

# Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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## A. India

### U.S. outlines a softer focus for Quad

*Suhasini Haidar*

*The Hindu, October 11, 2021*

The Quad is a "non-defence, non-military" arrangement, said U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman during her visit to India and Pakistan last week, indicating at two separate interactions that the purpose of the Australia-India-Japan-United States grouping is meant to cooperate on what are considered 'softer' issues. The comments by a senior U.S. official are the clearest signal yet that Washington has shifted its view of the Quad's agenda, particularly after the announcement of the new Australia-UK-U.S. or AUKUS alliance for nuclear submarines in the Indo-Pacific.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/biden-administration-outlines-a-softer-focus-for-quad/article36930310.ece>

### The sanctions cloud over India-U.S. ties

*K.V. Prasad*

*The Hindu, October 13, 2021*

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, recently said that the delivery of the S-400 Triumf air defence systems from Russia is expected according to schedule. In response, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman hoped that both the U.S. and India could resolve the issue.

The "issue" here is that receiving the missile systems could attract for India sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), enacted by the U.S. Congress. Ms. Sherman emphasised that the U.S. thinks it's "dangerous" for "any country that decides to use the S-400". India is scheduled to receive five squadrons of the surface-to-air missile systems under the \$5.43 billion (?40,000 crore) agreement it signed three years ago.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-sanctions-cloud-over-india-us-ties/article36973011.ece>

## B. China

### Space-age exhibits among main attractions at Zhuhai air show

*Holly Chik*

*South China Morning Post, October 3, 2021*

The China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in the southern city of Zhuhai, a biennial event, included lunar samples from the Chang'e 5 mission to the moon, a space refueling vehicle and a model of a new capsule. The event also showcased advanced military technology, including electronic warfare aircraft, drones and missiles.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3151053/space-age-exhibits-among-main-attractions-zhuhai-air-show>

### Drone warfare marks a first for SCO drill, as region faces up to terror attack risks in Afghan fallout

*Minnie Chan*

*South China Morning Post, October 3, 2021*

New tactical and training approaches against drone attacks featured at the annual Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) counterterrorism military drills for the first time, amid persisting concerns over security risks relating to Afghanistan. The new content aimed to address the trend of terrorist attacks carried out by drones, a spokesman for the Chinese defence ministry said, commenting on the two week "Peace Mission 2021" drill by SCO member states which concluded on September 24 in Russia's Orenburg Region.

"The introduction of new additional drone attack countermeasures has greatly improved participants' real combat capabilities against terrorist attacks", Senior Colonel Wu Qian stated. The new tactics were introduced amid concerns within the SCO, a regional security grouping led by China and Russia, about

new risks and challenges arising from the hasty withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, security experts said. Zhou Chenming, a researcher from the Yuan Wang military science and technology institute in Beijing, said finding ways to prevent and detect upcoming drone attacks had become a universal headache.

"China is one of the global powers leading in UAV technologies, but how to create a 'shield' to counter the 'spear' is still a new subject to China," Zhou said. "The countermeasures and tactics would involve a lot of complicated technologies, including the integration of photoelectric sensors and radar systems, deploying jammers, and then using net gun or laser light to destroy targets."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3151041/drone-warfare-marks-first-sco-drill-region-faces-terror-attack>

## New small satellite platform debuts

*Zhao Lei*

*China Daily, October 04, 2021*

China is offering a small communication satellite platform to countries seeking an affordable solution for their own space-based internet networks. The DFH-3E satellite platform was designed by the China Academy of Space Technology, a subsidiary of the State-owned space conglomerate, China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp. It is the country's first small satellite platform designed for operations in geostationary orbit, according to Xiong Xiaojiang, head of the platform's design team at the Beijing academy.

A satellite platform is a framework used to assemble a satellite, or satellite system, in accordance with its role and function. It consists of the universal equipment needed by any satellite such as a power source, propulsion and orbital control devices, as well as instruments specifically designed for the satellite in question. This permits easy configuration. Xiong said satellites based on the electrically propelled DFH-3E platform will be able to carry up to 30 transponders and operate in a geostationary orbit for at least 15 years. With a weight of up to 1.8

metric tons, the satellite is tasked with establishing a space-based internet service and is designed to be lifted into orbit by a Long March 2C or 2D carrier rocket, he added. The designer noted that the first satellite based on the platform - APSTAR-6E, owned by Hong Kong-based satellite operator, APT Satellite - will be launched before the end of 2022. It will provide broadband internet services to Southeast Asian nations.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202110/04/WS615a3adea310cdd39bc6d014.html>

## Arms control and disarmament systems are at a crossroads

*China Military Online, October 06, 2021*

On October 5, local time, the 76th UN General Assembly Disarmament and International Security Committee held a general debate. Geng Shuang, head of the Chinese delegation, made a speech. In his speech, Geng Shuang said that the current century of change is intertwined with the epidemic of the century, the international security situation is profoundly evolving, the global strategic balance and stability are facing challenges, the multilateral arms control and disarmament system is at a crossroads, and the international community is facing an important choice as to where to go. Geng Shuang pointed out that currently, the international community faces four major choices around this system: First, is it to regain the Cold War mentality and create split and confrontation, or to promote multilateralism and maintain strategic stability? Second, is it to pursue pragmatism, undermine multilateral rules, or fulfill responsibilities and obligations, and advance the disarmament agenda? Third, is it to implement a geostrategy to suppress dissident countries, or to insist on objective and fairness and seek a political solution? Fourth, is it to abuse one's own advantages to seek technological monopoly, or to encourage openness and tolerance, and jointly formulate rules?

