

Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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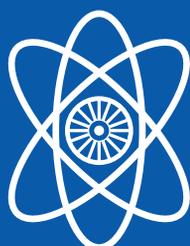
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EAST ASIA

(3rd LD) Lee rebukes officials for mishandling military pact with Japan
Yohanap, July 02, 2012

SEOUL, July 2 (Yonhap) -- South Korean President Lee Myung-bak on Monday rebuked officials for mishandling a landmark military pact with Japan but made clear the agreement is still necessary as it is in the country's national interest.

It was the first time that Lee has spoken about the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) with Tokyo since criticism rose sharply following revelations the Cabinet covertly passed the sensitive pact with the former colonial ruler.

"This is a pact that we have already concluded with 24 nations, including Russia, and we need to secure one with China as well. This was not a matter that should be handled without collecting public views sufficiently," Lee said during a meeting with senior secretaries.

"The contents of the pact should be disclosed and explained to the people in detail so that there won't be any misunderstanding," Lee was quoted as saying by presidential spokesman Park Jeong-ha....

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2012/07/02/41/0301000000AEN20120702005700315F.HTML>

Phl, US start joint naval exercise

philstar.com, July 02, 2012

MANILA, Philippines (Xinhua) - The Philippines and the US formally opened a nine-day joint naval exercise in the southern Philippine city of General Santos today, according to army official.

Armed Forces Eastern Mindanao Command Chief Lt. Gen. Jorge Segovia and US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Tomas led the formal opening of the annual training exercise more known as Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT). Philippine and US Navy and Coast Guard personnel will participate in CARAT.

Armed Forces Spokesman Col. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos said the exercise will test the personnel and the naval assets' operational readiness of both countries and improve Philippine naval defense.

The US Navy is employing USS Vandergrift and USNS Safeguard, a P3C Orion surveillance plane and a SH-60B helicopter and 350 men for the exercise. The US Coast Guard has brought in USCG Waesche and 150 personnel.

<http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=823380&publicationSubCategoryId=200>

China's Hawks in Command

By WILLY LAM, Wall Street Journal, July 1, 2012

Gen. Zhang Zhaozhong denounced American-trained foreign policy experts as 'traitors.'

The Chinese Communist Party has begun to pursue a more aggressive foreign policy over the past few years. To some extent this is to be expected as the country's economic and military clout grows substantially. But a key factor has so far been overlooked: The unprecedented influence of People's Liberation Army generals in the formulation of foreign policy.

Military officers in most countries are not allowed to speak in public about their countries' foreign or security policies. This was also true in China under former leaders Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin, as well as the first five-year term of current General Secretary Hu Jintao. Since 2010, however, PLA hawks have been making belligerent statements in the official media.

This trend grew more pronounced late last year when Rear Admiral Yang Yi urged the abandonment of Deng's diplomatic dictum to "keep a low profile and never take the lead." "It's no longer possible for China to keep a low profile," he said. "When any country infringes upon our nation's security and interests, we must stage a resolute self-defense," he said. By "resolute self defense," Admiral Yang says he means a "quick, low-cost and effective counter-attack."

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304211804577500521756902802.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Kim Jong-il sought 'huge nuclear arsenal'

Mark Willacy, ABC News, July 03, 2012

North Korean documents have revealed that late dictator Kim Jong-il ordered his scientists to produce "a massive amount" of nuclear bombs. The documents were compiled for North Korea's ruling Workers Party and were revealed by newspapers in Japan.

One of the documents, which detailed domestic and foreign policies, shows an order from Mr Jong-il that demands the production of a massive amount of nuclear weapons using both uranium and plutonium.

Pyongyang has repeatedly maintained that its uranium enrichment program is designed solely for the purpose of power generation. But one of the documents refers to spot inspections of uranium-enrichment facilities carried out by US experts in November 2010, which followed plutonium bomb tests in 2006 and 2009. "US and other hostile forces were complaining we are trying to produce uranium to make nuclear weapons," the document said, the Mainichi reported under a Beijing dateline.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-07-02/kim-jong-il-ordered-massive-amounts-of-nuclear-bombs/4105602>

Moscow supports Kim Jong-un

By Leonid Petrov, Korea Times, July 02, 2012

Russia claims it is willing to link divided Korea with energy pipelines and electricity grids. But its economic relations with North Korea indicate a return to the Cold War politics of the past.

