

Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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India

India, Iran have potential to strengthen ties in the current situation: ambassador

Tehran Times November 16, 2018

New Delhi's top diplomat to Tehran is of the opinion that under the current circumstances that the Islamic Republic has come under sanctions by Trump's White House, India and Iran can use their capacities in a positive way to strengthen ties.

Q. What stance has India taken on the re-imposed U.S. sanctions on Iran?

A. External Affairs Minister of India had during her annual press conference in May stated very categorically India's consistent political position that we do not recognize unilateral sanctions. Foreign Minister Zarif had visited India in May, and this press conference, in fact, happened to take place when Dr. Zarif was there. So, this is as far as our political position is concerned.

As far as Iran's nuclear program is concerned, we again have a principled and long-standing position, which is to recognize Iran's right to nuclear energy, as well as, the interest of the international community to see that Iran's nuclear program is entirely for peaceful purpose. India is not a party to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action [JCPOA]. We have seen the developments which have taken place regarding the JCPOA, and it is our hope and desire that these issues would be resolved in a constructive manner.

Q. What strategy has India designed to continue economic relations with Iran after the imposition of the second round of brutal sanctions on Iran which went into effect on November 5?

A. The two countries have a historical relationship. We have been working to expand our economic and trade ties. When Iran was subjected to sanctions last time, we continued our cooperation to the extent we could. We are heading into a difficult phase

again, but we have been talking, and have revived the Rupee mechanism, which in fact, was put in place last time. It has been made more robust. Our expectation is that it would be utilized to continue our bilateral relations in the area of trade and economy.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429585/India-Iran-have-potential-to-strengthen-ties-in-the-current>

Visit of Prime Minister to Singapore to attend ASEAN-India Breakfast Summit, the 13th East Asia Summit and related meetings

**Ministry of External Affairs,
Government of India, November 16,
2018**

The Prime Minister also attended the 13th East Asia Summit, which is a premier Leaders-led forum in the Indo-Pacific Region. In his intervention at the Plenary, he underlined the centrality of trade and investment in enhancing prosperity and security of the Indo-Pacific. In this context, Prime Minister emphasized that India remains committed to the early conclusion of a balanced and comprehensive RCEP. He joined EAS leaders in the adoption of five EAS Statements on topical issues viz. Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Returnees; Marine Plastic Debris; Smart Cities; Safe and Secure use of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials;

<https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/30601/>

Visit_of_Prime_Minister_to_Singapore_to_attend ASEAN India Breakfast Summit the 13th East Asia Summit_and_related_meetings

Media Briefing by Secretary (East) on upcoming visit of President to Vietnam and Australia

**Ministry of External Affairs,
Government of India, November 17,
2018**

Question: There are still roadblocks in the import of Australian Uranium to India, when will that take place and will that issue come for discussion?

Jt. Secretary (South), Shri Manish: As you would be aware that Australia has supported our entry into MTCR and Wassenaar Arrangement and Australian Group. It also supports our entry into Nuclear Suppliers Group. So if you recall that in 2014 we signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement which came into force in November 2015 and Australian Parliament has also passed the Civil Nuclear Transfer to India Bill, 2016 and there exists a mechanism under which Australians are supplying Uranium to India.

So I'd say that there is a framework agreement under which there is an ongoing cooperation in the civil nuclear sector.

Question Contd.: That is agreed but the supply hasn't started yet?

Jt. Secretary (South), Shri Manish: I think you don't have the correct information on this. I think there is a G2G track on this and there are no roadblocks to our cooperation in the civil nuclear sector.

<https://www.mea.gov.in/media-briefings.htm?dtl/30604/>

Media Briefing by Secretary East on upcoming visit of President to Vietnam and Australia

Exclusive: We can match China in the Indian Ocean region, says Navy chief Sunil Lanba

Sandeep Unnithan, India Today,
November 17, 2018

Q. China recently deployed a submarine on patrol in the IOR, its eighth in 10 years. Are you now better placed to track them?

Yes. We tracked the submarine as it was entering the IOR. The Boeing P8-I (long range maritime patrol aircraft) is a great force multiplier. We are getting four more of them. There is requirement for 12 more (P8-Is), but that is in the future.

Q. What is the navy's most urgent operational requirement today?

The biggest capability void is of the helicopters. We have got an acceptance of

necessity for both wthe multi-role helicopter (MRH) and 111 utility helicopters and a defence acquisition council approval for 24 MRH as a foreign military sales case (direct import from the US). We will take the contract signing forward so that we start getting these platforms in the next two-three years. The process has started for the 24 MRHs.

Q. It took the Arihant nine years to go from launch to its first deterrent patrol. How long will it take for the next submarine, the Arighaat, to its first deterrent patrol?

It will not take as long as the Arihant.

Q. At what stage is the plan to build indigenous nuclear-powered attack submarines?

We are looking at six SSNs (Nuclear-Powered Attack Submarines). It is part of the 30-year submarine building plan (to build 24 submarines, 18 conventional and 6 nuclear). It is at a design stage. The launch of the first SSN is over 10 years away.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/interview/story/20181126-we-can-match-china-in-the-indian-ocean-region-admiral-sunil-lanba-1388904-2018-11-17>

Address by President at Australia-India Business Council event in Sydney

**Ministry of External Affairs,
Government of India, November 22,
2018**

In the energy field, we are adding new capacity in nuclear, renewable and conventional segments. We have a target to achieve 175 Giga Watts of renewable energy, including 100 Giga Watts of solar energy by 2022. Over 250 billion US dollars worth of investment are projected to flow into the sector over the next few years.

https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/30624/Address_by_President_at_AustraliaIndia_Business_Council_event_in_Sydney

US & Europe

Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin Statements to the Press

U. S. Department of State, November 16, 2018

We appreciate the U.S. support in strengthening our defense capabilities, both through training of our military and through providing defense equipment. As partners on those Budapest memorandums, thereby, Ukraine gave up the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world – the memorandum blatantly violated by Russia – we will continue to further develop our security and defense cooperation.

<https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2018/11/287422.htm>

Secretary Pompeo's Meeting With Republic of Korea Unification Minister Cho

U. S. Department of State, November 16, 2018

Secretary Michael R. Pompeo met with ROK Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon on November 16, 2018 in Washington, DC. They affirmed their commitment to close coordination during ongoing efforts to achieve the final, fully verified denuclearization of the DPRK as agreed to by Chairman Kim. Both sides also discussed ways to deepen coordination so that inter-Korean cooperation and progress on U.S.-DPRK negotiations toward denuclearization remain aligned.

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/11/287416.htm>

Germany stalls Vattenfall nuclear case in World Bank court

Reuters, November 16, 2018

Germany has stalled a 4.4 billion euros (5.33 billion) damages claim by Sweden's Vattenfall over the closure of two nuclear

reactors by calling for the suspension of the judges on an arbitration tribunal in the United States.

"The Respondent (Germany) filed a proposal for disqualification of the three members of the tribunal," the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) said in a Nov. 12 website entry on the case.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/vattenfall-arbitration-nuclear/germany-stalls-vattenfall-nuclear-case-in-world-bank-court-idUSL8N1XR10E>

Advancing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific Region

U. S. Department of State, November 18, 2018

At the East Asia Summit, the United States co-sponsored with the Republic of Korea a statement on the Safe and Secure Use, Storage, and Transport of Nuclear and Other Radioactive Materials.

The United States is deepening cooperation across the Indo-Pacific to confront common threats, protect shared resources, and uphold sovereignty. We are working hand-in-hand with the region to denuclearize North Korea...

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/11/287433.htm>

Review of Controls for Certain Emerging Technologies

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of Industry and Security 15 CFR
Part 744 [Docket No. 180712626-8840-01] RIN 0694-AH61,

Government Publishing Office, U.S.,
November 19, 2018

The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) controls the export of dual-use and less sensitive military items through the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), including the Commerce Control List (CCL). As controls on exports of technology are a key component of the

effort to protect sensitive U.S. technology, many sensitive technologies are listed on the CCL, often consistent with the lists maintained by the multilateral export control regimes of which the United States is a member. Certain technologies, however, may not yet be listed on the CCL or controlled multilaterally because they are emerging technologies. As such, they have not yet been evaluated for their national security impacts. This advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) seeks public comment on criteria for identifying emerging technologies that are essential to U.S. national security, for example because they have potential conventional weapons, intelligence collection, weapons of mass destruction, or terrorist applications or could provide the United States with a qualitative military or intelligence advantage.

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-11-19/pdf/2018-25221.pdf>

Strikes cut output at two EDF nuclear reactors in France - RTE

Reuters, NOVEMBER 20, 2018

Strikes reduced electricity generation at two nuclear power reactors operated by French utility EDF (EDF.PA), the country's RTE power grid operator said, pushing short-term power prices sharply higher. France depends mostly on nuclear power for its heating needs and the curb in output comes as a prolonged cold weather snap is forecast, which is expected to push up demand.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-france-nuclearpower-strike/strikes-cut-output-at-two-edf-nuclear-reactors-in-france-rte-idUKKCN1NP0S9>

Poland sees first nuclear power production after 2030

Reuters, NOVEMBER 20, 2018

Poland expects its first nuclear power plant to start operating after 2030 as the country aims to cut its use of coal in producing

electricity, Deputy Environment Minister Michal Kurtyka said. The east European country, which hosts global climate talks in December, generates around 80 percent of its electricity from coal in outdated power plants, many of which will have to close in the coming decade.

Poland has considered building a nuclear power plant for years, but has yet to take a binding decision on the project. "The discussion over launching the nuclear power plant has accelerated. It is mostly about the international partnership. We are able to finance the construction on our own, but we have to draw the technology from somewhere," Kurtyka told Reuters.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-poland-energy/poland-sees-first-nuclear-power-production-after-2030-idUKKCN1NP1BU>

Remarks, Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State,

U. S. Department of State, November 20, 2018

The United States sanctioned an international network that the Iranian regime and Russia are using to provide millions of barrels of oil to the Assad regime. This is in exchange for the movement of hundreds of millions of dollars to the IRGC Quds Force. That money is then passed on to terrorist organizations like Hizballah and Hamas. The United States in its continued efforts will not allow these dirty dealings to flourish. Iran will not be allowed to exploit the international financial system, to hide revenue streams it uses to fund terrorist activity, support sectarian militias, abusing civilian populations, or to destabilize the region.

our Special Representative for North Korea Steve Biegun is meeting with his Republic of Korea counterpart to further strengthen our close coordination on efforts to achieve our shared goal of the final, fully verified denuclearization, as agreed to by Chairman Kim. These are important discussions today with the Republic of

Korea. They are discussing ongoing diplomatic efforts, our sustained implementation of UN sanctions, and the inter-Korean cooperation.

QUESTION: Yeah, you mentioned Steve Biegun's meeting with his South Korean counterpart. I just wanted to ask: What's the message he's going to be sending as far as what the U.S. Government would like to see the South Korean Government do as far as coordinating their inter-Korean efforts and the denuclearization efforts?

SECRETARY POMPEO: So I think there's complete agreement between the South Koreans and us with respect to how this should proceed. We now have a working group that formalizes those processes so that we can be sure that we don't talk past each other, that we don't take an action or the South Koreans don't take an action that the other is unaware of or hasn't had a chance to comment on or provide their thoughts. And that's the purpose of the working group that's being led on our side by Stephen Biegun.

We have made clear to the Republic of Korea that we do want to make sure that peace on the peninsula and the denuclearization of North Korea aren't lagging behind the increase in the amount of inter-relationship between the two Koreas. We view them as tandem, as moving forward together. We view them as important parallel processes, and that working group is designed to make sure they continue to remain that way.

<https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2018/11/287487.htm>

U.S.-ROK Working Group

U. S. Department of State, November 20, 2018

U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun and Republic of Korea Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Lee Do-hoon co-chaired a U.S.-ROK working group in Washington November 20.

