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## **A. Iran**

### **‘West Must Accept Iran is ‘Master of Enrichment’: Envoy**

Iran’s ambassador to the UN nuclear watchdog insists that Tehran will not bow to the West’s pressure on Tehran’s abandoning of its enrichment activities.

“Iran will never give up enrichment at any price. Even the threat of military attack will not stop us,” said Ali-Asghar Soltanieh in an interview with the New Statesman. The Iranian ambassador reiterated that the West had to accept that Iran was a “master of enrichment.” “The West just has to cope with a strong Iran, a country with thousands of years of civilization that is now the master of enrichment. I know it is hard for them to digest, but it is the reality.”

The US has been leading efforts to push Iran to accept a deal that demands Tehran to send most of its low-enriched uranium abroad for further processing for the research reactor, which runs on 20-percent enriched uranium and produces medical isotopes for cancer patients. Iran has called for “concrete” guarantees that the fuel would eventually be returned to the country, but such demand has been shrugged off by the West, particularly the US, insisting that the deal would remain intact.

Iran announced on February 9 that it had started enriching uranium to the level of less than 20 percent to meet the country’s fuel requirements for a research reactor in Tehran, after the potential suppliers failed to provide the fuel under the UN deal. Two days later, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad formally declared that Iran had successfully produced the first stock of the 20-percent enriched uranium, a declaration which was met with cynicism in the West.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in an interview with al-Arabiyya television that the US was seeking the “strongest” possible UN Security Council (UNSC) sanctions on Iran over its nuclear work. “We want to try to get the strongest sanctions we can out of the United Nations Security Council ... mostly to influence their (the Iranians’) decision-making,” the former first lady said. The Iranian envoy, however, rejected such rhetoric emphasizing that the language of threats demonstrates a “colonialist mentality.” He said that threatening Iran with more sanctions or a military action would further complicate the issue.

“By threatening Iran with the Security Council, with sanctions, with military action, you are just making life more difficult for yourself. It doesn’t work.” US-led calls for more sanctions against Iran have mainly received a chilly welcome by China, a veto-wielding member of the UNSC, which insists that diplomacy can work. Iran says it is still open to talks with the West over a nuclear fuel swap provided that its conditions and concerns are valued. Tehran has, however, maintained that a fuel swap with Western countries does not require Iran to relinquish other means of acquiring the fuel, including the enrichment of uranium domestically.

Source:<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=118902&ionid=351020104>

## IAEA fears Iran working now on nuclear warhead: *Mark Heinrich and Steve Holland*



*Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad waves to journalists after a news conference in Tehran February 16, 2010. Credit: Reuters/Raheb Homavandi*

The U.N. nuclear watchdog said on Thursday it feared Iran may be working now to develop a nuclear-armed missile, as Washington warned Tehran of “consequences” for ignoring international demands to stop its atomic program.

In unusually blunt language, an International Atomic Energy Agency report for the first time suggested Iran was actively pursuing nuclear weapons capability, throwing independent weight behind similar Western suspicions. The IAEA seemed to be cautiously going public

with concerns arising from a classified agency analysis leaked in part last year which concluded that Iran has already honed explosives expertise relevant to a workable nuclear weapon.

The report also confirmed Iran had produced its first small batch of uranium enriched to a higher purity and had set aside the vast bulk of its low-enriched uranium stockpile for this purpose even though this seemed far in excess of possible civilian needs. The developments will intensify pressure on Iran to prove it is not covertly bent on “weaponizing” enrichment by allowing unfettered access for IAEA inspectors and investigators, something it rejects in protest at U.N. sanctions.

The United States is already leading a push for the U.N. Security Council to impose a fourth round of sanctions on Iran because of suspicions it may be developing nuclear weapons and has received declarations of support from Russia, which has until now been reluctant to expand sanctions. “We always said that if Iran failed to live up to those international obligations, that there would be consequences,” White House spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters aboard Air Force One as President Barack Obama flew to a political event.

Senior Obama administration officials, briefing reporters on the IAEA report, said they were struck by the number of significant technical problems Iran appeared to be encountering and the apparently slow growth of its uranium stockpile. One of the officials, noting Iran had “increased the level of non-cooperation,” said it may take Tehran longer to build a nuclear weapon because of the technical problems “but the pattern of behavior is one that I think is very disturbing.”

Tehran says its nuclear program is meant only to yield electricity or radioisotopes for agriculture or medicine. It took an opposing view of the report’s conclusions. “The IAEA’s new report confirmed Iran’s peaceful nuclear activities and the country’s non-deviation toward military purposes,” Iran’s envoy to the IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, told the state news agency IRNA.

## Intelligence Reports

For several years, the IAEA has been investigating Western intelligence reports indicating Iran has coordinated efforts to process uranium, test explosives at high altitude and revamp a ballistic missile cone in a way suitable for a nuclear warhead. In 2007, the United States issued an assessment saying Iran had halted such research in 2003 and probably not resumed it.

But its key Western allies believe Iran continued the program — and the IAEA report offered independent support for that perception for the first time. “The information available to the agency is extensive ... broadly consistent and credible in terms of the technical detail, the time frame in which the activities were conducted and the people and organizations involved,” the report said. “Altogether this raises concerns about the possible existence in Iran of past or current undisclosed activities related to the development of a nuclear payload for a missile.”

IAEA’s new chief, Yukiya Amano, is seen as more inclined to confront Iran than his predecessor, Mohamed ElBaradei, who retired on December 1. “Now we see from (available intelligence) that certain activities may have continued after 2004,” said a senior official close to the IAEA. “We want to find out from Iran what they’ve had to do with these nuclear explosive-related activities.” The U.S. director of National Intelligence concluded last year that Iran would not be technically able to devise a nuclear weapon before 2013. But a new intelligence estimate is due soon.

Iran has dismissed the intelligence reports as fabrication but failed to provide its own evidence. Tehran has boycotted contact with the IAEA on the matter for 18 months. The report, to be considered at a March 1-5 meeting of the IAEA’s 35-nation board, said it was vital for Iran to cooperate with IAEA investigators “without further delay.”

## Higher Enrichment

Last week, Iran announced a start to higher-scale enrichment, saying it was frustrated at the collapse of an IAEA-backed plan for big powers to provide it with fuel rods for nuclear medicine made from uranium refined to 20 percent purity.

The IAEA report complained that Iran had begun feeding low-enriched uranium (LEU) into centrifuges for higher refinement before inspectors could get to the scene in the Natanz pilot enrichment facility. “We have expressed our dissatisfaction,” said the senior official close to the IAEA. “It is of paramount importance to have this information in a timely way to make sure there are no undeclared activities or facilities in Iran.”

The big powers accused Iran of renegeing on an agreement to ship out two-thirds of its LEU reserve to be turned into fuel rods for the medical reactor. This would have prevented Iran retaining enough of the material to fuel a nuclear weapon, if it were refined to about 90 percent purity. Only France, one party to the U.N. draft deal, and Argentina are known to possess the technology. So analysts ask why Iran would enrich uranium well above its needs, except to lay the groundwork for producing bomb-grade uranium.

The report also said Iran increased its LEU stockpile by some 250 kg (550 pounds) to 2,060 kg since November — enough for one or two nuclear bombs if enriched to 90 percent purity. Iran had earmarked 1.95 tons of its LEU for enrichment up to 20 percent, it said, a significant escalation as further refinement to the weapons-grade threshold would need only around six months.

“This quantity is far in excess of the (medical reactor’s) needs,” David Albright, head of the Institute for Science and International Security, said in an online commentary. But the IAEA report also attested to stagnating capacity at Natanz. **It said the number of operating centrifuges had dropped to 3,772 from nearly 4,000.**

This was well under half of all the machines installed in Natanz, the report indicated. Analysts and diplomats close to the IAEA say Iran may be having serious mechanical problems in keeping thousands of antiquated centrifuges running in unison. The U.S. official said the Iranians were accumulating LEU “at a fairly low rate compared to what they should be able to do on paper” and that Tehran seemed to be “at least several years” away from accumulating enough 20 percent enriched uranium that could then be converted into bomb-grade material.

