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A Weekly Newsletter from the Indian Pugwash Society

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Contents

A. Nuclear Energy

Pakistan Keeps up Pursuit of U.S. Nuclear Agreement

Venezuela inks deal for Russian-made nuclear plant

South Africa Revives Ambitious Atomic Energy Plans

Is the Nuclear "Renaissance" Failing?

Delayed nuclear reprocessing project in Rokkasho, Japan: Asahi Editorial

India, Japan to Seek Deal on Trade Pact Limits

Indian Govt rules out any amendments in civil nuclear law

'Indo-US nuke trade unlikely to start unless India signs CSC'

Chinese N-reactors for Pak worry India

Asian nations need to cooperate in nuclear field

India eyeing 63,000 MW nuclear power capacity by 2032: NPCIL

B. Proliferation

Is the Obama administration retreating from its nuclear non-proliferation promise?

Chinese firms bypass sanctions on Iran, U.S. says

Sanctions begin to compound Iran's severe economic problems

Iran ready for talks, won't yield nuclear rights

The Iranian dilemma

Iran arrests 'spies' aiming to derail atomic work

NATO experts discuss WMD terrorism

Multinational PSI Drill starts off in South Korea

China calls for resumption of N. Korea nuclear talks

China's Anti-Ship Missiles

India Nears Fielding Of New SAM Systems

C. Disarmament

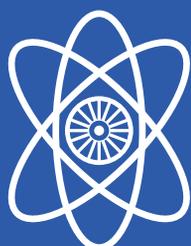
Japan submits nuclear abolition resolution for 17th consecutive year

Draft NATO Strategy Calls for Nuclear Disarmament

International community nowhere near goal of N-weapon free world: India

Nagasaki, Hiroshima criticize U.S. for subcritical nuclear test

The Weaponization of Space: Corporate Driven Military Unleashes Pre-emptive Wars



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All the articles are available from the mentioned sources in original format.

A. Nuclear Energy

Pakistan Keeps up Pursuit of U.S. Nuclear Agreement

Pakistan intends in talks with the United States next week to again make its case for a nuclear trade agreement akin to the U.S.-Indian atomic deal, the *Wall Street Journal* reported today. Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi is scheduled to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Oct. 22 in Washington.

Obama administration officials have played down the chances of an agreement that would allow Pakistan to acquire U.S. nuclear materials and technology for its atomic power sector. There are continued worries in Washington about Pakistani proliferation past under the black market operation once led by top nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan and the nation's still-growing nuclear stockpile.

The atomic trade deal is not formally scheduled to be discussed at next week's third bilateral strategic dialogue, but could come up nonetheless, a U.S. official told the *Journal*.

"Pakistan will always spend whatever it takes to build up as many nuclear weapons as possible," said issue expert George Perkovich of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Islamabad is believed to hold 70 to 90 nuclear warheads, compared to the 60 to 80 stocked by India, according to figures prepared by the Federation of American Scientists.

(http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20101015_3834.php)

Venezuela inks deal for Russian-made nuclear plant

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez reached a deal with Russia on Friday to build a nuclear power plant in the South American country and negotiated several other agreements in energy and other areas.

Russia has cultivated close ties with Mr. Chavez's government as part of its efforts to expand its global clout and counter U.S. influence in Latin America. President Dmitry Medvedev said the nuclear deal would help Venezuela develop modern energy sources in addition to its hydrocarbon riches.

"Our intentions are absolutely pure and open: we want our partner Venezuela to have a full range of energy possibilities," Mr. Medvedev said. "Even though the country is rich in oil and gas, it needs to develop new energy sources."

The cost of the deal, signed after Mr. Chavez's talks with Mr. Medvedev in the Kremlin, wasn't immediately announced.

Mr. Chavez said that Venezuela needs to reduce its dependence on oil and gas and praised Russia for helping his country acquire new technologies.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/americas/chavez-inks-deal-for-russian-made-nuclear-plant/article1758359/>

South Africa Revives Ambitious Atomic Energy Plans

South Africa is charting out a new nuclear power strategy that includes co-operation deals with China and South Korea. The country's minister of energy and minerals Dipuo

Peters has emphasised the need to "gravitate away" from fossil fuels, primarily coal from the north of the country.

