

# Asian Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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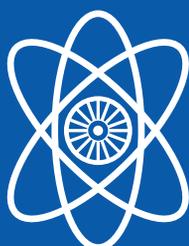
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All the articles are available from the mentioned sources in original format.

## Iran

### Iran undecided on nuclear bomb - Israel military chief

*BBC*, April 25, 2012

The head of the Israeli military has said he does not think Iran will develop nuclear weapons. Chief of Staff Lt Gen Benny Gantz made the statement in an interview with the Israeli newspaper, Haaretz.

He said Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had not yet made the final decision whether to build a nuclear bomb.

Tehran says it wants nuclear technology for peaceful purposes but the West believes Iran is developing weapons. In November, the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency published a report which complained it had been unable to "provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran" and that it continued to have "serious concerns regarding possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme".

The US, European Union, Canada, Japan and Australia are among those who have imposed sanctions on Tehran. The measures include restrictions on Iranian oil sales, a ban on the supply of heavy weaponry and nuclear-related technology to the country, and an asset freeze on certain individuals and organisations.

At odds with PM?

Gen Gantz says this pressure is beginning to bear fruit. He added that Iran "is going step by step to the place where it will be able to decide whether to manufacture a nuclear bomb. It hasn't yet decided to go the extra mile". And speaking of the

supreme leader he continued: "I don't think he will want to go the extra mile. I think the Iranian leadership is composed of very rational people."

But these views appear to put him at odds with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In an interview with CNN this week Mr Netanyahu said he would not want to bet "the security of the world on Iran's rational behaviour". The prime minister has also warned he would be prepared to take action against Iran to stop it obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Gen Gantz warned: "Clearly, the more the Iranians progress the worse the situation is. This is a critical year but not necessarily 'go, no-go'. We're in a period when something must happen. "Either Iran takes its nuclear programme to a civilian footing only, or the world - perhaps we too - will have to do something. We're closer to the end of discussions than the middle."

Haaretz reported that the general believed Iran's nuclear programme was vulnerable because its facilities were not bomb-proof. He also expressed concern that "we are the only country in the world that someone calls for its destruction and also builds devices with which to bomb us".

"But despair not," he said. "The State of Israel is the strongest in the region and will remain so. Decisions must be made carefully out of historic responsibility but without hysteria."

Although Gen Gantz does not think Iran would ultimately go ahead with a nuclear weapon, he said that as a military man he had to be prepared for every eventuality. "I am preparing for full deployment of our capabilities. The political leadership will have to take courageous, painful decisions," he said.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-17837768>

## Israeli defense minister: Nuclear Iran would set off regional arms race, must be stopped

*Associated Press, April 27, 2012*

Israel's defense minister says the world must prepare to "swiftly and firmly" stop Tehran from acquiring atomic weapons and setting off a regional nuclear arms race. In a thinly veiled reference to a military strike, Ehud Barak acknowledges that such an operation would be "complex, risky and unpredictable."

He warns that a nuclear Iran "would be far more complex, dangerous and immeasurably more costly," both in terms of human lives and financially. At the Israeli Defense Ministry's annual Independence Day reception late Thursday, Barak warned that "Saudi Arabia, Turkey and even Egypt would be forced to join the race."

He also predicted a nuclear Iran would "assertively" back anti-Israel militants in "sowing terror in the region and throughout the world." Iran denies it aims to build nuclear weapons.

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[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/israeli-defense-minister-nuclear-iran-would-set-off-regional-arms-race-must-be-stopped/2012/04/27/gIQABcgmKT\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/israeli-defense-minister-nuclear-iran-would-set-off-regional-arms-race-must-be-stopped/2012/04/27/gIQABcgmKT_story.html)

## Russia warns EU Iran oil embargo will be costly

Steve Gutterman, Reuters, Apr 27, 2012

MOSCOW, April 27 (Reuters) - Russia pressed its case against new sanctions over Iran's nuclear programme on Friday, saying an European Union ban on purchasing Iranian oil would end up

hurting the bloc's member countries. "The European Union is rejecting purchases of Iranian oil, even though very many EU countries depend on this oil," Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in an interview on state-run Rossiya 24 television.

"One can say, of course, that the deficit will be covered, but (some) refineries are geared specifically to Iranian oil ... and readjusting them will demand substantial investments that the EU can hardly afford now," he said. Russia has supported four rounds of U.N. Security Council sanctions over Iran's nuclear programme, which Western nations fear is aimed at developing nuclear weapons and Tehran says is purely peaceful.

But Lavrov reiterated Moscow's opposition to further U.N. sanctions and actions by other nations and groups, including the EU oil ban which comes into force in July. "The unilateral sanctions to which our Western partners resort, bypassing the Security Council, only strengthen ... those in Iran who are sure the West is not interested in resolving issues linked with non-proliferation of nuclear technologies, but is interested in regime change," Lavrov said.

Speaking ahead of a second round of talks next month between Iran and six global powers - Russia, China, the United States, Britain, France and Germany - he suggested the focus should be on coaxing Tehran into cooperation with the prospect of relief from sanctions.

Russia has been calling for a "step-by-step" resolution to the dispute.

Iran should be presented with "a concrete and realistic road map, a kind of programme that would be based on the principle of an action for an action," Lavrov said. He repeated Russia's proposal that as a start, Iran could freeze the number of centrifuges for uranium enrichment at current levels, while global

powers would refrain from imposing new sanctions.

The idea is that "if Iran starts steps to meet the demands of the U.N. Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency - let's say, not increasing the number of centrifuges - as a response, certain sanctions will also be frozen and will not be expanded," Lavrov said.

If Iran then reduced the number of centrifuges, some sanctions would be withdrawn, and eventually Iran's "uranium enrichment would be frozen for the period of negotiations" aimed to dispel all doubts about the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme, he said, according to a transcript of his comments.

"And after that the freeze on enrichment would be lifted" and Iran could produce nuclear fuel for a peaceful energy programme under IAEA control, he said. Russia says the centrifuge proposal was discussed at an initial round of negotiations earlier this month. Iranian and Western officials have said little about the proposal, but EU diplomats have said the embargo is not a new sanction. (Writing by Steve Gutterman; Editing by Andrew Heavens)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/27/iran-nuclear-russia-idUSL6E8FR9YC20120427>

## Experts Believe Iran Conflict Is Less Likely

James Risen, New York Times, April 30, 2012

After a winter of alarm over the possibility that a military conflict over the Iranian nuclear program might be imminent, American officials and outside analysts now believe that the chances of war in the near future have significantly decreased. They cite a series of factors that, for now, argue against a conflict. The threat of tighter economic sanctions has prompted the Iranians to try more flexible tactics in

their dealings with the United States and other powers, while the revival of direct negotiations has tempered the most inflammatory talk on all sides.

A growing divide in Israel between political leaders and military and intelligence officials over the wisdom of attacking Iran has begun to surface. And the White House appears determined to prevent any confrontation that could disrupt world oil markets in an election year.

"I do think the temperature has cooled," an Obama administration official said this week.

At the same time, no one is discounting the possibility that the current optimism could fade. "While there isn't an agreement between the U.S. and Israel on how much time, there is an agreement that there is some time to give diplomacy a chance," said Dennis B. Ross, who previously handled Iran policy for the Obama administration. "So I think right now you have a focus on the negotiations," he added. "It doesn't mean the threat of using force goes away, but it lies behind the diplomacy."

The talks two weeks ago in Istanbul between Iran and the United States and other world powers were something of a turning point in the current American thinking about Iran. In the days leading up to the talks, there had been little optimism in Washington, but Iranian negotiators appeared more flexible and open to resolving the crisis than expected, even though no agreement was reached other than to talk again, in Baghdad next month. American officials believe the looming threat of tighter economic sanctions to take effect on July 1 convinced the Iranians to take the negotiations more seriously, and that in turn has reduced the threat of war.

"There is a combination of factors coming on line, including the talks and the sanctions, and so now I think people

realize it has to be given time to play out," one administration official said, who, like the other official, spoke without attribution in order to discuss sensitive matters. "We are in a period now where the combination of diplomacy and pressure is giving us a window." In a television appearance on Wednesday, Senator John Kerry, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "I have confidence that there is a way forward."

Senior Iranian leaders have sought to portray the Istanbul round of negotiations as successful, which might be a sign, American officials and outside analysts said, that the Iranian government is preparing the public for a deal with the West that could be portrayed as a win for Iran. "I see that we are at the beginning of the end of what I call the 'manufactured Iran file,'" the Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akbar Salehi, said after the talks. "At the Baghdad meeting, I see more progress," he predicted.

IRNA, the Iranian state-controlled news service, reported last week that a leading Iranian cleric, Ayatollah Kazem Seddiqi, had made positive statements about the negotiations. The news service said that the cleric, in his Friday sermon to thousands of worshipers in Tehran, said that if the United States and other nations negotiating with Iran show "logical behavior in nuclear talks, the outcome will be good for all."