[http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-10/06/content\\_10096276.htm](http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-10/06/content_10096276.htm)



## Lunar samples brought back by Chang'e-5 identified as youngest rocks ever found on the Moon

*China Daily, October 08, 2021*

The basaltic volcanic rocks, collected as part of China's Chang'e-5 probe from the Moon, were about 2 billion years old, marking the youngest volcanic rocks identified on the Moon so far, according to international research published in the journal *Science* on Friday. Professor Alexander Nemchin from Space Science and Technology Center of Australia's Curtin University, lead author of the research, said researchers determined the age of the lunar rock samples during remote sessions with the Beijing laboratory using large mass spectrometers that have helped revolutionize geology, similar to Curtin's Sensitive High Resolution Ion Micro Probe Facility (SHRIMP). The rock samples were collected during the Chang'e-5 lunar mission in December 2020, which marked the first time any nation had collected rocks from the Moon since 1976. Nemchin said after analyzing the chemistry of the rocks, they found the samples were 1 billion years younger than those rocks previously collected on the Moon.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202110/08/WS615fd28ca310cdd39bc6d903.html>

## Chinese FM urges US to provide truth about nuke submarine accident in S. China Sea, including intentions and if leak happens

*Guo Yuandan and Fan Anqi*

*Global Times, October 08, 2021*

China expresses grave concern about the accident involving US submarine USS Connecticut hitting an unknown object in the South China Sea, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Friday, urging the US to clarify more details about the accident, its purpose of cruising in the area, and whether it has caused a nuclear leak that has damaged the local marine environment. A US nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Connecticut, struck an underwater object in the South

China Sea on Saturday, CNN reported on Friday citing two US defense officials. A number of sailors on board were injured but none were life-threatening.

"I want to stress that the root cause of the incident, which also poses a serious threat and significant risks to regional peace and stability, is the US' constant stirring up of trouble in the South China Sea over a long period of time," Zhao noted at Friday's press briefing. "The US has deliberately delayed and concealed details of the incident, lacked transparency regardless of its responsibility," Zhao added, "making China and countries around the area question the truth of the incident and real intentions of the US."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202110/1235805.shtml>

## China raises nuclear submarine stealth game with redesign and tactics to 'hide ID numbers'

*Minnie Chan*

*South China Morning Post, October 9, 2021*

China has not only revised and upgraded its strategic nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) to increase their stealth power and reduce noise, but is also using deceptive tactics to hide their identification numbers, according to both a report and military analysts. The report, co-authored by French submarine encyclopaedia author Eric Genevelle, and Richard W. Stirn, a former sonar technician submariner with the US Navy, said China had reconfigured its new generation type 094 submarines, and also introduced deceptive tactics to hide identification

markers, thus making it difficult to assess how many of the powerful boats it had built. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has developed two kinds of SSBN, the Type 092 and Type 094, with an upgraded version of the latter reportedly able to fire the JL-3 or Julang (Big Wave) submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) that has a range of over

10,000km (6,200 miles) - capable of hitting the US mainland.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3151686/china-raises-nuclear-submarine-stealth-game-redesign-and>

## China military researchers pinpoint AI for hypersonic weapons accuracy

*Stephen Chen*

*South China Morning Post, October 14, 2021*

PLA missile scientists say the accuracy of hypersonic weapons could be improved by more than 10 times if control is taken out of human hands and given to a machine. Their paper, published last week in the peer-reviewed journal *Systems Engineering and Electronics*, proposes using artificial intelligence to write the weapon's software "on the fly" through a unique flight control algorithm as it travels at hypervelocity.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3152179/china-military-researchers-pinpoint-ai-hypersonic-weapons>

### C. Pakistan

## Pakistan can repel militants, protect nukes, says US report

*Anwar Iqbal*

*Dawn, October 02, 2021*

Pakistan is capable of repelling any 'jihadi' attempt to seize power and of protecting its nuclear weapons, says a report by a prestigious US think-tank. The Brookings report - "The Agonising Problem of Pakistan's Nukes" - argues that the Taliban victory in Afghanistan has emboldened militants in Pakistan, stirring fears of a resurgence of militant activities in the country. But the report warns that even a failed attempt could reopen "the floodgates of a new round of domestic warfare between the government and extremist gangs." The Brookings report warns that a resurgent insurgency would "leave Pakistan again shaken by political and economic uncertainty."

The report then turns to another possibility that Pakistan has often warned against -

instability in South Asia increases the possibility of a nuclear conflict in the region. Pakistan uses this argument to strengthen its demand for international arbitration to settle the Kashmir and other disputes in India. The Brookings report does not mention the Kashmir dispute but it acknowledges that "when Pakistan is shaken, so too is India, its less than neighbourly rival and nuclear competitor."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1649634/pakistan-can-repel-militants-protect-nukes-says-us-report>

## Dr AQ Khan: national icon who made Pakistan N-power

*Aamir Latif*

*Anadolu Agency, October 10, 2021*

Pakistan's leading atomic scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan, who died in the capital Islamabad on Sunday after a protracted illness, was hailed as an icon for creating Pakistan's nuclear capability in the face of a four-time bigger India.

For longtime rival India that joined the nuclear club long before Pakistan, in 1974, he was responsible for following the suit, whereas, for the US and Europe, he was allegedly involved in "selling" nuclear secrets to the "rogue" nations like Libya, Iran, and North Korea. The allegations gained weight by Khan's "sorry" to the nation in an unscheduled broadcast in February 2004, taking "full responsibility" for his actions.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/profile-pioneer-of-pakistans-nuclear-program-abdul-qadeer-khan/2388098#:~:text=Khan%20at%20that%20time%20was,test%20it%20until%20May%201998.>

### D. Europe

## AUKUS in breach of NPT, damaging regional security: EU MP

*Tehran Times, October 2, 2021*

Trade talks between Australia and the European Union have been postponed with France over the so-called AUKUS

security partnership. AUKUS is a security pact between Australia, the U.S., and the UK. It allows for greater intelligence sharing, but crucially it gives Australia secret technology to build nuclear-powered submarines, though not equipped with nuclear weapons. Last month, Canberra canceled a \$37bn deal with France to build a fleet of conventional submarines. Instead, it will build at least eight nuclear-powered submarines with U.S. and UK technology. The decision angered Paris, which called the deal a "stab in the back" by the U.S. and Australia.