The working group further strengthened close U.S.-ROK coordination on efforts to achieve our shared goal of the final, fully verified denuclearization of the DPRK. The participants discussed complete denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, as well as the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and inter-Korean cooperation.

Special Representative Biegun and Special Representative Lee reaffirmed the U.S.-ROK Alliance as the linchpin of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in the region

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/11/287492.htm>

Interview of Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State, With George Lawson of KFDI News,

U. S. Department of State, November 25, 2018

QUESTION: Of course, some strong statements recently from North Korea, talk about new tactical weapons they have. What are the next steps on that front?

SECRETARY POMPEO: So we think we know what it is they're referring to there; we're pretty sure. I can't say much. Know this: We've known this was going to be a lengthy process. This administration came in with a very difficult risk from North Korea. The President made the decision to have a summit with Chairman Kim, and I've been tasked with negotiating its resolution. It will take time. We are prepared to be patient, but all the while – all the while that we're working to make sure that North Korea has continued to stop its missile tests, continued to stop its nuclear tests, the economic sanctions which have caused North Korea to engage with us will remain in place.

<https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2018/11/287536.htm>

U.S. nixing of JCPOA reveals lack of respect for international commitments: Tehran

Tehran Times, November 26, 2018

The non-constructive approach of the current U.S. administration shows that they, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, show no respect and compliance to the international commitments. Their withdrawal from multilateral or even international treaties comprise a long list including the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was endorsed by the UN Security Council resolution 2231.

It is obviously self-evident for the whole international community that these agreements and treaties are all the outcome of long-term and multilateral endeavors to make the world a better place to live and to respect each other. The logic behind the U.S withdrawal from the JCPOA in spite of thirteen consecutive reports by the IAEA that have all confirmed Iran's compliance to its commitments, seems odd to all independent nations across the board. Ironically, a permanent member of the UN Security Council is breaching its obligations for the peace and security of the world by denigrating the result of an internationally endorsed agreement through the same Security Council.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429908/U-S-nixing-of-JCPOA-reveals-lack-of-respect-for-international>

IAEA Mission Says the Netherlands Has Significantly Strengthened its Regulatory Framework

International Atomic Energy Agency, 26 November 2018

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts said the Netherlands has significantly strengthened its regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety since 2014 and particularly by establishing a single independent regulatory body.

The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) team concluded on 26 November an eight-day follow-up mission to review the Netherlands' implementation of recommendations and suggestions made during the initial IRRS mission in 2014. This follow-up mission was conducted at the request of the Government of the Netherlands, hosted by the Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ANVS) and supported by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS).

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-says-the-netherlands-has-significantly-strengthened-its-regulatory-framework>

Inside Sellafield's death zone with the nuclear clean-up robots

Theo Leggett Business correspondent,

BBC News, 27 November 2018

The Thorp nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield, Cumbria, has recycled its final batch of reactor fuel. But it leaves behind a hugely toxic legacy for future generations to deal with. It is a dangerous job that will take decades to complete and require a great deal of engineering ingenuity and state-of-the-art technology - some of which hasn't even been invented yet.

This is why.

Five sieverts of radiation is considered a lethal dose for humans. Inside the Head End Shear Cave, where nuclear fuel rods were extracted from their casings and cut into pieces before being dissolved in heated nitric acid, the radiation level is 280 sieverts per hour. This is a place only robots can go. They will begin the first stage of decommissioning - the post-operative clean-out - removing machinery and debris.

Already, a mechanical arm on wheels is being carefully guided through the cave, as operators shout instructions to each other, trying to prevent the machine becoming tangled up in cables. Once cleared, the cell will be washed repeatedly using water or acids to bring down the

level of radioactivity. Ultimately, the plan is for humans to be able to enter the contaminated cave. "We'll need to look at novel decontamination agents to help us clean out the plant more effectively," says Melanie Brownridge, head of technology at the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-46301596>

UPDATE 2-France reviews fast-breeder nuclear reactor project

REUTERS, NOVEMBER 29, 2018

France's state-run nuclear agency said on Thursday it had presented options on a new generation of fast-breeder nuclear reactors to the French government and talks were underway but dismissed reports in Japan that it had taken a decision. The Nikkei business daily reported that France had informed Japan it would halt research into the ASTRID (Advanced Sodium Technological Reactor for Industrial Demonstration) project in 2019, with no plans to allocate a budget from 2020.

A spokesman for the CEA nuclear agency said one option it had discussed was to reduce ASTRID's capacity to a 100-200 megawatt (MW) research model from the commercial-sized 600 MW originally planned. Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Thursday he had not been informed about any French plans to freeze the project and that nothing has been decided.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/france-nuclearpower-astrid/update-2-france-reviews-fast-breeder-nuclear-reactor-project-idUKL4N1Y41OU>

The Iranian Regime's Transfer of Arms to Proxy Groups and Ongoing Missile Development, Special Briefing by Brian Hook,

U. S. Department of State, November 29, 2018

The United States is unveiling new evidence of Iran's ongoing missile proliferation. The Iranian threat is growing and we are

accumulating risk of escalation in the region if we fail to act. Today we are unveiling Iran's Sayyad 2C surface-to-air missile, which you see behind me. This missile was designed and manufactured in Iran, and the writing in Farsi on its side translates as "the hunter missile." The conspicuous Farsi markings is Iran's way of saying they don't mind being caught violating UN resolutions. The Sayyad 2C is one of two identical systems interdicted by Saudi Arabia in Yemen earlier this year. The Iranians wanted to deliver this to the Houthis, who would have used it to target coalition aircraft up to 46 miles away. Given the Houthis' reckless use of other advanced weapons provided by the Iranians, these missiles pose a clear and present danger to civil aviation in the region.

We are also unveiling anti-tank guided missiles. On display in front of me are two of the three types of anti-tank guided missiles that Iran produces and transfers: the Toophan and the Tosan. One of the Toophan rockets that is newly added was seized in an arms cache aboard a dhow in the Arabian Sea. The other was found by Saudi Arabia during a raid in Yemen.

The Tosan rocket on display is also new, and is one of five that were seized in a stockpile by Saudi forces in Yemen. These missiles enhance the Houthis' capabilities and further intensify the conflict in Yemen.

Fajr rockets have also been added to the display and are located next the anti-tank guided missiles. These weapons were recovered in Helmand, near Kandahar Air Field, by the Afghan National Army from the Taliban. Iran has been providing materiel support to the Taliban since at least 2007. These same rockets have been used by Hamas in the past.

The Iranian regime's investment in missile testing and development is increasing. The regime's pace of missile launches did not diminish after implementation of the Iran nuclear deal in January of 2016. Iran has conducted numerous ballistic missile launches and space launches since this

time as it continues to prioritize missile development as a tool of revolution. We assess that in January of 2017, Iran launched a medium-range missile, believed to be the Khorramshahr. It can carry a payload of more than 500 kilograms and could be used to carry nuclear warheads. Its suspected range is over 1,200 miles, which is far enough to target some European capitals. Iran's ongoing missile development puts Europe in its range.

Iran has the largest ballistic missile force in the region, with more than 10 ballistic missile systems either in its inventory or under development. Any environment where Iran is able to operate freely can become a forward-deployed missile base for such systems and for many other kinds of weapons that you see here today. This threatens Israel and other partners, especially Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The Iran nuclear deal has created a climate where so long as Iran is in compliance with a nonproliferation deal of modest gains and temporary benefits, that so long as Iran is in compliance with this deal, somehow they're in compliance with all sorts of international norms and standards. The fact of the matter is, is that during the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal, Iran has expanded its threats to peace and security in almost every category

Our policy in the Middle East is to reverse the balance of power in favor of our friends and our partners. Iran has had a really good run over many years, partly enabled by the cover that the Iran nuclear deal provided.

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/11/287661.htm>

Director of National Intelligence Daniel Coats on Russia's INF Treaty Violation

Office of the Director of National Intelligence, 30 November 2018

The Intelligence Community assesses Russia has flight-tested, produced, and deployed cruise missiles with a range capability prohibited by the Treaty. Russia has shown no sign that it is willing to

acknowledge its violation, let alone return to full and verifiable compliance.

Russia has violated the treaty, how they have denied its violation, and the broader security implications of this violation. Russia began the covert development of an intermediate-range, ground-launched cruise missile designated 9M729 probably by the mid-2000s. The 9M729 has a conventional and nuclear warhead capability. Russia's Novator (no-VA-tor) design bureau was tasked to develop the missile, which closely resembles other cruise missiles that Novator was developing at the time, such as the Iskander.

Russia began testing the missile in the late 2000's and by 2015 had completed a comprehensive flight test program consisting of multiple tests of the 9M729 missile from both fixed and mobile launchers. Russia conducted the flight test program in a way that appeared purposefully designed to disguise the true nature of their testing activity as well as the capability of the 9M729 missile.

<https://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/speeches-interviews/item/1923-director-of-national-intelligence-daniel-coats-on-russia-s-inf-treaty-violation>

Russia & Central Asia

Putin says Russia will retaliate if U.S. quits nuclear missile treaty: agencies

Reuters, November 19, 2018

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the Kremlin would retaliate if the United States withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty, Russian news agencies reported.

Putin discussed possible Russian retaliation with top Russian Defence Ministry officials and added that the Kremlin was ready to discuss the INF treaty with Washington.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-nuclear->

putin-retaliation/putin-says-russia-will-retaliate-if-u-s-quits-nuclear-missile-treaty-agencies-idUSKCN1N0280

IAEA Purchases Low Enriched Uranium in Milestone Towards Establishment of IAEA LEU Bank in Kazakhstan

International Atomic Energy Agency, 20 November 2018

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has signed contracts to purchase low enriched uranium (LEU), paving the way towards the establishment of the IAEA LEU Bank in 2019.

In the IAEA's largest procurement since it was founded in 1957, acquisition contracts were signed with two suppliers - JSC National Atomic Company "Kazatomprom" and Orano Cycle. They will supply LEU, the basic ingredient to fabricate nuclear power fuel, for transport to a facility in eastern Kazakhstan where the material will be stored.

In line with the IAEA's standard procedures for open tender, the names of the successful bidders have been published in the United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM)

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-purchases-low-enriched-uranium-in-milestone-towards-establishment-of-iaea-leu-bank-in-kazakhstan>

Russian senators recommend changing document on nuclear weapons use: RIA

Reuters, November 21, 2018

A committee of the upper house of the Russian parliament on Wednesday recommended to the National Security Council that it change the rules on the use of nuclear weapons, RIA news agency reported.

The non-binding recommendations relate to a response to a hypothetical use of

hypersonic and other non-nuclear strategic weapons against Russia, RIA said.

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-nuclear-policy/russian-senators-recommend-changing-document-on-nuclear-weapons-use-ria-idUSKCN1NQ22V?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov's briefing on developments involving the INF Treaty, Moscow,

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, November 26, 2018

After US President Donald Trump's public statements about Washington's intention to withdraw from the INF Treaty unilaterally, politicians, diplomats, and other related experts, as well as the entire world community have been focused on this matter. The world is increasingly aware of the risks and threats this rash decision could entail not only for regional but also for global international security and stability as a whole.

the United States has begun accusing Russia of violating the INF Treaty with even greater zeal as part of its propaganda campaign meant to justify its decision to denounce the treaty. Apart from engaging in unscrupulous attempts to create a false impression that Russia's alleged non-compliance with the INF Treaty is a firmly established fact, the US Department of State is seeking, no less brazenly, to downplay the importance and validity of Russia's years-long concerns about the implementation of the INF Treaty by the United States itself. Moreover, unreliable information is being planted about the development and content of the parties' dialogue on their claims and counterclaims.