According to IRNA, Ayatollah Seddiqi said the Istanbul meeting showed "the power and dignity of the Iranian nation and was the outcome of people's resistance and following the supreme leader's guidelines." At the same time in Israel, the conservative government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been rocked by a series of public comments from current and former Israeli military and intelligence officials questioning the wisdom of attacking Iran.

The latest comments came from Yuval Diskin, the former chief of Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security service, who on Friday said Mr. Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak should not be trusted to determine policy on Iran. He said the judgments of both men have been clouded by "messianic feelings." Mr. Diskin, who was chief of Shin Bet until last year, said an attack against Iran might cause it to speed up its nuclear program.

Just days before, Israel's army chief of staff suggested in an interview with the Israeli newspaper Haaretz that the Iranian nuclear threat was not quite as imminent as Mr. Netanyahu has portrayed it. In his comments, Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz suggested that he agreed with the intelligence assessments of the United States that Iran has not yet decided whether to build a nuclear bomb.

Iran "is going step by step to the place where it will be able to decide whether to manufacture a nuclear bomb. It hasn't yet decided whether to go the extra mile," General Gantz told Haaretz. He suggested that the crisis may not come to a head this year. But he said, "Clearly, the more the Iranians progress, the worse the situation is."

Last month, Meir Dagan, the former chief of the Israeli spy agency Mossad, said he did not advocate a pre-emptive Israeli strike against Iran's nuclear program anytime soon. In an interview with CBS's "60 Minutes," Mr. Dagan said the Iranian government was "a very rational one," and that Iranian officials were "considering all the implications of their actions."

Mr. Netanyahu is dealing with the criticisms at the same time as he faces, for domestic political reasons, the prospect of an election this year, rather than next.

The divide within the Israeli establishment

is significant because Israel has been threatening to launch a unilateral strike against Iran's nuclear facilities if the United States is unwilling to do so. Washington has feared that if Israel were to do so, the United States could get dragged into the fight, which could result in a widening war in the region.

The crisis atmosphere seemed most pronounced in March, when Mr. Netanyahu visited Washington. Mr. Obama, fearful of antagonizing American Jewish voters during an election year, tried to strike a balance, appearing supportive of Israel but still stopping short of endorsing military action anytime soon. He said at the time that he "had Israel's back," and strongly suggested that the United States would take military action to prevent Iran from ever acquiring a nuclear bomb.

Mr. Obama made it clear that he would not be willing to pursue a policy of "containment" on Iran, in which the United States would accept an Iranian nuclear weapon while seeking to prevent a further nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

Abandoning containment as a policy option was the result of an intense debate within the administration, and moved Washington a bit closer to the Israeli position, and it was considered by the White House to be the biggest reward they were willing to give Mr. Netanyahu during his visit. Yet Mr. Obama also made it clear that he believes now is the time to give diplomacy a chance.

But some analysts warned that the Iran crisis could heat up again if there was not much progress at the Baghdad talks. The Istanbul meetings were designed simply to determine whether Iran was serious about beginning a new round of negotiations, but in the Baghdad sessions, the United States and other countries are expected to demand that Iran begin to discuss the details of a possible deal. That

would require that Iran show a willingness to compromise on its uranium enrichment program, perhaps by agreeing to halt its efforts to enrich at 20 percent, a level that is higher than is needed for civilian nuclear power.

Iran has said that its 20 percent enrichment effort is for use in a research reactor, but the United States and Israel suspect that it is actually an interim step in efforts to reach 90 percent enrichment, considered weapons-grade. If Iran does not engage in a substantive discussion of the details of its program in Baghdad, the crisis atmosphere may return.

"I think this could be a temporary lull," said Paul R. Pillar, a former C.I.A. analyst on the Middle East. "My own expectation is that even after Baghdad, we will only see the most preliminary understandings, and we will hear again people saying we are giving up too much. And the lull right now could just be a lull between the diplomatic meetings."

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/30/world/middleeast/chances-of-iran-strike-receding-us-officials-say.html?\\_r=2&hp&cid=nlc-dailybrief-daily\\_news\\_brief-link4-20120430&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/30/world/middleeast/chances-of-iran-strike-receding-us-officials-say.html?_r=2&hp&cid=nlc-dailybrief-daily_news_brief-link4-20120430&pagewanted=print)

## Iran hopes for "successful" nuclear talks with UN

Fredrik Dahl, Reuters, April 30, 2012

An Iranian envoy voiced hope on Monday that talks with the U.N. nuclear watchdog in mid-May would help resolve "outstanding issues", but he again ruled out any halt to the Islamic state's controversial uranium enrichment programme. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Saturday it would resume discussions with Iran on May 14-15 - more than two months after their last meeting over concerns about Tehran's atomic activities ended in failure.

"We hope that this will be a very constructive and successful meeting,"

Iran's ambassador to the Vienna-based IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, told Reuters. The main purpose is to negotiate on a modality and framework to resolve outstanding issues and remove ambiguities," he added, echoing language he and other Iranian officials have used before previous meetings that yielded no notable progress.

He suggested that only after such a "framework" for future cooperation had been agreed could Iran consider an IAEA request for access to a military site where the U.N. agency believes nuclear-related weapons research may have taken place. "Every action will be implemented based on this framework, afterward," Soltanieh said when asked whether the IAEA could visit Parchin southeast of the capital Tehran.

Western diplomats, who suspect Iran may be "sanitizing" Parchin ahead of any visit, have said Tehran still appears to be stonewalling over the U.N. body's most pressing demand to let its inspectors travel to the site. The IAEA last November issued a report detailing alleged Iranian research and development activities that were relevant to manufacturing nuclear weapons, lending independent weight to Western suspicions based on intelligence findings.

#### HIGHER-GRADE ENRICHMENT

The IAEA wants Iran to address the questions raised in the report about possible military dimensions to Tehran's uranium enrichment programme. Iran has dismissed Western allegations as fabricated and baseless. "The agency will continue to address the Iran nuclear issue through dialogue and in a constructive spirit, with a view to resolving all outstanding issues," IAEA Assistant Director General Rafael Grossi said in a speech on Monday.

Iran has also restarted negotiations with six world powers over the broader

dimensions of its enrichment programme and the sides have agreed to meet again in Baghdad on May 23. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said last week that he was optimistic that the talks with United States, Russia, China, Germany, France and Britain would make progress.

Washington and its allies believe Tehran is working on developing nuclear bomb capability. Tehran insists its activities have only civilian energy purposes and has refused to stop refining uranium, despite tightening sanctions. "We (will) never stop enrichment activities in Iran," Soltanieh said, describing it as an inalienable right.

He declined to comment however on Western demands that Iran halt the higher-grade enrichment, to a fissile concentration of 20 percent, it began in 2010 and has since sharply expanded, shortening the time needed for any nuclear weapons breakout. The U.N. Security Council has demanded in a series of resolutions since 2006 that Iran suspend all enrichment activity but Western diplomats have indicated the immediate priority is to get it to cease the more sensitive higher-grade work.

Many analysts say it will be possible to find a negotiated solution to the long-running row only if both sides compromise: Iran would be allowed to continue some lower-level enrichment if it accepts more intrusive U.N. inspections. "There is a growing recognition that zero enrichment is not a feasible solution," said Mark Fitzpatrick, a director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies think-tank.

But the 27-nation European Union reiterated the aim to reach a diplomatic solution involving "the full implementation" of all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. "Iran needs to engage in meaningful discussions on practical confidence-building steps in order to address the...concerns on its nuclear programme," said an EU statement delivered to a nuclear meeting in Vienna

on Monday.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/04/30/nuclear-iran-iaea-idINDEE83T0DY20120430>

## Ehud Olmert: U.S., not Israel should lead possible strike on Iran

*Haaretz, May 1, 2012*

In interview with CNN, former PM says military option should be the last resort, one supported by the Washington and the international community.

Israel could take part in a possible military strike on Iran, but should not lead it, former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told CNN on Monday, saying that military action should take place only as if all other efforts fail.

Olmert's remarks on Iran join a recent and heated Israeli debate on the issue, as current and past officials publicly criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's stance on the Islamic Republic's nuclear program.

Most recently, former Shin Bet chief Yuval Diskin said he has "no faith" in Netanyahu's and Defense Minister Ehud Barak's ability to lead Israel to war with Iran, portraying them as "messianic." Former Mossad chief Meir Dagan backed its counterpart on Sunday, saying Diskin spoke "his own truth." Dagan is known as an opposition to Netanyahu's and Barak's militant stand, saying there is still time left to pressure Iran diplomatically to withdraw its nuclear intentions.

In a recent interview for Israel's Independence Day, Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff contradicted Netanyahu and Barak when he said the international sanctions are working, adding that he sees the Iranian regime as "very rational". Days later Barak was quoted saying Iranian regime is rational, "but not in the western sense of the word."

