



BI-WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW



16 June 2009 – 29 June 2009

DTRA

GENERAL ARMS CONTROL

Reducing the World's Nuclear Arsenals [SPEECH]

U.S. Fed News, 17 June 2009, Accessed via Lexis Nexus

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Democrat-California, Delivered before the Center for National Policy

There are approximately 23,000 nuclear weapons in the world. The United States and Russia possess nearly 96 percent of them. (880 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Russia Gets only 47 Percent of Foreign Aid for Chemical Disarmament

Moscow Interfax-AVN Online, 17 June 2009, <http://www.militarynews.ru>

A total of around 20 billion rubles have so far been provided by donor countries in non-repayable technical aid to Russia for the purpose of chemical weapons destruction. (203 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Just One Deadly Weapon to Go at Umatilla

Oregonian, 17 June 2009, <http://www.oregonlive.com>

First they got rid of the GB, a deadly nerve agent also known as sarin...Then came the VX, another lethal agent...That leaves mustard blistering agent as the last Cold War-era chemical weapons still stockpiled at the Umatilla Chemical Depot in northeastern Oregon. (419 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OPCW Director-General Visits Washington D.C. for High-Level Meetings and Public Presentations

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 18 June 2009, <http://www.opcw.org>

The OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pflirter, visited Washington D.C. on 16 and 17 June 2009 for a series of high-level meetings with U.S. government officials and Congressional offices and to deliver public addresses at two leading policy institutes. (361 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

Russia Pledges to Meet 2009 Chemical Weapons Disposal Obligation

Global Security Newswire, 18 June 2009, <http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/>

A senior Russian official said this week that the nation would meet its obligation to destroy 45 percent of its chemical weapons stockpile by the end of this year, Interfax reported. (173 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) (CONT.)

Depot Detects Traces of Mustard Chemical Agent Vapor during Routine Storage Area Monitoring

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 23 June 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Depot chemical operations monitoring workers detected trace amounts of HD mustard chemical agent vapor today inside a depot storage structure or “igloo” that houses bulk containers.

(319 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

Russia Backs Five-Nation Talks on North Korea

RIA Novosti, 22 June 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Moscow supports the idea of five-party talks on North Korea's nuclear problem to determine further steps in dealing with the current crisis, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday [June 22]. (382 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

United States Keeps Close Eye on North Korean Ship

Wall Street Journal, 23 June 2009, <http://online.wsj.com/>

The Pentagon continues to trail a North Korean cargo ship believed headed toward Myanmar, in part because U.S. officials worry that Pyongyang plans to transfer major weapons systems and possibly nuclear technologies to the repressive Southeast Asian country, current and former U.S. officials said. (837 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

OTTAWA CONVENTION

Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War: Delivering on Promises to Victims

States News Service, 26 June 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Experts from countries worldwide affected by mines and explosive remnants of war met in Oslo, Norway, from June 23-25 to discuss how to improve the quality of life of victims of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war in their countries. (496 words)

[Click here for full text.](#)

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PROLIFERATION SECURITY INITIATIVE (PSI)

South Korea Begins Activity as PSI Member

Yonhap News, 22 June 2009, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/>

South Korea has dispatched a director-level foreign ministry official to an international meeting of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), its first official act since becoming a full-fledged member of the U.S.-led counterproliferation campaign, officials said Monday [June 22].

(366 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Russia Prepared for 'Resolute Cuts' of Delivery Vehicles

Moscow ITAR-TASS, 25 June 2009, accessed via Open Source

Russia is prepared for rather resolute cuts of strategic delivery vehicles, but concrete figures are a subject matter of further negotiations, President Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday [June 25].