In 1948, Stalin sponsored the creation of the DPRK in the northern half of the Korean Peninsula. The following year, Prime Minister Kim Il-sung travelled to Moscow to collect a 2 percent interest loan of 212 million Soviet roubles. Some of this money was allocated to build the centrally-planned economy, but much of the funding was used to fuel the war effort against South Korea between 1950 and 1953. After the end of the disastrous Korean War, the Soviet Union continued to help the North with the rebuilding of its cities, industry and infrastructure.

Even during the Sino-Soviet ideological split in the 1960s and '70s, Moscow tried to curry favor with Pyongyang throughout its confrontation with Beijing. As a bastion of communism in the Far East that directly faced U.S. troops on the Korean Peninsula, North Korea successfully managed to squeeze money from both of its allies during the Cold War. But when the iron curtain fell in the early 1990s, the Democrats in Moscow swiftly recognized Seoul and demanded the payment of debts from Pyongyang.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2012/07/198_114271.html

1st Japan reactor goes online since nuclear crisis

Associate Press, July 01, 2012

TOKYO: Dozens of protesters shouted and danced at the gate of a nuclear power plant set to restart on Sunday, the first to go back online since all of Japan's reactors were shut down for safety checks following the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Ohi nuclear plant's reactor No. 3 is returning to operation despite a deep divide in public opinion. Last month, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda ordered the restarts of reactors No. 3 and nearby No. 4, saying people's living standards can't be maintained without nuclear energy. Many citizens are against a return to nuclear power because of safety fears after Fukushima.

Crowds of tens of thousands of people have gathered on Friday evenings around Noda's official residence, chanting, "Saikado hantai," or "No to nuclear restarts." Protests drawing such numbers are extremely rare in this nation, reputed for orderly docility and conformity. A demonstration in Tokyo protesting the restart and demanding Noda resign was being organized in a major park on Sunday...

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-07-01/south-asia/32494679_1_ohi-plant-fukushima-nuclear-power

MIDDLE EAST

Turkey weighs options for dealing with Syria

By Justin Vela, Washington Post, July 2, 2012

ISTANBUL — When Syrian forces shot down a Turkish reconnaissance jet last month, Turkey vowed to take “necessary steps” and its prime minister declared Syria a “clear and present danger.” Turkey reinforced its 550-mile-long border with Syria and declared new rules of engagement at the frontier. News media began running images of tanks, long-range weapons and troops being sent to the border.

The incident underscored the deteriorating relationship between the two neighbors as Syria's internal conflict threatens to spill over its borders. But while Turkey has made clear that it wants Syrian President Bashar al-Assad gone, analysts say that Ankara is still a long way from turning angry rhetoric into action.

“There is little risk of a direct unilateral intervention,” said Sinan Ulgen, chairman of the Center for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM) think tank in Istanbul. “The risk is more of a cross-border conflict or individual incidents.”

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/turkey-weighs-options-for-dealing-with-syria/2012/07/01/gJQAaT7gGW_story.html

Iran plans war games as EU oil embargo begins

By Ramin Mostaghim, Los Angeles Times, July 2, 2012

TEHRAN — As a European Union oil embargo took effect, a defiant Iran said Sunday that it was beginning a new round of war games that would involve firing missiles at models of foreign air bases. The war games are an example of how Iranian leaders are projecting an image of strength at a time when the country's sanctions-battered economy is in a downward spiral. Iran also is facing the possibility of attack because of its nuclear program, and its major Arab ally, Syrian President Bashar Assad, is struggling to put down an armed rebellion.

During the war games, missiles will be fired from different points across the country at 100 designated targets, the semiofficial Mehr news agency quoted Brig. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh as saying during a news conference. All the missiles are produced in Iran, said Hajizadeh, who heads the Republican Guard aerospace unit. The three-day exercise, called the Great Prophet 7, is designed “to allow experts to assess the precision and efficiency of warheads and missile systems,” the agency reported. Unmanned aircraft will also carry out operations during the maneuvers, the general said.

