

Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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- Revitalizing Nuclear Security in an Era of Uncertainty, Harvard Kennedy Centre
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- Trump's space missile defense plan to keep eye on China, N. Korea
- Editorial: US should work with China, Russia for missile disarmament
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- IAEA Concludes Long-Term Operational Safety Review at Spain's Ascó and Vandellós Nuclear Power Plants
- Presidential Candidates Need a Plan for Reducing Nuclear Terrorism Risks
- Can the Pentagon Build a Bridge to the Tech Community?
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- The War That Will Decide Israel's Future Won't Involve Airstrikes, Tanks or Missiles
- Can This New Approach to Nuclear Disarmament Work?

India

Sanction for increased maritime surveillance assets - 12 do Aircraft

PIB Delhi, January 18, 2019

Govt of India has sanctioned this week, three new Naval Air Squadrons to be setup in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Besides this, the Central Government has also sanctioned manpower towards manning additional aircraft in existing Dornier Surveillance Squadrons in Kerala and Andaman Islands. It is pertinent to mention that the contract for procurement of 12 Dornier aircraft was signed with HAL (Kanpur) on 29 Dec 16 with delivery commencing in Jan 19. This is a substantial contract for the indigenous HAL built Maritime Surveillance version of the Dornier 228 aircraft.

The new Dornier 228 aircraft being delivered under this contract are fitted with improved 'state of the art' sensors and equipment which includes glass cockpit, Advanced Surveillance Radar, ELINT, Optical sensors and networking features. The aircraft would enhance Maritime Domain Awareness of Indian Navy through round the clock sensor based surveillance and provide targeting data in areas of operation to ward off terror and other threats from sea. This addition would further strengthen Indian Navy's efforts at Coastal Security of India's vast coastline of over seven thousand km.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1560520>

Headquarters Andaman Nicobar Command ANC to enhance its operational capability with the upcoming commissioning of INS Kohassa

PIB Delhi, January 18, 2019

Naval Air Station (NAS) Shibpur will be commissioned as INS Kohassa on 24 Jan 19 by Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of Naval Staff. INS Kohassa has been named after a White-Bellied Sea Eagle, which is a large bird of prey endemic to Andaman and Nicobar Islands (ANI).

NAS Shibpur was established in 2001 as a Forward Operating Air Base (FOAB) for

surveillance in North Andaman. Located in the northern most part of the islands, the airfield holds strategic importance not only for the security of the islands but also for its overall development. With the addition of this airfield, the Andaman & Nicobar Command's (ANC) ability to operate independently from all the regions of the ANI will get a great boost. Basing of an independent naval unit with the requisite facilities and manpower will enhance overall operational capabilities of ANC. It will open up the opportunity for permanent basing of aircrafts at the Naval Air Station. Presently, it provides detached operations of smaller aircrafts of Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard with an airstrip of 1000m length. INS Kohassa will become the third Naval Air Base in Andaman after INS Utkrosh at Port Blair and INS Baaz at Campbell Bay.

Post commissioning, the station will function as a base for joint operation of both military and civil aircraft in keeping with the UDAN scheme of the government. As part of Phase II expansion plan, the runway length would subsequently be extended to 3000m. This will enable the operation of wide-bodied civil and defence aircrafts in the future.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1560445>

NSTL - ACADEMIA MEET (NAM 2019) @ NSTL

PIB Delhi, January 19, 2019

Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL) organized the NSTL - Academia Meet (NAM 2019) at Mohapatra Manasi Auditorium, NSTL on 19th January 2019. With the theme "Artificial Intelligence for Naval Systems", NAM 2019 provided the ideal platform for deliberation and discussion on the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its application to defence systems, with specific emphasis on naval systems. A galaxy of researchers and faculty from 18 Universities, technologists and system developers of six labs of the DRDO - NSTL, NMRL, CAIR, NPOL, DMRL & DEAL actively participated in

the meet and exchanged views and ideas in the exciting area of research - AI.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr OR Nandagopan, Outstanding Scientist and Director NSTL described the academic institutes as fountainheads of innovation, and expressed hope that NAM 2019 would help bridge the gap between academia and R&D institutes and bring out a roadmap for futuristic research in respect of AI-enabled naval systems.

The Distinguished Guest at NAM 2019, Dr Samir V Kamath, Distinguished Scientist and Director General (Naval Systems & Materials), DRDO, recalled the contributions of academia the world over in fostering a spirit of enquiry and harnessing innovation and creativity to meet social and technological needs of the society at large. He opined that AI would play a major role in the battlefield of the future, and hoped that the participants would benefit immensely from the interaction.

The Chief Guest Prof G Nageswara Rao, Vice Chancellor of Andhra University commended the initiative, calling it 'timely and apt', and exhorted researchers to give their creative best towards development of 'best in class naval systems'. The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr Anil Kumar Agarwal, Director ER & IPR, DRDO, followed by expert talks on various topics of contemporary and futuristic relevance by Technology Directors of NSTL, and Professors from Universities. Shri G Ravi Kumar, Technology Director NSTL and Chairman NAM 2019, a large number of researchers, scientists and academicians participated in NAM 2019

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1560623>

India inks deal to get uranium supply from Uzbekistan *Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury, Economic Times, January 19, 2019*

India and Uzbekistan signed a deal for long-term supply of uranium from the resource rich Central Asian country to power its domestic atomic reactors. The deal was signed on Friday during Uzbek President

Shavkat Mirziyoyev's visit to the Vibrant Gujarat business summit in Gandhinagar, his second trip to India since October. After Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan will become the second Central Asian country to supply uranium to India.

Uzbekistan is the seventh largest exporter of uranium in the world, according to the World Nuclear Association, an international organisation that represents the global nuclear industry. India needs nuclear fuel as part of a plan to create a strategic uranium reserve that can sustain the country's reactors for the next five years. The uranium is used primarily to fuel its indigenously built pressurised heavy water reactors. India procures enriched uranium from Russia for its two boiling water reactors at Tarapur in Maharashtra

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-inks-deal-to-get-uranium-supply-from-uzbekistan/articleshow/67596635.cms>

'Having nuclear weapons makes a country stronger' *Times of India*
January 20, 2019

Energy security and climate change are two of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. India can hope to become a developed country only if the per capita electricity consumption in the country goes up by at least six times, said Padma Vibushan Rajagopala Chidabara. He was speaking on the topic 'India's Nuclear Programme - A model for developing world' in Panaji, on Saturday.

"India has single-handedly developed its nuclear technology and weapons without spying or stealing knowledge from other countries." he said. Chidambaram also said that having nuclear weapons makes a country stronger as the weapons act as a deterrent. Chidambaram further stressed on the need for low carbon dioxide emission, we will probably still be burning coal in the next 20 years, we had started a project on advanced ultra-super critical thermal plant where you take the steam temperature in a coal-based thermal plant to more than 700 degrees. For the same

amount of power/energy you emit relatively less carbon dioxide, which is the main greenhouse gas," he said.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/having-nuclear-weapons-makes-a-country-stronger/articleshow/67606831.cms>

Rosatom announces scholarships for Indian students in nuclear energy studies *The Indian Express, January 22, 2019 (PTI)*

The scholarships would include fully-funded tuition fees and partly-funded living expenses. The deadline for the first round of applications closes on February 15.

Rosatom, the Russian agency for atomic energy, has announced scholarships for Indian students in the arena of nuclear energy, according to a statement on Monday. Rosatom is the main equipment supplier for the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project in Tamil Nadu.

"The goal of the scholarship is to support interest in nuclear research and capabilities among young Indian scientists and engineers, and contribute to solving some of the world's most critical issues in the nearest future, allowing for the continent to be self-sufficient," said Rosatom South Asia CEO Andrey Shevlyakov.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/education/study-abroad/rosatom-announces-scholarships-for-indian-students-in-nuclear-energy-studies-russia-study-en-5549459/>

Two-Day Coastal Defence Exercise "Sea Vigil" Concludes *PIB Delhi, January 23, 2019*

The first coastal defence Exercise Sea Vigil, conducted by the Navy and Coast Guard, in close coordination with State Governments and Union Territories concluded today, 23 Jan 2019. It was the largest such exercise the country had ever witnessed in recent times and saw participation by more than 100 ships, aircraft and patrol boats manned and operated by various security agencies.

The exercise had commenced yesterday morning and comprised two distinct phases. In the first phase, all stakeholders assessed the robustness of their own organisations. During the second phase, simulated attacks were carried out on vital installations and assets by infiltrating through the sea, in Kerala and Lakshadweep. The security agencies were able to thwart attempts by the opposing force to infiltrate onto the coast using commandeered fishing boats. Response of agencies to other security contingencies such as hijacking of a ship and attack on offshore installations off Kochi Harbour was also assessed. All infiltration attempts will be analysed promptly to identify gaps in the multi-tier security layers at sea, close to the land and also in the hinterland in close coordination with concerned stakeholders.

Sea Vigil that lasted for over two days, including the mobilisation phase, witnessed a high tempo of operations by all agencies and large-scale deployment of forces. All operational centres of the Navy and Coast Guard and control rooms of Police and Kochi Port were fully activated and exchanged information with each other. During the exercise, multi-agency teams also evaluated the security set up implemented by agencies including at fishing harbours, fish landing centres, police control rooms and ports amongst others.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1561201>

Successful Flight Test of LRSAM *PIB Delhi, January 24, 2019*

Ship launched Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) has been successfully test fired from INS Chennai against an incoming aerial target flying at low altitude, today. The missile destroyed the target with a direct hit. All the mission objectives have been met. LRSAM has been jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), India and M/s Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel for the Indian Navy.

Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman congratulated DRDO, Indian Navy and associated team members.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1561346>

Test and Certification Agency clears Biojet fuel for Aircraft *PIB Delhi, January 24, 2019*

On January 22, 2019, after months of exhaustive ground and flight trials, the indigenous produced bio-fuel has been finally cleared for use by the premier airworthiness certification agency of the country.

In a meeting chaired by Mr Jaypal, Outstanding Scientist and Chief Executive, the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) deliberated in detail the results of various checks and tests conducted on bio-jet fuel as per procedure recommended by top national and international certification agencies. On being completely satisfied with the performance parameters, the agency has formally granted its approval for use of this fuel, produced from non-conventional source i.e. non-edible vegetable/ tree borne oil to be used on military aircraft. The bio-jet fuel has been produced from seeds of Jatropha plant sourced from Chhattisgarh and processed at CSIR-IIP's lab at Dehradun. This approval enables the IAF to fulfil its commitment to fly the maiden IAF An-32 aircraft on January 26, 2019, with a blend of bio-jet fuel.

Any hardware or software which is to be used on Indian military aircraft, including those operated by Indian Navy or Army has to be cleared for use by CEMILAC before being inducted for regular use. This clearance is a major step for continued testing and eventual full certification of the bio-jet fuel for use on a commercial scale by civil aircraft as well. Increased demand of bio-jet fuel would give impetus to increase in collection of tree-borne non-edible oil seeds, which, in turn, will help generate ancillary income, increase remuneration for tribal and marginal farmers, and enthruse cultivation/ collection of oilseeds.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1561298>

INS Kohassa – a New Bird's Nest in the Andamans *PIB Delhi, January 24, 2019*

Naval Air Station (NAS) Shibpur was commissioned as INS Kohassa by Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chairman COSC and Chief of the Naval Staff today, on 24 Jan 19. The grand ceremony was attended by many dignitaries and senior officials including VAdm Bimal Verma, AVSM, ADC Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command. The ceremony included presentation of Ceremonial Guard, hoisting of the Commissioning Pennant and reading of the Ship's Warrant by the Commanding Officer, Commander Kuldeep Tripathi. INS Kohassa has been named after a White-Bellied Sea Eagle, which is a large bird of prey, endemic to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

NAS Shibpur was established in 2001 as a Forward Operating Air Base (FOAB) for enhanced surveillance in North Andaman. The close proximity of Coco Islands (Myanmar) and wide expanse of Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) makes the base a very vital asset. The airfield provides sustained detached operations of Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard aircraft. The Air Station presently operates Short Range Maritime Reconnaissance (SRMR) aircraft and helicopters. These aircraft undertake EEZ Surveillance, Anti-Poaching Missions, Search and Rescue (SAR) and Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) missions within the ANC Area of Responsibility. As a point of interest, during the search operations of the Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, Dornier DO 228s of the Navy and Coast Guard operated from this very base.

NAS Shibpur was identified by NITI Aayog as one of the 'Early Bird' project as part of holistic island development. Towards this, IN has been ready in all respects to facilitate civil flight operations from NAS Shibpur. The runway extension to 10,000 ft is also planned in the near future to facilitate operations of wide-bodied aircraft.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1561266>

'Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant units I and II have generate 30,108 million units electricity' *M K Ananth*

Times of India January 26, 2019

Units I and II in the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) in Tirunelveli district have generated 30,180 million units of electricity since its inception, said distinguished scientist and executive director (C&MM) of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) T J Kotteeswaran.

Kotteeswaran said that KKNPP Unit I which was that first power plant to generate four-digit electricity (1,000 Megawatt) and is the pride of the nation. Since the unit (KKNPP-I) was synchronized with the grid in October, 2013, it has generated 21,143 million units electricity. Its twin, KKNPP-II which is India's 22nd nuclear power reactor has raised contribution of nuclear power in the country to 6,780 MW," he said.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/kudankulam-nuclear-power-plant-units-i-and-ii-have-generated-30108-million-units-electricity/articleshow/67702683.cms>

The golden era of UAE-India relations, *Gulf News, January 26, 2019*

Relations between India and the UAE are going through a golden era. They are at their best ever. The bilateral relationship has matured and transformed into a comprehensive strategic partnership as both countries continue to explore deeper cooperation in new areas.

Energy sector ties have morphed into a strategic partnership in energy security, with both countries investing in each other's energy sector. Both countries are also trying to move forward in nuclear energy cooperation by institutionalising cooperation with Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation and Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation.

India and the UAE are also exploring the possibility of enhancing cooperation in renewable energy.

<https://gulfnews.com/uae/the-golden-era-of-uae-india-relations-1.1548240539461>

India and Pakistan prefer different kinds of war *Hindustan Times, January 28, 2019*

In a press release on Thursday, Pakistan announced a successful "training launch" of the short range, nuclear-capable Nasr missile. A surface-to-surface missile, Nasr's range is a mere 60 kilometres. But, it is no surprise that this launch follows so closely on the heels of Indian Army chief Bipin Rawat's announcement on reviving the idea of integrated battle groups (IBGs) to launch a quick, conventional assault on Pakistan. IBGs are closely associated with the Indian Army's Cold Start doctrine that came about in the aftermath of the failure of Operation Parakram (2001-02).

Essentially the tussle between India and Pakistan is about fighting their favourite wars. India is conventionally superior and wants to confine its war with Pakistan within the conventional realm. Pakistan wants to keep the conflict either in the sub-conventional realm (read terrorism) where it enjoys the monopoly in this dyad, or escalate it to the nuclear realm – where it has parity with India – bypassing a conventional war entirely. The Indian Army evolved the Cold Start doctrine of a limited conventional war because it realised that Pakistan's nuclear weapons would not allow for a full-scale, conventional war. The doctrine was never endorsed by the Government of India but it provided Pakistan with an excuse to build short range, nuclear-capable missiles, like Nasr, to target Indian formations undertaking conventional strikes.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/editorials/india-and-pakistan-prefer-different-kinds-of-war/story-4MLXFOGTjOo1Sne4pdeCaP.html>

IAF Jaguar Fighter Aircraft Crashes *PIB Delhi, January 28, 2019*

An Indian Air Force Jaguar Fighter Aircraft crashed near Gorakhpur today at 1240 hrs. The aircraft was on a routine mission and was airborne from Gorakhpur at 1211 hrs. Aircraft crashed at approximate distance of 46 Km east of

Gorakhpur. Pilot ejected safely. A court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the cause of the accident.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1561710>

TVEL to supply fuel pellets for

Tarapur *World Nuclear News*

January 28, 2019

TVEL, the fuel manufacturer subsidiary of Russia's Rosatom, has signed a contract with India's Department of Atomic Energy for supplies of uranium fuel pellets for the Tarapur boiling water reactors (BWRs). A key component of nuclear fuel, a pellet consists of pressed-powder uranium dioxide that has previously been enriched with the U-235 isotope. Such fuel pellets need to be further loaded into fuel rods.

The contract covers the supply this year of "several dozen tonnes" of the pellets, which are to be produced by Elektrostal Machine-Building Plant, a TVEL facility located in the Moscow region. The nuclear fuel bundles for the Tarapur units will be manufactured at the National Fuel Complex in Hyderabad, in Telengana state.

TVEL has already fulfilled several similar contracts for the export of fuel pellets to India, including for pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs), Oleg Grigoriyev, senior vice-president for commerce and international business at TVEL, noted.

Commissioned in 1969, the Tarapur nuclear power plant, which is in Palghar district, in Maharashtra state, was the first commercial nuclear power plant in India. It consists of two 150 MWe BWRs and two 490 MWe PHWRs.

TVEL also supplies complete fuel bundles for Russian-made VVER reactors at the two operating units of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant, under a long-term contract with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited.

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/TVEL-to-supply-fuel-pellets-for-Tarapur>

Gsat-31 to replace dying sat Insat-4CR on Feb 6 *Times of India*

January 29, 2019

Isro will get its communication satellite Gsat-31 launched from French Guiana. The Isro chief told TOI "Arianespace will launch Gsat-31 on February 6. The satellite will replace Insat-4CR, whose life is expected to end soon." Though Gsat-31 is not a heavy satellite (2,600kg), we are using the services of Arianespace as it is an emergency launch to replace the dying Insat satellite so that communication services are not affected. Gsat-31 satellite can only be launched with GSLV Mk III. "The next PSLV C45 mission will take place in March. It will carry a DRDO payload Anisat."

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/gsat-31-to-replace-dying-sat-insat-4cr-on-feb-6/articleshow/67716467.cms>

Amid Rafale row, PM Modi says defence projects pending for decades have materialised *Economic Times*

January 29, 2019

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said defence projects pending for decades related to fighter jets and modernisation have materialised on the ground under his government which will take all "big and tough" decisions that are necessary for the country's security in the coming days.

At a time when he has been facing attacks from the opposition over the Rafale fighter jet deal, Modi said, "Projects pending since decades related fighter aircraft and modernisation have materialised on the ground. Missiles, tanks and helicopters are being made. Amid Rafale row, Modi says defence projects pending for decades have materialised, will take tough decisions that are necessary for nation

New Delhi, Jan 28 (PTI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said defence projects pending for decades related to fighter jets and modernisation have materialised on the ground under his government which will take all "big and

tough" decisions that are necessary for the country's security in the coming days.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/amid-rafale-row-pm-modi-says-defence-projects-pending-for-decades-have-materialised/articleshow/67727054.cms>

India and Maldives to Continue Close Cooperation on Maritime Security and Counter-Terrorism *PIB*

Delhi, January 29, 2019

India and Maldives held substantive discussions on further strengthening bilateral defence cooperation here today. Both side agreed that the two countries would continue their traditionally close cooperation on issues of maritime security, counter-terrorism and medical cooperation. Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman reiterated India's commitment to contribute towards capacity building and training requirements of the Maldives National Defence Forces.

Earlier, Raksha Mantri received Maldivian Defence Minister Ms Mariya Ahmed Didi at South Block here today who is in India on official bilateral visit. Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P and Additional Director General of the Indian Coast Guard Shri VSR Murthy call on the Maldivian Defence Minister.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1561347>

Modi boasts of nuclear triad for second time in 3 months *Ajay Banerjee, The Tribune, January 29, 2019*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke about the nuclear triad for the second time in three months, referring to India's ability to launch nuclear missiles or weapons from land, air or under sea.

Speaking at a National Cadet Corps (NCC) event here, Modi said, "India has joined the select global group of countries that can launch nuclear attacks from water, land and

air." He went on to explain various facets of military modernisation to the young cadets, who are here as part of an annual NCC camp.

The completion of a deterrence patrol by Arihant completed the nuclear triad. India already had the land-based 'Agni' series of nuclear-tipped missiles. Another version of N-tipped missiles can be fired from air using fighter jets. At the NCC event, the PM said while India was a supporter of peace, it would not hesitate from taking any steps to ensure its national security.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/modi-boasts-of-nuclear-triad-for-second-time-in-3-months/720278.html>

Higher budget allocation for Space technology *Department of Space, PIB Delhi, February 01, 2019*

While presenting the Interim Budget 2019-20 in Parliament today, the Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal said that seventh dimension of our vision for the next decade aims at the Outer Skies. Our space programme - Gaganyaan, India becoming the launch-pad of satellites for the World and placing an Indian astronaut into space by 2022 reflect this dimension of our vision, the Minister said.

Given below is the budget allocation for some major schemes of Department of Space:

(Rs in crore)

Scheme	2017-18 Actuals	2018-19 BE	2018-19 RE	2019-20 BE
Space Technology	5,948	6,576	6,993	7,483
Space Applications	1,540	1,746	1,595	1,885
INSAT Satellite Systems	565	412	1,330	884

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1562185>

Pakistan

Pakistan today successfully conducted training launch of short range surface to surface ballistic missile "Nasr" to enhance the operational efficiency of Army Strategic Forces Command besides re-validating the desired technical parameters *Inter Services Personal*

Relations, January 24, 2019

Pakistan today successfully conducted training launch of short range surface to surface ballistic missile "Nasr" to enhance the operational efficiency of Army Strategic Forces Command besides re-validating the desired technical parameters. This training exercise involved launching of quad salvo for desired effects. Nasr is a high precision, shoot and scoot Weapon System with the ability of in-flight maneuverability. This Weapon System has augmented Full Spectrum Deterrence posture remaining within the precincts of policy of Credible Minimum Deterrence, against prevailing and evolving threat spectrum more effectively including enemy's ballistic missile defence and other Air Defence Systems.

The launch was witnessed by General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Director General Strategic Plans Division, Commander Army Strategic Forces Command, Chairman NESCOM, senior officers from the Army Strategic Forces Command, scientists and engineers of strategic organizations. Chairman JCS Committee appreciated the standard of training and operational preparedness of Army Strategic Forces Command. He also congratulated the scientists and engineers on developing this sophisticated Weapon System to enhance Pakistan's deterrence capability. He expressed his complete confidence in effective command, control and security of all strategic assets and measures being taken to augment these aspects.

President and Prime Minister of Pakistan and Services Chiefs have also congratulated on successful conduct of the training launch.