Soon after the AUKUS agreement was announced, France recalled its ambassadors from both Canberra and Washington. The ambassador to Washington will now return to his post, but it is not clear if the ambassador to Canberra will do the same. Analysts have described AUKUS as probably the most significant security arrangement between the three nations since World War Two. But France considers the Indo-Pacific region to be of crucial strategic and economic importance, with around 1.5m French citizens in the area. To shed light on the issue, we reached out to Clare Daly, a member of the European Parliament.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465676/AUKUS-in-breach-of-NPT-damaging-regional-security-EU-MP>

### **EU's Borrell: JCPOA implementation means U.S. must fully implement the deal**

*Tehran Times, October 3, 2021*

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell says all parties, including the U.S., must fully implement the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "As coordinator of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, I have always been clear: We must go back to full implementation of the deal, which means a return of the U.S. into the agreement with the lifting of related U.S. sanctions and Iran's full compliance with its nuclear commitments," Borrell said in an interview with the Arab News released on Saturday. Borrell also said, "It is crucial to

resume negotiations in Vienna as soon as possible and from where we left off on June 20."

Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA started talks in April in Vienna to revive the deal from which Donald Trump withdrew and introduced the harshest sanctions in history against Iran in line with his "maximum pressure" campaign against the Islamic Republic. The U.S., under the Joe Biden administration, was also participating in the Vienna talks indirectly. Six rounds of talks were held until June. However, the talks failed to produce a breakthrough as the United States raised new issues not related to the original JCPOA. For example, the U.S. tried to include Iran's missile program and its regional policies in a possible revitalization of the multilateral agreement. Moreover, the Biden administration also tried to extend the limits on Iran's nuclear program which will be automatically lifted in the future years. Under the JCPOA, Iran agreed to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465723/EU-s-Borrell-JCPOA-implementation-means-U-S-must-fully-implement>

### **E. Russia**

### **US retains negative position on Russia's intermediate-range missile moratorium initiative**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 01, 2021*

Washington sticks to a negative position on Russia's initiative to declare a moratorium on the deployment of shorter- and intermediate-range missiles, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov stated. In September 2019, Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a proposal to the leaders of several countries, including NATO member states, to introduce a moratorium on deploying intermediate- and shorter-range missiles in Europe and in other regions. The United States however literally turned down the initiative.



On August 2, 2019, the United States formally withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed by the Soviet Union and the United States on December 8, 1987. It applied to deployed and non-deployed ground-based missiles of intermediate range (1,000-5,000 kilometers) and shorter range (500-1,000 kilometers). The US motivated its actions by Russia's alleged refusal to comply with the American ultimatum-like demand that the new 9M729 cruise missiles be eliminated as violating the INF Treaty. Moscow vehemently dismissed all accusations, saying that the technical parameters of the 9M729 missiles are within the parameters allowed by the treaty and laid counterclaims to Washington.

<https://tass.com/world/1344531>

### **Russian, Turkish leaders consider creation of two nuclear power plants in Turkey - Kremlin**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 01, 2021*

The Russian and Turkish presidents, Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan, at a meeting in Sochi, addressed the possible construction of two more nuclear power plants (NPPs) in the republic with Russia's assistance, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated.

Peskov stated that the leaders touched upon "the development of a virtually new branch of the economy" in Turkey. "The construction of new power units has been discussed [at the meeting]. [The leaders] mentioned some specific locations where Turkey would plan to build them."

<https://tass.com/economy/1344729>

### **Russia's offer to freeze nuclear arsenals no longer relevant - senior diplomat**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 01, 2021*

Russia's offer to freeze nuclear arsenals together with the US, put forth one year ago, is no longer relevant, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on

October 01 during a public discussion in the Geneva Center for Security Policy.

In October 2020, when the New START Treaty was still not prolonged until 2026, the Russian Foreign Ministry stated Moscow's readiness, should the treaty be prolonged, to freeze the nuclear arsenals present at that moment for one year, if Washington puts forth no additional demands. The New START treaty was signed by Russia and the US in 2010. On February 3, 2021, Moscow and Washington exchanged diplomatic notes stating that all procedures necessary for the extension of the treaty are complete.

<https://tass.com/politics/1344781>

### **AUKUS submarine plans pose 'great challenge' to non-proliferation regime - senior diplomat**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 01, 2021*

A trilateral security pact between Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS) allowing Canberra to create a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines poses a challenge to the international non-proliferation regime, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov reported. "It's a great challenge to the international non-proliferation regime," he noted recalling that within the framework of the AUKUS alliance, Australia will acquire technologies to construct nuclear-powered submarines and can become among the five countries with a similarly capable fleet.

<https://tass.com/world/1344795>

### **Poseidon drone carrier Belgorod submarine to complete state trials this year - shipyard**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 01, 2021*

The Belgorod nuclear submarine, carrier of Poseidon underwater drones, as well as Novosibirsk and Knyaz Oleg nuclear submarines will complete the state trials



before the end of this year, Sevmash CEO Mikhail Budnichenko told TASS. Two more submarines were laid down this year - the Dmitry Donskoy and the Knyaz Potyomkin of the Borey-A project. They complete the line of strategic cruisers currently being built in the shipyard's hangars. We also continue working on multipurpose submarines.

<https://tass.com/defense/1344887>

### **Tsirkon missile's first test launch from sub successfully conducted in Barents Sea**

*Tass Russian News Agency, October 04, 2021*

The Northern Fleet's Severodvinsk nuclear-powered submarine has successfully conducted its first test launch of the Tsirkon hypersonic missile in the Barents Sea, Russia's Defense Ministry told journalists. The launch was performed at a hypothetical sea target in the waters of the Barents Sea. According to objective control's data, the missile's trajectory matched the set parameters and it hit the hypothetical target.

<https://tass.com/defense/1345253>

### **Russia ready to promote Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty - foreign ministry**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 05, 2021*

Russia is ready to promote the swift entering into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on October 05 at a meeting with Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) Robert Floyd. According to the ministry, the sides discussed issues of cooperation between Russia and the CTBTO Preparatory Commission.

<https://tass.com/politics/1346035>

### **Lavrov says he will discuss with Iranian counterpart early resumption of nuclear deal**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 06, 2021*

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said that he would like to discuss with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian the opportunities for speeding up the process of full-scale resumption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for the Iranian nuclear program.

<https://tass.com/politics/1346219>

### **Russian top diplomat, US Secretary of State discuss Iranian nuclear deal, says MFA**

*TASS Russia News Agency, October 06, 2021*

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the prospects for restoring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) over the phone on October 06, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry. Since April, talks have been held in Vienna between Iran and the P5+1 countries (Russia, Great Britain, the US, Germany, China, and France) in order to restore the Iranian nuclear deal in its original form.

