

Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

Volume 15, Number 22

A Fortnightly Newsletter from the Indian Pugwash Society

November 30, 2023

Convenor

Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy

Executive Council

Cdr. (Dr.) Probal K. Ghosh

Air Marshal S. G. Inamdar
(Retd.)

Dr. Roshan Khanijo

Amb. R. Rajagopalan

Dr. Rajesh Rajagopalan

Shri Dinesh Kumar
Yadvendra

A. India

- Chandrayaan-3 carried nuclear technology to Moon: What was it used for?
- Govt plans sops for making small modular N-reactors
- Nuclear source stored in basement of Institute of Science since '80s to be shifted
- Crest unveiling ceremony Surat Indian Navy's Project 15B Warship
- First INDUS-X Investors Meet held in Delhi ahead of 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue
- India, US to focus on defence, tech ties in 2+2 talks tomorrow
- Raksha Mantri & US Secretary of Defence discuss wide range of defence & strategic issues during bilateral talks in New Delhi

B. Russia

- No plans for Putin to contact US before decision on CTBT withdrawal – Kremlin
- Threat of Ukrainian attacks against Kursk NPP remains – Russian mission in Vienna
- Ukraine 'playing with fire' by shelling Zaporozhye nuke plant – Russian Foreign Ministry
- Putin signs law on Russia's withdrawal from CTBT ratification
- CTBT deratification puts Russia on par with US – senior diplomat
- Share of nuclear energy in Russia expected to reach 24-24.5% by 2042
- Russia to look for compensatory potential for all of US nuclear capabilities
- US needs to honor New START treaty if it wants to save it – Russian ambassador
- The sooner US ratifies CTBT, the better for global security – ambassador
- Russia favors strengthening and developing nuclear arms control – ambassador



Indian Pugwash Society

No.1, Development Enclave,
Rao Tula Ram Marg, Near USI, Delhi-110010
Email: indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com

Tel. No (91-11) 2671-7983

Fax No. (91-11)2615-4192

- Japanese premier regrets Russia's decision to revoke CTBT ratification
- Lavrov sends notification on withdrawal of CTBT ratification to UN Secretary General
- Russia intends to continue to comply with nuclear test moratorium – Foreign Ministry
- Russian nuclear submarine test launches Bulava intercontinental missile
- No talks on New START as long as US continues to assist Kiev in attacking Russia – Lavrov
- Biden fears ATACMS supplies may fail to prop up Kiev – NYT
- Rosatom ready to design NPP project for Kazakhstan – Putin
- Russia outmatches US in hypersonic, nuclear capabilities – US presidential candidate
- Hungary agrees with Romania on transit of Russian nuclear fuel for Paks NPP
- Russia, Kazakhstan support nuclear non-proliferation mechanisms – statement
- Recent statements by Israeli minister confirm Israel has nuclear weapons – Russian MFA
- Russia has not withdrawn signature to CTBT – MFA
- Russia withdraws from agreement with Japan regarding destruction of nuke weapons
- NATO chief calls for strengthening alliance after Russia's withdrawal from CFE treaty
- Kursk NPP's unit 3 goes into automatic shutdown mode – press service
- Russia building more nuclear reactors than any other country, IAEA data show
- Hungary will never support sanctions against Russian nuclear power – foreign minister
- Russia, Hungary agree on construction schedule for Paks-2 NPP through early 2030s

C. China

- Communication with US to prevent miscalculation is critical, while China reserves the right to build a strong nuclear arsenal
- China is working on a weapon the US decided was too dangerous to exist
- China and US reportedly agree to rare nuclear arms control talks
- China supported sanctions on North Korea's nuclear program. It's also behind their failure
- Nuclear talks with China are essential and long overdue
- Chinese scientists work on powerful new 'submarine killer' with eye on US far into South China Sea
- China's nuclear program skirts Western machine tool sanctions
- China and the United States hold consultations on Arms Control and Nonproliferation
- Expert shares details of China's telescopes for deep-space missions
- Near-Earth asteroid discovered by Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory assumed as the closest one yet to Earth
- China's Misunderstood Nuclear Expansion

D. Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan becomes an attractive 'nuclear' player
- IAEA Team Concludes Site and External Events Design (SEED) Review in Kazakhstan

E. Pakistan

- Pakistan considers nuclear security as 'national responsibility'
- Pakistan MIRV test heats up South Asia's arms race

F. Europe

- Why France's Emmanuel Macron is courting Central Asia
- IAEA Mission Says Czech Republic Manages Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Safely, Encourages Preparations for Nuclear Power Expansion
- Nuclear Industry Giants Collaborate on European Projects While Japan Expands Partnership with U.S. Reactor Designer
- European Commission to create SMR Industrial Alliance
- European Nuclear Energy Forum 2023 discusses benefits of European Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) initiative
- NATO Freezes Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe
- France's clean power clout to be tested again this winter
- IAEA Concludes International Physical Protection Advisory Follow-Up Mission in Switzerland
- IAEA Mission Says Romania is Committed to a High Level of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, Sees Areas for Further Enhancement
- IAEA and ICAO to enhance cooperation on transport of vital radioactive materials
- Construction schedule agreed for Paks II in Hungary
- Poland's answer to the climate crisis: one hundred nuclear reactors

G. Ukraine

- Update 192 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine
- Update 193 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

H. United States of America

- US, NATO Follow Russia in Dropping Out of Europe Arms Treaty
- Assistant Secretary Mallory Stewart's meeting with the People's Republic of China's (PRC) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General of Arms Control Sun Xiaobo
- INDUS-X Investor Strategy Session Harnesses Private Capital for Start-ups
- Exclusive | Biden, Xi set to pledge ban on AI in autonomous weapons like drones, nuclear warhead control: sources
- United States-Japan-Republic of Korea Trilateral Ministerial Meeting Unilateral Press Statement
- Defense Vision of the U.S.-ROK Alliance
- New Uncrewed Undersea Capabilities Strengthen AUKUS Partnership
- Austin Affirms 'Ironclad' U.S. Commitment to Deterrence on Korean Peninsula

West Asia

I. Iran

- Tehran criticizes IAEA double standards on Iran's nuclear program
- Iran's N. Head: Israeli Minister's Nuke Remark Substantiates Assumptions on Tel Aviv's Possession of Atomic Bombs
- Iran cautions against misrepresenting truth on peaceful nuclear program
- Iran stresses military development in face of 'maritime and aerial threats'
- Iran eyeing world leadership in military high-tech: Defense official
- Iran Warns Against Israeli Regime's Nuclear Weapons Threat

J. Israel

- Hezbollah Claims to Have Launched “Burkan” Rocket at Israel
- Unit 42 Exposes 10-Month Iranian-Linked Cyberattack Saga Against Israel
- Report: US To Extend Support to Israel with 100 Iron Dome Launchers and 14,000 Interceptors
- Report: Anti-tank missile fired from Lebanon wounds 2 Israelis
- Israel’s Defense Ministry reveals ‘Arrow’ interception, first time in action

K. Syria

- US hits alleged Iran-linked ‘weapons storage’ facility in Syria

L. East Asia

- Shin Hanul Provides First Step in South Korea’s Nuclear Renaissance
- IAEA Confirms Third Batch of ALPS Treated Water Released Today Has Tritium Level Far Below Japan’s Operational Limit
- China supported sanctions on North Korea’s nuclear program. It’s also behind their failure
- Following China’s seafood ban, Japanese consumers ‘not worried’ eating more Fukushima fish
- China Supported Sanctions on North Korea’s Nuclear Program. It’s Also Behind Their Failure
- North Korea’s Nuclear Buildup Means Mutually Assured Destruction, Not Coercion
- Malaysia wants its views on Fukushima waste water release heard – but won’t ban Japanese seafood
- How Japan became the land the energy transition forgot
- Could Russia provide an end to North Korea’s strategic solitude?
- Blinken Slams ‘Growing, Dangerous’ Russia-North Korea Military Ties
- U.S. and South Korea condemn North Korean arms transfers to Russia
- US, South Korea revise deterrence strategy over North Korea’s nuclear threat
- IAEA Collaborating Centre in Malaysia Supports Sustainable Agriculture and Industrial Development in Southeast Asia
- South Korea and members of the US-led UN command warn North Korea over its nuclear threat

Oceania

M. Australia

- Indonesian ambassador warns Australia Aukus pact must not fuel a hypersonic arms race

A. India

Chandrayaan-3 carried nuclear technology to Moon: What was it used for?

