

Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

Volume 10, Number 1 A Fortnightly Newsletter from the Indian Pugwash Society November 15, 2018

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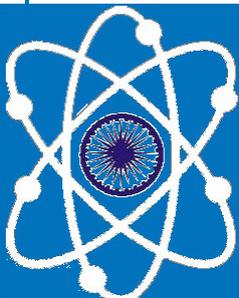
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USA & Europe

Department Press Briefing,

Heather Nauert, Spokesperson, October 2, 2018

We work toward our goal of full denuclearization of North Korea. The Secretary and the President said we're not going to set arbitrary deadlines in the interim. We're hopeful. We're working toward that goal. Everyone recognizes that we have a way to go, a ways to go and a lot of work that is left to be done. I'm not going to get ahead of the Secretary's meetings that he'll have in Pyongyang, but I know he looks forward to continuing the conversation.

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2018/10/286392.htm>

IAEA Mission Sees Significant Improvements in Hungary's Regulatory Framework

October 3, 2018

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts said Hungary has made significant improvements to its regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety since 2015.

The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) team concluded on 1 October an eight-day follow-up mission to review Hungary's implementation of recommendations and suggestions made during a 2015 visit. The mission was conducted at the request of the Government of Hungary and hosted by the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA), in coordination with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer and the Baranya County Government Office.

IRRS missions are designed to strengthen the effectiveness of the national nuclear regulatory infrastructure, using IAEA safety standards and international good practices, while recognizing the responsibility of each country to ensure nuclear and radiation safety.

Hungary generates half its electricity at four

reactors at the Paks Nuclear Power Plant, located 130 km south of the capital, Budapest. Hungary is planning to build another two reactors at Paks, and operates two research reactors for training and research as well as isotope production

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-sees-significant-improvements-in-hungarys-regulatory-framework>

Department Press Briefing,

Heather Nauert, Spokesperson, October 9, 2018

The Secretary and Chairman Kim discussed the four pillars of the Singapore summit. That was something that was important for them to do. They spent considerable time together. The Secretary and the President, of course, have referenced that since - the Secretary just over at the White House, speaking about this.

Among the things they also discussed was an upcoming second summit that would be attended by our President and also Chairman Kim, and we look forward to working on all of the details of that. They also agreed to instruct their respective working level groups, led by Steve Biegun, our special representative, and also his counterpart who was named in North Korea, to start intensifying discussions on some of those four pillars that were laid out in the Singapore summit.

As you know, Chairman Kim had invited inspectors to visit the Punggye-ri nuclear test site to confirm that it's been irreversibly dismantled. We were pleased with that. And President Trump looks forward to continuing to build upon the trust that was first established at the Singapore summit.

Has already destroyed Punggye-ri nuclear site and Tongchang-ri missile site? MS NAUERT: I think we can say this: We can affirmatively say that they invited a group of journalists out to watch something take place. Inspectors have not been there yet. So inviting inspectors to join, to take a look, and do their work is entirely different

from what we've seen already.

since Punggye-ri is by many accounts an aging facility that's already been destroyed, by allowing inspectors to come there and see this, which is not necessarily key to North Korea's current and future nuclear program, why would you characterize that as a lot of progress? MS NAUERT: I think that's a very good step. I'll go back and say it one more time. What you have seen were a bunch of journalists brought out to that site and you saw some sort of an explosion. Sending in inspectors to take a look around is an entirely different step and a step in the right direction, and we think that that's progress, along with the other things that were addressed in the meeting.

Would you say those tensions now between United States and China would spill over to your cooperation on North Korea at this very critical time? MS NAUERT: We don't think so, because China again and again has said to us, publicly and privately, that they are committed to the denuclearization of North Korea. They understand that; they recognize that. They recognize the importance of that matter. We don't think they're backing away. What we do say, though, is that countries including China and Russia can always do more. They can do more, but they are also one of the countries that had voted for UN Security Council resolutions, and so we expect those to uphold those.

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2018/10/286525.htm>

Department Press Briefing,

Robert Palladino, Deputy Spokesperson,
October 10, 2018

Russian foreign ministry said that they actually proposed five-way talks, including Russia and China, United States, South Korea, and North Korea. Is that a formula you would support to ease the tension in North Korea?

MR PALLADINO: Well, we noted the statement out of Moscow, and I would just say that we look forward to working with Russia, China, and North Korea to achieve,

as quickly as possible, the final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea. The most recent trip to Pyongyang, we really - there was forward progress and we'd like to continue to see that move forward. We welcome the steps that North Korea's taken, and I would just add that the - President Trump has been very clear from the beginning that sanctions relief will follow denuclearization. And sooner we get to that point, the sooner the United States will think about lifting sanctions.

The Russian and Chinese - for example, up at - during the general assembly, had some ideas about how we might begin to think about reducing sanctions. But in general, got to point out that they were all supportive of maintaining the United Nations Security Council resolutions and sanctions that underlay them.

The United States position continues that - it's the pressure campaign and the underlying sanctions that the world came together to impose that has gotten us to this point and will continue to be the foundation for what we earnestly hope is a brighter future for North Korea. And we are going to - the Singapore summit was such a strong first start. We're making progress and we look forward to taking further steps in that regard.

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2018/10/286551.htm>

France sued for 'crimes against humanity' over nuclear tests in South Pacific

October 10, 2018

France is being taken to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for carrying out nuclear weapons tests in French Polynesia, an opposition leader announced on Tuesday.

Oscar Temaru, the archipelago's former president and current leader of the Tavini Huiraatira Party, announced the move during a United Nations committee dealing with decolonization.

Temaru accused France of “crimes against humanity” and said that he hopes to hold French presidents accountable for the nuclear tests with the ICC complaint.

“We owe it to all the people who died from the consequences of nuclear colonialism,” he told the UN committee.

Maxime Chan from Te Ora Naho, an association for the protection of the environment in French Polynesia, told the UN that there had been 368 instances of radioactive fallout from the tests and that radioactive waste had also been discharged into the ocean – violating international rules.

<https://chinapost.nownews.com/20181010-437444>

IAEA Reviews Belarus’s Emergency Preparedness and Response Framework

October 17, 2018

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts today concluded a 10-day mission to review Belarus’s preparedness and response arrangements for nuclear and radiological emergencies. The Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) was carried out at the request of the Government of Belarus.

Belarus is building its first nuclear power reactors, two 1 170 megawatt-electric units of the Russian VVER technology. The mission included a visit to the nuclear power plant (NPP) site at Ostrovets in northern Belarus.

Marina Nizamska, former Head of the Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Bulgarian Nuclear Regulatory Agency (BNRA), led the eight-person review team, which included experts from Finland, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Slovakia, the United States of America, as well as the IAEA.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-reviews-belaruss-emergency-preparedness-and-response-framework>

Nuclear counter terror detection systems to be bolstered in high-tech drive

Steve Bird, October 20, 2018

Counter-terrorism officers are to be equipped with a new fleet of high-tech nuclear and radiological detection vehicles to trace weapons-grade materials in the UK.

The Home Office is planning to buy up to 10 mobile gamma and neutron radiation detection systems to bolster its defences against them being used in a terror attack.

Ports and airports across the country already have screening systems in place to spot anyone smuggling nuclear or radiological materials into the UK as part of the Border Force’s Cyclamen monitoring system. Similar equipment was used at the Olympic Park during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

But, the new fleet is understood to be able to carry out searches for such materials inland and be deployed with speed at key locations.

A Home Office source insisted that the threat of such materials being used in a so-called dirty bomb terror attack remained “highly unlikely”.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/20/nuclear-counter-terror-detection-systems-bolstered-high-tech/>

Trump says U.S. to exit landmark nuclear arms pact, Russia threatens retaliation

October 20, 2018

ELKO, Nev/MOSCOW (Reuters) - President Donald Trump said Washington would withdraw from a landmark Cold War-era treaty that eliminated nuclear missiles from Europe because Russia was violating the pact, triggering a warning of retaliatory measures from Moscow.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei

Ryabkov said on Sunday that a unilateral withdrawal by the United States would be “very dangerous” and lead to a “military-technical” retaliation.

Gorbachev, now a frail 87-year-old, said it would be a mistake for Washington to quit the treaty, and it would undermine work he and U.S. counterparts did to end the Cold War Arms race.

“Do they really not understand in Washington what this could lead to?” Interfax news agency quoted Gorbachev as saying.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-nuclear-trump/trump-says-u-s-to-exit-landmark-nuclear-arms-pact-russia-threatens-retaliation-idUSKCN1MU0Z8>

Trump says US will withdraw from nuclear arms treaty with Russia

October 21, 2018

The Guardian reported that Trump’s third national security adviser, John Bolton, a longstanding opponent of arms control treaties, was pushing for US withdrawal. The US says Russia has been violating the INF agreement with the development and deployment of a new cruise missile. Under the terms of the treaty, it would take six months for US withdrawal to take effect.