<https://ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5173>

Pakistan tests tactical nuclear missile against Indian 'Cold Start' attack *Ajai Shukla, Business Standard,*

January 24, 2019

The Pakistan Army on Thursday announced a successful "training launch" of its short-range ballistic missile, "Nasr", which is believed to have a range of just 60 kilometres. This "tactical nuclear weapon" (TNW) has been developed as the Pakistan Army's weapon of last resort if a successful Indian "cold start" offensive – a massed attack launched without lengthy mobilisation – rapidly advances into Pakistan, capturing territory and threatening vital cities and installations.

The Nasr TNW, which would carry a small-yield "sub-kilotonne" nuclear bomb, is not designed to cause widespread damage, in the manner of "city-buster" nuclear bombs of 20-kilotonnes and above. Instead, it is intended to serve the dual purpose of demonstrating Pakistan's determination to protect its vital national interests; and to provoke international intervention to stop India.

To avoid provoking a "massive" Indian retaliation, which New Delhi's nuclear doctrine mandates and which would involve demolishing several Pakistani cities with large-yield nuclear weapons, Pakistan's use of Nasr TNWs would aim to minimise destruction and, therefore, provocation. Analysts believe Pakistan is unlikely to use the Nasr TNW on Indian territory, far less Indian cities. Instead, the Nasr TNW is likely to be used on Indian forces deep inside Pakistan territory.

The Nasr missile was first revealed after a test-firing in April 2011. The test programme is believed to have concluded in October 2013, after which the system is believed to have entered service. Also called the Hatf-9, the Nasr is believed to be derived from China's Sichuan Aerospace Corporation's the WS-2 Weishi rocket system.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/pakistan-tests-tactical-nuclear-missile-against-indian-cold-start-attack-119012401507_1.html

Pakistan Conducts Test of Nuclear-Capable Nasr Missile *Ankit Panda, The Diplomat, January 26, 2019*

A nuclear-capable system, the Nasr (Hatf-IX) is designed to deliver low-yield nuclear weapons to a range of up to 70 km. "Pakistan today successfully conducted training launch of short range surface to surface ballistic missile 'Nasr' to enhance the operational efficiency of Army Strategic Forces Command besides re-validating the desired technical parameters," the Pakistani Army statement noted.

"This training exercise involved launching of quad salvo for desired effects. Nasr is a high precision, shoot and scoot Weapon System with the ability of in-flight maneuverability," it added. The Nasr "augmented Full Spectrum Deterrence posture remaining within the precincts of policy of Credible Minimum Deterrence, against prevailing and evolving threat spectrum more effectively including enemy's ballistic missile defense and other Air Defence Systems," the Pakistani Army statement noted.

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/01/pakistan-conducts-test-of-nuclear-capable-nasr-missile/>

Nasr's launch unnerved Indian commanders *Muhammad Saleh Zaafir, The News International, January 28, 2019*

Pakistan's successful 'training launch' of short range, nuclear-capable Nasr missile has frustrated the Indian Army Chief idea of having integrated battle groups (IBGs) to launch a quick, conventional assault on Pakistan.

The doctrine was never endorsed publicly by the Indian government but it provided Pakistan justification for building short range, nuclear-capable missiles, like Nasr, to target Indian formations undertaking conventional strikes. India's non-response to 26/11 showed that either the Cold Start had not been operationalised or the Indian Army wasn't confident of pulling off such strikes in a crisis situation.

General Rawat has now brought the idea up front and centre. He is saying the IBGs will be war-gamed and physically tested by May. This could enhance the credibility of the Cold Start doctrine. Playing exactly to the script, Pakistan is now flaunting Nasr. The use of Nasr carries a number of risks like early use by on-field commanders. Moreover, its use doesn't guarantee that a large number of Indian Army personnel can be taken out. However, deterrence is often in the adversary's mind. As long as Indian leaders continue to be deterred by Nasr, it will continue to be effective.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/424901-nasar-s-launch-unnerved-indian-commanders>

China

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference *Ministry of Foreign Affairs People's Republic of China, January 17, 2019*

Q: Yesterday, a senior US administration official said that the US will continue to rely on its nuclear deterrence capabilities to deter potential nuclear attacks from Russia and China because Russia and China have nuclear arsenals of certain scale. I wonder if you have any comments on this?

A: We keep hearing these news recently. On the one hand, the US has been demanding others to cut down on weapons. On the other hand, the US has been strengthening its arsenal of massive destructive power. This actually also reflects the double standards of the US side. We hope that the US, as a military superpower and one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, could work with other permanent members of the Security Council and make positive contributions to world peace and stability.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1630327.shtml

Vice Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou Holds Talks with the ROK (Republic of Korea) Side on China-ROK Relations and the Korean

Peninsula Issue, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs People's Republic of China*, January 18, 2019

From January 17 to 18, 2019, Vice Foreign Minister and Special Representative of the Chinese Government on the Korean Peninsula Affairs Kong Xuanyou met in Seoul with officials of the ROK (Republic of Korea) side such as Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun and Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Lee Do Hoon of the ROK respectively, exchanging views on China-ROK relations and the Korean Peninsula issue.

Both sides expressed that they will further reinforce political communication, enhance strategic mutual trust and make concerted efforts in pushing China-ROK strategic cooperative partnership for constant and stable development in the new year. Both sides believed that the current Korean Peninsula situation is in a critical period. The ROK and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have actively interacted with each other and advanced reconciliation and cooperation, which is conducive to promoting the political settlement process of the Peninsula issue. Both sides supported the DPRK and the United States in maintaining contact and dialogue, meeting each other half way, and properly resolving respective concerns, so as to make active efforts in pushing forward the realization of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and establishing a peaceful mechanism on the Korean Peninsula. Both the Chinese side and the ROK side will continuously play a due role in this regard.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/t1631314.shtml

Rolls-Royce in talks to supply Chinese nuclear plant in Essex

Jonathan Ford, Financial Times, January 21, 2019

China's largest state-backed nuclear company is in talks with Rolls-Royce about

supplying equipment for the power plant it hopes to build in Essex as it seeks to allay national security concerns about the project. CGN is in discussions with the British engineering group over providing the control systems for the Hualong HPR1000 reactors the Chinese group plans to install at Bradwell on the Essex coast. Regarded as the central nervous system of a nuclear power plant, this technology not only drives the operation of the reactor, but allows it to be safely shut down should problems occur.

CGN has already made other concessions aimed at building trust. It has said that it would consider not operating the Bradwell nuclear power station after the plant's construction in order to deal with political sensitivities. That is despite owning 66.5 per cent of the project under the deal it has struck with its partner, EDF of France. Tom Greatrex, the chief executive of the Nuclear Industries Association, welcomed "CGN's awareness of the sensitivities, and their absolute determination to deploy their reactors and fulfil all the regulatory and other requirements that may be necessary".

Peter Atherton, an industry expert at consultancy Cornwall Energy, said the lack of bidders left the government with a dilemma.

<https://www.ft.com/content/4d2f2814-1b41-11e9-9e64-d150b3105d21>

Chinese nuclear firm denies changing strategy in the UK to allay national concerns

Global Times, January 22, 2019

China General Nuclear Power Corp (CGN) on Tuesday denied rumors that it has been in talks with Rolls-Royce over supplying equipment for a nuclear power plant the Chinese company is building in the UK to allay national security concerns, saying it has not changed its strategies. "As of now, we have not changed our development strategy in the three nuclear power projects in the UK," CGN said in a statement to the Global Times. "We will

push forward the construction of the projects with our partners.”

CGN's denial comes as more and more Chinese companies have become the subject of some foreign officials' so-called national security concerns over Chinese firms and investments in recent years, which, Chinese experts say, is a political move to contain China's economic and technological rise. The Financial Times reported on Monday that CGN was in discussions with the UK firm about supplying the control systems for the Hualong HPR1000 reactors, a concession from the Chinese firm, which has its own control systems, that is aimed at easing national security concerns in the UK.

In its statement on Tuesday, CGN did not directly address the national security issue but maintained that the company has always adhered to the principle of open and win-win cooperation. The company confirmed that its subsidiary has signed a deal with Rolls-Royce to jointly provide instruments and control system solutions to “the global nuclear energy market.”

Records show that at least two CGN subsidiaries - Suzhou Nuclear Power Research Institute and China Techenergy Co - have already signed two separate deals with Rolls-Royce about control system supply and development. It is unclear whether these deals with Rolls-Royce were the ones referred to in the CGN statement on Tuesday. “Rolls-Royce is one of many UK companies that provide the Hualong One project with services and support,” CGN said in the statement.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1136700.shtml>

Will North Korea transfer ICBMs to China? *Park Han-na, Korea Herald January 24, 2019*

North Korea may not be ready to bring its intercontinental ballistic missiles and the idea of transferring its nuclear arsenal to China to the negotiating table as bargaining chips in talks with the US, analysts here said Thursday. “Moving ICBMs out of North

Korea is what the US has been demanding but there's no evidence that the North has accepted the proposal,” Handong University professor Park Won-gon said. Washington's simultaneous incentives and building of mutual trust must first take place to make Pyongyang relinquish ICBMs.

What North Korea offers now is to freeze its “current” nuclear weapons via measures such as the closure of the Youngbyon nuclear facilities and the dismantlement of its Punggye-ri nuclear test site. “But it does not intend to put past nuclear weapons and ICBMs on the negotiating table,” Park said. He referred to Kim's denuclearization pledges in his New Year's address that North Korea had “declared at home and abroad that we would neither make and test nuclear weapons any longer nor use and proliferate them.”

US-North Korea talks have been revived following letters exchanged between Trump and Kim and high- and working-level negotiations in recent weeks. Some experts have said North Korea could have suggested that it will transfer its ICBMs to China. “I guess transferring some ICBMs to China could have been one of the cards that Kim Jong-un holds to have another round of summit with Donald Trump,” Lee Sang-soo, a research fellow at the Institute for Security and Development in Sweden, said in an interview with Radio Free Asia.

A more realistic scenario might be North Korea offering to dismantle its ICBMs in the presence of outside inspectors. “The important thing is that the North talks about some, not all, of its missiles, and they will be long-range missiles. Short- and mid-range missiles that cannot reach the US will be excluded from their talks,” said Hong Hyun-ik, chief researcher at the Sejong Institute. But if North Korea decided to transfer its long-range missiles to China, the move would be highly welcomed by the US and China for promoting security cooperation in the Northeast Asia region, he said.

In that case, the communist nation would follow a similar path as Ukraine, which removed all nuclear weapons from its soil in exchange for assurances that Russia would respect its sovereignty. "It would be a meaningful step to be hailed by the international community as they did to Ukraine, if realized," Hong said.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190124000742&ACE_SEARCH=1

Ten Chinese SOEs selected to strive for "global excellence" goals

Global Times January 25, 2019

China's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) regulator has selected 10 SOEs to be the pioneers striving for goals of becoming top-ranking companies globally. These companies include China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, China National Petroleum Corporation, State Grid Corporation of China, China Three Gorges Corporation, China Energy Investment Corporation, China National Aviation Holding Company, China Mobile Communications Group, China State Construction Engineering Corporation, CRRC Corporation and China General Nuclear Power Group.

They are expected to improve their global competitiveness in products and services, technological development, efficiency, financial performance and reputation, and achieve notable progress in about three years. A raft of reforms such as mixed-ownership reform has reenergized China's SOEs, with 48 centrally-administered SOEs making it into the Fortune Global 500 list last year. The State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council said it will adjust oversight over these pioneer firms and streamline approval processes to build a nurturing environment.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1137037.shtml>

We ranked the world's nuclear arsenals - here's why China's came out on top

Alex Lockie Business Insider, January 26, 2019

Of 9 nations that control the world's 14,200 some odd nuclear weapons, Russia's bombs could most easily end all life on earth. But a nuclear arsenal can't just be judged on how deadly it is. Nuclear nations must be judged on their execution of nuclear projects, their safety and responsibility in nuclear enterprises, whether or not they accomplish their nuclear missions, and the cohesiveness of their nuclear doctrine in addition to just making things go "boom."

Business Insider spoke to a nuclear weapons expert and concluded that China has the world's best nuclear arsenal, though not nearly the biggest or most ready to fight. The US, Russia's main nuclear rival, had no answer for this weapon. No defenses in place can stop it, no emergency response plans in place address it, and no forthcoming projects to counter or neuter it. On the surface, the doomsday torpedo represents unrivaled capability of nuclear destruction, but a nuclear arsenal's worth rests on many factors, not just its ability to kill.

Since then, nuclear weapons have taken on a role as a deterrent. The US and Russia, Cold War rivals for decades, have not fought head-to-head since the dawn of the nuclear era, owing at least in part to fear that a conflict would escalate into mutual, and then global destruction.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/We-ranked-the-worlds-nuclear-arsenals-heres-why-Chinas-came-out-on-top/Chinas-nuclear-arsenal/slideshow/67696626.cms>

Missile launch shows China's DF-26 able to adjust position mid-flight, attack moving aircraft carriers: expert

Liu Xuanzun, Global Times, January 27, 2019

Close-up details of the Chinese anti-ship ballistic missile DF-26 show that the missile

can greatly adjust its position mid-flight to accurately attack a moving aircraft carrier, experts said Sunday after China showed the launch of its new-generation missile for the first time. Western media frequently question the DF-26's ability to hit a moving vessel, saying China had never practiced attacking such a target. The recent exercise demonstrated the missile's capability, experts said. People's Liberation Army (PLA) Rocket Force conducted a live-fire exercise somewhere in Northwest China featuring the launch of two DF-26 intermediate-range ballistic missiles, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on Thursday.

The nose of the missile has a double-cone structure with four fin-like flight control surfaces symmetrically built around the base of the warhead, the CCTV report shows. This is the first time the launch of a DF-26 missile and detailed images of its appearance have been made public. Song Zhongping, a military expert and TV commentator, told the Global Times on Sunday that the special design enables the missile to accurately control the attack trajectory, as the four flight control surfaces provide super maneuverability and guide the warhead during the terminal stage to hit a slow-moving aircraft carrier. Song, who used to serve in the Second Artillery Corps (now the Rocket Force) of the PLA, said the double-cone structure provides the missile with increased targeting capability, speed, and stealth, making it more difficult to intercept.

"An information network connected to the warhead, which possibly includes satellites, ground and naval radar in addition to radar on the missile itself, will constantly update the location of a moving target, informing flight control where to guide the missile," a Beijing-based military expert who requested anonymity told the Global Times on Sunday. Already in service with the PLA Rocket Force, the DF-26 can carry conventional or nuclear warheads and is capable of launching precision strikes on land targets or medium and large vessels at sea, said Chinese Ministry of National Defense spokesperson Wu Qian at a routine press conference in April 2018.

However, many foreign military experts and media doubted the missile's capability to fulfill its claimed role. US media outlet CNN quoted Carl Schuster, a former US Navy captain, as saying in January that no military has ever successfully developed an anti-ship ballistic missile and using one would also require practice launches, which China has shown no evidence of having done. The recent exercise is an example of practiced launches, said Song. The DF-26 is said to have an effective range of 4,500 kilometers, and could reach US naval bases in Guam in the western Pacific, china.com reported.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1137152.shtml>

US 1,000-mile range 'supergun' may be a de facto intermediate-range ballistic missile: analysts *Liu Xuanzun and Wei Yunfeng, Global Times, January 29, 2019*

The US development of a 1,000-mile range "supergun" which it claims to be able to engage the Chinese military in the South China Sea could be a cover for an anti-ship intermediate-range ballistic missile, since such a weapon would break the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) which the US is trying to withdraw from, Chinese experts said.

The experts' remarks came after the US Army claimed last week to be developing a "supergun" capable of engaging Chinese naval vessels in the South China Sea from 1,000 miles (1,610 kilometers) away. The weapon could "open the door" for the US Navy and Marines in the South China Sea if Chinese naval vessels are in the way, according to US Military Secretary Mark Esper, US media outlet the National Interest reported Friday.

"You want to be outside the range that they can hit you," Esper said, boasting of the tremendous range the "supergun" could cover. A Chinese military expert who asked not to be named told the Global Times that cannons have a range of no more than 100 kilometers. Even the

electromagnetic railgun the US is developing has a range no more than 300 kilometers. So the 1,000-mile “extended-range cannon artillery” Esper said is most likely a long-range missile, according to the anonymous expert. As technology advances, a long-range missile has little difference with a missile, and a missile capable of reaching 1,000 miles is considered an intermediate-range missile, and thus violates the INF Treaty, the expert said. This is why the US calls the weapon a cannon.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1137291.shtml>

Iran worried over delay in Chinese nuclear reactor redesign *AP News, January 30, 2019*

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Tehran says that China has slowed down working on its redesign of a heavy water reactor in Iran, following the U.S. withdrawal from Tehran’s nuclear agreement with world powers.

Ali Akbar Salehi, head of Iran’s nuclear agency, was quoted by state-run news agency IRNA as saying that “the Chinese side decreased the speed of cooperation with us despite their commitments.” He says Iran has “alternative” choices if China cannot not fulfil its job. Salehi speculates that Beijing fears possible sanctions by the U.S. if it continues cooperation with Iran but did not elaborate further. Under the 2015 nuclear agreement, experts from the United States and China were to help Iran redesign the Arak heavy water nuclear reactor to limit the amount of plutonium it produces as a byproduct.

<https://apnews.com/ed2b765ac2314de4a7065dec37fbd1ca>

Will US tech cold war against China’s 5G split world? *Yu Jincui Global Times, January 31, 2019*

According to Bloomberg Tuesday, German telecoms company Deutsche Telekom warned in an internal assessment that Europe would fall behind the US and China

in the 5G race if governments ban Chinese equipment supplier Huawei over security fears. Removing Huawei from the list of suppliers of 5G networks would delay rollout of the technology by at least two years and cost Europe’s telecom industry many billions of euros, Deutsche Telekom said. As the US is launching a crackdown on Huawei and piling up pressure on foreign allies to ditch network services from the Chinese company, Germany and other European governments have been urged to block Huawei hardware from being used in 5G networks.

Worries are rising that the US campaign will lead to a split in the high-tech world, which might have a far-reaching impact on international relations. During the Cold War, the world was divided into two camps. The delicate balance of power built on nuclear deterrence shrouded the world in great uncertainty. By excluding Huawei from the Western technological world, the US is waging a technology “cold war” against China, which eventually will also divide the world.

5G technology will play a key role in people’s future life. It will affect all aspects of life. But imagine what the world would look like if there were two 5G worlds respectively led by China and the US: There would be arbitrary competition, with one attempting to elbow out the other in the international market. China doesn’t want to see such a worst-case scenario. Unfortunately, the US is politicizing the technological development and in disregard of its allies’ interests, it has pressured them to turn on Chinese tech companies. China is not viewed as a strategic rival by the European countries. Given the gigantic commercial interests between China and the European countries in 5G cooperation and other fields, it’s more in the interests of the European countries to maintain a sound relationship with China than following the US to technologically contain China.

The US is trying to strangle China’s high-tech development by kidnapping its allies’ interests in a technology cold war. This is

impossible. The biggest difference between 5G technology and nuclear weapons is that the former is used to promote communication and integration while the latter is for deterrence. Technological integration is the trend of the times. It not only helps promote communication among states and peoples, but also propels globalization and the improvement of international relations. The US efforts to divide 5G technology and contain China will hinder global development and are doomed to fail. At a time when the world turns increasingly multipolar, the US can no longer dominate international relations as arbitrarily as before.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1137713.shtml>

P5 agree to protect nuke treaty *Global Times, January 31, 2019*

China, as the host of the meeting in Beijing among the five nuclear weapon countries, said that it will continue to promote consensus-building among the major powers and replace confrontation with coordination, while Russia and the US failed to reach an agreement on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. The five recognized nuclear weapon states in the Treaty on the (NPT), China, Russia, the US, the UK and France (also the five permanent members of the UN Security Council), concluded their meeting, also known as the P5 Conference, in Beijing on Thursday.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang made the remarks urging coordination and strategic dialogue between nuclear weapon states after the P5 Conference at the daily routine press conference. The five nuclear-armed states reached an agreement at the P5 Conference in Beijing to jointly safeguard the mechanism of the NPT and will try their best to solve non-proliferation issues through political and diplomatic means, said Geng.

The five nuclear weapon states agreed to keep strategic dialogue to enhance coordination of the NPT agenda, to realize a successful NPT Review Conference in

2020, Geng added. The conference in 2020 will seek reform to solve some recent problems and disputes, including the INF Treaty issue between Russia and the US, nuclear issues in the Korean Peninsula and the Iranian nuclear deal, Xu Guangyu, a senior consultant at the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association and a participant of open activities at the P5 Conference, told the *Global Times* on Thursday.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1137745.shtml>

China urges non-uke states to join NPT *Zhao Yusha and Yang Sheng Global Times January 31, 2019*

China called on countries that have not yet joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to join as non-nuclear-weapon states as soon as possible, China's Foreign Ministry said in response to questions on India's application to the NPT treaty. The comment was given by Geng Shuang, spokesperson of China's Foreign Ministry at a Thursday briefing, when asked if the meeting of five nuclear weapon states talked about the possibility of India joining the NPT and Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). There has not been a precedent for a non-NPT country to join the Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG), so if India wants to join the NSG, it requires sufficient negotiation among NSG members and a consensus among them to reach a resolution to the issue, said Geng.

Xu Guangyu, a senior consultant at the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association and a participant of open activities at the P5 Conference on Thursday, told the *Global Times* on Thursday that "It is impossible for China, as well as the other four recognized nuclear weapon countries in the NPT, to recognize a new nuclear weapon country, because this would cause serious nuclear proliferation and global security would be greatly damaged." It is very hard to resolve India's intention to join the NPT and NSG, because India has already

developed nuclear weapons, so it is unlikely to make New Delhi abandon its nuclear weapons, and its neighbor Pakistan also has the same problem, Xu noted.

India has been blaming China for blocking it from the NSG, but aside from China, many NSG members, including Brazil, Austria, New Zealand, Ireland and Turkey are also opposed to India's bid, citing the fact that India has not signed the NPT. The conference between five nuclear weapon states kicked off in Beijing. China, France, Russia, the UK and the US, as the five nuclear weapon states, expressed readiness to enhance coordination, manage differences and jointly deal with threats to international security, Geng said. For years, India has been trying to join the NSG, but since its foundation in 1975, all NSG members shall be NPT signatories. This has become the primary principle of the organization. China proposed in 2016 to allow non-NPT signatories to become NSG members and discuss country-specific applications.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1137736.shtml>

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's Regular Press

Conference Ministry of Foreign Affairs

People's Republic of China, January 31, 2019

Q: The conference of the five nuclear-weapon states in Beijing has caught much attention. Could you provide some information? Is China satisfied with the outcome of the conference?