The sides focused on lifting Washington's sanctions against the Islamic republic, the fulfillment of its obligations in the nuclear sphere and also the return of the US to the JCPOA. The representatives of the member states are also holding separate consultations with American envoys without Iran's participation. Initially, the delegations expected to complete the work in late May, and then later in early June. On September 21, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said that the talks would begin again in Vienna within a few weeks.

<https://tass.com/politics/1346177>

## **Nuclear-powered LASH carrier Sevmorput's regular voyage scheduled for July 10, 2022**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 06, 2021*

The Sevmorput nuclear-powered LASH carrier will leave for the first regular cabotage voyage along the Northern Sea Route (NSR) on July 10, 22, Deputy Director of Rosatom's Northern Sea Route Management Maxim Kulinko told. The Sevmorput (Russian abbreviation for the Northern Sea Route) - is an icebreaker-transport vessel (lighter aboard ship, LASH) with a KLT-40 nuclear reactor plant. The vessel is the biggest ever built non-military cargo vessel with a nuclear energy reactor. Sevmorput is the largest LASH carrier in terms of displacement, capable of navigating independently in ice up to one meter thick. It is the only operating cargo vessel with a nuclear power plant.

<https://tass.com/economy/1346241>

## **Terrorists try to get secrets on production of nuclear weapons - Security Council**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 06, 2021*

Terrorists are trying to obtain information on the production of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, Russian Security Council Deputy Secretary Yuri Kokov said. The official noted that the terrorists' means vary greatly. In conflict zones, the terrorists have used armed raids on government forces, infrastructure objects and settlements. The landmine and explosives war remains highly intensive. For example, in the second part of 2020, almost 5,000 explosives were defused in Afghanistan alone.

<https://tass.com/defense/1346507>

## **Efforts needed to stabilize Russia-US dialogue on missiles - Deputy Foreign Minister**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 06, 2021*

It would take significant effort to stabilize the Russian-US dialogue on missile weapons and strategic stability and achieve new tangible results in this sphere, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said. The diplomat named the New START Treaty, prolonged for five years, as a positive example of Russian-American relations in this field.

<https://tass.com/politics/1346547>

## **Allegations of buildup of Russian nuclear potentials unsubstantiated - Foreign Ministry**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 11, 2021*

Allegations that Russia is sizably building up its nuclear potentials are unsubstantiated and groundless, Acting Deputy Director of the Foreign Ministry Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control Konstantin Vorontsov said in a speech at the UN General Assembly First Committee.

<https://tass.com/defense/1348155>

## **Arms race underway after US withdrawal from Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, says Putin**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 13, 2021*

The weapon race between Russia and the US is on the move after Washington's withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, Russian President Vladimir Putin at a plenary session of the Russian Energy Week. "The arms race is on the march, unfortunately. And it has started after the US withdrawal from the ABM

Treaty," the Russian president noted. The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty between the USSR and the US was signed in Moscow on May 26, 1972. However, it was terminated on June 13, 2002, following the unilateral US withdrawal.

<https://tass.com/defense/1349209>

### **Russia urges US to eliminate nuclear arms storage infrastructure abroad - Foreign Ministry**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 13, 2021*

Russia is urging the United States to abandon the practice of keeping nuclear weapons outside its national territory and eliminate the related infrastructure, the acting deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's non-proliferation and arms control department, Konstantin Vorontsov, told the First Committee of the UN General Assembly.

<https://tass.com/politics/1349295>

### **Attempts to immediately ban nuclear weapons counterproductive - Russian Foreign Ministry**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 13, 2021*

A progress in nuclear disarmament is possible only based on consensus, Russian Foreign Ministry Department for Nonproliferation and Arms Control Acting Deputy Director Konstantin Vorontsov told the UN General Assembly First Committee. Vorontsov underscored that such actions only worsen the situation, causing deep disagreements within the international community and undermining the foundation of the non-proliferation regime.

<https://tass.com/world/1349325>

### **Yakutia's governor: Arctic industries should receive energy from nuclear power plants**

*TASS Russian News Agency, October 14, 2021*

The implementation of industrial projects in the Russian Arctic requires reliable energy supplies, which are problematic in the North. Nuclear power plants, including small modular reactors (SMRs), could solve the task, Yakutia's Governor Aisen Nikolayev said at the Russian Energy Week. According to him, the region's 64% of the territory does not have centralized electricity supplies. In early October, Beloye Zoloto (white gold) - a joint venture of Rostech and the Seligdar poly-metal holding company - won a competition to develop Russia's biggest deposit of gold - Kyuchyus. The tender's one of conditions was the development will use SMRs of under 35MWe in Yakutia.

<https://tass.com/economy/1349617>

### **China Continues to Build Up Nuke Stockpile**

*Russia Business Today, October 15, 2021*

China is persistent in stockpiling nuclear weapons while making no guarantees about how it will use them. According to US high official for nuclear nonproliferation Jeffrey Eberhardt, the increasing supply is becoming more difficult to hide from the rest of the world. Eberhardt has urged Beijing and Washington to collaborate in order to prevent nuclear war. Which means, the US wants China to recognize that it is a nuclear power and that it should participate in the strategic stability negotiations headed by Russia and the US. Beijing has often said that it would join the discussion if the US lowers its reserves to China's level. And this is happening at

a time when pictures from American satellites show China building hundreds of silos to fire nuclear missiles.

<https://russiabusinessstoday.com/foreign-policy/china-continues-to-build-up-nuke-stockpile/>

## West Asia

### F. Iran

#### **Iran: Return to Vienna nuclear talks will happen soon**

*Tehran Times, October 1, 2021*

Iran's new government will decide in the next few weeks on a date to return to the nuclear talks in Vienna, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday. "I assume that in a few weeks we are in a position to set a date with our friends in Europe," Saeed Khatibzadeh said at a gathering in the French city of Caen. "Then possibly we can start negotiations in Vienna." The analytical work for resuming talks will end "maybe in a few days, less than a few weeks," he said. "We are not going to waste even a minute to get back to Vienna," he said.

