DEFENSE TREATY INSPECTION READINESS PROGRAM · READINESS THROUGH AWARENESS

WEEKLY TREATY REVIEW

2 - 8 March 2007

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CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

Army's Chemical Materials Agency Reaches Destruction Milestone

U.S. Army, 5 March 2007, www.army.mil

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency has been safely eliminating America's stockpile of chemical weapons since 1990, and has reached a milestone with the destruction of half of its stockpile of chemical munitions. *(706 words)* **Click here for full text.**

FISSILE MATERIAL CUT-OFF TREATY (FMCT)

Conference on Disarmament Hears Interventions on Nuclear Disarmament and a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)

United Nations Office at Geneva, 6 March 2007, www.unog.ch

The Conference on Disarmament today heard addresses from a number of States on a range of issues, focusing on nuclear disarmament and the need to begin negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. *(715 words)* **Click here for full text.**

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

Kazakhstan Joins IAEA Safeguards Protocol, Refutes Claims of 'Unexploded Nuclear Bomb'

The Times of Central Asia, 2 March 2007, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Kazakhstan moved to reaffirm its commitment to nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction last week when President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed into law a bill on February 19, 2007 ratifying the additional protocol to Kazakhstan's agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) relating to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. *(543 words)* **Click here for full text.**

Lavrov Says Israel Should Sign Nonproliferation Treaty

Open Source Center, 2 March 2007, Document ID# CEP20070302950206

Russia wants Israel to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in order to create a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said. *(199 words)* **Click here for full text.**

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NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) (CONT.)

UN Nuclear Watchdog Again Urges 'Timeout' By Both Sides on Iran's Nuclear Program

UN News Service, 6 March 2007, www.un.org

The head of the United Nations atomic watchdog agency has again called for a "timeout" on the Iranian nuclear issue to allow for talks, with Iran suspending uranium enrichment and the international community suspending sanctions over a program that Tehran says is for producing energy but which critics maintain is for making nuclear weapons. *(535 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

IAEA Freezes Two Dozen Technical Aid Programs to Iran

The Washington Post, 8 March 2007, www.washingtonpost.com

The United Nations atomic monitoring agency on Thursday curtailed nearly two dozen nuclear technical aid programs to Iran, part of a continuing international effort to pressure the country to halt its uranium enrichment program. *(463 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY (START)

Envoy: Moscow, U.S. Discuss START Treaty

Guardian Unlimited (UK), 2 March 2007, www.guardian.co.uk

The United States and Russia are working together effectively against nuclear proliferation threats posed by Iran and North Korea, while also exploring follow-ups to two arms treaties that expire within five years, the U.S. ambassador to Moscow said Thursday. *(543 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

TREATY ON OPEN SKIES (OS)

Russian Military to Inspect Canada From Above

CBC News, 7 March 2007, www.cbc.ca

Russian military officials will fly over Canada on Thursday and Friday, on the lookout for weapons of mass destruction that might be hidden in the landscape below. *(234 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

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TREATY ON OPEN SKIES (OS) (CONT.)

RF, Italy Make Survey Flight Over Croatia Under Open Skies Treaty

Open Source Center, 7 March 2007, Document ID# CEP20070307950379

Military specialists of Russia and Italy have completed a joint observation flight over Croatia on Wednesday. *(242 words)* ***Click here for full text.***

FULL TEXT OF WEEKLY ARTICLES FOLLOWS:

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Army's Chemical Materials Agency Reaches Destruction Milestone

U.S. Army, 5 March 2007, www.army.mil

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency has been safely eliminating America's stockpile of chemical weapons since 1990, and has reached a milestone with the destruction of half of its stockpile of chemical munitions. This accounts for more than 1.7 million munitions in the original stockpile.

"We've overcome many obstacles to reach this 50-percent milestone and are on the downhill slope, moving closer to the overall goal of getting rid of all of the chemical weapons in the U.S. stockpile," said Kevin Flamm, program manager for elimination of chemical weapons.

