



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



16 December – 29 December 2008



ARMS CONTROL (GENERAL)

Lugar, Nunn Honor Kazakhstan

Capitol Hill Press Releases, 16 December 2008; accessed via Lexis-Nexis

U.S. Senator Dick Lugar and former Senator Sam Nunn released the following statement last weekend on the 15th anniversary of the Nunn-Lugar program in Kazakhstan... (282 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC)

Fighting Biological Warfare Turns Corner as Biological Weapons Convention Edges Closer to Universalization, First Committee Hears in Thematic Debate

The United Nations, Department of Public Information, News and Media Division (NY), 17 October 2008;

<http://www.un.org>

Fighting biological warfare had reached an important “turning point” as the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) edged closer towards universalization, the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) was told today as it began its thematic debate on other weapons of mass destruction. (499 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Forward to the Chemical Disarmament Quarterly, Volume 6, Number 4

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, December 2008; <http://www.opcw.org>

By: Ambassador Rogelio Pflirter, OPCW Director-General

The quest for a world free of chemical weapons achieved another milestone in 2008 with a State Party completing its chemical weapons destruction program thus fulfilling a key obligation under the Convention. (483 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Last VX Nerve Agent Munition Eliminated from CMA's Destruction Stockpile

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 29 December 2008; <http://www.cma.army.mil>

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) marked the destruction of all VX nerve agent munitions at its destruction sites on Wednesday, December 24, 2008. (428 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)



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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



16 December – 29 December 2008

DTRA

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

Rice Expects North Korea to Agree Eventually on Nuclear Verification

Washington (AFP), 19 December 2008, <http://www.spacewar.com/>

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice predicted that North Korea would eventually agree to a written plan to ensure it is telling the truth about its past weapons-grade nuclear activities. (358 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OPEN SKIES TREATY

Russian Planes Flew 46 Observation Flights over Europe in 2008

Russia & CIS Military Newswire, 26 December 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Russian military airplanes have flown 46 observation missions over European countries as part of the Open Skies Treaty this year, a Russian Defense Ministry spokesman told Interfax-AVN on Friday [December 26]. (198 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

FULL TEXT OF BI-WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

 [back to top](#)

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16 December – 29 December 2008

DTRA

Lugar, Nunn Honor Kazakhstan

Capitol Hill Press Releases, 16 December 2008; accessed via Lexis-Nexis

U.S. Senator Dick Lugar and former Senator Sam Nunn released the following statement last weekend on the 15th anniversary of the Nunn-Lugar program in Kazakhstan:

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Program in Kazakhstan on December 13, we honor the courage and foresight that led President Nursultan Nazarbayev to conclude that the future of his country was best secured through the renunciation and elimination of more than 1,400 nuclear weapons located in Kazakhstan. On this day in 1993, Kazakhstan also joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapon state (NNWS), enshrining these aspirations in international law.

This critical judgment paved the way for 15 years of close cooperation between the United States and the Republic of Kazakhstan to safely and securely eliminate nuclear and biological weapons, materials and infrastructure left behind in Kazakhstan after the break-up of the Soviet Union. This solid base of cooperation has led to a long list of shared successes: the closure of the Soviet Union's test site, the removal of nuclear weapons, the elimination of a biological weapons factory, and the securing of dangerous nuclear and biological materials.

Under President Nazarbayev's leadership, Kazakhstan is one of the world's leaders in nuclear nonproliferation—not merely in words, but—most importantly—by actions and deeds. These actions provide an example for the world to see that security lies not in the embrace of weapons of mass destruction, but in cooperation to eliminate the global threats these weapons represent.

We believe that the Nunn-Lugar agenda—the cornerstone of US.-Kazakhstan cooperation—provides a platform for global cooperation to reduce weapons and materials, and we applaud Kazakhstan's leadership in advancing this vision of a safer world.

 [back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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DTRA

Fighting Biological Warfare Turns Corner as Biological Weapons Convention Edges Closer to Universalization, First Committee Hears in Thematic Debate

The United Nations, Department of Public Information, News and Media Division (NY), 17 October 2008; <http://www.un.org>

Fighting biological warfare had reached an important “turning point” as the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) edged closer towards universalization, the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) was told today as it began its thematic debate on other weapons of mass destruction.

States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)—or, as it is formally known, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction—had overcome bitter differences and emerged from the Sixth Review Conference with a laundry list of common themes that needed further attention and with the establishment of an Implementation Support Unit that was already making inroads, Georgi Avramchev, Chairman of the 2008 Meeting of States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention, told the Committee.

On the list of issues requiring further attention, he noted, was a clear statement defining biosafety and biosecurity in the context of the BWC and in activities related to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), along with the importance of basing national efforts on existing guidance and standards such as those provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health.