The targets will be sites made to appear like bases “of the extra-regional powers,” all situated in the desert of Semnan province in north-central Iran, the general said.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-iran-embargo-war-games-20120702,0,6309815.story>

Syria Transition Plan Falters

By SAMDAGHER, Reuters, July 1, 2012

BEIRUT—A plan by world powers for a Syrian political transition appeared doomed Sunday, with Bashar al-Assad's regime interpreting the outcome as a fresh lifeline from Russia—its principal international backer—while the lack of any reference in the plan to Mr. Assad's departure from office angered the Syrian opposition.

With no sign of any commitment by Syria's warring sides to embrace the transition plan outlined in Geneva on Saturday, many warned that violence could worsen even beyond the levels seen in June, which is now believed to have been the bloodiest month in the Syrian conflict.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a U.K.-based opposition group, nearly 4,000 people, including members of the security forces, have been killed since May 26. The group said at least 76 people were killed Sunday, with nearly half the casualties resulting from clashes between rebels and government forces on the outskirts of the capital, Damascus, and in the eastern province of Deir El-Zour on the Iraq border.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304211804577500253326167014.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Managing the relationship with Egypt

By Michele Dunne, Washington Post Published: July 2

“On the basis of mutual respect” was how the White House characterized President Obama's pledge to work with Egypt's newly sworn-in president, Mohammed Morsi, in a phone call congratulating Morsi upon his election last month. It was a well-chosen phrase, one that undoubtedly resonated with Morsi and others in the Muslim Brotherhood, who have long chafed at the patron-client relationship they believe former president Hosni Mubarak cultivated with the United States.

Morsi, however, is by no means the only player with whom the United States will deal. Military leaders, who have run the country since Mubarak was ousted in February 2011, will yield only partial executive power to Morsi and have reclaimed legislative power after dissolving the country's first freely elected parliament.

So how does the United States deal “on the basis of mutual respect” with this unwieldy new Egyptian government amid a power struggle between a hobbled Islamist president and military leaders determined to retain control at least until there is a new constitution that protects military interests?

Showing respect to Egyptians will mean showing willingness to rebalance the U.S.-Egyptian relationship toward the free trade and investment ...

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/managing-the-us-relationship-with-egypt/2012/07/01/gJQA6PbqGW_story.html

Battle Rial

BY MARK DUBOWITZ, Foreign Policy, June 28, 2012

Sanctions are convulsing Iran. In the past seven months, the Western turn from targeted sanctions to broader economic warfare has presented the Iranian regime with perhaps its greatest economic challenge since the Iran-Iraq War.

A looming European Union oil embargo, which goes into effect on July 1, along with additional U.S. pressure on Iran's customers to reduce their oil purchases, will make matters worse for Iran's leaders. The situation is already dire: Iran suffers from hyperinflation, stagnant growth, and a crumbling currency. And oil revenues, which constitute 80 percent of Iran's export earnings and half its government budget, have already dropped almost 40 percent, year over year.

Yet, sanctions have so far failed to achieve their intended objective of forcing Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and his Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to agree to halt their nuclear weapons program.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/06/28/battle_rial

Iran to review Seoul ties if oil imports suspended

Reuters, June 29, 2012

DUBAI -- Iranian Oil Minister Rostam Qasemi warned South Korea on Thursday that Tehran would reconsider ties with Seoul if the country stopped importing oil from Iran, the official IRNA news agency reported. South Korea said on Monday it would halt imports of Iranian crude from July 1 due to a European Union ban on insuring tankers carrying Iranian oil, becoming the first major Asian consumer of Iranian crude to announce suspension of imports.

"If South Korea completely halts imports of Iranian oil, there will be reconsideration in ties with this country," Qasemi said according to IRNA, without elaborating. The insurance ban makes it almost impossible to ship Iranian oil as most insurance is undertaken by EU-based companies. The move is aimed at putting pressure on Iran to halt what the United States and other western countries fear is a nuclear weapons programme.

Tehran denies the charge, saying its peaceful nuclear programme is aimed at generating electricity.