US hawks have also argued that the INF treaty ties the country’s hands in its strategic rivalry with China in the Pacific, with no response to Chinese medium-range missiles that could threaten US bases, allies and shipping.

Bolton and the top arms control adviser in the National Security Council (NSC), Tim Morrison, are also opposed to the extension of another major pillar of arms control, the 2010 New Start agreement with Russia, which limited the number of deployed strategic warheads on either side to 1,550. That agreement, signed by Barack Obama and Dmitri Medvedev, then president of Russia, is due to expire in 2021.

“This is the most severe crisis in nuclear

arms control since the 1980s,” said Malcolm Chalmers, the deputy director general of the Royal United Services Institute. “If the INF treaty collapses, and with the New Start treaty on strategic arms due to expire in 2021, the world could be left without any limits on the nuclear arsenals of nuclear states for the first time since 1972.”

Speaking to reporters in Nevada, Trump said: “Russia has violated the agreement. They’ve been violating it for many years and I don’t know why President Obama didn’t negotiate or pull out.

“We’re not going to let them violate a nuclear agreement and do weapons and we’re not allowed to. We’re the ones that have stayed in the agreement and we’ve honoured the agreement but Russia has not unfortunately honoured the agreement so we’re going to terminate the agreement, we’re going to pull out.”

Jeffrey Lewis, the director of the East Asia nonproliferation program at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, said: “This is a colossal mistake. Russia gets to violate the treaty and Trump takes the blame.

“I doubt very much that the US will deploy much that would have been prohibited by the treaty. Russia, though, will go gangbusters.”

Russian state news agencies on Saturday cited a foreign ministry source as saying Washington’s move to pull out of the treaty is motivated by a dream of a single global superpower.

“The main motive is a dream of a unipolar world. Will it come true? No,” a foreign ministry source told Ria Novosti state news agency.

The official said that Russia has “many times publicly denounced the US policy course towards dismantling the nuclear deal”.

Washington “has approached this step over the course of many years by

deliberately and step-by-step destroying the basis for the agreement," the official said, quoted by Russia's three main news agencies.

"This decision is part of the US policy course to withdraw from those international legal agreements that place equal responsibilities on it and its partners and make vulnerable its concept of its own 'exceptionalism'."

Russian senator Alexei Pushkov wrote on Twitter that the move was "the second powerful blow against the whole system of strategic stability in the world, with the first being Washington's 2001 withdrawal from the anti-ballistic missile treaty".

"And again the initiator of the dissolution of the agreement is the US," Pushkov wrote.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/20/trump-us-nuclear-arms-treaty-russia>

Gorbachev says US making 'mistake' by quitting Russia nuclear treaty

Mythili Sampathkumar New York @MythiliSk, 21 October 2018

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said he thinks Donald Trump is making a "mistake" by leaving its nuclear weapons treaty with Russia. "Under no circumstances should we tear up old disarmament agreements. ... Do they really not understand in Washington what this could lead to?," Mr Gorbachev said to Interfax news agency.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/gorbachev-russia-us-trump-nuclear-weapons-deal-inf-treaty-soviet-union-a8594791.html>

UK stands 'absolutely resolute' with the US after Trump pulls out of Russia nuclear weapons treaty

Peter Stubley, 21 October 2018

The UK stands "absolutely resolute" with the US president Donald Trump's decision

to pull out of a nuclear weapons pact with Russia, the defence secretary has said.

Gavin Williamson accused Moscow of "making a mockery" of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and called on the Kremlin to "get its house in order".

"Our close and long-term ally of course is the United States and we will be absolutely resolute with the United States in hammering home a clear message that Russia needs to respect the treaty obligation that it signed," Mr Williamson said.

"We of course want to see this treaty continue to stand but it does require two parties to be committed to it and at the moment you have one party that is ignoring it."

"It is Russia that is in breach and it is Russia that needs to get its house in order," added the defence secretary, who is in the US while the Royal Navy aircraft carrier *HMS Elizabeth* visits New York.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-us-trump-russia-nuclear-weapons-treaty-withdraw-putin-inf-a8594301.html>

Donald Trump says US will build up its nuclear arsenal

Rob Crilly, NEW YORK, October 22, 2018

President Donald Trump warned the world on Monday that the United States intended to expand its nuclear arsenal if Russia and China continued to build up their own stockpiles.

Speaking to reporters at the White House before leaving for a campaign rally in Nevada, Mr Trump repeated his accusation that Russia is violating the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which he wants to abandon.

Russia denies the allegation but Mr Trump insisted the US would press ahead with developing its own stockpile. "Until people

come to their senses, we will build it up," he said.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/22/donald-trump-says-us-will-build-nuclear-arsenal/>

Trump's adviser meets Russian defence minister in Moscow

October 23, 2018

U.S. President Donald Trump's national security adviser struck a conciliatory note on Tuesday in talks in Moscow, just days after Mr. Trump vowed to pull out of a key arms control treaty with Russia.

John Bolton landed in Moscow on Monday less than 48 hours after Trump said that Russia violated the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and warned that the U.S. would begin developing such weapons unless Russia and China agree not to possess or develop them.

China wasn't a party to the pact that was signed in 1987 by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that prohibits the U.S. and Russia from possessing, producing or test-flying ground-launched nuclear cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometres (300 to 3,400 miles).

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/trumps-adviser-meets-russian-defence-minister-in-moscow/article25299106.ece>

Trump's missile treaty pullout could escalate tension with China

October 23, 2018

"If Russia is doing it [developing these missiles] and China is doing it and we're adhering to the agreement, that's unacceptable," Mr. Trump said on Sunday.

A U.S. withdrawal from a Cold War-era nuclear arms treaty with Russia could give the Pentagon new options to counter Chinese missile advances but experts warn the ensuing arms race could greatly escalate tensions in the Asia-Pacific.

U.S. officials have been warning for years that the United States was being put at a disadvantage by China's development of increasingly sophisticated land-based missile forces, which the Pentagon could not match thanks to the U.S. treaty with Russia.

President Donald Trump has signaled he may soon give the Pentagon a freer hand to confront those advances, if he makes good on threats to pull out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which required elimination of short- and intermediate-range nuclear and conventional missiles.

Dan Blumenthal, a former Pentagon official now at the American Enterprise Institute, said a treaty pullout could pave the way for the United States to field easier-to-hide, road-mobile conventional missiles in places like Guam and Japan.

That would make it harder for **China** to consider a conventional first strike against U.S. ships and bases in the region. It could also force Beijing into a costly arms race, forcing China to spend more on missile defenses.

"It will change the picture fundamentally," Mr. Blumenthal said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/trumps-missile-treaty-pullout-could-escalate-tension-with-china/article25293989.ece>

Russia says U.S. is increasing nukes in military planning

UNITED NATIONS: , OCTOBER 23, 2018 08:29 IST

The New START Treaty, which limits long-range nuclear weapons to 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads and 700 deployed launchers, is scheduled to expire in 2021. Russia has questioned U.S. compliance.

A senior Russian official voiced concerns on Monday that Washington is increasing the role of nuclear weapons in its military

planning as part of a stepped-up campaign by the Trump administration to ensure “U.S. military superiority over the rest of the world,” while he also denied U.S. allegations that Moscow has violated an arms treaty.

Andrei Belousov, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry’s Department of Nonproliferation and Arms Control, told the U.N. General Assembly’s disarmament committee that Russia is “especially concerned” at the Trump administration’s Nuclear Posture Review. The policy review, released in early February, provides for “the creation of low-yield nuclear weapons that would lower the threshold of the use of nuclear weapons,” Mr. Belousov said. He said it “also envisages a return to the concept of a ‘limited nuclear war.’”

“In essence, the U.S. military thinking in [the] nuclear field has rolled back a half a century when it was believed that a nuclear war was admissible and could be won,” he told the committee’s session on nuclear weapons.

Mr. Belousov said Russia has repeatedly called for “appropriate conditions that would allow us to take practical measures to free the world from nuclear weapons.” But he said Moscow must take into account “the existing strategic realities.”

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/russia-says-us-is-increasing-nukes-in-military-planning/article25293355.ece>

US confirms withdrawal from nuclear arms treaty with Russia

Andrew Roth in Moscow, October 23, 2018

The US national security adviser, John Bolton, has confirmed that the US will withdraw from the landmark intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty (INF) after meeting with Russian president Vladimir Putin and senior Russian officials.