India Today, November 1, 2023

While Chandrayaan-3 continues to be in a permanent sleep mode on the surface of the Moon, the spacecraft continues to amaze people with new science and information trickling out every day. The latest is the revelation that nuclear technology was sent to the Moon as part of the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

According to a report in the Times of India, Chandrayaan-3's Propulsion Module, which carried the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover to the Moon, is powered by nuclear technology. Two radioisotope heating units (RHU) that generate one watt of energy are onboard the module, which is currently orbiting the Moon. The functioning of this heating unit paves the way for future nuclear-based missions that last live longer on the Moon.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/science/chandrayaan-3/story/chandrayaan-3-carried-nuclear-technology-to-moon-what-was-it-used-for-2456584-2023-11-01>

Govt plans sops for making small modular N-reactors

Mint, November 3, 2023

The Centre is looking at offering sops along the lines of a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing small modular reactors (SMR), aiming to increase the share of nuclear power in India's energy basket. Two people in the know said the department of atomic energy (DAE) is working on the scheme with inputs from the NITI Aayog. SMRs are smaller reactors that can be factory-built, unlike conventional nuclear reactors that are built on site. They have a power capacity of up to 300 MW per unit – which is about a third of the capacity of traditional nuclear reactors. But, being a mobile and agile technology, they can be set up in locations not suitable for larger plants.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/govt-plans-sops-for-making-small-modular-nreactors-11699032050249.html>

Nuclear source stored in basement of Institute of Science since '80s to be shifted

The Times of India, November 5, 2023

A nuclear source sitting in an out-of-bounds basement of a distinguished heritage campus in south Mumbai will be moved out soon. At a time when the authorities of the Institute of Science were making plans to demolish an old single-storey structure and go skyward, old-timers pointed to the nuclear source – Californium-252 and Plutonium Beryllium – within the campus that needed to be safely relocated first. Once assessed and rehomed, this will close a rich chapter in history of the institute, which boasts a distinguished nuclear chemistry laboratory Envisioned by prominent scientist and institute head professor B C Haldar, the laboratory was set up in 1962 and grew into a full-fledged department in 1975. After some ground-breaking research, though, it declined due to lack of funds and attention from the state government.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/nuclear-source-stored-in-basement-of-institute-of-sci-since-80s-to-be-shifted/articleshow/104977220.cms>

Crest unveiling ceremony Surat Indian Navy's Project 15B Warship

PIB, November 6, 2023

The crest of Indian Navy's latest, under-construction, guided missile destroyer 'Surat', was unveiled by Shri Bhupendra Patel, the Chief Minister of Gujarat, at a vibrant ceremony in the city of Surat, in presence of Adm R Hari Kumar, the Chief of the Naval Staff, and senior dignitaries and officials from the State Government and the Indian Navy. The crest of Surat depicts the famous lighthouse at Hazira (Surat), located at southern entrance of the Gulf of Khambhat. Built in 1836, this lighthouse was one of the first lighthouses in India. The Asiatic lion on the crest, which is also the state animal of Gujarat, symbolises the ship's majesty and strength. Equipped with the latest advancements in

naval warfare technology and combat capabilities, the warship Surat stands as a powerful embodiment of the navy's commitment to maritime security and national defence.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1975179>

First INDUS-X Investors Meet held in Delhi ahead of 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue

PIB, November 8, 2023

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence and US Department of Defence, organised the maiden INDUS-X Investors Meet on 8 November 2023 at New Delhi as a pre-cursor to the 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue. The INDUS-X Educational Series (Gurukul) was also launched during the event. Mr Doug Beck, Director Defense Innovation Unit (DIU), US DoD led the US delegation and Mr Vivek Virmani, PO (G) & COO/iDEX-DIO the Indian delegation. The event was co-ordinated by US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), IndusTech, and mach33.aero (Social Alpha).

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1975723>

India, US to focus on defence, tech ties in 2+2 talks tomorrow

The Times of India, November 9, 2023

In the 5th 2+2 ministerial meeting on Friday, India and the US will look to build upon the gains from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's landmark state visit earlier this year, with a focus on defence technology transfer and coproduction, strategic technology collaborations, nuclear cooperation, and people-to-people ties. China and the Indo-Pacific, including Quad cooperation, and Israel-Hamas and Ukraine-Russia wars are among the global and regional issues the two sides will look to address.

India's diplomatic spat with Canada is also likely to figure in foreign minister S Jaishankar's bilateral meeting with his

counterpart Antony Blinken on the margins of the 2+2 talks.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-us-to-focus-on-defence-tech-ties-in-22-talks-tomorrow/articleshow/105078496.cms?from=mdr>

Raksha Mantri & US Secretary of Defence discuss wide range of defence & strategic issues during bilateral talks in New Delhi

PIB, November 10, 2023

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting with US Secretary of Defence Mr Lloyd Austin in New Delhi on November 10, 2023. The two Ministers comprehensively discussed a wide range of defence and strategic issues. There was particular focus on enhancing defence industrial cooperation and getting the defence industries from both sides together to cooperatively co-develop and co-produce defence systems.

The Ministers explored ways and means to advance their defence technology cooperation with joint research in critical areas. They reviewed the progress of the India-US Defence Industrial Ecosystem, INDUS-X, which was launched in June this year and aims to expand the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation between the governments, businesses and academic institutions of India and US.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1976128>

B. Russia

No plans for Putin to contact US before decision on CTBT withdrawal – Kremlin

TASS, November 1, 2023

Russia has no need to be in contact with the US before making a definitive decision on withdrawing from the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

When asked by TASS whether contacts with the Americans are planned before

Russian President Vladimir Putin makes a final decision on signing the bill on Russia's revocation of CTBT ratification into law, Peskov said: "They [contacts with the Americans] are not necessary."

The CTBT de-ratification bill was given final approval by the Federation Council (upper house of parliament) on October 25 and then sent to the president for his signature. Under the Russian constitution, the president has 14 days to decide whether or not to sign a bill into law.

<https://tass.com/politics/1700365>

Threat of Ukrainian attacks against Kursk NPP remains – Russian mission in Vienna

TASS, November 1, 2023

The risk of possible attempts by the Ukrainian army to attack the Kursk nuclear power plant with unmanned aerial vehicles remains, reads a post uploaded to the page of Russia's permanent mission to international organizations in Vienna on the social network X (formerly Twitter).

"In a newsletter Russia notified the IAEA that on October 26 the Kursk NPP was attacked by three Ukrainian drones. There remains a threat to nuclear and radiation safety in view of possible new attacks by the Kiev regime," the Russian mission said. Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said earlier that the Ukrainian army had purposefully attacked the Kursk nuclear power plant with three unmanned aerial vehicles on the evening of October 26.

<https://tass.com/politics/1700413>

Ukraine 'playing with fire' by shelling Zaporozhye nuke plant – Russian Foreign Ministry

TASS, November 2, 2023

Ukraine is not observing the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) principles for ensuring nuclear safety under the conditions of an armed conflict as well as recommendations for ensuring security at

the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), Alexey Polishchuk, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Second CIS Department, said in an interview with TASS. The diplomat noted that Ukrainian attempts to seize control of the nuclear facility are well-known. "One of them took place right before IAEA Director General [Rafael] Grossi's visit to the plant on September 1, 2022," he added.

<https://tass.com/politics/1700621>

Putin signs law on Russia's withdrawal from CTBT ratification

TASS, November 2, 2023

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law on Russia's withdrawal from the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The treaty was signed on behalf of Russia on September 24, 1996 in New York and ratified by Russia on May 27, 2000. The document was supposed to become the main international legal instrument for stopping any kind of nuclear testing. To date, however, the treaty has not entered into force because it has not been ratified by 8 of the 44 states that have nuclear weapons or the potential to create them.

According to the document published on the official legal portal, the adopted law was designed to restore parity in nuclear arms control commitments.

<https://tass.com/politics/1700673>

CTBT deratification puts Russia on par with US – senior diplomat

TASS, November 2, 2023

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's envoy to international organizations in Vienna, said that Moscow's deratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty puts the country on par with the US, which has not ratified the agreement. "Today, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a federal law revoking Russia's ratification of the CTBT. This law puts

Russia on an equal footing with the United States, which signed but did not ratify the treaty,” Ulyanov wrote on X (formerly Twitter). Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law according to which Russia withdraws ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The document was published on an official government website.

<https://tass.com/politics/1700791>

Share of nuclear energy in Russia expected to reach 24-24.5% by 2042

TASS, November 2, 2023

The Russian Ministry of Energy believes that the share of nuclear energy in the country will reach 24-24.5% by 2042 due to the construction of new nuclear power plants in the Far East, Siberia, and the European part of Russia. Russian Energy Minister Nikolay Shulginov told TASS.

“Yes, we are considering placing nuclear power plants in the Far East, Siberia and the Central part of Russia to ensure an increase in the share of generation, but at the level of 24-24.5% by 2042. At the same time, we need to take a lot into account, as we need flexible generation,” he said.

<https://tass.com/economy/1700883>

Russia to look for compensatory potential for all of US nuclear capabilities

TASS, November 3, 2023

Moscow is evaluating Washington’s nuclear capabilities in their entirety and will look for compensatory potential for all of them, Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov told Channel One.

“We don’t look at the United States’ intentions but at the combat capabilities of nuclear deterrent forces. We will look for compensatory means and forces not to point at some part of the US nuclear potential and say: ‘This is what is going to be used against Russia.’ Certainly not. We will look for compensatory potential against all of the US carriers and warheads,” the envoy stressed.

<https://tass.com/politics/1701055>

US needs to honor New START treaty if it wants to save it – Russian ambassador

TASS, November 3, 2023

The United States violated the New START Treaty with Russia on reduction of strategic offensive weapons in the past, and needs to return to compliance with its provisions if it wants to keep the deal in force, Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov told Russia’s Channel One on Thursday. “Now, it is clear to everyone that the Americans had violated the treaty, twisting its wording to justify refitting heavy bombers and launch infrastructure for Trident II missiles. All they need is to return to compliance if they need this treaty so much and if it is so important to them,” the ambassador said. “There are no grounds at this point to speak of any prospects for an arms control dialogue with the Americans,” the diplomat added.

<https://tass.com/politics/1701057>

The sooner US ratifies CTBT, the better for global security – ambassador

TASS, November 3, 2023

Washington’s soonest ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty will benefit global security, Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov told Russia’s Channel One.

“The sooner the United States of America abandons its faulty arms control policies, the sooner the United States of America realizes that global problems can be resolved only through a collective action, the sooner they ratify this deal [CTBT] <...> the better for international peace and global security,” Antonov said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier signed a law according to which Russia withdraws ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

<https://tass.com/russia/1701097>

Russia favors strengthening and developing nuclear arms control – ambassador

TASS, November 3, 2023

Russia favors strengthening and developing the global control over nuclear weapons, Russian Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov has said.