A: The conference of the five nuclear-weapon states was concluded successfully in Beijing. China has issued a press release on it. Here I would like to highlight the three important consensus reached at the meeting.

First, the five states pledged their shared responsibility to world peace and security. Recognizing the severe challenges to the current international security environment and the vital role of maintaining sound major country relations in resolving strategic global issues, the five countries agreed to

objectively view each other's strategic intentions, enhance exchanges in nuclear policies and strategies, strengthen strategic mutual trust and safeguard common security.

Second, the five states pledged to jointly uphold the NPT mechanism. They emphasized that the NPT is the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and an important component of the international security architecture. They committed themselves to fully implementing the NPT in its entirety, progressively achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon free world, doing their utmost to resolve the nuclear non-proliferation issue through political and diplomatic means, and promoting international cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Third, the five states pledged to continue to make full use of their cooperation platform to maintain dialogue and coordination. They agreed to maintain strategic dialogue and strengthen coordination in the NPT review process for a successful 2020 review conference. The five countries will also actively promote open and constructive dialogues within the international community, such as the dialogue session held this morning in Beijing with international academic institutions, media and embassy officials from some non-nuclear states.

Against the background of rising instability and uncertainty in the international security landscape, major country relations and responsibilities of major countries are receiving more and more attention. The five states, in sitting down for face-to-face exchanges and in-depth discussions of urgent issues related to strategic security and reaching the above-mentioned consensus, demonstrated a positive attitude in dealing with international security challenges through coordination and cooperation. It will help enhance the international community's confidence in the international security environment. The positive outcomes were acclaimed by all parties to the meeting.

As the rotating coordinator for the cooperation mechanism of the five nuclear-weapon states, China will continue its efforts to help build consensus and manage differences among the five countries and replace major power competition with coordination and zero-sum game with win-win cooperation, to contribute to world peace and stability.

Q: Yesterday you outlined China's stand on the NPT, and today about the P5 Conference you said that the NPT mechanism will be upheld. So was there any discussion related to the application of India to join the NPT? And was there any discussion about non-NPT members being given preference based on their record of non-proliferation?

A: Like I just said, the five nuclear-weapon states pledged to jointly uphold the NPT mechanism. They emphasized that the NPT is the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and an important component of the international security architecture. They committed themselves to fully implementing the NPT in its entirety, progressively achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon free world, doing their utmost to resolve the nuclear non-proliferation issue through political and diplomatic means, and promoting international cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

You asked about accession to the NPT, China's position is that we call on non-NPT countries to join the treaty as non-nuclear weapon states as soon as possible.

Q: Again, to follow up on the P5 discussions on the NPT. Regarding China's position on the entry of India into the Nuclear Suppliers' Group, China suggested a two-step approach for relevant countries to come to an agreement. Now you seemed to suggest that non-NPT members have to necessarily sign the treaty to enter the NSG. Is there a change in China's stand? Or do you still stick to the two-step approach?

A: I don't want to cause any misunderstanding. China's position on the

relevant issue has not changed. What I just said is that we call on non-NPT countries to join the treaty as non-nuclear weapon states as soon as possible. This is our consistent position.

As for India's application to join the NSG, our position on that has not changed either.

Q: Follow-up: What should a country like India do to join the NSG, despite the fact that they have overwhelming support from the NSG and outside? Is China still adhering to the two-step approach?

A: We call on non-NPT countries to join the treaty as non-nuclear weapon states as soon as possible. This is our consistent position.

As for India's application to join the NSG, we have said before that there is no precedent for a non-NPT country applying to join the NSG. Therefore, we maintain that the NSG members should have consultations with plenty of patience and seek to resolve this issue based on consensus.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1634507.shtml

USA

Hours after U.S. troops killed in Syria, Pence says Islamic State defeated *Lesley Wroughton Reuters, January 17, 2019*

Despite talks of a second leaders' summit between Trump and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, Pence acknowledged that efforts to convince Pyongyang to give up its nuclear arsenal had not made headway.

"While the president is promising dialogue with Chairman Kim we still await concrete steps by North Korea to dismantle the nuclear weapons that threaten our people and our allies in the region," he said.

He acknowledged that Trump's foreign policy was "different from what the world has come to expect" and that the United

States faced different threats than during the Cold War.

“Today we are not up against one super power but several great powers competing with us for preeminence across the world,” he said, saying the United States faced a “wolf pack” of rogue states including Iran, Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-pence-diplomacy/hours-after-us-troops-killed-in-syria-pence-says-islamic-state-defeated-idUSKCN1PA2L3>

Trump missile defense review calls North Korea ‘extraordinary threat’

Phil Stewart, Reuters, January 17, 2019

President Donald Trump unveiled a revamped U.S. missile defense strategy that called North Korea an ongoing and “extraordinary threat,” seven months after he declared the threat posed by Pyongyang had been eliminated. The plan, which also detailed concerns about the burgeoning capabilities of Iran, Russia and China, called for developing space-based sensors to detect incoming enemy missiles and exploring space-based weapons to shoot down missiles among other steps to shield the United States.

The open acknowledgment in the Missile Defense Review of U.S. plans to counter Russian and Chinese technological advances likely will alarm those nations. It marked a departure from the approach taken by Republican Trump’s Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama, to tamp down concerns by major nuclear powers about expanding U.S. missile defenses.

The Missile Defense Review recommended studying experimental technologies including space-based weaponry that might be able to shoot down enemy missiles, a throwback to former President Ronald Reagan’s 1980s “Star Wars” initiative. It called for investments in space-based sensors that can better detect and track incoming missiles, and perhaps counter super-fast hypersonic technology, an area

in which China has made major advances and Russia is actively working.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-defense-missiles/trump-missile-defense-review-calls-north-korea-extraordinary-threat-idUSKCN1PB04V>

Trump, North Korea’s Kim to hold second summit in late February

David Brunnstrom, Matt Spetalnick, Reuters, January 18, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump will hold a second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in late February but will maintain economic sanctions on Pyongyang, the White House said on Friday after Trump met Pyongyang’s top nuclear negotiator.

The announcement came amid a diplomatic flurry in Washington surrounding the visit of Kim Yong Chol, a hardline former spy chief, and marked a sign of movement in a denuclearisation effort that has stalled since a landmark meeting between Trump and the North Korean leader in Singapore on June 12.

A senior U.S. administration official said there was an exchange of letters for the leaders during the White House meeting, but gave no details of their content. On his last visit to Washington in June, Kim Yong Chol delivered a letter from Kim Jong Un to Trump that helped overcome obstacles ahead of the summit in Singapore. Kim Yong Chol, regarded as a member of Kim Jong Un’s inner circle, also had talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. special representative on North Korea, Stephen Biegun.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-usa/trump-north-koreas-kim-to-hold-second-summit-in-late-february-idINKCN1PC0DP>

Trump and Kim Jong-un to Hold Second Summit Meeting Next Month

Mark Landler and David E.

Sanger, New York Times, January. 18, 2019

President Trump will meet with North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-un, in late

February, the White House announced, renewing a high-level diplomatic dialogue that has eased tensions with a rogue nuclear state but has shown no progress in eliminating its nuclear arsenal. A White House official said the date and the location of the meeting would be announced later, suggesting either that the Trump administration was seeking concessions from the North Koreans before Mr. Trump committed to the meeting or that the two sides were still haggling over the site and other logistical details. Vietnam, Thailand and Hawaii have all been mentioned as potential settings.

The United States, she said, will keep sanctions against North Korea in place until Mr. Kim agrees to surrender his arsenal. She added that the North had shown “good faith” in releasing imprisoned Americans. Still, the very fact that Mr. Trump agreed to a second meeting with Mr. Kim – after North Korea’s failure to begin dismantling its arsenal following their first meeting in Singapore last June – is a sign of how quickly the president has backed away from his initial insistence on swift disarmament by Pyongyang.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/18/us/politics/trump-kim-summit.html>

US Missile Defense Review says North Korea poses ‘extraordinary threat’ *Jo He rim, Korea Herald, Jan 18, 2019*

North Korea poses an “extraordinary threat” to the United States and its allies, and the US should remain “vigilant,” a US Pentagon report said on Thursday (US time). The US Department of Defense unveiled its new defense strategy in the 2019 Missile Defense Review, highlighting the need to add new technologies to the space-based missile defense system in order to protect the country from external threats. The report is the first Missile Defense Review to be released since US President Donald Trump came to office in 2017. The Defense Department published the Ballistic Missile Defense Review in 2010, under the Barack Obama administration.

The thawing of the US relationship with North Korea, but stressed that the communist regime is still a threat due to its past investment in nuclear and ballistic missile programs. “While a possible new avenue to peace now exists with North Korea, it continues to pose an extraordinary threat and the United States must remain vigilant,” the report said. “These wide-ranging North Korean offensive missile systems have given North Korea the capability to strike US territories, including Guam, US forces abroad, and allies in the Pacific Ocean.” Explaining that the communist state had continually invested resources in its nuclear and ballistic missiles programs to threaten the US homeland, the report said the time was approaching when it could credibly do so.

The Defense Department’s report came out on the same day that Kim Yong-chol, North Korea’s chief nuclear envoy and vice chairman of its ruling Workers’ Party Central Committee, arrived in Washington to negotiate a second summit between the leaders of the two countries. Kim is expected to meet with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday. He is also likely to meet with Trump. Listing North Korea, Iran, Russia and China as the countries that pose security threats, the Missile Defense Review highlighted the need to expand advanced defense technology in space.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190118000421&ACE_SEARCH=1

World War 3: Russia sets up NUCLEAR MISSILES near Ukraine border – Crimea crisis DEEPENS, *Joe Gamp, Express, January 20, 2019*

Satellite imagery released by ImageSat International show what appears to be short range and nuclear-capable Iskander ballistic missiles stationed in Krasnodar, around 270 miles south east of the Ukrainian border. The new images show a missile compound and several bunkers as well as a second compound nearby. An Iskander missile launcher is stationed next

to a transloader vehicle, which is used to load fresh ammunition into the launcher.

The imaging company claimed the set up could be construed as a “signal from Russia to the US”, Fox News reports. Another similar drill was held at an Iskander site near the Siberian city of Ulan-Ude, according to further imagery. Iskander missiles have a range of up to 310 miles, with the Donbass region of east Ukraine within distance of the missile.

Pro-Russian militants have been fighting government forces near the Russian border since 2014 in an effort to establish an independent state, while Russian forces have given military support to fighters. It follows news in January this year that Washington ordered Moscow to scrap a controversial missile project if it wants to salvage the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which the two countries signed in 1987.

Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev told Russian newspaper Rossiyskaya Gazeta: “The Kiev authorities are doing everything to split Ukraine, implementing the West’s scenario for separating Ukraine from Russia, while ignoring the interests of their own people.

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1074935/world-war-3-crimea-crisis-russia-ukraine-border-nuclear-missiles>

Brookings experts react to the new Missile Defense Review *Madelyn R. Creedon, Robert Einhorn, Steven Pifer, Frank A. Rose, and Strobe Talbott, Brookings*
January 22, 2019

The Trump administration released its congressionally-mandated Missile Defense Review (MDR). Below, five Brookings experts on defense offer their key takeaways on the document. Madelyn Creedon (@mrc5920), Nonresident Senior Fellow, Security and Strategy: The recently released MDR reintroduces the concept of rogue nations and defines them as Iran and North Korea. And yet Iran negotiated an agreement to denuclearize, to which it is abiding, and North Korea has demonstrated

remarkable and surprising restraint since the June summit by stopping nuclear and missile testing. Whether it has stopped production of missiles and nuclear warheads is another question.

Robert Einhorn, Senior Fellow, Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Initiative: The rollout of the Trump administration’s MDR on January 17 left U.S. allies and potential adversaries – and the American public – with what has become a familiar question: Should we listen to the president or the professionals who work for him? The Pentagon-drafted MDR succinctly outlines a key element of missile defense policy:

“U.S. missile defense capabilities will be sized to provide continuing effective protection of the U.S. homeland against rogue states’ offensive missile threats. The United States relies on nuclear deterrence to address the large and more sophisticated Russian and Chinese intercontinental ballistic missile capabilities.

Steven Pifer (@steven_pifer), Nonresident Senior Fellow, Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Initiative: The MDR outlines a far more incremental approach to missile defense than President Trump’s suggestion that U.S. defenses be able to destroy any missile launched against the United States “anywhere, any time, any place.”

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2019/01/22/brookings-experts-react-to-the-new-missile-defense-strategy/>

China’s tech, North Korea’s nuclear weapons and Russia among major threats facing US, says intelligence report *South China Morning Post, January 23, 2019*

China is making technological advances in a far shorter time frame than it took the United States, quickly narrowing the gap between the two countries, a senior US official said on Tuesday amid the release of a national intelligence strategy. Reaping

the benefits of sending tens of thousands of students and researchers to the United States, and a determined policy to buy and steal US technology, Beijing has “compressed the time frame” for catching up and now has “remarkable” capabilities, the intelligence official said on condition of anonymity.

The issue of China’s technological advancement and modernising military and Russia’s efforts to expand its influence were among the challenges for the United States raised in the new US National Intelligence Strategy. Senior intelligence officials at the strategy’s unveiling did not address statements from President Donald Trump dismissing intelligence findings. Trump has expressed disregard for key intelligence findings regarding Russian influence in the 2016 election and Saudi Arabia’s role in the killing of writer Jamal Khashoggi.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/2183241/latest-us-spy-report-cites-russia-china-and-iran>

US imposes new sanctions against Iran-related militias, entities *Global Times January 25, 2019*

The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced Thursday that the United States had imposed sanctions against two Syria-based, Iran-backed militias and two aviation entities linked to Iranian airline Mahan Air. The Treasury accused that the fighters of the two Syria-based militias, mostly Afghan and Pakistani refugees and migrants residing in Iran, are recruited by Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). The Treasury also targeted Qeshm Fars Air and an Armenia-based Flight Travel LLC. The United States believes the two entities have a close connection with the designated Iranian airline Mahan Air, which supports the Quds Forces of the IRGC and its proxies in Syria by transporting personnel and weapons.

“Treasury’s targeting of Iran-backed militias and other foreign proxies is part of our ongoing pressure campaign to shut down the illicit networks the regime uses to export terrorism and unrest across the globe,” Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in

a statement. According to the statement, all property and interests in property of these entities that are in the United States or in the possession or control of Americans are blocked, and Americans are generally prohibited from engaging in transactions with them. Washington has reimposed comprehensive sanctions against Tehran since U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal last May, seeking to curtail “Iran’s malign influence across the region.”

In an international conference held in Tehran last December, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani criticized the U.S. moves to exert sanctions on Iran as the “economic terrorism.” “We are here to voice that if the United States thinks that it can divide us, then it is making a grave mistake,” Rouhani stressed.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1136983.shtml>

NATO, Russia fail to agree over missile breach, U.S. to quit treaty *Robin Emmott, Vladimir Soldatkin, Reuters, January 25, 2019*

NATO and Russia failed on Friday to resolve a dispute over a new Russian missile that Western allies say is a threat to Europe, bringing closer Washington’s withdrawal from a landmark arms control treaty. At a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council in Brussels, envoys from NATO’s 29 members renewed their call on Moscow’s deputy foreign minister to destroy a nuclear-capable cruise missile system before

One NATO diplomat said the U.S. ambassador to the alliance told the assembled diplomats and officials that Washington would start the pull-out process from the INF on Feb. 2. The U.S. embassy was not immediately available for comment. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told the closed-door meeting that it was the United States that was breaching the treaty, alliance diplomats said.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-nuclear/nato-russia-fail-to-agree-over-missile-breach-u-s-to-quit-treaty-idUSKCN1PJ14N>

Small enough to use? 'Low yield' US nukes begin rolling off the production line

South China Morning Post, January 28, 2019

The US has begun making new, low-yield nuclear warheads for its Trident missiles that arms control advocates warn could lower the threshold for a nuclear conflict. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced in an email it had started manufacturing the weapon at its Pantex nuclear weapons plant in Texas, as ordered by Donald Trump's nuclear posture review (NPR) last year.

Low-yield weapons "help ensure that potential adversaries perceive no possible advantage in limited nuclear escalation, making nuclear employment less likely", the 2018 nuclear posture review insisted. Critics say that is an optimistic scenario that assumes there will be no miscalculation on the US side. The nuclear weapons budget is likely to be an important battlefield in the struggle between Trump and congressional Democrats. The president is increasingly surrounding himself with Reagan-era nuclear hawks, including John Bolton, his national security adviser and who pushed for the INF to be jettisoned. Bolton's new deputy, Charles Kupperman, once argued a nuclear war could be won "in the classical sense" if one side emerged the stronger, even if there were tens of millions of casualties.

Speaking to reporters, former defence secretary William Perry, an arms control advocate, said he was less worried about the number of nuclear warheads left in the world than by the return of cold war talk about such weapons being "usable". "The belief that there might be tactical advantage using nuclear weapons - which I haven't heard that being openly discussed in the United States or in Russia for a good many years - is happening now in those countries which I think is extremely distressing," Perry said. "That's a very dangerous belief."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/2183956/small-enough-use-low-yield-us-nukes-begin-rolling>

Wylfa Newydd: Chancellor Philip Hammond 'hopeful' of nuclear plant deal

BBC News 29 January 2019

Japanese firm Hitachi cited rising costs for halting work on the £13bn plant at Wylfa Newydd, Anglesey. It had been in talks with the UK government since June about funding for the project, which was being built by its Horizon subsidiary. Mr Hammond said an alternative model was being worked on. "Obviously we are disappointed by the decision of Hitachi to suspend work on the Wylfa project, but we haven't given up hope," he told the House of Commons.

"They retain the site and we hope that the work that we're doing on a possible alternative financing model may yet allow the project to go ahead." The decision by Hitachi has put the creation of thousands of jobs at risk. About 9,000 workers had been expected to be involved in building the two nuclear reactors, which were due to be operational by the mid-2020s.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47041043>

USA tells Russia and China to be more transparent in nuclear programmes

Deccan Chronicles

January 30, 2019

The United States called for more transparency on Wednesday as it accused Russia and China of not fully reporting their nuclear programmes amid US threats to withdraw from a key arms control treaty. A senior US official made the remarks as the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - all of them nuclear-armed powers - met in Beijing for talks on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Officials from Russia, China, France and Britain - countries under the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) treaty - also attended the meeting, which will continue on Thursday. The talks come after months of raging tensions between Moscow and Washington over the fate of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty (INF) signed in 1987 by then

US president Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. US President Donald Trump has promised to walk away from the agreement while President Vladimir Putin has threatened a new arms race, saying Europe would be its main victim.

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/world/asia/300119/usa-tells-russia-and-china-to-be-more-transparent-in-nuclear-programme.html>

U.S. Navy Nightmare: The Chinese Fleet Doesn't Have 300 Ships, It Has 650 *David Axe, The National Interest, January 30, 2019*

The Chinese fleet is much bigger than most people think. And that should compel the United States to reconsider its Pacific maritime strategy, one expert argued. The People's Liberation Army Navy by 2020 will possess between 313 and 342 warships, the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence estimated. But the PLAN accounts for only a fraction of China's maritime power, according to Andrew Erickson, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College.

The coast guard and militia have grown alongside the PLAN, Erickson revealed. "China's second sea force, the coast guard, is ... the world's largest, with more hulls than those of all its regional neighbors combined: 225 ships over 500 tons capable of operating offshore and another 1,050-plus confined to closer waters, for a total of 1,275."

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/us-navy-nightmare-chinese-fleet-doesnt-have-300-ships-it-has-650-42822>

U.S. secretly ships Cold War-era plutonium to Nevada *Timothy Gardner, Reuters, January 31, 2019*

The U.S. government secretly shipped a large amount of deadly plutonium from a South Carolina site that produced the radioactive metal for nuclear bombs during the Cold War to Nevada, the Trump administration revealed on Wednesday.

The Justice Department, on behalf of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration, said in a notice

filed with a U.S. court in Nevada that it could reveal the shipment of half a metric ton (1,100 pounds) because sufficient time had elapsed after the transfer to protect national security. The shipment occurred before November 2018.

The plutonium was shipped from the K-Reactor at the Savannah River Site, the oldest reactor at the facility, to the Device Assembly Facility at the Nevada Nuclear Security Site, about 70 miles (112.65 km) north of Las Vegas. The revelation angered politicians from Nevada, a sparsely populated state where the federal government has long wanted to store nuclear waste.

The NNSA said that due to security reasons no public notice was given ahead of the shipment and the highway route was not revealed. The department did not reveal when the shipment was made, other than it occurred before November 2018, before Nevada had sued to stop the proposed shipments.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-plutonium/u-s-secretly-ships-cold-war-era-plutonium-to-nevada-idUSKCN1PP0AP>

US Calls for Compliance With Nuclear Treaties *New York Times, January 31, 2019*

The U.S. has called for other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to adhere to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Thompson says some countries are violating non-proliferation and developing new weapons programs, a likely reference to Russia, Iran and possibly North Korea. The NPT aims to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

<https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2019/01/31/world/asia/ap-as-russia-us-nuclear-treaty.html>

Russia and US FAIL to make progress in crunch nuclear weapon treaty talks *James Bickerton, Express, January 31, 2019*

The news was announced by Russian deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov

according to the TASS news agency. Mr Ryabkov had met with US under secretary of state for state and arms control Andrea Thompson in Beijing. The INF treaty was agreed between the US and Soviet Union in 1987 which banned ground launched missiles of certain ranges.

Mr Ryabkov reportedly commented: "We told the US side that it is impossible to hold dialogue in the conditions of attempted blackmailing of Russia". The US announced its intention to withdraw from the INF treaty on October 20.

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1080367/Russia-US-INF-Treaty-talk-nuclear-weapon-Donald-Trump-Vladimir-Putin-Washington-Moscow>

Russia

Russia, US start consultations in Geneva on INF Treaty *TASS News Agency, January 15, 2019*

Inter-departmental consultations between Russia and the United States on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty have started in Geneva, TASS reports from the scene. The Russian delegation is led by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov while the US delegation is headed by Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Andrea L. Thompson. This will be their first encounter since Thompson's appointment.