In this case, the US is using its traditional trick, which it has been employing more

and more often in recent time. Fabricated charges are immaterial and therefore do not need, in Washington's view, to be confirmed, while it is extremely difficult to refute them by reason of their being divorced from the facts. The situation being what it is, the allies and closest partners of the United States have to support it out of political loyalty and Euro-Atlantic – or other – solidarity.

http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3420936

IAEA Mission Sees Safety Commitment by Russia's Rosenergoatom, Encourages Continued Improvement

International Atomic Energy Agency, 29 November 2018

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts said Russia's Rosenergoatom demonstrated a commitment to nuclear safety, while also identifying areas for potential further improvement.

The Corporate Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) concluded an 18-day mission on 27 November to review corporate functions that affect operational safety at Rosenergoatom, a subsidiary of Russian state corporation Rosatom and the operator of 35 nuclear reactors across Russia. The mission was carried out at the request of the Government of the Russian Federation.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-sees-safety-commitment-by-russias-rosenergoatom-encourages-continued-improvement>

China

Foreign Minis Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, November 16, 2018

Q: There are reports that the DPRK has

tested a new tactical weapon. Do you see this as a potential threat to the denuclearization process on the Korean Peninsula?

A: I have just seen the relevant report and I am not aware of the specific situation. Just as we have noted, over a period of time, with the concerted efforts of all relevant parties, the situation on the Korean Peninsula has witnessed some positive changes. We hope that the positive momentum on the Peninsula can be sustained.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1613873.shtml

Plant helps region cut emissions, add power

By Ma Chi

China Daily | November 24, 2018

The Fangchenggang Nuclear Power Plant has remarkably reduced the carbon footprint of the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, said a senior manager of the facility.

The nuclear power plant, which is able to generate 15 billion kWh of electricity every year, has cut the region's carbon dioxide emissions – a greenhouse gas leading to global warming – by 11.5 million metric tons, or the equivalent of what 32,500 hectares of forest can absorb a year, said Chen Jian, general manager of the power plant.

Chen said that Guangxi used to be heavily reliant on hydroelectric power. However, as most of the water resources available for hydropower projects have been exploited, the region had to resort to other sources of energy to meet the rising need for electricity.

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201811/24/WS5bf88dbfa310eff30328ac7f.html>

China, vying with U.S. in Latin America, eyes Argentina nuclear deal

Cassandra Garrison, Matt Spetalnick
Reuters, NOVEMBER 28, 2018

Argentina and China are aiming to close a deal within days for the construction of the South American nation's fourth nuclear power plant, a multi-billion dollar project that would cement Beijing's deepening influence in a key regional U.S. ally.

The potential deal, reportedly worth up to \$8 billion, is emblematic of China's strengthening of economic, diplomatic and cultural ties with Argentina. It is part of a wider push by Beijing into Latin America that has alarmed the United States, which views the region as its backyard and is suspicious of China's motives.

Argentina's national newspaper Clarin reported at the weekend that if the deal was signed, China would loan Argentina \$6.5 billion to be repaid in 20 years, with eight years of grace and a 4.5 percent annual interest. Reuters was not able to independently confirm these details.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-argentina-china-insight/china-vying-with-u-s-in-latin-america-eyes-argentina-nuclear-deal-idUSKCN1NX0FE>

Rio Tinto to sell Rössing stake

World Nuclear News, 26 November 2018

Under a binding agreement Rio Tinto announced today, the total consideration comprises an initial cash payment of USD6.5 million, payable at completion, and a contingent payment of up to USD100 million following completion linked to uranium spot prices and Rössing's net income during the next seven calendar years. Rio Tinto will also receive a cash payment if CNUC sells the Zelda 20 mineral deposit during a restricted period following completion. The total consideration is capped at a maximum of USD106.5 million.

Rio Tinto said the transaction "represents the culmination of an extensive assessment of strategic options" it had considered for the Namibian mine. Its chief executive, J-S Jacques, said Rio Tinto was focused on strengthening its portfolio and focusing on its core assets.

CNUC is part of China National Nuclear Corporation's (CNNC) Geology & Mining Department. Separate branches are responsible for CNNC's domestic and international uranium mining and exploration activities. CNNC Overseas Uranium Holding Limited's investments include a 25% stake in Namibia's Langer Heinrich uranium mine, currently under care-and-maintenance. Subject to conditions, including merger approval from the Namibian Competition Commission, the transaction is expected to be completed in the first half of next year.

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Rio-Tinto-to-sell-Rossing-stake>
Rio Tinto sells African uranium mine to China

Neil Hume

Financial Times, NOVEMBER 26, 2018

Rio Tinto has agreed to sell its controlling stake in the Rössing uranium in Namibia to a state-backed Chinese company, marking the latest sale of an unwanted asset by the Anglo-Australian group. Rio could pocket as much as \$106.5m from the sale of its 69 per cent stake to China National Uranium Corporation (CNUC) depending on the profitability of the mine and the price of uranium between now and 2025. The nuclear fuel has been one of the best performing commodities of 2018, rallying 45 per cent from its April low, boosted by a string of mine closures. This has forced producers to buy uranium in the spot market to fulfil long-term sales contracts.

CNUC has been looking to invest in overseas uranium mines to secure supplies for an expected expansion of nuclear power in China. Its current investments

include the mothballed Azelik uranium mine in Niger and own a minority stake in Paladin Energy's Langer Heinrich mine Namibia. Rossing is world's longest-running open pit uranium mine and produces around 3 per cent of global supply. The other shareholders in the mine are the Iranian Foreign Investment Company (15 per cent), the Industrial Corporation of South African (10 per cent), the government of Namibia (3 per cent) and local interests (3 per cent).

<https://www.ft.com/content/f2f19410-f145-11e8-ae55-df4bf40f9d0d>

China Has More Nuclear Subs Than the West Believed

Defense one, November 20, 2018

Western observers have likely underestimated the number of Chinese nuclear submarines in development, but overestimated how many are operational, a new analysis suggests. In particular, only half of China's nuclear-armed SSBNs appear to be in operation.

Photos of the Bohai Shipyard and the Longpo Naval Facility produced by Planet Labs suggest that "China does not yet have a credible sea-based deterrent," said Catherine Dill of the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. Two of China's four JIN (or 094)-class subs "appear to not be in operation and are undergoing maintenance or repairs at the Bohai shipyard, suggesting to us that credibility is still in question. That rebuts the Defense Department's 2018 China Military Report and CSIS's Chinapower group, which had stated that China had four operational 094s.

https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2018/11/china-has-more-nuclear-subs-west-believed/152984/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2011.21.18&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief&utm_source=AM%20Nukes%20Roundup&utm_campaign=Occa8d02b4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_07_25_12_19_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_547ee518ec-

Occa8d02b4-391827465

Chinese centrifuges ready for commercial use

World Nuclear News, 21 November 2018

CNNC, which has independent intellectual property rights for the technology, said yesterday that China National Nuclear Enrichment Co had approved 'national completion acceptance'.

CNNC said: "This indicates that China's uranium enrichment centrifuge has been upgraded and has large-scale commercial conditions. The overall technical level and economic efficiency of uranium enrichment have further improved and reached the international advanced level."

It added: "Over the years, under the guidance and support of the relevant ministries and commissions of the higher authorities, the majority of scientific research and construction personnel of CNNC have made painstaking efforts for the development and engineering construction of a new generation of uranium enrichment centrifuges in China."

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Chinese-centrifuges-ready-for-commercial-use>
The Perception Gap in the THAAD Dispute – Causes and Solutions

East & South East Asia

Pence on North Korea: 'Now We Need to See Results'

The Voice of America, November 15, 2018

The proposed second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un must result in a detailed list of North Korean nuclear weapons sites, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said

In an interview with NBC News, Pence said the second Trump-Kim summit,

tentatively scheduled for sometime early next year, will be where a “verifiable plan” to disclose the nuclear sites must be reached.

“I think it will be absolutely imperative in this next summit that we come away with a plan for identifying all of the weapons in question, identifying all the development sites, allowing for inspections of the sites and the plan for dismantling nuclear weapons,” Pence said.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/pence-north-korea-nuclear-program/4659903.html>

DPRK Maritime Insurance Workshop Office of the Spokesperson

U. S. Department of State, November 16, 2018

The United States and the United Kingdom met in London with industry leaders from maritime insurance companies, commodity traders, and other relevant parties, to discuss steps the private sector can take to prevent illicit shipping, trade, and other sanctions evasion activities that North Korea uses to generate revenue for its UN-prohibited nuclear and missile programs. North Korea continues to rely heavily on illicit shipping activities to evade UN sanctions. To that end, the United States and the United Kingdom are committed to working with the maritime industry to take proactive measures to fully implement UN sanctions and protect against the provision of insurance and other services to vessels engaging in activity prohibited under the UN sanctions regime.

North Korea continues to employ deceptive tactics in order to evade UN sanctions. Facilitated by illicit transfers, North Korea’s imports of refined petroleum have substantially breached the UN-mandated cap. As U.S. officials have noted, the United States will not hesitate to impose sanctions on any individual, entity, or vessel supporting North Korea’s illicit activities.

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2018/11/287401.htm>

N Korea swiftly expels US citizen amid nuclear talks

The Punch Newspaper November 18, 2018

North Korea expelled a US citizen who tried to enter illegally, an unusually swift resolution of a case that could have further complicated reconciliation moves between the two countries. The man, identified as Lawrence Bruce Byron, had been in custody after crossing into North Korea from China on October 16, the official Korean Central News Agency said. “While being questioned, he said he had illegally entered the country under the command of the US Central Intelligence Agency,” KCNA said.

“Relevant authorities have decided to expel him from the country.” A man with the same name was arrested in South Korea while trying to sneak over the inter-Korean border in November last year

<https://punchng.com/north-korea-expels-us-citizen-amid-nuclear-talks/>

North Korea’s new ‘tactical’ weapon test highlights military modernisation

Hyonhee Shin, Reuters, November 18, 2018

North Korea’s claim last week that it had tested an unidentified “ultramodern tactical weapon” highlighted its desire to upgrade its conventional arms and reassure its military even as talks are under way to end its nuclear programme, analysts said.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un witnessed the test of a newly developed tactical weapon that could serve as a “steel wall”, state media reported on Friday, without giving details of the weapon.

It was Kim’s first observation of a weapons test this year and could complicate already stalled nuclear talks with the United States, although Washington and Seoul downplayed the development in an

apparent effort not to derail negotiations.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/northkorea-missiles-arms/north-koreas-new-tactical-weapon-test-highlights-military-modernisation-idINKCN1NN06C>

Moon tones down 'sanctions easing' pitch

By Kim Yoo-chul, Korea Times, November 19, 2018

President Moon Jae-in is toning down his hopes for an easing of U.S. and United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sanctions on North Korea as the South Korean leader wants to try again as the role of a "neutral facilitator" of the ongoing denuclearization process. Political analysts in Seoul said Monday the shift came after the President's efforts to win backing from the United Kingdom and France, which hold seats on the UNSC, apparently fell flat during his earlier trip to European capital cities.

Moon's "sanctions-easing" agenda, aimed at inducing the North to accelerate its moves for nuclear disarmament with greater engagement, also caused a rift in South Korea's alliance with the United States

<https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/common/printpreview.asp?categoryCode=356&newsIdx=258947>

Treasury Designates Individual Who Helped North Korea Acquire Oil

38

U. S. Department of the Treasury, November 19, 2018

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) today announced a North Korea-related designation of one individual pursuant to Executive Order 13722, continuing the implementation of existing sanctions. Today's action highlights North Korea's reliance upon illicit use of the financial system to circumvent sanctions.

"North Korea depends upon the help of criminals and illicit actors to raise and

transfer funds," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. "As part of our commitment to the final, fully verified denuclearization of North Korea, Treasury will continue to enforce and implement sanctions against any actor that seeks to aid the regime's deceptive practices."

