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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW

14 July 2009 – 27 July 2009

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BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

System Created to Make Paper Biosensors

United Press International, 15 July 2009, http://www.upi.com/

Canadian scientists say they've created a technology similar to inkjet printing that can be used in making paper-based biosensors to detect harmful toxins. *(195 words)* **Click here for full text.**

WMD Panel Leaders Warn of Bioterror Threat

Global Security Newswire, 24 July 2009, http://gsn.nti.org/

The United States must take new measures to help counter the threat of biological terrorism, the heads of a congressional WMD advisory panel wrote in a journal editorial published this week. *(448 words)* **Click here for full text.**

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Doctor Testing Eye Drops that May Protect Against Chemical Attack

Wayne State University, 10 July 2009, http://prognosis.med.wayne.edu/

An associate professor at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and the Kresge Eye Institute is working […] to evaluate the effectiveness of an eye drop compound that may prevent or reduce damage caused by chemical weapons, specifically mustard gas. *(382 words)* **Click here for full text.**

Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Achieves Safety Milestone

Chemical Materials Agency, 17 July 2009, http://www.cma.army.mil/

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) officials announced that the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) achieved a safety milestone at 12:01 a.m. on July 15, 2009 when it went surpassed 1 million safe work hours without a recordable injury. *(358 words)* **Click here for full text.**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to Track Munitions in Sea

Honolulu Star Bulletin, 22 July 2009, http://www.cwwg.org/

Nine ocean current monitoring sensors will be placed off Pokai Bay at two World War II weapons dumpsites Friday [July 31] as part of the Pentagon's continuing assessment of the potential effects of sea-disposed munitions. *(512 words)* **Click here for full text.**

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COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY (CTBT)

Obama Shifts U.S. Stance on CTBTO Funding

Arms Control Association, June 2009, http://armscontrol.org/

The Obama administration's fiscal year 2010 budget request for the Department of State includes $26 million for the U.S. contribution to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the first request to meet or exceed the CTBTO's assessed contribution since the Clinton administration. *(658 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

U.S. Senators Reconsider Nuclear Testing

The Times & Transcript (New Brunswick), 25 July 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

A key Republican senator who helped vote down U.S. ratification of a nuclear test ban treaty 10 years ago, said he would now consider supporting it. *(632 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

FISSILE MATERIAL CUTOFF TREATY (FMCT)

Conference on Disarmament Concludes Second Part of 2009 Session

United Nations, 2 July 2009, http://www.unog.ch/

The Conference on Disarmament this morning [July 2] concluded the second part of its 2009 session, during which it was able to break its 12-year deadlock and adopt a program of work. *(726 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS

European Union Adopts Main IAEA Safety Standards for Nuclear Installations

IAEA, 15 July 2009, http://www.iaea.org/

The European Union (EU) has broken new ground in setting up a common legal framework for nuclear safety based on the IAEA´s main safety standards for nuclear installations and obligations under a key global Safety Convention. *(371 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS (CONT.)

IAEA Inspection in Iran Proceeding Smoothly

Xinhua, 19 July 2009, http://news.xinhuanet.com/

Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Ali Asghar Soltanieh, said IAEA inspection in Iran is continuing without any obstacles, the official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday [July 19]. *(108 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

Moscow Stands by Myanmar Nuclear Cooperation Deal

RIA Novosti, 21 July 2009, http://en.rian.ru/

Nuclear cooperation between Russia and Myanmar is not in conflict with the Nonproliferation Treaty or IAEA requirements, and will move ahead, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday [July 21]. *(115 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

United States Praises Indian Nuclear Monitoring Deal

Global Security Newswire, 23 July 2009, http://gsn.nti.org/

India on Tuesday [July 21] accepted an agreement intended to ensure it does not illicitly distribute nuclear materials obtained from the United States, the Indo-Asian News Service reported. *(325 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Bulava Missile Will Without Doubt Enter Service

RIA Novosti, 18 July 2009, http://en.rian.ru/

Russia's new Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missile will enter service with the Navy despite a series of failed test-launches, the first deputy chief of the Navy General Staff said on Saturday [July 18]. *(233 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

Nuclear Review to Make "Progress" in Advancing Obama Disarmament Vision

Global Security Newswire, 23 July 2009, http://gsn.nti.org/

A major nuclear weapons review under way at the Defense Department should result in "progress" toward implementing U.S. President Barack Obama's long-term vision for disarmament, a senior Pentagon official said today [July 23]. *(441 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START) (CONT.)