As Ryabkov told journalists on Monday, Russia is ready for serious work with the United States at the upcoming consultations and urges Washington to give up advancing any ultimatums and preconditions. The current round of consultations is being held amid plans announced by US President Donald Trump to withdraw from the INF Treaty. Also, US Secretary of State Pompeo announced on December 4 that the US would stop adhering to the treaty unless Russia returned to compliance with it within 60 days. Therefore, in early February, Washington may start the countdown of its withdrawal from the treaty.

<http://tass.com/politics/1039956>

US to begin INF Treaty withdrawal from February 2, Washington confirms *Russian Times, January 16, 2019*

The US will begin its withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia on February 2, Under Secretary of State for Arms Control Andrea Thompson told NATO officials in Brussels. Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the treaty - originally signed by the United States and Russia in 1987 - comes after negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland, fell through on Tuesday. Thompson claimed that Russia is in breach of the treaty, and that Moscow's 9M729 missile system violates the terms of the agreement.

Under the agreement, signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987, land-launched nuclear missiles with a range between 500 and 5,500 km are banned. Washington claims, without evidence, that the 9M729 has a range greater than 500 km and is therefore in violation of the treaty. The Russian delegation at Geneva accused the US of "exacerbating the situation," and Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told reporters that "Russia is strictly complying with the INF Treaty."

Russia "has no interest in a new arms race" with the US, President Vladimir Putin said in an interview published on Wednesday, but warned the Trump administration against withdrawing from the treaty, saying "such a course will have the gravest consequences." The INF treaty was penned at a time when the United States and Soviet Union were the world's chief nuclear competitors. Visiting Moscow in October, Trump's national security adviser John Bolton revealed that Washington feels hamstrung by the treaty, because it applies only to Europe and does not restrict rising powers like China.

<https://www.rt.com/news/448966-inf-withdrawal-treaty-russia/>

Russia's nuclear-capable underwater drone to be deployed

Emanuele Scimia, Asian Times, January 21, 2019

Russia is ready to deploy nuclear-capable Poseidon underwater drones in the Pacific area as part of its oceanic multi-purpose system, Russian state media have reported. Given the poor state of relations between the Kremlin and the United States, the American superpower is evidently the primary target of new Russian weaponry, but the deployment of Poseidon could eventually become an issue for China as well.

Russian President Vladimir Putin unveiled the development of Poseidon last March. It is said the unmanned submersible vehicle can carry a two-megaton nuclear warhead and is capable of destroying enemy aircraft carriers and infrastructure facilities. Goldstein noted that the system had not been tested in any way that could be seriously verified by the US or its allies, so doubts remain regarding its capabilities. Furthermore, handling such weapons is not an easy task.

For Savelyev and Goldstein, Poseidon is not a game-changer in a strategic competition between nuclear powers, but its development will have the obvious effect of aggravating the problem of proliferation. The Russian expert said the diffusion of such weapons would open the way to a fresh nuclear arms race, also adding a new dimension to it.

<http://www.atimes.com/article/russias-nuclear-capable-underwater-drone-to-be-deployed/>

Russia takes wraps off new missile to try to save U.S. nuclear pact

Tom Balmforth, Andrew Osborn, Reuters, January 23, 2019

Russia showed foreign military attaches on Wednesday a new cruise missile that the United States says breaches a landmark arms control pact, billing it as an exercise in transparency it hoped would persuade

Washington to stay in the treaty. Washington has threatened to pull out of the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), alleging that the new Russian missile, the Novator 9M729 (called SSC-8 by NATO), violates the pact, which bans either side from stationing short and intermediate-range, land-based missiles in Europe.

Russia denies that. It says the missile's range puts it outside the treaty and has accused the United States of inventing a false pretext to exit a treaty it wants to leave anyway so as to develop new missiles. The United States had previously rejected a Russian offer to look at the contested missile, in what is known as a 'static display', because it said such an exercise would not allow it to verify the true range of its warheads. The Russian Defence Ministry said diplomats from the United States, Britain, France and Germany had been invited to attend the static display, but declined to attend.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-nuclear-russia/russia-in-effort-to-defuse-u-s-nuclear-dispute-displays-new-missile-idUSKCN1PH15A>

Russian, US senior diplomats to attend Beijing-hosted meeting of five key nuclear powers

TASS News Agency, January 23, 2019

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov and US Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Andrea Thompson will attend a meeting of five main nuclear states in Beijing on January 30-31, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing answering a TASS question. "The agenda of this scheduled event is far wider than issues related to the INF treaty, as a wide range of issues is expected to be considered there, with an emphasis on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons," Zakharova said.

<http://tass.com/world/1041416>

Putin vows to launch first Russian-built nuclear plant in Turkey in 2023 *Russian Times, January 24, 2019*

One of Russia's major energy projects in Turkey, the Akkuyu nuclear power plant (NPP), will soon become operational. It is expected to provide 17 percent of the country's electricity needs. "The implementation of a large-scale project for the construction of the first nuclear power plant in Turkey, Akkuyu, is under way and complies with the schedule. They are building its first power unit, which we plan to launch in 2023," Russian President Vladimir Putin announced.

The agreement for constructing and operating the NPP was signed by the countries in 2010. The power plant's first reactor is expected to begin working in 2023. The plant will have four reactors with a capacity of 4,800 MW, and a service life of 60 years. Russia's main energy projects with Turkey involve natural gas. In November, the two countries officially completed construction on the offshore section of the Turkish Stream pipeline. The section, which is 930km (578 miles) long and runs along the bottom of the Black Sea, is designed to deliver Russian gas to the Turkish market.

<https://www.rt.com/business/449575-putin-akkuyu-plant-turkey/>

Russia to work on keeping INF Treaty even if US withdraws from it – deputy FM *Russian Times January 26, 2019*

Moscow will not abandon the INF Treaty and will make efforts to keep the landmark agreement in place even after Washington suspends its membership, Russia's Foreign Ministry deputy head, Sergey Ryabkov said. "Absolutely not," Ryabkov told journalists when answering a question on whether Russia believes the INF Treaty may be given up on. Moscow considers the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), which was initially signed by the US and the USSR to denuclearize the European continent, to be well worth preserving regardless of Washington's actions, he added.

Most recently, Ryabkov said that many pieces of evidence the US put forward to support its accusations against Russia were in fact "fabricated." Still, Russia took an unprecedented step in terms of transparency and unveiled extra details about the missile, which is still under development in Russia and which the US claims is in breach of the INF, in a public event. "The only way you can get the system back into compliance is to destroy the missile. There's no way to alter it, there's no way to change it, there's no way to adjust the fuel cycle, and we've laid that out to them repeated times," Thompson said following the meeting. She also confirmed that the US intends to leave the agreement but still admitted that the move is "reversible" within the next six months.

<https://www.rt.com/news/449747-russia-keep-inf-us-withdrawal/>

Russia's Rosatom starts testing accident-tolerant fuel for nuclear power plants *TASS News Agency January 28, 2019*

Specialists of Russia's civil nuclear power corporation Rosatom have started testing accident-tolerant fuel for nuclear reactors of the Russian and foreign design, the press office of Rosatom's subsidiary TVEL said in a statement on Monday. Accident-tolerant fuel is resistant to severe accidents at nuclear power plants. It is expected to keep its integrity for a long enough time without a zirconium-steam reaction that induces hydrogen release.

The first phase of the reactor tests and post-reactor studies of accident-tolerant fuel will be completed in 2019. Based on the data obtained, it will be necessary to select the optimal combination of cladding materials, calculate and validate the neutron-physical characteristics of light water reactor cores, TVEL said. The next important stage includes loading experimental fuel assemblies with some ATF fuel rods into a commercial power reactor in Russia, the TVEL press office said. "ATF is of critical importance for further improving the integral safety and

reliability of nuclear power,” the statement says.

TVEL provides nuclear fuel for 72 power reactors in 14 countries, research reactors in eight countries, as well as transport reactors of the Russian nuclear fleet. Every sixth power reactor in the world operates on fuel manufactured by TVEL, according to the data posted on TVEL’s website.

<http://tass.com/science/1042130>

WW3 threat: Russia blasts US over low-yield warheads – ‘Boosting risk of nuclear conflict’, *Luke Hawker*,

Express, January 30, 2019

Tensions between Moscow and Washington escalated after the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced it had started manufacturing the weapon at its Pantex plant in Texas on January 28. US President Donald Trump ordered the creation of the W76-2 ‘mini nuke’ to boost its trident arsenal following a nuclear posture review (NPR) in 2018. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the missile “lowers the threshold of nuclear weapons use and, of course, boosts the risk of a nuclear conflict”.

Meanwhile NNSA said the W76-2 was on track to deliver units to the US Navy by the end of Fiscal Year 2019.” The W76-2 is a modification of the existing nuclear weapon, the W76, but with a reduced amount of tritium. Other critics include former US defence secretary William Perry who labelled the move “extremely distressing”. He added: “The belief that there might be tactical advantage using nuclear weapons – which I haven’t heard that being openly discussed in the United States or in Russia for a good many years – is happening now in those countries which I think is extremely distressing.”

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1080282/world-war-3-russia-news-nuclear-war-us-donald-trump-moscow-putin>

Longer range & powerful munitions: First Tu-160 bomber to join force in 2021 after makeover (VIDEO) *Russian Times*

January 31, 2019

Russian military is set to receive a new, improved version of the iconic Tu-160M long-range bomber. The jet will get modern avionics, weaponry, radar and other upgrades which would make it better in virtually every aspect. The Russian military is expected to receive the highly modernized variant of the iconic Tu-160M long-range bomber in 2021, Russia’s Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu said. On Wednesday, he and other top military officials visited a plant in the city of Kazan, where the modernized planes are being produced.

The new variant of Tu-160M “will be packed with a cutting-edge defensive complex, modern reliable communication system with improved interference resistance, unique weaponry, which would significantly boost its combat capabilities while utilizing conventional and nuclear munitions.” The Tu-160 long-range bombers were introduced in late 1980s, shortly before the collapse of the Soviet Union. The plane was created as a carrier of long-range cruise missiles, fitted with nuclear warheads, yet it’s capable of carrying other –conventional – and less destructive munitions.

<https://www.rt.com/russia/450264-russia-tu160-modernized-bomber/>

Russia poses questions to ‘Nuclear Five’ on new US military doctrines

TASS News Agency January 31, 2019

During the Beijing-hosted ‘Nuclear Five’ (Russia, the UK, China, the US and France) conference, Russia’s delegation posed questions over Washington’s new military doctrines. Deputy Director of the Department for Arms Non-Proliferation and Control of the Russian Foreign Ministry Oleg Rozhkov stated in his speech at the conference.

The diplomat also noted that the conference in Beijing was held amid a very unsteady international situation. "The growing trends worldwide that negatively affect international security and stability are quite clear," he noted. "We are seeing crisis situations in the sphere of arms control, including nuclear-missile weapons."

In 2018, the US adopted a new nuclear doctrine, which stipulates the possibility of using nuclear weapons to respond to non-nuclear threats. In 2019, the Trump administration adopted a new concept for ballistic missile defense, which specifies the deployment of anti-missile defense elements in space. According to the document, the US will recognize no restrictions for the development and deployment of its ballistic missile defenses from now on.

<http://tass.com/politics/1042603>

Japan

TEPCO's refusal to settle money talks prompts center to bow out

Masahito Iinuma, The Asahi Shimbun, January 15, 2019

A government body set up to mediate in compensation disputes with Tokyo Electric Power Co. over the 2011 nuclear disaster is throwing in the towel because of the plant operator's repeated refusal to play ball with aggrieved residents. Officials of the Nuclear Damage Compensation Dispute Resolution Center complained that TEPCO, operator of the stricken Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant, keeps rejecting settlement proposals offered in an alternative dispute resolution process.

The center discontinued trying to offer assistance in 19 cases in 2018 and another one on Jan. 10, affecting 17,000 residents in total. If the center discontinues its mediation work, residents will have no recourse but to file lawsuits, which take time and money to resolve. The center was set up in September 2011 to quickly settle disputes between TEPCO and residents who are unhappy with the amounts of compensation offered by the company based on the government's

guidelines. When residents applied to the center for higher levels of compensation, lawyers working as mediators listened to what they and TEPCO had to say to draw up settlement proposals.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201901150041.html>

Koizumi says Japan must say 'no' to nuclear energy *The Asahi Shimbun, January 17, 2019*

When he was prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi championed the use of atomic power to generate electricity. Then the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster struck, triggering a crisis at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant in Fukushima Prefecture. Koizumi, in office from 2001 to 2006, and widely regarded as one of Japan's most popular postwar leaders, started reading up on the nuclear issue, and had a change of heart.

Koizumi, 76, published his first book by his own hand titled "Genpatsu Zero Yareba Dekiru" (We can abolish all nuclear plants if we try) in December. It is available from Ohta Publishing Co. In it, he lambasts consumers for lacking a sense of crisis and simply believing a serious accident like the Fukushima disaster will never happen again in Japan during their lifetime. In a recent interview with The Asahi Shimbun, Koizumi said it was "a lie" to claim that nuclear power is "safe, low-cost and clean," although that is precisely what he espoused when he held the reins of power.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201901170010.html>

Hitachi reversal points to nuclear sector led by China and Russia *Jun Iiyama And Takafumi Hotta, Nikkei Asian Review January 18, 2019*

Hitachi officially announced Thursday that it is putting its British nuclear project on ice, a decision that will entail about 300 billion yen (\$2.8 billion) in losses for the Japanese company. Japan's goal of

exporting nuclear technology is now in tatters, as the Fukushima disaster of 2011 has led to new, expensive safety requirements, making private-sector reactor construction all but unfeasible.

With European operators facing similar challenges, nuclear projects going forward are likely to be dominated by government-backed players, namely in China and Russia, altering the landscape of the industry. Hitachi is not alone in the nuclear power industry in its struggles. French peer Areva fell into bankruptcy, and is now known as Framatome following its sale to French public utility EDF. In the U.S., Westinghouse Electric famously went under, and General Electric is expected to retreat from the nuclear business.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Companies/Hitachi-reversal-points-to-nuclear-sector-led-by-China-and-Russia>

Japan to press on with nuclear export drive after Hitachi blow

Mainichi Japan, January 18, 2019

TOKYO (Kyodo) — The Japanese government said Friday it will continue to back the export of nuclear power technology as part of the country's growth strategy, a day after Hitachi Ltd. announced it has suspended a nuclear plant project in Britain. "There won't be any changes to our policy," Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko told a press conference, even though Hitachi's latest decision will leave Japan with no major overseas nuclear power plant project. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a separate press conference it is "essential" to secure human resources and enhance the technological and industrial base for nuclear operations, which would also help Japan deal with the aftermath of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster and ensure the safe operation of other reactors. Hitachi effectively withdrew from a 3 trillion yen (\$27 billion) plan to build two reactors in Wales, with President and CEO Toshiaki Higashihara saying Thursday it had reached "limits" regarding further investment in the project as a private entity.

Toshiba Corp. decided in 2017 to exit nuclear power businesses outside Japan after incurring huge losses in the United States, while Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. is leaning toward withdrawing from a nuclear project in Turkey. The Japanese government has been seeking to export nuclear technology amid difficulties in building reactors at home due to safety concerns following the Fukushima crisis. It had hoped overseas projects would offer opportunities for Japanese engineers to hone their skills. Progress toward restarting existing reactors in Japan has also been slow. The country has introduced stricter safety rules which require equipment upgrades, resulting in higher costs.

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20190118/p2g/00m/0bu/081000c>

Girl, 11, exposed to high radiation levels after 2011 nuclear disaster

The Asahi Shimbun, January 22, 2019

An 11-year-old girl who evacuated from the town of Futaba after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster was likely exposed to radiation levels near the government-set standard, despite assurances that no children were exposed to such high doses. The girl is said to have been exposed to a radiation dose of about 100 millisieverts, the threshold for enhanced risk of cancer, following the triple meltdown at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant.

The previously undisclosed case, which was reported to The National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS) after the disaster, contradicts the central government's statement that "there has been no confirmed cases of children exposed to radiation doses of 100 millisieverts or higher." According to the NIRS, the case was not disclosed at the time because the institute considered that the estimate was based on information from the site using a simple monitoring instrument and that the figures were not calculated precisely. The Fukushima Prefecture town of Futaba co-hosts, along

with Okuma, the crippled nuclear plant, which was inundated by massive waves triggered by the megaquake on March 11, 2011.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201901220056.html>

Nagasaki's educators changing perspective on A-bomb teachings

Mainichi Japan, January 23, 2019,

NAGASAKI (Kyodo) – Ideas are shifting about what constitutes the nebulously named concept of “peace education” in Nagasaki, the second city ever to suffer an atomic attack, as educators look to create a new approach to learning about their home city’s difficult history. Educators say too much emphasis has been placed on relaying the brutal reality of A-bomb strikes to future generations, resulting in students forming a myopic view of the incidents rather than questioning and debating everything that culminated in the nuclear attacks near the end of World War II.

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20190123/p2g/00m/0fe/060000c>

Fukushima ‘water crisis’ continues, Greenpeace says

Lin Chia-nan, Taipei Times, Jan 23, 2019

Greenpeace Taiwan yesterday released a report about Japan’s failure to decontaminate radioactively polluted water following the 2011 Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant disaster, while calling on the Taiwanese government to take the problem into account when drafting energy policies. The report on Tokyo Electric Power Co’s “water crisis” following the disaster was primarily written by Greenpeace Germany nuclear specialist Shaun Burnie.

On March 11, 2011, a magnitude 9 earthquake and subsequent tsunami triggered meltdowns at three of the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant’s six reactors, causing radiation leaks. The firm in September last year said that its water processing system had failed to reduce radioactive contaminants to levels below the

regulatory limits permissible for ocean discharge, the report said, adding that as of Dec. 13 last year, there were still 1.11 million cubic meters of contaminated water at the plant. In some treated water, levels of strontium 90 were found to be more than 100 times the safety threshold, while other radioactive substances, such as cesium, cobalt, antimony and tritium, were detected in the water, it said.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2019/01/23/2003708455>

Japanese government starts building sea wall for new U.S. base in Okinawa’s Henoko

Japan Times January 28, 2019

NAHA, OKINAWA PREF. - The government began constructing a new sea wall Monday in Okinawa as part of a controversial plan to relocate a U.S. military base within the prefecture, the local defense bureau has said.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/01/28/national/japanese-government-starts-building-sea-wall-new-u-s-base-okinawas-henoko/#.XFGSh1Uza00>

Toshiba unveils robot to probe melted Fukushima nuclear fuel

The Asahi Shimbun, January 29, 2019

Toshiba Corp. unveiled a remote-controlled robot with tongs on Monday that it hopes will be able to probe the inside of one of the three damaged reactors at Japan’s tsunami-hit Fukushima nuclear plant and grip chunks of highly radioactive melted fuel. The device is designed to slide down an extendable 11-meter (36-foot) long pipe and touch melted fuel inside the Unit 2 reactor’s primary containment vessel. The reactor was built by Toshiba and GE. An earlier probe carrying a camera captured images of pieces of melted fuel in the reactor last year, and robotic probes in the two other reactors have detected traces of damaged fuel, but the exact location, contents and other details remain largely unknown.

Toshiba's energy systems unit said experiments with the new probe planned in February are key to determining the proper equipment and technologies needed to remove the fuel debris, the most challenging part of the decommissioning process expected to take decades. The three reactors at the Fukushima plant suffered core meltdowns after a massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami damaged key cooling systems. In last year's probe, a camera developed by Toshiba Energy Systems & Solutions Corp. and the International Research Institute for Nuclear Decommissioning found large amounts of deposits in that area, including parts that resembled pebbles or gravel. The 30-centimeter (12-inch) long robot unveiled Monday will carry a radiation dosimeter, thermometer, LED lights, a camera and a pair of tongs as it slowly slides down from a pipe. The probe, attached by a cable on its back, is to dangle from the pipe and descend to the bottom of the reactor vessel's pedestal, a structure directly below the core from which the melted fuel fell.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201901290020.html>

Alarm triggered at onetime nuclear fuel facility in Ibaraki after radioactive substances leaked *Japan Times*

Times January 30, 2019

An alarm was triggered at a onetime nuclear fuel manufacturing facility after radioactive substances were leaked while the materials were being transferred at a facility operated by the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) in Tokai, Ibaraki Prefecture, on Wednesday, officials said.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/01/30/national/alarm-sounded-nuclear-facility-ibaraki/#.XFGSWFUza00>

IAEA Issues Final Report on Fourth Review of Fukushima Decommissioning *The International Atomic Energy Agency*

Agency January 31, 2019

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) today published the final report by

an IAEA expert team that reviewed Japan's efforts to plan and implement the decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (NPS). The final report, based on findings made during a 5-13 November 2018 visit to Tokyo and the Fukushima Daiichi NPS by the 13-member team

The mission was the IAEA's fourth *International Peer Review of Japan's Mid-and-Long-Term Roadmap towards the Decommissioning of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station*. Two previous reviews were carried out in 2013 and one in 2015. The final report of the fourth mission, delivered to Japanese authorities yesterday, contains additional details and expands on the Preliminary Summary Report released at the end of the mission. Both contain the same advisory points on topics including long-term radioactive waste management, measures against contaminated water, the removal of spent nuclear fuel and fuel debris, and public communications.

According to the IAEA Review Team, the Japanese government and TEPCO had given due consideration to the advice provided by the previous IAEA missions to enhance planning and safe implementation of decommissioning and radioactive waste management activities. In the final report, the team reiterated that "significant progress has already been accomplished to move Fukushima Daiichi from an emergency situation to a stabilized situation. This should allow the focus of more resources for detailed planning and implementation of the decommissioning project of the whole site with considerations extended up to the completion of the decommissioning."

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-issues-final-report-on-fourth-review-of-fukushima-decommissioning>

East Asia

South Korea, US to seek UN sanctions exemption for inter-Korean project *Park Han-na, Korea Herald, Jan 17, 2019*

Working-level officials from South Korea and the US agreed on Thursday that a sanctions exemption was needed to enable the two Koreas to carry out joint projects and said they would ask the United Nations Security Council to waive related restrictions. According to the Foreign Ministry, the two countries reached consensus during a videoconference that it was necessary to bring electronic devices into North Korea for two inter-Korean projects – surveys to prepare for the reconnection of cross-border railways and the excavation of the remains of an independence fighter who took up arms against Japan’s colonial rule. The videoconferences between South Korea and the US take place twice a month.