But the senior official close to the IAEA said Iran seemed to be shifting focus to a second enrichment site at Fordow near Qom, which Iran has said will preserve the program if foes bomb Natanz and be operated with advanced centrifuges able to enrich two to three times as fast. Tucked deep inside a mountain bunker to ward off attack, the plant at Fordow is scheduled to open in 2011.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61H4EH20100219>

## Amano to Present First Report on Iran’s Nuclear Program in Days

New Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Yukiya Amano is slated to present his first report on the latest developments in Iran’s nuclear program to the IAEA Board of Governors this week. Amano is most likely to give out his report on the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) safeguard agreements and UN Security Council Resolutions in the Islamic Republic of Iran tomorrow or Friday.

The IAEA Board of Governors’ seasonal meeting is slated to be held on March 1-5, and the Director General’s informal reports are conventionally issued 2 weeks earlier. Amano took office as director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on December 1, replacing Mohammad ElBaradei, who has been heading the IAEA for the last 12 years.

Amano won the IAEA secret ballot as chief of the UN nuclear watchdog on July 3 with 23 supporters out of 35 members of the Board of Governors. He also received 11 no votes and one abstention. His rival from South Africa Abdul Samad Minty received 12 votes.

The 62-year-old Japanese, a graduate of the Tokyo University Faculty of Law, joined the Japanese Foreign Ministry in April 1972. Amano has held increasingly senior positions in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, notably as Director of the

Science Division, Director of the Nuclear Energy Division and Deputy Director General for Arms Control and Scientific Affairs.

He was appointed Director-General for Arms Control and Scientific Affairs in August 2002 and Director-General of the Disarmament, Nonproliferation and Science Department in August 2004. He represented Japan as a Governmental Expert on the UN Panel on Missiles in April 2001 and in the UN Expert Group on Disarmament and Nonproliferation Education in July 2001. In 2005-2006, Amano was the Chair of the Board of Governors for the IAEA. He also served in Japan's embassies in Hanoi, Washington and Brussels.

Source:<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=8811281023>

## Iran Reacts to France, Russia, US Letter

Iran says any proposal offered by the West that would include the shutdown of the Tehran research reactor would be out of the question. "We will not consider any proposal that would lead to the closure of Tehran's research reactor," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said Wednesday. Mehmanparast said it was totally unreasonable to expect Tehran to close down its own facilities and import medicine and nuclear-related technology.

He added that Iran would only give thought to proposals that are based on "interaction and cooperation." The spokesman's remarks came in response to a letter by Russia, France and the US to the UN nuclear watchdog, which suggested that Iran close down its Tehran's research reactors and obtain its much-needed medical isotopes from the world market instead.

The letter, a copy of which was obtained by Press TV, read that if Iran does not wish to accept a UN-opposed nuclear fuel swap deal, "We note that these (radioisotopes) are available in the market and could be obtained as a reasonable, timely and cost effective alternative to the IAEA's proposal." The three partners said in their letter that they "recognize Iran's need for assurance that the project would be fully implemented."

However, they went on to count a number of provisions incorporated into the existing draft that, according to the three parties, provides the necessary assurances regarding their "collective commitment" to fulfill the IAEA proposal. The US has been leading efforts to push Iran to accept a deal that demands Tehran to send most of its low-enriched uranium abroad for further processing for the research reactor, which runs on 20 percent-enriched uranium and produces medical isotopes for cancer patients.

Iran has called for "concrete" guarantees that the fuel would eventually reach the country's soil but the demand has been shrugged off by the West, particularly the US, which has reiterated the deal would remain intact. Buying fuel from the international market as an alternative source was not mentioned in the initial IAEA-backed proposal but France on Tuesday denied that the letter was presenting a new alternative to Iran.

French Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bernard Valero said that the letter was merely reminding Iran of the global community's objectives, IRNA reported. Iran announced on February 9 that it had started enriching uranium to the level of less than 20 percent to meet the country's demand after potential suppliers failed to provide the required fuel.

Two days after that, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Iran had successfully produced the first stock of the 20 percent-enriched uranium, a declaration which was met with cynicism in the West. Iran says it is still open to talks with the West provided that its “conditions” and “concerns” are valued.

Source:<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=118855&ionid=351020104>

## Iran Refuses to Stop Enrichment in Return for Isotopes

Iran will not suspend its sensitive high level enrichment in return for radioisotopes as offered in a letter by three world powers to the UN atomic watchdog, the foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

“It is not at all rational to say that Iran should not produce (isotopes and uranium) and stop its (enrichment) plant and that they will provide its needed medicine,” ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast told ISNA news agency. “We will not examine offers which lead to the shutting down of Tehran reactor,” said the spokesman, in an almost word-for-word repetition of a statement he made on February 10.

Iran started enriching uranium to 20 percent on February 9 to fuel its Tehran research reactor making medical radioisotopes amid international concern over its atomic ambitions. The move comes as world powers seek to convince Iran to accept a UN-brokered deal to supply Tehran with nuclear fuel for the reactor in exchange for its low-enriched uranium being taken out of the country.

The United States, Russia and France on Tuesday said in a letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that Iran’s escalation of its uranium enrichment further undermined international trust in its nuclear drive. The three said they “recognise the need in Iran for medical radioisotopes” which are “available on the world market and could be obtained as a responsible, timely and cost effective alternative to the IAEA’s proposal.”

Amid the threat of new sanctions President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Tuesday that negotiations over the IAEA-drafted nuclear fuel exchange were “not closed yet.” He expressed readiness to buy the material from abroad, even from Iran’s arch-foe the United States. Echoing the president’s comments, Mehmanparast said that Iran would “examine the issue of buying 20 percent enriched uranium or even an exchange (of uranium) under conditions desired by our country.”

“But in the absence of mutually-agreed proposals, we are losing time, the reactor fuel is running out and 850,000 patients await its medical products,” the spokesman said. Ahmadinejad indicated Tehran could suspend higher grade enrichment if world powers supplied it the required fuel for the reactor.

Source:[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jje2IgWRvg\\_UcnZ5NnU6XKud\\_6AQ](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jje2IgWRvg_UcnZ5NnU6XKud_6AQ)

## Iran Supreme Leader Lashes Out at Clinton 'Lies': *Siavosh Ghazi*

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei lashed out at US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Wednesday, saying she had spread "lies" against the Islamic republic during a tour of the Gulf.

"Those who have turned the Persian Gulf into an arms depot in order to milk regional countries for money have now dispatched their official to go around the Persian Gulf and spread lies against Iran," Khamenei said, referring to Clinton at a meeting with visitors from the northwestern city of Tabriz. Khamenei said recent moves by Washington officials were "suicidal" for the United States, state television reported.

Clinton on Tuesday wrapped up a visit to the Gulf during which she drummed up support for new round of UN sanctions against Tehran for pressing ahead with its sensitive uranium enrichment programme in defiance of repeated Security Council ultimatums. During her trip, Clinton said that Iran was moving towards a "military dictatorship" and that there was no "evidence" to support Tehran's claim that its nuclear programme was entirely peaceful.

Clinton's tour of Qatar and Saudi Arabia aimed to isolate Iran from its Arab neighbours and to put pressure on Tehran's ally Beijing to drop its resistance to UN sanctions targeting mainly Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Last week, Iran began enriching uranium to 20 percent purity, which Washington and other world powers say adds to evidence it is seeking a nuclear weapon.

Tehran denies the charge, insisting its goal is peaceful nuclear energy and research. On Tuesday, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad adopted a twin-track approach warning world powers against imposing sanctions but suggesting that Iran could suspend its enrichment of uranium to 20 percent purity. "If anybody seeks to create problems for Iran, our response will not be like before. Something in response will be done which will make them (the world powers) regret" their move, Ahmadinejad told a Tehran news conference.

Ahmadinejad also said Iran could suspend enriching uranium to 20 percent if world powers supply it with the fuel required for a Tehran medical research reactor. "We are not insisting on doing this (20 percent enrichment) although we have the capability. If they supplied the (uranium enriched to) 20 percent, the situation may change," he said, when asked if Iran would stop the controversial enrichment started on February 9.

Iran and world powers are deadlocked over a UN-drafted deal which aims to ship out Tehran's low-enriched uranium abroad for refinement by France and Russia to 20 percent purity and return as fuel for the Tehran reactor. Iran insists the exchange of uranium must be simultaneous and carried out on its own soil. Western governments are strongly opposed to the demand.

