation besides Russia flew over U.S. territory for a mission rather than training.

As the treaty evolves, Krasznai said, he envisions using it to assess threats arising from natural disasters, and he can imagine the World Bank and the five United Nations regional commissions as potential partners. He also sees Open Skies as a way to dispel fears associated with "frozen conflicts" affecting Georgia, Moldova, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Open Skies permits observation aircraft to carry optical panoramic and nondigital cameras, video cameras, infrared line-scanning devices and sideways-looking synthetic aperture radar.

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The sensors are of sufficient quality to enable a photo expert to distinguish a truck from an armored tank. Krasznai and Marvin see the need to modernize.

Assistant Secretary of State Paula DeSutter told www.America.gov that the United States must make some investment decisions soon. One factor driving the need to modernize is the current use of "wet" film that soon will be obsolete.

Providing good optical and infrared resolution will keep the Treaty on a roll toward its 1000th flight and ensure its effectiveness far into the future.

A list of all Open Skies flights since 2002 is available on the Web site of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). That site hosts the text of the Open Skies Treaty in French, Spanish, Russian, Italian, English, and German.

A video of President Dwight Eisenhower promoting the Open Skies for Peace concept in 1955 is available at www.Youtube.com.

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Afghanistan Making Significant Progress in Mine Clearance

IRNA, 23 July 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

More than 38,000 anti-personnel mines have been cleared in the past six months across Afghanistan—one of the most heavily mined countries in the world—representing 10 percent of the total number cleared in the past 18 years, a senior United Nations official said Monday [July 21]. ... [M]ore than four million Afghans are living in mine-contaminated areas, read a press release which was made available to IRNA by the U.N. Information Center on Wednesday [July 23].

Haider Reza, Program Director of the U.N. Mine Action Center for Afghanistan (UNMACA), told a news conference in Kabul Monday that the Mine Action Program of Afghanistan has cleared 38,297 anti-personnel mines, 419 anti-tank mines and 957,362 explosive remnants of war so far this year. In addition, some 65,361,363 square meters of land across the strife-torn nation has been cleared.

As a party to the global anti-landmine treaty, known as the Ottawa Convention, Afghanistan has committed itself to clear all of its landmines by 2013. In addition, the Afghanistan Compact has set a target of reducing all contaminated land from landmines and explosive remnants of war by 70 percent by 2011.

Launched in January 2006, the Compact is the framework for partnership between the Afghan Government and the international community to help bolster the war-torn country's security, economic development and counter-narcotics efforts.

Reza credits much of the recent success to community based de-mining and mine risk education programs. Community based de-mining has been particularly useful in areas where there is conflict and regular de-miners cannot operate. By training local people to carry out de-mining activities, the mine-clearing process can continue and locals can benefit from the employment such activities offer.

"With these new approaches, Afghanistan will be able to meet the Ottawa Convention and Afghanistan Compact benchmarks," said Reza. Over 760,000 men, women and children received mine risk education training in the first six months of this year.

Together, mine clearance and mine risk education have helped decrease the number of mine victims to a record low of 24 people across the nation in June 2008. "The United Nations, together with the Government of Afghanistan is making every effort to make Afghanistan a safe country, free of landmines," Reza said.

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China Donates 100,000 USD for Clearing Land Mines on Peru-Ecuador Border

Beijing Xinhua, 26 July 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

China donated 100,000 U.S. dollars for Peru to clear anti-personnel land mines in the border zone between Peru and Ecuador, the Peruvian Foreign Ministry said Friday [July 25].

The donation came as a support for the joint plan in the Mountain Range of El Condor, in the Peruvian department of Amazonas, the ministry said.

China made the donation during a ceremony at the headquarters of the Foreign Ministry in Lima, where Peruvian Vice Foreign Minister Gonzalo Gutierrez met with Chinese Ambassador to Lima Gao Zhengyue.

According to the ministry, the donation also contributes to promoting the bilateral trust-building measures between Peru and Ecuador, which are hailed by the international community.

The aid will help Peru fulfill its commitment to the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines and the Ottawa Convention signed between Peru and Ecuador in 1998, the ministry said.

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U.S. Military to be Part of New Zealand Exercise

The Dominion Post, 22 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

A large United States military delegation will take part in an international security exercise in New Zealand in September.

In what will be seen as another step in breaking down the 20-year freeze by the Americans on joint participation in routine military exercises, its military will be strongly represented in a contingent of more than 30 coming to Auckland for Exercise Maru.

The exercise, which involves stopping a ship carrying materials that could be used to make weapons of mass destruction, is being organized as part of New Zealand's commitment to the Proliferation Security Initiative.

The initiative was set up by the United States five years ago to get countries to cooperate on stopping illicit shipments of weapons and materials that could be used to make chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

A U.S. embassy spokeswoman said the U.S. contingent would include a combined U.S. Navy-Coast Guard boarding team. They will be accompanied by other military, homeland security and customs personnel.

No U.S. ships or aircraft would take part in the exercise, and their participation did not require a presidential waiver of the long-standing U.S. policy that bars joint participation in routine exercises. This was imposed when New Zealand passed its anti-nuclear legislation in the 1980s. Waivers were required before New Zealand was allowed to take part in at least two previous PSI exercises.

Exercise Maru is set to run from September 15-19.

Foreign Affairs officials said countries had not yet confirmed which ships or aircraft they were likely to send, but it is understood Japan may send a P3 Orion surveillance aircraft. Australian Navy ships or aircraft are also likely to be involved.

More than 200 military, customs and police from the Pacific and Southeast Asia are expected to either take part in or observe the exercise, which is being led by New Zealand Customs.