Carnegie Council Posts a Set of Four Papers on U.S.-Russia Arms Control Priorities

PR Newswire, 24 July 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The Obama-Putin agreement on a framework to dramatically reduce American and Russian nuclear arsenals is clearly seen by Washington as an indication that the "reset button" for U.S.-Russian relations may be beginning to work. *(396 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

Next START Talks Planned in One Month

Global Security Newswire, 27 July 2009, ***http://gsn.nti.org/***

Russia intends to continue negotiations with the United States on a new arms control agreement in about one month, Agence France-Presse reported Saturday [July 25]. *(555 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

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System Created to Make Paper Biosensors

United Press International, 15 July 2009, http://www.upi.com/

Canadian scientists say they've created a technology similar to inkjet printing that can be used in making paper-based biosensors to detect harmful toxins.

McMaster University Associate Professor John Brennan and his research team say they've developed a method of printing a toxin-detecting biosensor on paper. The biosensor can be used to detect toxins that can cause food poisoning or that can be used as bioterrorism agents, the scientists said.

The researchers said their process involves formulating an ink like the one found in computer printer cartridges, but comprised of biocompatible silica nanoparticles. That ink is first deposited on paper, followed by a second ink containing an enzyme, with the resulting bio-ink forming a thin film of enzyme that is entrapped in the silica on paper.

When the enzyme is exposed to a toxin, reporter molecules in the ink change color in a manner corresponding to the concentration of the toxin in the sample, the scientists said.

The researchers said their goal is to provide a rapid, portable, disposable and inexpensive way of detecting harmful substances, including toxins, pathogens and viruses, without the need for sophisticated instrumentation.

The research is reported in the journal Analytical Chemistry.

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WMD Panel Leaders Warn of Bioterror Threat

Global Security Newswire, 24 July 2009, http://gsn.nti.org/

The United States must take new measures to help counter the threat of biological terrorism, the heads of a congressional WMD advisory panel wrote in a journal editorial published this week.

"In our commission report, World at Risk, we stated that terrorists are more likely to obtain and use a biological weapon than a nuclear weapon," states the editorial by former Senators Bob Graham and Jim Talent, respectively the chairman and vice chairman of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism.

There are a number of reasons for this conclusion, according to the commentary: anthrax and other dangerous biological materials are found in nature around the world, while weapon-grade nuclear materials are not; it would be far easier to disperse a biological agent than to manufacture a nuclear weapon; and "there is a an almost limitless array of disease-causing organisms and scenarios for ... nefarious use."

The panel determined that without aggressive action, a WMD incident was likely to occur at some location before 2014.

"We are now charged [by lawmakers] to ensure that Congress and the [Obama] administration take those decisive actions to prevent such an act of mass lethality from taking place on American soil," Graham and Talent wrote.

Additional precautions can help reduce a biological weapon's impact, the former lawmakers noted.

"it is important to have a biological weapons prevention strategy that does not merely involve crossing out 'nuclear' and adding ''bio,'" they stated. "There will be some similarities of approach, which we have detailed in our report: for example, preventing a biological attack will require continued support and investment in international treaties, such as the Biological Weapons Convention and U.N. Resolution 1540."

Greater preparedness is also needed to reduce the effects of a biological strike, they said. That means improved capabilities for detecting disease agents and vaccinating those who might be exposed to such a material. Drug development must also be improved, according to Graham and Talent.

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"It takes 10 to 15 years and approximately $800 million from start to finish to develop one product, and 80 percent of all drug candidates that enter clinical trials ultimately fail to get FDA approval. Reducing costs and delay would position the country to make unprecedented contributions to global health," the editorial states.

By adequately preparing for biological-weapon attacks, the nation would eliminate the ability of such a strike to cause widespread harm, Graham and Talent wrote.

"A major part of our biodefense strategy should be based on reaching a level of preparedness that will effectively remove bioweapons from the category of WMD. This will happen neither quickly nor cheaply, but it will be well worth the investment," the editorial says.

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Doctor Testing Eye Drops that May Protect Against Chemical Attack

Wayne State University, 10 July 2009, http://prognosis.med.wayne.edu/

Gabriel Sosne, M.D., an associate professor in the Departments of Ophthalmology and Anatomy / Cell Biology at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and the Kresge Eye Institute, is working with RegeneRx Biopharmaceuticals Inc. and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense to evaluate the effectiveness of an eye drop compound that may prevent or reduce damage caused by chemical weapons, specifically mustard gas.

While mustard gas was first used against troops in World War I, it was most recently deployed as a debilitating weapon by Saddam Hussein's army during the war between Iraq and Iran in the 1980s. As a vesicant, mustard gas and similar compounds have a blistering effect that causes severe eye, skin and mucosal lining irritation and burns. Unprotected soldiers exposed to mustard gas suffered severe corneal damage leading to blindness.

Over the next year, Dr. Sosne will work with military researchers to test how well Thymosin Beta 4, in the form of RGN-259 eye drops, prevents eye damage before exposure to chemical agents, as well as determe their ability to reduce damage to the eye from such chemicals. "Soldiers may one day carry RGN-259 drops as part of their normal protection kit, along with their gas masks and protective chemical suits," Dr. Sosne said. "It may also have very practical applications in industry. It could become part of the standard first aid cabinet in factories and industries employing caustic materials."