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm552>

Steinitz: North Korea Nuclear Outcome Will Have 'Enormous Impact' On Iran

By Eytan Halon, The Jerusalem Post, November 21, 2018

The outcome of American efforts to dismantle North Korea's nuclear program will have an "enormous impact" on Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons in the coming decade, Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz said. Speaking at the Jerusalem Post Diplomatic Conference, Steinitz told an audience of international envoys that what happens between the United States and North Korea is extremely relevant to the Middle East's nuclear future.

"Once North Korea really dismantles its nuclear infrastructure, the pressure within Iran to capitulate will be enormous," said security cabinet member Steinitz. "On the other hand, if North Korea manages to preserve its nuclear arsenal, pressure on the Iranians to proceed to develop nuclear weapons will be enormous," he said

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Steinitz-North-Korea-nuclear-outcome-will-have-enormous-impact-on-Iran-572409>

U.N.'s Atomic Watchdog Calls on North Korea to Re-Admit Nuclear Inspectors

Associated Press Time, November 23, 2018

The head of the U.N.'s atomic watchdog on Thursday called on North Korea to allow inspectors back into the country to monitor its nuclear program. Speaking at a board meeting of the International

Atomic Energy Agency, Director General Yukiya Amano noted that Pyongyang had in September talked about denuclearization measures including the “permanent dismantlement of the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon” – a reactor where it produces plutonium.

Amano said there has been activity observed at Yongbyon, but “without access the agency cannot confirm the nature and purpose of these activities.”

<http://time.com/5462110/iaea-north-korea-readmit-nuclear-inspectors/>

Washington and Seoul scale back military exercise

By Pan Mengqi, China Daily, November 23, 2018

Despite the scaling down of the war game between Washington and Seoul, there are concerns that slow progress in US-DPRK talks could still deter denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula.

US Secretary James Mattis told reporters that the springtime “Foal Eagle” exercise will be “reduced in scope” and that it is being “reorganized a bit” to keep it at a level that will not be harmful to diplomacy with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea over its denuclearization progress. Foal Eagle is the biggest of the regular joint exercises held by the United States and the Republic of Korea, but Pyongyang has long condemned it as preparations for invasion.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2018-11/23/content_37302173.htm

Moon’s North Korea policy in danger

Eun Hee Woo, East Asia Forum, 27 November 2018

South Korean President Moon Jae-in’s much praised North Korea policy is in jeopardy. Moon’s North Korea policy has been widely deemed a success. But unless he gets a handle on his country’s many domestic economic woes and boosts his approval rating, further progress with North Korea will be almost

impossible.

Approval ratings are exceptionally important for South Korean presidents to maintain authority within their own ruling party and delay the almost inevitable arrival of lame-duck status, which leaves them politically paralysed. But the most important factor determining a president’s popularity is economic performance.

<http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2018/11/27/moons-north-korea-policy-in-danger/>

French official suspected of spying for North Korea arrested

Paul Pradier, ABC News, Nov 27, 2018,

A French official has been arrested by police for allegedly “collecting and delivering information to a foreign power likely to undermine the fundamental interests of the nation,” a spokesperson for the Paris prosecutor’s office said.

The spokesperson refused to confirm the identity of the suspect and the foreign country involved in the investigation.

A government source close to the investigation told ABC News that the man in question is senior French civil servant Benoit Quennedey, a senate employee, and that he is suspected of spying for North Korea.

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/french-official-suspected-spying-north-korea-arrested/story?id=59440675>

North Korea’s Kim open to nuclear site inspection report

Reuters, November 27, 2018,

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is willing to allow inspectors into the reclusive country’s main nuclear complex in Yongbyon, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported on Tuesday, citing a senior diplomatic source.

“I understand that Chairman Kim told (South Korean) President Moon (Jae-in) during their summit in September that if

the U.S. took corresponding steps he would not only be willing to shut down the Yongbyon nuclear facilities but also allow verification,” Yonhap quoted the source as saying. The source said Moon passed the message on to U.S. President Donald Trump when the two met during the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/usa-northkorea/north-koreas-kim-open-to-nuclear-site-inspection-report-idINKCN1NW1ZY>

South Korea buys Israeli radar tech, likely to counter North’s missiles

JUDAH ARI GROSS , Times of Israel, 27 November 2018

South Korea announced on Tuesday that it was purchasing two advanced radar systems from Israel that are meant to improve its ability to detect incoming missiles, like those that could be launched by North Korea. The two Green Pine radar detectors will be provided by the ELTA Systems Ltd., a subsidiary of the state-owned IAI Israel Aerospace Industries.

The radar deal is worth approximately \$292 million, a South Korean official told Reuters. In its announcement, Seoul said the systems could “spot and track ballistic missiles from a long distance at an early stage.” North Korea was not explicitly mentioned.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/south-korea-buys-israeli-radar-tech-likely-to-counter-norths-missiles/>

WSJ: UN Probing 40 Ships, 130 Firms over Alleged Ship-to-ship Transfers

KBS World Radio, November 28, 2018

North Korean ships have been trading coal and oil in violation of UN Security Council sanctions. That’s according to a report by the Wall Street Journal published Tuesday. It quoted a diplomatic source as saying that the UN and related authorities are investigating at least 40 ships and 130 companies over their alleged involvement in

almost 200 cases of illegal ship-to-ship transfers of coal and refined oil.

The owners of the ships are not known, but they are reportedly registered with Taiwan and Togo. The daily said that North Korean ships are using an array of tactics to evade sanctions, including forging documents or switching off ships’ tracking beacons. It added that five nations including the U.S., Japan and Australia are conducting air patrols in Asian waters to monitor the North’s illegal ship-to-ship transfers.

http://world.kbs.co.kr/service/news_view.htm?lang=e&Seq_Code=141135

Analysis: Ground collapse detected after North Korea’s nuclear test last year

Wooyoung Lee, UPI, November 28, 2018

The study, published in Seismological Research Letters, an international journal of research in earthquake, found that the underground nuclear test conducted at Punggye-ri nuclear test site in North Korea was the largest among previous tests.

The test, conducted in September 2017, caused an earthquake about eight minutes after the explosion and a major ground collapsing. It also found that the test caused severe damages over an area of about nine square kilometers.

North Korea had conducted six known nuclear tests from 2006 to 2017.

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2018/11/28/Analysis-Ground-collapse-detected-after-North-Koreas-nuclear-test-last-year/5641543395598/

North Korea Accuses Washington of Weaponizing Human Rights as Nuclear Talks Stall

By Choe Sang-Hun, New York Times, Nov. 29, 2018

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has lashed out at the United States for

continuing to press it to improve its human rights record, even with animosities between the two countries having eased so much that President Trump said he and the North's leader, Kim Jong-un, were "in love."

North Korean diplomats and the state news media have unleashed blistering attacks on Washington since the United Nations' human rights committee adopted a resolution this month condemning North Korea's "longstanding and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights." The resolution, similar versions of which have been adopted each year since 2005, is certain to be approved by the 193-member United Nations General Assembly next month.

As it did following the past resolutions, Washington is calling a United Nations Security Council meeting early next month to discuss human rights in North Korea and inviting the United Nations' top human rights official, Michelle Bachelet, to address the session.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/29/world/asia/north-korea-human-rights.html>

N.Korean Nuclear Site 'Was No Longer Usable'

Choi Eun-kyung, The Chosunilbo,
November 29, 2018

North Korea's destruction of its Punggye-ri nuclear test site came after such a severe underground collapse that the site was in any case no longer usable, a recent study suggests.

The study published in the journal *Seismological Research Letters* claims that an aftershock observed after North Korea's last nuclear test in September last year was due to the collapse of a void as long as 80 m created after the explosion at Punggye-ri.

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2018/11/29/2018112901762.html

IAEA Signs Agreement with Consortium of 11 Japanese Institutions to Support Training in Nuclear Medicine

International Atomic Energy Agency,
30 November 2018

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) signed an agreement this week with a consortium of 11 Japanese universities and other institutions to strengthen human resources development in the field of nuclear medicine around the world. The Practical Arrangement will boost training opportunities for medical professionals in IAEA Member States in the use of imaging techniques to diagnose and manage non-communicable diseases, with a special emphasis on degenerative brain disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

The Practical Arrangement, signed on the margins of the 28-30 November IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology, will enable the IAEA to increase assistance to countries in clinical practice and research, along with opportunities for certified continuous professional development in the Japanese institutions. Another focus area is the development and implementation of nuclear medicine curricula and academic programmes.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-signs-agreement-with-consortium-of-11-japanese-institutions-to-support-training-in-nuclear-medicine>

Saudi Arabia

Analysts: Saudi Nuclear Research Appears To Not Be An Immediate Threat

Maya Margit, The Jerusalem Post,
November 9, 2018

"Saudi Arabia has been clear that it considers the Islamic Republic's nuclear technology development a threat and has

said that if these capabilities progress then it will seek the same, regardless of international sentiment,” Dr. Ellen R. Wald, a Saudi expert and President of Transversal Consulting, explained to The Media Line. “The Saudis are much more likely to purchase this technology from [Islamabad] than it is to try and develop nuclear weapons on its own.

“Riyadh also could probably acquire the technology from China or Russia if either country was so inclined,” Dr. Wald contended, adding that “this is a far greater security risk than the development of a nuclear research facility that is years away from producing anything useful.”

According to Saudi state media, the new research reactor is one of seven projects bin Salman announced during a recent visit to Riyadh’s King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology. Over the next two decades, the Sunni Muslim nation hopes to build a total of 16 such facilities at a cost of \$80 billion, ostensibly with a view to reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Should Saudi Arabia indeed succeed, the kingdom would become the second Gulf Arab state to have atomic infrastructure after the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which currently is in the process of building several South Korean-designed reactors. From an economic and scientific standpoint, though, Froggatt questions the wisdom of pursuing nuclear power over other forms of energy. “The cost of renewable energies has fallen so dramatically in the last decade that if you’re going for nuclear you’re going for a more expensive option,” he noted.

Other experts agree that the Saudi program does not pose an immediate threat. “I doubt it will have much impact as they are just beginning their efforts,” David Ottaway, a Middle East specialist from the Washington-based Wilson Center, asserted to The Media Line. He pointed to stalled negotiations between Riyadh and American companies that possess nuclear expertise, arguing that this will factor into delays the kingdom is expected to face.

“The Saudis have been negotiating with U.S. companies but [have] refused so far to sign the so-called 123 Agreement banning reprocessing or production of nuclear fuels,” Ottaway continued, referring to a sub-section of the U.S. Atomic Energy Act of 1954 that sets strict terms for sharing nuclear technology. “I have not seen the details of which company is building the Saudi research reactor, but this is just the start on a long road to building a nuclear power capacity.”

<https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Analysts-Saudi-nuclear-research-appears-to-not-be-an-immediate-threat-571490>

UAE watchdog not ready to license company to operate nuclear plant

Reuters, November 21, 2018

The United Arab Emirates’ Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation is not ready to give the company that will run the country’s first nuclear plant a license to operate, a senior official said. The \$24.4 billion Barakah power plant is the world’s largest nuclear project under construction and will be the first in the Arab world. The plant, with four reactors, has total capacity of 5,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

The operator, Nawah, has still to fulfil regulatory requirements, Christer Viktorsson, director-general of the nuclear body, told a news conference. “We are continuing to review the application of the operator to start Barakah,” he said. “We are not ready to give the operating license yet, we are doing (a) review of the documents.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-emirates-nuclear/uae-watchdog-not-ready-to-license-company-to-operate-nuclear-plant-idUSKCN1NQ0UM>

Saudis Want a U.S. Nuclear Deal. Can They Be Trusted Not to Build a Bomb?