Speaking in Moscow, Bolton said that Russia had been violating the treaty for years and that rising powers such as China meant that it was a “new strategic reality

out there”. West Asia

Bolton also said that China’s cyber-attacks against the United States made Russia seem like the “junior partner”. He did not go into detail.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/23/bolton-inf-treaty-russia-putin-moscow-meeting>

NATO chief says nuclear buildup unlikely despite US threats

October 24, 2018

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg says he does not expect a nuclear buildup in Europe, despite U.S. threats to pull out of a Cold War-era missile agreement over allegations that Russia is violating it.

The U.S. says that Russia’s 9M729 missile system contravenes the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty, and NATO allies agree that is probably the case. The pact between Moscow and Washington bans an entire class of weapons — all land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (310-3,410 miles) Stoltenberg said Wednesday that “I don’t foresee that allies will deploy more nuclear weapons in Europe as a response to the new Russian missile.”

He said that NATO allies are now assessing “the implications of the new Russian missile for our security.”

<https://chinapost.nownews.com/20181024-446604>

Defiant John Bolton signals no way back for arms control treaty after Vladimir Putin meeting

Oliver Carroll Moscow, October 24, 2018

Donald Trump’s National Security Adviser John Bolton ended two-days of high-level meetings in Russia — including President Vladimir Putin — with a defiant message: “There’s a new strategic reality.”

The talks were largely dominated by the issue of withdrawal from a Cold War-era arms control treaty, with Mr Bolton also warning officials “don’t mess with American elections”.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/us-russia-arms-control-treaty-john-bolton-moscow-putin-trump-inf-a8598426.html>

Donald Trump’s plan to rip up the anti-ballistic missile treaty with the Soviet Union may not be as disastrous as we think

Mary Dejevsky @IndyVoices, 25 October 2018

When Donald Trump’s national security adviser, John Bolton, confirmed that the United States intended to leave the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) treaty with the Soviet Union, the response ran the gamut from disappointment to panic. And while warnings of imminent Armageddon have dissipated, an early consensus seems to have settled around fears about the start of a highly dangerous new arms race.

There are reasons, though, why even this may not be exactly what we are dealing with here. Weigh, first, the considerations that Trump’s advisers may have presented (in the event that their advice was solicited) about when and whether to announce his intention to dismantle what has been seen for three decades as a main pillar of European security.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/trump-inf-treaty-missile-russia-soviet-union-moscow-putin-a8601651.html>

Poll: Americans oppose Trump’s withdrawal from a US-Russia arms control deal

Arms control is popular! By Dylan Matthews@dylanmattddylan@vox.com, October 25, 2018

By a margin of 18 percentage points, most Americans would rather stay in the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty

with Russia, according to a poll taken after news broke that the Trump administration is abandoning the accord:

Forty-nine percent of respondents wanted to stay in the treaty, compared to only 31 percent who supported leaving. The treaty currently bars certain medium-range (between 310 and 3,400 miles) missiles launched from the ground, and is intended to prevent nuclear arms races on the European continent, like the one that brewed in the early 1980s.

The poll by Civis Analytics and its data scientists Michael Sadowsky and David Shor reached 5,643 likely voters from Saturday, October 20 to Monday, October 22. The question asked by pollsters explained the basics of how the treaty worked, noted the news that Trump is withdrawing, and explained the basic cases for and against leaving. Here’s the exact question language:

<https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2018/10/25/18019390/poll-nuclear-treaty-russia-inf-trump-withdrawal>

IAEA Mission Says Spain Demonstrates Strong Commitment to Safety, Notes Challenges in Radioactive Waste Management

October 26 2018

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts today said Spain showed a strong commitment to nuclear and radiation safety, but noted that the country could face challenges in the implementation of its radioactive waste management strategy.

For the first time, the IAEA carried out two different peer reviews combined in one mission, which concluded this week in Spain. The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) team looked at the Spanish regulatory framework for nuclear and radiological safety. The Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation (ARTEMIS) provided an

independent evaluation of the country's radioactive waste management programme. The combined mission was carried out at the request of the Government of Spain.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-says-spain-demonstrates-strong-commitment-to-safety-notes-challenges-in-radioactive-waste-management>

Czech leader tells Mattis quitting nuclear deal would be bad

October 29, 2018

PRAGUE (AP) – The Czech Republic's prime minister has told U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis that a possible U.S. withdrawal from a landmark nuclear weapons treaty would be wrong.

Andrej Babis told reporters in Prague on Sunday that relations (with Russia) "aren't ideal and we're returning to Cold War times."

Babis said that "it would be good for the superpowers to cooperate."

President Donald Trump said that Russia has violated terms of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, or INF, which prohibits the U.S. and Russia from possessing, producing or test-flying ground-launched nuclear cruise missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (300 to 3,400 miles).

<https://chinapost.nownews.com/20181029-449479>

Department Press Briefing

Robert Palladino, Deputy Spokesperson,
October 30, 2018

The two governments [US and South Korean] agreed on establishing a new working group that would further strengthen our close coordination on our diplomacy, on our denuclearization efforts, on sanctions implementation, and inter-Korean cooperation that comply with the United Nations sanctions. So this is an additional step that we're taking that Special Representative Biegun and his team will be leading.

Moon Jae-in government are offering cash support to North Korea for \$10 million recently. They are reopen a U.S. – I mean, open South and North Korea's liaison office. So how do you think about this case? Do you think that South Korea is violations of sanctions? **PALLADINO:** No. What I would say is we expect all nations to take their responsibilities seriously to help end North Korea's illegal nuclear missile program. And sanctions are what got us to where we are today, to this point, were a success, could be possible to moving this forward for a brighter future for the North Korean people. And with our allies and with our partners, we're going to continue to closely coordinate on our unified approach to this.

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2018/10/287016.htm>

IAEA, EDRAM Strengthen Cooperation on Developing Disposal Solutions for Spent Nuclear Fuel and High Level Radioactive Waste

October 30 2018

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and an association of leading national waste management organizations have pledged to strengthen cooperation and coordination on the development of safe, effective and secure solutions for the disposal of high level radioactive waste (HLW) and spent nuclear fuel declared as waste.

IAEA officials including Deputy Director General Mikhail Chudakov, Head of the Department of Nuclear Energy, and Deputy Director General Juan Carlos Lentijo, Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, met at the IAEA in Vienna earlier this month with a delegation from the International Association for Environmentally Safe Disposal of Radioactive Materials (EDRAM). The gathering provided an opportunity to discuss key issues related to implementing comprehensive national waste management strategies, including

deep geological disposal (DGD) for HLW and spent nuclear fuel.

EDRAM promotes robust disposal programmes for HLW globally to ensure safety for present and future generations. The association groups the heads of waste management organizations from 11 countries: Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Because DGD programmes take decades to develop, the IAEA is collecting Member States' experiences and approaches for retaining and transferring knowledge about them. To support this effort, the heads of the national organizations representing EDRAM at the meeting—coming from Canada, Finland, France, Germany and Japan—offered to jointly develop strategic assessments of this IAEA project. Other IAEA activities also discussed at the meeting include a project on the development and review of safety cases for both the operational and post-closure periods for DGD.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-edram-strengthen-cooperation-on-developing-disposal-solutions-for-spent-nuclear-fuel-and-high-level-radioactive-waste>

Department Press Briefing

Robert Palladino, Deputy Spokesperson,
October 31, 2018

We have an opportunity with North Korea to – we've made more progress in this administration on moving towards peace than previously has been made. This is really a new opportunity. Nuclear testing has stopped, the ballistic missile tests have stopped. We are – our Americans have been returned home, and we are making progress on this front. We believe that there is a brighter future for the North Korean people and we're going to continue pushing forward on this.

Which sanctions will be going into effect and which specific industries will they target? And then second, has Secretary Pompeo discussed with Secretary Mnuchin sanctioning Iran's access to SWIFT? **MR PALLADINO:** Okay, I'll start with the second question, and the questions on SWIFT I would refer to the Department of Treasury and I'm not going to be able to go

into dialogue between the two secretaries at this point. But on November 5th, 12:01, as you point out, sanctions that were lifted under the Iran nuclear deal will come back into full effect. And the sanctions that are reimposed on November 5th will target critical sectors of Iran's economy, such as energy, shipping and the ship-building sectors, as well as the provision of insurance and transactions involving the Central Bank of Iran and designated Iranian financial institutions.

Now, the Iranian regime is the world's leading state sponsor of terror, and these sanctions are meant to cut off revenues that the Iranian regime uses to conduct terrorism and fund terrorist groups around the world, and that includes Lebanese Hizballah, Hamas, Kata'ib Hizballah and the Taliban. These groups foment global instability, they use these funds to support their nuclear and ballistic missile programs, and these funds are used to line corrupt Iranian leaders' pockets rather than help the Iranian people, who are the longest-suffering victims. I'll stop there.