Speaking to CNN's Christiane Amanpour on Monday, Olmert was asked about this "war within Israel" on how to deal with Iran's nuclear program, with the former PM saying: "I don't think there is a war, there is a serious and genuine dispute."

"The last resort is a military action, and I prefer it to be an American action, supported by the international community, if all the other efforts will fail," Olmert answered, saying Israel should only have a secondary role in such a scenario. "The United States should be the one that decides on it, on the scope of it, on the extent of it, its cooperation," said Olmert. "Israel certainly could be a part of the effort, but Israel should not lead it."

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/ehud-olmert-u-s-not-israel-should-lead-possible-strike-on-iran-1.427487>

## Iran seeks end to sanctions at talks, hits out at France

Fredrik Dahl and Marcus George, Reuters, May 2, 2012

Iran said on Wednesday it would seek an end to sanctions over its nuclear activities at talks with big powers later this month and it sought to turn the tables on its Western foes by accusing France of helping Israel develop "inhumane nuclear weapons". An adviser to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the negotiations in Baghdad on May 23 should lead to the lifting of punitive measures on Tehran, Iranian media reported.

The comments reflect a hardening public line in the Islamic Republic that an end to sanctions is vital to the success of the talks. It was also the first time an influential political figure explicitly said he expects progress on the issue. "At the least, our expectation is the lifting of sanctions," Gholam-Ali Haddad Adel was quoted by Iranian media as saying.

However, the United States and its allies

have made clear Tehran must take action to allay their concerns about its nuclear ambitions before they can consider relaxing sanctions. They say Iran's nuclear programme is a cover for developing atomic bombs and want verifiable assurances to the contrary from Tehran - for example, by accepting much more intrusive U.N. nuclear inspections and limiting its enrichment capacity.

Iran denies having a weapons agenda, saying it is enriching uranium solely for peaceful energy purposes. Western states have imposed expanded, more biting sanctions against Iran's energy and banking sectors since the beginning of this year. The European Union is preparing to slap a total embargo on the purchase of Iranian crude oil in July.

In Vienna, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Mahdi Akhondzadeh said nuclear weapons have no place in Iran's defence doctrine, and accused "certain" states of double standards and hypocrisy - a clear allusion to Tehran's Western critics.

He zeroed in on France, a pivotal player in tightening sanctions on Iran, accusing it of having assisted Israel in developing nuclear weapons decades ago. The Jewish state is widely reputed to have the Middle East's only nuclear arsenal.

France, a big exporter of civilian nuclear technology, built in the 1950s an Israeli reactor in the southern desert town of Dimona, a complex widely believed to have produced atomic bombs. "While certain countries such as France express concerns over peaceful nuclear activities of Iran ... they have spared no effort in helping Israel ... to develop inhumane nuclear weapons," Akhondzadeh said.

"Indeed, France is the founder of Israel's clandestine nuclear weapons programme," he told a meeting convened to discuss the state of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a voluntary

1970 pact.

#### IRAN "OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT TALKS

Israel, one of only three states outside the NPT, neither confirms nor denies it has nuclear weapons under a policy of ambiguity designed to deter regional Arab and Iranian adversaries but minimise the risk of arms races.

"The existence of nuclear weapons in the hands of ... Israel continues to pose the gravest threat to the stability and security" in the Middle East, Akhondzadeh said. The United States and Israel regard Iran's nuclear ambitions as the main threat to peace in the volatile region, stirring persistent speculation they might attack its atomic sites if diplomacy fails to resolve the long-running dispute.

France's representative at the two-week NPT meeting in Vienna said on Monday Iran, one of the world's leading oil exporters, for "far too many years" had pursued an enrichment programme without "any credible civil purpose."

Ambassador Elissa Golberg of Canada, a staunch ally of Israel, told delegates on Wednesday that Iranian activities could "only be understood in the context of a nuclear weapons development effort". Akhondzadeh said the existence of nearly 23,000 nuclear warheads in the world and their continued modernisation was the "most serious threat to the survival of mankind" and the nuclear weapons states should agree a date to eliminate them.

The five recognised nuclear weapons states are the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain - the same powers which together with Germany are putting pressure on Tehran to scale back its uranium enrichment programme. Akhondzadeh said Iran was "optimistic" about progress in the negotiations in Baghdad but would never give up its right to the peaceful use of atomic energy. Several U.N. Security Council resolutions

call on Iran to suspend all enrichment-related work.

The talks with the powers resumed in mid-April in Istanbul after more than a year - a chance to halt deterioration in diplomacy and help avert the threat of a new Middle East war. "I hope the Baghdad negotiations complete the talks that took place in Istanbul, and the other side should take note that it should use rational behaviour with Iran and (the) country will never surrender to pressure," Fars news agency quoted Haddad Adel as saying.

Western governments have credited the escalation of sanctions against Iran's financial institutions as instrumental in forcing Tehran back to the negotiating table. European diplomats have said an EU oil embargo is a valuable tool and is unlikely to be lifted unless tangible progress is made at the meeting. Any easing of pressure, they say, would be cautious and gradual.

"We have to make Iran believe this is not a 'snap your fingers' moment. We have to take it step by step," one Western diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The diplomat cautioned against expectations that the round of talks in Baghdad would bring a conclusive agreement. "To assume that all will be solved in Baghdad would be a mistake." (Additional reporting by Dan Williams in Jerusalem and Justyna Pawlak in Brussels; Editing by Mark Heinrich)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/02/nuclear-iran-talks-idUSL5E8G29P420120502>

## North Korea

### **U.N. Council to Expand North Korea Sanctions**

Choe- Sang Hun, New York Times, April 16, 2012

The United Nations Security Council

officially censured North Korea on Monday over the failed rocket launching of a satellite last week, saying it "strongly condemns" the action and had ordered its sanctions committee to expand the blacklist of North Korean goods, companies and individuals connected to that country's nuclear and missile programs.

"The Security Council underscores that this satellite launch, as well as any launch that uses ballistic missile technology, even if characterized as a satellite launch or space launch vehicle, is a serious violation" of measures adopted against North Korea in 2006 and 2009, the Council said in a measure known as a presidential statement.

"The Security Council deplors that such a launch has caused grave security concerns in the region," the statement said. Such statements do not carry the diplomatic weight of a Security Council resolution. But the Council's unanimous response and its quickness to act underscored the near total isolation that North Korea's young new leader, Kim Jong-un, faces over this issue.

In his first public speech since he was promoted to the top leadership posts, Mr. Kim — a grandson of North Korea's founder, Kim Il-sung, the cultish figure with whom he shares a remarkable resemblance — said in the capital, Pyongyang, on Sunday that his top priority would be to strengthen the military.

Mr. Kim, who has been leading North Korea's gala celebrations commemorating the centenary of his grandfather's birth, made no mention of the rocket's failure. But the 20-minute speech, broadcast live, was a significant departure from the secretive practices of his father, Kim Jong-il, his predecessor in North Korea's ruling Kim family.

North Korea's launching on Friday, which defied weeks of international warnings, set off a flurry of negotiations among Security Council members on how to deal with the North's repeated provocative behavior. Its statement on Monday warned that the Council would "take action accordingly" if North Korea conducted an additional rocket launching or a nuclear test.

The Council directed its sanctions committee to "designate additional entities and items" that could help North Korea's missile and nuclear programs. A similar censure from the Council angered North Korea after its failed launching of a satellite in April 2009. North Korea walked out of nuclear disarmament talks in protest and, a month later, conducted its second nuclear test.

That led the Council to adopt a much stronger resolution mandating more sanctions. The North's Foreign Ministry two days later announced that the country was enriching uranium, an activity that would give the country a new way of making atomic bombs in addition to its old plutonium weapons program. North Korea unveiled an advanced uranium-enrichment plant in 2010.

Analysts have expressed fear that a similar cycle of condemnation and protest will be repeated over the North's failed satellite launching last week. And this time, they said, North Korea might raise the level of its defiance by detonating a uranium-fueled bomb, although it remained uncertain whether the country had acquired enough highly enriched uranium for a bomb.

South Korea's government welcomed the Security Council action on Monday. "North Korea should no longer engage in provocative activities that harm peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula

and northeast Asia," said Cho Byung-jae, a government spokesman.

Earlier on Monday, Kurt M. Campbell, the American assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said during a trip to Seoul that the United States and its allies were determined to prevent any further provocations from North Korea.

The rocket failure had raised conjecture that the North Korean leadership might embark on a purge to assign blame. But video footage from a large military parade on Sunday in Pyongyang showed that two party officials in charge of the North's defense industries — Pak To-chun, party secretary for munitions industries, and Ju Kyu-chang, director of the party's department for machinery industries — were present in their military uniforms.

Another important official connected to the North's nuclear and missile programs, Paek Se-bong, head of the country's Second Economic Commission, retained his seat on the country's powerful National Defense Commission. Also on Monday, Choson Sinbo, a pro-North Korean newspaper in Japan that often speaks for the North's government, said North Korea would embark on developing a rocket much bigger than the Unha-3, the rocket that disintegrated Friday a few moments after liftoff.