The United States produced a variety of chemical weapons from World War I through 1973 to deter other countries from using chemical weapons on U.S. troops. The most common agents the Army made were the mustard blister agent and two nerve agents, sarin - also known as (GB) - and VX. Mustard agent produces severe burns and can be fatal, while sarin and VX are potent nerve agents that can kill within minutes by attacking the central nervous system.

Although commonly referred to as gasses - because during World War I some chemical weapons were dispersed as vapors - these agents are liquids, each with different physical characteristics.

In the early 1970s the Army began researching ways to safely eliminate the national stockpile to reduce the risks associated with aging weapons. During this time the Army destroyed some of its chemical weapons by incinerating and neutralizing them.

Current efforts to eliminate the U.S. stockpile began in 1986 when Congress required the safe destruction of the entire stockpile, in keeping with a law that predates the Chemical Weapons Convention by more than a decade. Two years later, in 1988, the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program was formed to better prepare nearby civilian communities for any potential chemical-stockpile accident.

By teaming the Army and the Department of Homeland Security, CSEPP provides funding for chemical-accident response equipment and warning systems. It also oversees yearly community-wide emergency preparedness exercises at all of the stockpile sites, and works with communities to provide training that will help residents respond appropriately to a chemical-stockpile incident.

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America's 1997 ratification of the CWC provided additional impetus for the destruction program. As a signatory, the United States agreed to comply with requirements to stop producing, stockpiling or transferring chemical weapons, and also agreed to do its part to eliminate the entire chemical-weapon stockpiles of all signatory nations. As of 2006 officials of more than 170 countries had signed the treaty.

In 1990 the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System, the U.S. Army's first disposal facility, began disposing of the U.S. chemical-weapon stockpile stored on the island, which is about 800 miles southwest of Hawaii.

The pilot facility completed its mission in 2000 after eliminating the more than 412,000 chemical weapons stored on the island. Today, Johnston Atoll is a wildlife refuge, providing habitat for endangered and threatened waterfowl and marine species.

Another chemical-stockpile site, CMA's disposal facility at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., completed disposal of the entire Edgewood Area mustard-agent stockpile in 2006. This was the first facility within the continental United States to completely destroy its stockpile.

Other states with chemical-weapon stockpiles and accompanying disposal facilities include Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Oregon and Utah. Weapons are also stockpiled in Kentucky and Colorado, where disposal facilities are in the design phase as Department of Defense disposal projects. "With our teams working across the country, we are able to move forward, knowing that we will reach 100 percent destruction in a safe and environmentally sound way. We remain dedicated to eliminating the national stockpile while protecting our communities," said past CMA Director Michael Parker.

Parker said not only does CMA have the chemical-weapon storage and disposal mission, but at the Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas, CMA provides specialized products and services that support Soldiers. The arsenal produces, renovates and stores more than 60 types of special conventional ammunition products.

These products include munitions for smoke, non-lethal, riot control, incendiary, illumination and infrared uses. PBA is also the only facility in the Western Hemisphere with the capability to fill white-phosphorous munitions.

The remaining U.S. chemical-weapon stockpile includes bombs, rockets, mortars, projectiles, land mines and spray tanks filled with blister agent or one of the nerve agents.

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Conference on Disarmament Hears Interventions on Nuclear Disarmament and a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)

United Nations Office at Geneva, 6 March 2007, www.unog.ch

The Conference on Disarmament today heard addresses from a number of States on a range of issues, focusing on nuclear disarmament and the need to begin negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty. The President of the Conference also read out a message by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, on behalf of a number of women's non-governmental organizations, on the occasion of International Women's Day.

In their statements, Ukraine, Colombia, Switzerland and Peru expressed the opinion that negotiations on a legally binding ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices could not be delayed any longer. On nuclear disarmament, Cuba and Peru stressed the need for an immediate start of negotiations on total and complete nuclear disarmament, the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. Switzerland addressed the issues of nuclear proliferation, nuclear disarmament, and nuclear power for civilian use. It also addressed the issue of outer space, calling for the drafting of a code of conduct for space activities, as well as the elaboration of provisions to prevent the creation of space debris.