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2018/10/287043.htm>

U.S. withdrawal from nuclear treaty renders Europe biggest victim

November 02, 2018

BERLIN, Nov. 1 (Xinhua) – The U.S. decision to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty has triggered worries that it may cause a new round of arms race between Washington and Moscow.

European countries, situated between the Atlantic and Russia, have the most vested interests in the treaty, the most significant achievement of arms control in the Cold War era.

The German government issued a statement saying that it will do its utmost to preserve the treaty. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told media that as

the treaty concerns the vital interests of Europe, Germany will fight for it with all diplomatic approaches, including influencing Russia and putting the issue on top of NATO's agenda.

France, another major country in the European Union (EU) and a member of the nuclear club, responded with a warning by its Foreign Ministry that "hasty" and "unilateral" decision on the INF Treaty would be "regrettable."

French President Emmanuel Macron told Trump about the importance of the treaty especially in regard to European security.

European Commission Spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic said the treaty, one of the cornerstones of the European security structure, contributed to the end of the Cold War and the nuclear arms race. She urged the United States and Russia to remain engaged in dialogue.

<http://english.people.com.cn/n3/2018/1102/c90000-9514159.html>

Briefing on Iran Sanctions

November 2, 2018

SECRETARY POMPEO: On November 5th, the United States will reimpose sanctions that were lifted as part of the nuclear deal on Iran's energy, ship building, shipping, and banking sectors. These sanctions hit at the core areas of Iran's economy. They are necessary to spur changes we seek on the part of the regime.

In order to maximize the effect of the President's pressure campaign, we have worked closely with other countries to cut off Iranian oil exports as much as possible. We expect to issue some temporary allotments to eight jurisdictions, but only because they have demonstrated significant reductions in their crude oil and cooperation on many other fronts and have made important moves towards getting to zero crude oil importation. These negotiations are still ongoing. Two of the jurisdictions will completely end imports as part of their agreements. The other six will import at

greatly reduced levels.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: The 180-day wind-down period ends at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Sunday November 4th. As of Monday November 5th, the final round of snapback sanctions will be enforced on Iran's energy, shipping, shipbuilding, and financial sectors. As part of this action on Monday, the Treasury Department will add more than 700 names to our list of blocked entities. This includes hundreds of targets previously granted sanctions relief under the JCPOA, as well as more than 300 new designations. This is substantially more than we ever have previously done. Sanctions lifted under the terms of Iran's nuclear deal will be reimposed on individuals, entities, vessels, and aircraft that touch numerous segments of Iran's economy. This will include Iran's energy sector and financial sectors. We are sending a very clear message with our maximum pressure campaign that the U.S. intends to aggressively enforce our sanctions. Any financial institution, company, or individual who evades our sanctions risks losing access to the U.S. financial system and the ability to do business with the United States or U.S. companies. We are intent on ensuring that global funds stop flowing to the coffers of the Iranian regime.

I want to make a couple of comments on the SWIFT messaging systems since I've received lots of questions about this over the last few weeks. So I'd like to make four points. Number one, SWIFT is no different than any other entity. Number two, we have advised SWIFT the Treasury will aggressively use its authorities as necessary to continue intense economic pressure on the Iranian regime, and that SWIFT would be subject to U.S. sanctions if it provides financial messaging services to certain designated Iranian financial institutions. Number three, we have advised SWIFT that it must disconnect any Iranian financial institution that we designate as soon as technologically feasible to avoid sanctions exposure. Number four, just as was done before,

humanitarian transactions to nondesignated entities will be allowed to use the SWIFT messaging system as they have done before, but banks must be very careful that these are not disguised transactions or they could be subject to certain sanctions.

SECRETARY POMPEO: We are not allowing the continued work to develop nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons systems in Arak and Fordow. We will provide on Monday a complete explanation of what we're going to do with the continued efforts to prevent those facilities from doing the things that put the world at risk through proliferation, and we'll give you all the detail. It's a long and complex answer, but we're happy to provide it to you on Monday morning.

<https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2018/11/287090.htm>

Russia & Central Asia

Putin: Russia would only use its nuclear arms in retaliation

October 18, 2018

MOSCOW (AP) – President Vladimir Putin says Russia would only use its nuclear weapons in response to an incoming missile attack. Putin said Thursday Russia's military doctrine doesn't envisage a preventative nuclear strike. He noted that Russia would only launch a nuclear strike if its early warning systems spot missiles heading toward its territory, adding that "the aggressor should know that retaliation is inevitable."

Speaking at a policy forum, Putin that "when we see a coming strike on the territory of Russia, we will retaliate." He acknowledged it will mean a global catastrophe, but emphasized that "we can't be those who initiated it." "We would be victims of aggression and would get to Heavens as martyrs," while those who would launch the strike would "just die and not even have time to repent."

<https://chinapost.nownews.com/20181018-443030>

Russia to build two-reactor nuclear plant in Uzbekistan

October 19, 2018

MOSCOW (AP) – Russian President Vladimir Putin and the president of Uzbekistan have agreed that Russia will build the ex-Soviet republic's first nuclear power plant. During Putin's visit to the Uzbek capital of Tashkent on Friday, he and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev ordered the start of preliminary work at the future plant's construction site.

The plant in the Navoi region of central Uzbekistan is estimated to have a cost billion. It will have two 1,200-megawatt nuclear reactors and is set to begin operating in 2028. Putin says Moscow is ready to expand military technology ties with the government in Tashkent, including the possible joint production of weapons in Uzbekistan. Mirziyoyev says Russian and Uzbek companies also could expand their cooperation in textile industries and fertilizer production and sell the products internationally.

<https://chinapost.nownews.com/20181019-443720>

Russia vows to retaliate if US withdraws from nuclear treaty

By Curtis Stone (People's Daily Online),
October 22, 2018

US President Donald Trump announced Saturday that his country is pulling out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), citing Russian violations. In response, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said that if the United States continues to withdraw unilaterally from agreements, then Russia will adopt a range of retaliatory measures, including military ones.

According to reports, Trump accused Russia of violating the agreement for many years and threatened to pull out, which would allow the United States to develop new weapons.

Russian media quoted Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying that it “would be a very dangerous step” if the United States exits from the agreement, slamming it as an attempt to achieve concessions through blackmail. Ryabkov said that the accusations seem to be aimed at concealing US violations. According to Russian media, the US missile defense system deployed in Eastern Europe to protect against a potential Iranian attack can be adapted to fire medium-range ballistic missiles at Russia.

The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister said that the United States has no reason to accuse Russia of violating the treaty, adding that all of the accusations against Russia are unsubstantiated. However, Ryabkov stressed, Russia will continue to insist on resolving any issues with the treaty through dialogue.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2018/1022/c90000-9510612.html>

Russia warns Europe on US missiles

Reuters, October 26, 2018

President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that Russia would be forced to target any European countries that agreed to host US nuclear missiles following Washington’s withdrawal from a landmark Cold War-era arms control treaty.

Speaking at a news conference after talks with Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, Putin said he wanted to discuss what he called dangerous US plans to leave the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with US President Donald Trump.

The two leaders are expected to hold talks in Paris on November 11.

<https://www.shine.cn/news/world/1810264121/>

NATO chiefs urges Russia to shed light on new missile system

October 31, 2018

BRUSSELS – NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg is urging Russia to provide

details about a new missile system the United States and other allies claim violates an important nuclear weapons treaty.

At talks between Russian and NATO ambassadors on Wednesday, Stoltenberg said, “We regret that Russia has not heeded our calls” for transparency about the missile system.

NATO says Russia’s 9M729 cruise missile contravenes the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The pact between the U.S. and the Soviet Union banned land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (310-3,410 miles.)

Stoltenberg says Russia’s reluctance to discuss it reinforces NATO’s belief that the system “poses a serious risk to the strategic stability of the Euro-Atlantic area.”

Russia says the missiles respect the treaty. President Donald Trump has threatened to abandon the pact.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/nato-chiefs-urges-russia-to-shed-light-on-new-missile-system/2018/10/31/21630ee0-dd3d-11e8-8bac-bfe01fcdc3a6_story.html?utm_term=.7bcdd1e6df6

China, East & South East Asia

IAEA Experts to Collect Seawater, Marine Sediment and Fish Samples near Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

October 5, 2018

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts will visit Japan this month to collect samples of seawater, marine sediment and fishery products from coastal waters in Fukushima Prefecture. The 9-19 October mission aims to support the quality assurance of radioactivity data collection and analysis by the Japanese laboratories involved in the project.

It will be the eighth IAEA visit since 2014 to collect marine samples from around TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (NPS) for inter-laboratory

comparisons of radioactivity analyses.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-experts-to-collect-seawater-marine-sediment-and-fish-samples-near-fukushima-daiichi-nuclear-power-station-0>

U.S. Bars American Aid Groups From Traveling to North Korea

By Edward Wong, October 17, 2018

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has barred American aid workers from going to North Korea as it pressures Pyongyang to dismantle the country's nuclear weapons program, according to humanitarian groups and a former United States ambassador.