The Unha-3 took off from a new launching pad near the western border with China. Experts who have examined the site through satellite imagery have said it was designed for bigger rockets than the Unha-3.

**China makes veiled warning to North Korea not to carry out nuclear test**

*Reuters, April 25, 2012*

China on Wednesday issued a veiled warning to neighboring North Korea not to carry out what is widely expected to be an imminent nuclear test. North Korea has almost completed preparations for a third nuclear test, a senior source with close ties to Pyongyang and Beijing told Reuters, an act that would draw further international condemnation following this month's failed rocket launch which the United States and others said was a disguised missile test.

"Peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia bears on China's national interest and also bears on the interests of all relevant parties," Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai told a news briefing. "China will oppose anything which might jeopardize peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia, as this would damage China's national security interests and the interests of the relevant parties as well," he said, when asked about the possibility of a new nuclear test by North Korea.

"We believe that no party should take any action that might escalate tensions."

China is the only major power that the impoverished North has for an ally, but even Beijing's influence over Pyongyang is limited in the diplomatic stalemate over the North's efforts to build a nuclear arsenal. The North's brief attempt at rapprochement with the United States earlier this year quickly evaporated with its April 13 launch of a long-range rocket which resulted in yet another censure by the U.N. Security Council, which includes China.

Critics say the rocket launch was aimed at honing the North's ability to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of hitting the United States, a move that would dramatically increase its military and diplomatic heft. The United States has called on China to do more to rein in North Korea.

But Cui, in China's highest level comments

yet on the possibility of a new test, said everyone shared equal responsibility. "Maintaining peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia is the joint responsibility of all sides, not just China alone," he added. "China's basic position on this issue is that the parties concerned should work unwaveringly for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia."

Washington, Seoul and Tokyo, which have most to fear from any North Korean nuclear threat, are watching events anxiously and many observers say that Pyongyang may have the capacity to conduct a test using highly enriched uranium for the first time. (Reporting by Ben Blanchard, Editing by Jonathan Thatcher)

## Panetta Warns North Korea Against 'Further Provocations'

RFE/RL, April 25, 2012

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has cautioned North Korea against taking what he called "further provocations." Panetta said such actions would only "provide greater instability in a dangerous part of the world."

"We strongly urge North Korea not to engage in any further provocations. I don't have any specific information as to whether or not they will proceed or not with additional provocations at this time. But again, I would strongly urge them not to engage in any provocation -- be it nuclear testing or any other act -- that would provide greater instability in a dangerous part of the world," Panetta said.

Panetta's comments in Brazil come amid mounting speculation that Pyongyang is preparing a possible third nuclear test.

The move would draw further international condemnation following a failed rocket launch.

South Korea's "Chosun Ilbo" newspaper

reported on possible preparations for a test in the northeastern town of Punggye-ri, where the North carried out two previous nuclear blasts in 2006 and 2009. On April 23, White House spokesman Jay Carney condemned bellicose North Korean behavior after Pyongyang's military threatened to turn parts of Seoul to "ashes."

The isolated and impoverished state sacrificed the chance of closer ties with the United States when it launched the long-range rocket on April 13 and was censured by the UN Security Council, including the North's sole major ally, China. Washington scrapped a food aid deal with Pyongyang after the failed rocket launch, an embarrassment for the regime of new leader Kim Jong-Un.

Pyongyang vowed retaliation after Washington's move. U.S. President Barack Obama visited the demilitarized zone between the two Koreas last month and denounced North Korea as a nation that cannot make "anything of any use" and "doesn't work."

[http://www.rferl.org/content/north\\_korea\\_panna/24559266.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/north_korea_panna/24559266.html)

## S. Korea, U.S. discuss N.K. in high-level meeting

*The Korean Herald, April 27, 2012*

Senior South Korean and U.S. military officials began a meeting here Thursday to coordinate their response to recent North Korean provocations and to discuss alliance issues. The Pentagon said it opened the inaugural session of the Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue, which the defense chiefs of the two countries agreed to at a Security Consultative Meeting last year.

"Discussions will include North Korean provocations and coordinated responses as well as a broader range of Alliance-specific considerations, including how to strengthen and enhance the alliance," Cmdr. Leslie Hull-Ryde, a spokeswoman

from the U.S. Defense Department, told the Yonhap news agency.

The KIDD, she added, is an overarching structure which includes a series of alliance-related meetings such as the Extended Deterrence Policy Committee, the Strategic Alliance 2015 Working Group, and the Security Policy Initiative.

"Discussions will include issues of mutual concern related to these initiatives," she said.

In the first-day session, South Korea was represented by Deputy Minister of Defense Lim Kwan-bin and the U.S. delegation was led by Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Northeast Asia David Helvey. Lim is scheduled to meet Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy James Miller in the second and final day of the meeting. The high-level consultations between Seoul and Washington come as reports circulate that Pyongyang may soon conduct another nuclear test or launch an attack on the South. The North test-launched a long-range rocket earlier this month, which was unsuccessful.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20120427000756>

## New satellite imagery shows preparations at NKorea nuclear test site

*Associated Press, April 28, 2012*

New satellite imagery appears to show a train of mining carts and other preparations under way at North Korea's nuclear test site but no indication of when a detonation might take place. Early this month, South Korean intelligence reported digging of a new tunnel at the Punggye-ri site, which it took as a sign that North Korea was covertly preparing for a third nuclear test.

The U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies provided The Associated Press on Friday with its analysis of a sequence of photos of

the site obtained from a private satellite operator and taken between March 8 and April 18.

The analysis estimates that 8,000 cubic meters (282,500 cubic feet) of rubble have been excavated at the site, where the communist country conducted nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009. "While it's very clear from looking at these photos that the North has stepped up preparations for a nuclear test over the past few months, it's unclear exactly when the blast will occur," said Joel Wit, editor of the institute's website, "38 North."

North Korea already has drawn U.N. Security Council condemnation for a failed, long-range rocket launch April 13 which tried to put a satellite into orbit but was viewed by the U.S. and other nations as a cover for a test of its ballistic missile technology. Pyongyang could face tougher sanctions if it goes ahead with a nuclear test.

Punggye-ri site lies in the country's northeast, and the analysis says the images show various activities at the site since March. The latest photo shows a train of mining carts, which are believed to be used to carry material excavated from within the test site.

The size of the spoil pile appears unchanged in the latest image, and it is unclear whether the test device has been placed in the chamber and the shaft sealed with other material for the final preparation stage before a detonation, the analysis says.

North Korea's longtime ruler Kim Jong Il died in December and was succeeded by his youngest son, Kim Jong Un. The North has stepped up its tough rhetoric against rival South Korea and the United States since the failed rocket test that blemished its commemorations of the centennial of the birth of the nation's founder, Kim Il Sung. On Wednesday, a top military chief in Pyongyang said the North is armed with "powerful modern weapons" capable of defeating the U.S. — a claim questioned by

experts.

Washington worries about the possibility that North Korea might develop a reliable intercontinental ballistic missile and wed it with a nuclear bomb. Outside experts say the North has enough plutonium for about four to eight "simple" bombs, but does not yet appear to have the ability to make bombs small enough to mount on a missile. [http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/new-satellite-imagery-shows-preparations-at-n-korea-nuclear-test-site/2012/04/27/gIQALZQ2IT\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/new-satellite-imagery-shows-preparations-at-n-korea-nuclear-test-site/2012/04/27/gIQALZQ2IT_story.html)

## IAEA says would "not be surprised" by North Korea nuke test

*Reuters, May 4, 2012*

The United Nations nuclear chief said on Friday he would not be surprised if North Korea were to carry out a new nuclear test, amid speculation the secretive Asian state is preparing to conduct the third such explosion since 2006.

"We don't have inspectors on the ground. We are following the situation carefully. We do not have particular knowledge or information but if a nuclear test takes place I would not be surprised," Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said at a conference in the Swiss town of St Gallen. The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council urged North Korea on Thursday to refrain from any new nuclear tests.

North Korea, which tested plutonium devices in 2006 and 2009, has almost completed preparations for a third nuclear test, a senior source with close ties to Pyongyang and Beijing told Reuters last month. The isolated state sacrificed the chance of closer ties with the United States after it tried to test-launch a long-range rocket on April 13 and was censured by the U.N. Security Council.

Pyongyang has long argued that in the face of a hostile United States, which has military bases in South Korea and Japan, it needs a nuclear arsenal to defend itself.