Introducing the statement by the women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) group to the Conference, Conference President Juan Antonio March of Spain relayed the hope of the six Presidents of the 2007 session of the Conference that starting next year NGO representatives would be able to make their addresses directly before the Conference on Disarmament. The delegations of Pakistan (on behalf of the Group of 21), Norway, Syria and Algeria echoed that hope. China also made a brief statement.

In its statement, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom observed that, while Governments remained the ultimate decision makers, it was non-governmental organizations that allowed citizens around the globe to partake in the political process and make their voices heard. It noted that there were unilateral steps that could be taken to move the disarmament agenda forward. It also suggested that States build on the 2000 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference agreement around reporting requirements and that States be required to submit a public disarmament impact assessment to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations, to accompany any planned investments in nuclear facilities and capabilities that were relevant to the development or maintenance of nuclear weapons or the production of fissile materials.

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The President announced that the Presidents of the 2007 session intended to hold consultations with delegations with a view to preparing a framework for the tenth week of work. In that connection, a questionnaire was to be distributed to facilitate the inclusion and consideration of delegations' concerns and opinions. A number of delegations expressed their concern at that announcement, and asked to have the questions in advance, to allow for consultation with their capitals and to promote greater transparency. However, the President explained that the questionnaire had been instituted as a time-saving measure, was merely intended to facilitate an internal process, and, indeed, was intended to promote greater inclusiveness and transparency in organizing the Committee's work.

At the end of the meeting, the President of the Conference announced that, in conjunction with the High-Level Segment of the Human Rights Council starting next week, 11 visiting dignitaries had so far indicated that they would participate in the work of the Conference. On Monday, 12 March, at 3 p.m., the Conference would hear an address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ecuador. On Tuesday, 13 March, at 10 a.m., the Conference would hear a speech by the Vice President of Colombia, as well as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia, the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iran and from a representative from Viet Nam, whose name was yet to be confirmed. On Wednesday, 14 March, at 3 p.m. the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria and the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea would address the Conference. Finally, on Friday, 16 March, at 12 p.m., the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain would make a statement to the Conference.

The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Monday, 12 March at 3 p.m.

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Kazakhstan Joins IAEA Safeguards Protocol, Refutes Claims of 'Unexploded Nuclear Bomb'

The Times of Central Asia, 2 March 2007, accessed via Lexis Nexis

Kazakhstan moved to reaffirm its commitment to nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction last week when President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed into law a bill on February 19, 2007 ratifying the additional protocol to Kazakhstan's agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) relating to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

On the same day, Kazakhstan's foreign and energy ministries came out with statements refuting earlier bizarre comments from one of the members of national parliament about the existence of an 'unexploded nuclear bomb' at one of the former Soviet test sites in Kazakhstan.

Under the newly ratified protocol, whose full title is the Protocol to the Agreement between Kazakhstan and the IAEA on application of safeguards with a view to Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, Kazakhstan agreed to more rigorous inspections of all nuclear related activities. Kazakhstan signed the protocol in February 2004.

In 1991, Kazakhstan inherited the more than 1,000 nuclear warheads and 100 intercontinental ballistic missiles left behind when the Soviet Union collapsed. The country then decided to terminate its nuclear program, joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapons state and has since then proven itself a strong advocate of nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

Ninety countries have signed the protocol, and, with Kazakhstan's accession, it has already come into force in 63 countries, Kazinform writes referring to the Kazakhstan News Bulletin, released weekly by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the US and Canada.

In a related story, spokesmen for the Foreign Ministry and the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry repudiated earlier claims from Tokhtar Aubakirov, a member of the Majilis (lower house of Parliament), about the existence of an 'unexploded nuclear bomb' at the former Soviet test site at Azgir in western Kazakhstan. Aubakirov, a former cosmonaut said he had seen a large metallic sphere from space and claimed it contained a nuclear device undermining Kazakhstan's status as a non-nuclear weapons state since 1995.