(783 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

As Arms Meeting Looms, Russia Offers Carrot of Sharp Cuts

The New York Times, 21 June 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

President Dmitri A. Medvedev said Saturday [June 20] that Russia was prepared to carry out significant reductions in its nuclear arsenal as part of its continuing arms control negotiations with the United States, which are to culminate here in a summit meeting with President Obama next month. (397 words) [Click here for full text.](#)

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Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Democrat-California, Delivered before the Center for National Policy

There are approximately 23,000 nuclear weapons in the world. The United States and Russia possess nearly 96 percent of them. Under the terms of the Moscow Treaty, the United States and Russia are each limited to 1,700 to 2,200 deployed nuclear weapons. In all, the United States has approximately 9,400 nuclear weapons in its arsenal. And Russia has roughly 13,000.

During the period of the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States, weapons were allowed to build up in the belief that mutually assured destruction would provide mutually assured deterrence. Now, to some extent, that was true—as long as the Cold War existed and it was just between two nations. But the Cold War is long over. Today, we see other nations developing fissile material—both plutonium and uranium—as well as warheads and delivery systems. ... Increasingly, as this kind of proliferation continues, we face the very real possibility of a rogue nation, or a terrorist group, coming into possession of either a dirty bomb or a full nuclear warhead. So, the urgency of preventing proliferation—as well as the elimination of all nuclear weapons—becomes a goal of necessity and survival. I strongly believe we should embrace it.

There is some good news, and it's happening fast:

- In April at the G-20 summit in London, President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev committed to achieving a nuclear-free world. A few days later in Prague, President Obama delivered an historic speech that underscores his commitment to this goal. ...
- As the first step, both Presidents instructed negotiators to draft a follow-on new treaty to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, known as START, which expires on December 5th of this year.
- Negotiators met in Moscow in May, and again in Geneva earlier this month. A Kremlin spokesman said a draft treaty may be ready by the time President meets with President Medvedev in Moscow in July.
- And last Wednesday, wire services carried the news of an important statement by Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who said he favored a world free of nuclear weapons. At a news conference with the German Foreign Minister in Moscow, Putin

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said this: "Why do we need nuclear weapons? If other nuclear states are ready for (a nuclear weapons-free world), we are too."

This presents our President with a major opportunity for progress, since negotiations toward a new START treaty have begun, and he is set to meet with President Medvedev again in Moscow next month. So a new chapter in nuclear-weapons policy, which can expedite the phasing out of the enormous nuclear arsenals of our two countries, can really have the possibility of beginning. Here at home, the United States Senate is faced with the need to ratify a treaty—the Comprehensive [Nuclear] Test-Ban Treaty, or CTBT—which was signed by President Clinton on September 24, 1996, but [was] never ratified by the Senate. One hundred eighty countries have signed the [CTBT] and it has been ratified by 148 countries. For this treaty to come into effect, it must specifically be ratified by 44 nations that possess nuclear reactors. So far, 35 of these nations have ratified the treaty. Nations in this category that have not ratified include: China; North Korea; Egypt; India; Indonesia; Iran; Israel; Pakistan; and the United States. Candidly, I do not understand the 12-year delay. I believe very strongly that we must work to see that verification is as good as it can possibly be and then step up to the plate and ratify this treaty.

In addition, I strongly believe that our country should: strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, including more robust and comprehensive inspections; ensure the highest security standard for nuclear weapons, highly enriched uranium, and weapons-grade plutonium; and remove deployed nuclear weapons from high-alert status, to reduce the risk of accidental or unapproved launch. Also this year, President Obama and the administration will put forward a new Nuclear Posture Review. Now this review ... essentially states what the nuclear policies of the administration will be. The last administration did not state that there would be a no-first-use policy. As a matter of fact, it stated that we would countenance a first use of nuclear weapons should we come under biological or chemical attack. I very much hope that this new Nuclear Posture Review will clearly state a no-first-use policy.

The commitments of Presidents Obama and Medvedev—and the remarks of Prime Minister Putin, which I consider to be consequential—give me a renewed sense of hope. Hope that we can make significant cuts in our arsenals. Hope that the United States and Russia will display a constructive leadership that will inspire all nations. Hope that we may really be able to close the door to new nuclear weapons once and for all, and rid the world of these weapons. I have no illusions that it will be easy. But it can and should be accomplished. We have a chance to wind down and expedite the removal of 96 percent of the world's nuclear weapons. What an achievement it would be, if at the end of the next administration, we could say that the nuclear arsenals of both Russia and the United States had been reduced to the barest minimums. ...