Commenting on US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's criticism of Russia's decision to revoke its ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Russian diplomat said: "The State Department's criticism and concerns are misdirected."

<https://tass.com/politics/1701107>

Japanese premier regrets Russia's decision to revoke CTBT ratification

TASS, November 3, 2023

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida described Russia's decision to revoke its ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) as "extremely regrettable" in a statement, posted on the X social network (formerly known as Twitter). "It is extremely regrettable, because it runs counter to the international community's years-long effort aimed at ensuring that the treaty enters force and becomes universal," Kishida said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier signed a law according to which Russia withdraws ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

<https://tass.com/world/1701117>

Lavrov sends notification on withdrawal of CTBT ratification to UN Secretary General

TASS, November 3, 2023

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov sent a notification on Russia's withdrawal of the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the Foreign Ministry said in its statement.

"Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's notification on our country's withdrawal of the CTBT ratification note has been sent to the CTBT and UN Secretary Antonio Guterres' repository," the statement reads.

The treaty was signed on behalf of Russia on September 24, 1996 in New York and ratified by Russia on May 27, 2000.

<https://tass.com/politics/1701531>

Russia intends to continue to comply with nuclear test moratorium – Foreign Ministry

TASS, November 3, 2023

Russia intends to continue to comply with the moratorium on nuclear tests, imposed over 30 years ago and remains a signatory of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), with all corresponding rights and obligations, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement regarding Russia's withdrawal of ratification of the CTBT.

"Russia remains a signatory of the CTBT, with all corresponding rights and obligations. We continue to take part in the CTBT Organization's Preparatory Commission," the statement reads. "We intend to continue complying with the nuclear test ban, imposed over 30 years ago."

<https://tass.com/politics/1701569>

Russian nuclear submarine test launches Bulava intercontinental missile

Reuters, November 5, 2023

Russia's new strategic nuclear submarine, the Emperor Alexander III, has successfully tested a Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile, the Russian defence ministry said on Sunday.

The missile, which the Federation of American Scientists says is designed to carry up to six nuclear warheads, was launched from an underwater position in the White Sea off Russia's northern coast

and hit a target thousands of kilometres away on the Kamchatka peninsula in the Russian Far East, the defence ministry said.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russias-new-nuclear-submarine-test-launches-bulava-missile-white-sea-2023-11-05/>

No talks on New START as long as US continues to assist Kiev in attacking Russia – Lavrov

TASS, November 6, 2023

Moscow will not discuss the resumption of procedures under the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) as long as the US provides long-range weapons to Kiev, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

“How can we allow the Americans to visit our nuclear facilities <...>, when they are providing long-range weapons to the Ukrainians, which have already been used in attempted attacks on our strategic basis, including those hosting strategic nuclear bombers?” he pointed out, addressing the Znanie (Knowledge) marathon at the International RUSSIA EXPO.

According to Lavrov, the US could also have provided Ukraine with information necessary for attacks on targets like those.

<https://tass.com/politics/1702197>

Biden fears ATACMS supplies may fail to prop up Kiev – NYT

TASS, November 7, 2023

US President Joe Biden is concerned that long-range ATACMS missile systems won't be enough to tilt the balance of power on the battlefield in Kiev's favor, The New York Times wrote on Monday.

“Mr. Biden's aides say they have now given Mr. Zelensky every weapons system he has requested, most recently ATACMS, the long-range missile systems,” the paper said. Meanwhile, “Now the fear about the ATACMS is that they will not make that big a difference because the Russians are

learning how to park their aircraft beyond the weapons' reach,” it went on to say.

President Biden “had long resisted providing because he feared they might cross a 'red line' that could lead Mr. Putin to reach for nuclear weapons,” it specified.

<https://tass.com/world/1702751>

Rosatom ready to design NPP project for Kazakhstan – Putin

TASS, November 8, 2023

Russia's state-run nuclear corporation Rosatom is ready to design a nuclear power plant for Kazakhstan if the country's government makes a relevant decision, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview to the country's Kazakhstanskaya Pravda newspaper, published on Wednesday.

“As you know, the leadership of the Republic of Kazakhstan is considering the construction of the nuclear power plant on its territory. If the decision to implement this project is made, Rosatom State Corporation is ready to develop a relevant project using the most advanced technologies in compliance with the highest environmental requirements and safety standards,” the Russian leader said.

<https://tass.com/russia/1702921>

Russia outmatches US in hypersonic, nuclear capabilities – US presidential candidate

TASS, November 8, 2023

Russia outmatches the United States in terms of nuclear and hypersonic capabilities, US Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy said.

“Russia outmatches us right now in the nuclear capabilities. They outmatch us in hypersonic missiles as well,” Ramaswamy told his supporters in Miami, Florida.

He added that at this point, Russia is “in alliance with China.”

<https://tass.com/world/1702989>

Hungary agrees with Romania on transit of Russian nuclear fuel for Paks NPP

TASS, November 8, 2023

Budapest has agreed with Bucharest on the transit of Russian nuclear fuel for the Paks nuclear power plant through Romanian territory, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Economic Relations of Hungary, Peter Szijjarto, announced on Wednesday.

“My Romanian colleague (Minister of Energy of Romania, Sebastian Burduja - TASS) assured me that we can continue to transport the nuclear fuel needed for the operation of the Paks nuclear power plant through Romania. It is transported from Russia by ship [on the Black Sea] to Bulgaria, and there it is loaded onto a train and sent through Bulgaria and Romania to Hungary,” Szijjarto wrote on his Facebook page (banned in Russia, owned by the Meta corporation, recognized as extremist in Russia).

<https://tass.com/economy/1703503>

Russia, Kazakhstan support nuclear non-proliferation mechanisms – statement

TASS, November 9, 2023

Russia and Kazakhstan will support multilateral mechanisms in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and work together to prevent the placement of such weapons in space, according to the joint statement of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Kazakh counterpart Kassym-Jomart Tokayev adopted at the talks in Astana.

“[The parties intend to] support multilateral mechanisms in the field of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in accordance with the basic principles of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons - the key instrument in the sphere of nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy,” the document said.

<https://tass.com/world/1704013>

Recent statements by Israeli minister confirm Israel has nuclear weapons – Russian MFA

TASS, November 9, 2023

Recent statements by Israel’s Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu definitively confirm that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a statement.

“Against the background of Israel’s historical policy of uncertainty regarding its possession of nuclear weapons, these statements not only clearly confirm the presence of such weapons in this country, but also demonstrate the readiness to seriously consider the possibility to use them in completely inappropriate scenarios,” the diplomat said.

<https://tass.com/politics/1704123>

Russia has not withdrawn signature to CTBT – MFA

TASS, November 9, 2023

Moscow has not withdrawn its signature to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and it will continue to adhere to its provisions, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov has said.

“We have confined ourselves to restoring the balance. Once again: we have not gone anywhere further. Russia has not withdrawn its signature to the treaty and it will continue to adhere to its provisions,” he said in an interview with RTVI.

<https://tass.com/politics/1704165>

Russia withdraws from agreement with Japan regarding destruction of nuke weapons

TASS, November 9, 2023

The Russian government is terminating its agreement with the Japanese government on cooperation to reduce Russia’s nuclear arsenal.

“To terminate the agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Japan on Cooperation to Assist the Destruction of Nuclear Weapons Reduced in the Russian Federation and the establishment of the Committee on Cooperation to this end, signed in Tokyo on October 13, 1993,” reads the order signed by Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

The document has been made public. The Russian Foreign Ministry was instructed to notify the Japanese side of the decision.

<https://tass.com/politics/1704215>

NATO chief calls for strengthening alliance after Russia’s withdrawal from CFE treaty

TASS, November 10, 2023

All major arms control mechanisms are now defunct after Russia’s withdrawal from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty), so NATO needs to become stronger as a group, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said during a press conference in Berlin.

“This week, they [Russia] withdrew from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe,” the NATO chief said, adding that “with this step Russia has walked away from every major arms control treaty.”

<https://tass.com/world/1704681>

Kursk NPP’s unit 3 goes into automatic shutdown mode – press service

TASS, November 13, 2023

Unit 3 of the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) has been disconnected from the grid automatically, with no threat to the plant’s safety, the press service of the nuclear power plant reported.

“At 10:33 a.m. (Moscow time; 7:33 a.m. GMT), power unit 3 of the Kursk NPP went into automatic shutdown mode. There were no violations of safety conditions. The power

unit was unloaded in accordance with the requirements of the technological regulations and operating instructions,” the press service said.

<https://tass.com/emergencies/1705409>

Russia building more nuclear reactors than any other country, IAEA data show

TASS, November 13, 2023

Russia is building more nuclear reactors than any other country in the world, according to data from the Power Reactor Information System of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The data show a total of 58 nuclear power reactors are currently under construction worldwide, of which 23 are being built by Russia.

“Indeed, Rosatom now is doing the most construction of nuclear power units outside the country. It is interesting that our state corporation’s direct competitors, again according to PRIS data, currently are three Chinese companies: CNNC, CSPI and CGN.

<https://tass.com/defense/1705637>

Hungary will never support sanctions against Russian nuclear power – foreign minister

TASS, November 14, 2023

Hungary will by no means support sanctions against Russia’s nuclear power industry, regardless of what EU package they may be part of, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijjarto has said.

He was speaking during a visit to the construction site of the Paks-2 nuclear power plant together with Rosatom CEO Alexey Likhachev.

“We will never support sanctions against nuclear power,” Szijjarto told the media after talks with Likhachev. He recalled that the European Union was now

discussing the 12th package of sanctions against Russia.