Khatibzadeh had earlier told the *Le Monde* newspaper that the new Iranian administration would return to the talks more quickly than Joe Biden did. Negotiations resumed on April 6 in Vienna, 77 days after Joe Biden took office in the White House. ("However,) it has only been 50 days since the new Iranian government has taken office," he said.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465633/Iran-Return-to-Vienna-nuclear-talks-will-happen-soon>

#### **Iran strongly dismisses nuclear allegations by Riyadh, certain European states**

*Tehran Times, October 8, 2021*

An Iranian diplomat on Thursday categorically rejected "baseless allegations" against Tehran's nuclear and missile programs by certain European countries and Saudi Arabia, saying Tehran's peaceful programs are being pursued in line with the

country's inherent rights and international commitments. Heidar Ali Balouji, representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN General Assembly First Committee, said in a statement that Iran is committed to the full implementation of the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), provided that the other signatories live up fully to their commitments and lift all unjust sanctions in a speedy and verifiable manner.

"On JCPOA, as we stated earlier, the uncontested reality is that so far, Iran has adhered to the JCPOA terms while U.S. and E3 have failed to meet their JCPOA obligations," Balouji stated, according to Press TV. E3 refers to three European countries of Britain, France and Germany that are still party to the 2015 nuclear party but have just been paying lip service to the agreement since the deal was ditched by former U.S. president Donald Trump in May 2018 under his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465790/Iran-strongly-dismisses-nuclear-allegations-by-Riyadh-certain>

#### **Process to review JCPOA talks will soon reach conclusion, Iran says**

*Tehran Times, October 9, 2021*

There are two stages for reviewing six rounds of talks to revive the JCPOA in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman says. The first process of reviewing the negotiations has been concluded and based on that Iran decided to resume talks with the P4+1 in Vienna and the second process will soon reach the conclusion, Saeed Khatibzadeh said. "As soon as the process of reviewing the previous talks is over, the talks will begin," Khatibzadeh told France 24.

Khatibzadeh was commenting on remarks by Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian that the nuclear talks will be resumed in the near future. "After the new



administration took office, we started two processes of reviewing the previous talks inside the country. The first review process has been completed and reached the conclusion, so we decided to definitely continue the nuclear talks with the P4+1 in Vienna and announce it." The first review project was positive, but the second review process is not over yet, the diplomat added. The spokesman went on to say that the new Iranian administration was reviewing all the details of the last six rounds of talks in the previous Rouhani administration. During the last months of Rouhani's presidency talks started in April and six rounds of talks were held until June 20. However, Iran and the U.S. agreed on some points to revitalize the JCPOA but disagreed on a few important issues. The U.S. was participating in the talks indirectly. The European Union was acting as a mediator between Iran and the U.S.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465831/Process-to-review-JCPOA-talks-will-soon-reach-conclusion-Iran>

### **Eslami: Major difference between Safeguards cameras and those of JCPOA**

*Tehran Times, October 10, 2021*

Mohammad Eslami, Vice President and Chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Saturday night that there is a great difference between the IAEA camera monitoring Iran's nuclear activities under the safeguard agreement with those installed under the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Eslami said IAEA inspectors examine the monitoring cameras at the site in a specified time and install new card memories. The old memory cards are cut into pieces and put in a stamped pocket and given to the AEOI for storing. He said nobody can have access to these pieces.

However, the issue is different with regard to cameras related to the JCPOA in a way that IAEA inspectors remove the old memory cards and stamp them and they are

kept by the AEOI in a safe place and are not reviewed by anybody, Eslami explained. The nuclear chief added nobody is given access to the old cards and they are just replaced by new ones. Eslami also said in order to prevent more inconveniences the AEOI agreed with the UN nuclear watchdog about the replacement of memory cards. "However, it does not mean that any would have access to these cards." "We negotiated with Russia for certification of fuel produced in Iran for use in reactors."

He also said the cameras in the TESA site in Karaj suffered damages in the sabotage terrorist act and the IAEA wanted to install new camera there but "we told them that this is not necessary because the JCPOA is an agreement between Iran and the 5+1 group and since the Europeans and Americans did not live up to their obligations there is no reason to install cameras." "IAEA tasked to support nuclear energy for civilian uses" Elsewhere in his remarks, Eslami said that the IAEA should encourage, support and assist countries for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465877/Eslami-Major-difference-between-Safeguards-cameras-and-those>

### **Missiles not subject to negotiation, Iranian MP says**

*Tehran Times, October 12, 2021*

The deputy chairman of the National Security Committee of the Parliament has said Iran has negotiated on its nuclear program within the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) but the Islamic Republic will not negotiate on other issues, including its defensive missile program. In an interview with Mehr on Tuesday, Abbas Moqtadaei reacted to recent remarks by some Western officials who have said Iran's missiles should also be discussed in the talks intended revive the JCPOA, saying, "Westerners should know that an independent and powerful

country like the Islamic Republic of Iran is not being blackmailed, and if we managed the Holy Defense for eight years and resisted the U.S. sanctions and pressure, they were just because we wanted to maintain our independence."

He stated that the Islamic Republic had shown that it does not enter into negotiations through blackmail, pressure, sanctions or any kinds of threat. "We are still on the same principled position, and the Islamic Republic of Iran observes the key points in the negotiations according to its own logic," the parliamentarian highlighted. He went on to say that negotiations should serve the interests of the Iranian people, the MP noted, stressing that talks under threat are not logical. The remarks by the MP comes as the new Iranian administration has insisted that a resumption of the nuclear talks in Vienna must lead to a total lifting of sanctions on the Islamic Republic. The same view was echoed MP Moqtadaei who said negotiations must yield results and the Western parties should abide by their obligations.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465955/Missiles-not-subject-to-negotiation-Iranian-MP-says>

### **Iran says EU's Mora to visit Iran on Thursday**

*Tehran Times, October 13, 2021*

Iran has confirmed press reports that a senior European diplomat leading the Vienna talks over Iran's nuclear program will pay a visit to Iran on Thursday. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement on Tuesday that European Union deputy foreign policy chief Enrique Mora will visit Iran on Thursday as previously planned. Khatibzadeh said the trip follows consultations between the two sides on issues of mutual interest, including Iran-European Union relations, Afghanistan and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