The UN has imposed strict sanctions against North Korea for its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. As a result, the North is prohibited from importing refined petroleum, machinery and equipment.”During the meeting, officials from the two sides agreed on the need for mine clearance equipment to uncover the remains and for the joint railway project. The request to the UNSC will be made shortly,” a ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190117000699&ACE_SEARCH=1

Spokesperson and Deputy Minister for Public Relations Noh Kyu-duk *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, January 17, 2019*

At the forthcoming Davos Forum, Minister Kang will share with opinion leaders of the global community the ROK government’s diplomatic efforts to achieve denuclearization and establish a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. Accordingly, the event is expected to serve as a good opportunity to win broader

support from the international community.

http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5679/ãüü?ã¼=319711&ã¼H=ã¼&ã¼dlo=ã¼&ã¼Vã¼ct=ã¼&ã¼diltã¼=ã¼&ã¼multi_itã¼_sã¼f=0&ã¼pitã¼_seq_1=0&ã¼pitã¼_seq_2=0&ã¼company_atã¼=ã¼&ã¼company_nmã¼=ã¼&ã¼page=1&ã¼titleNmã¼=ã¼

Outcome of Meeting between ROK and China’s Top Negotiators on North Korean Nuclear Issue *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, January 17, 2019*

Amb. Lee Do-hoon, Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs, together with Vice Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China and Special Representative of the Chinese Government on the Korean Peninsular Affairs Kong Xuanyou, held a meeting in Seoul on January 17 in their capacity as the two countries’ top negotiators on the North Korean nuclear issue.

The two sides agreed to maintain close communication at various levels in a bid to make the year 2019 a significant year in terms of work to achieve a complete denuclearization and establish peace, as was the case in the year 2018, when remarkable progress had been made in the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/ãüü?ã¼=2033&ã¼H=ã¼&ã¼dlo=ã¼&ã¼Vã¼ct=ã¼&ã¼diltã¼=ã¼&ã¼multi_itã¼_sã¼f=0&ã¼pitã¼_seq_1=0&ã¼pitã¼_seq_2=0&ã¼company_atã¼=ã¼&ã¼company_nmã¼=ã¼&ã¼page=7&ã¼titleNmã¼=ã¼

ROK and US Top Negotiators on North Korean Nuclear Issue Hold Telephone Consultation on Jan. 17 *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, January 18, 2019*

Amb. Lee Do-hoon, Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs, received a phone call from United States Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun and held a consultation with him over the phone around 21:15, January 17. The consultation came after the one on January 15.

Over the phone, the US side explained that Vice Chairman of the Workers' Party of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Yong-chol was scheduled to visit the US from January 17 for a high-level US-DPRK meeting with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, among others. The ROK and US sides agreed to hold a meeting on the heels of the US-DPRK event to promptly share with each other its outcome and fine-tune possible next steps.

[http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/uid?seq=32046&sdfl=&psdfl=&psdfl=&psdfl=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_at=&company_nm=&page=7&titleNm=](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/uid?seq=32046&sdfl=&psdfl=&psdfl=&psdfl=&psdfl=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_at=&company_nm=&page=7&titleNm=)

Sanctions relief key to moving denuclearization forward *Wang*

Wenwen, Global Times, January 20, 2019

The second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will take place "near the end of February," the White House said on Friday, though the location is yet to be announced. Meeting with Trump again was articulated in Kim's New Year address, but what is more noticeable is that a great deal of his speech was focused on the state of North Korea's economy. For Kim and his country, it is sanctions relief and economic development that matter most. Now that North Korea is prioritizing the economy, Kim is expected to make moves to overcome sanctions. Inter-Korean cooperation is one of Kim's goals this year. He cited tourism and manufacturing projects with South Korea, which offers clues into what fields may require sanctions' exemptions.

As North Korea's neighbor, South Korea has already pushed for sanction exemptions to restart dormant cooperation projects with the North, even at the risk of upsetting its ally the US. In late December, the two Koreas staged a ground-breaking ceremony to upgrade severed rail links, with sanctions relief from the UN needed to start construction. Meanwhile, analysts stressed Beijing's importance to Pyongyang's economic goals. Some consulting firms have already assessed Pyongyang's need for infrastructure, an issue on which China can

offer help. But again, sanctions will be hurdles for the two to advance cooperation, and the nuclear issue is the key.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1136417.shtml>

Seoul claims nuclear-free energy policy not the cause of high fine-dust levels *Yonhap, Korea Herald, January 21, 2019*

South Korea's industry ministry on Monday claimed that the worsening fine dust concentration in the country's air cannot be attributed to the government's nuclear-free policy, claiming Seoul has steadily made efforts to reduce coal-based power generation. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy claimed that it is wrong to conclude that the density of fine dust increased because the country operated more coal power stations to meet demand for electricity amid South Korea's efforts to move break away from nuclear power plants. "Since the launch of the Moon Jae-in administration, the amount of fine dust created from coal power stations has been falling," the ministry said, claiming local nuclear plants have recently generated less power due to other factors, and not the government's energy policy.

The ministry said while the amount of power produced from coal power stations increased 25 terawatt hours in 2017 from a year earlier, this is due to the operation of more efficient power plants that were launched under previous administrations. The amount of fine dust produced from coal stations, on the other hand, reached 26,952 tons in 2017, down from 30,679 tons produced in 2016. The figure for 2018 is estimated at 22,869 tons, the ministry said. South Korea suspended operation of five old power stations from March to June of 2018, and plans to spend 11.5 trillion won (\$10 billion) through 2030 to improve environment-related facilities of coal plants.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190121000317&ACE_SEARCH=1

Govt. to announce blueprint on nuke plant decommissioning in March

Yonhap, Korea Herald, January 21, 2019

South Korea's industry ministry said Monday it will announce the blueprint on fostering the country's nuclear plant decommissioning industry in March in line with its new energy policy. While the government seeks to turn South Korea into a nuclear energy-free nation, there have been demands that the government should seek new opportunities to keep the country's energy industry running. "We plan to prepare a plan to establish a nuclear-plant decommissioning research institute in the southeastern region of the country, along with a comprehensive strategy on fostering the industry by March," Industry Ministry Sung Yun-mo said, claiming that South Korea will emerge as the leading player in the segment starting with the dismantling of the Kori-1 reactor.

The Kori-1 unit in the southern port city of Busan was permanently closed in 2017 after 40 years of commercial operation, making it the nation's first reactor to undergo dismantlement. An official from the ministry said it normally takes 15 to 20 years to fully dismantle a defunct plant. In October 2017, the government said it will seek to open a research center on decommissioning nuclear plants and develop released technologies to set its eyes on overseas markets as well. Currently, Gyeongju, Ulsan and Busan are making efforts to host the research center. The government is widely expected to announce the location in March.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190121000599&ACE_SEARCH=1

N. Korea, U.S. end working-level talks in Sweden

Yonhap, Korea Herald, January 21, 2019

North Korea and the United States ended their working-level consultations in Sweden on Monday (local time) to break the impasse over denuclearization talks amid apparent preparations underway for another summit of their leaders. A vehicle carrying U.S. Special Representative Stephen Biegun was

seen leaving the convention earlier in the day in a remote area located northwest of Stockholm, where the two sides have held three days of negotiations.

Later in the day, another vehicle apparently carrying Choe Son-hui, North Korea's vice foreign minister, was spotted driving away. South Korea's chief nuclear envoy, Lee Do-hoon, was also staying at the facility for bilateral or trilateral discussions. The Sweden negotiations come after Kim Yong-chol, a top aide to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, visited Washington D.C. early last week. He had talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and met with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Trump said Sunday that "a lot of progress" had been made on the issue of denuclearizing North Korea and that he was looking forward to meeting Kim at the end of next month. Whether Pyongyang and Washington will take the next steps toward the actual second summit, such as announcing the date and venue, could hinge on the outcome of the meeting between Biegun and Choe.

Expectations remain over an additional meeting between the two sides since they are said to be staying for another day before they leave Sweden. Vice President Mike Pence has said that in the second summit, the U.S. will be laying out its expectations for North Korea to "take concrete steps to begin to make real the denuclearization that Kim Jong-un committed to."

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190121000816&ACE_SEARCH=1

Outcome of ROK-Japan Foreign Ministerial Meeting Held on Occasion of Davos Forum 2019

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, January 21, 2019

On the occasion of the Davos Forum 2019, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha met bilaterally with Foreign Minister of Japan Taro Kono on January 23. In the meeting, the two top diplomats discussed ways to work together toward the

denuclearization and the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Minister Kang, taking note of the recent high-level talks between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, expressed expectation regarding the proposed second US-DPRK summit. She went on to suggest that the ROK and Japan continue working together to achieve tangible progress toward a complete denuclearization and a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

°Minister Kono, underscoring the importance of tangible progress toward denuclearization, voiced hope for continued close communication and coordination between the ROK and Japan on Korean Peninsula issues, apart from that on some of the bilateral issues.

http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320347&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchDlt=&srchMulti_itm_seq=0&srchitm_seq_1=0&srchitm_seq_2=0&srchcompany_at=&srchcompany_nm=&page=6&titleNm=

Vice Foreign Minister Lee to Meet with Mexico's Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, January 21, 2019*

Vice Minister Lee will extend appreciation to the Mexican government for its consistent support for the ROK government's policy toward the Korean Peninsula; explain the current situation on the Korean Peninsula; and discuss with the Mexican delegation ways to further enhance cooperation between the governments of the two countries toward the denuclearization and establishment of a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320345&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchDlt=&srchMulti_itm_seq=0&srchitm_seq_1=0&srchitm_seq_2=0&srchcompany_at=&srchcompany_nm=&page=7&titleNm=

S. Korea's chief nuclear envoy sees 'rapid progress' for future *Yonhap, Korea Herald, January 21, 2019*

South Korea's top nuclear envoy who recently attended working-level

consultations between North Korea and the United States in Sweden said Wednesday that there will be "rapid progress" in efforts to stage more talks between Pyongyang and Washington. Lee Do-hoon, special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was at a meeting in a suburb of Stockholm where North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui and U.S. State Department Special Representative for North Korea Policy Stephen Biegun exchanged their ideas on denuclearization and lifting sanctions.

"It went well," Lee said of the North Korea-U.S. meeting earlier this week. He was speaking to Yonhap News Agency after attending the meeting between South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha and her Japanese counterpart Taro Kono in Davos, Switzerland. Asked about possibility of North Korea and the U.S. holding more talks in the near future, Lee said the two sides are making "rapid progress," expressing his optimism on upcoming events. Meanwhile, at the foreign ministers' meeting, Lee said he explained the results of the recent North Korea-U.S. working-level consultations to Japan. Lee will return to South Korea later this week. (Yonhap)

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190123000798&ACE_SEARCH=1

North Korean base serves as missile headquarters - think tank *Katanga Johnson, Reuters, January 22, 2019*

One of 20 undeclared ballistic missile operating bases in North Korea serves as a missile headquarters, according to a report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) published. "The Sino-ri missile operating base and the Nodong missiles deployed at this location fit into North Korea's presumed nuclear military strategy by providing an operational-level nuclear or conventional first strike capability," said the report co-authored by analyst Victor Cha.

Foreign Minister Attends Davos Forum 2019

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, Jan 24, 2019

She went on to voice hope that the second summit between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Chairman Kim Jong-un's reciprocal visit to the ROK, which are expected to come in 2019 in the wake of the three inter-Korean summits and the historic US-DPRK summit in 2018, would produce tangible progress toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Minister Kang also underscored the ROK government's commitment to maintaining the momentum of dialogue on the back of the ironclad ROK-US alliance, close coordination with neighboring countries and the unified commitment of the international community to a complete denuclearization.

http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?sf=320657&sdhFr=&psdItl=&psdItlNo=&psdItlP=&psdItlM=&psdItlSeq1=&psdItlSeq2=&company_at=&company_nm=&page=6&titleNm=

North Korea may suggest shutdown of Yongbyon nuclear complex, international inspections: Foreign Minister Kang

Park Han-na, Korea Herald, January 25, 2019

South Korea's foreign minister said Thursday that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is expected to take concrete steps toward denuclearization in order to keep his pledges concerning economic development, as the leaders of both the US and the North express optimism about their upcoming summit.

Closing the Yongbyon nuclear complex and dismantling key missile facilities in the presence of foreign inspectors are measures that Pyongyang might suggest during a second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said in an interview with Reuters at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

"The (North Korean) leader has promised to his people many times that 'I'm going to

take this country towards economic development.' He has to deliver that, and he's not going to get the kind of significant assistance unless he takes concrete steps towards denuclearization and somehow eases the sanctions regime," she was quoted as saying.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190125000465&ACE_SEARCH=1

Foreign Minister Meets with her Brazilian Counterpart on Jan. 24 on Occasion of Davos Forum 2019

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, January 25, 2019

Minister Kang asked the Brazilian government to remain supportive of the ROK government's work to achieve denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and advance inter-Korean relations. Minister Araujo expressed support for efforts toward the denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula. Explaining the current situation in Venezuela, he underscored the need for continued attention of the international community to the issue.

http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?sf=320662&sdhFr=&psdItl=&psdItlNo=&psdItlP=&psdItlM=&psdItlSeq1=&psdItlSeq2=&company_at=&company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=

ROK-Iraq Foreign Ministers' Meeting Takes Place on Occasion of Davos Forum

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, January 25, 2019

Minister Kang explained the ROK government's efforts to completely denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and to establish a lasting peace on the Peninsula, and asked for Iraq's continued support. Foreign Minister Al Hakim took note of the ROK government's leading efforts to make progress in inter-Korean relations, and said that his country would continue to support the efforts.

http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?sf=320661&sdhFr=&psdItl=&psdItlNo=&psdItlP=&psdItlM=&psdItlSeq1=&psdItlSeq2=&company_at=&company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=

Foreign Minister Attends Closed-Door Meeting on Korean Peninsula's Future Held on Occasion of Davos Forum 2019

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, January 25, 2019

Minister Kang noted with appreciation that the three inter-Korean summits and the United States-Democratic People's Republic of Korea summit in Singapore in 2018 had affirmed the firm commitment of the leaders of the ROK, the US and the DPRK to a complete denuclearization and the establishment of a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. She went on to underscore the need to make tangible progress in the peace process on the Korean Peninsula in 2019 on the back of such achievements.

In particular, the Minister, calling it necessary to build a sustainable trust between the ROK and the DPRK as well as between the US and the DPRK, and to see tangible progress toward denuclearization in order for the current dialogue process to move further forward, voiced hope that the high- and working-level talks between the US and the DPRK, which had been resumed the week before, would lead to a second US-DPRK summit and thereby produce tangible results regarding denuclearization.

Minister Kang, sharing with the other participants President Moon's "Korean Peninsula peace initiative," asked for keen attention to and support for the ROK government's efforts toward peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula.

In the question-and-answer session that ensued, the panelists expressed their keen interest in and discussed in depth the ROK government's overall policy toward North Korea, including its ways of seeking denuclearization, as well as its future vision for the Korean Peninsula.

In particular, the participants drew a common understanding that peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula was essential for not only dispelling security threats but also paving the way for stable

business and investing activities and fulfilling the economic potential of the Korean Peninsula; and expressed support for the ROK government's efforts to accomplish a complete denuclearization and build peace.

http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?sf=320864&sdFr=&psdIlTo=&psdI\No=&psdIlP=&psdI\m_sf=&psdI\m_sq_1=&psdI\m_sq_2=&psdI\company_at=&psdI\company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=

Foreign Minister Meets Bilaterally with her Canadian Counterpart on Occasion of Davos Forum 2019

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, January 25, 2019

Minister Kang shared with her Canadian counterpart the outcome of the high-level talks between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other recent progress toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula; extended appreciation to Canada for its support for efforts of the government of the Republic of Korea toward a complete denuclearization and a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula; and asked the country to continue playing a constructive role in that regard.

Minister Freeland mentioned that if there were anything that Canada could do to contribute to efforts to peacefully resolve the North Korean nuclear issue, it would cooperate actively.

http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?sf=320858&sdFr=&psdIlTo=&psdI\No=&psdIlP=&psdI\multi_itm_sf=0&psdI\itm_sq_1=0&psdI\itm_sq_2=0&psdI\company_at=&psdI\company_nm=&page=5&titleNm=

S. Korea looks for Kim nuclear dismantling pledge at next Trump summit *The Asahi Shimbun, January 25, 2019*

North Korea must make concrete pledges toward curbing its nuclear weapons programme, such as dismantling its main nuclear complex and allowing international inspections to confirm the process, when leader Kim Jong Un meets

U.S. President Donald Trump as soon as next month, South Korea's foreign minister said.

Kang Kyung-wha told Reuters at the World Economic Forum in Davos that she is optimistic that North Korea will agree to concrete steps towards abandoning its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes, developed in violation of United Nations resolutions. "The (North Korean) leader has promised to his people many times that 'I'm going to take this country towards economic development'. He has to deliver that, and he's not going to get the kind of significant assistance unless he takes concrete steps toward denuclearisation and somehow eases the sanctions regime," she said on Thursday. "Given the strong political will on the part of the top leaders of the two sides... I think we will see concrete results."

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201901250012.html>

North Korea unlikely to give up nuclear weapons: U.S. spy chief Coats *Reuters, January 29, 2019*

North Korea is unlikely to give up its nuclear weapons capabilities despite recent moves indicating it was open to such actions, U.S. Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said on Tuesday.

Coats' assessment, in testimony before a Senate panel, clashed with President Donald Trump's periodic upbeat assessments of North Korea's commitment to denuclearization since his historic meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last June. And Kim continues to demonstrate openness to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, Coats said in testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"Having said that, we currently assess that North Korea will seek to retain its WMD capabilities and is unlikely to completely give up its nuclear weapons and production capabilities because its leaders ultimately view nuclear weapons as critical to regime survival," Coats said. "Our assessment is bolstered by our observations of some

activity that is inconsistent with full denuclearization," he said.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-northkorea-nuclear/north-korea-unlikely-to-give-up-nuclear-weapons-us-spy-chief-coats-idUSKCN1PN1Y7>

Missiles a priority, Tsai tells ministry *Jonathan Chin, Taipei Times, January 30, 2019*

President Tsai Ing-wen (蔣經國) has ordered the Ministry of National Defense to prioritize deploying air defense missile systems to counter the changing nature of the military threat against Taiwan. Tsai yesterday spoke to military recruits after her tour of Taichung's Chenggong Ling (成公嶺) military training camp, where she inspected live-fire sharpshooter practice and had lunch at the canteen.

Tsai said she recently toured an installation of Tien Kung III air defense weapons systems in Hualien, visited the 53rd Engineer Group in Taoyuan, and instructed the Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology to accelerate missile production. She has a personal interest in seeing the policies through, thus fulfilling her promise to develop a self-sufficient defense industry, Tsai said.

<http://www.taipetimes.com/News/front/archives/2019/01/30/2003708903>

N. Korea unlikely to give up nuclear arsenal: US intel chief *Korea Herald, January 30, 2019*

North Korea is unlikely to give up its nuclear weapons program, the US intelligence chief said Tuesday, calling into question the efficacy of ongoing diplomacy to denuclearize the regime. Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats made the remark at a Senate panel hearing, with only weeks to go before a planned second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

"We currently assess that North Korea will seek to retain its WMD capabilities and is

unlikely to completely give up its nuclear weapons and production capabilities because its leaders ultimately view nuclear weapons as critical to regime survival,” Coats told the Senate Intelligence Committee, referring to weapons of mass destruction. The North Korean leader Coats said.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190130000103&ACE_SEARCH=1

Iran

Iran’s withdrawal from JCPOA detrimental for Europe: SCFRI *Global Times January 16, 2019*

A senior foreign policy official warned that Iran’s withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and its consequences for the security of the region and Europe will not be in the interest of the European governments. Chairman of the Strategic Council for Foreign Relations of Iran (SCFRI) Kamal Kharrazi underlined that more serious talks between Iran and key European countries should be developed to examine the future of relations.

In his meeting with a Norwegian delegation from Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution (NOREF) think-tank, Kharrazi described the policies of the US President Donald Trump as dangerous for Europe, and said that efforts to create a gulf between western and eastern Europe and policies such as supporting Brexit and extremist nationalism in Europe are among the dangers that the United States has created for Europe. The senior official emphasized that this process should be stopped and if Europeans do not stand up to American pressure at this stage, they will face much more problems in the future.”

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1135935.shtml>

EU Nations, Mogherini Not to Attend Washington’s Anti-Iran Summit *Syria Times, January 18, 2019*

A US effort to enlist Europe in its pressure campaign against Iran faced a setback after officials said ministers from several

European Union members and EU foreign policy Chief Federica Mogherini will skip a summit organized by Washington on Iran and the Middle East in Poland. A senior EU official said on Thursday that Mogherini wouldn’t attend the Warsaw gathering because of a prior engagement, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Mogherini has spearheaded EU efforts to sustain the 2015 deal, which offered Iran relief from sanctions in exchange for steps to curb its nuclear program. The senior EU official said the bloc remains unclear on what vision of peace and stability in the Middle East the Feb. 13-14 summit will aim to promote. There is “a lot of uncertainty about participation of many other EU member states at ministerial level,” the official said.

<http://syriatimes.sy/index.php/news/world/39837-eu-nations-mogherini-not-to-attend-washington-s-anti-iran-summit>

Danon Calls On U.N. To Take Action against Iranian Ballistic Missiles *Tovah Lazaroff, The Jerusalem Post, January 20, 2019*

The United Nations Security Council must take action to curb the threat of Iran’s ballistic missiles, particularly those with the ability to carry nuclear warheads, Israel’s Ambassador to the United Nations wrote in a letter to the UN Security Council.

He plans to raise the matter at Tuesday’s UNSC meeting on the Middle East, which is typically devoted to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Danon continued, “Iran completely disregards Resolution 2231, not only by launching missiles itself – both toward outer space and into neighboring countries – but also by leading a frenzy of missile proliferation across an already volatile Middle East.

“Iran is a rogue state violating international law. It blatantly defies the calls of the international community, and by doing so, cynically threatens the stability of our region, Europe and beyond. I call on the Security Council to join the

nations and unions of states that have already taken measures to curb the threat of Iranian missiles, especially those capable of carrying nuclear weapons," he said. Under the U.N. resolution enshrining Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, Tehran is "called upon" to refrain from work on ballistic missiles suitable for carrying nuclear weapons.