Thymosin Beta 4, which is being commercially developed by RegeneRx and is now in Phase II clinical trials, is a synthetic version of a naturally occurring peptide found in nearly all human cells. Ongoing research is investigating the compound's effectiveness in skin and cardiovascular tissue repair, as well as in tissue regeneration or the prevention of cell death in the eye.

Dr. Sosne said he first encountered Thymosin Beta 4 when he worked at the National Institutes of Health for a year. "Originally, I was studying angiogenesis at the NIH. When we found that Thymosin Beta 4 promoted wound healing in skin, I thought it would work just as well in the cornea," he said.

His group has been studying the agent's wound-healing effects and its possible use in previously untreatable eye injuries. He has found that Thymosin Beta 4 promotes corneal wound healing.

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Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Achieves Safety Milestone

Chemical Materials Agency, 17 July 2009, http://www.cma.army.mil/

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) officials announced that the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) achieved a safety milestone at 12:01 a.m. on July 15, 2009 when it went surpassed 1 million safe work hours without a recordable injury.

"Safety, while destroying the chemical weapons, is our main priority. I am pleased that the work force at the PBCDF demonstrates CMA's commitment to safety in their day-to-day destruction operations as shown by their achieving this nearly-unparalleled safety milestone," stated CMA Director Conrad F. Whyne.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment and demonstrates the outstanding caliber of employees working on the project," said Mark Greer, PBCDF site project manager.

"Our employees have clearly demonstrated that safety is the most important part of what we do every day," said David Reber, Washington Defense Group project general manager at PBCDF. "This type of accomplishment only happens with the very best of teams as they constantly ensure their focus is on keeping safety first in everything they do. The PBCDF employees clearly are among the very best."

The safety milestone set at PBCDF is the first time any chemical demilitarization site has ever accomplished 1 million hours without a recordable injury. On June 17, PBCDF also achieved another safety milestone when it reached 2 million hours without an injury requiring days away from work.

PBCDF employs more than 700 workers and subcontractors who continuously focus on safety for themselves and their co-workers. The Washington Defense Group of URS Corporation is the systems contractor that operates PBCDF for the U.S. Army. The facility uses state-of-the-art incineration technology to safely destroy the approximately 3,850 tons of chemical agents stockpiled at the Pine Bluff Arsenal.

CMA has completed destruction of the chemical weapons at Newport, Indiana; Aberdeen, Maryland; and Johnston Island. Final chemical agent destruction operations are under way at CMA's four remaining destruction sites: Anniston, Alabama, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Umatilla, Oregon, and Tooele, Utah. CMA's destruction sites should complete operations in time to meet the 2012 Chemical Weapons Convention treaty deadline. CMA continues to safely store chemical agent munitions near Richmond, Kentucky and at Pueblo, Colorado. For more information about CMA, visit *http://www.cma.army.mil*.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to Track Munitions in Sea

Honolulu Star Bulletin, 22 July 2009, http://www.cwwg.org/

Nine ocean current monitoring sensors will be placed off Pokai Bay at two World War II weapons dumpsites Friday [July 31] as part of the Pentagon's continuing assessment of the potential effects of sea-disposed munitions.

Tony Reyer, a scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA], said yesterday [July 21] that four sensors will be located at the conventional weapons dumpsite a few miles off Waianae known as ordnance reef. Two will be placed in 300 feet of water, and another two at 50 feet. Five others will be anchored with 3,000-pound weights in 8,000 feet of water at a deep-sea chemical weapons munition disposal site 10 miles west of Pokai Bay. A string of sensors will be linked at depths of 40,492 and 1,476 feet.

Kekaula Hudson, project manager for the Army Corps of Engineers, said the Army hopes to begin recovering some of the conventional weapons dumped at ordnance reef as early as next summer using underwater robots.

"The plan is to use a barge system," Hudson said, "and to treat the munitions on the barge and then take the scrap metal out of the state for disposal."

All of the sensors will be battery operated and will be in place for a year. The sensors will record speed and direction of ocean currents to determine where they would carry munitions materials if they were ever released.

"These sensors will collect data that has not been previously available and will give us a better understanding of the ocean conditions in the area," said Jason Rolfe, co-leader of the $1.6 million NOAA project.

The current data also will be used in other projects, Reyer added, such as coastal zone management, pollution control, tourism and search and rescue operations. Sensors will be deployed from the 68-foot NOAA research ship Hi'ialakai, commanded by Cmdr. John Caskey, and the UH research vessel Klaus Wyrtki.

Sixty years ago, the military dumped munitions off the coast of Waianae and now the NOAA is launching a study to learn more about the potential impacts from those sites.