(Reporting by Emma Farge; writing by Fredrik Dahl; Editing by Janet Lawrence and Alessandra Rizzo)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/25/us-korea-north-china-idUSBRE83O09220120425>

## South Asia: Missile and Space News

### **Pakistan Says It Test-Fires Nuclear-Capable Missile**

Salman Masood, New York Times, April 25, 2012

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan successfully tested an improved intermediate-range ballistic missile early on Wednesday, according to a statement by the Pakistani military. Six days before the launching, India, the country's regional archrival, test-fired an Agni 5, a long-range ballistic missile that is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. Pakistani military and defense analysts said their missile test was not in response to India's, which was seen as focused on China. The Agni 5 tested last week is capable of reaching Beijing and Shanghai.

Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, a retired lieutenant general who leads the Pakistani military's Strategic Plans Division, said the improved version of his country's missile, which can carry a nuclear warhead, would "further strengthen and consolidate Pakistan's deterrence capabilities."

Pakistani officials said Wednesday's test was witnessed by senior military authorities, scientists and engineers involved in the country's missile program. The impact point of the missile was said to be in the Indian Ocean.

Mansoor Ahmed, a defense analyst in Islamabad, the capital, said Wednesday's launching appeared to be of an improved intermediate-range missile, with a possible range of 466 to 620 miles. The missile could be equipped with warheads designed to evade missile-defense systems, he added.

"The test signifies Pakistan's resolve and capability to modernize its nuclear delivery systems," Mr. Ahmed said, adding that it was not a response to last week's launching by India. "Pakistan is only concerned with maintaining a minimum credible deterrent capability vis-à-vis India and does not harbor regional or global ambitions," he said.

At the time of its test last week, Indian officials said the missile could be launched from a mobile platform, a claim that raised immediate concerns in Pakistan. Foreign Ministry officials in Islamabad said they had been notified in advance of the test by India, and made no further comments last week.

Last year, American intelligence assessments concluded that Pakistan expanded its nuclear arsenal in recent years, putting it on a path to overtake Britain as the world's fifth-largest nuclear weapons power. As Pakistan tested its missile, it was bracing for a fresh round of political uncertainty. The Supreme Court, the country's highest, is expected to deliver a verdict Thursday on contempt charges against Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani. A guilty verdict would force Parliament to choose a new prime minister.

Mr. Gilani has resisted demands by the court that he press the authorities in Switzerland to pursue corruption charges against President Asif Ali Zardari over his ties to a Swiss company in the 1990s. Mr. Gilani, a steadfast ally of Mr. Zardari, has long insisted that the president enjoys immunity in a foreign country. A seven-member court panel, led by Justice Nasir-ul-Mulk, is expected to announce the verdict Thursday morning.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/26/world/asia/pakistan-says-it-test-fires-nuclear-capable-missile.html?\\_r=1&ref=world](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/26/world/asia/pakistan-says-it-test-fires-nuclear-capable-missile.html?_r=1&ref=world)

## Tac Nukes in South Asia

Micheal Krepon, Arms Control Wonk, April 18, 2012

Hans J. Morgenthau was a heavyweight whose books, including *Politics Among Nations* (1948) and *In Defense of the National Interest* (1951), packed a real wallop. Morgenthau also wrote with great clarity about nuclear weapons. Check out his essay, "The Four Paradoxes of Nuclear Strategy," which appeared in the March 1964 issue of the *American Political Science Review*.

Here's what Morgenthau had to say about tactical nuclear weapons and escalation control:

Both tactical nuclear war and graduated deterrence presuppose three capabilities on the part of belligerents: the rational ability to deduce the intentions of the enemy from his use of nuclear weapons, the rational ability to know exactly at every moment of the war what kind of nuclear weapon it is necessary and prudent to use, and the practical ability to impose the limitations so determined upon all nuclear command posts. Both tactical nuclear war and graduated deterrence require a rational interplay of the intentions and actions of the belligerents, an interplay which theoreticians may calculate in the form of 'models' but which it is impossible to achieve consistently in reality. That impossibility derives from three factors: the essential ambiguity of the military act (which it of course shares with the political act), uncertainty about the enemy's intentions, and the enormous and irreparable risks, in nuclear war, of mistakes in interpretation.

Of the countries that possess tactical nuclear weapons, the two that currently seem to place increased value on them are

Russia and Pakistan. Pakistan's program raises more red flags because military friction between Pakistan and India is more likely than Russia coming to blows with NATO or China.

The history of wars on the subcontinent is rife with miscalculation: one side or the other has been surprised by their beginning and prosecution. Tactical nuclear weapons also lend themselves to surprise and miscalculation.

Very short-range delivery systems for nuclear weapons – like the 60-kilometer Nasr (or Hatf IX) missile that Pakistan has flight-tested, and India's 150-kilometer Prahaar – are not very helpful against tank offensives or fast-moving targets; even if railheads and bridges were suitable targets, they may not be within reach. Very limited use of tactical nuclear weapons by Pakistan might serve to warn India against advances, but the job of Pakistan's armed forces is to prevent, and not to detonate, mushroom clouds on home soil.

Whatever limited military utility short-range nuclear weapons possess depends on extreme forward deployments, where they would be most subject to attack, where early use would be most likely, and where command and control is most susceptible to breakdowns. Avoiding these pitfalls requires very slow-moving fronts on the subcontinent and the absence of air strikes. The first assumption is not unreasonable; the second is very questionable. In a crisis, there are also significant internal-security and escalation risks associated with the movement and forward-deployment of short-range systems advertised as being nuclear-capable.

After testing nuclear devices in 1998, Indian and Pakistani spokespersons downplayed the value of tactical nuclear weapons, without ruling them out. Pakistani military officers stressed that any use of a nuclear weapon would have strategic consequences — a very sound analysis, and one that greatly undermines the case for tac

nukes. Why risk crossing this momentous threshold with hard-to-defend and hard-to-control short-range weapons when more survivable and controllable longer-range nuclear forces are available?

Pakistan, unlike India, does not announce its nuclear doctrine. Instead, those in authority use press releases and the occasional interview to make essential points. The press release after the Nasr's flight test advertised the utility of tactical nuclear weapons. This statement is probably a rejoinder to India's growing conventional capabilities and its more proactive military plans. While India, in typical fashion, is moving slowly to implement those plans, Pakistan's military is methodically filling in perceived shortfalls in nuclear capabilities.

In defense of their perceived need for tactical nuclear weapons, Pakistani interlocutors point to NATO's strategy during the Cold War of dealing with a conventionally superior foe. Hans Morgenthau's warnings are again falling on deaf ears.

<http://krepon.armscontrolwonk.com/archive/3419/tac-nukes-in-south-asia>

## **Agni-V missile test fired successfully, capable of reaching China**

*Economic Times, April 19, 2012,*

India test-fired a long range missile capable of reaching deep into China and Europe on Thursday, thrusting the emerging Asian power into an elite club of nations with intercontinental nuclear weapons capabilities. The "Agni-V" ballistic missile has a strike range of over 5,000 km. "The mission was successful. The missile hit the target in Indian Ocean in a perfect way," Chief of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), V K Saraswat said.

The three stage, solid propellant missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher from launch complex-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Wheeler Island off Odisha coast at 8.07 am, defence sources said, describing the successful trial as a milestone in India's missile programme. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh congratulated the nation's defence scientists for the successful launch.

"Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh congratulates scientists of the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) for the successful launch of Agni V," said a statement from his office. Defence Minister A K Antony described the maiden test flight of Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Agni-5 as an "immaculate success" and a "major milestone".

But China noted the launch with disapproval. "The West chooses to overlook India's disregard of nuclear and missile control treaties," China's Global Times newspaper said in an editorial published before the launch, which was delayed by a day because of bad weather. "India should not overestimate its strength," said the paper, which is owned by the Chinese Communist Party's main mouthpiece the People's Daily.

After the maiden launch, the Agni-V witnessed a smooth and perfect vertical lift-off from the launcher and thorough analysis was done to assess its health parameters after retrieval of data from a wide range of sophisticated communication network systems, they said.

The test-fire of the first-of-its-kind missile, which was originally scheduled to be held yesterday, had to be postponed at the last moment due to bad weather marked by rains and heavy lightning for safety reasons, sources said.

The successful trial of Agni-V, considered by many to be having the features of Inter-

Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), demonstrated giant strides taken by India in its integrated missile development programme. Only the United States, Russia, France and China possess the capability to operate an ICBM at present.

"The sleek missile, within a few seconds of its blast-off from the Island launch pad roared majestically into the sky leaving behind its trajectory a trail of thin orange and white smoke before disappearing," said an eyewitness to the launch conducted amid light drizzling. The surface-to-surface Agni-V is capable of striking a target more than 5,000 km away. It is about 17 meter long and two metre wide with launch weight of around 50 tonnes. The sophisticated missile can carry a nuclear warhead of more than one tonne.

Preparation for Agni-V test had gathered momentum after India achieved successful results from the first development trial of Agni IV, which has a strike range of more than 3,500 km, from the same launch pad on November 15, 2011. Apart from V K Saraswat, who is also the scientific advisor to the Defence Minister, a host of top defence scientists, military officials and functionaries of concerned agencies were present at the site to monitor, supervise and witness the maiden test of the new generation missile.