Source:[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h5FhILU-xUmz5BpPJXXOd8vN\\_mFA](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h5FhILU-xUmz5BpPJXXOd8vN_mFA)



## Russia Delays Missile Delivery to Iran: *Alexander*

*Osipovich*

Moscow has delayed the delivery of advanced air defence missiles to Iran, Russian officials said Wednesday, in the latest sign of strained ties between Moscow and Tehran. The announcement of the delay in the controversial contract to sell S-300 missiles to Iran came a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Moscow in a bid to add new pressure on Iran.

“The delay is due to technical problems. The delivery will be carried out when they are resolved,” Alexander Fomin, deputy head of Russia’s Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, told Interfax news agency. Fomin, whose service oversees Russian arms exports, made the comments while attending a defence exhibition in New Delhi. He did not clarify what the problems were or how long it would take to fix them.

The engineer in charge of building the S-300s said there were nothing wrong with the missiles and called the delay a political decision. “There are no technical problems with the S-300 systems. This is a political issue,” Vladimir Kasparyants, head constructor of air defence systems at Almaz-Antey, the company that builds the S-300, told Interfax. Russia’s S-300 contract with Iran has raised hackles in the United States and Israel, which believe that Tehran could use the missiles to defend its nuclear facilities against attack.

Western powers suspect that Iran is seeking to build an atomic bomb under the guise of its civilian nuclear energy programme, although Tehran says the programme is peaceful in nature. Neither the United States nor Israel have ruled out air strikes in order to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Analysts say that S-300s could greatly complicate such air strikes.

Russia has shown growing impatience with Iran as tensions have mounted in the standoff over Tehran’s nuclear programme, after years in which the two countries enjoyed friendly ties. On Tuesday, Russia joined the United States and France in criticising a new push by Iran to step up uranium enrichment, and Moscow said it could not exclude a new round of sanctions against Iran.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin met Tuesday with Netanyahu, the prime minister of Iran’s arch-foe Israel. Netanyahu came to Moscow seeking to win the Kremlin’s support for “biting sanctions” against Iran, and he has also been outspoken in his criticism of Russia’s S-300 sale to the Islamic Republic. Russia has been secretive about the missile contract, but Interfax has reported that it calls for Moscow to sell Tehran five batteries of S-300PMU1 missiles for 800 million dollars (530 million euros). The S-300PMU1 — codenamed the SA-20 Gargoyle by NATO — is a mobile system designed to shoot down aircraft and cruise missiles.

Iran has expressed frustration with the delay in the missile delivery, and last week a top Iranian military commander said Tehran would build its own air defence missiles that would be even better than the S-300s. Separately, Iran announced on Wednesday that it had arrested two Russian nationals last week on the anniversary of its 1979 Islamic revolution and that one of them would face charges. One of the Russians “was arrested for illegal entry into the country

and referred to the judiciary” while the other was released, Tehran’s prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolarabadi told ISNA news agency.

Source:[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5igbfOLXp02XMK7ghdxIYL\\_guXqWQ](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5igbfOLXp02XMK7ghdxIYL_guXqWQ)

## Ahmadinejad Says Iran to Install Advanced Centrifuges

Amid a White House campaign to drum up support for new anti-Iran sanctions, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned on Tuesday that world powers would “regret” any moves against the country. “If anybody seeks to create problems for Iran, our response will not be like before,” Ahmadinejad told a press conference in the capital city of Tehran.

“Something will be done in response that will make them the world powers regret [their action],” he said. “However, we prefer they steer towards cooperation with Iran.” The remarks came as US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was wrapping up her visit to the Middle East, where she stopped in Qatar and Saudi Arabia to seek the backing of the Arab world’s heavyweights against Tehran’s nuclear drive. Iran says its nuclear program is directed at the civilian applications of the technology and has called for the removal of all weapons of mass destruction around the globe.

The West, however, accuses the country of seeking military means in its pursuit. The United States has spearheaded efforts to slap new UN Security Council sanctions against Iran, after the country announced the production of the first batch of 20-percent enriched uranium to make fuel for a medical research reactor in Tehran. At the conference, President Ahmadinejad said negotiations over a nuclear fuel deal with France, Russia and the US were not over. He said Iran still welcomed a deal that would see a “simultaneous” swap.

“The proposal for the fuel exchange is not closed yet. We have announced that we will exchange within a just framework,” he said. “We are ready for an exchange even with the United States. The US can come and give us their 20 percent fuel and we will pay them if they want, or we can give them 3.5 percent fuel.” “But the swap should take place simultaneously and we will put our fuel under the supervision of the [UN nuclear] agency in Iran.”

Iran is currently under three rounds of UNSC sanctions resolutions, which call on the country to abandon its enrichment work. Under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), however, Iran is entitled to continue its drive for civilian purposes. President Ahmadinejad boasted that Iran has adapted to the sanctions, which, he said, have put the country on a path of constant progress.

President Obama, Guantanamo Bay Prison and ‘Change’ Ahmadinejad said his American counterpart should seek a practical method to implement change, and should carry out his promise of shutting down the Guantanamo prison. “President Obama came to power with the promise of hope,” Ahmadinejad told a press conference in Tehran. “[He promised] to close the prison in Guantanamo Bay in one year, where anything that happens is against all human rights.”

“People were kidnapped and snatched and are being kept without lawyers and

judges and are being tortured,” the Iranian president said. “We do not know who they are, but this behavior is against human rights.” US Vice President Joe Biden said in remarks aired Sunday that 11 of the suspects held at the prison would be tried, some eight years after the detention center was set up.

The Bush administration argued that detainees were not entitled to any of the protections of the Geneva Conventions, after the Justice Department said the prison, located in Cuba, could be considered outside US legal jurisdiction. In January 2009, President Barack Obama signed an order to shut down the facility within the year.

However, the administration has faced increasing trouble in finding new homes for the detainees with many US allies refusing to admit them on their soil. On the issue of Iraq, Ahmadinejad said President Obama is pressing Baghdad to allow Baath — the political party of former dictator Saddam Hussein — back into the country’s political system. He said the move runs counter to the US intentions of invading Iraq in 2003, which was aimed at toppling the Baath regime.

Ahmadinejad also advised the Obama administration to find a practical way to implement the promise of change. On February 11, the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, President Ahmadinejad touched on the subject and warned his American counterpart that he is “missing opportunities” to do what the American people want. Iran’s nuclear drive: Advanced centrifuges

Referring to a new milestone in Iran’s progress in nuclear science, Ahmadinejad said the country has tested a new generation of centrifuges that are capable of enriching uranium more than five times the output capacity of the standard P1’s. “We are in the final stages of testing a new generation of centrifuges that will increase fivefold our capacity to enrich uranium,” he noted.

If the tests prove to be a success, he said, the new centrifuges will be installed and used in Iranian power plants in near future. “It goes without saying that we need new centrifuges to provide fuel for our nuclear installations.” Regarding the government’s recent steps to domestically generate higher enriched uranium, Ahmadinejad said that the country would continue its efforts to fully meet the many requirements of its people.

“We have already started enriching uranium up to 20 percent and have managed to complete production of our first stock,” he said. “Soon the whole world will be able to see that we intend to use this stock in our medical-research reactor in Tehran.” The Tehran research reactor produces medical isotopes. On Western concerns about the nuclear program, Ahmadinejad said we publicize any activity that we carry out, or intend to do. “We cannot announce every thing that we don’t do.”

Source:<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=118746&ionid=351020104>

## **Iran to Continue Enrichment While Mulling Swap Offers**

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki has reiterated that Iran will follow through with its nuclear enrichment operations while considering fuel exchange offers by other countries. Referring to a recent letter to the UN nuclear watchdog

by the US, France and Russia on Iran's nuclear activities, Mottaki told reporters Tuesday, "The three countries have written a new letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which has been misinterpreted as a new proposal."

"Iran studies all feedbacks by different sides that are presented to the IAEA directly or indirectly. However, Iran will continue its domestic nuclear activities," he added. The Iranian minister underlined that the country has the right to produce the fuel it needs for the Tehran research reactor while it continues negotiations for a potential nuclear fuel swap deal. The Head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Ali-Akbar Salehi said Monday that the body has received proposals from the United States, Russia and France on a nuclear fuel swap.