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Russia Gets only 47 Percent of Foreign Aid for Chemical Disarmament

Moscow Interfax-AVN Online, 17 June 2009, <http://www.militarynews.ru>

A total of around 20 billion rubles have so far been provided by donor countries in non-repayable technical aid to Russia for the purpose of chemical weapons destruction.

These were the statistics cited on Tuesday [June 16] by Viktor Kholstov, Director of the Russian Industry and Trade Ministry's department of compliance with conventional obligations, at a session of the Federation Council's defense and security committee, which discussed Russia's compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2008.

"As of January 1, 2009, the total actual amount of non-repayable technical aid received from donor countries was around 20 billion rubles, which is 47 percent of the amount stated by the program," he said.

In 2008, donor countries allocated around 5.5 billion rubles to Russia, he said.

"Of course, budget funding is the main source of financing Russia's Convention obligations. Last year the budget spent more than 33 billion rubles for these purposes," Kholstov said.

Nevertheless, international financial aid is "an important element in conducting measures to destroy toxic agents as part of implementation of the Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons," he said.

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Just One Deadly Weapon to Go at Umatilla

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First they got rid of the GB, a deadly nerve agent also known as sarin—more than 1,000 tons of it in bombs, rockets and other ... containers. Then came the VX, another lethal agent—363 tons of it in more than 62,000 munitions, now ... gone.... That leaves mustard blistering agent as the last Cold War-era chemical weapons still stockpiled at the Umatilla Chemical Depot in northeastern Oregon.

When workers began the dangerous job of disposing of it last week, the undertaking put the U.S. Army operation well on its way to meeting terms of an international treaty calling for destruction of chemical weapons by 2012.

The mustard gas will be destroyed in the same way as the sarin and VX agents were, by incineration in a huge complex built at the depot just for that purpose. The work, expected to take one to two years, will require continued vigilance by a nine-member Oregon Department of Environmental Quality crew assigned to monitor the disposal.

Some residents of the Hermiston area, apparently a small minority, have protested the incinerator operation as a potential threat to the environment and human health. So far, however, those concerns have been adequately addressed by strict safety standards at the depot and development of an elaborate emergency response system in surrounding communities.

Most residents appear to understand that not destroying the stockpile isn't an option. Besides the pressure of the international treaty, there's the fact that many of the decades-old weapons were deteriorating dangerously in their earthen bunkers.

The nerve agents, now gone, were the most leakage-prone weapons in the Umatilla stockpile, but the mustard agent poses challenges of its own. It's less lethal than the nerve agents but difficult to handle because it's much heavier and stored in 2,635 one-ton containers.

The Umatilla complex finished destroying the sarin two years ago and the VX agent last November. Crews at the depot have been retooling the incinerator since then to prepare for handling the mustard agent.

It will be drained from the bulky containers and burned at 2,700 degrees. The containers will be decontaminated for hours in furnaces at 1,600 degrees.

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If this work sounds tricky, that's because it is indeed. But Army and state officials say the incineration, which began in 2004, has been achieved without exposing workers or surrounding communities to harm from the deadly chemicals.

That's a safety record that must be preserved as the depot finishes destroying what was once one of the world's largest stockpiles of deadly chemical weapons.

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OPCW Director-General Visits Washington DC for High-Level Meetings and Public Presentations

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The OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, visited Washington D.C. on 16 and 17 June 2009 for a series of high-level meetings with U.S. government officials and Congressional offices and to deliver public addresses at two leading policy institutes.

During his visit Director-General Pfirter met Senator Richard Lugar, the Republican Party leader on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and, together with former Senator Sam Nunn, an architect of the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) or "Nunn-Lugar" program. CTR has played a key role in safeguarding and dismantling weapons of mass destruction in former Soviet Union countries and mobilized over U.S. \$1 billion to build an immense new chemical weapons destruction facility at Shchuch'ye, Kurgan Region in the Russian Federation.