Consultations and contacts between the two sides have never been halted and are

constantly ongoing on different issues, and this trip also takes place in the same framework, the foreign ministry spokesman explained. Earlier, BNN Bloomberg reported that Mora is expected to fly to Tehran as soon as this week to seek an agreement to restart the nuclear talks between Iran and world powers after months of delays.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/465992/Iran-says-EU-s-Mora-to-visit-Iran-on-Thursday>

### **Israel U-turn on JCPOA reveals its propaganda tactics**

*Tehran Times, October 13, 2021*

In a contradictory departure from Israel's longstanding propaganda, former Mossad chief Yossi Cohen has said Iran is not even close to getting a nuclear weapon, laying bare Tel Aviv's deceitful campaign against Iran which rests on magnifying Tehran's alleged threats against Israel. Speaking at a conference hosted by the Jerusalem Post, Cohen struck a different note about Iran's nuclear program and boastfully hinted that Israel was behind acts of sabotage targeting the Iranian nuclear facilities. "I think that Iran, to this day, is not even close to acquiring a nuclear weapon," the former Israeli spy chief said. "This is due to longstanding efforts by some forces in the world."

The remarks came at a time when Israel strenuously seeks to influence the U.S. stance on reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and that they cannot be separated from Israel's overall policy toward Iran. Cohen himself was aware that he was moving away from the official line. So, he described his view as "different." But this cannot be construed as a personal view given the fact that Cohen stopped reading "intelligence" only a few months ago.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466002/Israel-U-turn-on-JCPOA-reveals-its-propaganda-tactics>

## Iran, EU agree to continue talks in Brussels

*Tehran Times, October 15, 2021*

Iran and the European Union have agreed to continue talks in Brussels over the possibility of Iran and world powers resuming the stalled Vienna nuclear talks. The agreement was achieved during a visit by Deputy Director of the EU Action Service Enrique Mora to Tehran on Thursday amid ongoing tensions between Iran and the West over when to resume the Vienna talks. Mora, who traveled to Tehran to discuss bilateral relations, regional issues, including developments in Afghanistan and Yemen, as well as talks on lifting sanctions on Iran, met with Ali Bagheri, the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs.

Bagheri emphasized that Iran has always proved to be a responsible player in the international arena, while the behavior of the other side shows that it is far from being a responsible player. He added that the side showing more responsibility is closer to the negotiating table. Bagheri noted that achieving tangible results is important for Iran, saying Tehran is always ready for serious negotiations that result in a practical agreement and not merely a paper agreement, according to the Iranian foreign ministry. He pointed out that there are serious doubts about the real will of the United States to fulfill its obligations. Bagheri also criticized the inaction of the European parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Iran nuclear deal and stressed the need for them to act responsibly. Mora explained his task as the EU coordinator, announcing his readiness to cooperate with Iran and other parties in order to continue negotiations to achieve a result acceptable to all parties.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466039/Iran-EU-agree-to-continue-talks-in-Brussels>

## IAEA approach toward Israel sends negative message to NPT members: Iran

*Tehran Times, October 15, 2021*

Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the international

organizations based in Vienna on Friday warned about the consequences of the International Atomic Energy Agency's silence toward the Zionist regime's nuclear program. Kazem Gharibabadi said the silence clearly shows the double standards exercised by the international body and sends a negative message to the signatories to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). "In that case, what is the benefit of membership in the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the full implementation of the Agency's safeguards?" the outgoing diplomat said in a Twitter message.

Gharibabadi added, "How can the Agency be seen as a serious, professional and impartial body, while not pursuing its safeguards regime equally and fairly for all its members?" Ambassador Gharibabadi said the example of Israel shows that refusing to sign the NPT even brings "rewards". "Silence and negligence in the face of Israel's nuclear program sends a negative message to NPT members that 'membership in this treaty is tantamount to accepting the strongest verification and surveillance, while staying out of it means not bearing any commitment and criticism and even receiving rewards!" he lamented.

In an interview with Energy Intelligence a few days ago, IAEA Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi failed to provide a convincing answer to a question "why do you talk so much about Iran when you do not talk about Israel's nuclear program?" Grossi said, "Well, there is a very clear reason. Our relation with Israel is based on the one that you have with a country which is not a party to the NPT. Israel never signed the treaty. ... I'm not judging if this is good or bad. I hope they would, because I believe in the universality of this treaty, but instead they have a decision not to do that. But when you have a country that doesn't do that, the degree of inspection that we have is limited to whatever they declare. And we have a couple of places where we go and verify. In the case of Iran, Iran, like most countries in the world, is a party to the NPT, and from that legal status you will derive a number of obligations that they have. Not

political gestures, but legal obligations that they have. Hence our much bigger role - not only in Iran, but in all the other 192 state parties to the NPT." While Israel has refused to sign the NPT, it is the fiercest opponent to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/466045/IAEA-approach-toward-Israel-sends-negative-message-to-NPT-members>

## East Asia

### G. South Korea

#### Top nuke envoy returns from Indonesia after N. Korea talks with US

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 1, 2021*

South Korea's chief nuclear envoy, Noh Kyuduk, returned home from Indonesia Friday after holding talks with his US counterpart, Sung Kim, on efforts to resume dialogue with North Korea.

"We've discussed various ways for humanitarian cooperation projects with North Korea, and we did again this time, on (the provision) either jointly by the South and the US, or through international organizations," Noh told reporters at the airport upon arrival.

"We also explained our position on the end-of-war declaration to the US side in detail as the most effective among the confidence-building measures," he added, referring to President Moon Jae-in's proposal of declaring a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War. After the talks in Jakarta, Kim, US special representative for North Korea, reiterated the US has no hostile intent toward Pyongyang and is ready to cooperate with the North to address humanitarian issues.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211001000414&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211001000414&ACE_SEARCH=1)

#### No nuclear, no coal, but no LNG too?

*Korea Herald, October 3, 2021*

South Korea's energy policy faces mounting uncertainties as two ministries appear to hold different views over liquefied natural gas, or LNG. According to industry sources Friday, the Environment Ministry is mulling to exclude LNG from its green classification system set for launch later this year.