"After Iran's decision to domestically produce 20-percent-enriched uranium, we received offers from Russia, America and France," Salehi said. "We are currently studying them along with other proposals from different countries," he added. Last week, Iran began enriching uranium to the level of less than 20 percent for a nuclear research reactor in Tehran which is running out of fuel. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced last Thursday that Iran had produced the first batch of the enriched uranium.

However, France, Russia and the US denied reports on Monday that they presented new proposals on a nuclear fuel exchange to the IAEA. "There is no new proposal on the table," said White House spokesman Mike Hammer. "Mr. Salehi ought to know the only offer is the one which was proposed by the IAEA in October, and which has so far not received a satisfactory response," said French foreign ministry spokesman Bernard Valero.

However, the "satisfactory response" that the French official has referred to has already been clearly rejected by Iran over the lack of any guarantees to the Islamic Republic on the timely delivery of the enriched fuel that the Tehran research reactor requires. Under the original proposal put forward by the UN nuclear agency, Iran was to ship out the bulk of its enriched uranium stockpile to Russia and France, and receive the fuel back months later.

Meanwhile, the US, which has pushed for new UN Security Council sanctions against Tehran, has offered to help Iran obtain medical isotopes — which are being produced in the research reactor. US State Department spokesman P. J. Crowley said Wednesday that the White House hopes the offer would help to "build some confidence" with Tehran.

The offer, however, was deemed as 'illogical' by Iran, since it would inevitably lead to the shut-down of the Tehran research reactor. Iran has repeatedly announced that it remains open to talks on a fuel swap with the West. However, Tehran insists that its conditions, mainly revolving around guarantee issues, must be taken into consideration if the West is interested in engaging in a fuel exchange deal with Iran. Iran needs 120 kilograms (264 pounds) of 20 percent-enriched uranium to fuel the Tehran research reactor. If the fuel for the Tehran research reactor completely runs out, there will be dire consequences for thousands of Iranians who depend on its radioisotope production for medical treatment.

Source:<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=118745&ionid=351020104>

## **B. DPRK**

### **North Korea to possess 14-18 Nuclear Warheads by 2019: *Jung Sung-ki***

A U.S. scholar said Tuesday that North Korea could produce up to 14 to 18 nuclear warheads by 2019 if multilateral talks on its denuclearization fail. In a report, titled "Four Scenarios for a Nuclear North Korea," Joel Wit, a visiting fellow at the U.S. Korea Institute at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, said that North Korea's "current nuclear stockpile is believed to consist of sufficient plutonium to build four to eight weapons."

"By using existing stocks of fresh fuel, North Korea could produce a bomb's worth of plutonium each year from 2011 to 2013," he was quoted as saying by Yonhap News Agency. Wit continued: "If North Korea is able to refurbish its fuel fabrication plant, that production rate could continue indefinitely with its arsenal reaching 14 to 18 weapons by 2019."

North Korea reportedly possesses several nuclear warheads, with some analysts saying it has already developed the technology to mount them on long-range missiles. The Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA) reported in December that the North's military could accelerate efforts to deploy a nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and mass produce warheads.

The report said Pyongyang would likely conduct a third nuclear test this year in an effort to be recognized by the international community as a nuclear state. "Compared to the first test held in October 2006, the second (conducted on May 25, 2008) was evaluated to yield 4 kilotons of explosive power, five times more than the first one," it said. "This means North Korea has secured a substantial capability to make nuclear weapons."

Pyongyang has recently said it is ready to rejoin the six-party talks, which it has boycotted since early last year over U.N. sanctions for its missile and nuclear tests. Its chief nuclear envoy, Kim Kye-gwan, will visit the United States next month as a follow-up to a trip to North Korea by Stephen Bosworth, the U.S. special representative for North Korea policy, in December to discuss the resumption of the six-party talks.

Source:[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2010/02/120\\_60987.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2010/02/120_60987.html)

### **North Korean Nuclear Talks to Resume Soon: Seoul Minister: *Tony Chang***

Multilateral talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear programs are expected resume soon, Seoul's top diplomat said Wednesday, citing recent high-level meetings and exchanges between North Korea and China.

"I can't specify a date but the six-party talks will open in the near future," Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan told members of the parliament's foreign affairs committee at the National Assembly. The six-party talks, which group the divided Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the U.S., have not been held since late 2008 because of a North

Korean boycott. The North, however, has recently taken conciliatory gestures toward its rivals and signaled a willingness to rejoin the six-party aid-for-denuclearization talks.

Wang Jiarui, head of the international department of the Communist Party of China, visited Pyongyang last week to help resume the six-party nuclear talks. North Korea's chief nuclear negotiator, Kim Kye-gwan, also recently traveled to Beijing, raising speculation about the resumption of the stalled nuclear talks. "It is a fact that there are movements (towards reaching a deal to reopen the talks) considering various circumstances," Yu said, citing the recent high-level exchanges between China and North Korea.

"I have no doubt on the talks' resumption as it is in line with North Korea's own interest," the minister said. North Korea's nuclear negotiator is expected to visit the U.S. next month following a trip to Pyongyang in December by Stephen Bosworth, U.S. special envoy on North Korean affairs. North Korea says that talks aimed at replacing the 1950-53 Korean War truce with a peace treaty should be launched and U.N. sanctions must be lifted if it is to rejoin the stalled six-party dialogue.

Source:<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2010/02/17/22/0401000000AEN20100217009400315F.HTML>

## **U.S. Has No Immediate Plan to Invite North Korean Envoy for Talks: State Dept.: *Hwang Doo-hyong***

The United States said Wednesday it has no plans to invite North Korea's chief nuclear envoy for another meeting to revive the stalled six-party talks on the North's denuclearization. "I don't have anything to announce on that, not at this time," State Department deputy spokesman Mark Toner said. Reports said that Kim Kye-gwan will soon visit the U.S. to meet with U.S. officials on the sidelines of an academic seminar.

A diplomatic source here said that discussions are under way regarding Kim's visit to the U.S. for a seminar, but added, "No decision has been made yet on that." The North Korean envoy last week visited Beijing to discuss the reopening of the six-party talks and a peace treaty to replace the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War. North Korea recently said it was ready to return to the six-nation forum, which it has boycotted since early last year over U.N. sanctions imposed after its nuclear and missile tests. But Pyongyang has also insisted on the lifting of sanctions before it returns to the talks.

A U.S. visit by Kim has been expected since the tour of North Korea by Stephen Bosworth, special representative for North Korea policy, in December to discuss the reopening of the nuclear negotiations. Kim's Beijing trip followed the visit to Pyongyang by Wang Jiarui, head of the international liaison department of the Chinese Communist Party. Wang met early this month with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il in the fifth such meeting for the Chinese official since 2004.

While meeting with Wang, the North Korean leader reaffirmed his nation's commitment to denuclearization, but also used language to underscore the North's demand for a peace treaty and the removal of sanctions as preconditions. Washington has said it is open to those steps, but only after the North returns to the talks, which also involve South Korea, China, Japan and Russia.

Source:<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2010/02/18/13/0301000000AEN20100218000100315F.HTML>

## UN Envoy Says DPRK Willing to Rejoin Six-Party Talks if Certain Issues Resolved

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is willing to rejoin the stalled six-party nuclear negotiations if certain issues were resolved, UN political chief Lynn Pascoe said here Tuesday. The DPRK has called for a lifting of sanctions and peace talks formally ending the 1950-53 Korean War before it returns to the nuclear talks, which also involve South Korea, the U.S., China, Russia and Japan, said the UN official.

“The devil is in the details,” Pascoe told reporters at the UN headquarters. But he declined to discuss the details, saying that the United Nations is only a “messenger” and not a member of the six-party talks. The DPRK is willing to engage with the United Nations, said Pascoe, who returned Friday from his first trip to the DPRK. During his visit to the DPRK, Pascoe met with President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly Kim Yong Nam and Foreign Minister Pak Ui Chun to discuss a range of issues, including the nuclear issue, six-party talks, and UN-DPRK cooperation.

Pascoe told DPRK officials that international talks on denuclearization must be resumed “without preconditions or delay.” “Throughout, the discussions were friendly but frank,” he said. “I didn't try to soft pedal anything.” Pascoe, as special envoy of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, also delivered a verbal message from Ban, as well as a leather-bound copy of the UN Charter to the DPRK, UN spokesman Martin Nesirky told reporters last Thursday.