Both Senator Lugar and Director-General Pfirter attended the opening of the Shchuch'ye facility in late May, and during their meeting in Washington they discussed the importance of continued international support for Russia's chemical weapons destruction efforts.

The Director-General also met Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, President Obama's nominee as Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs, and Gary Samore, the Obama Administration's Senior Director for Counter-proliferation Strategy. He updated Congresswoman Tauscher and Mr. Samore on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and discussed the status of U.S. chemical weapons destruction activities.

In addition, the Director-General met senior staff members of the Senate committees on Appropriations and Foreign Relations; of the office of Rose Gottemoeller, Assistant Secretary of State for Verification, Compliance and Implementation; and with Rebecca Hersman and Andrew Weber in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense. While in Washington, Director-General Pfirter delivered a public address at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars entitled "Going to Zero with WMDs: Lessons from the Chemical Weapons Convention," and a second presentation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on "WMD Threats and the Role of International Organizations." Both events were co-sponsored by Global Green USA, which hosted the Director-General during his stay in Washington.

The Director-General's visit coincided with publication of a joint commentary that he co-authored with Mikhail Gorbachev, "Disarmament lessons from the Chemical Weapons Convention," which appeared in the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists on 16 June 2009.

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A senior Russian official said this week that the nation would meet its obligation to destroy 45 percent of its chemical weapons stockpile by the end of this year, Interfax reported.

The mandate is set in the Chemical Weapons Convention. Russia's world's-largest chemical arsenal once stood at 40,000 metric tons, meaning 18,000 metric tons must be eliminated by December 31 of this year.

"We are now fulfilling the third stage of the Convention's obligations to destroy chemical weapons, which require Russia to destroy 5,000 [metric tons] of toxic substances contained in 400,000 chemical ammunition units in 2009," Viktor Kholstov, of the Russian Industry and Trade Ministry, said Tuesday. "In 2008, we fulfilled the plan by destroying 5,970 [metric tons] of toxic substances."

The Convention requires Russia to complete chemical demilitarization by April 2012. Observers have expressed skepticism about the nation's [ability] to meet that deadline.

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U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, 23 June 2009, <http://www.cma.army.mil/>

Depot chemical operations monitoring workers detected trace amounts of HD mustard chemical agent vapor today inside a depot storage structure or “igloo” that houses bulk containers. The traces of mustard chemical agent vapor were detected during routine weekly monitoring. The vapor is likely due to a leaking bulk container.

There was no danger to the public or environment. The igloos have a passive filtration system that prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping outside the structures. As a further protective measure after each leak is discovered, a powered filtration system was installed on the igloo. The leaking containers will be identified, inspected, repaired as necessary, and decontaminated.

Mustard is a blister agent that freezes below 59 degrees Fahrenheit and is thawed above that temperature. As aging mustard bulk containers thaw out in warmer months of the year, they can leak. Those leaks are typically first discovered when depot monitoring workers routinely check for agent vapors from outside the igloo.

Mustard agent is a colorless to light yellow to dark brown oily liquid, depending upon the age and relative purity of the material. It has the odor of garlic or horseradish and its vapor is approximately 5.5 times heavier than air. Although mustard does not readily evaporate, it may pose both a liquid contact hazard and a vapor hazard to the eyes, skin or respiratory tract. The only type of mustard munition stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot is bulk containers or “ton containers.” Those munitions have no explosive components.

Depot officials routinely notify the public when such incidents occur. Army officials also notify off-post emergency operations centers in Umatilla and Morrow counties, Oregon; Benton County, Washington; those in Oregon and Washington states; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

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Russia Backs Five-Nation Talks on North Korea

RIA Novosti, 22 June 2009, <http://en.rian.ru/>

Moscow supports the idea of five-party talks on North Korea's nuclear problem to determine further steps in dealing with the current crisis, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

"We highly regard cooperation between the 'seven' [Russia, United States, France, Britain, China, Japan and South Korea] in the UN Security Council," the ministry said in a statement. "We are in favor of conducting five-party talks [between countries involved in six-nation talks on North Korea] to discuss further actions," the statement said.