Sanctions imposed by the United Nations last winter have already forced aid groups to severely limit some activities, such as shipping farming equipment into the country. North Korea is one of the world's poorest nations, and its citizens grapple with food shortages.

The moves by the Trump administration seek to tighten sanctions as part of its maximum-pressure campaign during nuclear negotiations, as well as sever nongovernment exchanges between Americans and North Koreans.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/17/world/asia/north-korea-trump-administration-ban.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FNorth%20Korea>

US must feel ashamed of itself for approaching DPRK with two faces

October 20, 2018

Jong Hyon on Oct 20 published a commentary, "The US must feel ashamed of itself for approaching us with two faces".

The commentary reads in full:

What is recently heard from the US over the Korean issue makes the world people confused.

On the one hand, it is advertised that US

Secretary of State Pompeo's Pyongyang visit made a "great achievement" desired by the US and, on the other hand, the "sustained sanction" unpleasant to the ear is heard so much.

Heard from campaign venues of the US are such voices that it has a very good relationship with north Korea and there is no threat at present, though the former was going to war with the latter in the past. But it is heard from news conference and other places that sanctions should be sustained until north Korea does something and that they have no idea of lifting the sanctions on it.

<http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp/?bbs=27874>

Donald Trump 'targets' China by pulling out of missile deal with Russia

Kristin Huang kristin.huang@scmp.com, October, 21, 2018

President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of a nuclear weapons treaty with Russia might appear to be an attack on the United States' former cold war adversary, but experts suggest that China is the more likely target.

Fu Mengzi, deputy director of the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations in Beijing, said that Trump's plan to tear up the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) was a sign that Washington was gearing up for a long-term strategic battle with Beijing.

"After leaving the INF, the US is expected to push ahead with a new round of military development and deployment," he said.

Aside from the uncertainty caused by a bitter trade war, military tensions between China and the US have been steadily growing, especially in the South China Sea. Beijing claims almost all of the disputed waterway and has transformed several natural and man-made reefs and islands there into military outposts.

Liu Weidong, a US affairs expert with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that Trump's move would give the US military more freedom in terms of the development and deployment of conventional and nuclear weapons.

"In the broader sense, that jeopardises not just Russia's or China's safety, but the whole world's," he said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/2169551/donald-trump-targets-china-pulling-out-missile-deal-russia>

China opposes US withdrawal from INF Treaty

October 22, 2018

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Monday said the country opposes the US' move of withdrawing from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, calling on the US to "look before leaping".

Hua Chunying, the spokesperson from the ministry, made this remark after US President Donald Trump accused Russia of not honoring the agreement and threatened to pull out.

Hua has highlighted the importance of the treaty, saying it plays an important role in easing international tensions, controlling the nuclear process, and protecting global security in the past and present.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2018/1022/c90000-9510720.html>

Chinese Missile build-up has also strained US-Russia nuclear arms pact

23 October, 2018

POLITICO

US President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of a landmark arms control treaty with Russia comes after nearly a year of appeals from top military leaders to confront China's rising missile ambitions – perhaps the real target of the move.

Trump told reporters Monday outside the White House that Beijing's growing arsenal played into his decision to withdraw from the cold war-era Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, even though China is not a party to the pact.

His justification "includes China, and it includes Russia, and it includes anybody else that wants to play that game," Trump said.

"You can't do that. You can't play that game on me," he added.

"There's a military imbalance in Asia that we're worried about," said Eric Sayers, who served as a special assistant to retired Navy Admiral Harry Harris, who was the top US military commander in the Pacific before becoming US ambassador to South Korea.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/2169761/chinese-missile-build-has-also-strained-us-russia>

North Korea set to allow inspectors into nuclear test site

Benjamin Haas *in Seoul* @haasbenjamin, October 31, 2018

North Korea is preparing its Punggye-ri nuclear test site for international inspectors, according to South Korea's National Intelligence Service, the first time foreign experts would be allowed to inspect facilities since a thaw in tensions this year.

Intelligence officials had observed what they believed to be preparations for possible inspections at Punggye-ri nuclear test site and the Sohae Satellite launching ground, Kim Min-ki of the ruling Democratic Party told reporters, according to Yonhap news agency.

The South's national intelligence service observed North Koreans "conducting preparation and intelligence activities that seem to be in preparation for [a] foreign inspectors' visit", the politician added.

The site was officially closed in May, when North Korea invited a handful of international journalists to observe as the tunnels where previous nuclear tests were conducted were sealed with explosions. Experts at the time said the move was mostly symbolic, and radiation monitoring equipment brought by reporters was confiscated by North Korea officials.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/31/north-korea-set-to-allow-inspectors-into-nuclear-test-site>

North Korea may be preparing nuclear and missile sites for international inspections despite concerns about 'US hostility'

Reuters in Seoul, October, 31, 2018

South Korea's spy agency has observed preparations by North Korea for international inspections at several of its nuclear and missile test sites, the Yonhap news agency reported on Wednesday, citing a South Korean lawmaker.

Kim Min-ki of the ruling Democratic Party told reporters that intelligence officials had observed what they believed to be preparations for possible inspections at Punggye-ri nuclear test site and the Sohae Satellite launching ground.

However, a security adviser to President Moon Jae-in also indicated to Yonhap that Pyongyang remains unwilling to provide a list detailing its nuclear facilities and materials due to the "hostility" of US policy.

The South's National Intelligence Service observed North Koreans "conducting preparation and intelligence activities that seem to be in preparation for foreign inspectors' visit," the lawmaker added, but no major movements were seen at Yongbyon, the North's main nuclear complex.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/2171005/north-korea-may-be-preparing-nuclear-and-missile-sites>

Nuclear power opponents launch survey

November 03, 2018

A coalition of opponents of nuclear power plants yesterday launched a survey on energy policy and asked candidates in the Nov. 24 elections to clarify their views on issues such as phasing out nuclear power, disposal of nuclear waste and optimal energy-mix ratios.

While a referendum on scrapping the "nuclear-free homeland by 2025" of the Electricity Act is to be held alongside the elections, candidates supporting it cannot evade its derivative questions, National Anti-Nuclear Action Platform spokesperson Tsuei Su-hsin said.

The survey poses nine questions about decommissioning the nation's three operational nuclear power plants by 2025, resuming construction of the Fourth Nuclear Power Plant in Gongliao District, New Taipei City, which was again mothballed in 2015, demarcation of storage sites for nuclear waste, energy-mix ratios, policies to promote sources of renewable energy and energy conservation.

Many Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) candidates endorse the referendum, but contradict themselves by also campaigning against Japanese food imported from five areas following the 2011 Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear disaster, Citizen of the Earth, Taiwan deputy executive Tsai Chung-yueh said.

Candidates in the east should voice their opinions about storage sites for nuclear waste, as less-populated Hualien and Taitung counties have been prioritized for such sites in discussions, Tsai said.

About 100,000 barrels of low-level radioactive waste has been stored at a site on Orchid Island (Lanyu, ??), which is part of Taitung County, for more than three decades.

If the referendum is passed, it would not

help cut air pollution as its proponents have claimed, as the proposal to have 40 percent of the nation's power generated from coal-fired facilities is higher than the 30 percent envisioned by the government's nuclear-free homeland policy, Tsai said.

The survey also asks candidates whether they would propose concrete policies to improve energy use efficiency to limit growth of electricity demand.

The responses are to be published on the Internet, Tsuei said.

In related news, five televised debates between the referendum's initiators – Huang Shih-hsiu and Liao Yen-peng – and Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs Tseng Wen-sheng, New Power Party Executive Chairman Huang Kuo-chang, Hung Shen-han, a member of the Executive Yuan's Office of Energy and Carbon Reduction, as well as environmentalists Gloria Hsu and Lee Ken-cheng – who oppose nuclear power – are to air from tomorrow to Nov. 21, according to a schedule announced by the Central Election Commission.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2018/11/03/2003703527>

N Korea threatens nuclear restart

November 04, 2018

SANCTIONS REACTION:The Foreign Ministry said it was laughing at the 'foolish idea' of the US that sanctions and pressure would lead Pyongyang to denuclearize

AP, SEOUL

North Korea has warned it could revive a state policy aimed at bolstering its nuclear arsenal if the US does not lift economic sanctions against it.

The North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday said in a statement that the nation could bring back its pyongjin, "dual advancement," policy of simultaneously advancing its nuclear force

and economic development if the US does not change its stance.