He commended the additional seven states that had signed the Convention since last year, but despite gains, emphasized that more needed to be done to add to the 162 States Parties to the Convention. “States Parties to the Convention must continue to work hard to persuade the remaining 33 non-parties to join,” he said, adding that no political obstacle was blocking accession in most cases, but rather a matter of setting domestic priorities. “We must do everything we can to move BWC accession higher on the national agendas of states not party.”

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, France’s representative also called for the full universalization of the BWC and the Chemical Weapons Convention, and added to that pursuit the EU’s growing concern over delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction, particularly missiles, and the possibility that terrorists might acquire biological or chemical weapons and their means of delivery. That unthinkable risk demanded keen cooperation within the framework of the United Nations, as well as between Member States, to staunch the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery means.

 [back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



16 December – 29 December 2008

DTRA

The potential of missiles to carry and deliver a payload of weapons of mass destruction quickly and accurately made them a qualitatively significant political and military issue, warned Santiago Irazabal Mourao, Disarmament and Sensitive Technologies Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil and Chairman of the Panel of Governmental Experts on the issue of missiles in all its aspects.

Introducing the report on the panel's concluding meeting, he said delivery systems required further discussion, as did, among other things, the growing military significance of missiles, the increasing use of cruise missiles, and the access and use of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS) by non-state actors.

[The full text of U.N. General Assembly GA/DIS/3370 is available online at:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/gadis3370.doc.htm>]

 [back to top](#)

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DTRA

Forward to the Chemical Disarmament Quarterly, Volume 6, Number 4

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, December 2008; <http://www.opcw.org>

By: Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, OPCW Director-General

The quest for a world free of chemical weapons achieved another milestone in 2008 with a State Party completing its chemical weapons destruction program thus fulfilling a key obligation under the Convention. I am confident that the other possessor states will continue to pursue the destruction of their declared stockpiles so that the task can be completed within the stipulated timelines under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

By the end of November 2008, approximately 42 percent of the declared chemical weapons stockpiles had been irreversibly destroyed indicating that steady progress continues to be made towards the realization of a core objective of the Convention.

The accession by Lebanon to the CWC on 20 November 2008 brings us closer to achieving universality of the Convention. On 20 December 2008 when the Convention enters into force for Lebanon, the country will become the 185th State Party to the Convention. I warmly welcome Lebanon into the OPCW and commend the Lebanese Government for this important decision. This is a major step towards the promotion of confidence building in the Middle East region. It will also promote in the international community a positive assessment of prospects for peace and security in that part of the world.

The OPCW will be increasingly required to deal with emerging challenges in order to continue to contribute to global security and international peace. New threats from non-state actors and the potential for the misuse of chemicals, as well as the need to enhance cooperation with chemical industry are some of the issues that will receive greater attention in the future. In this edition of Chemical Disarmament, we have included contributions by respected experts to enrich debate and discussions on these important matters.

The OPCW's verification regime which is the bedrock of the Convention represents a complex and stringent international undertaking. Since entry into force of the Convention, 3,505 inspections have taken place at 195 chemical weapon-related and 1,103 industrial sites on the territory of 81 States Parties. The conduct of an OPCW inspection requires considerable planning and coordination within the Technical Secretariat and the inspected State Party. In the December issue, we are providing the readers with information that sheds light on the mandate and work of the Verification Division.

Throughout the year, national implementation of the Convention by States Parties has continued to make steady progress. Effective national implementation is crucial to achieve the

 [back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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DTRA

overall success of the Convention. I would like to express my gratitude to National Authorities for their efforts and assure them of the Technical Secretariat's continued support in the future. The achievement of the objectives of the Convention is a collective effort involving the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat. I am particularly thankful to our States Parties for their continued commitment to the Convention's goals and indeed for the work of the OPCW.

[The full text of the newsletter is available online at:

<http://www.opcw.org/news/publications/cdq/cdq-dec-2008/#c4214>]

[back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



16 December – 29 December 2008



Last VX Nerve Agent Munition Eliminated from CMA's Destruction Stockpile

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 29 December 2008; <http://www.cma.army.mil>

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) marked the destruction of all VX nerve agent munitions at its destruction sites on Wednesday, December 24, 2008. This milestone occurred with the destruction of the last land mine containing VX at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) in Anniston, AL.

"I commend Anniston and all CMA destruction sites on this extraordinary achievement. By destroying the VX agent at each of CMA's destruction sites, you have made the world a much safer place," said Conrad Whyne, Director of CMA.

The ANCDF Site Project Manager, Timothy K. Garrett, declared, "We have reached a truly remarkable milestone following more than five years of deliberate, but careful operations. All nerve agent munitions—those containing GB and those containing VX—have been safely processed."