EU governments on Monday approved an embargo on Iranian oil to start on July 1 and warned Iran that more pressure could be put in place if it continued to defy international demands for limits on its uranium enrichment activities.

http://ajw.asahi.com/article/asia/korean_peninsula/AJ201206290094

Iran FM says Tehran wants 'win-win' outcome from nuclear talks

Associated Press, July 2, 2012

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran wants a “win-win” outcome in its talks with world powers over Tehran's disputed nuclear program, the country's foreign minister said Monday, warning that the only other choice is confrontation.

Three rounds of nuclear negotiations between Iran and six world powers have failed to produce a breakthrough. A low-level meeting of technical experts is scheduled for Tuesday in Istanbul to see whether there is enough common ground to return to full-fledged talks.

“We want to see a win-win outcome,” Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi told the semiofficial ISNA news agency on the eve of the discussions in Turkey. “In the talks, the other side has no choice but to find an agreement, otherwise confrontation will be the alternative. I don't think that common sense is looking for a confrontation.”

Iran is locked in a tense standoff with the West over Tehran's nuclear program, which the Islamic Republic insists is purely for civilian purposes, such as producing energy and medical isotopes.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/iran-fm-says-tehran-wants-win-win-outcome-from-nuclear-talks/2012/07/02/gJQAN4c3HW_story.html

SOUTH ASIA

Crippled, Chaotic Pakistan

Editorial, Washington Post, July 1, 2012

For years, Pakistan has ignored the Obama administration's pleas to crack down on militants who cross from Pakistan to attack American forces in Afghanistan. Recent cross-border raids by Taliban militants who kill Pakistani soldiers should give Islamabad a reason to take that complaint more seriously.

Last week, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Pakistan's army chief of staff, raised the issue in a meeting with Gen. John Allen, the commander of American and NATO forces in Afghanistan. He demanded that NATO go after the militants on the Afghan side of the border, according to Pakistani news reports. General Allen demanded that Pakistan act against Afghan militants given safe haven by its security services, especially the Haqqani network, which is responsible for some of the worst attacks in Kabul.

Fighting extremists should be grounds for common cause, but there is no sign that Pakistan's military leaders get it. They see the need to confront the virulent Afghan-based insurgency that threatens their own country and has killed thousands of Pakistani soldiers and civilians. But they refuse to cut ties with the Haqqanis and other militants, who give ...

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/02/opinion/crippled-chaotic-pakistan.html?_r=3

Top US commander, Pak army chief discuss NATO supply routes

Press Trust of India, July 2, 2012

The US commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan arrived in Islamabad soon after Secretary of State Hillary Clinton spoke on phone with Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf on Sunday, triggering speculation that Pakistan was set to end a six-month blockade of NATO supply lines.

Gen John Allen, commander of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, met Pakistan Army chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani in the garrison city of Rawalpindi. He discussed the reopening of NATO supply routes and the situation along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border with Kayani, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

Allen is also expected to meet other senior Pakistani civil and military officials. This is his second visit to Islamabad in a week. The ISAF commander arrived in Pakistan shortly after Clinton telephoned Prime Minister Ashraf and expressed the hope that relations between the US and Pakistan would improve during his tenure.

http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report_top-us-commander-pak-army-chief-discuss-nato-supply-routes_1709307

Musharraf does not rule out fresh military takeover in Pakistan

Press Trust of India, July 2, 2012

LONDON: Claiming that Pakistan was being run to the ground, the country's former military ruler Pervez Musharraf has not ruled out a fresh military takeover of the nation. "The state is being run to the ground at the moment, and people are again running to the military to save the country," Musharraf told a gathering in Aspen in Colorado in the US.

While he maintained that Pakistan's constitution was "sacrosanct", the former dictator also questioned: "Should we save the country, and do something unconstitutional or uphold the constitution of the country, and let the state go down?" The comments from the former general, who still retains close ties to the military back home, came as Pakistan is in throes of a political crisis with friction between the executive, judiciary and the military.

Vowing to return home on his "own accord", Musharraf shrugged off calls in his country for Interpol to arrest him saying he was prepared to risk arrest by returning for elections, which he claimed would be held this year.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/Musharraf-does-not-rule-out-fresh-military-takeover-in-Pakistan/articleshow/14603337.cms>

Sanctions waiver smooths way for US-India talks

Associated Press, June 13, 2012

Washington: The United States is holding high-level talks on Wednesday aimed at boosting relations with India, a critical partner for US interests in Asia. But even as one obstacle to closer relations has been lifted, others stand in the way.