Pyongyang accused Washington of derailing commitments made by North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump at their June summit in Singapore to work toward a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

"The US thinks that its oft-repeated 'sanctions and pressure' leads to 'denuclearization.' We cannot help laughing at such a foolish idea," said the statement, released under the name of the director of the ministry's Institute for American Studies.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/world/archives/2018/11/04/2003703594>

US-South Korea alliance strained as Trump postpones exercises

By Youkyung Lee / Bloomberg, November 04, 2018

The US and South Korea have spent almost seven decades honing their preparedness for war. Now fears are growing among the alliance's proponents that extended peace talks are eroding that advantage.

Defense chiefs from the two nations are on Wednesday to gather for an annual meeting in Washington facing a radically changed landscape after US President Donald Trump's decision to restart nuclear negotiations with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. While those discussions put off the prospect of a conflict, Trump has also canceled major military exercises to facilitate the detente.

US Secretary of Defense James Mattis and South Korean Minister of National Defense Jeong Kyeong-doo must now find a way to maintain a robust defense without providing regular, real-world simulations for troops that tend to rotate through every couple of years.

Trump's statements calling the exercises "war games" and echoing Kim by calling them "provocative" makes them harder to restart as long as nuclear talks drag on.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2018/11/04/2003703564>

Pompeo seems unfazed by NKorean nuclear development threat

November 5, 2018

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Donald Trump's top diplomat doesn't seem fazed by North Korea's warning about possibly reasserting a policy of bolstering its nuclear arsenal unless the United States lifts economic sanctions.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tells "Fox News Sunday" that "we've seen this as we go through negotiations" aimed at denuclearization. He plans to meet this coming week in New York with a senior North Korean official.

Pompeo says that "stray voltage happens to be all around us" but that the U.S. officials "know with whom we're negotiating" and "what their positions are."

<https://chinapost.nownews.com/20181105-453623>

Moon says Korea-U.S. alliance should continue forever

By Yonhap, November 5, 2018

President Moon Jae-in said Monday the alliance between South Korea and the United States should continue forever as he met with senior American military officials stationed here.

The meeting at the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae was organized in recognition of outgoing U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) Commander Gen. Vincent Brooks, who is set to leave South Korea after two and a half years of service.

"The Korea-U.S. alliance was forged in blood amid the artillery fire of the war, but it didn't stop there. It is developing into a great

alliance that is creating peace on the Korean Peninsula, drawing security and prosperity to the South and the U.S. and leading peace and stability in Northeast Asia," Moon said.

http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20181105000903&ACE_SEARCH=1

Trump trumpets ties with Kim

November 05, 2018

'We're not going to have to worry about millions of lives'

U.S. President Donald Trump boasted about his North Korea policy achievements at a rally days before midterm elections scheduled for Tuesday, commenting that his relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was "very good."

"We are getting to a point where they really want to do something," he said, apparently referring to the North's promise for denuclearization in exchange for sanctions relief and a guarantee of regime security during a rally in Missouri Thursday. Touching on the fact that North Korea has not conducted any missile or nuclear tests since last November, President Trump boasted, "And we're not going to have to worry about millions of lives being lost and nuclear weapons going up all over the place and flying over Japan and everybody else."

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3055139>

Anti-reunification forces seek confrontation

The Liberty Korea Party and other south Korean conservative groups whip up confrontation with the fellow countrymen to sustain their remaining days.

At the parliamentary investigation which started on October 10, the LKP kicked up a confrontation row against the authorities as they found fault with all their initiatives related to the matter of north-south relations.

In connection with the issue of establishing a peace zone in the West Sea of Korea as stipulated in the military agreement for the implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration, the conservatives said that the “northern limit line” they have defended at the cost of their blood is crumbling, insisting that they can never tolerate the “abandonment of security” and “security gap”.

<http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp/?bbs=27946>

Disgraceful behaviour of LKP

The clan of the Liberty Korea Party including its floor leader Kim Song Thae and chairman Kim Pyong Jun of the emergency action committee is openly challenging the inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation and the ensuring of peace on the Korean peninsula.

They held an emergency meeting of assemblymen, parliamentary measure meeting and the likes one after another and slandered the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration as an “empty declaration bereft of sincerity” and a “unilateral declaration reflecting only the interests of the north”. They even belittled the Pyongyang summit, describing it as a “meeting with no detailed commitment to nuclear abandonment”.

<http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp/?bbs=27736>

US must free itself from self-contradiction of throwing obstacles in its way

November 06, 2018

The proactive and leading measures related to the Korean peninsula denuclearization the DPRK took at the historic inter-Korean summit and in the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration have gathered worldwide support and welcome. However, the US still insists on “maintaining anti-DPRK sanctions”. In the UN General Assembly and UN Security Council in September the US emphasized that anti-DPRK sanctions would be maintained until denuclearization is completed and the security in the Korean peninsula depends on full observation of the

anti-DPRK, sanctions resolution. And US State Secretary Pompeo told the UNSC ministerial meeting that everything would be reversed unless sanctions are applied, UN member nations should respect the anti-DPRK sanctions resolution and those who violate the sanctions resolution would be called to account for it, making all the participants feel tense.

<http://www.pyongyangtimes.com.kp/?bbs=27732>

Korea gets waiver on U.S. Iran sanctions

November 06, 2018

South Korea is among eight countries getting temporary waivers from the U.S. government on an embargo on Iranian oil imports after it reimposed sanctions on Tehran on Monday, according to Seoul’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Waivers can be granted for up to 180 days, and it is possible to apply for an extension, according to the Korean Foreign Ministry, after sanctions were restored Monday by Washington following the Donald Trump administration’s pulling out of the 2015 Iran nuclear accord in early May.

<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/article/article.aspx?aid=3055206>

West Asia

EU, Asia leaders underline support for Iran nuclear deal

October 19, 2018

BRUSSELS (AP) – European and Asian leaders are giving their backing to the Iran nuclear deal, saying the pact is good for global security and that it’s important to respect international agreements.

At a summit in Brussels on Friday, the leaders underlined their “collective support” for the 2015 deal curbing Tehran’s nuclear ambitions and say that it “is working and delivering on its goal.” In May, U.S. President Donald Trump pulled out of the U.N. Security

Council-sanctioned deal, saying it did nothing to stop Iran developing missiles or destabilizing the Middle East and Gulf regions.

Trump's move resulted in U.S. sanctions being imposed on Iran. Those measures also affect companies doing business in Iran, but the Europeans are trying to keep financial supplies open to the country.

<https://chinapost.nownews.com/20181019-443742>

India

India-Uzbekistan Joint Statement during State Visit of President of Uzbekistan to India

September 30 - October 01, 2018

The Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of India reaffirmed their interest in expanding and further strengthening long-term cooperation between India and Uzbekistan, covering diverse sectors such as political ties, defence, security, counter-terrorism, trade and investment, science and technology, space, nuclear energy,

The Sides agreed for cooperation in new areas of space and nuclear energy, and to explore further cooperation in science & technology, solar and other forms of renewable energy.

https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/30454/IndiaUzbekistan_Joint_Statement_during_State_Visit_of_President_of_Uzbekistan_to_India_September_30__October_01_2018

India-Russia Joint Statement during visit of President of Russia to India

October 05, 2018

India-Russia: an Enduring Partnership in a Changing World

Civil nuclear cooperation between India and Russia is an important component of strategic partnership contributing to India's energy-security and its commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Sides noted the progress achieved in the

construction of the remainder of the six power units at Kudankulam NPP as well as the efforts being made in the components manufacturing for localization. The Sides welcomed consultations on the new Russian designed NPP in India, as well as on the NPP equipment joint manufacturing of nuclear equipment; cooperation in third countries.

The Sides highlighted the progress achieved in fulfillment of the agreements envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding on trilateral cooperation in implementation of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Project in Bangladesh. The sides expressed satisfaction over signing of the Action Plan for Prioritization and Implementation of Cooperation Areas in the Nuclear Field Identified Jointly.

The Sides underlined the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear programme in order to support international peace and security, to strengthen non-proliferation regime and to develop normal economic cooperation with Iran. They called for all issues related to the Iranian nuclear programme to be resolved peacefully and through dialogue.

The Sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthen global non-proliferation. Russia expressed its support for India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/30469/IndiaRussia_Joint_Statement_during_visit_of_President_of_Russia_to_India_October_05_2018

List of Agreements/MoUs Exchanged between India and Russia during Visit of President of Russia to India

October 05, 2018

Action Plan for Prioritization and Implementation of Cooperation Areas in the Nuclear Field

Mr. Alexi Likhachev, DG, Rosatom; Shri K N Vyas, Secretary, DAE

<https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/30467/>

List_of_AgreementsMoUs_Exchanged_between_India_and_Russia_during_Visit_of_President_of_Russia_to_India

New Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission & Secretary DAE calls on MoS, Dr Jitendra Singh

October 23, 2018

New Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and Secretary Department of Atomic Energy, Govt of India, Dr K.N. Vyas called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh here today.