David E. Sanger and William J. Broad,
New York Times, Nov. 22, 2018

The 33-year-old heir to the Saudi throne had been overseeing a negotiation with the Energy Department and the State Department to get the United States to sell designs for nuclear power plants to the kingdom. The deal was worth upward of \$80 billion, depending on how many plants Saudi Arabia decided to build.

But there is a hitch: Saudi Arabia insists on producing its own nuclear fuel, even though it could buy it more cheaply abroad, according to American and Saudi officials familiar with the negotiations. That raised concerns in Washington that the Saudis could divert their fuel into a covert weapons project – exactly what the United States and its allies feared Iran was doing before it reached the 2015 nuclear accord, which President Trump has since abandoned.

Prince Mohammed set off alarms when he declared earlier this year, in the midst of the negotiation, that if Iran, Saudi Arabia's fiercest rival, "developed a nuclear bomb, we will follow suit as soon as possible." His negotiators stirred more worries by telling the Trump administration that Saudi Arabia would refuse to sign an agreement that would allow United Nations inspectors to look anywhere in the country for signs that the Saudis might be working on a bomb, American officials said.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/22/world/middleeast/saudi-arabia-nuclear.html>

U.S. and Saudi nuclear options

Tehran Times, November 26, 2018

Americans strongly insist that Saudi Arabia purchase all of its nuclear technology from American companies. But Mbs is moving forward regardless, sending a message to Washington that it will do what it wants regardless of the outcome of the nuclear negotiations with the United States.

Saudi pursuit of a nuclear program is more for strategic than economic reasons. In an interview last March, Mbs warned, "Without a doubt, if Iran developed a nuclear bomb, we will follow suit as soon as possible." He made clear in this CBS interview that Saudi adherence to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty is conditional: if Iran opts for a bomb, so will Saudi Arabia.

According to Richard Nephew, who served as the lead sanctions expert for the U.S. team negotiating with Iran, and Robert Einhorn, who served as the U.S. State Department special advisor for nonproliferation and arms control, the Saudis are motivated to acquire nuclear weapons but "their ability to do so is very much in doubt, at least for the foreseeable future. "

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429885/U-S-and-Saudi-nuclear-options>

'I doubt that China or Russia would supply Saudi with enrichment or reprocessing tech'

Tehran Times, November 30, 2018

Professor Frank N. von Hippel, former assistant director for national security in the White House Office of Science and Technology says that "I don't think that South Korea could sell nuclear power plants to Saudi Arabia if Saudi Arabia does not have a 123 agreement with the U.S."

"I doubt that China or Russia would supply Saudi Arabia with enrichment or reprocessing technology but, if North Korea can do it, Saudi Arabia probably could as well," Frank N. von Hippel tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

Q: Saudi Arabia started its research nuclear reactor in Abdulaziz city while it has not reached an agreement with the U.S. on nuclear activities. Some believe that this is a message from SA to the U.S. that it will advance its nuclear activities even without U.S. What do you think of

this?

A: I am worried about Saudi Arabia's interest in nuclear technologies. Part of its interest may be in generating electricity. But there are many ways to do that more cheaply today – especially photovoltaics in Saudi Arabia. I think that part of the interest is due to the fact that some nuclear-power technologies can be dual use. They create a nuclear-weapon option. This is of course the cause of the controversy about Iran's enrichment program.

Q: Saudi Arabia insists on having Uranium enrichment and its reprocessing while the U.S. wants "Gold Standard" in the agreement with Riyadh which doesn't include enrichment and reprocessing. Based on 123 treaty, will U.S. finally give up to Riyadh demand?

A: The Trump Administration is divided on this. Some in the State Department believe strongly in nonproliferation and support the "Gold Standard." Some in the Energy Department are more concerned that what remains of the U.S. nuclear-reactor supply industry (not much) could have a rare financial opportunity to sell reactors to Saudi Arabia. If those interested in supporting the U.S. nuclear industry prevail within the Administration, I think that there would be a strong challenge to a non-gold-standard 123 agreement in the House of Representatives, which will be controlled by the Democrats starting in January. Whether the Senate would join the House in a blocking action, I can't judge.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/430034/I-doubt-that-China-or-Russia-would-supply-Saudi-with-enrichment>

Iran

How China is helping Iran skirt U.S. sanctions

Tehran Times, November 17, 2018

China, which has emerged as a viable counterweight to U.S. hegemony in the world and a protagonist of new

international economic policy, has unambiguously reaffirmed its commitment to keep alive the Iran nuclear deal and stand by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On November 5, when the petroleum-related sanctions came into effect, Chinese foreign ministry said it will continue to "hold a fair, objective and responsible attitude" and "resolutely safeguard its legitimate rights", while reiterating its opposition to the unilateral U.S. sanctions.

"China feels sorry for the U.S.' decision and we noticed that the international world as a whole opposes the practice of such unilateral sanctions," foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said at a press briefing.

She said Iran has been seriously fulfilling its obligations under the JCPOA and its efforts have been recognized by the International Atomic Energy Agency dozen times. She also affirmed that China will firmly safeguard its lawful rights while continuing to adhere to JCPOA and urged relevant parties to stand on the "right side of history".

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429630/How-China-is-helping-Iran-skirt-U-S-sanctions>

EU ready to help Iraq deal with U.S. sanctions on Tehran

Tehran Times, November 17, 2018

"In addition to its support for Iraq in its stance on the American sanctions on Iran, the European Union is ready to support Iraq in dealing with the consequences of these sanctions," Federica Mogherini told Adil Abdul-Mahdi, according to a readout of their phone call from the prime minister's office.

The U.S. granted Iraq a temporary waiver from sanctions on Iran, giving Baghdad until the end of December to end its imports of Iranian natural gas and electricity.

Baghdad imports some 1,300 MW of electricity from Iran and its already strained power grid is hard pressed to find an alternative source.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429649/EU-ready-to-help-Iraq-deal-with-U-S-sanctions-on-Tehran>

Tehran hosts international security conference

Tehran Times, November 17, 2018

Addressing the forum, Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said developing ties and interaction with the neighboring countries is the best tool to counter U.S. sanctions.

“If we make the borders safe and boost the economy, we can have the best tools to counter the sanctions,” the MP remarked.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429647/Tehran-hosts-international-security-conference>

Bullying U.S. has been isolated: Iran’s deputy FM

Tehran Times, November 18, 2018

The United States, like a bully, is exerting pressures on other countries but it has been isolated politically, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has said. In an interview with the Spanish ABC newspaper published on Sunday, Araqchi said even before the new rounds of sanction took effect and since Donald Trump took office, some foreign companies had begun to stop activities in Iran due to uncertainty and a psychological climate.

“Those companies not linked with the United States are continuing their cooperation with Iran. Around 3,000 small, medium-size and large companies are working with Iran. What they want is a financial channel for doing business,” Araqchi, who was in Madrid for a round of negotiations with Spanish diplomats, said,

according to an English translation of the interview published by IRNA. The Iranian official said there is possibility of reduction in Iran’s oil sale but not to the extent that the U.S. has claimed.

“Maybe, the country has to pay heavy prices for sanctions but they cannot change Iran’s policies. The previous U.S. administration had imposed much harsher sanctions against Iran but eventually it had to sit for negotiations. Trump is still following an already failed experience,” the top diplomat remarked

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429692/Bullying-U-S-has-been-isolated-Iran-s-deputy-FM>

Europeans still unable to announce SPV, Iranian diplomat laments

Tehran Times, November 19, 2018

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Monday that the Europeans are not still able to announce the so-called special purpose vehicle (SPV) because of the U.S. pressure. SPV is a European Union’s initiative intended to protect trade with Iran against newly reimposed U.S. sanctions.

“The U.S. exerts pressure to prevent formation of the SPV and to cut cooperation between Iran and Europe,” the senior diplomat said during a speech at Allameh Tabataba’i University. He noted that no European country has so far accepted to host the SPV for fear of U.S. punishment.

“The Europeans negotiated with Austria for 20 days and the country did not accept. Luxembourgish heads have said that they have not talked about the issue. Even if they talk, they will not accept the mechanisms and in this situation, Europe is unable to announce the SPV,” he stated.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429729/Europeans-still-unable-to-announce-SPV-Iranian-diplomat-laments>

Iran has made due decisions to return to pre-JCPOA status: Shamkhani

Tehran Times, November 19, 2018

Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, announced on Monday Iran has made due decisions to return to the pre-JCPOA status. Shamkhani made the remarks in a meeting with the visiting British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt in Tehran.

Shamkhani said the decisions have been made in response to the inactivity of the remaining parties to the nuclear deal after the U.S. withdrew from it. "In view of the passiveness of the other parties in the face of the unseemly language and behavior of the United States, the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on its own national interests and responsibilities, has adopted necessary decisions to return to the pre-agreement status," Shamkhani asserted.

The remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, are the three European Union trio of Germany, Britain and France as well as Russia and China.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429749/Iran-has-made-due-decisions-to-return-to-pre-JCPOA-status-Shamkhani>

European banking mechanism not progressing well, Tehran complains

Tehran Times, November 19, 2018

Tehran says the European Union's efforts to establish a banking channel with Iran is not progressing well, calling on the three European parties to the 2015 nuclear agreement to honor their commitments to salvage the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"We hope Europe will deliver on what it had promised. This is an internal issue of Europe and we still hope these three European countries will show their true power and find their rightful place," Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said at a press

conference on Monday. Qassemi said there are still ambiguities with regard to the implementation of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), which has been designed to conduct banking transactions with Iran, but "none of the issues indicate that it won't be achievable."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429741/European-banking-mechanism-not-progressing-well-Tehran-complains>

Hunt meets Zarif as Trump berates UK for ties with Tehran

Tehran Times, November 19, 2018

In what appears to be the UK's turning a cold shoulder to U.S. President Donald Trump, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt on Monday traveled to Tehran for talks with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Last Friday, Trump lashed out at Prime Minister Theresa May over the UK's Iran ties after she phoned him to congratulate him on the Republican Party's showing in the midterm elections.

According to IRNA, Hunt and Zarif sat down for talks on a special payment system devised by the EU to keep Iran paid for trade as Trump has reimposed sanctions on Tehran in defiance of the 2015 deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Secretary Hunt is the first Western official of his rank to visit Iran since the United States – formerly a party to the Iran nuclear deal – unilaterally withdrew from the agreement in May.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429747/Hunt-meets-Zarif-as-Trump-berates-UK-for-ties-with-Tehran>

Rouhani: Iran won't yield to economic war

Tehran Times, November 19, 2018

President Hassan Rouhani said that Iranians will not surrender to those who have started economic war on the country.

"We will not raise our hands [for surrender] to those who have imposed economic war on us. We will fulfil our national duty and continue our path," he told thousands of well-wishers in Khoy, West Azerbaijan Province.

Rouhani was openly referring to Iran's commitment to the 2015 nuclear deal according to which Iran accepted to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions. The International Atomic Energy Agency, which is tasked to monitor Iran's adherence to the nuclear agreement, has issued 13 reports each time confirming Iran's commitment to the agreement.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429715/Rouhani-Iran-won-t-yield-to-economic-war>

Zarif says Iran will thrive despite U.S. sanctions

Tehran Times, November 20, 2018

Iran's foreign minister has said his country will not only survive newly reimposed U.S. sanctions but it will thrive. Speaking after meeting the British foreign secretary, Jeremy Hunt, in Tehran on Monday, Mohammad Javad Zarif said, "We are used to pressure and we are used to resisting pressure. Sanctions always hurt and they hurt ordinary people, but sanctions seldom change policy, and that has been the problem with U.S. sanctions all the time. They do not take people back to the negotiating table. In fact, they strengthen the resolve to resist.