The concept of five-party talks, which would exclude North Korea, has been gaining popularity after a summit between South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama last week.

The South Korean leader has suggested that a new framework of dialogue may be needed to draw the North back to the negotiations. The six-nation talks involving North and South Korea, Russia, Japan, China and the United States, were launched in 2003 after Pyongyang withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT).

Under deals reached in 2007, the North began disabling a nuclear reactor and other facilities at Yongbyon under international supervision, in exchange for economic aid and political incentives, which included the deliveries of fuel oil to Pyongyang. However, in December last year, a round of six-nation talks ended in deadlock over a U.S. demand that nuclear inspectors be allowed to take samples from North Korean facilities out of the country for further analysis.

The UN has recently imposed new sanctions on North Korea that forbid the import and export of nuclear material, missiles and all other weapons, with the exception of small arms. It has authorized the world's navies to enforce the ban. The sanctions came in response to a North Korean nuclear test on May 25.

On June 13, the reclusive communist state released a statement threatening "resolute military action" if the United States and its allies tried to isolate it, vowing to "weaponize" plutonium, and warning it would consider attempts to blockade it an "act of war."

The Russian Foreign Ministry reiterated on Monday that there was no alternative to a diplomatic solution to the crisis, but said Moscow viewed the latest threats from Pyongyang as an open challenge to the world community.

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United States Keeps Close Eye on North Korean Ship

Wall Street Journal, 23 June 2009, <http://online.wsj.com/>

The Pentagon continues to trail a North Korean cargo ship believed headed toward Myanmar, in part because U.S. officials worry that Pyongyang plans to transfer major weapons systems and possibly nuclear technologies to the repressive Southeast Asian country, current and former U.S. officials said.

North Korea has used Myanmar ports and airstrips to transfer arms and contraband to third countries, including Iran, these officials said. Myanmar's military government also has purchased on the open market technologies that are potentially usable in a nuclear program, and North Korean arms companies involved in the nuclear trade have become active in Myanmar, said U.S., Asian and United Nations officials.

North Korean workers, meanwhile, have aided Myanmar's military junta in building underground tunnels near the new capital city of Naypyitaw that could have military applications, say U.S. officials.

U.S. and UN officials said there could be nonmilitary reasons to explain Myanmar's actions, and they acknowledge there is no "smoking gun" to back fears of nuclear proliferation inside the Southeast Asian country. But U.S. and Asian diplomats draw strong similarities between the military governments in Pyongyang and Naypyitaw and their efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction as deterrents against U.S. power.

"Given North Korea's nuclear trade to Syria, its attempts to sell Scuds to Myanmar, and its ongoing sales of conventional arms, there's reason to be worried about a WMD relationship," said Michael Green, who tracked Myanmar as a top adviser to former President George W. Bush. In 2004, Myanmar's military junta was in negotiations to buy Scud missile parts from Pyongyang, but the Bush administration convinced Myanmar to back off.

Pentagon officials said Monday that the U.S. Navy continues to track a North Korean cargo ship, in an operation that could serve as a test case for UN sanctions enacted last month to try to choke off Pyongyang's weapons trade.

The cargo ship Kang Nam left North Korea on Wednesday and has been trailed by the USS John S. McCain heading south toward the Myanmar coast, according to Pentagon officials. A second U.S. destroyer, the USS McCampbell, is set to pick up the trail with the aid of a P-3 reconnaissance plane.

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Pentagon officials said the guided-missile destroyers haven't been given orders to intercept the Kang Nam and hadn't requested permission to do so. "Right now, we're just watching," a Pentagon official said.

North Korea analysts said the cat-and-mouse game highlights a potential weakness in last month's UN Security Council resolution concerning North Korea. The measure only allows UN member states to inspect vessels with the consent of the nation whose flag the ship is flying. Since North Korea is unlikely to give such permission, U.S. officials acknowledge that they are largely powerless to stop and search the Kang Nam. The resolution also calls for ships seeking port services from UN member countries to be refused, but that is unlikely to come up in this case.