Top scientists present at the test site said at least 20 laboratories of the DRDO were engaged for several months to prepare the state-of-the-art missile. About 800 scientists, staff and support personnel had been engaged to make the first ever launch of the Agni-V a success, they said.

Unlike other missiles of indigenously built Agni series, the latest one - Agni V - is the most advanced version having several new technologies incorporated in it in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine, said a scientist associated with the project.

India has at present in its armoury of Agni series, Agni 1 with 700 km range, Agni 2

with 2,000 km range, Agni 3 and Agni 4 with 2,500 km to more than 3,500 km range. Today's successful trial has put India into an exclusive club of nations possessing such long-range ballistic missile technologies. DRDO Chief V K Saraswat had recently said the missile was being integrated at various facilities for the test launch at an appropriate time.

DRDO plans to conduct more such tests of the missile over the next one year after studying and analysing the parameters achieved in each subsequent trial. Regarding the timeline fixed for fully developing the Agni V, Saraswat had said another year of testing would be required.

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-04-19/news/31367875\\_1\\_agni-v-missile-test-wheeler-island-sophisticated-missile](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-04-19/news/31367875_1_agni-v-missile-test-wheeler-island-sophisticated-missile)

## India poses no missile threat: NATO

Indo-Asian News Service, Brussels, April 19, 2012

NATO does not consider India as a missile threat despite the country's advanced missile development programme, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said.

India is all set to test its domestically-developed Agni-5 ballistic missile with a range of 5,000 km. The three-stage solid-fuel missile will be launched from a site on Wheelers' Island in the Bay of Bengal and is expected to reach its target area in southern Indian Ocean.

A successful test of the Agni-5 missile will put India in the elite club of nations having Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM), which includes the US, Russia, China, Britain and France.

Speaking at a news conference at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, Rasmussen said Wednesday the Alliance does not consider India as a threat to NATO allies and territory.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/842794.aspx>

## Muted Global Response Follows Indian Long-Range Missile Test

NTI, April 20, 2012

The heads of the launch team for India's Agni 5 missile offer poses after speaking with the press on Friday. Nations offered a muted response to the first flight test of the missile, which could hit major cities such as Beijing. The international community's response to Thursday's successful maiden test launch of a India's longest-range nuclear-capable missile has largely been quiet, including in China -- the nation the Agni 5 is primarily aimed at deterring, the Associated Press reported.

The muted reactions to India's missile test flight stand in stark contrast to the international anger that followed North Korea's long-range rocket firing last Friday, even though the North's attempt ended embarrassingly when its system broke up shortly after liftoff (see GSN, April 16).

The dissimilarities highlight the point that even though neither North Korea nor India is a member of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the global community has grown to view New Delhi as responsible nuclear-armed nation and partner in atomic trade.

"It's not the spear, but who holds the spear that matters. North Korea is a condemned nation. It's a pariah country. Its record of breaking nuclear agreements is well-known," India-based defense specialist Rahul Bedi said. "India has emerged in that sense as a fairly responsible country."

The United States responded to New Delhi's first nuclear test in 1974 by imposing sanctions that were not lifted for some 25 years. In a sign of how things have changed, the State Department responded to

Thursday's missile launch by pointing to India's "solid" track record on nonproliferation.

The Agni 5 must still go through a period of testing that is anticipated to last at least two years before the missile can enter into service. The missile has a top flight distance of roughly 3,100 miles and can strike targets as far away as Beijing, Shanghai, Pyongyang, Tehran and parts of Eastern Europe (Ravi Nessman, Associated Press/Google News, April 19).

"We will carry out two more tests of Agni 5 which will take about one-and-a-half years, and after that the production of the missile will commence and we will start handing it over to the military," Agence France-Presse quoted V.K. Saraswat, head of the Indian Defense Research and Development Organization, as saying on Friday.

"When it reaches the military they will start training and so a maximum time of two years is needed to operationalize Agni 5," he said to journalists (Agence France-Presse I/Yahoo!News, April 20).

Whereas North Korea continues to insist -- to widespread disbelief -- that its rocket launch was a peaceful attempt to place a satellite into orbit, India acknowledged it was trying out a nuclear-capable missile with near-ICBM qualities. Only nuclear powers China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States possess ballistic missiles with longer ranges.

Officials in New Delhi have emphasized the Agni 5 should not be viewed as a danger as India has pledged to never be the first to use nuclear weapons, AP reported. Pakistan, the primary focus of India's nuclear deterrent, was largely unruffled following the launch. Foreign Office spokesman Mozzam Ahmed Khan merely said New Delhi had fulfilled the terms of a bilateral pact that obligates both nations to give prior notice of any ballistic missile test flights.

White House spokesman Jay Carney on Thursday called on "all nuclear-capable states to exercise restraint regarding nuclear and missile capabilities, and continue to discourage actions that might destabilize the South Asia region." Carney noted to reporters that "India's record stands in stark contrast to that of North Korea, which has been subject to numerous sanctions" (Nessman, Associated Press).

Issue experts pointed out that despite Thursday's successful test, India still has a ways to go before it can match China's deterrent capabilities, AFP reported. Beijing possesses ICBMs that can travel at least twice the distance of the Agni 5. "We are still way behind China," New-Delhi based defense analyst Raja Mohan said. "In terms of missile numbers, range and quality, they are way ahead of us." Mohan criticized the emphasis placed on "demonstration" tests, which he said show the country's missile posture is headed by scientists instead of the military and policy-makers. "We can wrap ourselves in the flag today, but there's a dearth of real strategy on how to actually deploy missile technology." Analysts said four to five additional trial launches would be needed to validate the Agni 5's precision flight control and reliability. After that, bulk manufacturing of the missile could take place.

Bedi said New Delhi's senior politicians have not done a good job in making the most of the achievements of Indian researchers. "India's nuclear deterrence lacks political foresight and understanding of its employment primarily because of the politicians' limited understanding of strategic matters," Bedi said. "The euphoria over Agni 5's success will abate fast if not followed by firming up this dissuasive deterrence capability that has only been demonstrated today, not confirmed."

The success of the Agni 5 is anticipated to lead to more urging within India to ready missiles with even longer ranges. However, weapons scientist K. Santhanam criticized

the thinking behind developing continent-spanning missiles.

"The Agni 5 has strategic relevance, but how far do we want to go? Do we want to go to Washington?" he said to AFP. "We don't need ICBMs because we are at most a regional power and they wouldn't fit into any coherent strategy given the current security scenario" (Agence France-Presse II/Economic Times, April 20).

China and India share a long, heavily militarized border. The two countries had one limited war in 1962 and have continuing disagreements about border territory; New Delhi is also concerned about Beijing's growing naval presence in the Indian Ocean. The Agni 5 test flight "from the Chinese perspective, looks like a movement from balancing China to containing China," Geneva Center for Security Policy analyst Graeme Herd said in a New York Times article.

The test also "increases the perception of an arms race, and the reality of an arms race, in East Asia, particularly between China and India," he said. In reporting on the launch, Chinese state television questioned the Agni 5's precision flight capabilities and noted the missile's heavy weight would likely require it to be fired from a silo, making it easier to attack than missiles that can be shifted around. New Delhi, though, said the missile is road-mobile, which caused worry in Pakistan.

Islamabad-based security expert Mansoor Ahmed said the Agni 5 enhanced India's ability to mount a second strike, especially if the missile is modified to be fired from submarines. An SLBM "can be deployed beyond the reach of a Pakistani first strike, thus ensuring survivability of its nuclear force," he said.

U.S. Congressional Research Service nonproliferation analyst Paul Kerr told the Times the development of the Agni 5 could lead to a deepening of the arms buildup in Asia. "Everyone forgets about U.N.

Security Council Resolution 1172, which calls upon India and Pakistan to cease development of ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons," the analyst said.

Missile tests from Pakistan, India, and China have "potential ripple effects" as "there's no arms control among the three," according to Kerr (Timmons/Yardley, New York Times, April 19). Saraswat on Friday said there was no consideration of curbing India's missile efforts following the Agni 5, AFP reported. "Our development needs are based upon today's threats and also evolving threats," he said. "And so there is no question of capping any programme because we will always have an evolving threat which will require different classes of systems" (Agence France-Presse I).

<http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/not-much-criticism-seen-indian-long-range-missile-launch/>

## US supports India closing missile gap with China: Think tank

Indian Express, April 24 2012

The US is supportive of India's efforts to close missile gap with China and is comfortable with the progress being made by New Delhi in this regard, a Washington-based think tank has said. India's successful test of the Agni-V, a nuclear-capable long-range missile, is a major step forward for New Delhi in attaining nuclear deterrence against regional rival China, Lisa Curtis and Baker Spring of The Heritage Foundation said.