Reyer, who was involved in NOAA's 2006 sampling of sediment, water and fish at ordnance reef, said the dumpsites have not caused any health problems. No explosives or related

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compounds were detected in the fish samples taken during the two-week survey. Most munitions are covered with coral growth.

No similar tests were done at the deep-water dumpsite, Reyer said.

Hudson said a follow-up screening at ordnance reef will take place next month.

Tad Davis, the Army's deputy assistant secretary for the environment, safety and occupational health, said the Army will spend $3 million to remove or destroy in place up to 1,500 conventional munitions using remote underwater drones and other robotic techniques perfected by oil companies. The weapons range from .50-caliber or smaller ammunition to 50- to 100-pound bombs and 105 mm projectiles. Many of the munitions have been in the water so long that they have been become part of the reef.

The Army's goal is to clear the water from the shoreline to 120 feet offshore.

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Obama Shifts U.S. Stance on CTBTO Funding

Arms Control Association, June 2009, http://armscontrol.org/

The Obama administration's fiscal year 2010 budget request for the Department of State includes $26 million for the U.S. contribution to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the first request to meet or exceed the CTBTO's assessed contribution since the Clinton administration.

But the $26 million would cover only the United States' 2009 assessed dues and would not be adequate to meet the country's 2010 assessment, diplomatic sources in Vienna said. Delay in the U.S. payments could create a shortfall in the CTBTO budget that could deprive the United States of its voting rights within the organization and adversely affect the monitoring and verification system, according to CTBTO officials.

In February, the United States paid $20.5 million to cover all of its outstanding arrears but still owes $24 million for its 2009 assessment. Its 2010 assessment of approximately $24 million will soon become due.

For several years in a row, the United States has had its voting rights suspended at the beginning of the calendar year because it has not fully paid its outstanding dues. Each suspension lasted a few months before the United States made a payment and had its voting rights reinstated.

Under Article II of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), a CTBTO member that is in arrears in paying its assessed contribution "shall have no vote in the Organization if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contribution due from it for the preceding two years."

The CTBTO budget for 2009 is $113 million, and the United States is expected to pay approximately 22 percent of the total budget. According to a 2008 Congressional Research Service report, almost 70 percent of the CTBTO budget is directed toward the annual cost of the International Monitoring System (IMS) and its accompanying infrastructure, such as the International Data Center and the Global Communications Infrastructure.

During his April 5 speech in Prague, President Barack Obama expressed his support for the CTBT's entry into force and said his administration would pursue ratification "aggressively and immediately." Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the Obama administration "will fully support" the IMS. That system "gives the United States better capability to detect and

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identify very low-yield tests than we would on our own," she said in written responses to questions from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in January.

In its request for another international organization that has a key role in Obama's nonproliferation policy, the State Department is asking for $65 million for the United States' voluntary contribution to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The U.S. contribution for fiscal year 2009 is $62.5 million; that figure includes $1.5 million in a pending supplemental appropriations bill, according to State Department budget documents.

The fiscal year 2010 request "initiates the effort to eventually double U.S. voluntary contributions" to the IAEA, the State Department said in one of the budget documents.

The U.S. contribution supports programs in nuclear safeguards, safety, and security, as well as nuclear energy and the peaceful use of nuclear science technologies, the document said. Voluntary contributions allow the U.S. government "to target programs of specific interest," as the document put it. That is a key difference between voluntary and assessed contributions.

For the assessed contribution to the IAEA, the Obama administration is requesting $100.2 million for fiscal year 2010. That is an increase from the fiscal year 2008 expenditure of $98.0 million and the estimated fiscal year 2009 figure of $94.1 million, according to the State Department budget documents.

The increase "reflects additional verification activities the [IAEA] is undertaking in India and recosting for updated economic factors," the State Department said.

Last year, under an initiative led by the United States, an international ban on major nuclear exports to India was lifted in return for a set of nonproliferation commitments by New Delhi. One of the main Indian commitments was to allow IAEA inspectors into some of the country's currently unsafeguarded nuclear reactors.

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U.S. Senators Reconsider Nuclear Testing

The Times & Transcript (New Brunswick), 25 July 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

A key Republican senator who helped vote down U.S. ratification of a nuclear test ban treaty 10 years ago, said he would now consider supporting it.

Sen. John McCain, the last Republican presidential nominee, said he still has concerns but could support the treaty, if they are addressed before another vote.

In a separate interview, another important Republican who voted against the treaty in 1999, Sen. Richard Lugar, said he has not yet made up his mind.

President Barack Obama has said that ratifying the treaty is a priority as he tries to reverse the spread of nuclear weapons and reduce the threat that they will be used.

The two Republicans could prove pivotal for Senate ratification. Even if all Democrats and their allies back the treaty, Obama would need the support of at least seven Republicans.

Lugar and McCain are two of the top Republicans on national security and would likely have sway over their colleagues. Lugar is the senior Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee; McCain, Obama's former presidential opponent, is the senior Republican on the Armed Services Committee.