Dr Vyas was the Director of the prestigious Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC) before being elevated to the present position.

While congratulating Dr Vyas on taking over his new assignment, Dr Jitendra Singh hailed the Modi Government's initiatives over the last four years for having made functional new Reactor Units in the existing Atomic Energy Plants and at the same time, seeking to explore the possibility of setting up new Atomic Energy Plants in other parts of the country. This, he said, will certainly help India's Nuclear programme assume a pan-India presence and will be a befitting tribute to the founding father Dr Homi Bhabha.

Dr Jitendra Singh also discussed the current status of the upcoming Atomic Energy plant in Haryana in a town called Gorakhpur. He was informed that the work was in full progress and the Plant may become functional in the next few years. The Minister was also briefed about the efforts to explore possibility of setting up new Atomic Energy Plants in other States.

In a fast developing country like India, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Atomic Energy will, in

future, serve as a major source to fulfill the growing energy needs of the country. In addition, he observed, it will have the advantage of providing clean and pollution-free source of energy.

Dr Vyas also updated Dr Jitendra Singh about the various ongoing projects in the Department of Atomic Energy. He also discussed details of some of the important upcoming events and academic seminars relating to Nuclear Energy.

<http://pib.nic.in/>

[PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1550388](http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1550388)

Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave on the theme: 'Nuclear Power- Towards a Clean & Base Load Energy'

October 25, 2018

Kaiga Atomic Power Station unit sets world record among PHWR for operating uninterrupted for 895 days

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that India has vindicated the vision of the founding father of country's Nuclear Energy Programme, Dr Homi J. Bhabha, when he had said that India's nuclear programme will be used for peaceful purposes. Delivering the inaugural address at the 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave here today, he said that the Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government has focussed on non-power applications of nuclear energy. The same principle has been promoted in other departments also such as Department of Space where use of space technology is being encouraged for the benefit of common man.

Dr Singh said that the Cabinet has given its approval for construction of 10 units of India's indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR). This significant decision has been taken to fast-track

India's domestic nuclear power programme, and give a push to country's nuclear industry, he added. Speaking about other initiatives, he said that the Government has amended sections of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 through the Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, 2015, which would enable Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) to form joint venture companies with other Indian PSUs to meet the additional funding requirements for further expansion of our nuclear power programme. The Minister said that previously the atomic energy programme was confined mostly in Southern India, but now an atomic plant is in the process of being set up in Gorakhpur, Haryana near Delhi, which indicates the expansion of nuclear programme in other parts of country, he added. He also informed the audience about the "Hall of Nuclear Power"- India's first permanent exhibition on nuclear power, has been built in the national capital. This helps the students and the younger generation to understand the basics of nuclear energy, the Minister said.

While delivering his keynote address, the Chairman AEC and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) Dr K N Vyas said that organising such conclaves has wide ranging benefits in understanding the benefits and allaying any fears about nuclear energy. He spoke about the benefits of nuclear energy for power and non-power applications. Elaborating on non-power applications, he said that nuclear agriculture developed with the cooperation of agriculture universities and ICAR is one such example, others being nuclear medicine, low cost solution for water purification, urban waste management and food preservation programme, etc. Dr Vyas said we need a paradigm shift in power policy of our country for climate change mitigation and meeting the increasing need for power. He announced that the Kaiga Atomic Power Station (KAPS) has set a new world record among pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) with one of its units operating uninterrupted for 895 days as of today. The AEC Chairman said that at present, there are nine (9) nuclear power reactors at various stages of construction in India and

twelve (12) more nuclear power reactors have been accorded administrative approval.

Speaking about the utility of nuclear energy, the President, Indian Energy Forum (IEF) and former Secretary, Ministry of Power, Shri Anil Razdan, said that earth temperature has to be brought down as per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and this is possible essentially by de-carbonising the energy resources. He added that energy resources are very important as GDP is directly related to them. Shri Razdan said that per capita energy consumption in the country needs to be enhanced, but it has to be as clean as possible. He also spoke about the benefits of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals. He elaborated on the use of nuclear energy for 'Clean India Mission' and other areas like food irradiation. During his address, the Chairman, Nuclear Energy Group, India Energy Forum and Chancellor Homi Bhabha National Institute and former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Dr. Srikumar Banerjee, compared the features of nuclear energy and other sources of renewable energy. Both are complementary to each other, he added. Dr Banerjee said that the real challenge is to bring down the cost of nuclear energy during the gestation period. He said presently the share of nuclear energy in India is just 3%, as compared to global average of about 10% and this needs to be improved.

Prof. Raman Srikant, Professor and Head, Energy and Environment Programme, National Institute of Advance Studies delivered special address on the topic 'Primary Energy Sources: Nuclear and Solar'. He said although the share of renewable energy is growing, still about 75% of energy is coming from coal. Prof. Srikant said to ensure the integrity, security and reliability of the Grid as well as demand-supply match, a combination of Renewable energy and conventional sources of electricity are required.

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1550752>

India-Italy Joint Statement during visit of Prime Minister of Italy to India

October 30, 2018

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen global non-proliferation efforts. Prime Minister Conte congratulated India on its admission to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), The Hague Code of Conduct, Wassenaar Arrangement, and the Australia Group. He reiterated Italy's support to India's intensified engagement with the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) which strengthens global non-proliferation efforts.

https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/30549/IndiaItaly_Joint_Statement_during_visit_of_Prime_Minister_of_Italy_to_India_October_30_2018

India-Japan Vision Statement

October 29, 2018

The two leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to the total elimination of nuclear weapons and remained resolute in the task of strengthening international cooperation to address the challenges of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. Prime Minister Abe stressed the importance of early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The two leaders called for an immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral, and internationally and effectively verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) on the basis of Shannon Mandate. After India's full accession to three international export control regimes, the two leaders pledged to continue working together for India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, with the aim of strengthening the global non-proliferation efforts.

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation on sustainable and clean forms of energy, including nuclear and renewables; explore possibilities for collaboration in hydrogen-based energy,

while also continuing their efforts for cooperation in use of clean coal technology, petroleum and natural gas projects and LNG supply chain and welcomed "Japan-India Energy Transition Cooperation Plan". India and Japan will further collaborate in energy efficiency and conservation, energy storage as well as manufacturing of eco-friendly vehicles including hybrid and electric vehicles. The two leaders welcomed the progress of India-Japan consultations on civil nuclear cooperation, and decided to continue discussions in this regard. India welcomed Japan's decision to join the International Solar Alliance as it will strengthen global efforts to promote the deployment of solar energy as a clean, affordable and sustainable energy option.

https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/30543/IndiaJapan_Vision_Statement

Pakistan

Pakistan won't engage in nuclear arms race: President

Written by The Frontier Post, Posted in Pakistan, October 16, 2018

F.P. Report

Islamabad: President Dr Arif Alvi says Kashmir issue is root cause of tension in South Asia.

President said Pakistan's nuclear program is compliant to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) rules and regulations.

He was addressing the International Conference titled "Global Non Proliferation Regime: Challenges and Response" organized by Strategic Studies Institute in Islamabad today.

The President said Pakistan's nuclear deterrent is only meant for strategic balance in the region and it is not part of any nuclear arms race. Pakistan will not engage in any race of nuclear weapons,

he added.

He said Pakistan is ardent supporter of nonproliferation and is ready to cooperate with all the concerned world institutions to achieve this end.

Dr Arif Alvi said the threats confronting international peace and security can only be dealt with collective international efforts.

<https://thefrontierpost.com/pakistan-wont-engage-in-nuclear-arms-race-president/>

Mazari: Pakistan confronting discrimination in nuclear field

Written by The Frontier Post, Posted in Pakistan, October 16, 2018

F.P. Report

Islamabad: Human Rights Minister Dr Shireen Mazari while chairing the first session on the Future of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime at the International Conference on “Global Non-Proliferation Regime: Challenges and Response” organized by the Strategic Studies Institute Islamabad has said Pakistan had been confronting discrimination at international level in the nuclear field. She mentioned that discriminatory instrument in Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and policy regarding the new entrant states was a challenge. She expressed the confidence that the Conference would help the participants understand the point of view of different countries about nuclear non-proliferation.

Pakistan would not join the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in prevailing situation. She said there is an increasing arms race in South Asia. India’s BMD system and US support for India’s NSG membership are undermining strategic stability in South Asia.

<https://thefrontierpost.com/mazari-pakistan-confronting-discrimination-in-nuclear-field/>

Misc/Global

IAEA Showcases Global Coordination on Small, Medium Sized or Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs)

October 15, 2018

The International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) expanding international coordination on the safe and secure development and deployment of small, medium sized or modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) has come into focus with new publications and expert meetings on these emerging technologies.