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Danon-calls-on-UNSC-to-take-action-against-Iranian-ballistic-missiles-577974>

Upcoming Mideast Conference in Warsaw Not Aimed at Demonizing Iran, U.S. Says *Haaretz, January 23, 2019*

The United States said Tuesday an international conference next month to promote peace and stability in the Middle East is not aimed at demonizing Iran, which has denounced the gathering as America's anti-Iran "circus."

U.S. deputy ambassador Jonathan Cohen told the Security Council that the conference in Warsaw on February 13-14 sponsored by the United States and Poland is also not aimed at discussing the merits of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal known as the JCPOA, which U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from in 2018.

"Attempts to create some kind of military alliances in the region, holding different conferences and focusing on having a simplified unilateral approach to the region that is clearly linked just to Iran, is counterproductive," he said, "and just pushes further away the prospects of finding a genuine security architecture for the region."

Pompeo, who recently completed a Mideast tour bringing the Trump administration's anti-Iran message to the region, said Sunday in Qatar that he hoped the Warsaw conference will allow the world to see "the enormous coalition that is prepared to assist in creating stability and peace here in the Middle East." We'll work on many issues including how it is we can get the Islamic

Republic of Iran to behave more like a normal nation," Pompeo said.

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/upcoming-mideast-conference-in-warsaw-not-aimed-at-demonizing-iran-u-s-says-1.6869807>

EU's energy director shares relevance of renewables *Global Times, January 23, 2019*

Energy has always been an important aspect of governments' policies in the international spectrum and has never stopped influencing the livelihood of the people. The Global Times (GT) talked with Megan Richards (Richards), director, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission, who discussed the petrodollar system, EU's special purpose vehicle (SPV) towards Iranian oil and China's renewable energy collaboration with the EU.

GT: The EU is creating a SPV to help facilitate the exchange of Iranian oil and gas with EU goods, thereby circumventing the US sanctions. According to the scheme, the SPV would have taken place in late 2018, but no result has been seen so far. Can you tell us more about that?

Richards: That's an interesting question, because the SPV is one of the elements of what we were doing in the context of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which Europe is very much trying to keep. We think the JCPOA is a particularly important instrument to limit the nuclear capability of Iran and we have been working to maintain focus on its commitments and make sure Europe honors its commitments in that context as well.

The US has increased its sanctions on Iran and introduced them gradually. We have a few exemptions from both sanctions for some countries in Europe and they have been allowed to continue trading in Iranian oil for a short period of time. We don't know how long that's going to last. The idea of the SPV is to protect and promote the legitimate interests of Iran,

presuming also that Iran continues to meet its obligations and commitments under the JCPOA. The JCPOA is supposed to enable sanctions to facilitate European exporters and importers to pursue legitimate trade include oil exports from Iran and [other] imports from Europe, because there were many European countries that started to increase their trade with Iran on the basis of the JCPOA treaty. The work [of SPV] is continuing to advance, [and currently] we don't have any more details, but the countries are working very hard to try to make this work.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1136842.shtml>

Iran's nuclear chief: We bought spares for nuke equipment we agreed to destroy *Stuart Winer, The Times of Israel 24 January 2019*

Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, has detailed how Iran quietly purchased replacement parts for its Arak nuclear reactor while it was conducting negotiations for an international agreement under which it knew it would be required to destroy the original components.

The industrial complex at Arak in central-west Iran was a key topic in negotiations due to its nuclear reactor and heavy-water production facility. Western powers initially demanded that the core reactor mechanism – know as a calandria – be removed and that the pit in which it sits be filled with cement. While Iran agreed to remove – but not dismantle – the calandria, it also negotiated that only the pipes and openings leading to the pit be filled with cement, which was eventually done.

Last week Salehi said Iran has begun “preliminary activities for designing” a modern process for 20-percent uranium enrichment. Restarting enrichment at that level would mean Iran had withdrawn from the 2015 nuclear deal.

Tehran has in the past warned that if the remaining parties are not able to keep up

the trade and financial benefits the deal provided, it will also pull out and restart controversial parts of its nuclear program.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/irans-nuclear-chief-we-bought-spares-for-nuke-equipment-we-agreed-to-destroy/>

Iran likely to step up cyber espionage *Arab News, January 28, 2019*

BRUSSELS: Iran is likely to expand its cyber espionage activities as its relations with Western powers worsen, the EU digital security agency said on Monday. Iranian hackers are behind several cyberattacks and online disinformation campaigns in recent years as the country tries to strengthen its clout in the Middle East and beyond, a Reuters Special Report published in November found. This month the EU imposed its first sanctions on Iran since world powers agreed a 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran, in a reaction to Iran's ballistic missile tests and assassination plots on European soil. “Newly imposed sanctions on Iran are likely to push the country to intensify state-sponsored cyber threat activities in pursuit of its geopolitical and strategic objectives at a regional level,” the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) said in a report.

A senior Iranian official rejected the report, saying “these are all part of a psychological war launched by the United States and its allies against Iran.” ENISA lists state-sponsored hackers as among the highest threats to the bloc's digital security. It said that China, Russia and Iran are “the three most capable and active cyber actors tied to economic espionage.”

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1443431/middle-east>

Petraeus, Yadlin Disagree On Trump's Willingness To Attack Nuclear Iran *Yonah Jeremy Bob, Jerusalem post, January 28, 2019*

Ex-CIA director David Petraeus and ex-IDF intelligence chief Amos Yadlin

disagreed on Monday about whether US President Donald Trump would be ready to attack Iran if it came close to possessing a nuclear weapon. Yadlin's point was that US deterrence of North Korea and Iran in some areas was very strong, but that regarding developing nuclear weapons, he thought US deterrence was "weak" because of a lack of will. Rather, he said that Trump was only comfortable using maximum pressure in the diplomatic and economic arenas.

Petraeus, who has close relations with Yadlin, uncharacteristically jumped in to strike a different stance. He said: "but the question is nuclear deterrence, not other malign activity," alluding to the Islamic Republic's global terrorist activities, especially in Syria. He acknowledged that the US is drawing down forces in Syria, but said that was not the same as abandoning the Middle East. The former general and CIA director also said that the key was whether the US kept sufficient forces at a US base at al-Tanf, a potential crossing point for Iran to extend its influence throughout Syria and Lebanon.

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Politics-And-Diplomacy/David-Petraeus-Stanley-Fischer-debate-World-According-to-Trump-at-INSS-578930>

Tehran rejects talks on its ballistic missile program *Arab News, January 29, 2019*

LONDON: Iran on Tuesday dismissed pressure from France and other Western powers for talks over its ballistic missile program, but said it had no plans to increase the range of the weapons. France said last week it was ready to impose further sanctions on Iran if no progress was made in talks about the missiles, described by Tehran as defensive but seen in the West as a destabilizing factor in a volatile region.

"Negotiations over Iran's missile and defensive capabilities are not acceptable in any way," Maj. Gen. Hassan Firouzabadi, a top adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was quoted as saying by the IRNA news agency. He said French leaders were only raising the issue

to distract attention from anti-government demonstrations in their country. Iran on Monday denied that it was holding any talks with France about the missiles. "The enemies say Iran's missile power should be eliminated, but we have repeatedly said our missile capabilities are not negotiable," Iranian Defense Minister Amir Hatami was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency, using a phrase usually applied to the US and Israel.

The secretary of Iran's National Security Council said Iran would keep working to improve the missiles' accuracy. "Iran has no scientific or operational restriction for increasing the range of its military missiles, but based on its defensive doctrine, it is continuously working on increasing the precision of the missiles, and has no intention to increase their range," Ali Shamkhani, another close aide to Khamenei, was quoted as saying by state broadcaster IRIB. In November 2017, the deputy head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards warned that it would increase the range of its missiles beyond 2,000 km (1,200 miles), if Europe threatened Iran. A UN Security Council resolution that accompanied the 2015 nuclear deal "called upon" Tehran to refrain for up to eight years from work on ballistic missiles designed to deliver nuclear weapons.

But Iran said that call did not amount to a binding order and has denied that its missiles are capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Washington has also told Tehran to stop developing satellite-launching technology, saying it was concerned that the same gear could also be used to launch warheads. Shamkhani said Iran would keep working on the technology "to improve the quality of people's lives and increase the country's technological prowess." Telecoms Minister Mohammad Javad Azari-Jahromi said on Tuesday that an Iranian satellite, called Friendship, will be launched soon. Another launch failed earlier this month.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1443736/middle-east>

Germany says EU soon to launch Iran funding scheme *Mainichi Japan*

January 29, 2019

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union is on the verge of launching an alternative channel to send money to Iran that would sidestep U.S. sanctions against the Islamic republic, Germany's foreign minister said Monday. The "special purpose vehicle," or SPV, is part of EU efforts to keep alive an international agreement aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions. The future of the U.N. Security Council underwritten pact was thrown into doubt when President Donald Trump pulled out last year slamming it as a "horrible, one-sided deal."

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told reporters in Brussels that "as far as the special purpose vehicle is concerned: it will be registered, it has not yet been registered, but I would say that the implementation of our plan is imminent." Maas said the EU's aim is to ensure that "business not sanctioned by the U.S. can be upheld, and there is a suitable instrument for international payments." He said that Germany has been working notably with Britain and France but also other EU partners in recent months to set it up, without providing details.

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20190129/p2g/00m/0in/022000c>

Iranian commander threatens Israel's destruction if it attacks: state TV *Reuters, January 28, 2019*

A senior Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander on Monday threatened Israel with destruction if it attacks Iran, state media reported.

Iranian officials have previously said Tehran, which does not recognize Israel, would respond swiftly to any Israeli attack.

Israel backed U.S. President Donald Trump's move to back out of the 2015 international deal on Iran's nuclear program and welcomed Washington's reimposition of sanctions on the country.

Israel sees Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs as a threat to its existence. Iran says its nuclear work is for peaceful purposes only.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-israel/iranian-commander-threatens-israels-destruction-if-it-attacks-state-tv-idUSKCN1PM144>

Top intel chiefs break with Trump on Daesh, Iran, DPRK *Yeni Safak*

January 30, 2019

The heads of America's spy agencies broke with U.S. President Donald Trump on a slew of hot button global issues during testimony before a Senate panel Tuesday.

Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats told the Senate intelligence committee not only is North Korea unlikely to give up its nuclear program, the U.S. intelligence community continues to observe "some activity that is inconsistent with full denuclearization" following a summit between Trump and North Korea's leader aimed at ridding the Korean Peninsula of nuclear arms.

On Daesh, which Trump and his top officials have repeatedly claimed has been defeated by a U.S.-led coalition, Coats said that while the U.S. has defeated the terror group's territorial hold in Iraq and Syria "with a couple of little villages left," it will remain a threat for the foreseeable future. Daesh still retains control of "thousands of fighters in Iraq and Syria," estimated CIA Director Gina Haspel, who was testifying alongside Coats and other top intelligence officials.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/world/top-intel-chiefs-break-with-trump-on-daesh-iran-dprk-3473230>

Saudi Arabia

Can Saudi Arabia produce ballistic missiles? Satellite imagery raises suspicions *Paul*

Sonne, Washington Post, January 23, 2019

Satellite images suggest that Saudi Arabia has constructed its first known ballistic

missile factory, according to weapons experts and image analysts, a development that raises questions about the kingdom's increasing military and nuclear ambitions under its 33-year-old crown prince.

If operational, the suspected factory at a missile base in al-Watah, southwest of Riyadh, would allow Saudi Arabia to manufacture its own ballistic missiles, fueling fears of an arms race against its regional rival Iran.

Saudi Arabia currently does not possess nuclear weapons, so any missiles produced at the apparent factory are likely to be conventionally armed. But a missile-making facility would be a critical component of any eventual Saudi nuclear weapons program, hypothetically giving the kingdom capability to produce the preferred delivery systems for nuclear warheads.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/can-saudi-arabia-produce-ballistic-missiles-satellite-imagery-raises-suspensions/2019/01/23/49e46d8c-1852-11e9-a804-c35766b9234_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.7104fa30ad0

Experts, images suggest a Saudi ballistic missile programme is in the works *Dawn, January, 26, 2019*

A military base deep inside Saudi Arabia appears to be testing and possibly manufacturing ballistic missiles, experts and satellite images suggest, evidence of the type of weapons programme it has long criticised its arch-rival Iran for possessing. Having such a programme could further strain relations with the United States, the kingdom's longtime security partner, at a time when ties already are being tested by the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi and the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

The November satellite images show what appear to be structures big enough to build and fuel ballistic missiles. An apparent rocket-engine test stand can be seen in a corner of the base the type on which a rocket is positioned on its side and test-fired in place. Such testing is key for countries attempting to manufacture working missiles, experts say.

Michael Elleman, the senior fellow for missile defence at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Washington, also reviewed the satellite photos and said they appear to show a ballistic missile programme. Congress has grown increasingly critical of Saudi Arabia since the Oct 2 assassination of Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, allegedly carried out by members of Prince Mohammed's entourage. The kingdom's years-long war in Yemen also has angered lawmakers. If the Saudis produce "medium-range systems inherently capable of carrying nuclear weapons, the response will be much more robust, though likely out of public view", Elleman said. "Congress, on the other hand, may lash out, as this will be seen as another affront to the US and regional stability."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1459910>

How Saudi Arabia's nuclear power will play a role against climate change *Caline Malek, Arab News, January 30, 2019*

As nuclear power is increasingly being seen as a key element in tackling climate change, Saudi Arabia is moving toward adopting the renewable energy source. According to a report last year by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a large increase in nuclear power could help keep global warming to below 1.5 degrees Centigrade, a target set as part of the 2015 Paris Agreement. But to achieve that target, experts say the world needs to start reducing greenhouse gas emissions almost immediately.

"The IPCC report made clear the necessity of nuclear energy as an important part of an effective global response," Agneta Rising, director general of the World Nuclear Association, told Arab News. "Nuclear power is the only form of electricity generation that can deliver constantly, reliably, 24/7 without the production of greenhouse gas emissions. A nuclear power plant also takes up a much smaller area, in contrast to many renewables such as wind or solar."

Dr. Peter Bode, former associate professor of nuclear science and technology at the Delft University in the Netherlands, said: "The need for electricity will increase by the conversion to electric cars for the next decade, and hydrogen-driven cars beyond 2030. Hydrogen gas is generated from water but also needs electricity, while a single nuclear power station produces energy equivalent to hundreds of wind turbines." Nuclear power is seen as especially well-suited to and beneficial in the Middle East, where energy demand is growing rapidly. "It's difficult to see alternatives in the Middle East for electricity needs without nuclear power as a major component in the energy mix," Bode said. "In addition, nuclear power plants generate jobs."

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1444166>

West Asia

Terrorist attacks in Israel decrease sharply despite 3 deaths *Jewish*

Telegraph agency, January 18, 2019

The number of terrorist attacks against Israelis dropped by 75 percent last month over November, but it was also the deadliest month since March with three people killed. The downturn in attacks was mostly due to Hamas inactivity along the border with Gaza, the Israel Security Agency said in its monthly report. In December, the agency documented 155 attacks compared to a two-year high of 645 attacks in November. Last month's tally was the lowest since March 2018.

Hostilities nearly ceased along the border with Gaza, with only 17 such incidents compared to 529 in November. Along with the three fatalities, 14 people were wounded in December. The number of attacks in the West Bank rose by 11 percent to 118 and the number of attacks in Jerusalem doubled, reaching 20.

On Friday, at least 10,000 demonstrators approached the fence separating Gaza and Israel as part of the weekly protests held there since late March. Some demonstrators began rioting, and Israeli army and Border Police troops used crowd dispersal methods,

wounding at least 16, the Israel Broadcasting Corp. reported.

<https://www.jta.org/quick-reads/terrorist-attacks-in-israel-decrease-sharply>

Secret Handwritten Memos Reveal How Israel's Nuclear Program Came to be *Adam Raz, Haaretz, January 20, 2019*

A treasure trove of memos written by top Israeli politicians in the 1960s and onward reveals disputes over the nuclear 'project,' its huge cost and the decision to adopt a policy of ambiguity, vast majority of the documents were original. Many of them were written by Israel Galili, a minister without portfolio and close adviser to two prime ministers, Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir. Others were penned by Yigal Allon, Shimon Peres, Moshe Dayan and Abba Eban, and by Eshkol himself. Many of the items refer to highly confidential meetings that took place in 1962-1963, where the future of the nuclear project, and its impact on Israel's neighbors, especially Egypt, were discussed. No official minutes were taken at these meetings, and the participants were forbidden to sum them up in writing.

The history of the Israeli nuclear project is important not only because of its bearing on the country's past, but because of its influence on the present and the future. Despite the firm stance to the contrary of the defense establishment (and others), it is possible to hold a serious and responsible discussion about historical facts without "denting" the policy of ambiguity.

Foreign intelligence agencies do not base their evaluations on historical documentation that is 50-plus years old. Whereas a lively discussion on the significance of nuclear development has been held throughout the world for years, in Israel there is only silence. This is not a minor issue, as the nuclear project raises weighty questions: Who makes the decisions? Who is supervising the project? What is its effect on the foreign relations of the nuclear state? What is its cost? What

effect does it have on security conceptions? And so on.

A public that is willing to remain in the shadows where its state's nuclear policy is concerned, should not be surprised that decades later after its critical origins, a criminal episode is revealed dealing with the decision-making processes on the acquisition of submarines that, according to foreign sources, are capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/premium-secret-handwritten-memos-reveal-how-israel-s-nuclear-program-came-to-be-1.6850955>

Netanyahu's Boasting Of Syria Strikes May Be A Preemptive Attack On Gantz *Gil Hoffman, Jerusalem Post, January 21, 2019*

Two concurrent trends can be contrasted at this early stage ahead of the April 9 election, and they may not be a coincidence. The first is the silence of former IDF chief of staff Benny Gantz, who has been presumed to be the main competition of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Gantz wants to build himself up politically in the limelight of his past military career before exposing his political views.

The second is the opposite behavior by Netanyahu himself, who has been boasting about Israel's military strikes in Syria lately in what has been interpreted by his critics as an attempt to build up his military credentials ahead of a challenge from Gantz, who could be joined on a Knesset slate by fellow former IDF chiefs of staff Gabi Ashkenazi and Moshe Ya'alon.

It is possible that Ya'alon is wrong, and that there are professional, strategic reasons for Netanyahu's change in policy. After all, Netanyahu was also criticized for exposing the Mossad operation that revealed Iran's nuclear archive in a high-profile speech to the world in April. The critics questioned why a clandestine Mossad operation had to be revealed in such great depth, like no operation by Israel's intelligence agencies ever had before. They got their answer nine days later, when US President Donald

Trump cited the nuclear archive as his main reason for breaking America's nuclear deal with Iran.

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-Elections/Is-Netanyahus-boasting-of-Syria-strikes-preemptive-attack-on-Gantz-578162>

SIPRI report offers novel approaches to nuclear disarmament in the Middle East *Talal Husseini, SIPRI Report, January 23, 2019*

A report commissioned by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) identifies two new approaches to securing nuclear disarmament in the Middle East, including reinforcing the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) free zone without the participation of Israel, or incorporating a WMD-free zone as part of a broader regional security dialogue. The SIPRI report noted that the previous efforts to eradicate the stockpiling of nuclear weapons in the Middle East have been underwhelming and that despite the formation of treaties, such as the NPT and the 1995 Middle East Resolution, an effective policy has remained unimplemented.

The first approach analysed by SIPRI is the possibility of a WMD-free zone process in the Middle East, without Israel's participation. According to the report, some Arab states proposed this course of action at the 2015 NPT Review Conference and the 2018 First Committee conference. However, in the absence of Israel's consent, there is a "growing realisation" that the NPT's requirement for consensus does not allow for any undertaking of a WMD-free zone without approval from all parties. According to the report, the possibility is improbable, but not impossible, as historical precedent shows.

An alternative approach would involve framing the issue of nuclear disarmament in the context of a broader regional security dialogue. Ongoing crises in the Middle East, ranging from Syria to Yemen, including the US/Iran and the Israeli-

Palestinian conflicts, call for a more comprehensive dialogue, with nuclear disarmament one of several issues on the table.

<https://www.army-technology.com/news/sipri-nuclear-disarmament-in-the-middle-east/>

South, South East and Central Asia

Joint statement of the 22nd EU-ASEAN ministerial meeting *EU News* *January 21, 2019*

We, the Foreign Ministers of Member States of the European Union and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), gathered on 21 January 2019 in Brussels, Belgium, at the 22nd EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.

We have a shared interest in promoting international law and internationally agreed norms and standards, thereby contributing to a peaceful, fair and prosperous world. We reaffirm our commitment to regionalism and multilateralism which are mutually reinforcing and which contribute to regional and global peace, security, stability, and prosperity.

We call on the DPRK to completely, verifiably and irreversibly dismantle all its nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, ballistic missiles and related programmes and facilities in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions. We are committed to supporting a comprehensive solution through diplomacy and fully implementing the UNSC resolutions, including restrictive measures. In this context, we urge the DPRK to return to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and IAEA safeguards at an early date and to cooperate with its monitoring system. We underline that the development of inter-Korean relations, the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of, and the peace regime on the Korean Peninsula are important for peace, security and stability

in East Asia and the entire world.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/01/21/joint-statement-of-the-22nd-eu-asean-ministerial-meeting/>

A resurgent Russia sets its sights on Asia *Bertil Lintner Chiang Mai, Asia Times, January 26, 2019*

When Vietnam and Russia established a new inter-parliamentary cooperation committee, an agreement finalized in December when Russian State Duma Chairman Vyacheslav Viktorovich Volodin visited Hanoi, the camaraderie harked back to their old Cold War ties.

Russia has happily filled the gap by delivering more than \$2.5 billion worth of weapons to Indonesia since November 1992. Sales have included armored personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles, Kalashnikov assault rifles, fighter planes, attack helicopters, and other military hardware, official Russian media have reported.

In another sign of the new world disorder, this Thursday the US offered to hold arms-control talks with Russia at an upcoming UN meeting in Beijing. The meeting comes against the backdrop of US accusations that Moscow has violated the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) agreement by deploying nuclear-capable cruise missiles that could target US allies in Europe.