McCain has embraced Obama's goal of eliminating all the world's nuclear weapons and said that a global test ban would be a step forward if it were implemented prudently.

"The devil is in the details," he said. "If we could get it done, if it is acceptable, then it is a step forward on the path to the president's goal and mine of a nuclear free world."

Lugar, who is regarded as one of Washington's leading actors on arms control issues, said that he favored delaying consideration of a treaty at least until after an international conference in May on strengthening the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He said he would consider the test ban treaty when it was brought up.

Lugar is currently pressing for the administration to conclude talks with Russia on a follow-on agreement to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which expires in December. The Republican senator said he is marshalling party votes to ratify that treaty, which would limit U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals.

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He said he does not want an acrimonious debate about a test ban treaty to sap support for START or weaken the U.S. position at the May conference.

"I would postpone consideration," he said about the test ban treaty.

Some analysts, who follow the issue, say that other Republicans will be watching Lugar and particularly McCain.

"John McCain is one of the only Republican senators who is independent- minded enough to break out of the partisan dividing lines on this issue," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association. "He has the gravitas to influence others in the caucus."

When the treaty was submitted for consideration in 1999, both Lugar and McCain expressed concerns about how little time was allowed for debate of a complex issue. They and other opponents also doubted whether the treaty's monitoring system could detect small underground nuclear test and worried that the soundness of the U.S. nuclear arsenal would come under question if tests could not be conducted.

Ultimately, the Republican-controlled Senate rejected the pact almost entirely along party lines with a 48-in-favour, 51-against vote.

Negotiated in the 1990s, the treaty specified 44 nuclear-capable states—from Algeria to Vietnam—that must give full formal approval before it can take effect, putting the power of international law and the U.N. Security Council behind the ban. All but nine of those have ratified, along with the governing bodies of 113 other nations.

Besides the United States, the holdouts among the 44 are China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan.

Democratic Sen. John Kerry, Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, said in March that he has begun the process of bringing the treaty back before the Senate.

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Conference on Disarmament Concludes Second Part of 2009 Session

United Nations, 2 July 2009, http://www.unog.ch/

The Conference on Disarmament this morning [July 2] concluded the second part of its 2009 session, during which it was able to break its 12-year deadlock and adopt a program of work. …

In a farewell speech, Ambassador Bernhard Brasack of Germany made some personal remarks regarding the way forward on negotiations on a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT). He disagreed that they would first need to discuss the underlying definitions and agree on them, which he believed would be a guarantee of failure. There was a triangular relationship between definitions, scope and the possibility of effective verification; they had to be treated in parallel and had to be finely tuned to each other throughout the negotiations. Moreover, if the verification task were entrusted to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) it would require a dramatic overhaul of that body. A gradual increase in IAEA inspection capacity would be possible with the acceptance of IAEA verification of fuel cycle plants in nuclear weapon States on a voluntary basis, as a part of a steady phase-in. That would at the same time alleviate one of the unequal features of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the fact that non-nuclear States had to submit all their fuel cycle activities to safeguards while nuclear weapon States so far had no such obligations.

In the ensuing debate, States took positions on the two draft decisions before the Conference. Many felt that it was necessary to “keep up momentum” so they could begin substantive work as early as possible. A couple of speakers expressed their delegation’s disappointment that, one month after the adoption of the program of work, the Conference was not “up and running” and even felt that the “atmosphere of frustration and inertia” which they had just dispelled by the adoption of the program of work had resurfaced again.

Other States, however, were of the view that clarifications were still needed on some aspects of the two draft documents. In particular, it had been suggested that the special security interests of the non-nuclear weapon States that did not belong to a military alliance or enjoy a security umbrella deserved special consideration—even in procedural matters—so that they were better placed to protect their interests. …

The Conference on Disarmament will hold the third part of its 2009 session from August 3 to September 18. …

Garold Larson (United States) began by noting that many in and outside of the Council Chamber had observed a new spirit and a new optimism in the arms control realm, and even that this year might be in fact the beginning of a renaissance of disarmament and non-

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proliferation progress. The United States felt that renewed sense of mission acutely. The Administration had already begun numerous efforts which were widely seen as aiding that process, stated most categorically perhaps, by President Obama in April when he stated America's "commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons". The United States was pursuing that goal via a number of tracks, including negotiations with Russia to draft a follow-on treaty to the START treaty of 1991, and to secure ratification [by Congress] of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. Internally, the Administration had begun a number of intensive "blank slate" reviews of its defense and security policies.