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Trust Still Needs Verification (OPINION)

The Washington Times, 18 July 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

By Richard Lugar

Although it escaped most news media attention, the United States received an important bit of good news over the July 4 holiday: Russia's parliament overwhelmingly approved legislation that enables the United States and Russia to continue their 16-year cooperation to safeguard and destroy the vast Soviet nuclear, chemical and biological weapons arsenal, which to this day remains a danger to both countries.

The 336-9 vote to renew the Nunn-Lugar umbrella agreement, which had been pending for more than a year, reaffirms the crucial role of non-proliferation in U.S.-Russian relations.

This agreement underpins all U.S. weapons dismantlement programs in the former Soviet Union. It protects U.S. funding and equipment provided for weapons cleanup from being taxed by Russian authorities, and protects U.S. contractors—who are doing much of the most difficult work—from liability in case of an accident or other mishap. The previous agreement had expired and was extended on a temporary basis, casting a cloud of uncertainty over major projects. Without these guarantees, work would have halted.

The vote comes as the Nunn-Lugar program is in the process of passing some important milestones. Since 1992, more than 2,000 former Soviet intercontinental missiles have been dismantled and more than 7,200 nuclear warheads have been deactivated. Together, the United States and Russia have eliminated more nuclear weapons than the combined arsenals of Britain, France and China.

By year's end, Nunn-Lugar will eliminate the last of the Soviets' rail-mobile intercontinental missiles—the SS-24 carried 10 warheads each capable of destroying a city. The program will also continue eliminating road-mobile SS-25 missiles (one warhead each), the giant SS-18 (10 warheads each) and SS-19 (six warheads each) missiles and their silos, and the SS-N-20 (10 warheads each) submarine-launched missiles. It will upgrade the physical security systems at 24 nuclear weapons storage sites in Russia.

Most importantly, after many delays and bureaucratic roadblocks in both Moscow and Washington, the first munitions destruction building will become operational at the vast chemical weapons depot at Shchuch'ye, in Siberia. There, more than 2 million rounds of deadly nerve gas—including small, portable shells capable of killing everyone in a football stadium—have been under security provided by Nunn-Lugar. Such munitions are an ideal target for terrorists seeking weapons of mass destruction.

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Once the dangerous task to dispose of these weapons is underway, it will take several years to finish. The world will be a far safer place as a result. This is an example of the U.S.-Russian cooperation that can continue and thrive in the face of the ups and downs of a relationship that often finds our countries at odds.

In that spirit, the Bush administration should now focus on enhancing America's own security by extending and strengthening the START Treaty, currently the central arms agreement between our two countries. Under its terms, both sides agree to reduce their nuclear arsenals to 3,500 warheads. Unfortunately, it is set to expire next year unless it is extended.

More recently, the U.S. and Russia concluded the Moscow Treaty, which calls for further cuts to as low as 1,700 warheads. However, the Moscow Treaty lacks a formal verification regime to give confidence to both sides and reduce the odds of misinterpretation and error. Our relations with Moscow are complicated enough without adding more uncertainty.

This shortcoming was to be remedied by extending START's verification system. Yet increasingly, there are signs the administration intends to let START expire, or accept a much watered-down verification process. Some in the administration argue that START's Cold War verification regime is out of step with the new U.S.-Russian strategic relationship.

By contrast, administration officials testified to the importance of START during Senate consideration of the Moscow Treaty in 2003. This is not a mere technical issue—the foundation of the U.S.-Russian strategic relationship is about to expire and with it, the key basis for trust between the two sides.

This should be an easy call for President Bush: both President Dmitry Medvedev and former President, now Prime Minister, Vladimir Putin favor extending START. Failure to renew START will be seen worldwide as weakening the international nuclear nonproliferation regime and a further sign to many foreign leaders and experts that U.S. nonproliferation policy is adrift.

I urge President Bush to reject efforts to downgrade the START Treaty or let it expire and extend the treaty's verification rules, thereby strengthening both the nonproliferation regime and America's most critical bilateral relationship.

Richard Lugar is a Republican member of the United States Senate from Indiana.

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Russian Minister Calls for more Active Work on New Strategic Arms Treaty

Interfax, 23 July 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has called for the process of preparing a treaty to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) to be speeded up.

"We have drawn attention to the need to speed up the process of negotiations on limiting strategic offensive arms, thus preparing for the fact that START I will expire at the end of 2009. We do not want to leave a vacuum in this important issue," Lavrov told Russian journalists in Singapore on Wednesday [July 23].

Lavrov said that the issue of reducing strategic arms had been discussed at his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in Singapore on Wednesday.

"The Secretary of State has promised to speed up the preparation of American ideas on this issue; our proposals concerning both issues [START and missile defense facilities] are well known. We hope that this agreement will be implemented one way or another and that the negotiations will be substantive," the minister said.

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Cases of ICBM Missile Engines RS-22 to be Used in Industry in Ukraine

Interfax, 24 July 2008, accessed via Open Source Center

Ukraine will be able to introduce economically-justified procedures of scrapping the cases of the RS-22 solid propellant missile engines of the intercontinental ballistic missiles.

This is included in the agreement and joint statement of the Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission (JCIC) for the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) that were signed in Geneva on July 24 in terms of the 32nd session of the Commission, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday [July 24].

"Under these provisions, the aforementioned cases will not be destroyed, but can be used in the Ukrainian industry," it said.

The documents were signed by the head of the Ukrainian delegation, director of the department for control over the armaments and military and technical cooperation in the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Volodymyr Belashov.

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