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said the sphere, called the Yava installation, 'had never been used for testing nuclear weapons, is not a nuclear device, and does not contain any radioactive materials.' The ministry further explained the installation had been intended for experiments in high pressure physics in areas such as imitating deep water immersion and

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production of technical diamonds through explosions of chemical materials. The installation could only sustain the pressure of 180 atmospheres, not millions of atmospheres created during a nuclear explosion, the Ministry added. Finally, the installation was given in repayment of Kazakhstan's debts to an 18-nation Joint Institute of Nuclear Studies headquartered in Dubna, Russia.

In its own statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added, 'The Republic of Kazakhstan, having voluntarily renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and shut down the nuclear test site, as well as having co-initiated the signing of the Central Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty, is firmly committed to its principled position about the unacceptability of developing, storing and using nuclear weapons.'

Yerzhan Ashikbayev, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman, noted, 'As a non-nuclear weapons state, Kazakhstan strictly adheres to all provisions of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, as well as other international obligations in nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. The entire nuclear related activity in Kazakhstan is covered by IAEA safeguards.'

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Lavrov Says Israel Should Sign Nonproliferation Treaty

Open Source Center, 2 March 2007, Document ID# CEP20070302950206

Russia wants Israel to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in order to create a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

"This will only become possible when all countries in the region, including Israel, become NPT signatories and have their nuclear activities controlled by the International Atomic Energy Agency," Lavrov said in an interview with a Syrian news agency posted on the Russian Foreign Ministry's website on Friday.

Russia is a principle supporter of the idea of forming a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and first proposed it in 1958.

Creating such a zone would be consistent with the long-term national interests of the countries in the region, he said.

"It would be a considerable step forward in the cause of strengthening international peace and safety and achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament proclaimed in Section VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," he said.

Serious joint efforts aimed at creating the such a zone in the Middle East and the accession of Arab countries to the Chemical Weapons Convention can only be discussed when the process of a full-scale Arab-Israeli resolution resumes, he said.

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UN Nuclear Watchdog Again Urges 'Timeout' By Both Sides on Iran's Nuclear Program

UN News Service, 6 March 2007, www.un.org

The head of the United Nations atomic watchdog agency has again called for a "timeout" on the Iranian nuclear issue to allow for talks, with Iran suspending uranium enrichment and the international community suspending sanctions over a program that Tehran says is for producing energy but which critics maintain is for making nuclear weapons.

"That's the only way in my view to achieve a durable solution to the issue," UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei told a news conference in Vienna after delivering a report yesterday to his agency's Board of Governors that noted that Iran had continued enrichment despite a Security Council call that it suspend such activities and the imposition of sanctions.

The Council's five permanent members – China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States – together with Germany are now considering what further action to take.

Mr. Mr. ElBaradei first issued a call for a timeout in January, with the parties going "immediately to the negotiating table."

In his report, Mr. ElBaradei said that because of the lack of "the necessary level of transparency and cooperation" from Iran, his agency could not provide assurances that the Iranian nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes, stressing that the issue was in a class of its own because of Tehran's two decades of undeclared activities in breach of its obligations under Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

At the news conference he repeated his calls for Iran to cooperate fully with IAEA. "This would help a lot in diffusing the emerging crisis about Iran's program," he said.

"It would enable a comprehensive solution that on the one hand guarantees Iran's right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes but at the same time provides the international community with the confidence that is needed after many years of undeclared nuclear activities in Iran about its program and future direction."

Meanwhile in New York, the President of the Security Council said officials from the five permanent members – China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States – were discussing a draft resolution on Iran.

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The talk among them is “about how to continue with the negotiated process, while at the same time being ready to increase the pressure should that be necessary,” said Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo of South Africa, which holds the 15-member body’s rotating presidency.

“Right now we understand they are discussing the elements of what would be in the draft if it comes before us,” he said, naming four elements under consideration: a travel ban; greater movement restrictions on either entities or persons; arms exports; and financial arrangements.

On his forthcoming visit to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Mr. ElBaradei said the focus was twofold. “One, to see how we can normalize relationship between the IAEA and DPRK. The second is to begin to start the modalities for the Agency going back to start the verification process foreseen under the Beijing agreement,” he added.