The gift “was a leather-bound copy of the United Nations Charter in all six official languages,” he said, referring to Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish — the six official languages of the world body. Pascoe, the UN undersecretary-general for political affairs, was the first high-level UN official to visit the DPRK since 2004. The move represented a renewed UN effort to engage the DPRK on humanitarian and other issues.

Pascoe's four-day visit was meant to open a high-level conduit for dialogue between the UN and the DPRK. “We succeeded in doing that,” Pascoe said. “There are plans to have further engagement in the next few months.” The UN has 39 staff members in the DPRK from agencies like the World Food Program, the Food and Agricultural Organization, the UN Children's Fund, the UN Population Fund, and the UN Development Program. The DPRK receives lower Official Development Assistance (ODA) per capita, roughly two to four U.S. dollars, from the UN compared to 15 dollars for those living in Myanmar or Zimbabwe, said Pascoe. “They definitely need the help,” he said.

Source: [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-02/17/c\\_13177514.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-02/17/c_13177514.htm)

## S. Korean, Chinese Nuclear Envoys to Meet: *Kim*

*Sue-young*



*Wi Sung-lac*  
*Seoul's chief nuclear envoy*

South Korea's chief nuclear negotiator said Tuesday that a peace treaty can be discussed after progress is made in the denuclearization of North Korea. Wi Sung-lac, special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, made the remarks before leaving for Beijing for talks on the resumption of the deadlocked six-party talks. Meanwhile, U.S. special envoy for North Korea Stephen Bosworth plans to visit South Korea, China and Japan this week.

"I think I can meet with him this Thursday in Seoul," Wi said. Philip Crowley, spokesman of the State Department, said Monday that Ambassador Bosworth will depart Washington for consultations with partners in the six-party talks. But the envoy does not have any plan to meet with North Korean officials nor to visit Pyongyang during his

Asian trip, the spokesman added.

Wi said the government remains unchanged in its stance that it can review the peace treaty issue after seeing some progress in denuclearization. He did not elaborate further, saying he would not speculate how the multilateral forum would go. "First of all, I will listen to the Chinese officials," he said. During his three-day trip to China, Wi is scheduled to meet with Wu Dawei, special representative for Korean Peninsula affairs.

His visit comes after a visit by North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan to China. "Since last fall, member countries of the six-party talks have had separate bilateral meetings that center on how to make the North come back to the talks and end its nuclear ambitions," Wi said. "There were brisk discussions particularly between China and North Korea, so I think we should listen to the results about the visit to North Korea by senior Chinese Communist Party official Wang Jiarui and Kim's return visit to China," he added. Pyongyang declared it would boycott the six-way talks in retaliation for sanctions adopted by the U.N. Security Council after its second nuclear test on May 25 last year.

Source: [http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2010/02/116\\_61270.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2010/02/116_61270.html)

## US, S.Korea seek to revive N.Korea nuke talks:

*Jun Kwanwoo*

US and South Korean envoys were set Tuesday to begin a new diplomatic initiative to bring North Korea back to the nuclear disarmament talks it quit 10 months ago. The US's special envoy Stephen Bosworth and its chief nuclear negotiator Sung Kim were to leave Tuesday US time for China, South Korea and Japan, the State Department said. South Korea's chief negotiator Wi Sung-Lac departed for Beijing Tuesday afternoon on a similar mission.



The State Department said the Americans have no plans to meet North Korean officials, and there is no sign Pyongyang is ready to return to the six-nation disarmament forum. "We are looking for a signal from North Korea, and we're still waiting for that signal," spokesman P.J. Crowley said Monday. It was unclear when Bosworth and Sung Kim would be in each country.

China, the communist North's sole major diplomatic and economic ally, is trying to bring it back to the talks hosted by Beijing since 2003. Senior Chinese party official Wang Jiarui visited Pyongyang this month for talks with leader Kim Jong-Il and China's nuclear negotiators met their North Korean counterparts in Beijing.

But media reports said the North is sticking to its preconditions for returning to dialogue: the lifting of United Nations sanctions and a US commitment to discuss a formal peace treaty on the Korean peninsula. The United States, South Korea and Japan — the other members of the talks which also include Russia — say the North must first return to dialogue and show it is serious about denuclearisation before other issues are dealt with.

"The (Seoul) government maintains that discussions on a peace treaty will be possible only after we make progress in denuclearisation," Wi told reporters.

Yun Duk-Min, professor at Seoul's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, said China was trying to narrow the gap between North Korea and the other countries, notably the United States. "It remains to be seen how things will end up, as North Korea wants to extort as many gains as possible from others before returning to six-party talks while China plays good cop and the United States bad cop," he told AFP. But Yun said he believes it would come back to the talks eventually.

Under deals in 2005 and 2007 the North agreed to scrap its nuclear weapons in return for aid and major diplomatic and security benefits, including a formal peace pact. But the talks became bogged down by disputes over ways to verify disarmament and in April last year the North quit them altogether. Pyongyang, which tested atomic weapons in October 2006 and May 2009, says it developed nuclear weaponry because of a US threat of aggression, and it must have a peace pact before it considers giving them up.

The 1950-53 Korean War ended only in an armistice. Seoul officials suspect talk of a peace treaty is an excuse to delay action on the nuclear programme. During his two-day stay in Beijing, Wi said he would meet chief nuclear negotiator Wu Dawei, who held the talks with the North Koreans this month. Either Bosworth or Sung Kim will return to Washington in time for a meeting Friday between Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-Hwan.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said a senior official of North Korea's ruling party arrived in China Tuesday and may deliver a letter from Kim Jong-Il to President Hu Jintao. The visit by Kim Yong-Il, director of the party's international department, follows Wang's visit to Pyongyang.

Source:<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5giwH-U3oif-0YIPc5RvH1S2dauwxw>

## C. U.S.-Russia

### Obama's Clean Energy Ploy a Sucker's Game for GOP: *J. Robert Smith*

Barack Obama has baited a trap for the GOP. The President announced that as a part of his clean energy initiative, he favored building two nuclear reactors at an existing nuclear power facility in Georgia, and would commit \$8 billion in loan guarantees to do so. If Senate Republicans, in particular, take the bait, they'll have been duped into backing the Mr. Obama's latest scheme to grow the national government into a leviathan — the leviathan that the left and Mr. Obama hanker for.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell is a pretty wily customer. Though the Senator praised Mr. Obama's call for the construction of the new nuclear reactors — the first in thirty years, if built — he knows that the President is dangling them to draw the GOP into supporting Mr. Obama's broader agenda to impose carbon taxes and to sink a lot more taxpayer money into renewable — green — energy development and jobs.

It isn't Senator McConnell conservatives should fret over. It's the Senator's squishier Republican colleagues who are Mr. Obama's chief target, particularly South Carolina's Lindsey Graham. The President needs to enlist Senator Graham and a couple of other Republican senators to 1) make a case for bipartisan support for the President's proposal and 2) give cover to wavering congressional Democrats who like their jobs and bennies and fear that the lack of GOP buy-in jeopardizes their futures.

Reports out of Washington have Senator Graham, an on-the-record supporter of the global warming myth, deep in talks with liberal Democrats John Kerry and Joe Lieberman to concoct an energy bill compromise acceptable to some Republicans and most, if not all, Democrats. The trouble with this sort of grand bipartisan compromise means that the Democrats get what they want, bigger government, but not quite as big, though with a clear opening to grow government in the coming years.

Word is that Senator Graham has taken the massive cap and tax mechanism off the table in his discussions with Senators Lieberman and Kerry. But so what? Democrats merely want to get the camel's nose under the tent. New and higher taxes will follow eventually.

Senator Graham needs this message spliced into his DNA: Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid care less about issues than they do about using issues as portals to ram through bigger government. If these three Democratic leaders thought that taxing and regulating pony rides would be the handiest portal through which to convert government into something along the lines of France or Germany, all three would be proposing legislation in a heartbeat.

Democrats were once typically shrewd. They used to be expert at co-opting Republicans into their efforts to expand government incrementally (think Social Security and Medicare). That sensible, if sly, approach went out the door with new, more radicalized Democratic congressional majorities and the ascension of Mr. Obama. But with the President sliding perilously in the polls, and

congressional Democrats careening toward a shellacking in November, incrementalism is back in vogue. Clean energy is a preview of the revived approach.