<https://tass.com/world/1705963>

Russia, Hungary agree on construction schedule for Paks-2 NPP through early 2030s

TASS, November 14, 2023

Russian nuclear corporation Rosatom and the Hungarian Foreign Ministry signed a schedule of construction for the Paks-2 nuclear power plant that runs through the early 2030s, head of Rosatom Alexey Likhachev and the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Peter Szijjarto announced on Tuesday.

The two officials visited the construction site at Paks and discussed the implementation of the project for the construction of two new units of the nuclear power plant.

<https://tass.com/economy/1705979>

C. China

Communication with US to prevent miscalculation is critical, while China reserves the right to build a strong nuclear arsenal

Hu Xijin

Global Times, November 2, 2023

Washington has been trying to bring China into US-Russia nuclear arms control negotiations to limit China's nuclear arsenal. Beijing has not agreed, for the simple reason that the amount of China's nuclear weapons is only equivalent to a fraction of the quantity possessed by the US and Russia, and nuclear arms control is a special responsibility of the US and Russia. The Donald Trump administration suspended the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, citing China's unconstrained arsenal as one of the reasons.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301081.shtml>

China is working on a weapon the US decided was too dangerous to exist

David Axe

The Telegraph, November 2, 2023

The US Defense Department believes the Chinese People's Liberation Army is developing a new Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. That is, a heavy, multi-stage missile that leaves the Earth's atmosphere and travels around the world at huge velocities before re-entering and descending toward its target at 20 times the speed of sound. Such missiles normally have a nuclear warhead: but this one, uniquely, would be armed with conventional explosives.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/11/02/china-us-non-nuclear-icbm-ballistic-missiledefence-taiwan/>

China and US reportedly agree to rare nuclear arms control talks

The Guardian, November 2, 2023

China and the United States will reportedly discuss nuclear arms control next week, the first such talks since the Obama administration. The talks would be led on Monday by Mallory Stewart, a senior state department official, and Sun Xiaobo, the head of the arms control department at China's foreign ministry, the Wall Street Journal reported.

On Monday, China's foreign ministry said the two countries would hold "consultations on arms control and non-proliferation" in the coming days, as well as separate talks on maritime affairs and other issues. It follows a visit to Washington by the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/02/china-and-us-reportedly-agree-to-rare-nucleararms-control-talks>

China supported sanctions on North Korea's nuclear program. It's also behind their failure

Voice of America, November 3, 2023

Chinese middlemen launder the proceeds of North Korean hackers' cyber heists while Chinese ships deliver sanctioned North Korean goods to Chinese ports. Chinese companies help North Koreans workers – from cheap laborers to well-paid IT specialists – find work abroad. A Beijing art gallery even boasts of North Korean artists working 12-hour days in its heavily surveilled compound, churning out paintings of idyllic visions of life under communism that each sell for thousands of dollars. China has had a complicated relationship with Pyongyang since the 1950-53 Korean War. Though uneasy with a nuclear menace at its doorstep, China doesn't want its neighbor's government to collapse, experts say. China views North Korea as a buffer against the U.S., which maintains a significant troop presence in South Korea.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/china-supported-sanctions-on-north-korea-s-nuclear-program-it-salso-behind-their-failure/7340051.html>

Nuclear talks with China are essential and long overdue

The New York Times, November 4, 2023

After months of troubled relations, and then some tentative steps to bridge the gap between the United States and China, there is one glaring omission: American and Chinese military leaders still don't communicate with one another directly. That's important because those lines of communication are the best way to avoid the kind of misunderstandings or overreactions that can lead to actual conflict. The danger of the Chinese expansion is that the United States and Russia may each feel that they then need to expand their own arsenals to match the combined total of the other two powers.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/04/opinion/sunday/china-nuclear-weapons-russia.html>

Chinese scientists work on powerful new 'submarine killer' with eye on US far into South China Sea

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, November 4, 2023

A rocket artillery system can fire a number of rocket-propelled projectiles in quick succession. Some rudimentary versions, such as those used by Hamas against Israel, are designed to randomly rain down over a large area. More advanced models, including the M142 HIMARS in the Ukraine war, can hit precise targets with guided munitions. China is believed to have deployed a large number of long-range rocket launchers along its coastline. Some are mounted on warships. These rockets only go after surface targets, according to openly available information.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3240039/chinese-scientists-work-powerful-new-submarine-killer-eye-us-far-south-china-sea>

China's nuclear program skirts Western machine tool sanctions

Nikkei Asia, November 7, 2023

Machine tools are used to shape parts made of metal or other materials by cutting, shearing, grinding and other processes. The most sophisticated five-axis machine tools seamlessly shape complex shapes. From turbine blades in generators to aircraft impellers and automobile engine parts, the most advanced machine tools are indispensable to every industry, and are referred to as "mother machines." Manufacturers around the globe look to Japan and Germany as the two countries on the cutting edge of five-axis machining. One of these advanced machine tools at the very heart of modern manufacturing has, however, been found somewhere it should not be – inside China's nuclear development program.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Supply-Chain/China-s-nuclear-program-skirts-Western-machine-tool-sanctions>

China and the United States hold consultations on Arms Control and Nonproliferation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, November 8, 2023

Director-General of the Department of Arms Control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China Sun Xiaobo and Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification, and Compliance at the Department of State of the United States Mallory Stewart held consultations on arms control and non-proliferation in Washington D.C. The two sides had an in-depth, candid and constructive exchange of views on a wide range of issues, including the Treaty on the NonProliferation of Nuclear Weapons, cooperation among five nuclear-weapon states, nuclear security, non-proliferation and export control, compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention, and outer space security and regular arms control. The two sides emphasized that they should maintain communication and exchanges, to increase mutual trust, pool more consensus, manage differences, and explore cooperation.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/202311/t20231109_11176580.html

Expert shares details of China's telescopes for deep-space missions

CGTN, November 9, 2023

China has started the construction of two 40-meter-aperture radio telescopes in Shigatse, southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region, and Changbai Mountain, northeast China's Jilin Province, respectively. The two telescopes, developed by Shanghai Astronomical Observatory (SHAO) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, are expected to offer technical support for the country's lunar and deep-space probes in the future. Zheng Weimin, a researcher at SHAO, said that the two telescopes will further enhance the observation capability

of the very-long-baseline interferometry (VLBI) network in China.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-11-09/Expert-shares-details-of-China-s-telescopes-for-deepspace-missions-1oAgZ8IH1I2/index.html>

Near-Earth asteroid discovered by Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory assumed as the closest one yet to Earth

Global Times, November 10, 2023

The Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory of the Chinese Academy of Sciences recently discovered a second near-Earth asteroid, which astronomers said is possibly the closest near-Earth asteroid to the Earth discovered by China. The Nanshan One-meter Wide field Telescope at the Xinjiang Astronomical Observatory has recently discovered a second near-Earth asteroid and received the temporary designation for the near-Earth asteroid, 2023 VB2, from the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202311/1301584.shtml>

China's Misunderstood Nuclear Expansion

M. Taylor Fravel, Henrik Stålhane Hiim, and Magnus Langset Trøan

Foreign Affairs, November 10, 2023

Among the many issues surrounding China's ongoing military modernization, perhaps none has been more dramatic than its nuclear weapons program. For decades, the Chinese government was content to maintain a comparatively small nuclear force. As recently as 2020, China's arsenal was little changed from previous decades and amounted to some 220 weapons, around five to six percent of either the U.S. or Russian stockpiles of deployed and reserve warheads. Since then, however, China has been rapidly expanding and modernizing its arsenal. In 2020, it

began constructing three silo fields to house more than 300 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/chinas-misunderstood-nuclear-expansion>

D. Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan becomes an attractive 'nuclear' player

Euractiv, November 3, 2023

With Kazakhstan set to hold a referendum on whether to build its first nuclear power plant, the uranium-rich country is emerging as an attractive player in the field of nuclear energy and strategic minerals at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, attracting increasing international attention. Kazakhstan will hold a referendum in the near future to decide whether to build its first nuclear power plant, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said in his annual address to the Kazakh people in September. The government of Kazakhstan, which is the vastest and resource-richest Central Asian nation, has long discussed the idea, citing the need to diversify its power generation capacity, and has even identified a proposed site for the plant in the south-eastern Almaty region.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/central-asia/news/kazakhstan-becomes-an-attractive-nuclear-player/>

IAEA Team Concludes Site and External Events Design (SEED) Review in Kazakhstan

IAEA, November 6, 2023

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts has concluded a safety review of Kazakhstan's process for selecting the site of the country's planned nuclear power plant.

The Kazakhstan Ministry of Energy proposed the reintroduction of nuclear power to diversify Kazakhstan's energy mix while reducing CO2 emissions. Kazakhstan, with a population of around 19.5 million, is attempting to reduce its reliance on fossil

fuels. In May 2022, Kazakhstan chose the area in the vicinity of the Ulken village as the preferred region to construct the country's first nuclear power plant, together with the Kurchatov as a backup region, since the closure of the BN-350 fast-neutron reactor in Aktau in 1999.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-team-concludes-site-and-external-events-design-seed-review-in-kazakhstan>

E. Pakistan

Pakistan considers nuclear security as 'national responsibility'

Ary News, November 10, 2023

Pakistan regards as a "national responsibility" the safety and security of its nuclear power programme, Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN General Assembly Wednesday, while underscoring the need to remove barriers for gaining equitable and non-discriminatory access to civil nuclear cooperation.