<http://www.atimes.com/article/a-resurgent-russia-sets-its-sights-on-asia/>

US donates \$3.8 million in ground sensor radar equipment to Tajikistan *The Times of Central Asia* *January, 29, 2019*

United States Chargé d'Affaires Kevin Covert and General-Colonel Saimumin Yatimov, the Chairman of the State Committee of National Security of Tajikistan, on January 29 attended the handover ceremony of \$3.8 million in security assistance equipment provided to

the Border Guard Forces under the State Committee of National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan. The ground sensor radar system provides the Border Guard Forces with the capability to persistently monitor portions of their border that would otherwise remain unobserved by routine patrols. This capability is particularly advantageous in areas where long distances between outposts in harsh terrain make persistent patrolling challenging, the US Embassy in Dushanbe said in a press release.

<https://www.timesca.com/index.php/news/20779-us-donates-3-8-million-in-ground-sensor-radar-equipment-to-tajikistan>

House OKs Nuclear Regulation Act

The Philippine Star, January 31, 2019

The House of Representatives has approved on second reading House Bill 8733 or the Comprehensive Nuclear Regulation Act, which seeks to establish a comprehensive nuclear regulatory framework and create the Philippine Nuclear Regulatory Commission (PNRC).

Under HB 8733, the PNRC will be a single, independent nuclear regulatory body to focus on the control of peaceful uses and application of nuclear energy.

The measure aims to harness the peaceful and beneficial uses of nuclear energy in agriculture, health and medicine, energy production, scientific research, industry, and education; recognize the potentially harmful effects of ionizing radiation; protect society and the environment; establish a legal and regulatory framework for the regulation and control of the peaceful uses of nuclear resources; manage radioactive waste; and establish a legal and regulatory framework to prevent, detect and respond to unauthorized activities involving nuclear materials.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/science-and-environment/2019/01/31/1889440/house-oks-nuclear-regulation-act>

Misc/Global

Nagasaki's educators changing perspective on A-bomb teachings

Mainichi Japan, January 23, 2019

NAGASAKI (Kyodo) – Ideas are shifting about what constitutes the nebulously named concept of “peace education” in Nagasaki, the second city ever to suffer an atomic attack, as educators look to create a new approach to learning about their home city’s difficult history. Educators say too much emphasis has been placed on relaying the brutal reality of A-bomb strikes to future generations, resulting in students forming a myopic view of the incidents rather than questioning and debating everything that culminated in the nuclear attacks near the end of World War II.

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20190123/p2g/00m/0fe/060000c>

China clones gene-edited monkeys

Global Times, January 24, 2019

China has cloned five monkeys from a gene-edited macaque with circadian rhythm disorders, the first time multiple monkeys have been cloned from a gene-edited monkey for biomedical research. Scientists made the announcement Thursday, with two articles published in *National Science Review*, a top Chinese journal in English. The cloned monkeys were born in Shanghai at Institute of Neuroscience of Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Researchers said that the advance means that a population of customized gene-edited monkey models with uniform genetic background will be available for biomedical research. Disorders of circadian rhythm are associated with many human diseases, including sleep disorders, depression, diabetic mellitus, cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer’s disease.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1136922.shtml>

World powers must start taking steps toward nuclear disarmament

Chris Doyle, Arab News, January 28, 2019

Two minutes to midnight. The Doomsday Clock remains stuck at its all-time “high,” stressing the acute dangers to the planet of nuclear Armageddon and climate change. This symbolic clock, used by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, serves to highlight the grave dangers we face. In their view, the situation is more serious than even at the height of the Cold War, including the Cuban Missile Crisis, with the exception of 1953 – the only other time midnight was so close. More states now possess nuclear weapons: A total of nine, although the global figure of nuclear warheads has dropped from a Cold War high of around 70,000 to 14,485. Chemical weapons have been deployed in Syria by both the regime and non-state actors. Ballistic missile technology is spreading.

The prime fear centers on US-Russian tensions over disarmament. President Donald Trump announced his intention last February to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF). The US has, for over four years, accused Russia of violating the treaty by deploying its Novator ground-based missile, claiming it violates range limits.

As during the Cold War, the risk register looks bleakest when turning to the Middle East. Regional power rivalries, tensions and a complete lack of trust make for a disturbing mix. Enduring conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya are underpinned by a Saudi-Iranian cold war and a failure to even get close to resolving the issue of Palestine. None of this is helped by massive inequalities, wealth disparities and diminishing resources. Climate change serves only to exacerbate all of this. What are the international bodies tasked with disarmament doing to diminish this threat? Multilateral bodies are only ever as strong as the will and determination of their members. In the last two years, the trend is moving away from international cooperation to putting national “interests” first.

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1443271>

Five Nuclear-weapon States Hold a Formal Conference in Beijing

Ministry of Foreign Affairs People's Republic of China, January 30, 2019

On January 30, 2019, the formal conference among the five nuclear-weapon states (also the five permanent members (P5) of the United Nations (UN) Security Council) was held in Beijing. Assistant Foreign Minister Zhang Jun attended the opening ceremony and chaired the conference. Director of Strategic, Security and Disarmament Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nicolas Roche of France, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov of Russia, Political Director General of Foreign and Commonwealth Office Philip Barton of the United Kingdom (UK) and Under Secretary of State Andrea Thompson of the United States (US) respectively headed delegations to attend the conference.

China, France, Russia, the UK and the US, as the nuclear-weapon states designated by the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), formed the five nuclear-weapon states mechanism as a coordination mechanism during the review process of the NPT, and the five states have maintained regular communication on important issues concerning strategy and security since 2009, jointly promoting the review process of the NPT. It is the first time for the five nuclear-weapon states to hold a formal conference after a two-year interval. Centering on the theme of “Strengthening P5 Coordination, Safeguarding NPT Regime”, representatives of the five states carried out in-depth and candid communication on nuclear policies and strategies, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and other issues. Zhang Jun, on behalf of the Chinese side, the current rotating coordinator of the five nuclear-weapon states cooperation mechanism, made chairmanship conclusion remarks after the conference, stressing that all parties have reached three important consensus:

First, the five nuclear-weapon states committed to sharing responsibility for

international peace and security. The five nuclear-weapon states all recognized that the current international security environment faces severe challenges and that maintaining sound relations among major countries is of great importance to the settlement of global strategic problems. They agreed to take an objective view on respective strategic intentions, strengthen exchanges on nuclear policies and strategies, enhance strategic mutual trust and maintain common security, in a bid to spare no effort to prevent nuclear risks that may be caused by misunderstandings and misjudgments. The five nuclear-weapon states undertook to maintain the existing international arms control system and comply with all international arms control agreements. They reiterated relevant commitments to negative security assurances, including active security and negative security. The five nuclear-weapon states are willing to restart consultation with Southeast Asian countries on the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and continue committing to promoting the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Second, the five nuclear-weapon states undertook to jointly safeguard the NPT regime. They stressed that the NPT is the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and also an essential part of the international security architecture, and undertook to comprehensively and completely implement the NPT and promote its universality. The five nuclear-weapon states will follow the principle of "undiminished security for all", promote greater progress in nuclear disarmament, and realize the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons step by step. They believed that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons deviates from and harms the NPT, and reiterated their stance of unanimous opposition. The five nuclear-weapon states confirmed that they will do their utmost to solve the nuclear non-proliferation issue through political and diplomatic means, and support the International Atomic Energy Agency in strengthening the safeguard and supervision

system under authorization. The five nuclear-weapon states committed to promoting international cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation in the fields of nuclear safety and nuclear energy security. They also agreed to submit national reports to the 2020 NPT Review Conference, so as to jointly push the Review Conference for a success.

Third, the five nuclear-weapon states committed to continuing to use the five nuclear-weapon states cooperation platform to maintain dialogue and coordination. The current international security situation is undergoing complicated and profound evolution. The international security environment, the direction of the international order and the confidence of the international community hinge on interaction among major countries. The five nuclear-weapon states agreed to maintain strategic dialogue, strengthen exchanges on nuclear policies and strategies, enhance coordination in the review process of the NPT, and conduct researches on implementing specific work through the channel of ambassadors for disarmament in Geneva. All parties supported China in taking the lead to carry out the second phase of the work of the P5 Working Group on the Glossary of Key Nuclear Terms, and welcomed the UK to hold the next formal P5 Conference in 2020. The five nuclear-weapon states actively promote the international community to conduct open and constructive dialogue, and will hold a dialogue with international academic institutions, the media and officials from embassies of some non-nuclear-weapon states in China on January 31.

Zhang Jun expressed that as the permanent members of the UN Security Council and the nuclear-weapon states designated by the NPT, the five nuclear-weapon states conducted in-depth exchanges of views with mutual respect as well as a candid and practical attitude, reached many consensuses and charted the course for cooperation, which

showcased the active attitude of major countries to cope with international security challenges through coordination and cooperation, and was conducive to enhancing the international community's confidence in international security environment.

Zhang Jun stressed that with increasing unstable and uncertain factors in the current international security situation, major-country relations and responsibilities will be keenly watched. The five nuclear-weapon states should reinforce coordination and cooperation, seek common security and safeguard global strategic stability. As the rotating coordinator of the five nuclear-weapon states cooperation mechanism, China will continuously remain committed to promoting the five nuclear-weapon states to build consensus, manage differences, replace major-country competition with major-country coordination and replace zero-sum games with win-win cooperation, so as to make positive contributions to advancing world peace and stability.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/t1634793.shtml

Op-eds/Reports

What role does nuclear power play in UK and what are alternatives?

Adam Vaughan, The Guardian, January 17, 2019

Britain's old nuclear power stations supply about a fifth of electricity supplies and are a key part of the energy system. However, their share of the mix has been gradually shrinking as renewables have grown and energy demand has fallen. So far the only nuclear project to be given the go-ahead is EDF Energy's Hinkley Point C, a 3.2GW plant in Somerset, which will power about 6m homes when complete.

Attention will turn to a new method of financing known as the regulated asset base (RAB) model, which the government plans to give more details on this summer. The RAB approach would mean a regulator setting fixed costs and fixed returns for a nuclear developer, to overcome the huge

upfront cost of nuclear plants and years-long delay for investors reaping a return.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/jan/17/what-role-does-nuclear-power-play-in-uk-and-what-are-alternatives>

EU failure to implement SPV could worsen current situation:

Italian expert Payman Yazdani, Tehran Times, January 18, 2019

The Spokesman of Iranian Foreign Ministry Bahram Ghasemi said on Tuesday that Europe has not yet informed when it is going to launch the promised financial mechanism known as the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in order to help Iran continue business under U.S. pressures.

"The Europeans have yet to finalize the financial mechanism," Ghasemi said in reaction to rumors that the European Union is going to launch the promised financial mechanism known as the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) by the end of January. Ghasemi said that while the European side has repeatedly expressed its political willingness to implement the SPV, it has delayed implementing it many times so far, which is unjustifiable and unacceptable to Iran.

The spokesman further added "based on their statements so far, they have obtained the desired results by now. The issue was discussed with professor of Milan Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Dr. Pastori Gianluca.

Q: Is EU able to make operational the SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) despite the U.S. opposition?

A: Talking about the SPV mechanism is quite difficult since its operational architecture is still unclear. According to the rumors, it seems that, from a theoretical point of view, it could be useful in solving the financial difficulties of trading goods on the international markets without moving dollars, relaying either on some form of barter or on non-dollar transactions. However, solving this problem does not address the companies'

main fear: being sanctioned because they trade with Iran. The outcome is linked to the exposure to the U.S. market of the different companies; small and medium sized enterprises, without a U.S. nexus or without significant exposure to the U.S. could benefit from the SPV; large or heavily exposed ones probably no.

Q: How do you see the future of JCPOA, if the EU fails to make SPV operational?

A: Since the beginning, the success of the JCPOA was linked to the possibility to re-launch the Iranian economy. Today, U.S. secondary sanctions are jeopardizing this result and the failure to offer a meaningful implementation of the SPV could only worsen this state of things. On the other hand, the establishment of the SPV mechanism is of great political significance in itself. As Ms. Mogherini said, it provides the Iranian leadership with the incentive to remain committed to the JCPOA; at the same time, is another sign of the European willingness to support the nuclear deal despite U.S. opposition. Worth noting, the U.S. administration has already announced its readiness to 'aggressively pursue our remedies' 'if there are transactions that go through [the SPV mechanism] that have the intent of evading our [U.S.] sanctions'.

Q: Can Iran's economic transactions and operations with other JCPOA signatories Russia and China materialize Iran's goals under JCPOA?

A: Iran's trade relations with Russia and the PRC, as well as with India and other countries, can play an important role in dealing with Teheran's economic needs. Russia and China have little political incentive in supporting the U.S. position and – not surprisingly – they have already expressed their favor to the SPV mechanism. Stronger ties with Russia and China can also be a 'backup option' in the event of an SPV failure. The implementation of China's One Belt One Road initiative is another potentially positive development for the Iranian economy. However, as far as one of the aims of the JCPOA was establishing better relations between Teheran and the

U.S., strengthening the existing ties with Russia and/or China is of little or no avail.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/431975/EU-failure-to-implement-SPV-could-worsen-current-situation-Italian>

Signing of Asia Reassurance Initiative Act a welcome, well-timed move *Ted Grover, The Manila Times, January 20, 2019*

President Trump's December 31 signing of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA) is a robust statement of America's commitment to the Indo-Pacific and should be applauded. It is also well-timed amid the various challenges and opportunities that Asia provides to the United States.

Detractors of the new law may think it is alarmist, antagonistic towards China, ill-conceived, unnecessary or simply too little, too late. While no legislation is perfect, ARIA is an earnest follow up to Obama's Asia Pivot, providing a solid platform for America's renewed commitment to Asia. Other China-related challenges include the militarization of the South China Sea, the 21st century space race, the Belt and Road Initiative infrastructure development strategy, the Made In China 2025 manufacturing blueprint and Beijing's race to become the undisputed leader in science, quantum computing, AI and military prowess.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/signing-of-asia-reassurance-initiative-act-a-welcome-well-timed-move/499045/>

There's good reason to fear Iran's global reach *Yonah Alexander and Milton Hoenig, Times of Israel, January 25, 2019*

As the international community marks the 38th anniversary of the Ayatollah's rise of revolutionary regime, the persistent key question is whether Iran's regional and global security challenges – ranging from terrorism to nuclear ambitions – will continue to persist for the remainder of the

21st century. Make no mistake. The short answer is potentially yes if the current unfolding Teheran's intentions, capabilities, and actions are any guidance.

Clearly, Iran has the intention of operating out of Syria as the center of its arms trade. It seeks a permanent military presence with the intention to establish a land corridor through Iraq and Syria to the sea. Whether Israel can successfully block the ambitions of Gen. Qasem Soleimani and the Revolutionary Guard Corps' elite Quds Force remains to be seen. Will US President Donald Trump's withdrawal of American troops from Syria enhance Iran's influence as an ally of Assad against opposition groups and the Islamic State and a supplier of oil to Russia?

To be sure, Iran must be brought into a realization of the need to curb its hegemonic intention. Whether the withdrawal of the US from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal (the JCPOA) in May 2018 with the re-imposition of US sanctions last November will modify the behavior of Iran remains to be seen, as it deals with the growing impact on its economy. The Iranian economy is prospected to contract by 3.6 percent in 2019 with the re-imposition of the US economic sanctions, while its daily oil export has already dropped from 2.7 million barrels to 1.7-1.9 million barrels by September 2018. Would negotiations and compromise suffice? This may not be the time for that approach. But would the alternatives of extreme pressure and the threat of regime change alter Grand Ayatollah Khamenei's objectives and Iran's behavior?

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/theres-good-reason-to-fear-irans-global-reach/>

The US 2019 Missile Defense Review: A View From Asia *Joy Mitra, The Diplomat, January 25, 2019*

On the heels of the first and the second nuclear ages, respectively shaped by bipolar nuclear competition and nuclear nonproliferation concerns, the dawn of a "third nuclear age," a much-debated concept, seems incumbent with the world

witnessing a renewed strategic competition between the three superpower states of the United States, Russia, and China. The United States also faces a nuclear rivalry with regional powers like North Korea, which continues to modernize its arsenal, and Iran, which could pursue an intercontinental-range ballistic missile (ICBM).

In response to the threat from "rogue states" and "revisionist powers," the 2019 United States Missile Defense Review (MDR), released by the United States Department of Defense (DoD), has asserted that it seeks to detect and destroy "any type of target" either "before or after launch." The MDR states an intention in the United States to develop high-end capabilities like space based sensors for launch detection, modified interceptors for the F-35, and drones with mounted lasers to exercise boost-phase interception capability.

<https://thediplomat.com/2019/01/the-us-2019-missile-defense-review-a-view-from-asia/>

Saving NATO *New York Times, January 26, 2019*

The idea that the United States could withdraw from NATO is surreal. The alliance, now numbering 29 countries, has been the foundation of trans-Atlantic stability and prosperity for seven decades. It continues to keep a predatory Russia at bay and diminish the danger that American soldiers might once again have to fight on European soil.

Yet in Donald Trump's go-it-alone presidency, the possibility of America's withdrawal has become such a concern that Congress is taking steps to prevent it. The Democratic-led House on Jan. 22 voted 357-22 for a bipartisan bill that would tie Mr. Trump's hands by refusing him any federal money to pay the costs of leaving the alliance.

It seems obvious that leaving NATO would be a foreign policy debacle, eroding American influence in Europe and

emboldening Vladimir Putin, the Russian leader, who wants to weaken NATO so he can expand his political and military sway. Despite all that, there is no sign that Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, would stop such a move if Mr. Trump were to make it, as he has repeatedly threatened to do.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/26/opinion/sunday/nato-trump.html>

India and Pakistan need to engage

Talat Masood, The Express Tribune, January 30, 2019

Ever since PM Imran Khan has assumed office he has made several statements and sincere overtures to normalise relations with India. The previous PML-N government was equally keen to improve relations. In fact, PM Modi made a surprise visit to Lahore on his way back from Russia and a stopover in Afghanistan in December 2015. It was significant that it was the first trip to Pakistan by an Indian leader since 2004, even, if it was in response to an invitation of then PM Nawaz Sharif for a family wedding. It augured well for both countries and the region. But the goodwill was not to last too long. An attack on a base in Pathankot in Punjab state in January 2016 and on an army base at Uri in Indian-Occupied Kashmir in September of the same year gave PM Modi an opportunity to blame Pakistan.

Since then the Indian government has taken a highly antagonistic stance against Pakistan. The more troubling aspect is that PM Modi exploited Pakistan-bashing as a means for gaining support during last year's Indian state elections. Most analysts are of the view that his hostile attitude would persist at least until the forthcoming general national elections due in April-May this year. And Pakistan should wait it out until then. PM Khan in some of his recent statements has voiced similar views. Pakistan has taken definite measures to tighten control on militant organisations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba that is accused by India of attacking military and civilian targets notably the 2001 Indian parliament attack.

The use of non-state actors to supplement military capability has led to destabilising society and inviting serious international strictures. No doubt, of late Pakistan has enacted laws and ensured that these organisations are banned and their activists do not remerge under new names. But India would still try to keep the episode alive for propaganda purposes.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1899593/6-india-pakistan-need-engage/>

Revitalizing Nuclear Security in an Era of Uncertainty, Harvard

*Kennedy Centre Matthew Bunn
Nickolas Roth William H. Tobey, Belfer
Centre, January 2019*

Few tasks could be more important than keeping nuclear weapons and their essential ingredients out of terrorist hands. The world community has made substantial progress in improving security for such stocks since the early 1990s, including through the nuclear security summits in 2010-2016.

Since the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit, countries have continued to take measurable steps to improve nuclear security, from requiring protections against cyber attacks to launching programs to strengthen security culture in nuclear organizations. But momentum is slowing, raising serious doubts as to whether national leaders are fulfilling their commitment to continue to make nuclear security a priority. High-level political attention to nuclear security and overcoming obstacles has largely faded, international mechanisms for fostering nuclear security action and cooperation have not managed to fill the gap created by the absence of nuclear security summits, and political disputes continue to impede efforts to sustain or expand cooperation in crucial areas. At the same time, stockpiles of nuclear weapons and materials in unstable regions continue to grow and to shift in directions that increase risks. Terrorist threats and important nuclear security weaknesses

exist that must be addressed. Additionally, rapidly evolving technologies such as cyber and drones could increase adversary threats to nuclear facilities and stocks in the years to come. If nuclear security improvements do not keep pace, the risk of nuclear terrorism is likely to grow.

<https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/RevitalizingNuclearSecurity.pdf>

EDITORIAL: New U.S. missile defense strategy could launch space arms race

The Asahi Shimbun,
January 22, 2019

U.S. President Donald Trump's new missile defense strategy has raised the disturbing prospect of a futile arms race in space. The Trump administration has released its Missile Defense Review, a document describing the U.S. medium-term strategy for missile defense. The previous missile defense review, announced in 2010 by then President Barack Obama, focused on the threats posed by ballistic missiles developed by North Korea and Iran. But the new strategy is marked by its emphasis on the active use of space to counter hypersonic weapons and other new military technologies being developed by Russia and China.

Hypersonic weapons are systems that are capable of traveling at speeds of Mach 5 or faster and difficult to be detected or intercepted by ground-based radar systems. The new review calls for deploying space-based sensors to detect missile launches and track flying missiles along with space-based interceptors to destroy them immediately after they are launched. But shooting down missiles flying at such high speeds is a formidable technological challenge, to say the least, and it is anyone's guess as to how much money is needed to develop such a system. There can be no space-based missile defense system capable of providing a reliable shield against high-speed missiles for the vast expanse of the United States and its allies.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201901220021.html>

Hitachi debacle strengthens Franco-Chinese hand in UK nuclear

Geert De Clercq, Reuters,
January 18, 2019

Hitachi's decision to freeze its \$28 billion nuclear power project in Britain strengthens the hand of France's EDF and its Chinese partner in talks with the government on how to finance new reactors. Funding new nuclear plants has become critical as Hitachi became the second Japanese firm to say its British nuclear power project had hit the buffers over financing. The two projects would have covered about 13 percent of Britain's power needs.

EDF and its partner China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN) want to use a financing model under which investors in their nuclear projects receive payment from the moment they start construction, reducing their risk. But to proceed with this approach, the government must first win over lawmakers and consumers, already frustrated by hefty energy bills and costly nuclear projects that often face delays.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-hitachi-nuclear-edf-analysis/hitachi-debacle-strengthens-franco-chinese-hand-in-uk-nuclear-idINKCN1PB2II>

Trump's space missile defense plan to keep eye on China, N. Korea

The Asahi Shimbun,
January 17, 2019

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration will roll out a new strategy Thursday for a more aggressive space-based missile defense system to protect against existing threats from North Korea and Iran and counter advanced weapon systems being developed by Russia and China. Details about the administration's Missile Defense Review — the first compiled since 2010 — are expected to be released during U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to the Pentagon with top members of his administration.