"We will certainly survive. We will not only survive - we will thrive. We have tried to minimize the impact on the population but the ordinary people are going to suffer, the economy is going to suffer." "What is important is that Europe has made the political commitment but, unfortunately, so far as practicabilities are concerned, it has been very slow," Zarif said. "Hunt gave me commitment that the UK believes in the nuclear deal, but we also need to see some action."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429755/Zarif-says-Iran-will-thrive-despite-U-S-sanctions>

Foreign Ministry denies plans to exit JCPOA

Tehran Times, November 21, 2018

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi on Wednesday dismissed rumors that the ministry is getting ready to pull out of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, saying such rumors are designed to negatively impact the Iranian economy.

"These rumors are certainly false, baseless and purposeful," Qassemi said in a statement, the Foreign Ministry website reported.

"They are created by certain domestic and foreign circles with destructive intentions and are aimed at making people worried, creating baseless tensions and negatively impacting the economy and people's livelihood," he explained.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429844/Foreign-Ministry-denies-plans-to-exit-JCPOA>

Iran to stay in nuclear deal but various options can be considered: diplomat

Tehran Times, November 21, 2018

Mehdi Sanaei, Tehran's ambassador to Moscow, has said that Iran will stay in 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, but various scenarios could be considered if the remaining parties to the agreement "do not fulfill their commitments". "There is no decision [in this regard] at this point, but different scenarios could be considered," Sanaei said on Tuesday in an interview with Rossiya-24 television.

"According to our statistics, currently over 20% of our trade transactions are made in national currencies, and that (figure) is rising, the central banks are engaged in a dialogue, and the mechanism is being developed. There is no other way out," Mehdi Sanaei said. He added that Iran's

payments with Iraq and Turkey are also made in national currencies.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429816/Iran-to-stay-in-nuclear-deal-but-various-options-can-be-considered>

Iran's foreign minister Zarif rules out renegotiating 2015 nuclear deal

Reuters, November 23, 2018

Iran has no intention of renegotiating the 2015 nuclear deal, as demanded by the United States, Iran's foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said. Speaking at an international conference in Rome, Zarif said the Iranian people will endure U.S. sanctions.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-us-sanctions/irans-foreign-minister-zarif-rules-out-renegotiating-2015-nuclear-deal-idUSKCN1NR25L?il=0>

Iran, Germany kick off co-op on energy efficiency market

Tehran Times, November 25, 2018

The opening ceremony of cooperation between Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology of Iran and the Federal Ministry for the Environment and Nature Conservation on low carbon economy and implementation of integrated energy efficiency market was held in Parsian Evin Hotel in Tehran on November 21.

"The German Ministry for Environment will fully back this project by 2021 and providing up to •3.5 million of budget, which is a remarkable value and the result of Iran-Germany collaboration," the German Ambassador announced. He referred to the several activities of German Ministry for Environment in Iran as of the implementation of the JCPOA in January 2015 till the present day, announcing his government's comprehensive support for implementation of integrated energy efficiency projects in Iran.

Klor-Berchtold, also, referred to the significance of JCPOA and Germany's full support for preserving it. Naming U.S.

unilateral sanctions against Iran illegal, he underscored that Iran has fulfilled its commitments to JCPOA. "A German delegation, comprised of small and medium-sized enterprises traveled to Iran just a week after the withdrawal of the U.S. from the nuclear deal," he said, "which was a positive signal for Germany's support for JCPOA." The 28 European countries have unanimously backed Iran and their commitment to the nuclear deal, he noted.

"We are presently working hard on Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) [which allows European business people working with to bypass newly re-imposed U.S. sanctions]," he said, "This is not an easy job to do and the way is totally unknown to us but the job is being done and we hope to achieve practical results, soon."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429871/Iran-Germany-kick-off-co-op-on-energy-efficiency-market>

Salehi warns of ominous fallout if Iran nuclear deal breaks down

Tehran Times, November 26, 2018

Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, on Monday warned the European Union of ominous consequences if it did not follow through with action to keep the economic benefits of the 2015 nuclear agreement alive.

The EU hosted Salehi at a seminar on nuclear cooperation aimed at showing its continuing support for the deal after U.S. sanctions targeting Iranian oil exports resumed this month.

The EU and other remaining signatories to the accord hope to convince Tehran to respect the curbs that the deal placed on its nuclear program even though Washington has pulled out, depriving Iran of many of the economic benefits.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429929/Salehi-warns-of-ominous-fallout-if-Iran-nuclear-deal-breaks-down>

Boosting deterrence power is a lesson Iran has learnt from history: defense minister

Tehran Times, November 26, 2018

The history of Iran necessitates boosting deterrence power, Defense Minister Amir Hatami said in a speech at the opening ceremony of the ninth version of the biannual Iran Airshow on Kish Island. Iran Airshow, started on Monday and will last until Thursday, features aerial displays including potentials as well as the latest achievements in aviation, airlines and aerospace by companies from Iran, China, Russia, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan. Hatami said the airshow is the embodiment of resolve, independence, and resistance against the domineering powers.

"The advances in science and technology are an honor for all nations. Yet, those nations that climb the ladder of success while under the pressure of the bullying powers ... will enjoy an extra sense of pride," the defense minister remarked. Hatami further noted that the airshow is an instance of self-confidence in the face of the brutal sanctions against the Iranian people.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429928/Boosting-deterrence-power-is-a-lesson-Iran-has-learnt-from-history>

Araqchi: Iran's benefits from JCPOA has reached 'zero'

Tehran Times, November 26, 2018

Abbas Araqchi, the deputy foreign minister for political affairs, warned on Monday that the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is in a "very bad situation".

"This is a reality that the JCPOA is in danger and it is in a very bad situation," Araqchi said at a seminar on Iran-European Union cooperation held in Brussels. He added, "This is a reality that if Iran cannot benefit from the JCPOA this agreement cannot be saved."

Araqchi said with the reimposition of U.S. sanctions, Tehran's benefits from the lifting of sanctions has "nearly reached zero". Araqchi said the JCPOA is a "quite balanced" in giving and taking but now this balance has been undermined and "we should cooperate to balance it again"

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429936/Araqchi-Iran-s-benefits-from-JCPOA-has-reached-zero>

Iranian Nuclear Chief Threatens 'Ominous' Consequences From U.s. Sanctions

The Jerusalem Post, November 26, 2018

Iran's nuclear chief warned the European Union on Monday of "ominous" consequences if it did not follow through with action to keep the economic benefits of the 2015 nuclear agreement alive. Ali Akbar Salehi said the European Union was "doing its best" after the United States pulled out of the deal and re-imposed sanctions on Iranian oil exports this month, even as the bloc's efforts to salvage trade ties have floundered.

But Salehi, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, told reporters in Brussels: "If words are not turned into deeds, then ... it is very ominous, the situation would be unpredictable."

Speaking on the sidelines of talks on civilian nuclear cooperation, EU diplomats admitted they could only do so much to urge firms to brave the risk of U.S. penalties and do business with Iran. "What we are doing now is a lot of symbolism," said one EU diplomat involved in talks with Iran. "The SPV isn't going to be a game changer," said another EU official. "The prospects are pretty grim."

No EU country has yet agreed to host the SPV and progress in creating it is likely to be slow, despite the political will in Paris, Berlin and London.

"This is a hugely complex and unique undertaking, technical work has been

advancing," Europe's Climate and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete said at a joint briefing with Salehi.

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Iranian-Nuclear-Chief-threatens-ominous-consequences-from-US-sanctions-572858>

France, Germany may host payment channel aimed at bypassing sanctions on Iran

Tehran Times, November 27, 2018

France and Germany will likely host the Special Vehicle Purpose (SPV), a special payment channel created by Europe as part of its efforts to keep trade flowing with Iran in defiance of U.S. sanctions, senior diplomats told the Wall Street Journal.

The Monday report said the governments participating in the payment channel will directly manage the company (mechanism) in order to prevent the US from putting direct sanctions on it. According to the diplomats, British officials are also mulling over joining France and Germany in order to rescue the European attempt to circumvent the sanctions and salvage the Iran nuclear deal following the U.S. withdrawal in May.

The report said if France plays host to the SPV, Germany will take the helm, and vice versa. According to the report, the mechanism is not finalized yet and finishing touches will be discussed on the sidelines of the 2018 G20 Buenos Aires summit.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/429942/France-Germany-may-host-payment-channel-aimed-at-bypassing-sanctions>

Tehran may give Europe extension, yet patience limited: Araqchi

Tehran Times, November 30, 2018

In an interview with IRNA in Algiers, Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs has said that Tehran will give a chance to the Europeans as it is following up on the their attempts to develop a special payment

system to compensate for the U.S. exit from the Iran nuclear deal. However, Araqchi cautioned, this opportunity is not inexhaustible and Tehran's patience has its limits, according to the interview.

Araqchi said that due to "the sensitivity of the issue," he could not divulge information about determining the host country for the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), since the U.S. is after obstructing all possible solutions. "They [the U.S. officials] have already started putting pressure on the countries involved in creating the SPV."

Moreover, Araqchi referred to the serious technical and legal hitches in the way of developing the financial vehicle and the EU's efforts to solve them. "So far, the European Union has not presented a practical mechanism for interactions with Iran", he said, adding that Iran will give the chance to the European countries to do so for now.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/430069/Tehran-may-give-Europe-extension-yet-patience-limited-Araqchi>

Iranian, Belgian diplomats meet in Brussels

Tehran Times, November 30, 2018

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and his Belgian counterpart Bruno van der Pluijm held talks on Wednesday over Tehran-Brussels cooperation on international issues and other issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting held in the Belgian capital Brussels, van der Pluijm underlined the lasting commitment of his country and other European states to save the Iran nuclear deal, saying the nuclear accord plays a key role in international peace and security, the Foreign Ministry website reported.

"We are seeking to preserve the Iran nuclear deal and believe that despite the U.S. pullout, the JCPOA should remain

intact through our patient and prudent measures because there is no alternative to the 2015 accord,” van der Pluijm stated.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/430067/Iranian-Belgian-diplomats-meet-in-Brussels>

Pakistan

Magna Park company in court for illegally exporting chemicals and metals to Pakistan, Jordan and South Africa

Sam Dimmer and Ciaran Fagan ,
Leicestershire Live, 27 NOV 2018

A company has been fined after it was caught selling chemicals and metals overseas without legally-required export licences. VWR International Ltd, **which is based in Lutterworth**, was taken to court following an investigation by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

Releasing details of the case, which was heard at **City of London Magistrates' Court** last Wednesday, HMRC said it began an investigation into the firm following a request by the Department for International Trade three years ago.

It found the firm, which is **based on the Magna Park industrial estate**, had exported a package of sodium sulphide, a compound that can be used to synthesise mustard gas, to a customer in Pakistan, days after being denied the necessary export licence.

<https://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/news/leicester-news/magna-park-company-court-illegally-2262481>

Misc/Global

A Nuclear Fusion Reactor Just Set Several World Records

Kristin Houser, Futurism

A team of scientists determined to “fetch the Sun’s fire to Earth” just got closer to achieving their lofty goal. From July through November, physicists at the Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics (IPP) conducted

their second round of experiments using the Wendelstein 7-X, a device designed to test out a way to generate stable nuclear fusion on Earth. On Monday, the IPP announced the results of that testing – data showing that the reactor already broke several world records.

<https://futurism.com/nuclear-fusion-reactor-wendelstein-7-x/amp/?fbclid=IwAR2dUTy7yQQRD1HPVa3dnS5jljdL6XuokSUTIdjbAckinHF71BbW0-ib6es>

Nuclear power generation ‘waning’

Lin Chia-nan, Taipei Times, November 07, 2018

Environmentalists yesterday released a video by Mycle Schneider, a lead author of the latest World Nuclear Industry Status Report, who said that global nuclear power generation has been declining, except in China, and that costs of nuclear power generation are rising. “Nuclear power is a threatened species” and it would not help mitigate the effects of climate change, because its increasing cost might hinder the development of other carbon-reduction technologies, Schneider added.