"The lack of US condemnation of India's latest missile test demonstrates that the US is comfortable with Indian progress in the nuclear and missile fields and appreciates India's need to meet the emerging strategic challenge posed by rising China," Curtis and Spring wrote in a blog. The Agni-V has extended India's missile reach to about

5,000 kilometres, marking a major achievement in its missile development programme.

The Agni-V is scheduled to become fully operational in two to three years. "It is telling that no country has criticised India's missile test," the US experts wrote. The US State Department simply called on all nuclear-capable states to exercise restraint but also noted India's solid record on non-proliferation and its cooperation with the international community on nuclear issues.

"This is a far cry from Washington's position on Indian ballistic missile development throughout the 1990s, when Washington pressured New Delhi to modify its nuclear and missile posture," they said. The new US stance also demonstrates a welcome evolution in US non-proliferation policy, they said.

"While some may view this evolution as a step away from US non-proliferation commitments, this is not necessarily the case. What it recognises is that US non-proliferation policy should not be a one-way street, where potentially aggressive, non-status quo powers like China build up their nuclear and ballistic missile forces, and the US responds by criticising its friends and allies for responding to the emerging threat," they wrote.

"It is a paradox, but nonetheless true, that sometimes the best option for confronting proliferation is to prepare to respond in kind. "From this perspective, the Chinese, in large measure, have themselves to blame for this missile test by India," Curtis and Spring wrote.

The US change in position with regard to Indian missile capabilities demonstrates how far the US-India relationship has evolved over the last decade. Now the US views India as a strategic partner with growing economic and political clout that will contribute to promoting security and stability in Asia, they wrote.

## PSLV-C19 puts RISAT-1 in orbit

M. Dinesh Varma, *The Hindu*, April 26, 2012,

The Hindu ISRO's launch vehicle PSLV-C19, carrying the RISAT-1 satellite, lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, near Chennai on Thursday.

India's first indigenously built all-weather Radar Imaging Satellite, RISAT-1, with applications ranging from agriculture to natural disaster management, is now in polar orbit after its carrier, the PSLV-C19, was launched with clinical precision from the Sriharikota spaceport of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Thursday.

RISAT-1, weighing 1,858 kg and the heaviest satellite launched yet by the PSLV, is a state-of-the-art Active Microwave Remote Sensing Satellite carrying a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) that will operate in the C-band.

In simpler terms, the RISAT-1 can beam back imaging of the earth surface features at day and night and under all imagined weather conditions. SAR, which gives the RISAT-1 its magical roving eyes, also makes it superior to the generation of optical remote sensing satellites in clearer imaging at all times and under any condition.

Terming the PSLV-C19 launch a "grand success," ISRO Chairman K. Radhakrishnan said the RISAT-1 was precisely injected into an orbit in an altitudinal range of about 480 km. In the next three days, it would be raised to a 536-km polar orbit. After the satellite was placed in orbit, solar panels and SAR antenna were successfully deployed. This antenna would shortly be pointed at the earth, and by May 1, imaging operations were expected to be launched, he said.

According to ISRO scientists, once its on-

board propulsion system raised the orbital altitude to 536 km, the satellite will begin its daily routine of 14 orbits with a repetitive cycle of 25 days. During its mission life of five years, the RISAT-1 will use its active microwave remote sensing capability for cloud penetration and day-night imaging of the earth surface and provide critical data inputs for a range of agricultural and soil moisture studies and forestry applications.

Among the many tasks the RISAT-1 can perform are paddy monitoring in kharif season, crop estimation and mapping of forestry biomass, besides providing the big picture on natural disasters such as flood and cyclone.

In the early hours of Thursday, the mission command centre at the ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre here went through the customarily tense countdown leading to the lift-off. At precisely 5.47 a.m., the launch vehicle's core stage and a set of six strap-on motors ignited within seconds to signal the successful lift-off of the PSLV-C19, with the satellite firmly docked in its metal frames. Jubilant scenes erupted at the mission command centre once the PSLV-C19 executed with programmed precision each of the four stages of ignition and separation in a flight of 18 minutes, and in one final push injected the RISAT-1 into orbit with an altitude of about 480 km.

Prof. Yashpal and Prof. U.R. Rao, two of the doyens of India's space programme, were present to partake of the celebrations of what they described as a landmark event. The approved cost of the mission was Rs. 488 crore — the assembling of the satellite involved Rs. 378 crore and the rocket Rs. 110 crore.

The PSLV C-19 is the 21st flight in the PSLV series of satellite launches, the 20th consecutive successful launch and the third to involve the high-end version (PSLV-XL) equipped with six extended strap-on motors, each carrying 12 tonnes of solid propellant. The two earlier flights of the PSLV-XL were used to launch

Chandrayaan-1 and the GSAT-12 communication satellite.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article3355368.ece?homepage=true>

## Arms Control and Disarmament

### **Non-nuclear states lobby big powers to disarm faster**

Fredrik Dahl, *Reuters*, May 4 2012

Non-nuclear states are urging nuclear-armed nations to disarm faster, while nuclear powers say they are making "unprecedented progress" in doing so, a divide on display at this week's meeting to discuss the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Under the pact, which most countries have acceded to, the five recognized atomic bomb "haves" agreed to work towards eliminating their bombs, and the "have-nots" pledged not to pursue them. A treaty review conference is scheduled for 2015.

Critics say there has been more emphasis on meeting the non-proliferation goal than getting the five major powers - the United States, China, Russia, France and Britain - to fulfill their part of the deal. "There is a quite a large distance between what the nuclear weapons states say and what the rest of us think," said one diplomat from a smaller European Union country.

Speaking on behalf of the seven-nation New Agenda Coalition, including Brazil, Mexico, Ireland and Sweden, South African ambassador Abdul Samad Minty told delegates: "Whereas the non-proliferation measures have been strengthened over the years, the nuclear disarmament side of the NPT bargain has yet to be realized."

The seven states reject "any justification for the continued retention" of nuclear weapons, Minty said. The head of the Egyptian delegation, Sameh AboulEnein,

expressed "deep concern at the continued lack of meaningful progress in the field of nuclear disarmament", and said this could undermine the purpose of the 189-nation NPT.

The United States, France, Russia, Britain and China issued a joint statement reaffirming their "enduring commitment" to meeting their NPT obligations. We recall the unprecedented progress and efforts made by the nuclear-weapon states in nuclear arms reduction, disarmament, confidence-building and transparency," they said.

Stocks of nuclear weapons are now at far lower levels than any time in the past half century, the statement said.

### **IRAN SEES NUCLEAR "HYPOCRISY"**

Britain's representative, Jo Adamson, said her country had a "strong record" of fulfilling its disarmament commitments and that it would reduce its nuclear weapons stockpile to no more than 180 by the mid-2020s. The United States said it has been cutting its inventory of nuclear weapons for more than four decades, from a peak of 31,000 warheads in 1968 to 5,000 in 2009.

When the new START arms treaty with Russia is fully implemented within seven years after it took effect in early 2011, the strategic nuclear forces of the two Cold War-era foes will reach their lowest levels since the 1950s, the U.S. said. But the non-aligned movement (NAM) of more than 100 developing and other states expressed concern that nuclear weapon modernization "undermines the minimal reductions" agreed in the START treaty.

START will cut long-range, strategic nuclear weapons deployed by the United States and Russia to no more than 1,550 on each side, but they still have by far the most nuclear arms. The nuclear arsenals of China, Britain and France are in the low hundreds, well below those of the United States and Russia.

Shortly after taking office in 2009, U.S. President Barack Obama set the goal of eventually ridding the world of nuclear weapons as a central theme of his presidency. Obama unveiled a revamped policy in 2010 renouncing development of new nuclear weapons and restricting use of those already in the U.S. arsenal. He followed that up by signing the new START landmark arms reduction deal with Russia.

But momentum seems to have slowed on Obama's nuclear agenda and, with the November U.S. presidential election looming, chances for major new advances look doubtful. Iran, accused by the West of seeking to develop nuclear arms itself, said the existence of nearly 23,000 nuclear warheads in the stockpiles of the five nuclear weapon states and their continued modernization posed a threat to mankind's survival.

"Certain nuclear weapon states are expected to display sincerity and political will rather than hypocrisy with regard to their nuclear disarmament obligations," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Mahdi Akhondzadeh said.

Pakistan and India, which both have nuclear weapons, have not signed the NPT. Israel, widely believed to have the Middle East's only nuclear arsenal, is also outside the voluntary pact. North Korea, believed to be preparing for a third nuclear test, withdrew from the NPT in 2003.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/04/us-nuclear-disarmament-divisions-idUSBRE8431CV20120504>

## China wants 'drastic' U.S., Russia nuclear arms cuts

Fredrik Dahl, Reuters, April 30, 2012

VIENNA (Reuters) - China called on the United States and Russia on Monday to make further "drastic" cuts in their nuclear arsenals and said all states with atomic

arms should undertake not to be the first to use them. The development of missile defense systems which "disrupt" the global strategic balance should be abandoned, a senior Chinese diplomat also told a nuclear meeting in Vienna in a possible reference to U.S. plans that have angered Russia.