Speaking in the 193-member Assembly on the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Vienna-based UN agency, he said Pakistan is party to several leading international instruments related to nuclear safety and security, with a rigorously enforced framework that complies with the highest global standards.

<https://arynews.tv/pakistan-considers-nuclear-security-as-national-responsibility/>

Pakistan MIRV test heats up South Asia's arms race

Asia Times, November 15, 2023

Pakistan's recent missile technology advancement, shown by the Ababeel medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM) test launch with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) capabilities, signifies a pivotal development in South Asia's strategic balance and defense capabilities.

The International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) reports that Pakistan last month conducted its second test launch of the Ababeel MRBM designed to carry MIRVs, moving a step closer to achieving the enhanced capability to penetrate India's nascent missile defenses. IISS says that the recent test at Sakhi Sarwar range in Punjab province followed the 2005 India-Pakistan agreement on pre-notification for ballistic-missile tests, which included seven Notice to Air Missions issued by Pakistan. It mentions the test was conducted to revalidate various design and technical parameters and evaluate the performance of different subsystems.

<https://asiatimes.com/2023/11/pakistan-mirv-test-heats-up-south-asias-arms-race/>

F. Europe

Why France's Emmanuel Macron is courting Central Asia

BBC, November 1, 2023

French President Emmanuel Macron is in Central Asia, on a visit that highlights the region's increasing importance to Europe's supply of nuclear and fossil fuels. The trip is partly an attempt to drum up business and foster links with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, but the key to understanding the presidential visit dates back to July. A military coup in the West African country of Niger raised the prospect that supplies to France's vital nuclear industry might be in jeopardy. In reality, the fears were overblown. Last year, Niger was only the second supplier of uranium to France. The first was the Central Asian country of Kazakhstan.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-67283849>

IAEA Mission Says Czech Republic Manages Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Safely, Encourages Preparations for Nuclear Power Expansion

IAEA, November 1, 2023

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) mission said the Czech Republic has

established a solid basis for the safe and responsible management of radioactive waste and spent fuel. The IAEA team also provided recommendations and suggestions regarding plans for a deep geological repository (DGR) and to ensure readiness for a potential expansion and prolongation of the country's nuclear power programme. The Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation (ARTEMIS) review team concluded a ten-day mission to the Czech Republic on 25 October. The mission was requested by the Government to support the Czech Republic's need to meet EU obligations for independent reviews of national frameworks and programmes for managing radioactive waste and spent fuel. It considered the findings from a recent IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) review mission.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-says-czech-republic-manages-radioactive-waste-and-spent-fuel-safely-encourages-preparations-for-nuclear-power-expansion-0>

Nuclear Industry Giants Collaborate on European Projects While Japan Expands Partnership with U.S. Reactor Designer

Power Magazine, November 1, 2023

Westinghouse Electric Company and Bechtel have together proposed a deal to supply the Czech Republic with as many as four AP1000 nuclear reactors. The proposal aims to construct one or two units at the Dukovany nuclear site and two additional units at the Temelin site. The Dukovany site currently has four Russian-designed VVER-440 nuclear units, which began operation between 1985 and 1987, with a total installed electrical capacity of 2,040 MW. Temelin, meanwhile, has two VVER-1000 units with a combined capacity of 2,180 MW. Westinghouse says it has deep ties to the Czech nuclear industry beginning in 1993 with the supply of advanced instrumentation and control systems to the Temelin plant. "Westinghouse first partnered with the Czech Republic on nuclear energy three

decades ago and we are proud and excited to be able to further honor that commitment by providing safe, reliable nuclear energy from our proven AP1000 technology,” David Durham, president of Energy Systems for Westinghouse, said in a statement.

<https://www.powermag.com/nuclear-industry-giants-collaborate-on-european-projects-while-japan-expands-partnership-with-u-s-reactor-designer/>

European Commission to create SMR Industrial Alliance

World Nuclear News, November 7, 2023

In response to calls from the nuclear industry, research community and nuclear safety regulators, the European Commission will establish an Industrial Alliance dedicated to small modular reactors (SMRs) in early 2024, European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson has announced. The Commission set up a European SMR pre-Partnership in June with the overall objective of identifying enabling conditions and constraints, including financial ones, towards safe design, construction and operation of SMRs in Europe in the next decade and beyond in compliance with the EU legislative framework in general and to the Euratom legislative framework in particular.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/European-Commission-to-create-SMR-Industrial-Allia>

European Nuclear Energy Forum 2023 discusses benefits of European Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) initiative

European Commission, November 7, 2023

European nuclear sector stakeholders have been meeting with policymakers this week for the annual European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF) in Bratislava. The event confirmed an increasing interest in nuclear technologies in some EU countries, and their potential role in meeting Europe’s decarbonisation targets and security of energy supply objectives. Alongside this meeting, the EU Commissioner for Energy

Kadri Simson took part in meetings with the European nuclear industry, nuclear safety regulators as well as Member States of the Nuclear Alliance to discuss the challenges for the establishment of an industrial alliance on small and modular reactors (SMRs) and the potential benefits.

https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/european-nuclear-energy-forum-2023-discusses-benefits-european-small-modular-reactors-smrs-2023-11-07_en

NATO Freezes Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe

VOA News, November 7, 2023

NATO has suspended operations for the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, a key Cold War era security pact, in response to Russia pulling out of the agreement. The CFE includes many of NATO’s 31 member countries and was aimed at limiting the size of Cold War rivals’ forces at or near mutual borders.

Russia formally withdrew from the treaty and blamed the United States, alleging that the U.S. undermined post-Cold War security by expanding the NATO military alliance. NATO responded by freezing operations for the agreement on Tuesday, saying it wouldn’t be feasible for the treaty to exist where allied parties abide by it and Russia does not.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/nato-freezes-treaty-on-conventional-armed-forces-in-europe-/7345262.html>

France’s clean power clout to be tested again this winter

Reuters, November 8, 2023

France’s power sector is under fresh scrutiny as maintenance on several of the country’s critical nuclear reactors continues just as Europe braces for another winter, when regional heating demand typically peaks.

Nuclear reactors generate 65% to 70% of France’s electricity, which is the highest share of nuclear generation globally and

has historically enabled France to export surplus clean power to neighbouring nations during periods of high demand.

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/frances-clean-power-clout-be-tested-again-this-winter-2023-11-08/>

IAEA Concludes International Physical Protection Advisory Follow-Up Mission in Switzerland

IAEA, November 10, 2023

The International Atomic Energy Agency concluded an International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) follow-up mission in Switzerland today. The mission, conducted from 30 October to 10 November 2023, was carried out at the request of the Swiss Government and was hosted by the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI), the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) and the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH).

The twelve-day mission concludes the cycle initiated with the IPPAS mission to Switzerland, conducted in 2018. For the first time, this IPPAS mission covered all five modules of the IPPAS programme, with a review of the security of radioactive material, associated facilities and associated activities conducted in addition to reviews of the nuclear security regime, nuclear facilities, transport and information and computer security.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-concludes-international-physical-protection-advisory-follow-up-mission-in-switzerland>

IAEA Mission Says Romania is Committed to a High Level of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, Sees Areas for Further Enhancement

IAEA, November 10, 2023

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts said Romania is committed to maintaining and strengthening its regulatory framework for

nuclear and radiation safety. The team commended the Romanian authorities for their effective preparations for the future deployment of small modular reactors (SMRs) while recommending improving the coordination amongst Government agencies concerned with radiation source facilities and activities.

The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) team concluded the twelve day mission to Romania today. The mission was conducted at the request of the Government of Romania and hosted by the National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN), the national regulatory authority for the safety and security of nuclear facilities and activities.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-says-romania-is-committed-to-a-high-level-of-nuclear-and-radiation-safety-sees-areas-for-further-enhancement>

IAEA and ICAO to enhance cooperation on transport of vital radioactive materials

IAEA, November 10, 2023

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) have agreed to enhance their cooperation around the transport of radioactive materials by air, notably to improve the efficiency and speed of these shipments that are vital for cancer care and other medical uses around the world. In a joint statement signed today, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and ICAO Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar and underscored that the agreement also “highlights the importance of adherence to the IAEA safety standards for the safe use of radioactive materials and to ICAO standards for global civil aviation safety and security.” The agreement builds on the cooperation between both UN bodies on matters of common interest that began in 1960.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-and-icao-to-enhance-cooperation-on-transport-of-vital-radioactive-materials>

Construction schedule agreed for Paks II in Hungary

World Nuclear News, November 14, 2023

Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó and Rosatom's Director General Alexei Likhachev have signed an agreement on the schedule for the construction of the Paks II nuclear power plant. Although the detail of the agreed schedule has not been released, Szijjártó (pictured, right, with Likhachev) said on his Facebook page: "We signed the Paks II schedule, based on which we will connect the new nuclear power plant to the network at the beginning of the next decade. It's been a long journey but the work is finally about construction and not paperwork."

<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Construction-schedule-agreed-for-Paks-II-in-Hungary>

Poland's answer to the climate crisis: one hundred nuclear reactors

Energy Transition, November 14, 2023

The good news is that Poland is no longer denying or ignoring the climate crisis. The bad news is that it believes the solution to eradicating its 80 percent dependency on fossil fuels – the highest in the EU – is an expansive nuclear energy program. Even the three democratic parties likely to form a new, liberal-minded coalition government, the outcome of the October 15 general election, believe that their country is going nuclear – big time and very soon – by building in total six full-size conventional reactors and as many as one hundred small modular reactors (SMR) in coming years. Paul Hockenos reports. The groundwork for an advanced pressurised water reactor (PWR) – the very first nuclear plant ever on Polish soil – has already begun.