A public consultation on nuclear energy is being organised but Peters says: "There is no doubt that nuclear (energy) will play a key role in the base-load generating capacity in the next few years... This should then lead us to a projected presence of the next generation base-load nuclear power plants in the period beyond 2020." "Included in our plans is the conclusion of a number of bilateral agreements in the nuclear industry as well as establishing new strategic relationships," Peters writes in the plan.

Overall energy plans for South Africa include the continuation of the grid connection programme to bring basic power services to 150,000 households each year to 2013 in addition to over 3.5 million homes electrified since 1994.

The South African national utility Eskom announced a dramatic expansion programme in January 2008 in the wake of having successfully operated two pressurised water reactors since the 1980s to supply six per cent of the country's electricity.

Electricity consumption in South Africa has been growing rapidly since 1980 and the country is part of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), with extensive interconnections. Total installed generating capacity in the SAPP countries is 54.7 GWe, of which around 80 per cent is South African, mostly coal-fired, and largely under the control of the state utility Eskom.

Eskom supplies about 95 per cent of South Africa's electricity and approximately 45 per cent of Africa's. Of its total installed net capacity of 40.5 GWe (44.2 GWe gross), coal-fired stations account for 34.3 GWe and nuclear 1.8 GWe.

A 2007 draft nuclear energy policy outlined an ambitious programme to develop all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle, including a return to conversion, enrichment, fuel fabrication and also reprocessing of used fuel as strategic priorities related to energy security. A new 5.0 to 10.0 million SWU/yr centrifuge enrichment plant built in partnership with Areva, Urenco or Tenex was envisaged, the larger version allowing scope for exports.

http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/South-Africa-Revives-Ambitious-Atomic-Energy-Plans_8061431

Is the Nuclear "Renaissance" Failing? Peter Behr, in *Scientific American*

If the "nuclear renaissance" is not dead, it appeared in a coma for most of the country following the collapse of Constellation Energy's plan to build a third reactor on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay shore, energy officials said this weekend.

Constellation announced Saturday after news reports surfaced that it could not accept a \$7.5 billion conditional federal loan guarantee because the Obama administration had insisted on too great a "down payment" in the form of a credit subsidy charge the developers would have to pay to the federal government to obtain the guarantee. The charge is an insurance premium intended to protect taxpayers against losses if the project could not be completed, or if its power costs were too high to compete and the owners defaulted on the loans.

The campaign for new nuclear projects has run into depressed electricity demand due to the recession and the prospect of competition from low-priced natural gas from shale deposits. Nuclear power's foes have also kept up an attack on the use of DOE loan guarantees for new reactors contending that the risks to taxpayers were too great unless the credit subsidy requirement was pushed far up.

The responsibility for the next move in 2011 may shift to Republicans in the House, if their numbers increase, this official said. The nuclear option has many GOP supporters, but their platform also includes attacks on the Obama administration's clean energy initiatives and the deficit, the latter stance allying them with nuclear power opponents on the left.

The overriding challenge, this official said, is to find a path of the national energy policy miasma and focus on where the nation's electric power will be coming from after 2020, before there's no time left to carry out the plans.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=is-the-nuclear-renaissance-failing>

Delayed nuclear reprocessing project in Rokkasho, Japan: *Asahi Editorial*

Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. has decided to delay the start of full-scale commercial operations at a spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, by two more years to 2012. This, the 18th postponement of the project, will leave it 15 years behind schedule. The plant was originally slated to begin operating in 1997.

The reprocessing plant extracts plutonium from spent nuclear fuel and is designed to play a key role in the nuclear fuel recycling system Japan is trying to establish. Test operations have shown that the process of mixing radioactive liquid waste with glass doesn't work well. The outlook remains unclear for the already enormously delayed efforts to establish a nuclear fuel recycling system.