U.S. and Asian diplomats have voiced alarm about the growing military and trade relationship between North Korea and Myanmar. The two countries severed diplomatic ties in the 1980s after North Korean agents assassinated South Korean ministers on a state visit. But Myanmar formally opened an embassy in Pyongyang last year.

In August 2008, Washington worked with the Indian government to deny flyover rights to a North Korean Air Koryo jet, which Washington believed was moving missile components to Iran from Myanmar. Officials from one of North Korea's principal arms companies, Nomchongang Trading Co., have also become active inside Myanmar in recent months, former U.S. officials said. Officials at Myanmar's embassies in Bangkok and Washington, DC, and at the Ministry of Information in Myanmar didn't respond to questions about the country's alleged nuclear ambitions. North Korea has denied selling nuclear equipment.

Earlier this month, an online magazine of Yale University's Center for the Study of Globalization published photos believed to show tunnels being built under Myanmar's new capital of Naypyitaw with the help of North Korean technicians, ostensibly for military purposes. The accuracy of the photos couldn't be verified.

Several Myanmar citizens, some of them expatriates, have claimed direct knowledge of a nuclear-weapons program, including a reactor under construction near Maymyo, according to Myanmar experts. But the remote area is off-limits to outsiders without government permission and the reports haven't been independently confirmed.

Residents in the area say foreign technicians, including from Russia, have visited the town recently. Russia has acknowledged an agreement with Myanmar to help build a nuclear reactor and do civilian nuclear research, but says no projects have materialized.

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Myanmar is a party to the international Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that went into effect in 1970, and thus has committed not to develop nuclear weapons. It also has reached agreements with the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency to verify that Myanmar isn't diverting nuclear research, material, or technology to make nuclear weapons. Still IAEA officials have privately voiced their concerns about Myanmar's recent purchases of dual-use technologies.

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Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War: Delivering on Promises to Victims

States News Service, 26 June 2009, accessed via Lexis Nexis

The following information was released by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]:

Experts from countries worldwide affected by mines and explosive remnants of war met in Oslo, Norway, from 23-25 June to discuss how to improve the quality of life of victims of landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war in their countries.

The meeting was organized by the ICRC and hosted by the Norwegian Red Cross. Participants included professionals involved in providing medical, physical rehabilitation and socio-economic support to weapon victims, representatives of international organizations involved in standard setting in these fields and individual survivors of incidents involving such weapons.

"A decade after the birth of the Mine Ban Convention, it is unacceptable that so many landmine survivors are still far from being able to support their families or to fully contribute to life and development in their communities", said Claude Tardif, Head of the ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation Programs.

The Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines (Mine Ban Convention) was the first multilateral treaty committing States to assisting the victims of a particular category of weapons. Since its entry into force 10 years ago, the Convention has made impressive achievements in terms of ending the use of anti-personnel mines, destroying stocks and clearing mined areas.

Yet, the promises made to the victims and survivors that they would receive adequate care, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration are far from being fulfilled. When States Parties meet for the Second Review Conference of the Convention at the end of 2009, strengthening efforts to assist victims will be a key theme on the agenda. Since the Mine Ban Convention was adopted, States have made additional commitments to assisting the victims of cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war in treaties on these weapons adopted in 2003 and 2008.

The meeting in Oslo identified how best to put these commitments into practice. It produced an Appeal to States party to the Mine Ban Convention and practical recommendations for States and relevant organizations aimed at ensuring that the survivors of these weapons, their families and communities see substantial improvements in their lives in the years ahead. The meeting stressed that this work should not discriminate between victims of weapons and other people with injuries or disabilities, and that the rights and needs of all individuals with disabilities must be upheld.

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Participants agreed that improving the lives of survivors of weapon accidents and others with disabilities will require States to give far greater priority to assistance for victims and disability. States' commitments need to be included in national development plans and will entail providing adequate resources to improve health and social services and to ensure equal access to education and employment.