<https://energytransition.org/2023/11/polands-answer-to-the-climate-crisis-one-hundred-nuclear-reactors/>

G. Ukraine

Update 192 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, November 3, 2023

A new team of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency crossed the frontline this week to replace their colleagues in monitoring nuclear safety and security at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), the thirteenth such mission since the IAEA last year established a permanent presence at the site to help prevent a nuclear accident during the military conflict, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said today. Also on Thursday – when the rotation of IAEA experts took place – there were Russian reports of drone attacks in the town of Enerhodar, where many plant staff live. Almost every day in recent weeks and months, the IAEA experts have continued to hear explosions some distance away from Europe's largest nuclear power plant (NPP), underlining ever-present dangers to nuclear safety and security.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-192-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

Update 193 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, November 13, 2023

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts have been informed that 21 natural gas boilers have been installed at the industrial zone nearby Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) as part of measures to provide additional heating during the winter, including for the nearby city of Enerhodar, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said today.

The IAEA Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhya (ISAMZ) team confirmed that the new gas boilers can provide an extra 57MW of heating. In addition, all nine mobile diesel boilers, located at the ZNPP, have been in operation most days to generate the heating needed as the autumn weather gets colder prior to the onset of winter for the plant and the nearby city of Enerhodar.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-193-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

H. United States of America

US, NATO Follow Russia in Dropping Out of Europe Arms Treaty

Arms Control Centre, November 7, 2023

Senior Policy Director John Erath spoke with VOA about Russian suspension of Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE). “Russia stopped implementing the CFE treaty way back around 2007,” John Erath, senior policy director at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, told VOA. “So, the implications are pretty much zero. ... The treaty has been dead for many years, and this is just further acknowledgment that it is so.” But, Erath noted, one important thing will now change: Under the treaty, signatories were required to send each other annual reports with detailed information on their conventional forces. Russia, he said, did not comply with that requirement, but was receiving the information from the other signatories.

<https://armscontrolcenter.org/us-nato-follow-russia-in-dropping-out-of-europe-arms-treaty/>

Assistant Secretary Mallory Stewart’s meeting with the People’s Republic of China’s (PRC)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General of Arms Control Sun Xiaobo

U.S. Department of State, November 7, 2023

Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance (AVC) Mallory Stewart met with PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General of Arms Control Sun Xiaobo on November 6 in Washington, D.C. The U.S. delegation included senior officials from the Departments of State, Defense, and Energy, and the National Security Council. The two sides held a candid and in-depth discussion on issues related to arms control and nonproliferation as part of ongoing efforts to maintain open lines of communication and responsibly manage the U.S.-PRC relationship.

<https://www.state.gov/assistant-secretary-mallory-stewarts-meeting-with-the-peoples-republic-of-chinas-prc-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-director-general-of-arms-control-sun-xiaobo/>

INDUS-X Investor Strategy Session Harnesses Private Capital for Start-ups

U.S. Department of Defense, November 8, 2023

Department of Defense Spokesperson Lt. Col. Martin Meiners provided the following readout: The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) today participated in the first investor strategy session of the India-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X). The session in New Delhi occurred in conjunction with the fifth U.S.-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, led by Secretary Austin, Secretary Blinken, and their counterparts. The U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) and IndUS Tech Council organized the

investor session to mobilize capital and sustain collaboration between both countries' private sectors.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3583997/indus-x-investor-strategy-session-harnesses-private-capital-for-start-ups/>

Exclusive | Biden, Xi set to pledge ban on AI in autonomous weapons like drones, nuclear warhead control: sources

South China Morning Post, November 11, 2023

In a landmark agreement set to be announced at Wednesday's much-awaited bilateral meeting, Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping are poised to pledge a ban on the use of artificial intelligence in autonomous weaponry, such as drones, and in the control and deployment of nuclear warheads, two sources familiar with the matter confirmed to the Post.

The potential dangers of AI are expected to be a major focus of the US-China discussions, taking place on the sidelines of this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco.

Both Washington and Beijing have expressed concerns over the unregulated use of this technology to fuel conflicts.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3241177/biden-xi-set-pledge-ban-ai-autonomous-weapons-drones-nuclear-warhead-control-sources>

United States-Japan-Republic of Korea Trilateral Ministerial Meeting Unilateral Press Statement

U.S. Department of Defense, November 12, 2023

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, Republic of Korea (ROK) Minister of National Defense Shin Wonsik, and Japanese Minister of Defense Kihara Minoru convened a Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on

November 12, 2023. During the meeting, the three leaders assessed regional security issues, including the growing nuclear and missile threats from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). In particular, the Secretary and the two Ministers strongly condemned the DPRK's space launch vehicle tests as they violate United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) that prohibit any launch using ballistic missile technology. The three leaders discussed ways to strengthen trilateral security cooperation to address these kinds of security challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3586406/united-states-japan-republic-of-korea-trilateral-ministerial-meeting-unilateral/>

Defense Vision of the U.S.-ROK Alliance

U.S. Department of Defense, November 13, 2023

In 1953 the United States and Republic of Korea (ROK) signed the Mutual Defense Treaty pledging to promote peace, defend against external threats, and strengthen collective defense in the Pacific region. Seventy years later, the U.S.-ROK Alliance now stands as one of the world's premier alliances. Its presence is a staple for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the Indo-Pacific region and a stalwart protector of international norms. In recognition of the changing security environment, the Alliance must adopt a forward-looking posture that is responsive to its foundational and most pressing threat – the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) – while also contributing to the security of the region and the world.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3586528/defense-vision-of-the-us-rok-alliance/>

New Uncrewed Undersea Capabilities Strengthen AUKUS Partnership

U.S. Department of Defense, November 13, 2023

The UK, US and Australia have strengthened their maritime forces, introducing new uncrewed undersea vessels to extend the range and lethality of their warfare capabilities.

As part of the AUKUS partnership, the nations have taken part in a joint exercise off the east coast of Australia to test new equipment that will increase the protection of critical underwater infrastructure. During the exercise, Australia's new Undersea Support Vessel, Australian Defence Vessel (ADV) Guidance, hosted a range of undersea capabilities while they were tested at sea.

A recent addition to the Australian fleet, the ADV Guidance's primary role is to support undersea and surveillance systems trials and includes the ability to host a small team of sailors as well as on-board and off-board systems, with both crewed and uncrewed capability.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3586592/new-uncrewed-undersea-capabilities-strengthen-aucus-partnership/>

Austin Affirms 'Ironclad' U.S. Commitment to Deterrence on Korean Peninsula

U.S. Department of Defense, November 13, 2023

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III underscored the United States' unwavering commitment to maintaining peace and security on the Korean Peninsula during talks today with South Korean Defense Minister Shin Won-sik in Seoul, South Korea. "We have been tested time and again, and we have met every challenge," Austin said. "Together, we've built one of the most robust, capable and interoperable alliances on earth. We have deterred greater conflict

on the Korean Peninsula for seven decades. If necessary, we remain ready to fight tonight." "Our extended deterrence commitment to [South Korea] remains ironclad," he said. This year's meeting comes on the heels of a commitment by President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to further bolstering the U.S.-South Korean alliance amid growing nuclear threats posed by North Korea.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3586643/austin-affirms-ironclad-us-commitment-to-deterrence-on-korean-peninsula/>

West Asia

I. Iran

Tehran criticizes IAEA double standards on Iran's nuclear program

Tehran Times, November 6, 2023

Pezhman Shirmardi emphasized the politicization of nuclear technology concerning Iran, highlighting the country's extensive cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Despite Iran's commitment to peaceful nuclear activities under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Shirmardi criticized the IAEA for imposing additional restrictions and surveillance. He pointed out the double standard in nuclear inspections, noting that Israel, a non-signatory to the NPT, faces no oversight despite possessing numerous nuclear warheads. Shirmardi questioned the lack of accountability for the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and affirmed Iran's peaceful nuclear intentions, particularly in agriculture and medicine. He called for fair treatment and the elimination of double standards in nuclear-related matters.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/491045/Tehran-criticizes-IAEA-double-standards-on-Iran-s-nuclear-program>

Iran's N. Head: Israeli Minister's Nuke Remark Substantiates Assumptions on Tel Aviv's Possession of Atomic Bombs

Fars News Agency, November 8, 2023

Iran's Atomic Energy Organization head, Mohammad Eslami, condemns Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu's nuclear threat against Gaza, deeming it an admission of nuclear weapons possession and a breach of international law. Eslami urges global condemnation and calls on the UN to take decisive action. He presses the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for measures on non-proliferation and disarmament, emphasizing a nuclear-free Middle East. President Ebrahim Rayeesi highlights Israel's danger and reaffirms Iran's commitment to Palestinian rights. Ambassador Amir Saeed Iravani urges international pressure on Israel to cooperate with the IAEA and dismantle its nuclear program. Israel's estimated 200 to 400 nuclear warheads remain a point of contention, with Iran advocating for a nuclear-weapon-free Middle East and emphasizing its peaceful nuclear pursuits.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020817000780/Iran%E2%80%99s-N-Head-Israeli-Miniser%E2%80%99s-Nke-Remark-Sbsaniaes-Assmpins-n-Tel>

Iran cautions against misrepresenting truth on peaceful nuclear program

Tehran Times, November 10, 2023

Speaking at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Iran's Permanent Ambassador, Amir Saeed Iravani, emphasized the importance of professional and impartial reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Iravani underscored the vital role of nuclear power in meeting energy needs, especially in developing countries, calling for the transfer of nuclear knowledge and technology as per NPT and IAEA statutes. He expressed concern over some states denying developing countries access to

nuclear technology while supporting Israel, which has clandestine WMD arsenals. Iravani highlighted Iran's robust cooperation with the IAEA and called for recognition of its peaceful nuclear program. He condemned the Israeli regime for threatening to use nuclear weapons against Iran and Gaza, urging international condemnation and disarmament of the Israeli regime for regional peace and security.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/491184/Iran-cautions-against-misrepresenting-truth-on-peaceful-nuclear>