Under a treaty that entered into force in February 2011, Washington and Moscow are to limit the number of operationally deployed nuclear warheads to 1,550 - 30 percent lower than the ceiling a 2002 pact established.

But they still hold most of the world's nuclear arms - a fact underlined by the Chinese representative on the opening day of a two-week meeting in Vienna to discuss the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a 1970 pact. China, Britain and France are the other three recognized nuclear weapons states in the world.

Ambassador Cheng Jingye, head of the Chinese delegation, said all nuclear weapons states should publicly undertake "not to seek permanent possession" of atomic bombs. "As countries with (the) largest nuclear arsenals, U.S. and Russia should continue to make drastic reductions in their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable and irreversible manner," he said, according to a copy of his statement.

"Other nuclear weapon states, when conditions are ripe, should also join the multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament."

### MISSILE SHIELD CONTROVERSY

The international community should develop, "at an appropriate time", a viable, long-term plan with phased actions, includes a convention on the "complete prohibition of nuclear weapons," the Chinese diplomat added. China closely guards information about its nuclear arsenal. However, the U.S. Department of Defense has said that China has approximately 130-195 deployed nuclear-

capable ballistic missiles.

The head of the U.S. delegation, Ambassador Susan Burk, earlier told delegates that her country was making progress on disarmament and it would "detail those efforts this week." Shortly after taking office in 2009, U.S. President Barack Obama set the goal of eventually ridding the world of nuclear weapons as a central theme of his presidency and pledged dramatic steps to lead the way.

Obama unveiled a revamped policy in 2010 renouncing development of new nuclear weapons and restricting use of those already in Washington's arsenal. He followed that up by signing the new START landmark arms reduction deal with Russia last year. But momentum seems to have slowed on Obama's nuclear agenda and, with the November 6 presidential election looming, chances for major new advances look doubtful.

Burk said: "The United States has made clear on many occasions that it understands its special responsibility to take concrete steps towards a world without nuclear weapons by pursuing nuclear disarmament." China's Cheng said nuclear weapon states should "earnestly reduce the risks" of atomic arms and negotiate a Treaty on Mutual No-First-Use of Nuclear Weapons.

The development of missile defense systems "which disrupt global strategic balance and stability should be abandoned," he added, without elaborating. Washington says a planned European missile shield is meant to protect against a potential Iranian threat, but Russia says it risks tipping the balance of nuclear power between itself and the United States in Washington's favor.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/sns-rt-us-nuclear-china-weaponsbre83t0k6-20120430,0,2360446.story>

## Nuclear weapon reductions must be part of strategic analysis

Henry A. Kissinger and Brent Scowcroft, Washington Post, April 23, 2012

A New START treaty re-establishing the process of nuclear arms control has recently taken effect. Combined with reductions in the U.S. defense budget, this will bring the number of nuclear weapons in the United States to the lowest overall level since the 1950s. The Obama administration is said to be considering negotiations for a new round of nuclear reductions to bring about ceilings as low as 300 warheads. Before momentum builds on that basis, we feel obliged to stress our conviction that the goal of future negotiations should be strategic stability and that lower numbers of weapons should be a consequence of strategic analysis, not an abstract preconceived determination.

Regardless of one's vision of the ultimate future of nuclear weapons, the overarching goal of contemporary U.S. nuclear policy must be to ensure that nuclear weapons are never used. Strategic stability is not inherent with low numbers of weapons; indeed, excessively low numbers could lead to a situation in which surprise attacks are conceivable.

We supported ratification of the START treaty. We favor verification of agreed reductions and procedures that enhance predictability and transparency. One of us (Kissinger) has supported working toward the elimination of nuclear weapons, albeit with the proviso that a series of verifiable intermediate steps that maintain stability precede such an end point and that every stage of the process be fully transparent and verifiable.

The precondition of the next phase of U.S. nuclear weapons policy must be to enhance and enshrine the strategic stability that has

preserved global peace and prevented the use of nuclear weapons for two generations.

Eight key facts should govern such a policy:

First, strategic stability requires maintaining strategic forces of sufficient size and composition that a first strike cannot reduce retaliation to a level acceptable to the aggressor.

Second, in assessing the level of unacceptable damage, the United States cannot assume that a potential enemy will adhere to values or calculations identical to our own. We need a sufficient number of weapons to pose a threat to what potential aggressors value under every conceivable circumstance. We should avoid strategic analysis by mirror-imaging.

Third, the composition of our strategic forces cannot be defined by numbers alone. It also depends on the type of delivery vehicles and their mix. If the composition of the U.S. deterrent force is modified as a result of reduction, agreement or for other reasons, a sufficient variety must be retained, together with a robust supporting command and control system, so as to guarantee that a preemptive attack cannot succeed.

Fourth, in deciding on force levels and lower numbers, verification is crucial. Particularly important is a determination of what level of uncertainty threatens the calculation of stability. At present, that level is well within the capabilities of the existing verification systems. We must be certain that projected levels maintain — and when possible, reinforce — that confidence.

Fifth, the global nonproliferation regime has been weakened to a point where some of the proliferating countries are reported to have arsenals of more than 100 weapons. And these arsenals are growing. At what lower U.S. levels could these arsenals

constitute a strategic threat? What will be their strategic impact if deterrence breaks down in the overall strategic relationship? Does this prospect open up the risk of hostile alliances between countries whose forces individually are not adequate to challenge strategic stability but that combined might overthrow the nuclear equation?

Sixth, this suggests that, below a level yet to be established, nuclear reductions cannot be confined to Russia and the United States. As the countries with the two largest nuclear arsenals, Russia and the United States have a special responsibility. But other countries need to be brought into the discussion when substantial reductions from existing START levels are on the international agenda.

Seventh, strategic stability will be affected by other factors, such as missile defenses and the roles and numbers of tactical nuclear weapons, which are not now subject to agreed limitations. Precision-guided large conventional warheads on long-range delivery vehicles provide another challenge to stability. The interrelationship among these elements must be taken into account in future negotiations.

Eighth, we must see to it that countries that have relied on American nuclear protection maintain their confidence in the U.S. capability for deterrence. If that confidence falters, they may be tempted by accommodation to their adversaries or independent nuclear capabilities.

Nuclear weapons will continue to influence the international landscape as part of strategy and an aspect of negotiation. The lessons learned throughout seven decades need to continue to govern the future.

*[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/nuclear-weapon-reductions-must-be-part-of-strategic-analysis/2012/04/22/gIQAKG4iaT\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/nuclear-weapon-reductions-must-be-part-of-strategic-analysis/2012/04/22/gIQAKG4iaT_story.html)*

## Nuclear Energy in India

### 'Kudankulam n-plant to be commissioned in 40 days'

*Press Trust of India, April 23, 2012*

The first unit of the Kudankulam nuclear power project is expected to start generating electricity in the next 40 days, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office V Narayanasamy said on Monday. He said the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) officials were at the Kudankulam project site and inspecting the plant. The first reactor of 1000 MW will be operational within 40 days from today," Narayanasamy told reporters in New Delhi.

He said the AERB was expected to give its certification to the plant in about a week after which uranium -- the fuel for power generation -- will be loaded in the plant. "We will have a trial run for 20 days after which the first reactor will start generating power," Narayanasamy said, adding the second unit of 1000 MW was expected to be commissioned within two months of the first one.

He said over 2000 engineers, from India and Russia, were working day and night for the purpose of power generation from the project. "We are fast moving into the direction of generating electricity from Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project," he

said.

The Tamil Nadu government was cooperating with the Centre with regards to the project, Narayanasamy said. The Rs 15,824-crore project had witnessed eight-month-long protests from anti-nuclear power groups and some locals who had apprehensions on the safety aspects of the plant. The work on the plant was suspended in October last year soon after the hot-run which a process to test the reactor systems and pipelines using dummy fuel.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/Print/844957.aspx>

### Protest seeks entire power from Kudankulam for State

Staff Reporter, The Hindu, May 1, 2012

Cadre of All India Samathuva Makkal Katchi staged a demonstration here on Monday demanding that the Centre allocate the entire 2,000 MW power generated at the two units of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project to Tamil Nadu.

The demonstration held near the Khadi Kraft was led by party deputy general secretary A.N.Sundaresan and the party's chief advisory committee member P.Paneerselvam. Party functionaries from various parts of the district participated.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Tiruchirapalli/article3373175.ece?css=print>

### Contribute Articles

Indian Pugwash Society welcomes research articles from students, researchers and faculties on Space, Missile, nuclear technology, WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, export controls and other related issues. Articles should be crisply written and should address contemporary debates in the policy arena. Manuscripts submitted for the consideration of the Indian Pugwash Society should be original contributions and should not have been submitted for consideration anywhere else. Please confirm to the guidelines prescribed in the website before submitting the manuscript for consideration.

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

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