The Appeal adopted by participants was handed over to a representative of the Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs at the close of the conference. Norway will chair the Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Convention, to be held in Cartagena, Colombia in November 2009.

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South Korea begins Activity as PSI Member

Yonhap News, 22 June 2009, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/>

South Korea has dispatched a director-level foreign ministry official to an international meeting of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), its first official act since becoming a full-fledged member of the U.S.-led counterproliferation campaign, officials said Monday [June 22].

South Korea announced its participation in the PSI on May 26, a day after North Korea conducted its second nuclear test, despite warnings from the communist neighbor that such a move would be seen as an "act of war." "The government has sent Lee Jang-geun, director of the foreign ministry's disarmament and nonproliferation department, to the PSI's European Regional Operational Experts Group meeting in Sopot, Poland, from June 22-24," the ministry's deputy spokesman Choe Jong-hyun said. Although the forum is for European members, nonregional members are also invited.

The PSI, launched by former U.S. President George W. Bush in Krakow, Poland, in May 2003, seeks to prevent the transfer of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems and related materials by air, ground or sea to and from states and non-state actors of proliferation concern. It currently consists of 95 member countries.

North Korea, known for exporting illicit weapons, is among the major targets of the initiative. The isolated nation must also contend with UN-sponsored sanctions imposed after its latest nuclear test.

UN Security Council Resolution 1874 bans North Korea from trafficking a wide range of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weaponry. It "calls upon" UN member states to search North Korean ships if there are "reasonable grounds" to suspect that they are carrying contraband cargo.

The U.S. Navy is currently keeping tabs on a North Korean freighter, the Kang Nam, which is reportedly heading towards Myanmar after leaving North Korea's western port in Nampo last Wednesday, according to foreign news reports which cited unidentified U.S. officials. South Korean government officials insisted that despite the UN resolution, the PSI remains active as it targets not only North Korea but also other countries involved in the trade of illegal weapons.

South Korea has yet to decide whether to take part in a major interdiction exercise to be held in October off the coast of Singapore, they added.

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Russia Prepared for 'Resolute Cuts' of Delivery Vehicles

Moscow ITAR-TASS, 25 June 2009, accessed via Open Source

Russia is prepared for rather resolute cuts of strategic delivery vehicles, but concrete figures are a subject matter of further negotiations, President Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday [June 25].

"As far as the maximum parameters are concerned, they are a negotiable theme," he told the media. "As for warheads, the issue on the agenda is a reduction to a level below the one stated in the Moscow Treaty. When it comes to delivery vehicles, we shall be prepared for rather resolute multiple reductions," the Russian head of state said about the proposals he voiced in Amsterdam. "This is all about the negotiating process."

While on a visit to Amsterdam on June 20 Medvedev said Moscow would be prepared to reduce strategic offensive arms on the condition the United States lifted Russia's concerns over the missile defense issue.

"Most countries and peoples are for a nuclear weapons-free world. Russia shares this noble goal. Aware of its responsibility in this respect we have invited the United States to conclude a new, legally binding agreement that would replace the START treaty, expiring on December 5, 2009," the Russian president said. "Our negotiators have made a good start. There is a fundamental, meaningful discussion underway. The task is to come close to concluding a new treaty by the end of this year. We are for real, effectively verifiable cuts," he said.

"We shall be prepared to reduce the strategic delivery vehicles several fold in contrast to the level set by the START-1 treaty. As for the related warheads, their number must be below the level stated in the Moscow treaty of 2002, precisely in line with what we agreed on with President Obama," Medvedev said.

"It is an open secret that we are to handle fundamental problems. We cannot afford to agree to the United States' plans for creating a global missile defense," he said. "I would like to state once again that the reductions we have proposed would be possible only if the United States lifts Russia's concerns. Under any other circumstance the problem of inter-relation of strategic offensive and defensive armaments must be clearly stated in the treaty," Medvedev said.