The threat of US sanctions against India for its large yet declining oil imports from Iran was lifted two days before Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's meeting with

foreign minister, SM Krishna, for an annual strategic dialogue in Washington.

But differences remain, particularly over India's reluctance to undertake economic reforms. Despite the fast growth in trade between the two countries, barriers to investment still frustrate US companies.

President Barack Obama visited India in late 2010 and declared that the US-India relationship would be a defining partnership of the 21st century. Both nations are concerned about managing China's rise, and security cooperation and defence sales have grown rapidly. Washington looks to New Delhi as a partner in the economic development of Afghanistan and wants India to play a more active role in training Afghan security forces as the U.S. and its NATO allies plan to withdraw combat forces by 2014.

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/sanctions-waiver-smooths-way-for-us-india-talks-230731>

US, India see progress with nuclear deal

Bangkok Post, June 14, 2012

The United States and India sought to dispel doubts over their relationship as a US company signed a deal on nuclear power, long a source of disappointment between the countries. US-based Westinghouse Electric Co. has announced it is signing a preliminary deal with the state-run Nuclear Power Co. of India to build the first US nuclear reactors in the South Asian nation.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who once called US affection for India an "affair of the heart," said that the world's two largest democracies had entered a "new and more mature phase" in their partnership.

"With respect to affairs of the heart, they usually have ups and downs, but that does not make them any less heartfelt or any less of a commitment," Clinton said as she held annual talks with India. "There is less need today for the dramatic breakthroughs that marked earlier phases, but more need for steady, focused cooperation," Clinton said as she met with Indian Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna and other senior officials.

But the deal that was arguably the most dramatic of the past breakthroughs between India and the United States -- a 2008 agreement on nuclear power -- has increasingly been cited as proof that the US-India relationship has not lived up to its potential.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/298017/us-india-see-progress-with-nuclear-deal>

South Asia's Fragile Nuclear Balance

A. Vinod Kumar, The National Interest, June 27, 2012

Pakistan has used an unusual event—the inauguration of its naval strategic-forces command (NSFC) headquarters—to declare that it now possesses a sea-based nuclear-second-strike capability. A press release from Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations last month said that the opening of its headquarters marked the formal establishment of

the new NSFC branch.

It further explained that "HQ NFSC will perform a pivotal role in the development and employment of the Naval Strategic Force . . . which is the custodian of the nation's 2nd strike capability." But the release leaves room for speculation on whether the sea-based second-strike capability to be commanded by NSFC already exists or whether it will emerge with the naval strategic force.

While Pakistan said in 2006 that it had shared its nuclear assets among its three military wings, its naval strategic force is considered to be rudimentary, with a limited fleet of Agosta submarines, and it's unclear whether it has developed and deployed the naval variant of the Babur cruise missile, with a reported range of around 430 miles.

<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/the-fragile-nuclear-balance-south-asia-7045>

EUROPE/CENTRAL ASIA

Uzbekistan withdraws from Russia-lead military alliance

By James Kilner, Almaty, July 02, 2012

Strategically located on the southern fringe of Central Asia, Uzbekistan is an important but controversial partner for the West, which needs its support to withdraw military kit from neighbouring Afghanistan from 2014.

The Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) didn't give any official reasons for Uzbekistan's withdrawal from the alliance when it announced the news in Moscow last Thursday but analysts and commentators were quick to describe it as a move towards the US.

"The United States will make Uzbekistan its strategic ally, will provide financial and military assistance, assume some security guarantees, close its eyes to human rights violations," the Russian newspaper Kommersant quoted Vadim Kozyulin, an analyst for the Moscow-based think tank PIR-Center, as saying.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/uzbekistan/9369392/Uzbekistan-withdraws-from-Russia-lead-military-alliance.html>

'US missile defence plans hinder new arms cuts'

June 30, 2012, Zee News

Washington: Russia will not start a new round of talks on further arms reductions until Washington changes its stance on the global deployment of US missile defences, especially in Europe, a senior Russian diplomat said. US officials have repeatedly urged Russia to continue discussions on arms cuts, including in conventional weapons, following the ratification of a new strategic arms reduction treaty (New START) in 2011.