Significant advances have been made in recent years on SMRs, some of which will use pre-fabricated systems and components to shorten construction schedules and offer greater flexibility and affordability than traditional nuclear power plants. Some 50 SMR concepts are at various stages of development around the world, with commercial operations expected to begin in the coming years.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-showcases-global-coordination-on-small-medium-sized-or-modular-nuclear-reactors-smrs>

IAEA Launches International Training Course on Protecting Nuclear Facilities from Cyber-Attacks

October 24, 2018

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has introduced a new international training course (ITC) on protecting nuclear facilities from cyber-attacks, highlighting the Agency’s role in supporting national efforts to strengthen nuclear security.

The inaugural course, *Protecting Computer-Based Systems in Nuclear Security Regimes*, was held earlier this month. It brought together 37 participants from 13 countries for two weeks of immersive training on best practices in computer security.

Developed together with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and hosted by the Idaho National Laboratory in the United States, it was the first in what will be a series of IAEA information and computer security ITCs focusing on raising awareness of the threat posed by cyber-attacks, and their potential impact on nuclear facilities.

The course offered participants a chance to test their skills on mock-ups of actual state-of-the-art digital systems common in today's nuclear facilities, which use digital technologies to provide functions that support safe operations, security, material accountancy and control, and protection of sensitive information.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-launches-international-training-course-on-protecting-nuclear-facilities-from-cyber-attacks-0>

Opinions

US' N.Korea policy needs to be realigned

By Zhao Lixin Source:Global Times, October 18, 2018

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's fourth visit to Pyongyang on October 7 has given some hope to the international community. In a statement, US State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had invited inspectors to visit the Punggye-ri nuclear test site to confirm it has been irreversibly dismantled.

Two days later, US President Donald Trump said his second summit meeting with Kim will be held after the US midterm elections.

North Korea's official media also sent positive vibes. The Korean Central News Agency ran a report on October 8, saying talks between North Korea and the US will continue and a plan for the second summit between the two leaders is being worked out.

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

1123540.shtml

Denuclearization and 'defining diplomacy down'

By RICHARD N. HAASS, October 23, 2018

Some 25 years ago, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a Harvard professor who in the course of his career served as United States ambassador to the United Nations and a US senator from New York, coined the phrase "defining deviancy down." The phrase was meant to describe a social trend in which behavioral standards declined over time to the point that what was once intolerable became broadly acceptable.

I am reminded of Moynihan's phrase when I consider the state of diplomacy aimed at bringing about North Korea's denuclearization. Increasingly, the parties involved, including the United States and South Korea, appear to be relaxing their requirements for what is expected of North Korea. Call it "defining diplomacy down."

All this has taken on more than a little urgency, because it is now more than four months since the Singapore summit and there is talk that US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will meet again soon.

<http://www.atimes.com/denuclearization-and-defining-diplomacy-down/>

Raja Mandala: India, China and the INF Treaty

Proposed US withdrawal from the three-decade-old disarmament pact with Russia presents both a challenge and opportunity for India.

Written by C. Raja Mohan, October 30, 2018

As one of the nine known nuclear-weapon powers, India has to adapt to the erosion of traditional methods of managing arms

ances.

US President Donald Trump's announcement 10 days ago about American plans to withdraw from the three-decade-old missile treaty with Russia has not got the attention it deserves in Delhi. The decision marks the end of an era of disarmament that India was so engaged with since its Independence.

As one of the nine known nuclear-weapon powers, India has to adapt to the erosion of traditional methods of managing arms races. Geopolitical developments, emergence of new technologies and the declining domestic political support among the great powers are contributing to the demise of arms control as we have known it.

Even more important are the likely implications of Trump's move for Indian security – especially on the military balance with China, its traditional defence cooperation with Russia and the new possibilities for high-technology cooperation with the US, Europe and Japan.

The treaty that Trump wants to discard is the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty that was concluded in 1987 by Presidents Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev. It has been hailed as one of the most important arms control agreements between Washington and Moscow. Under the INF treaty, the US and Soviet Union agreed not to develop, produce, possess or deploy any ground-based ballistic and cruise missiles that have a range between 500 and 5,500 km. It exempted the air-launched and sea-based missile systems in the same range. The agreement came in the wake of huge public outcry in Europe in the 1980s at the Russian deployment of the SS-20 ballistic missiles and the US response with Pershing-2 rockets. The INF treaty helped address the fears of an imminent nuclear war in Europe. It also built some trust between Washington and Moscow and contributed to the end of the Cold War.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-china-and-the-inf-treaty-5424298/>

Trump is pushing the world closer to nuclear peril

By Katrina vanden Heuvel, October 30, 2018

I have called my daughter, Nika, a “perestroika baby.” She was conceived in Russia during that earthshaking period when, under the radical tenure of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the country began to open up and the Cold War began to thaw. Nika was born just a few years after Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan signed the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, one of the world's most important nuclear arms accords.

With the stroke of two pens, the agreement banned an entire class of nuclear weapons, led to the destruction of nearly 2,700 warheads and diminished the threat of nuclear war in Europe. At the time, Gorbachev said, “We can be proud to plant this sapling, which someday may grow to be a full tree of peace.”

Thirty-one years later, President Trump is taking an ax to that tree. This month, he announced that the United States will withdraw from the INF, all but inviting a new arms race: “We have more money than anybody else by far,” Trump said. “We'll build it up until [China and Russia] come to their senses.”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/trump-is-pushing-the-world-closer-to-nuclear-peril/2018/10/30/1665e434-db8c-11e8-85df-7a6b4d25cfbb_story.html?utm_term=.871b72585d20

US unilateralism will bring risk

By Zhong Sheng (People's Daily), October 30, 2018

The US has drawn wide criticism from the international community after its President Donald Trump announced on Oct. 20 that Washington would pull out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty).

Relevant parties, including the NATO

allies of the US, believe that Washington's choice of withdrawing from the INF Treaty would put the whole world in an arms control crisis and bring negative impacts to global strategic stability.

This could be the most risky move Trump administration has ever taken, and it would influence the "survival", the Reuters commented.

The INF Treaty is an important pact for arms control and disarmament signed between the Soviet Union and the US in the 1980s. It has played an important role in alleviating international relations, pushing forward nuclear disarmament process, and promoting global strategic balance and stability. The treaty is of realistic significance for global strategic stability even today.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2018/1030/c90000-9513186.html>

Economics, not 'security,' likely fueling nuclear arms race

By KEN MOAK, October 31, 2018

The US starting an arms race with China and Russia might be motivated by economics, in that defense industries are a major part of the US economy.

According to the US Department of Commerce, defense industries account for nearly 15% the economy, employ millions of people and are a major revenue generator. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reported that the United States sold almost US\$675 billion worth of weapons to nearly 100 countries between 1950 and 2017. Many times more were sold to the US military.

Bottom of Form

Under President Donald Trump, the US military budget and the value of arms exports to friends and allies are the biggest in US history and will most likely increase. Warning "allies" around the world of Chinese and Russia "aggression," he and his senior officials have clinched weapons-sales deals worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

The value of the most recent deal with Saudi Arabia alone was said to be more than \$100 billion. If India and other potential allies bite, the aerospace and defense industries could drive economic growth in the US.

<http://www.atimes.com/economics-not-security-likely-fueling-nuclear-arms-race/>

Why the cost of Donald Trump's plan to scrap nuclear arms control treaty may not be worth the gains in Asia

Ankit Panda, November, 04 2018

Ankit Panda writes that a US pull-out from 1987 treaty would expose Europe to a threat from Russian cruise missiles. The move may be aimed at countering China, but the benefits of doing it this way are debatable.

The sole remaining cold war arms control treaty between the United States and Russia may be on its last legs. US President Donald Trump, egged on by his arms control-averse adviser on national security affairs, John Bolton, has said Washington will leave the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

The Trump administration's announcement that it will withdraw from INF is partly a result of new geopolitical realities and a result of the administration's general aversion to any agreements, treaties and institutions that can be perceived to bind the US's strategic range of motion.

What isn't apparent, however, is that the costs of INF's demise in Europe will be worth the gains in Asia. Trump and Bolton would be correct in arguing that the treaty's end would free up new options for the US; but it would be Russia that would have all the more to gain in the short-term, without ever facing any consequences for its violation of the treaty by developing the SSC-8.

For the moment too, it appears less clear that Trump's declamation on INF will stand. Senior US military officials have said

that the withdrawal measures have not yet been activated and the Special Verification Commission - the treaty-codified body to discuss compliance issues - will meet this December as planned.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/2171119/why-cost-donald-trumps-plan-scrap-nuclear-arms-control-treaty?edition=international>

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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