At the Beijing six-party talks with key partners on the issue, the DPRK last month agreed to shut down and eventually abandon its Yongbyon nuclear facility. The accord envisions the return of IAEA personnel, who were ordered out four years ago when the country withdrew from the NPT.

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IAEA Freezes Two Dozen Technical Aid Programs to Iran

The Washington Post, 8 March 2007, www.washingtonpost.com

The United Nations atomic monitoring agency on Thursday curtailed nearly two dozen nuclear technical aid programs to Iran, part of a continuing international effort to pressure the country to halt its uranium enrichment program.

Members of the International Atomic Energy Agency meeting in Vienna agreed to suspend or reduce 22 of the 55 technical aid projects it funds for improving Iran's civilian use of nuclear technology.

The board took its action in parallel to U.N. sanctions against Iran over concerns by the United States, European countries and others that the Islamic Republic's uranium enrichment program is a prelude to weapons development. The government in Tehran denies that claim and IAEA officials say they have been unable to prove it.

Aliasghar Soltanieh, the Iranian ambassador to the IAEA, criticized the board's decision, telling reporters, "None of these projects are in fact related to the enrichment program, which will continue as planned."

He said one of the aid projects suspended by the IAEA Thursday involves the use of radiation to strengthen industrial cables and prevent accidents. "Those who prepared this resolution have ill political motivation, or they don't know what nuclear technology means at all," Soltanieh said.

But the recommendation by agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei was accepted by consensus with no opposition from Russia, China or other nations--most with strong economic ties to Iran -- that have refused to go along with tougher sanctions pushed by the United States and its allies.

"No one declared dissatisfaction with the choices, which were made in an extremely professional manner," said Ramzy Ezzeidin Ramzy, Egypt's chief IAEA representative.

The board members exempted programs related to medical, agricultural or humanitarian purposes.

North Korea and Iraq under Saddam Hussein are the only two countries the IAEA had previously punished by cutting or reducing technical aid over concerns about nuclear weapons production.

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Last December, the U.N. Security Council voted for minor sanctions on Iran, including freezing the assets of 10 officials and 12 institutions linked to nuclear programs. The council is now considering tougher action in the face of Iran's continued defiance of international demands for a halt to its uranium enrichment program, though United Nations members remain divided over whether to impose more sanctions or rely on diplomatic efforts to persuade Tehran to back down.

The IAEA board also discussed a letter from Arab governments that expressed concern over Israel's nuclear weapons program.

"The international community should address the issue in a fair and balanced way," Norma Goicochea Estenoz, Cuba's ambassador to the IAEA, told reporters. She said the U.N. call for Iran to halt its nuclear development without confronting Israel over its nuclear program is a "double standard."

The letter called for Israel to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which has been signed by 188 countries, including Iran.

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Envoy: Moscow, U.S. Discuss START Treaty

Guardian Unlimited (UK), 2 March 2007, www.guardian.co.uk

The United States and Russia are working together effectively against nuclear proliferation threats posed by Iran and North Korea, while also exploring follow-ups to two arms treaties that expire within five years, the U.S. ambassador to Moscow said Thursday.

William Burns praised U.S. and Russian efforts to reduce stockpiles of nuclear weapons and improve security at nuclear facilities, but said both countries should undertake further efforts.

``There never has been a moment when America and Russia, still possessing nuclear capabilities and responsibilities that no other nations can match, have had a greater opportunity to demonstrate real leadership. It would be a huge mistake, not only for the two of us but for the sake of global order, to miss that opportunity," Burns said in a speech at the Carnegie Moscow Center.

He did stress the cooperation between the U.S. and Russia.

``Meanwhile, the United States and Russia are cooperating effectively on the two most immediate nuclear proliferation threats posed by other states, namely North Korea and Iran," Burns said.

With both Iran and North Korea, Russia has been seen as emphasizing negotiations and avoiding ultimatums. Moscow has repeatedly spoken out against the use of military force against Iran, and has warned that harsh punishment would be counterproductive.

As part of strengthening cooperation on nuclear issues, Burns said both sides should ``look ahead to the challenges and possibilities that lie beyond the expiration of the START treaty in 2009 and the Moscow Treaty in 2012.