"Our position is that in order to move forward (in nuclear and conventional arms cuts) we should implement the existing agreements (especially in the framework of the New

START treaty)," Grigory Berdennikov, the Russian envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Friday. "But how are we supposed to move forward if the United States refuses to curb its missile defenses?" he said.

The missile defense issue has become a major stumbling block in the announced "reset" of relations between Moscow and Washington. Russia has staunch opposition to the planned deployment of US missile defense systems near its borders, claiming they would be a security threat. The US and NATO insist that the so-called "missile shield" would defend NATO members against missiles from North Korea and Iran and would not be directed at Russia.

http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/us-missile-defence-plans-hinder-new-arms-cuts_784708.html

NON-PROLIFERATION/ARMS CONTROL

Arms trade treaty negotiations begin, Syria casts shadow

By Louis Charbonneau, Reuters, July 3 2012

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Delegates from around the world gathered in New York on Monday for the start of month-long U.N.-hosted negotiations to hammer out the first binding treaty to regulate the global weapons market, valued at more than \$60 billion a year.

But in a foreshadowing of the kinds of difficulties that may dog the July 2-27 negotiations, a dispute over the status of the Palestinian delegation delayed the official start of the talks, U.N. diplomats said.

Arms control campaigners say one person every minute dies as a result of armed violence around the world and that a convention is needed to prevent illicitly traded guns from pouring into conflict zones and fueling wars and atrocities. Most U.N. member states favor a strong treaty.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/07/02/arms-treaty-syria-un-idINDEE8610H620120702>

NATO to Provide \$1Bln for Missile Defense Infrastructure

RIA Novosti, July 4

NATO members have pledged to provide more than \$1 billion to ensure the operation of the European missile defense system, Frank A. Rose, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, said on Tuesday.

"At the Lisbon summit, NATO heads of state and government also decided to expand the scope of the NATO Active Layered Theater Ballistic Missile Defense (ALTBMD) program to serve as the command, control, and communications network to support this new capability," Rose said at the 8th International Conference on Missile Defense in Paris on

Tuesday.

“NATO allies have committed to investing over \$1 billion for command, control, and communications infrastructure to support NATO missile defense,” he said. Russia and NATO agreed to cooperate on the so-called European missile defense system at the Lisbon summit in November 2010. NATO insists there should be two independent systems that exchange information, while Russia favors a joint system with full-scale interoperability.

http://en.ria.ru/military_news/20120704/174391418.html

Moving the Prague Agenda Forward Arms Control Association Annual Meeting

Remarks, Rose Gottemoeller, Acting Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, Washington, DC, June 4, 2012

Thank you for the kind introduction, Daryl. I like to joke that I now have the longest title in Washington. I am glad to be here at the Arms Control Association for its Annual Meeting. The agenda that President Obama laid out in Prague will require patience, persistence and a lot of work, so we are so grateful for the efforts of this organization and the efforts of everyone here today. Together we will keep this agenda moving forward.

I know many of you have heard me speak at least a few times since I joined the Administration. I don't want to sing the same old song today or list the standard metaphors about setting a stage, building a foundation or taking the first steps. In the simplest terms, what I would like to make clear is that the President set an agenda in Prague and we have made progress, achieving some great successes along the way.

We are approaching the lowest levels of deployed nuclear warheads since the 1950s, the first full decade of the nuclear age. This coming fall will mark the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis. We have come so far since then and we are now doing the work that will lead to the next set of accomplishments.

<http://www.state.gov/t/us/191750.htm>

Contribute Articles

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

Details are available at: http://www.pugwashindia.org/contribute_articles.asp

The Indian Pugwash Society aims to promote the study, discussion, and knowledge of and to stimulate general interest in, and to diffuse knowledge in regards to problems relating on WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, space security, export controls, nuclear technology and other related issues. This newsletter is part of the project "Emerging Nuclear Order in Asia: Implications for India" sanctioned to us by Department of Atomic Energy-Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (DAE-BRNS).

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