Green Action Alliance deputy secretary-general Hung Shen-han said that the group released the video to debunk misinformation about renewable power spread by supporters of nuclear power. Schneider has been paying close attention to the debate in Taiwan over nuclear power, said Hung, who is also a member of the Executive Yuan’s Office of Energy and Carbon Reduction.

Nuclear power supporter Liao Yen-peng’s claim that toxic coating on solar panels might pollute water supplies is false, Hung said, referring to Liao’s remarks during a debate on Sunday about a pro-nuclear referendum that he helped initiate.

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2018/11/07/2003703758>

IAEA Mission Says Australia Committed to Strengthening Nuclear and Radiation Safety, Sees Areas for Enhancement

International Atomic Energy Agency, 16 November 2018

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts said Australia is committed to strengthening its regulatory framework for nuclear and radiation safety. The team also noted areas for further enhancements, including implementation of the framework in a more consistent manner across the country.

The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) team on 16 November concluded a 12-day mission to Australia. The mission was conducted at the request of the Government of Australia and hosted by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA), the Commonwealth Government regulator. Under Australia's federal system of government, ARPANSA regulates Commonwealth entities and other entities are regulated within the six states and two territories. The majority of licenced activities in Australia are carried out within states and territories. This was the third IRRS mission to Australia since 2007 and the first to include all nine jurisdictions.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-says-australia-committed-to-strengthening-nuclear-and-radiation-safety-sees-areas-for-enhancement>

Uranium Fundamentals Continue to Strengthen

Goehring & Rozenwajg Associates, LLC
November 28, 2018

The deficit between demand and supply will approach 45,000 tonnes by 2030 – representing over 50% of today's world mine supply. We originally modelled this deficit to emerge in the next 5 years, however, the supply cuts announced by both Cameco and Kazatprom, combined with the strong emergence of investor demand in the physical metal, have now pushed forward the emergence of this deficit

to as early as 2019. This is exactly the type of market we love to be involved with: prices are still 80% off their highs, investor interest among generalist investors is extremely low, and the fundamentals have turned strongly positive. We recommend investors continue to purchase uranium-related investments.

http://blog.gorozen.com/blog/uranium-fundamentals-continue-to-strengthen?utm_campaign=Blogs&utm_content=80521133&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&hss_channel=tw-940698796903878657

IAEA Inaugurates New Facility in Milestone for Modernization of Nuclear Applications Laboratories

International Atomic Energy Agency, 28 November 2018

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) today inaugurated a new laboratory building that will be used for scientific work to help countries address food and agricultural challenges. The event marks the conclusion of major construction in the project to upgrade the IAEA Nuclear Applications laboratories outside Vienna, Austria.

The Flexible Modular Laboratory (FML) building will house the Animal Production and Health Laboratory, the Food and Environmental Protection Laboratory and the Soil and Water Management and Crop Nutrition Laboratory. Located in Seibersdorf about 40 kms from the city of Vienna, the three laboratories support Member States in building research and development capacity in the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. Nuclear techniques can help increase livestock productivity, detect food fraud, combat transboundary zoonotic diseases, and improve soil and water management, among other objectives, and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-inaugurates-new-facility-in-milestone-for-modernization-of-nuclear-applications-laboratories>

Ministers Adopt Declaration at IAEA Conference Underscoring Growing Importance of Nuclear Science and Technology

International Atomic Energy Agency, 28 November 2018

The 28-30 November IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology: Addressing Current and Emerging Development Challenges, brings together over 1 000 participants from more than 135 IAEA Member States. High-level delegates, scientists and other experts are discussing innovations that could help countries face a changing climate, growing food insecurity, rapid industrialization and a rise in chronic and infectious diseases.

From sterilizing insects that threaten humans and crops to destroying tumours and measuring pollutants in water, the use of nuclear science and technology is widespread. This role, however, is not always recognized: "There is often a lack of awareness of the major contribution nuclear science and technology make to development. As a result, the full potential of peaceful nuclear science and technology is not being realised," IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano said during the opening of the conference. "I therefore believe it is time to mainstream the use of peaceful nuclear technology at the highest level. That means raising public awareness about nuclear technology, incorporating it explicitly into national development plans, and stressing its importance to aid agencies and donors."

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/ministers-adopt-declaration-at-iaea-conference-underscoring-growing-importance-of-nuclear-science-and-technology>

IAEA Reviews Cuba's Emergency Preparedness and Response Framework

International Atomic Energy Agency, 30 November 2018

An International Atomic Energy Agency team of experts has concluded a 10-day

mission to review Cuba's preparedness and response framework for nuclear and radiological emergencies.

The Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV), requested by the Government, was carried out under an IAEA Technical Cooperation project aimed at strengthening the national infrastructure for radiation safety and protection in the Republic of Cuba.

Antonio Ortiz Olmo, of the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (CSN), led the five-person review team, which also included experts from Chile, Portugal and the IAEA.

"The team benefited from the very detailed, comprehensive and helpful self-assessment performed by the Government of Cuba in preparation for the EPREV mission, from the excellent involvement of relevant organizations integrated under a strong civil defence system and from the full availability of documents, personnel and facilities," Ortiz Olmo said.

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

Opinion/Reports

Salman's speech sends powerful message

Saudi Gazette, November 02, 2018
Jameel Altheyabi

Iran: The Kingdom called upon the international community to put an end to Iran's nuclear program and acts that threaten the security and stability of the region. These acts include interference in the internal affairs of the countries in the region, sponsoring terrorism, and creating chaos and devastation in other countries.

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/548586/Opinion/OP-ED/King-Salmans-speech-sends-powerful-message>

What Deters and Why: Exploring Requirements for Effective Deterrence of Interstate Aggression

Michael J. Mazarr, Arthur Chan, Alyssa Demus, Bryan Frederick, Alireza Nader, Stephanie Pezard, Julia A. Thompson, Elina Treyger

The RAND Corporation,

The discussion of deterrence — as a theory and practical policy requirement — has lagged in U.S. military and strategy circles. The authors aim to provide a fresh look at the subject in this context, with two primary purposes: to review established concepts about deterrence, and to provide a framework for evaluating the strength of deterrent relationships. For greater focus, they concentrate on a specific category or form of deterrence: extended deterrence of interstate aggression. The authors consider the requirements for the United States to deter potential aggressors abroad from attacking U.S. allies or other countries in large-scale conventional conflicts. Examples include Russian attacks on the Baltic States and a North Korean assault on the ROK.

The study stems from a specific research question: What are the requirements of effective extended deterrence of large-scale military aggression? The focus is therefore on the criteria that tend to distinguish successful from unsuccessful efforts to deter interstate aggression.

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2451.html

How ‘The New York Times’ Deceived the Public on North Korea

Tim Shorrock Twitter, *The Nation*, NOVEMBER 16, 2018

Sanger, who over the years has been the recipient of dozens of leaks from US intelligence on North Korea’s weapons program and the US attempts to stop it, has come out with his own doozy of a

story that raises serious questions about his style of deep-state journalism.

The article may not involve the employment of sleazy sources with an ax to grind, but it does stretch the findings of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a think tank that is deeply integrated with the military-industrial complex and plays an instrumental role in US media coverage on Korea.

“Controversy is raging,” South Korea’s progressive *Hankyoreh* newspaper declared on Wednesday about the *Times* report, which it called “riddled with holes and errors.”

Sanger’s story, which appeared on Monday underneath the ominous headline “In North Korea, Missile Bases Suggest a Great Deception,” focused on a new study from CSIS’s “Beyond Parallel” project about the Sakkanmol Missile Operating Base, one of 13 North Korean missile sites, out of a total of 20, that it has identified and analyzed from overhead imagery provided by Digital Globe, a private satellite contractor.

None of the 20 sites has been officially acknowledged by Pyongyang, but the network is “long known to American intelligence agencies,” wrote Sanger.

<https://www.thenation.com/article/how-the-new-york-times-deceived-the-public-on-north-korea/>

OP#41: Monitoring Uranium Mining and Milling in India and Pakistan through Remote Sensing Imagery

Melissa Hanham, Grace Liu, Joseph Rodgers, Mackenzie Best, Scott Milne, and Octave Lepinard

Center for Nonproliferation Studies, November 19, 2018

New and advancing geospatial technologies hold great potential for aiding analysts. The use of tools such as hyperspectral analysis, change-detection algorithms, and the advancement of

machine learning have the potential to reveal a more comprehensive view of the nuclear activities at the front end of the fuel cycle within states of concern.

CNS Occasional Paper #41 details existing and potential uranium mines and mills in India and Pakistan as part of an ongoing project to track uranium production in Asian states that possess nuclear weapons. As non-signatories to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, India and Pakistan face challenges procuring fissile material from foreign sources. Both countries have ongoing nuclear-weapon programs, clear and increasing demands to supply their nuclear-energy programs, and domestic production deficits. The continuing and increasing demand for uranium in India and Pakistan indicates that domestic uranium production is likely to grow significantly in the near future. This paper explores remote-sensing techniques that can allow open-source analysts to monitor and track front-end uranium production activity in these countries.

<https://www.nonproliferation.org/op41-monitoring-uranium-mining-and-milling-in-india-and-pakistan-through-remote-sensing-imagery/>

The Right Way to Manage a Nuclear North Korea

Ankit Panda, Foreign Affairs, November 19, 2018

The new reality of North Korea's capabilities—including the threat to the continental United States—demands careful thought about how Washington might influence nuclear decision-making in Pyongyang. A stable deterrence relationship requires making Kim feel secure about his arsenal, not insecure.

One example of a counterproductive posture is the widely reported U.S. effort to develop "left-of-launch" techniques, designed to disable North Korea's missiles before they can be fired. North Korean decision-makers, including Kim, are well aware of this pursuit.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/north->

[korea/2018-11-19/right-way-manage-nuclear-north-korea?cid=int-flb&pgtype=hpg](https://www.carnegietsinghua.org/2018/11/19/right-way-manage-nuclear-north-korea?cid=int-flb&pgtype=hpg)

Tong Zhao, China International Strategy Review,

Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy, November 22, 2018

In recent years, the deployment of the THAAD system has become a thorn in China's ties with the United States and South Korea. This has undermined their capability and willingness to cooperate in addressing the growing challenge from the nuclear program of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). There is ample evidence to suggest that the three countries are fundamentally divided on the understandings, purpose, and strategic motives of the THAAD system in South Korea. For all of these countries, effectively narrowing their differences and addressing their dispute relies on a thorough understanding of how the others think. Without a persistent effort to develop an empathetic understanding of the others' real thinking, there would be no real prospect of progress.

<https://carnegietsinghua.org/2018/11/22/perception-gap-in-thaad-dispute-causes-and-solutions-pub-77791>

The nuclear threat is rising. Europe cannot just stand and watch

Wilfred Wan, The Guardian, 26 Nov 2018

Worsening relations between nuclear-armed states in recent years have had real consequences for the possibility of nuclear weapons use in Europe, whether intentionally or inadvertently. With Russia building up its military forces in Kaliningrad in response to frayed relations with the west, and the Obama-era New Start treaty set to expire in 2021 with no follow-up on the cards, European leaders have invoked images of an arms race on their continent. The continued presence of US and Russian nonstrategic weapons on the continent already poses serious risk of

“accidental use, miscalculation and inadvertent escalation”. Recent activity in the Norwegian Sea raises the possibility of confrontation involving Russia’s Northern Fleet – a scenario that could mirror events during the Cuban missile crisis.