In the Conference on Disarmament, the United States was encouraged by the sense that the United States' renewed flexibility had contributed significantly to the adoption of a program of work, and its charge to the Conference to begin negotiations on a verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. The achievement of the May 29 consensus owed much to the collective hard work, flexibility, innovation and commitment to advancing international security demonstrated by the delegations in the Conference. The United States recognized that, as the work program moved forward, delegations had to be confident that there would be full opportunity to exercise their national security obligations under the rules of procedure. At the same time, it was confident that those rules did provide the necessary protections throughout the process of deliberations. With that assurance in mind, the United States joined the many delegations that had called for rapid agreement on draft texts CD/1866/Rev.1 and CD/1867 in order to meet their common goals and obligations.

[For full text of article, please visit: ***http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/F6F1931306098CF3C12575E700421AF1?OpenDocument***]

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European Union Adopts Main IAEA Safety Standards for Nuclear Installations

IAEA, 15 July 2009, http://www.iaea.org/

The European Union (EU) has broken new ground in setting up a common legal framework for nuclear safety based on the IAEA´s main safety standards for nuclear installations and obligations under a key global Safety Convention.

"The EU is the first major regional body to adopt a binding legal framework on nuclear safety," said Mr. Philippe Jamet, IAEA Director of Nuclear Installation Safety. "The pioneering action is an important step that will help to strengthen cooperative safety efforts worldwide."

The Council of the European Union took the action in late June 2009, adopting a Directive on nuclear safety. The Directive provides binding legal force to the main international nuclear safety standards, namely the Fundamental Safety Principles established by the IAEA and the obligations resulting from the Convention on Nuclear Safety, including a regular peer review process. The Directive also reinforces the independence and resources of the national competent regulatory authorities.

Mr. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, expressed appreciation for the IAEA´s cooperative services, citing a meeting he had in May 2008 in Brussels with IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei. He said they had the chance to discuss the importance of developing a common European framework on nuclear safety. "By providing binding legal force to the main international nuclear safety standards, in particular those established by the IAEA, the EU could become a real model for the rest of the world in the context of renewed interest in nuclear energy," he said.

The IAEA Fundamental Safety Principles are jointly sponsored with nine partner organizations. They provide the grounds for establishing requirements and measures for the protection of people and the environment against radiation risks, and for the safety of facilities and activities that give rise to radiation risks. These include, in particular, nuclear installations and uses of radiation and radioactive sources for peaceful purposes, the associated transport of radioactive material and the management of radioactive waste.

The Directive of the EU—which has the largest number of nuclear power plants in the world—applies to IAEA safety standards for nuclear installations. A number of EU countries are looking to start or extend their use of nuclear power to meet electricity demand, improve security of supply and tackle climate change.

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IAEA Inspection in Iran Proceeding Smoothly: Ambassador

Xinhua, 19 July 2009, http://news.xinhuanet.com/

Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Ali Asghar Soltanieh, said IAEA inspection in Iran is continuing without any obstacles, the official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday [July 19].

"IAEA activities in Iran, in the presence of inspectors and controlling systems, proceed without any delay or problems," Soltanieh told IRNA in Vienna on Saturday.

Rejecting a report by Associated Press that Iran has created obstacles for IAEA inspections in Iran, he underlined that regular inspections, especially in Natanz, are in progress, IRNA said.

The West suspects that Iran's nuclear program is intended for nuclear weapons. But Iran claimed that it is for peaceful purposes only.

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Moscow Stands by Myanmar Nuclear Cooperation Deal

RIA Novosti, 21 July 2009, http://en.rian.ru/

Nuclear cooperation between Russia and Myanmar is not in conflict with the Nonproliferation Treaty or IAEA requirements, and will move ahead, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday [July 21].

Andrei Nesterenko's comment came in response to U.S. concerns over the cooperation [...]

"Our cooperation with Myanmar is absolutely legitimate and in full compliance with our obligations under the Nonproliferation Treaty and IAEA requirements," Nesterenko said.

He added that the IAEA had no problem with Myanmar over its nonproliferation commitments.

Russia signed an agreement in 2007 on the construction of a nuclear research center in Myanmar, and it will stand by this agreement, Nesterenko said.

The center will include a 10 MW light-water research reactor.

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United States Praises Indian Nuclear Monitoring Deal

Global Security Newswire, 23 July 2009, http://gsn.nti.org/

India on Tuesday [July 21] accepted an agreement intended to ensure it does not illicitly distribute nuclear materials obtained from the United States, the Indo-Asian News Service reported.

New Delhi agreed last year to allow international monitoring of its civilian nuclear facilities in exchange for access to U.S. nuclear materials and technology.

"It's a very significant agreement," U.S. State Department Spokesman Robert Wood said of this week's deal. "We're very proud and we believe that this agreement between the U.S. and India is important in our overall global nonproliferation efforts, and we believe that this agreement has brought India into the nuclear nonproliferation mainstream."

The deal involves "making sure that [nuclear] material, once it's delivered, it does not go to any other party, unless there is some sort of agreement by the United States," Wood added.

The spokesman avoided discussing how the United States would verify that India is meeting its obligations under the arrangement.