Senator Graham's prize for going along with the Democrats on clean energy legislation is fleeting lionization by the mainstream media and the Democratic establishment. If Senator Graham cuts a clean energy deal that passes, we'll hear: "Graham the statesman; Graham the bridge builder; Graham the Republican who puts country first; Graham the sane voice in the GOP wilderness."

The South Carolina senator may also peel off Senators Snowe and Collins in the process, wobblers always searching for a reason to fall. John McCain is off the board, unless the Arizona senator wants to put his re-election in further jeopardy. Senator McCain faces a bruising primary battle with former Congressman and Phoenix talk show host J.D. Hayworth. Hayworth already has Senator McCain in his crosshairs for the Senator's past support for cap and trade and other apostasies. The bet is that Senator McCain, like former Republican Senator Arlen Specter used to do, will aim to boost, not lower, his ACU rating for election purposes.

To know what a nonstarter the President's clean energy and green jobs initiative is, Senator Graham should reacquaint himself with the facts about Spain. Spain's socialist government pushed aggressively to put a lid on carbon consumption and subsidize the creation of green jobs. This effort has been a spectacular boondoggle, causing net job losses and costing Spanish taxpayers boatloads of *dinero*. The green jobs debacle, added to the Spanish government's general profligacy, is pushing Spain to the edge of insolvency.

Senator Graham could do something other than lend his name and vote to a big government energy initiative, whether the President's or something Graham has concocted with Senate Democrats. The Senator could join with his conservative Republican colleagues to push more domestic coal, oil and gas production (drill here, drill now) and nuclear energy, along with reasonable incentives for greater energy efficiencies and conservation, and incentives to boost alternative energy research and development in the private sector.

The conservative approach to energy production won't win plaudits from liberals or their handmaidens in the fossil media. In fact, the mainstream media and liberals will continue to unload on the conservative approach with both barrels. But common sense Americans — a majority — will know the real deal when they see it. Americans want energy at fair costs and they want the nation to have greater energy independence. A conservative energy plan provides both with the critical benefit of keeping the big government wolf well away from the door. Senator Graham should take note.

Source:[http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/02/obamas\\_clean\\_energy\\_ploy\\_a\\_suc.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/02/obamas_clean_energy_ploy_a_suc.html)

## **Nuclear Agency Officials Defend Rate of Warhead Dismantlement:** *Martin Matishak*

Officials who oversee the U.S. nuclear complex recently defended the present rate of warhead dismantlement, saying that such work is time intensive and even as funding levels drop that they have all the resources required to do the job.



*U.S. officials said a proposed funding cut for the country's nuclear-weapon dismantlement program would not undermine plans to disassemble and dispose of nuclear weapons such as the B-53 bomb, shown above.*

The U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration is “on track to meet our dismantlement commitments” regardless of a proposed \$38 million cut for nuclear-weapon dismantlement and disposition in fiscal 2011, said NNSA Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator Brig. Gen. Garrett Harencak during the agency’s budget rollout earlier this month.

The exact number of warheads the agency intends to take apart in the next budget year is classified, but Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of

American Scientists, said the United States dismantles roughly 260 weapons each year. The nuclear agency, a semiautonomous branch of the Energy Department, is slated to receive a 13.4-percent funding hike to \$11.2 billion in the next budget cycle, according to the White House spending request unveiled Feb. 1. That is a greater percentage increase than planned for any other government agency.

Yet despite the proposed boost the agency’s Weapons Dismantlement and Disposition program — intended to eliminate retired weapons and their components and to reduce the security and maintenance burden of legacy warheads and bombs — would shrink from slightly more than \$96 million in fiscal 2010 to roughly \$58 million in the budget year that begins Oct. 1.

The present spending figure is itself a reduction from the \$186 million the program received in fiscal 2009. The second proposed reduction surprised some in the arms control community who see stockpile disassembly as a critical component to the wide-ranging nonproliferation agenda President Barack Obama detailed last year in his widely noted speech in Prague.

The existing dismantlement rate could pose a problem for the administration’s nonproliferation agenda because “it needs to be able to go and show the international community that it’s not just extending the life of the weapons that remain in the stockpile,” according to Kristensen.

The dismantlement effort involves storage, surveillance and complete disposition of retired weapons and their machinery as well as an international commitment to eliminate special nuclear material, such as highly enriched uranium and plutonium, deemed as excess to national security needs, according to an agency fact sheet. Today there are about 5,000 warheads in the Defense Department stockpile, Kristensen said in an interview last week. Of those, 2,600 are deployed while another 2,400 are held in reserve.

Roughly 4,500 nuclear bombs have been removed from the stockpile and are awaiting disassembly, he told *Global Security Newswire*.

The United States has taken apart roughly 60,600 nuclear warheads over the last several decades, according to Kristensen. About 11,000 were disassembled in the 1990s. It was not immediately clear how the proposed funding cut would impact the rate of warhead dismantlement.

The nuclear agency produces a “production and planning directive” document every year that includes the anticipated number of weapon dismantlements into the “extended future,” NNSA spokesman Damien LaVera said in an e-mail last week. The figures in that document reflect numbers to which the government committed in the fiscal 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act and the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2008, he said. “Those quantities are classified,” LaVera added.

During a conference call with reporters earlier this month NNSA Administrator Thomas D’Agostino said he had “kind of fixated on the number.” He did not elaborate. The proposed funding cut for the program “reflects a reduction in weapons and component/canned subassembly (CMA) dismantlements, associated component disposition, and some weapon-specific support for the recycling, recovery and storage of nuclear material that is a byproduct of weapons dismantlements,” according to an agency budget document.

“The decrease also reflects a return to baseline funding after a one-time congressional increase in FY 10,” it stated. Congress appropriated \$12 million above the president’s request budget for disassembly activities in this budget year. “In no way should you read that this reduction in dismantlement ... somehow lessens our commitment to meeting our goals on dismantlements,” Harencak told reporters. “In fact, it enables us to meet those future commitments.”

Budget documents show that after the proposed cut for fiscal year 2011 “outyear funding” for the dismantlement efforts would hover between \$48 million and \$60 million for the ensuing four budget cycles. “We’re actually on a path to meet our dismantlement requirements while we’re saving money,” the general said.

In fiscal 2011, dismantlement activities would include maintaining the flow of work at the Pantex Plant in Texas and the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee. The program at Pantex would include disassembly for portions of the B-53, B-61, W-80 and B-83 warheads. D’Agostino defended the rate of work, noting that each warhead in the stockpile is different and requires a unique approach.

For example, the B-53 bomb — originally built during the 1950s and delivered by the B-52 bomber — is “very large ... and you can imagine something that was built 50 years ago ... it’s pretty hard to take apart,” he said. Kristensen said that before the agency can start a dismantlement line it must first design special tools to take a particular warhead apart and obtain permission to use those instruments before even establishing a disassembly time line.

“Some of these clunkers have been in the arsenal a long time. Some chemicals might have reacted and there might corrosion in the bolts,” he said. “They have to be super-careful when they take them apart because they don’t want to trigger an explosion.” The rate of dismantlement can also be affected by the nuclear agency’s life extension programs, which are conducted at the Pantex facility, Kristensen said. Those programs aim to prolong the lifetime of particular warheads or bombs. Dismantlement work takes up capacity at Pantex from life-extension work; therefore disassembly rates go up and down depending on life-extension requirements, Kristensen told *GSN*.

He said the only life extension program running today is for the W-76

warhead that would enable 2,000 W-76-1 bombs to remain in the arsenal through 2021. “If Congress approves the life-extension of the B-61 bombs, dismantlement capacity would drop even more,” according to Kristensen. He added: “In terms of the warhead numbers themselves, the bottom line is that the number of annual dismantlements is not nearly close to what we used to do in the 1990s” when nation on average took apart 1,060 bombs per year.

Kristensen also criticized the White House insistence on keeping the dismantlement figure classified. “When we look at Russia, we don’t know how they take their weapons apart, how many they take part, what their plans are, etc.,” he said. “For us to keep our numbers classified means that we’re making it easier for people in Russia to keep their numbers secret as well and I don’t think that serves anybody any good.” Several arms control experts declined to comment on the rate of warhead dismantlement or did not respond to requests for comment by deadline.