The classification system aims to evaluate the environmental sustainability of industries and judge which one is green and promote public and private investments. Industries excluded from the system are thus expected to face higher difficulties in attracting investment and have difficulties in sourcing investments. Mindful of the Environment Ministry's negative view over LNG, Samsung Life Insurance recently delayed its 50-billion-won (\$42.2 million) investment into an LNG power plant project in Tongyeong, a coastal city in South Gyeongsang Province, indefinitely. "We are open to all possibilities and will finalize our decision after sufficient consultation," an Environment Ministry official said in a press release.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211002000057&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211002000057&ACE_SEARCH=1)

#### S. Korea, US differ over NK sanctions

*Choi Si-young*

*Korea Herald, October 3, 2021*

The US State Department said allies should continue enforcing UN sanctions over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, in response to the South Korean foreign minister's suggestion to ease sanctions for nuclear talks amid North Korea's latest weapons tests. "It is important for the international community to send a strong, unified message that the



DPRK must halt provocations," the State Department told Voice of America on Friday, referring to the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which test-fired a series of weapons in September. Pyongyang, which under the UN Security Council resolutions is banned from testing or developing ballistic missiles, revealed them recently, along with a hypersonic missile and an anti-aircraft missile, urging Seoul and Washington to drop "double standards" and "hostile policy."

The North's conditions for the resumption of dialogue include granting sanctions relief and greenlighting its missile tests, which it says are for self-defense. The US opposes doing so but the South is seen as willing to compromise on sanctions relief. "It's time we review sanctions relief," South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong told the National Assembly on Friday, noting the current "status quo" would not be in the best interests of either the South or US. Nuclear negotiations have been in limbo since 2019. The South Korean government supports easing sanctions and signing a declaration ending the 1950-53 Korean War as ways to reengage North Korea. The Moon administration believes ending the armistice paves way for a detente, but neither Washington nor Pyongyang has been receptive.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211003000085&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211003000085&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **Moon says S. Korea should take pride in latest missiles**

*Choi Si-young*

*Korea Herald, October 3, 2021*

President Moon Jae-in said South Koreans should be proud of the latest missiles the country has recently revealed, Moon's communications secretary said Saturday in a post on Facebook. The post quoted Moon during a closed-door meeting with his senior secretaries a day after the launch. On Sept. 15, South Korea test-fired its first submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from a homegrown submarine, along with an air-

to-surface missile and a cruise missile. The South was the first non-nuclear state to carry out an SLBM test from a submarine.

The SLBM launch, Moon said, was such a success that the other weapons tests, which turned out to be just as successful, were overshadowed so more needed to be done to make that known, according to communications secretary Park Soo-hyun. Moon oversaw the test, something he rarely does, in what many see as a move to reinforce the message that he was as serious about bolstering security as seeking peace talks with North Korea. Conservatives have accused Moon of keeping weapons tests low-key so as not to provoke the North.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211003000086&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211003000086&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **Top nuke envoys of S. Korea, US, Japan to meet in Washington over NK diplomacy**

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 15, 2021*

The top nuclear envoys of South Korea, the United States and Japan will meet trilaterally in Washington next week to discuss joint efforts to bring North Korea back to dialogue, the foreign ministry said Friday. The planned talks among Seoul's chief nuclear negotiator, Noh Kyu-duk, and his US and Japanese counterparts, Sung Kim and Takehiro Funakoshi, come as Seoul is stepping up diplomacy to salvage its peace drive following a recent series of North Korean missile launches, including a hypersonic one last month. Noh and Kim are expected to meet bilaterally on Monday and join a trilateral meeting with Funakoshi the following day. Noh is also likely to hold two-way talks with Funakoshi on Tuesday.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211015000564&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211015000564&ACE_SEARCH=1)

## H. North Korea

### North Korea says it tested anti-aircraft missile

*Choi Si-young*

*Korea Herald, October 1, 2021*

North Korea test-fired a new anti-aircraft missile Thursday, its official Korean Central News Agency said amid an impasse over nuclear negotiations with the US and frayed ties with South Korea. The launch is the latest weapons test Pyongyang has conducted since test-firing a hypersonic missile Tuesday and ballistic missiles and a cruise missile earlier in September. It is considered a follow-up on Pyongyang's plan to bolster its defense capabilities made public at its January congress.

"The Academy of Defense Science test-fired the missile to see its combat performance, along with the functionality of its radar, launcher and battle command vehicle," the KCNA said on Friday, referring to the North's weapons developer. The missile demonstrated remarkable combat performance with its twin rudder control and double impulse flight engine, according to the KCNA.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211001000748&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211001000748&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### N. Korea continues to develop nuclear, missile programs despite sanctions: report

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 5, 2021*

North Korea continues to advance its nuclear and ballistic missile programs despite worsening economic conditions exacerbated by UN Security Council (UNSC) sanctions, a UN report showed Monday. The report by a panel of experts on North Korean sanctions also said the North continues to evade sanctions by ever sophisticating means. "During the reporting period, despite the country's focus on its worsening economic travails, the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea continued to maintain and develop its nuclear and ballistic missile programs," said the report, referring to North Korea by its official name.

The semestrial report, dated Sept. 8, noted the North did not conduct any intercontinental ballistic missiles or nuclear tests over the reporting period, but that it staged a short-range ballistic missile test "combining ballistic and guidance technologies." Pyongyang launched two short-range ballistic missiles into the East Sea in late March. North Korea is prohibited from developing or testing any ballistic missiles under UN Security Council resolutions.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211005000125&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211005000125&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### North Korea keeps developing nuclear, missile programs: UN experts

*Ahn Sung-mi*

*Korea Herald, October 5, 2021*

North Korea has continued its nuclear and ballistic missile programs this year, despite international sanctions and a dire economic situation exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a UN report on Tuesday. A panel of experts monitoring sanctions on Pyongyang, in a report sent to the UN Security Council, said the North "continued to seek material and technology for these programs overseas." "Despite the country's focus on its worsening economic travails, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continued to maintain and develop its nuclear and ballistic missile programs," the report said, referring to the North by its official name.