The crisis in nuclear diplomacy has also been felt across non-proliferation and nuclear security efforts. This is significant as terrorist groups are said to remain intent on acquiring the materials necessary to construct a crude nuclear device. Russia’s 2014 expulsion from the G8 effectively halted activities in the global partnership against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction. Vladimir Putin withdrew from the bilateral plutonium management and disposition agreement with the US in 2016. Such stalled campaigns to secure vulnerable nuclear materials should be of concern for a region that has proven susceptible to terrorist threat.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/nov/26/nuclear-threat-europe-putin-trump-terrorist>

Cold Start: India seeks to upset Pakistani nuclear dominance

William Holland, *Asia Times*, November 26, 2018

India’s Army Commanders Conference gathers to address the impact technology has on doctrine and organizational operations. This year marks significant achievement in the elimination of old distinctions of corps, division and brigades favoring an Integrated Battle Group (IBG) that seeks to harmonize a previously archaic posture into dynamic fighting redundancies that render Pakistan’s nuclear achievements in asymmetry vulnerable.

India seeks quickly to mobilize six battalions with new elements of close air support, artillery and close-combat armor. It seeks to dominate Pakistan with conventional unified arms. With IBG, Indian political strategy, doctrine and conventional means underwrite a new level of credible threat deterrence.

Termed “Cold Start,” operationalizing IBG is India’s way of parlaying Pakistan’s nuclear gamesmanship through proactive war.

Examining the doctrinal development of India’s army throughout its post-independence period reveals British-led concepts of defense-in-depth that neatly fit within India’s operational purview beginning with its first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru through Congress party dominance. Both the Indo-Pakistani war of 1971 and the liberation of Bangladesh proved the necessity of fast-moving mechanized arms. By envisaging deep mechanized thrusts into Pakistan, Indian Army leadership sought to punish Pakistan with strike-and-hold corps.

<http://www.atimes.com/cold-start-india-seeks-to-upset-pakistani-nuclear-dominance/>

The Crown Prince May Build Himself a Nuclear Kingdom

Ronen Dangoor, *The National Interest*, November 27, 2018

For years, Saudi officials have warned that Saudi Arabia will not curb its nuclear ambitions if it will sense a threat to its national security, or if Iran advances in its nuclear program. Rumors were that Pakistan was obliged to provide the Saudis a ready-for-use nuclear weapon if and when the time comes. Things only got more complicated once the nuclear agreement (JCPOA) with Iran was signed in 2015, practically legitimizing Iran’s rights to maintain and develop its uranium enrichment capabilities. At the beginning of November 2018, the crown prince participated in the opening ceremony marking the launch of construction of Riyadh’s first research reactor. It’s still early days and only a symbolic act—the Saudis lack knowhow, technicians, infrastructure and academic expertise—but the country has both enough ambition and funds to advance anyway. Shortly after that the Saudi energy minister said the kingdom launches uranium exploration program.

Over the last decade, purchasing sixteen nuclear power reactors—later scaled back to two reactors—plus uranium enrichment capabilities preferably from the United States, has featured prominently on the Saudi agenda. The official rationale is the country's future needs to supply energy — with self-sufficient nuclear materials. While having enrichment capabilities can serve to counterbalance Iran, it may also constitute a future military nuclear program. During previous negotiations with Saudi officials, the Obama administration insisted that Saudi Arabia must comply with the “gold standard,” reflective of the conditions imposed on the UAE when it agreed to buy U.S. reactors in 2009.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/middle-east-watch/crown-prince-may-build-himself-nuclear-kingdom-37292>

The Beginning of the End of the Korean War

Uri Friedman, *The Atlantic*, NOV 28, 2018

Indeed, by the estimation of the South Korean newspaper *Hankyoreh*, North and South Korea have already fully implemented about one third of the more than two dozen reconciliation agreements they reached in a pair of summits between the nations' leaders in April and September. By *The Atlantic's* count, of the 13 commitments made during those summits that specified a time frame, the Koreans have successfully hit five deadlines, are on track to meet four more, and missed another by only a month. Having just received the UN Security Council's blessing to carry out a joint field study on connecting their railroads, they are now scrambling to organize a ceremony inaugurating the project before the end of the year.

Over the course of November, North and South Korea each destroyed 10 guard posts within the Korean demilitarized zone—sometimes in spectacular fashion, with explosives—in order to build trust for their plans to eventually withdraw the roughly 200 that are thought to still be operational in the densely fortified border region.

The Koreans have suspended certain military exercises near the military demarcation line (MDL) separating the countries, cleared hundreds of land mines in the area (millions remain), and linked a road as part of an effort to excavate the remains of soldiers who died during the Korean War. They have covered up coastal artillery and warship-mounted guns and established a no-fly zone in the vicinity of the border. They are now exploring ways to jointly secure the iconic border village of Panmunjom and allow unarmed guards, civilians, and foreign tourists to move about on either side of the MDL there for the first time in more than 40 years.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/11/north-korea-wont-denuclearize-reconciliation-moon-kim/576745/>

Why China is Worried about the End of the INF Treaty

Tong Zhao, *Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy*, November 28, 2018

The INF Treaty is dead, and U.S. officials are arguing that it's not just about Russia's treaty violations but about responding to a Chinese military build-up and Beijing's growing influence. This outcome reflects the impulsive decision making of U.S. President Donald Trump and the influence of U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, a noted opponent of arms control.

China's security community now fears that the United States may quickly develop and then massively deploy medium- and intermediate-range land-based missiles around the region. Even if Washington were to arm such missiles with non-nuclear warheads, this could challenge Beijing's military capabilities and significantly shift the current balance near China's coast, making it harder for China to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Chinese military strategists also believe that U.S. missiles would pose an unacceptable counterforce threat to the survivability of China's own

small nuclear arsenal, compelling Beijing to take radical measures to build up its own nuclear capabilities.

<https://carnegietsinghua.org/2018/11/07/why-china-is-worried-about-end-of-inf-treaty-pub-77669>

China's nuclear industry shifts from military to civilian use over the last 40 years

Li Nan, *Beijing Review* No.48, NOVEMBER 29, 2018

The year 2018 marks the 63rd anniversary of China's nuclear industry, which began in January 1955, when late leader Mao Zedong announced the Central Government's decision to develop atomic energy as a form of self-defense. In the last 40 years, the reform and opening-up policy was not only carried out in the economic sector, but also in this critical industry.

"China's nuclear practitioners, riding the wave of reform and opening up, renovated the industry and shifted it to dual-use technology that has both civilian and military applications," said Yu Jianfeng, President of China National Nuclear Corp. (CNNC), which built the first nuclear plant on the Chinese mainland, at a press conference on the company's development in the past four decades on November 15 in Beijing.

http://www.bjreview.com/Nation/201811/t20181127_800149487.html

Column One: Europe Beats Iran's War Drums

Caroline B. Glick, *Jerusalem Post*, November 29, 2018

Following the EU-Iran talks, EU Foreign Affairs Chief Federica Mogherini's office put out a statement claiming that the sides "expressed their determination to preserve the nuclear agreement as... a key pillar for European and regional security."

As Mogherini and her colleagues were sitting with the Iranians, the Wall Street

Journal reported that the French and German governments have agreed to set up a back channel, in the form of a joint corporation, owned by European governments, whose job will be to arrange for payments for Iranian exports in a manner that bypasses and so undermines US financial and trade sanctions on Iran.

Mogherini, like the Germans and French, insist that their continued commitment to the 2015 nuclear deal stems from their conviction that the deal is working to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power. Ahead of the meeting with Salehi on Monday, EU Energy Commissioner Arias Canete said the deal is "crucial for the security of Europe, of the region and the entire world." He said the agreement is working to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions and that "we do not see any credible peaceful alternative."

The mendacity of Canete's statement, and similar ones by Mogherini, is stunning. At least since April 30, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu exposed Iran's nuclear archive, which Mossad officers seized from a Tehran warehouse in late January, nothing Iran says about its nuclear program or activities can be taken seriously. The very existence of the nuclear archive, and the great efforts the regime took to preserve it made clear that the Iranian regime has never had the slightest interest in curbing, let alone abandoning its ambition to develop a nuclear arsenal. The archive preserved all of the knowledge that Iran amassed since the early 1990s towards the development, testing and deployment of nuclear warheads.

Salehi himself made clear that the nuclear sword of Damocles is still dangling over the world's throat. Salehi warned the Europeans that if they fail to protect Iran from US sanctions, the consequences will be "ominous." "The situation is very unpredictable," he warned.

<https://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Europe-beats-Irans-war-drums-573170>

A way to rein in drone proliferation

Perry World House, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, November 30, 2018

The proliferation of military drones worldwide is accelerating at an alarming rate, due to the willingness of certain states, like China, to export them widely. Eighteen countries may now have armed drones, with more than a dozen seeking to acquire them. (Armed drones, in this context, being those made for military purposes.) Few of these states can use drones with the global reach of the United States, which is able to fly an RQ-4A Global Hawk over Ukraine or Afghanistan, controlled from more than 7,000 miles away. But other countries' drones are very much applicable to their own more limited security needs, such as potentially combating insurgencies in disputed regions of India or conducting border surveillance in Jordan.

This spread of military drones—also known as Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA)—is an important international security issue for several reasons.

https://thebulletin.org/2018/11/a-way-to-rein-in-drone-proliferation/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Twitter%20Post&utm_campaign=DonreProliferation_Nov30

Nuclear Energy: An Investment In Our Environmental Future

Nuclear Matters, Nov 30, 2018

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Global Warming of 1.5° C report made clear the need for nuclear power to reach decarbonization goals. In the report, every feasible pathway to keep temperature rise below 1.5° C has a significant role for nuclear power. In their high economic growth, high energy use scenario (the one with the greatest likelihood of addressing both climate change and global energy poverty), the IPCC calls for a *quintupling* of global nuclear power. This is a massive increase in the amount of nuclear power around the world.

The World Resources Institute (WRI) reviewed and publicly supported UCS's findings. Their public statement said, "we need to use all instruments at our disposal to address the scourge of climate change: renewables, increased efficiency, nuclear, carbon capture and storage, and carbon removal." This is the first comment I've seen from WRI in support of nuclear power, and they are another important voice in the work to keep nuclear power viable in the United States.

The Nature Conservancy - one of the largest environmental organizations in the world - released a "Science and Sustainability" report that looked at scientifically rigorous ways to balance the needs of nature and humanity, and to present a set of recommendations to move forward. Their plan calls for nuclear to provide 33% of global power needs by 2050. This is a significant increase in nuclear power over current levels, and consistent with the findings of the IPCC.

To be sure, lots of climate-oriented groups - Third Way, the Breakthrough Institute, Clean Air Task Force, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, and others - have long advocated for nuclear power to play a role in decarbonization efforts. But the strong and forceful pivots from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Union of Concerned Scientists, World Resources International, and the Nature Conservancy mark a significant change in how environmental leaders view the role of nuclear in climate change.

https://www.nuclearmatters.com/blog/nuclear_energy_an_investment_in_our_environmental_future

Nuclear Weapons: NNSA Has Taken Steps to Prepare to Restart a Program to Replace the W78 Warhead Capability

United States Government
Accountability Office, November 30
2018

The Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

has taken steps to prepare to restart a life extension program (LEP) to replace the capabilities of the Air Force's W78 nuclear warhead—a program which was previously suspended. According to NNSA officials, these steps are typically needed to conduct any LEP. Therefore, they can be undertaken despite the current uncertainty about whether the final program will develop the warhead for the Air Force only or for both the Air Force and the Navy.

Specifically, NNSA has taken the steps described below:

- Program management. NNSA has begun to establish the program management functions needed to execute a W78 replacement program, as required by

NNSA's program execution instruction.

- Technology assessment. In May 2018, NNSA completed an assessment of 126 technologies for potential use in a W78 replacement. NNSA officials said that in fiscal year 2019 they will use the assessment to further evaluate technologies for potential use in the warhead.
- Coordination with facilities and capabilities. NNSA's program manager is identifying the facilities and capabilities needed to provide components for the warhead.

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/695759.pdf>

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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