"Those types of issues will be worked out between the two sides and in consultation with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) and other players. But I'm not an expert in the agreement, so I can't get into all of the details," he said.

Addressing opposition to the end-user deal within India, Wood said that the nation "made a conscious decision to sign this agreement. ... India has said it's in its best interests.

"We certainly think it's in the interest of the United States. But again, we think it's an overall good agreement. And we will need to implement the agreement, and those activities are already under way."

Meanwhile, India said it plans to begin sea trials Sunday of its first domestically manufactured nuclear submarine, the Emirates News Agency reported.

India expects to begin testing the first of several nuclear-powered submarines slated for deployment under its Advanced Technology Vessel program, Defense Minister A.K. Antony told lawmakers. The Arihant is expected to be deployed with nuclear weapons within three years.

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Bulava Missile Will Without Doubt Enter Service

RIA Novosti, 18 July 2009, http://en.rian.ru/

Russia's new Bulava submarine-launched ballistic missile will enter service with the Navy despite a series of failed test-launches, the first deputy chief of the Navy General Staff said on Saturday [July 18].

On July 15, a Bulava SLBM self-destructed after its first stage malfunctioned when it was fired from the submerged Dmitry Donskoi strategic nuclear-powered submarine in the White Sea.

"We are committed to this missile flying," Vice Admiral Oleg Burtsev said in an interview on Ekho Moskvy radio station.

Six of the 11 test launches of the Bulava have ended in failure. The launches were temporarily suspended and the missile components were tested in the labs after a series of previous failures.

Burtsev said the cause of the latest failure was not a human error, but most likely a technical problem.

"The submarine crew painstakingly accomplished all set tasks," he said.

The admiral added that the Bulava test launches from the Dmitry Donskoi will continue in the near future, and the missile will be later tested on the Yury Dolgoruky strategic submarine, the first of the new Borey class vessels.

The Russian military expects the Bulava, along with Topol-M land-based ballistic missiles, to become the core of Russia's nuclear triad.

The Bulava (SS-NX-30) SLBM carries up to 10 MIRV warheads and has a range of over 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles). The three-stage ballistic missile is designed for deployment on Borey-class nuclear-powered submarines.

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Nuclear Review to Make "Progress" in Advancing Obama Disarmament Vision

Global Security Newswire, 23 July 2009, http://gsn.nti.org/

A major nuclear weapons review under way at the Defense Department should result in "progress" toward implementing U.S. President Barack Obama's long-term vision for disarmament, a senior Pentagon official said today [July 23].

"The vision is clear and I think progress will be made," Michael Vickers, who advises Defense Secretary Robert Gates on strategic capabilities and operations, told reporters at a Defense Writers Group breakfast.

The Pentagon is leading the congressionally mandated Nuclear Posture Review, a sweeping assessment of nuclear strategy, forces and operations that is to conclude by the end of the year.

In an April speech in Prague, Obama pledged that "the United States will take concrete steps towards a world without nuclear weapons." He called the "existence of thousands of nuclear weapons" the "most dangerous legacy of the Cold War," vowing to launch negotiations with Moscow to take reductions in force levels. The U.S. president also said he would "immediately and aggressively" pursue Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and work to strengthen global nonproliferation measures.

When Obama met early this month in Moscow with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, the two agreed to conclude a new treaty by year's end that would cut each side's deployed nuclear arsenal to between 1,500 and 1,675 warheads.

The new pact would retain many Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty verification provisions, while establishing lower warhead levels than mandated by the more recent Moscow Treaty. That 2002 accord requires each nation to cap their deployed weapons at 1,700 to 2,200 by the end of 2012. The leaders also said they would negotiate reductions in nuclear delivery vehicles to a level of 500 to 1,100 platforms, which are currently limited by a START ceiling of 1,600.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon's Nuclear Posture Review—being conducted largely in secret—is expected to produce revisions to the U.S. nuclear strategy that lay the groundwork for the reductions in force size. The strategy attempts to describe the role that nuclear weapons play in deterring threats against the United States and its allies.

The assessment might also initiate shifts in the "triad" of U.S. air-, sea- and land-based nuclear forces, or adjust their alert posture.

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Vickers declined to comment on specifics, noting that Michael Nacht, the assistant defense secretary for global strategic affairs, is leading the Pentagon's review effort.

However, following his breakfast remarks, the senior official did signal some broad adjustments ahead.

"I think there could be some changes in [force] structure, and modernization flows out of [that]," said Vickers, referring to the quantities and types of nuclear weapons that are retained. He would not address any potential changes to nuclear strategy, noting, "that's the most changeable."

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Carnegie Council Posts a Set of Four Papers on U.S.-Russia Arms Control Priorities

PR Newswire, 24 July 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The Obama-Putin agreement on a framework to dramatically reduce American and Russian nuclear arsenals is clearly seen by Washington as an indication that the "reset button" for U.S.-Russian relations may be beginning to work.