Iran stresses military development in face of 'maritime and aerial threats'

Tehran Times, November 8, 2023

Major General Seyyed Yahya Safavi emphasized the imperative for Iran to enhance its technological capabilities in response to evolving global military landscapes. Identifying air and sea-based threats as key challenges, Safavi stressed the necessity of bolstering Iran's deterring power. Highlighting national cohesion and internal strength, he emphasized the importance of addressing people's livelihoods and economic concerns. Safavi underscored the strategic significance of Iran's navy, particularly in leveraging emerging maritime opportunities in the Sea of Oman and Persian Gulf. He noted recent advancements in Iran's navy, including improved surveillance capabilities, maneuverability, and reduced reliance on human resources. The general advocated for cooperation with major powers like China and Russia to confront American unilateralism, emphasizing the need for a long-term strategy to safeguard common interests. Safavi also emphasized the importance of accurately identifying enemy strategies and leveraging technology effectively in executing plans.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/491139/Iran-stresses-military-development-in-face-of-maritime-and-aerial>

Iran eyeing world leadership in military high-tech: Defense official

Tehran Times, November 13, 2023

In a ceremony commemorating martyr Hasan Tehrani-Moghadam, Iran's Minister of Defense, Farahi, highlighted the nation's newfound self-reliance, citing a contrast with the pre-revolution era when the salaries of 40,000 American advisors exceeded the Imperial Guard's budget. Emphasizing a strategic focus on future-oriented technologies for modern warfare, Farahi envisions Iran as a leading innovator in high-tech military products, aiming for global prestige and deterrence. Despite historical limitations, Iran achieved an unprecedented \$1 billion revenue in military exports last year, signaling growing influence in the international market and paving the way for continued advancements in military technology and strategic capabilities.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/491339/Iran-eyeing-world-leadership-in-military-high-tech-Defense-official>

Iran Warns Against Israeli Regime's Nuclear Weapons Threat

Fars News Agency, November 14, 2023

Amir Saeed Irvani, Iran's UN Ambassador, denounces Israeli nuclear threats at the Middle East disarmament conference, emphasizing the peril of such weapons in an illegitimate regime's hands. He highlights Israel's nuclear ambiguity as a major regional threat and calls for immediate action. Irvani proposes a declaration condemning Israeli threats, emphasizing transparency, responsible conduct, and peaceful resolutions. He urges global intervention against Israel's actions, criticizing its refusal to join the conference. Irvani offers concise suggestions for discussions on disarmament, peaceful technology access, review intervals, stakeholder involvement, and collaboration with other regional treaties. Iran remains committed to international law, ready for constructive contributions to the conference's success.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020823000558/Iran-Warns-Against-Israeli-Regime's-Nuclear-Weapons-Threa>

J. Israel

Hezbollah Claims to Have Launched "Burkan" Rocket at Israel

Israel Defense, November 5, 2023

Hezbollah claimed to have used a "Burkan" rocket against an IDF position in northern Israel, marking the first reported use of this short-range rocket by the terror organization. The IDF has not confirmed or denied the reports, stating that it is currently investigating the incident. The "Burkan" is characterized as a short-range rocket with a warhead weight ranging from 100 kg to 500 kg. Launched from pedestal launchers of mortar bombs, these rockets fall into the category of heavy rockets, designed for causing significant damage at relatively short ranges, typically up to 10 kilometers. It's crucial to distinguish the "Burkan" rocket from the "Burkan 2" ballistic missile, used by the Houthis in Yemen, which has a much longer range and is based on liquid fuel, potentially with Iranian military assistance according to Saudi Arabia.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60208>

Unit 42 Exposes 10-Month Iranian-Linked Cyberattack Saga Against Israel

Israel Defense, November 7, 2023

A series of destructive cyberattacks linked to Iran targeted Israel's education and technology sectors, as reported by Palo Alto Networks' Unit 42 research group. These attacks, ongoing since January 2023 and continuing into October 2023, aimed to steal sensitive data, including personally identifiable information and intellectual property. The attackers, identified with a strong connection to the Iranian-backed APT group Agonizing Serpents, are known for their involvement in previous

high-profile cyberattacks in Israel. The group has reportedly upgraded its capabilities and employs new wipers and tools, with the primary goal being the disruption of business continuity and the loss of data rather than financial gain.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60246>

Report: US To Extend Support to Israel with 100 Iron Dome Launchers and 14,000 Interceptors

Israel Defense, November 8, 2023

The organization Hezbollah is designated as a terrorist organization by several countries, including the United States, Israel, Canada, the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Netherlands. However, it is important to note that designations may vary among different countries and entities, and some may not consider Hezbollah a terrorist organization.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/60256>

Report: Anti-tank missile fired from Lebanon wounds 2 Israelis

I24 News, November 13, 2023

Since Monday morning, there have been over 18 mortar and rocket launches from Lebanese territory towards Israel, according to reports. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) confirmed that terrorists fired anti-tank missiles at the Netu'a community in the north, leading to Israeli artillery attacking the launch sites. Two individuals were reportedly wounded in the latest attack from Lebanon, with the IDF yet to provide official comment. Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, IDF Chief Spokesperson, announced on Sunday evening a plan to "change the security situation" in northern Israel, specifically addressing the terrorist organization Hezbollah operating in southern Lebanon. The statement followed a series of attacks that resulted in numerous injuries in the area.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/levant-turkey/1699868157-anti-tank-missile-fired-from-lebanon-causes-casualties-in-israel-report>

Israel's Defense Ministry reveals 'Arrow' interception, first time in action

I24 News, November 13, 2023

Israel's Ministry of Defense has released footage of the 'Arrow' defense system in operation for the first time. The system was deployed during the Sword of Iron conflict on October 31 in response to a rocket projectile launched by the Iran-backed Houthi government in Yemen over the Red Sea region. The Israel Missile Defense Organization, part of the Ministry of Defense's Directorate of Defense R&D, captured the operational launch in southern Israel. The Israeli Air Force's Air and Missile Defense Array successfully intercepted the designated target, as stated by the Ministry of Defense Spokesperson.

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/defense/1699864997-israel-s-mod-reveals-arrow-system-interception>

K. Syria

US hits alleged Iran-linked 'weapons storage' facility in Syria

Al Jazeera, November 9, 2023

The United States conducted a self-defense strike targeting an alleged weapons storage facility in eastern Syria, believed to be used by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Iran-backed groups. The strike, carried out by two F-15 fighters, was in response to recent attacks on US forces. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin emphasized the priority of ensuring the safety of US personnel and interests. Tensions have escalated since the Israel-Hamas war, with US troops and allies facing approximately 40 attacks by Iran-backed forces in Iraq and Syria. Austin called for an end to these attacks and stated that the US is prepared to take further measures to protect its people and facilities. The strikes are unrelated to the Israel-Hamas conflict, and the US aims to prevent a regional escalation of

the crisis. Iran supports both Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/9/us-hits-alleged-iran-linked-weapons-storage-facility-in-syria>

L. East Asia

Shin Hanul Provides First Step in South Korea's Nuclear Renaissance

Power Magazine, November 1, 2023

Government officials have reversed the country's planned phase-out of nuclear power and are now making commitments to deploy domestic reactor technology across the country and abroad. South Korean officials have said nuclear power is key to supplying electricity for the country's future energy demand. Officials in July of this year, at a meeting of South Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy (MOTIE), said, "recent mid- to long-term changes in power supply and demand conditions" highlight the need for more nuclear power and renewable energy generation. The agency noted power demand is increasing across several sectors, including for charging electric vehicles, supplying electricity for data centers, and to spur more investment in high-tech industries including semiconductor and battery manufacturing – both major sectors in South Korea.

<https://www.powermag.com/shin-hanul-provides-first-step-in-south-koreas-nuclear-renaissance/>

IAEA Confirms Third Batch of ALPS Treated Water Released Today Has Tritium Level Far Below Japan's Operational Limit

IAEA, November 2, 2023

The tritium concentration in the third batch of diluted ALPS treated water, which Japan's Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) started discharging today, is far below the country's operational limit, International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) experts present at the site confirmed. IAEA experts stationed at the IAEA Fukushima NPS Office took samples from the third batch of diluted water on 30 October, after it was prepared for discharge. Using Agency equipment, the IAEA's independent on-site analysis confirmed that the tritium concentration in the diluted water that is being discharged is far below the operational limit of 1,500 becquerels per litre. Japan is discharging the ALPS treated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS) in batches.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-confirms-third-batch-of-alps-treated-water-released-today-has-tritium-level-far-below-japans-operational-limit>

China supported sanctions on North Korea's nuclear program. It's also behind their failure

AP News, November 3, 2023

Chinese middlemen launder the proceeds of North Korean hackers' cyber heists while Chinese ships deliver sanctioned North Korean goods to Chinese ports. Chinese companies help North Koreans workers – from cheap laborers to well-paid IT specialists – find work abroad. A Beijing art gallery even boasts of North Korean artists working 12-hour days in its heavily surveilled compound, churning out paintings of idyllic visions of life under communism that each sell for thousands of dollars. That's all part of what international authorities say is a growing mountain of evidence that shows Beijing is helping cash-strapped North Korea evade a broad range of international sanctions designed to hamper Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, according to an Associated Press review of United Nations reports, court records and interviews with experts.