The report, which is produced twice a year, covered updates on the implementation of sanctions from February to August. Thus it did not include Pyongyang's flurry of missile tests in September, which included the firing of

two ballistic missiles in violation of UN resolutions.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211005000862&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211005000862&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **With time running out, experts urge 'creative' solutions on N. Korea nukes**

*Ahn Sung-mi*

*Korea Herald, October 7, 2021*

North Korea has been advancing its nuclear and missile capabilities over the past decades, and time is running out to prevent the country from becoming a full-fledged nuclear state, experts said Thursday. Pointing out that past South Korean and US administrations had failed to dismantle the regime's nuclear program, experts attending a Korea Institute for National Unification seminar called for "creative solutions."

"One of the reasons why North Korea's nuclear program has endured could be because the US has viewed the issue as a controllable risk and didn't give it full attention," said Koh Yu-hwan, president of the state-funded think tank KINU. "The North Korean nuclear issue is becoming an uncontrollable threat."

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211007000939&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211007000939&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **N. Korea's ballistic missiles constitute a threat to US: State Dept**

*Yonhap*

*Korea Herald, October 13, 2021*

North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs pose a threat to the US and its allies, a State Department spokesperson said Tuesday. The remark comes after North Korean leader Kim Jong-un claimed North Korea's enemy is not South Korea nor the US while calling for efforts to further advance the North's military capabilities. "The DPRK's WMD and ballistic missile programs constitute a threat to international peace and security and the global nonproliferation regime," a State Department spokesperson told Yonhap

News Agency in an email.

"The United States has a vital interest in deterring the DPRK, defending against its provocations or uses of force, and in limiting the reach of its most dangerous weapons programs, and above all keeping the American people and our allies safe," the official added, asking not to be identified. DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

[http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211013000168&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20211013000168&ACE_SEARCH=1)

### **Future Defense Spending: Nuclear Modernization**

*James M. Acton*

*Carnegie, March 23, 2021*

Nuclear weapons appear to help deter nuclear aggression and prevent large-scale conventional conflict in a small number of high-consequence contingencies. Ensuring the efficacy of nuclear deterrence, therefore, is in the national security interests of the United States and its allies—so too are cooperative efforts to reduce the risks of escalation and arms racing and to create the political and security conditions under which nuclear weapons could be safely eliminated. For appropriators, the most salient nuclear policy questions are those with financial implications—in particular, how should the United States maintain and modernize its nuclear forces and their supporting infrastructure?

<https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/03/23/future-defense-spending-nuclear-modernization-pub-84147>

### **It is time to negotiate global treaties on artificial intelligence**

*John R. Allen and Darrell M. West*

*Brookings March 24, 2021*

The U.S. National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence recently made the news when its members warned that America faces a national security crisis due

to insufficient investment in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. Commission Vice Chair Robert Work argued “we don’t feel this is the time for incremental budgets. This will be expensive and requires significant change in the mindset at the national, and agency, and Cabinet levels.” Commission Chair Eric Schmidt extended those worries by saying “China is catching the US” and “competition with China will increase.”

This is not the first time the country has worried about the economic and national security ramifications of new technologies. In the aftermath of World War II, the United States, Soviet Union, China, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, and others were concerned about the risk of war and the ethical aspects of nuclear weapons, chemical agents, and biological warfare. Despite vastly different worldviews, national interests, and systems of government, their leaders reached a n

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/techtank/2021/03/24/it-is-time-to-negotiate-global-treaties-on-artificial-intelligence/>

### **North Korea’s new nuclear gambit and the fate of denuclearization**

*Evans J.R. Revere*

*Brookings, March 26, 2021*

In March 2012, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho told a group of U.S. experts and former officials that North Korea would not denuclearize until the United States removed its “threat.” He defined this as the U.S.-South Korea alliance, the presence of U.S. troops in South Korea, and the U.S. nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan. “If you remove the threat,” Ri said, “we will feel more secure, and in 10 or 20 years we will be able to consider denuclearization.” “In the meantime,” he declared, “we can sit down and engage in arms control talks as one nuclear power with another.”

Faced with a new U.S. president whose North Korea policy remains unclear, Kim

Jong Un has decided to pre-empt the outcome of the ongoing U.S. policy review by ending all prospects of denuclearization and expanding his nuclear and missile capabilities instead. In doing so, Kim hopes to compel Washington to engage in “arms control talks” if it hopes to slow the North’s nuclear program. Kim’s gambit to change the main topic of U.S.-North Korea dialogue from denuclearization to arms control was hiding in plain sight in his January 2021 address to the Korean Workers Party Congress. He described North Korea’s nuclear weapons development as the nation’s “strategic and predominant goal” and an “exploit of greatest significance in the history of the Korean nation.” Declaring North Korea a “responsible nuclear weapons state,” Kim’s message was that the regime is now a permanent nuclear power and Washington must deal with it as such.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/03/26/north-koreas-new-nuclear-gambit-and-the-fate-of-denuclearization/>

### **Biden administration needs to get real on North Korea**

*Michael E. O’Hanlon*

*Brookings, March 29, 2021*

The Biden administration is reportedly completing its new strategy for how to handle the dangerous, nuclear-armed dictatorship of Kim Jong Un in North Korea. In his press conference on March 25, President Biden called North Korea the nation’s greatest national security threat. Addressing that threat is a daunting task. Several of Biden’s predecessors have failed completely on the goal of winding back North Korea’s nuclear weapons programs.

Soon after Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in November of 2016, Barack Obama hosted him at the White House for a private chat. Reportedly, one message Obama conveyed was to watch out for North Korea. Obama acknowledged that his own policy of “benign neglect” hadn’t worked out so well. Indeed, on Obama’s



(and Biden's) watch, North Korea conducted four nuclear tests and built about a half dozen nuclear bombs per year.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/03/29/biden-administration-needs-to-get-real-on-north-korea/>

### **How the Biden administration can secure real gains in nuclear arms control**

*Sharon Squassoni*

*Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, March 30, 2021*

Less than two months into his term of office, President Joseph R. Biden signaled a renewed commitment to US arms control leadership. As expected, he extended the New START Treaty by executive action in his first week in office, securing a five-year cap on the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons in the US and Russian arsenals. More surprisingly, the White House issued an Interim National Security Strategy Guidance in early March that planted arms control firmly in the Biden administration's national security strategy:

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<https://thebulletin.org/2021/03/how-the-biden-administration-can-secure-real-gains-in-nuclear-arms-control/>

## 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](mailto: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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