In his e-mail, LaVera rebutted the idea that the proposed budget cut for dismantlement does not mesh with the administration’s nonproliferation agenda. “It goes without saying that the president’s budget request for NNSA reflects his nuclear security agenda and priorities,” he told *GSN* last week. The fiscal 2011 spending request “provides sufficient resources to complete the dismantlement schedules submitted to Congress.” The agency is set to complete dismantlement of existing retired weapons by 2022, he added.

Source: [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20100222\\_3310.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20100222_3310.php)

## **Clinton Calls for Closer NATO-Russian Cooperation:** *Indira A.R. Lakshmanan*

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on Russia to collaborate with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on the missile defense of Europe and in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

“While Russia faces challenges to its security, NATO is not among them,” Clinton said in Washington yesterday. “We want a cooperative NATO-Russia relationship that produces concrete results and draws NATO and Russia closer.” Her comments came NATO representatives convene a meeting today to discuss updating the “strategic concept” of the 61- year-old military alliance among the U.S., Europe and Canada.

“Just as Russia is an important partner in efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation, so should it be in missile defense,” she said in remarks at an event hosted by the Atlantic Council, a Washington policy group. Clinton urged Russia to be part of the discussion of missile defense for Europe during a stop last month in Paris. “Missile defense, we believe, will make this continent a safer place,” Clinton said then. “That safety could extend to Russia, if Russia decides to cooperate with us.”

Asked by an audience member yesterday if she could imagine Russia someday becoming part of NATO, she replied, “I can imagine it but I’m not sure the Russians can imagine it.”

## Main Challenges

In her prepared remarks, Clinton called terrorist attacks and nuclear proliferation the “key challenges” to NATO, which she called the “most successful alliance in history.” “The danger of a nuclear attack from a non-state actor has increased,” she said. She also said that missile development by North Korea and Iran “are reviving the specter of an interstate nuclear attack.”

Clinton called for NATO allies to focus on emerging threats, including cyber warfare, and to cooperate with private industry in protecting computer networks and energy infrastructure. “Threats to our networks and infrastructure such as cyber attacks and energy disruptions” will require “close cooperation with the private sector,” she said. “The Alliance has taken preliminary steps such as agreeing to a cyber defense policy. But we must continue to keep pace with the evolution of these emerging dangers.”

NATO is working on a strategy document that will set priorities for the next decade. The previous “strategic concept” dates to 1999, before the Sept. 11 attacks and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Heads of NATO’s 28 governments plan to agree on an updated version at a summit in November.

## EU Relationship

Clinton said that in the past, the U.S. has been “ambivalent” about whether NATO should engage in security cooperation with the European Union. “That time is over. We do not see the EU as a competitor of NATO; we see a strong Europe as an essential partner,” she said. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has accused NATO of violating a 1998 pledge not to permanently station “substantial combat forces” on former Warsaw Pact territory.

NATO absorbed former Soviet allies starting in 1999 — including three former Soviet republics, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — at a time when a Russia shorn of its Cold War satellites was struggling to regain its economic footing after defaulting on \$40 billion of debt. Under Putin since 2000, energy-rich Russia has seized on an oil price that peaked at \$147 per barrel in July 2008 to revive its economy and gain leverage over oil- and gas-importing states in Europe.

Russia pushed back against further NATO enlargement with its 2008 invasion of Western-leaning Georgia and attempts to reassert control over Ukraine.

## ‘Real Differences’

“We have real differences with Russia on several issues,” Clinton said, adding that the U.S. wants to use the NATO-Russia Council to discuss those disagreements, including pressing “Russia to live up to its commitments on Georgia.”

In a speech in Paris on Jan. 29, Clinton dismissed two Russian initiatives seen as a bid to boost Russian influence over countries once part of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact and to halt NATO expansion, and rejected a call for new treaties. “The United States does not see the need for new treaties and we believe discussions of European security should take place within existing forums for European security,” Clinton said yesterday.

Clinton also called for bureaucratic reform of NATO. Its headquarters, she said, “is bulging with over 300 committees, many with overlapping responsibilities.” She said that “in a time of limited resources, NATO must improve its efficiency if it is to successfully carry out its vital missions.”

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-02-23/clinton-calls-for-closer-nato-russian-cooperation-correct.html>

## US, Russia Near ‘Finish Line’ on Nuclear Disarm Deal: *Jim Mannion*

The United States and Russia are within sight of a new deal to slash their nuclear arsenals but certain “principles and elements” have yet to be settled, a top US official said Wednesday. “We are at the end game — we see the finish line — of negotiations in the START follow-on treaty,” US undersecretary of state for arms control Ellen Tauscher told a conference on nuclear deterrence in Washington.

“There are principles and elements that are still yet to be finished in these negotiations. But I am confident that the teams are working hard and the finish line is within sight.” Russia’s ambassador to the United States, Sergei Kislyak, who addressed the conference after Tauscher, said he agreed with “almost each and every word” that she had said about the state of the negotiations in Geneva.

“Mind you, the closer you come to the endgame the bigger each and every small detail becomes,” he added. The upbeat assessments were echoed in Moscow by the head of the Russian armed forces, General Nikolay Makarov. “The accord is 97-percent finalized by the parties. Some technical issues remain which will be resolved very soon,” Makarov said, according to Russian news agencies.

Negotiations on a replacement to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expired December 5, have dragged on for months despite periodic reports that the two sides were near agreement. The White House denied last week that differences with Russia on US missile defense plans in Europe were the reason for the delay.

But Kislyak said US missile defense plans for Europe were a source of uncertainty for Russia despite a more “reassuring” stance taken by President Barack Obama, who shelved plans for a radar and long-range missile interceptors. “Now we are working on the issue of reducing nuclear weapons in an environment where the United States is introducing anti-ballistic capabilities,” the ambassador said.

Citing reports from Bulgaria and the Czech Republic of new missile defense sites there, he said “we are not sure we fully understand how things are working out.” “We are not sure that the story we are hearing is the story that is going to develop within the timespan of the would-be treaty — that is ten years,” he said. Tauscher said the latest US plan for phased deployments of medium and short-range interceptor missiles over the next decade in Europe was aimed at stopping missiles coming out of the Middle East, not Russia.

“We’ve not made an offer to Bulgaria about hosting any element of the phased adaptive approach,” Tauscher said. The plan calls for deployment of sea-based SM-3 interceptor missiles on ships in the Mediterranean next year, ground-



based SM-3 interceptor missiles in Romania in 2015, and ground-based SM-3 interceptor missiles in Poland in 2018. Upgraded missiles would be deployed in 2020.

The broad outlines of a new treaty on nuclear weapons have been clear since a summit in July, when President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev agreed to slash the number of warheads on either side to between 1,500 and 1,675. The presidents also agreed that the number of carriers capable of delivering the warheads should be limited to between 500 and 1,100. The United States has said it currently has some 2,200 nuclear warheads, while Russia is believed to have about 3,000.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jQGK3Boj1Gspa5SVDipZnWC-GLLu>

## **D: India and Pakistan**

### **Indian-Pakistani Talks to Emphasize Terrorism**

India today said it would concentrate primarily on its lingering fears of Pakistan-based extremists during its first formal talks with Islamabad since the 2008 strikes in the Indian city of Mumbai, Reuters reported. "Our core concerns about terrorism will find essential focus (in Thursday's talks)," Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said.

The nuclear-armed neighbors began bilateral peace talks in 2004, but India halted the meetings following the extremist action that killed more than 160 people. New Delhi has said it would not rejoin the peace process unless Islamabad took sufficient measures to counter the Pakistani-based extremists it blames for the attack. "Effective action against such groups by the government of Pakistan is an absolute must," Rao said.

Pakistan has sought to address other issues in the talks, including the disputed territory of Kashmir. "Obviously we would like to keep the door to dialogue open," Rao said, calling for the sides to move in a "slow and deliberate" fashion. "India is ready to explore a meaningful relationship with Pakistan if Pakistan seriously addresses the threat of terrorism and takes effective steps to prevent terrorist activities against India," Indian President Pratibha Patil added today, according to Agence France-Presse. His statement followed the Feb. 3 bombing that killed 15 people in the Indian city of Pune.