The new review concludes that in order to adequately protect America, the Pentagon must expand defense technologies in space and use those systems to more quickly detect, track and ultimately defeat incoming missiles. Recognizing the potential concerns surrounding any perceived weaponization of space, the strategy pushes for studies. No testing is mandated, and no final decisions have been made. Specifically, the United States is looking at putting a layer of sensors in space to more quickly detect enemy missiles when they are launched, according to a senior administration official, who briefed reporters Wednesday. The United States sees space as a critical area for advanced, next-generation capabilities to stay ahead of the threats, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose details of the review before it was released.

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201901170029.html>

Editorial: US should work with China, Russia for missile disarmament

Mainichi Japan, January 19, 2019

The world appears to one step closer to confrontation. The U.S. administration of President Donald Trump has announced the first Missile Defense Review (MDR) in nine years since 2010, revealing a plan to establish a missile defense (MD) system utilizing space that far exceeds the capabilities of Russia or China. The United States, China and Russia are all developing hypersonic missiles capable of flying at speeds exceeding Mach 5, and Russia revealed the hypersonic glider Avangard with a top speed of Mach 20 or higher. The new weapon is said to be able to penetrate existing MD systems.

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20190119/p2a/00m/0na/019000c>

Tsai orders faster missile production *Lo Tien-pin and Jake Chung, Taipei Times, Jan 26, 2019*

Production of Tien Kung III (“Sky Bow III”) and Hsiung Feng III (“Brave Wind III”)

missiles should be sped up, provided that quality is not affected, President Tsai Ing-wen (ㄊㄞˋ ㄩㄥˋ ㄨㄣˊ) said yesterday, adding that higher production rates are needed as the Chinese military threat grows. Tsai made the remarks during a visit to the Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology with National Security Council Secretary-General David Lee (ㄋㄨˋ ㄩˋ ㄨㄟˊ), Minister of National Defense Yen De-fa (ㄧㄣˊ ㄉㄜˋ ㄈㄚˊ) and Chief of General Staff Lee Hsi-ming (ㄋㄨㄟˊ ㄏㄟˋ ㄇㄩㄥˊ) to boost morale among research staff. The officials were briefed on the mass production of missiles before inspecting the facility.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the institute’s founding and personnel should be commended for embodying the founding spirit of the institute: to ensure Taiwan’s defense autonomy and national security in the face of changing external circumstances, Tsai said. The Tien Kung III and Hsiung Feng III missiles, which help Taiwan maintain a formidable defense, are the pride of the institute, but their success is due to the diligence of generations of researchers, Tsai said. “The institute’s researchers laid the foundation for its success by daring to brave the challenges they faced and learning from their failures,” she said, citing the institute’s motto: unwavering patriotism, innovative creativity, pragmatic application of the scientific method and the spirit of teamwork.

As the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Tsai said she is well aware of the institute’s importance and has increased its funding. She said she has also sought to improve relations between the institute and the Ministry of National Defense to ensure that the institute’s knowledge would find suitable applications. Tsai called on Yen, who doubles as the institute’s chairman, and Deputy Minister of National Defense Chang Kuan-chun to carefully plan the future development of the institute, focusing on expediting the manufacturing of quality missiles.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2019/01/26/2003708664>

US missile defense plan reveals illusion disguised as safety net

Global Times, January 18, 2019

US President Donald Trump laid out his administration's Missile Defense Review during a speech at the Pentagon on Thursday local time, declaring the US will develop a more advanced defense system to counter hypersonic and cruise missile threats from competitors and adversaries. Trump also said the US will do whatever it takes "to ensure that we can detect and destroy any missile launched against the United States anywhere, anytime, any place."

The Missile Defense Review makes clear the system will be aimed at protecting the US against existing threats from North Korea and Iran, and countering advanced weaponry developed by Russia and China.

Today, US missile defense systems have a greater presence in many countries and regions. Chinese and Russian targets are within its range, a vital component of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system found in neighboring countries. Additionally, the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System (aka Sea-Based Midcourse) is connected to THAAD, helping to make it even more efficient.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1136183.shtml>

Google's Nest camera hacked broadcasts hoax nuclear attack alert to terrified family

Global Times

January 23, 2019

Nest urged owners of its security cameras Tuesday to use enhanced authentication to thwart hackers, after one terrified a family with a hoax nuclear missile attack. A couple living in a California town told local media they experienced "sheer terror" over the weekend when a Nest security camera atop their family's television issued a realistic-sounding warning of missiles heading to the United States from North Korea.

The couple and their frightened child eventually figured out they had been

targeted by a hacker who got control of speakers built into the camera. Nest, which is owned by Google-parent Alphabet, told AFP that incidents of commandeered camera control in recent months were the result of hackers using passwords stolen from other online venues. Reported incidents involving Nest cameras in the US include a seemingly well-intended hacker telling someone that his data was exposed.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1136836.shtml>

Editorial: Why arms control won't work with North Korea or Iran

Eli Lake, Korea Herald, January 30, 2019

Dan Coats, the US director of national intelligence, appeared to undermine two premises of President Donald Trump's foreign policy on Tuesday. First he said that North Korea was not likely to give up its nuclear weapons. Then he said that Iran was still complying with the international agreement to pause its own nuclear program. This was the instant headline for most news organizations. Yet again, Trump's rhetoric is disconnected from the facts presented by the professionals serving in his administration. Some Democrats pounced.

This political point-scoring is too easy — and misses a larger point on the policy. Trump's critics might want to ask themselves a question: If he is wrong to seek a deal with North Korea, was Obama wrong to have pursued one with Iran? Conversely, if the Iran agreement was worth doing, then why isn't one with North Korea? To be sure, there are important differences between the two nations. Iran has never fielded or tested a nuclear weapon, and North Korea has. North Korea has not sought to train and equip militias throughout Northeast Asia, the way that Iran has done in the Middle East.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190130000238&ACE_SEARCH=1

Statement on the INF Treaty and Recommendations for Managing the Fallout of U.S. Withdrawal

Pranay Vaddi, George Perkovich, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, January 30, 2019

Heralded by president Ronald Reagan as holding universal significance for humankind, the IntermediateRange Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty between the United States and the then Soviet Union was the first agreement to eliminate an entire class of nuclear weapons delivery systems, prohibiting short-flight-time missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers, which were particularly threatening to Europe. In 2014, the United States determined that a new Russian ground-launched cruise missile, the SSC8/9M729, violated the treaty, and Washington unsuccessfully attempted to resolve the issue. The Trump administration has decided to withdraw from the treaty to develop its own noncompliant missile systems. Why Does This Issue Matter? Regional Security Implications for U.S. and Allied Militaries: With NATO-Russia relations worse than at any time since the Cold War, withdrawing from the treaty without a strategy supported by allies to contest Russian coercion and restore stability in Europe poses severe political and military problems for the United States and its European allies. U.S. withdrawal will exacerbate missile proliferation in Asia without improving U.S. security in the Pacific. U.S. standing with its Asian regional allies—including Japan, South Korea, Australia, Taiwan, and India—could be further reduced without a comprehensive regional security strategy that those allies support.

Leaving the INF Treaty will unleash a new missile competition between the United States and Russia. The U.S. nuclear weapons modernization budget is projected to cost \$494 billion between 2019 and 2028, with some estimates putting the thirty-year cost at \$1.7 trillion, even before adding in new intermediaterange missiles. U.S. strategic competition with Russia and China is driving military cost increases, but this competition will require long-term

prioritization. Ultimately, not every need will or can be met. Both Moscow and Beijing will likely outpace any U.S. deployments of intermediate-range missiles, especially over the next decade, making an arms race unwise and costly for the United States.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/01/30/statement-on-inf-treaty-and-recommendations-for-managing-fallout-of-u.s.-withdrawal-pub-78249>

Leaving the INF Treaty Won't Help Trump Counter China

Pranay Vaddi, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, January 31, 2019

On October 20, 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, the landmark 1987 arms control agreement that prohibits cruise and ballistic missiles with range capabilities between 500 and 5,500 kilometers. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's sixty-day deadline for Russia to return to compliance by February 2 has set the stage for the United States to begin the withdrawal process once this ultimatum passes.

U.S. officials say that the major reason for withdrawing is to contest China's growing military power and assertiveness. They argue that the United States needs to deploy conventional ground-based, intermediate-range missile systems (GBIRs) against China²—systems that the INF Treaty prohibits the United States from fielding. And because Beijing is not a party to the treaty, officials argue, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has a tremendous advantage.

China presents a real military challenge to the United States. The PLA's advanced integrated defenses against U.S. air, missile, and naval capabilities include substantial numbers of Chinese GBIRs, which create a high-risk environment for U.S. forces that stretches thousands of kilometers from the Chinese coast into the Pacific. In the event of a conflict, such anti-

access/area denial (A2/AD) capabilities could give China the ability to severely impede U.S. forces surging west to defend allies, as well as U.S. naval and air forces operating in China's periphery. Consequently, China's A2/AD systems may prevent the large-scale operations necessary to attack PLA operations against allied territory or forces in the South or East China Seas, or, if necessary, PLA forces carrying out strikes from the Chinese mainland.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/01/31/leaving-inf-treaty-won-t-help-trump-counter-china-pub-78262>

Chinese-American Relations in Cyberspace: Toward Collaboration or Confrontation? Ariel (Eli) Levite, *Lyu Jinghua*, *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, January 24, 2019

Cyberspace has evolved in recent years to become a critical area of international relations, much as the high seas and aerospace did in earlier centuries. Cyberspace may be even more important for international relations going forward because cyberspace is global, not easily demarcated into domestic and international spheres, and cuts across almost all human activities. Indeed, as an ever-larger percentage of human activity migrates to cyberspace, individuals, groups, corporations, and nation-states are becoming increasingly dependent on it. Taken together these trends endow activities and developments in and through cyberspace with an ever-greater capacity to affect the lives and fortunes of all. What happens in cyberspace can help or harm the order and well-being within states as well as the stability and prosperity of the international system writ large.

The United States has been on the forefront of the cyber revolution from day one. China is a relative latecomer to this domain, but it is rapidly catching up. This is not an accident but rather the outcome of a conscious Chinese strategy. On numerous occasions in recent years, the Chinese leadership in general and President Xi Jinping in particular have gone to great lengths to

acknowledge and analyze developments in the cyber domain, to articulate the Chinese perspective on cyberspace governance with Chinese characteristics, and subsequently to promote the development of a strategic thought "keenly grasping the historic opportunity for informatization development in a bid to build the country's strength in cyberspace." Xi has underscored the centrality of this front for China's development, noting that "the development of cybersecurity and informatization should contribute to China's drive to develop a modernized economy and achieve high-quality development, and to the new model of industrialization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization." He elaborated further on his cyberspace vision, saying that "efforts should also be made to develop the digital economy, promote deep integration between the internet, big data, artificial intelligence, and real economy, and make the manufacturing, agriculture, and service sectors more digitalized, smart, and internet-powered.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/01/24/chinese-american-relations-in-cyberspace-toward-collaboration-or-confrontation-pub-78213>

The INF Quandary: Preventing a Nuclear Arms Race in Europe

Ulrich Kühn, Pavel Zolotarev, William Tobey, *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, January 24, 2019

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces, or INF, Treaty, signed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987, was a profound achievement. It was the first bilateral nuclear arms control treaty to ban an entire class of weapons. It contained verification innovations such as continuous perimeter-portal monitoring. The diplomatic and technical experience gained from the treaty made possible the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) and the Treaty on Conventional

Armed Forces in Europe, or CFE. Most importantly, the INF Treaty reversed dangerous military trends in Europe that had left both sides less secure than they had been before such systems were deployed. Now the treaty – formally called the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles – faces an existential threat posed by compliance issues that have prompted a U.S. decision to withdraw from it unless its concerns are allayed.

Arms-control-treaty compliance problems are intrinsically important because they can corrode both trust and strategic stability. Moreover, if the INF Treaty falls apart, it will have a profound impact on the U.S.-Russian strategic relationship, with implications for all of Europe and likely beyond. It will affect how both sides analyze decisions on extending the New START Treaty, which is due to expire in 2021. It will likely foreclose for the foreseeable future any possibility that another nuclear arms control treaty could be ratified by the U.S. Senate. It will likely prompt deployment of new military systems, and consequent responses. It will spark controversy both in the U.S. Congress and between the United States and its allies. Finally, it would constitute decisive evidence that the United States and Russia have returned to a nuclear competition that was in abeyance for over two decades.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/01/24/inf-quandary-preventing-nuclear-arms-race-in-europe-pub-78302>

Why Is Nuclear Entanglement So Dangerous? *James M. Acton, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace,, January 23, 2019*

What is entanglement?

Entanglement describes how militaries' nuclear and non-nuclear capabilities are becoming dangerously intertwined. In a conventional war, for example, one state could use non-nuclear weapons to attack its adversary's nuclear weapons or their command-and-control systems. Such strikes

could pressure the country being attacked into using its nuclear weapons before they were disabled. To give another example, several states, including China and Russia, are developing and deploying increasingly long-range missiles that can carry nuclear or nonnuclear warheads. Such missiles create the risk that a nuclear weapon could be mistaken for a non-nuclear weapon, or vice versa. In a conflict, if one state mistook nuclear-armed missiles as nonnuclear and attacked them, the

Who coined the term?

As best I can tell, the term "entanglement" was first used by the American political scientist John Steinbruner in 2000. Others had written on the same subject previously, but hadn't used that word. Steinbruner was describing how a U.S.-Russian conflict might escalate. He pointed out that assets vital to Russia's nuclear deterrent, such as early-warning radars, would be located close to a military confrontation in Central Europe.

Nuclear Emulation: Pakistan's Nuclear Trajectory

Toby Dalton, Sadia Tasleem

"The more it changes, the more it stays the same" – Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr could well have been writing his famous epigram about Pakistan's nuclear deterrence policy. For a nuclear program some have called the "fastest growing in the world," how can this axiom apply? After declaring a strategy in the early 2000s of "minimum credible deterrence," to deter a perceived existential threat from India, in 2013 Pakistan announced that henceforth it would adopt a "full spectrum deterrence capability," 1 backed by a suite of air-, land- and sea-based nuclear delivery vehicles that Islamabad tested over the last decade. These include short-range, "tactical" missiles that are postured to deter "limited" Indian conventional military operations, and longer-range missiles that might be used either for countervalue or counterforce targeting. This is a picture of a nuclear arsenal in full bloom, whose growth probes the limits of

what can be deterred with the threat of nuclear use.

But looking beyond new terminology and more advanced weapons systems, there are threads of a consistent logic driving Pakistan's nuclear decision making. For Pakistani officials and scholars, increasing and diversifying Pakistan's nuclear arsenal is not seen as a policy choice, but rather a compulsion to maintain an effective deterrent vis-à-vis India. Any advances in India's conventional military capability, nuclear arsenal, or strategic position amplify the perception of an incessant and unremitting threat for which Pakistan has no recourse other than nuclear weapons. In this view, deterrence is more relative and elastic than fixed; "full-spectrum" capabilities provide a way to keep up and ensure that Pakistan's deterrence remains credible, rather than a new strategy as such.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/01/22/nuclear-emulation-pakistan-s-nuclear-trajectory-pub-78215>

IAEA Concludes Long-Term Operational Safety Review at Spain's Ascó and Vandellós Nuclear Power Plants *International Atomic Energy Agency, January 24, 2019*

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts yesterday completed a review of long-term operational safety at the Ascó and Vandellós Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) in Spain.

The Pre-SALTO (Safety Aspects of Long Term Operation) review mission was requested by ANAV (Asociación Nuclear Ascó Vandellós II A.I.E.), which operates both power plants.

The 12-member team, whose review began on 15 January, focused on aspects essential to the safe Long-Term Operation (LTO) of Units 1 and 2 at Ascó and Unit 2 at Vandellós, which respectively went into commercial operation in 1984, 1986 and 1988. The operator is preparing a license renewal application to the competent

Spanish ministry and the Nuclear Safety Council (CSN), Spain's nuclear regulator. The operator plans to apply for a lifetime extension of all three units beyond the current 40-year license.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-concludes-long-term-operational-safety-review-at-spains-asco-and-vandellos-nuclear-power-plants>

Presidential Candidates Need a Plan for Reducing Nuclear

Terrorism Risks *Matthew Bunn, Nickolas Roth, William H. Tobey, The Hill, January 29, 2019*

As presidential candidates hit the campaign trail this year, voters should ask them: "What's your plan for keeping nuclear weapons and the materials to make them out of terrorist hands?" Every candidate who is serious about national security should have an answer to that question; every president for more than two decades, including Donald Trump, has described nuclear terrorism as one of the gravest dangers the United States faces. There should be no disagreement between Republicans and Democrats – or between the United States and other countries – when it comes to measures to prevent terrorists from ever getting and using a nuclear bomb or sabotaging a major nuclear facility.

Strengthening security for nuclear weapons and materials is the most effective way to reduce the risk of nuclear terrorism, but as we document in a new report, "Revitalizing Nuclear Security in an Era of Uncertainty," global efforts to do so are losing momentum. That is creating a dangerous new era – one in which uncertainty about how terrorist threats might evolve is growing, and it is not clear if nuclear security protections against them will keep pace.

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/426689-presidential-candidates-need-a-plan-for-reducing-nuclear-terrorism>

Can the Pentagon Build a Bridge to the Tech Community?

David Ignatius, Belfer Center, January 24, 2019

As the age of artificial intelligence transforms warfare, the Pentagon faces a delicate problem: How does it convince employees of high-tech companies based in the United States that Americans are still the “good guys,” so that they’ll lend their talents to U.S. national security projects?

The challenge is huge, given that Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple and other tech giants see themselves as global companies with workers drawn from many nations. But tapping this talent base is essential for U.S. security — and fortunately, the Pentagon, after some false starts, is launching a creative effort to win the trust of suspicious software engineers who grew up in the shadow of Edward Snowden’s revelations.

The basic idea is to do AI “the American way,” as people used to say, by framing a set of clear, ethical rules through public debate. This AI Principles Project was launched in October by the Pentagon’s Defense Innovation Board. The first major public meeting took place on Tuesday at Harvard, where Pentagon officials met with about a dozen AI experts, some of them strong critics of U.S. military actions.

<https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/can-pentagon-build-bridge-tech-community>

Missile Defense Review makes US less safe

Benjamin Zala, The Hill, January 25, 2019

The Pentagon’s repeatedly delayed Missile Defense Review finally has been released. Defense analysts and think tankers are poring over it, debating the pros and cons of its various announcements. Yet the most important aspect of the document so far has received the least amount of sustained attention. This is the explicit admission in the review of what critics of missile defense, including Russia and China, have asserted for 20 years: that the U.S. missile defense system ultimately is aimed at defending against the arsenals of other nuclear-armed major powers.

In launching the review, President Trump was careful to emphasize that the system is designed to defend against missiles “launched against the United States, anywhere, anytime, any place.” The review states that Russian and Chinese missiles are part of “the realities of the emerging missile threat environment” that American missile defense “must address.

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/426392-missile-defense-review-makes-us-less-safe>

2019 MISSILE DEFENSE REVIEW

Missile defense is an essential component of U.S. national security and defense strategies. It contributes to the deterrence of adversary aggression and the assurance of allies and partners. It also strengthens U.S. diplomacy, protects against missile attacks to limit damage, supports U.S. military operations if deterrence fails, hedges against future uncertainties and risks, and helps to preserve U.S. and allied freedom of action to meet and defeat regional adversary aggression.

This 2019 Missile Defense Review (MDR) is consistent with the 2017 NSS, the 2018 National Defense Strategy (NDS), and the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR). It describes the policies, strategies, and capabilities that will guide the Department of Defense (DoD) missile defense programs to counter the expanding missile threats posed by rogue states and revisionist powers to us, our allies, and partners, including ballistic and cruise missiles, and hypersonic vehicles. It recognizes and highlights the important changes that have taken place in the security environment since the previous 2010 Ballistic Missile Defense Review was conducted, as well as the considerable uncertainties about the future threat environment.

This 2019 MDR is based on recognition that the threat environment is markedly more dangerous than in years past and demands a concerted U.S. effort to improve existing capabilities for both

homeland and regional missile defense. This effort will include a vigorous science and technology research program in addition to the exploration of innovative concepts and advanced technologies that have the potential to provide more cost-effective U.S. defenses against expanding missile threats.

https://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Interactive/2018/11-2019-Missile-Defense-Review/The%202019%20MDR_Executive%20Summary.pdf

The War That Will Decide Israel's Future Won't Involve Airstrikes, Tanks or Missiles *Chuck Freilich*

Harteez, January 23, 2019

We have 30 years before enlightened Israel sinks into poor and illiberal darkness. This time, the threat is a militant religious fundamentalism of our own

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/elections/.premium-the-war-that-will-decide-israel-s-future-won-t-involve-air-strikes-tanks-or-missile-1.6869482>

Can This New Approach to Nuclear Disarmament Work? *Rebecca Davis*

Gibbons, War On The Rocks, Jan. 23, 2019

An estimated 14,485 nuclear weapons exist on earth today – most are far more powerful than those that twisted railway ties, leveled buildings, and crushed, poisoned, and burned human beings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The majority of these weapons belong to the United States and Russia. For some in the U.S. government, including Chris Ford, assistant secretary at the State Department's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, this number represents significant disarmament progress since Cold War highs of over 70,000 nuclear weapons. They argue the current security environment means that further reductions are not possible at this time. In contrast, for many disarmament advocates and officials from non-nuclear weapons states, this number is still far too high. They are now clamoring to ban all nuclear weapons. Because of this divide, according to Ford, we currently face a "disarmament crisis."

To address this crisis, Ford recently announced a new approach to nuclear disarmament. Rejecting the traditional step-by-step reductions that U.S. officials and allies have long promoted, and even more strongly rejecting the path offered by the 2017 Nuclear Ban Treaty (which he called "emptily divisive virtue-signaling"), Ford revealed the establishment of the "Creating the Conditions Working Group."

<https://warontherocks.com/2019/01/can-this-new-approach-to-nuclear-disarmament-work/>

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. For further assistance, please contact us at : indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com

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. This newsletter is part of the project "Emerging Nuclear Order in Asia: Implications for India" sanctioned to us by Department of Atomic Energy-Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (DAE-BRNS).

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