<https://apnews.com/article/china-north-korea-sanctions-6e69cd6c0c17fba261f62ea8e5bc25c5>

Following China's seafood ban, Japanese consumers 'not worried' eating more Fukushima fish

South China Morning Post, November 3, 2023

Local fishing communities feared the worst when the wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant began discharging treated radioactive waste water into the sea.

Instead of a business calamity, however, consumers from across the nation have supported the region by eating more fish. Besides boosting a fragile industry, the demand has helped mitigate the impact of China's ban on Japanese seafood, though there are worries about the future of the water release.

"So far, I haven't heard anyone raising safety concerns over the treated water release. I'd say zero," Kazuto Harada, who works at Marufuto Fish Store near the Onahama Port in Fukushima, said as he stood by a tank of lobsters caught nearby. "I'm half surprised, and half relieved."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/3240184/following-chinas-seafood-ban-japanese-consumers-not-worried-eating-more-fukushima-fish>

China Supported Sanctions on North Korea's Nuclear Program. It's Also Behind Their Failure

VOA News, November 3, 2023

Chinese middlemen launder the proceeds of North Korean hackers' cyber heists while Chinese ships deliver sanctioned North Korean goods to Chinese ports.

Chinese companies help North Koreans workers – from cheap laborers to well-paid IT specialists – find work abroad. A Beijing art gallery even boasts of North Korean artists working 12-hour days in its heavily surveilled compound, churning

out paintings of idyllic visions of life under communism that each sell for thousands of dollars.

That's all part of what international authorities say is a growing mountain of evidence that shows Beijing is helping cash-strapped North Korea evade a broad range of international sanctions designed to hamper Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program, according to an Associated Press review of United Nations reports, court records and interviews with experts.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/china-supported-sanctions-on-north-korea-s-nuclear-program-it-s-also-behind-their-failure/7340051.html>

North Korea's Nuclear Buildup Means Mutually Assured Destruction, Not Coercion

The Diplomat, November 6, 2023

In 2017, North Korea conducted a very large, possibly thermonuclear, test explosion and proved it could build long-range ballistic missiles. Unfortunately, Kim Jong Un did not stop there. Since then his government has demonstrated an interest in submarine-launched ballistic missiles, hypersonic glide vehicles, solid-fuel rocket motors, and tactical nuclear weapons. Many observers worry that Kim intends to use this expanding and versatile nuclear arsenal not just to deter South Korea or its treaty ally, the United States, from attacking North Korea, but for coercion or "nuclear blackmail."

This blackmail might take one of two possible forms. First, Pyongyang might use its nuclear weapons to keep the United States from intervening to help South Korea fight off a North Korean conventional military attack.

<https://thediplomat.com/2023/11/north-koreas-nuclear-buildup-means-mutually-assured-destruction-not-coercion/>

Malaysia wants its views on Fukushima waste water release heard – but won't ban Japanese seafood

South China Morning Post, November 6, 2023

Malaysia will continue to import seafood from Japan, but it wants its views on the release of waste water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant taken into account. Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who held talks with his Japanese counterpart near Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, said Malaysia was satisfied with a report from the International Atomic Energy Agency – the UN's nuclear safety watchdog – on the waste water release.

But he said he hoped that Tokyo would also bear in mind the views of other countries in the region, including Malaysia. "While Japan has given its assurance that the release would have a negligible radiological impact on people and the environment, I have expressed my hope to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for Japan to continue to take in the views and concerns we have expressed," Anwar said in a joint statement on Sunday.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/3240445/malaysia-wants-its-views-fukushima-waste-water-release-heard-wont-ban-japanese-seafood>

How Japan became the land the energy transition forgot

The Japan Times, November 6, 2023

After a tsunami triggered a meltdown at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant in 2011, the world's third- and fourth-largest exporters decided on radical changes to their energy policies. Both agreed that a break was needed from the grids of the past. In every other way, the approaches couldn't have been more different.

Japan shut down its nuclear sector almost immediately and made up most of the difference by burning more coal. Germany announced a slower nuclear phaseout, along with support for the nascent wind

and solar industries. Twelve years later, the differences are stark.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/commentary/2023/11/06/japan/japan-renewable-energy-transition-slow/>

Could Russia provide an end to North Korea's strategic solitude?

East Asia Forum, November 8, 2023

From 12–17 September 2023, North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un made an official visit to the Russian Far East. Compared to his first trip, which took place from 24–26 April 2019, the voyage was both longer and more extensive. Kim's itinerary left little doubt that a major focus of his visit was to promote military and technological links with Russia. Kim held a one-day summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Vostochny. The Russian host gave his North Korean guest a tour of the spaceport, highlighting Russia's main rockets, Soyuz and Angara. Kim then proceeded to an aviation centre in Komsomolsk-on-Amur where some of Russia's most advanced warplanes are manufactured.

<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2023/11/08/could-russia-provide-an-end-to-north-koreas-strategic-solitude/>

Blinken Slams 'Growing, Dangerous' Russia-North Korea Military Ties

VOA News, November 9, 2023

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken condemned what he said was the "growing and dangerous" military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, following reports that Pyongyang is supplying weapons for Moscow's war in Ukraine.

"This is a matter of deep concern for both of us, as well as for other countries around the world," Blinken said at a press conference in Seoul after meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin.

South Korea's top spy agency believes North Korea has sent more than a million artillery shells to Moscow since the beginning of August – which it says amounts to roughly two months' worth of supply for Russia's war.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/blinken-slams-growing-dangerous-russia-north-korea-military-ties/7347959.html>

U.S. and South Korea condemn North Korean arms transfers to Russia

The Japan Times, November 9, 2023

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday condemned North Korea for sending arms to help the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as he held meetings with top officials in key ally South Korea.

The United States, South Korea and Japan have in recent weeks repeatedly criticized Pyongyang for helping Russia pursue its military campaign in Ukraine, with Seoul saying North Korea has sent a million artillery rounds.

Blinken is in Seoul following a G7 foreign ministers' meeting in Japan. He met with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in Seoul on Thursday.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/11/09/world/politics/us-south-korea-north-arms-russia/>

US, South Korea revise deterrence strategy over North Korea's nuclear threat

WION, November 13, 2023

South Korea and the United States during talks on Monday revised a bilateral security agreement aimed at deterring North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile threats, South Korea's defence ministry said. The Tailored Deterrence Strategy (TDS) is aimed at countering North Korea's nuclear weapons and other arms, according to an announcement on the agreement by the two countries 10 years ago. South Korea's Defence Minister Shin Won-sik and his U.S. counterpart,

Lloyd Austin, signed the updated agreement at the security talks in Seoul, the ministry said. The revision was considered necessary because the existing strategy did not adequately address rapid advancements in North Korea's missile and nuclear programs, it said.

<https://www.wionews.com/world/us-south-korea-revise-deterrence-strategy-over-north-koreas-nuclear-threat-657967>

IAEA Collaborating Centre in Malaysia Supports Sustainable Agriculture and Industrial Development in Southeast Asia

IAEA, November 13, 2023

Malaysia has long been a regional leader in using nuclear applications to advance sustainable development both nationally and throughout Southeast Asia. Building on decades of cooperation, the IAEA has extended the designation of the Malaysia Nuclear Agency (MNA) as an IAEA Collaborating Centre in three research areas: plant breeding, non-destructive testing and radiation processing of polymers.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-collaborating-centre-in-malaysia-supports-sustainable-agriculture-and-industrial-development-in-southeast-asia>

South Korea and members of the US-led UN command warn North Korea over its nuclear threat

AP News, November 14, 2023

Senior defense officials from South Korea, the United States and other nations on Tuesday warned North Korea over its nuclear ambitions and threats, vowing an unspecified collective response to any war-like aggression by the North toward its rival.

Their joint statement came after a meeting in Seoul involving U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, South Korean Defense Minister Shin Won-sik and officials from 16 other

countries under the U.S.-led United Nations Command, which provided combat or medical forces in support of the South during the 1950-53 Korean War.

The meeting came a day after Austin and Shin held annual defense talks where the allies updated a bilateral security agreement with the aim of more effectively countering North Korea's evolving nuclear and missile threats.

<https://apnews.com/article/north-korea-south-korea-un-command-nuclear-3b7370b0c69967d41c7c604c9557ef85>

Oceania

M. Australia

Indonesian ambassador warns Australia Aukus pact must not fuel a hypersonic arms race

The Guardian, November 2, 2023

Indonesia's ambassador to Australia has raised new concerns about the sharing of advanced weapons technology under the Aukus security agreement, warning that it must not fuel a hypersonic arms race in the region. In an interview with Guardian Australia, Siswo Pramono said the two countries were "not in quarrel" and remained in close talks about how to ensure the safety of Australia's plans to acquire at least eight nuclear-powered submarines.

But Pramono raised broader concerns about more recent plans by Australia, the US and the UK to cooperate on weapons that can travel at least five times the speed of sound.

"The concern is about the hypersonic arms race, because it's clearly in the program - you're talking about hypersonic weapons," he said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/nov/03/indonesian-ambassador-warns-australia-aukus-pact-must-not-fuel-a-hypersonic-arms-race-in-the-region>

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).

Disclaimer:

Data included in this newsletter is only for educational purpose and wider dissemination. All liabilities and rights belong to respective writers & authors.

Prepared by :

Mr. Kushal Agrawal

Mr. Niranjana Oak

Mr. Aasi Ansari

Indian Pugwash Society

No.1, Development Enclave,
Rao Tula Ram Marg, Near USI, Delhi-110010
Tel. No (91-11) 2671-7983
Fax No. (91-11)2615-4192
Email: indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com