To examine the validity of this claim, in the context of the critical bilateral relationship, the Carnegie Council's new program on U.S. Global Engagement entered into a joint project with the Moscow-based Institute for United States and Canada Studies [ISKRAN], the most established and prestigious of Russia's think tanks devoted to bilateral relations.

The cooperative project produced a series of papers on three critical topics, in each case with submissions from both Russian and American experts.

The Council now presents the first set of papers, which are on arms control, with a particular focus on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, with related missile defense questions. They are posted in full on the Carnegie Council website: ***http://www.cceia.org***

"The papers speak for themselves," says program director David Speedie, "but three general observations may be made: First, arms control and treaties governing both offensive and defensive military capabilities remain absolutely central to U.S.-Russia relations; second, much as the Obama administration may wish to do so, it is not realistic to expect that Russia will agree to 'decouple' discussion of the different components of the arms control agenda; and third, the paper writers in general exhibit a healthy skepticism to temper long-range expectations following the recent meetings of the two presidents in Moscow—while offering suggestions for a way ahead to benefit both the United States and Russia."

The four titles are as follows:

"Possible Attributes of a New Russian-American Treaty on Strategic Offensive Weapons: The View from Russia," Victor Esin, ISKRAN, Moscow

"Bargaining Chip or Gas Mask? Prospects for Missile Defense" by John Isaacs and Travis Sharp, Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, Washington, D.C.

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"A Guide to the Challenges Facing President Obama's Nuclear Abolition Agenda" by Burgess Laird, National Security Analyst, Washington, D.C.

"Missile Defense: A Sphere of Competition or an Instrument for Jointly Combating the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction," Pavel S. Zolotarev, Deputy Director, ISKRAN, and Professor of the Academy of Military Sciences

The Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs (***http://www.cceia.org***), established in 1914 by Andrew Carnegie, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing understanding of the relationship between ethics and international affairs.

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Next START Talks Planned in One Month

Global Security Newswire, 27 July 2009, http://gsn.nti.org/

Russia intends to continue negotiations with the United States on a new arms control agreement in about one month, Agence France-Presse reported Saturday [July 25].

Diplomats from the two nations met in Geneva last week to discuss a replacement for the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which is scheduled to expire on Dec. 5.

"The sides agreed to carry out the next round of negotiations at the end of August — beginning of September in Geneva," says a Russian Foreign Ministry statement issued Saturday.

The statement elaborated only by stating that envoys from each nation would work to fulfill a July pledge by U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to cut their nations' respective deployed nuclear arsenals to between 1,500 and 1,675 warheads. The two countries are now required under a 2002 pact to hold no more than 2,200 operationally fielded warheads by 2012.

Conservative U.S. politicians appear more interested in preserving Washington's option to deploy missile defenses in Poland and the Czech Republic than in negotiating the largest possible nuclear arsenal reductions with Moscow, Stephen Flanagan, an international security analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told the Associated Press.

Russia recently indicated it would rule out significant nuclear arsenal reductions in a START successor unless the Obama administration abandoned its predecessor's plan to deploy missile interceptors in Poland and a radar station in the Czech Republic. Obama has not yet formalized his stance on the proposed missile shield, which is ostensibly intended to counter a long-range missile threat from Iran.

Less impetus exists for negotiating large arms reductions now that the level of tension between the two sides during the Cold War has subsided, said Gary Schmitt, head of advanced strategic studies for the American Enterprise Institute.

"The Obama administration can overestimate how much momentum there is for doing anything in this area," Schmitt said, adding that lawmakers would likely criticize any draft arms control treaty prepared before the Defense Department completes a congressionally mandated Nuclear Posture Review later this year.

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Meanwhile, U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden suggested that Russia's "withering" economy would force the nation to roll back its nuclear-weapon holdings, the Wall Street Journal reported Saturday.

Moscow is also likely to work more closely with Washington to counter the nuclear threats posed by Iran and North Korea, Biden said.

"I think we vastly underestimate the hand that we hold," he said.

"Russia has to make some very difficult, calculated decisions," Biden said. "They have a shrinking population base, they have a withering economy, they have a banking sector and structure that is not likely to be able to withstand the next 15 years, they're in a situation where the world is changing before them and they're clinging to something in the past that is not sustainable."

The Kremlin indicated it was perplexed by Biden's remarks.

"We remember numerous statements by President Obama, which are in line with our approaches, and his nuclear zero concept, and so the U.S. vice president's intention to tie this serious work (on cutting nuclear weapons stockpiles) to economic reasons rather than to the responsibility that Russia and the U.S. bear to the international community are absolutely incomprehensible," said Sergei Prikhodko, an aide to President Medvedev.

"As regards our international disarmament commitments, we have honored and will continue to honor them," Prikhodko said.

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