Source: [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20100222\\_1227.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20100222_1227.php)

## **E. Nuclear Energy**

### **India's First Pair of 700 MW Nuke Plants to Be Ready by 2016**

India's first set of indigenous 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors, would be a reality in the next six years, as the excavation work at Kakrapar in Gujarat has already begun, NPCIL chairman and managing director S.K. Jain said. The Centre had last October given a financial sanction of Rs 24,000 crore for four units of 700 MW of PHWRs, two each at Kakrapar and Rawatbhata in Rajasthan, he said.

“We will begin the first ‘pour of concrete’ next month in Kakrapar and in Rajasthan power project site for reactor raft, and wish to finish the construction of the plants within five years from that day,” Mr. Jain said at the 22nd annual Heavy Water Day here on Wednesday. “Since the Centre has given financial sanction for these four, we will be completing the procurement order of all components by September this year,” he said.

Mr. Jain said the NPCIL is also initiating pre-project activities at the sites recently approved (in principle) by the Centre — Hissar in Haryana and Burgi in Madhya Pradesh where four more 700 MW (two at each site) are expected to come up. “Our aim is to complete the pre-project activities within one to one and a half years,” he said.

When asked about the performance of the 220 MW plants, he said the plant load factors have increased to 60 per cent and “we expect 25 per cent more by the end of this year at least in Rajasthan nuclear island which is currently using imported Uranium fuel from France and Russia.” On the techno-commercial negotiations with Russia and France for setting two more power plants in Koodankulam in Tamil Nadu and two at Jaitapur in Maharashtra, Mr. Jain said a number of rounds of talks have already taken place and “we are confident that we will reach some agreement for the plant approval soon.”

Source:<http://beta.thehindu.com/sci-tech/article108748.ece>

## **Rudd Rules Out Introducing Nuclear Power in Australia: Ben Sharples and Stuart Biggs**

Australia, which holds the world’s biggest known uranium resources, has ruled out introducing nuclear power to the country and instead will pursue other low-carbon energy options, including ‘clean’ coal.

“Australia has multiple other energy sources and we will not be heading in the direction of civil nuclear power,” Prime Minister Kevin Rudd told reporters in Canberra today. Coal’s importance will remain “huge” until 2050 and carbon capture and storage can make it a cleaner power source, he said.

Rudd made the remarks after U.S. President Barack Obama announced federal aid to help license the nation’s first nuclear plant in three decades as part of efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and dependence on fossil fuels. Australia, the world’s biggest coal exporter, will explore technologies including CCS, in which the nation leads the world, Rudd said.

CCS, which seeks to capture harmful emissions from coal-fired power plants and store them underground, may create a “time bomb” for future generations, said John Hepburn, an energy campaigner at Greenpeace Australia. “There are concerns over whether it will actually stay underground, basically forever,” he said. “You may have to transport the carbon dioxide a long way to a suitable storage site, and there are risks associated with that.”

Australia has proposed cutting emissions by 5 percent by 2020. That target may rise to as much as 25 percent if a global climate protection agreement can be reached. Talks in Copenhagen last year failed to produce a legally binding treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

### 'Coal-Intensive Economy'

To meet its climate goals, Australia shouldn't rely on either nuclear power or fossil fuels, Hepburn said. Instead the country should aggressively conserve energy and use more renewable power. The country gets about 80 percent of its power from coal, the World Nuclear Association said on its Web site. "Australia has probably the most coal-intensive economy on the planet," Hepburn said. "The fossil fuel industry, and the coal industry in particular, have a large amount of political influence as a result."

The country's exports of power-station coal may be A\$10.8 billion (\$9.7 billion) in the year ending June 30, 2010, Canberra-based Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics said in December. Volumes are expected to rise by 3 percent on the previous year due to higher mine output and expansion at Newcastle Port.

The U.S. government yesterday conditionally committed \$8.3 billion to help Southern Co. and its partners build atomic reactors in Georgia. The Atlanta-based company will be the first to get federal aid under a five-year-old law aimed in part at helping add nuclear stations, which usually cost more and take longer to build than coal or natural-gas-fired generators.

No new nuclear plants have been licensed in the U.S. since the 1979 nuclear accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania. Australia is the world's third-largest uranium producer, according to estimates from the World Nuclear Association.

Source:[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601091&sid=am3dDqb\\_8qDs](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601091&sid=am3dDqb_8qDs)

## Russian Delegation to Discuss Turkey Nuclear Power Plant Plan

A Russian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin will pay a two-day visit to Istanbul on Thursday to discuss the construction of Turkey's first nuclear power plant and other energy projects. The two countries signed a joint statement on plans to build a nuclear power plant on Turkish soil during Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's visit to Moscow in mid-January. Erdogan said his country was completing preparations for the signing of a formal agreement on the construction of a nuclear power plant on its territory. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said Russia had "significant advantages over other competitors" in the deal.

The Haber Turk daily said the sides would discuss joint projects worth over \$30 billion in total during the talks in Istanbul, including the construction of the South Stream and Blue Stream natural gas pipelines, as well as the Samsun-Ceyhan oil pipeline. With bilateral trade reaching from \$33.8 billion to \$38 billion, according to various estimates, Russia is Turkey's largest trade partner. The two states are expected to treble the figure in the next five years. Turkey is Russia's second largest hydrocarbon importer and fifth largest trade partner.

Source:<http://en.rian.ru/world/20100218/157927131.html>

## **Nuclear masters no more: *Llewellyn King***

A train hurtles under the English Channel at 200 miles an hour. In Japan, an even faster train levitates above the track. In France, the largest passenger aircraft on earth, the Airbus A380, takes to the sky. Two Asian giants, China and India, are involved in a space race.

If you want to build a new nuclear plant you'd better order the largest component, the pressure vessel, from Japan. They aren't made in America anymore. All is not lost to the U.S., but there are warning signs that our global scientific and technological expertise is under attack. Technological arrogance is leading to the blunting of our cutting edge. That arrogance comes from past triumphs rather than present capabilities.

Once, the world waited for U.S. scientific and technological innovations. When it comes to applied science, the world no longer waits for us. When Britain and France built the Concorde supersonic jet, they expected the United States to be right behind them. When the Senate killed the idea of a government-financed, supersonic civilian airliner, the Concorde was doomed. Likewise with advanced nuclear reactors. When the Clinch River Breeder Reactor was terminated, it was a mortal blow for similar programs overseas. We were the pacesetter.

Nowhere was this truer than nuclear power. It was our technology and the world almost demanded our leadership. So much so, it even copied our licensing procedure; and anti-nuclear activists were trained in the American ways. But as the United States faltered, the world went ahead. France built out its nuclear fleet, Japan forged forward and today reactors are under construction in many places: 25 in China, five in South Korea, and two in tiny Finland.

There's something sad about the Obama administration's backing, with loan guarantees, just two new reactors. The industry has calculated that 65 new reactors are needed but two are welcome, even if they're to be built by Westinghouse, once one of the great industrial names and now a subsidiary of Toshiba. The master must now play the apprentice.

With sickening predictability, Friends of the Earth President Erich Pica was on the PBS NewsHour to decry the oh-so-modest Obama move. Those technologies favored by Pica, wind and solar, are only known to us because of government subsidies. But he went further and had more disingenuousness up his sleeve. He claimed hydroelectric production from dams built decades ago as part of the "green" bounty.

Worrying about what's going to happen to nuclear waste in thousands of years is a conceit as well as a stupidity. There's plenty of it around, which did not come from electric production but from making weapons and driving Navy ships and submarines. Civilian electric production is the bonus, not the problem, and the solution lies in nuclear evolution — not in unilateral abandonment.

*Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=903693&category=OPINION>*

### Contribute Articles

Indian Pugwash Society welcomes research articles from students, researchers and faculties on Space, Missile, nuclear technology, WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, export controls and other related issues. Articles should be crisply written and should address contemporary debates in the policy arena.

Manuscripts submitted for the consideration of the Indian Pugwash Society should be original contributions and should not have been submitted for consideration anywhere else. Please confirm to the guidelines prescribed in the website before submitting the manuscript for consideration.

Details are available at: [http://www.pugwashindia.org/contribute\\_articles.asp](http://www.pugwashindia.org/contribute_articles.asp)

The Indian Pugwash Society aims to promote the study, discussion, and knowledge of and to stimulate general interest in, and to diffuse knowledge in regards to problems relating on WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, space security, export controls, nuclear technology and other related issues.

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