CMA personnel and contractors have destroyed the VX nerve agent munitions at six disposal sites: Anniston, AL; Umatilla, OR; Newport, IN; Pine Bluff, AK; Tooele, UT; and Johnston Island approximately 800 miles southwest of Hawaii.

CMA continues to safely and securely store the remaining VX in the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile at the Blue Grass Chemical Activity near Richmond, KY. A separate Department of Defense organization, the U.S. Army Element Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), is charged with its destruction, with construction currently under way on a neutralization facility there.

Destruction of chemical weapons is complete at Newport, IN, Aberdeen, MD, and Johnston Island. Operations continue at Tooele, Umatilla, Anniston, and Pine Bluff, CMA's remaining destruction sites. These sites are destroying or preparing to destroy blister agent and the only remaining nerve agent for CMA's destruction mission – GA (Tabun) at Tooele. In addition to Kentucky, CMA continues to safely store chemical agent munitions at Pueblo, Colorado.

VX is the least volatile, but most potent of all chemical warfare agents. It attacks the nervous system, causing the muscles to convulse uncontrollably. Exposure can result in loss of consciousness, convulsions, paralysis, and respiratory failure resulting in death. The nerve agent works similarly to pesticide and was originally developed in the early 1950s. The nation's entire original stockpile of approximately 4,400 tons of VX was produced at Newport Chemical Depot between 1961 and 1969. Newport's production facility was destroyed in 2006.

 [back to top](#)

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BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



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DTRA

VX nerve agent was never used in combat by the United States.

“The elimination of this deadly chemical agent from each site’s stockpile is a relief to the stockpile communities, and a sign of our commitment to other nations as we move one step closer to a safer world,” said Mr. Whyne.

[More information is available online at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/endofvx.aspx/>]

[back to top](#)

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DTRA

Rice Expects North Korea to Agree Eventually on Nuclear Verification

Washington (AFP), 19 December 2008, <http://www.spacewar.com/>

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice predicted that North Korea would eventually agree to a written plan to ensure it is telling the truth about its past weapons-grade nuclear activities. In an interview with the Council on Foreign Relations think tank that was released Friday [December 19], Rice said the six-party talks broke down this month when North Korea balked at a written plan to close "loopholes" in the verification plan.

Rice said "we have negotiated a verification protocol to which they've agreed" during private talks U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill held with his counterpart Kim Kye-Gwan in North Korea in October.

"Unfortunately, some of the clarifications that they made to us privately that needed to be made so that there were no loopholes in that verification protocol, they refused to write down," Rice said.

"And that's where things broke down," the U.S. chief diplomat said, referring to the collapse of the six-party talks in Beijing earlier this month.

"But it also has been a value because the North Koreans are in a situation in which they are confronting Russia, China, the United States, South Korea, and Japan so that they can't just make this a bilateral problem with the United States," Rice said.

She added that North Korea's five partners still had diplomatic leverage under a 2007 landmark deal in which North Korea agreed to dismantle its weapons-grade plutonium programs in exchange for energy aid.

"And the fuel oil shipments that they need, they need not just from the United States but also from South Korea, since South Korea has made clear that their relationship with North Korea depends in part on how denuclearization goes," Rice said.

She also praised the six-party negotiations as having led not only to a halt in plutonium production, but also to the shutdown of the nuclear reactor, the destruction of a cooling tower and the disablement of many activities. And despite the current breakdown, the negotiations will make headway, Rice predicted.

"I think that within the context of the six-party talks, you ultimately will get a verification protocol that allows us to deal with a lot of very troubling activities," she said.

 [back to top](#)

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Russian Planes Flew 46 Observation Flights over Europe in 2008

Russia & CIS Military Newswire, 26 December 2008, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Russian military airplanes have flown 46 observation missions over European countries as part of the Open Skies Treaty this year, a Russian Defense Ministry spokesman told Interfax-AVN on Friday [December 26].

"Representatives of foreign nations, for their part, have carried out 33 such flights, primarily over the European part of Russia," the spokesman said.

The photographs taken during these flights and other data have made it possible to monitor the military infrastructure of the treaty's signatories.

Antonov An-30B, Tupolev Tu-154M and LK1 planes equipped with airborne photo-cameras were used during Russia's observation missions.

All observation flights strictly complied with the Open Skies Treaty, once again reaffirming the document's important role in bolstering security and strengthening cooperation in Europe, the spokesman said.

The Open Skies Treaty was signed by representatives of 35 countries in Europe and North America in Helsinki on March 23, 1992. Russia ratified the document in May 2001, enabling it to come into force on January 1, 2002. Flights that take place as part of the Treaty allow its [States Parties] to monitor the implementation of arms control agreements.

Airplanes that are used for such flights are converted transport or passenger aircraft. They cannot carry any weapons.

[back to top](#)

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