``At the direction of our presidents, we have begun a strategic security dialogue to consider what we want in place when the START Treaty expires, what further steps to pursue and what sort of transparency and confidence-building regime makes the most sense," Burns said.

Burns' comments come amid growing unease in Moscow about the United States' intentions and policies in several different spheres. Russian officials have been particularly upset by Washington's plans to base missile defense system elements in the Czech Republic and Poland, which borders Russia.

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Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov last month called for the repeal of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty negotiated between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan in 1987.

Some observers said the call was meant as a retaliatory measure to the proposed U.S. missile defense plans.

In Brussels on Thursday, the top U.S. general in charge of the missile defense project said Russia's call for scrapping the treaty had nothing to do with the U.S. plans.

``There is no link between a missile defense site in Poland and an INF Treaty withdrawal by the Russians that we can see,'' said Lt. Gen. Henry A. Obering, director of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency.

``If this is something that the Russians are intent on doing that is something they are pursuing for other reasons,'' he said.

In the latest in a series of alarmed statements by top officials in Moscow, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko warned that Russia would be forced to take unnamed countermeasures if the missile defense system is deployed.

``If we fail to ensure predictability, openness and trust in the missile defense field, the worsening of the international situation will affect security interests of a large number of nations,'' Grushko said in a statement posted on the Foreign Ministry's Web site.

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Russian Military to Inspect Canada From Above

CBC News, 7 March 2007, www.cbc.ca

Russian military officials will fly over Canada on Thursday and Friday, on the lookout for weapons of mass destruction that might be hidden in the landscape below.

The flight, aboard a Russian Tupolev 154M jet, is being conducted under the terms of the Treaty on Open Skies. Canada has flown similar observation flights over Russia and other countries that signed the treaty in 2002.

The inspection flights, conceived in the 1950s as a means to foster confidence and compliance in arms-control programs, were initially rejected by former Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev. Following a thaw in the Cold War, NATO and Warsaw Pact countries negotiated a treaty that evolved into an agreement among 25 nations to allow inspections of each other's territory.

In this latest inspection, the 28 Russian officers will depart from Trenton, Ont., and fly over military installations, factories, cities and transportation hubs. Canadian military officials will accompany the Russians to make sure the flight follows the specified route and agreed-upon monitoring methods.

The Russians conducted a previous inspection in 2004, flying at the relatively low altitude of 2,500 meters between Ottawa and Winnipeg, returning the same day.

Under the treaty, the aircraft are unarmed but equipped with special cameras, scanners and radar systems. Canada conducts the flights using a Hercules CC-130 fitted with a Samson sensor pod.

This will be the third inspection flight of Canada by another nation under the treaty.

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RF, Italy Make Survey Flight Over Croatia Under Open Skies Treaty

Open Source Center, 7 March 2007, Document ID# CEP20070307950379

Military specialists of Russia and Italy have completed a joint observation flight over Croatia on Wednesday. "The flight was made as part of the transparent military activities, as well as trust building up measures among the member-countries of the Open Skies Treaty," a source in the Russian Defense Ministry told Itar-Tass.

The inspecting group consisted of Russian experts of the Russian National Nuclear Risk Reduction Center and representatives of the Italian Defense Ministry. They monitored military facilities in Croatia.

The Russian observation plane An-30B carried out an air inspection. During the inspection the observation plane conducted a photo and radar survey of army units, radio-technical facilities and air defense systems. An-30B is a modified model of the well-known passenger twin-engine turboprop An-24. This plane is economic, very reliable and designed for air filming and air geophysical operations. The An-30B can film up to 25,000 square kilometers for five hours of the flight.

Twenty-seven European countries, as well as the United States and Canada signed the Open Skies Treaty in 1992. In 2002-2003 Finland, Latvia, Sweden, Lithuania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia joined the treaty. The major aim of the treaty is to check, how the agreements for control over armaments are observed, as well as trust building up measures in the military field. The number of the member-countries of the Open Skies Treaty keeps growing, and now this treaty brings together over 35 countries, several countries are getting ready to ratify the treaty.

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