"There are great worries over the possibility of equipping strategic offensive arms with conventional warheads. Such armaments may cause harm to strategic stability. Lastly, it is important to preserve the START provisions confining the placement of strategic offensive arms to one's own national territory."

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Earlier, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov said that "at the summit in Moscow on July 6-8, the delegations are to brief the presidents of Russia and the United States on the START talks." He believes the United States surely understands Russia's stance on the missile defense issue. He recalled that that their first meeting in London the two countries' leaders agreed to work on a new START treaty and also instructed their respective governments to take into account the inter-relation between these two elements.

On June 24, the third round of Russian-U.S. consultations on drafting a new strategic arms reduction treaty ended in Geneva. The first discussions on updating this document took place in Moscow on May 19-21, and the second round of consultations was in Geneva on June 1-2.

After the latest round of consultations both delegations refrained from commentaries, merely stating that the talks proceed constructively, in a working atmosphere.

Russia and the United States may reduce their nuclear warheads to 1,500 on either side, the commander of Russia's Strategic Missile Forces Colonel-General Nikolai Solovtsov speculated earlier. "Russia and the United States may reduce their warheads to fifteen hundred on either side. But for this there will have to be a decision by the military and political leaderships," he said about the talks on a new START, expected replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-1), which is expiring in the last days of 2009. "We shall be able to accomplish a cut to 1,700-2,000 pieces by 2012," Solovtsov said.

The USSR and the USA signed START-1 on July 31, 1991. The treaty took effect on December 5, 1994. The expiration date is December 5, 2009. The treaty can be either replaced with a new one or prolonged for five years. Prolongation or replacement talks should get underway no later than one year ahead of the date START-1 expires.

START-1 obliged both sides to slash by 40 percent or more their nuclear warheads (to 6,000 pieces) and by about 30 percent their strategic delivery vehicles (to 1,600). Russia and the United States had coped with these liabilities by 2001. Also, the treaty imposed qualitative restrictions—a ban on air-to-surface ballistic missiles, on the warheads exceeding the agreed number on each type of missile and on equipping cruise missiles with multiple warheads.

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As Arms Meeting Looms, Russia Offers Carrot of Sharp Cuts

The New York Times, 21 June 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/>

President Dmitri A. Medvedev said Saturday that Russia was prepared to carry out significant reductions in its nuclear arsenal as part of its continuing arms control negotiations with the United States, which are to culminate here in a summit meeting with President Obama next month.

His comments were among the clearest yet by Russia outlining its position on arms control. But Mr. Medvedev, issuing a warning in advance of the summit meeting, also reiterated Russian objections to an antimissile system proposed by the United States. He indicated that it had to be scrapped for the two countries to make any progress on arms control.

Negotiators for the United States and Russia have met several times already to hammer out a successor to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expires December 5. The Obama administration has said that coming to an agreement is a cornerstone of its effort to improve the United States' relations with Russia

On a visit to Amsterdam, Mr. Medvedev said at a news conference that Russia was committed to "real and effectively verifiable" arms control reduction. "We are ready to cut our strategic delivery vehicles by several times compared with the START treaty," he said.

He said the number of deployed nuclear warheads should be well below those in [the Moscow Treaty] ... signed in 2002 by President George W. Bush and Vladimir V. Putin [which] ... requires each country to cut its arsenal to fewer than 2,200 deployed warheads by 2012.

Officials said they expected any new agreement to push that figure to 1,500 apiece or fewer. Later on Saturday, the Kremlin released a statement from Mr. Medvedev that emphasized that Russia would not move forward if the United States did not cancel its plan for an antimissile system based in Poland and the Czech Republic.

"The reductions that we are suggesting are possible only if the United States addresses Russian concerns," he said. "In any event, the issue of the relationship between strategic offensive and defensive weapons should be clearly laid out in the treaty."

The antimissile plan was proposed by the Bush administration, which said it was intended to respond to threats from countries like Iran, and was not aimed at Russia. But the Kremlin has called such assertions hollow. The Obama administration has said it is reviewing the antimissile system, and it has not officially embraced it. ...

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