This year, the government is scheduled to revise its Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy, which was drawn up in 2005 by the Atomic Energy Commission.

The project to develop the fast-breeder reactor needed for the envisioned nuclear fuel cycle was given a lift when the Monju prototype reactor in Fukui Prefecture resumed operations in May, for the first time in 14 years. But it soon encountered problems. It has not even been decided whether the electric power industry or the government will build the demonstration reactor planned as Monju's successor.

<http://www.asahi.com/english/TKY201010110178.html>

India, Japan to Seek Deal on Trade Pact Limits

India and Japan are expected late this year to hold negotiations aimed at reducing disagreements over nuclear proliferation and testing limitations Tokyo has sought to include in a civilian nuclear trade deal between the countries.

Japan has not demanded that India join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a condition of the agreement, but the island nation has pushed for a "strict guarantee" that New Delhi would maintain its nuclear nonproliferation and abolition "commitments and actions," said officials with knowledge of the talks.

The officials compared the disputed trade deal clauses to statements issued by the Nuclear Suppliers Group when the organization lifted its atomic embargo on India two years ago.

Indian government sources, though, distinguished the multilateral body's language from conditions placed on New Delhi by a single country as part of a nuclear trade deal. Japan has pushed for a provision to freeze the deal should India carry out another atomic test blast, while the South Asian country has sought to establish a divide in the agreement between its military and civilian nuclear sectors.

An Indian-Japanese nuclear trade pact would play a key role in advancing India's atomic business with France and the United States. French nuclear firm Areva and a U.S. group led by General Electric Co. have sought to sell nuclear reactors to New Delhi, but Japanese parts are considered necessary for the efforts, the *Nikkei* business daily reported. Japan Steel Works produces reactor vessels used by both companies, and General Electric receives many components from Hitachi Ltd. for its reactor work.

http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20101015_4813.php

Indian Govt rules out any amendments in civil nuclear law

Government on Wednesday ruled out any amendments to the recently-enacted civil nuclear law to accommodate concerns of American companies on the issue of suppliers' liability as a package during the coming visit of President Barack Obama to India next month.



"The question of amendments is never on the cards. We have explained to them (the US) the circumstances in which we had to go through (with) the bill and we have to work within the parameters of the legislation," External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said at a breakfast meeting with editors here. He said they (the US) also know in a parliamentary system of democracy the bill becomes the law of the land and they also understand it because they work with the U.S. Congress where legislations are made.

Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao, who was also present, said India has told the U.S. very clearly that it will create a level-playing field for all companies, including those from the US. "We were able to clarify doubts about a couple of aspects in the Bill which will be discussed between the companies and the (government-owned) Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. "We are not talking of amendments to the Bill, certainly not. There is no question of amending the Bill. I don't think you can try to conclude that we are trying to fix something outside the bill. The intention is to involve in discussions with them and not to amend the bill. It has been made clear to the US Administration," she said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article828251.ece>

'Indo-US nuke trade unlikely to start unless India signs CSC'

American companies, that had played a key role in the passage of the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal, are unlikely to indulge in nuclear trade with India unless New Delhi becomes a party to an international convention on supplementary compensation for nuclear damage, a Congressional report has said.

"US firms will likely be very reluctant to engage in nuclear trade with India if the government does not adhere to the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC), which has not yet entered into force," said the independent Congressional Research Service (CRS) in its latest report to the Congress on the implementation of the civilian nuclear issue.

"New Delhi had reportedly insisted that India and the United States conclude an agreement on a reprocessing facility in India before New Delhi would sign contracts with US nuclear firms," it said. "However, the countries announced March 29 that they had concluded the agreement. The Administration submitted the subsequent arrangement to Congress May 11. The proposed arrangement shall not take effect if Congress adopts a joint resolution of disapproval," the report said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Indo-US-nuke-trade-unlikely-to-start-unless-India-signs-CSC-/articleshow/6688434.cms#ixzz12hQf4rRE>

Chinese N-reactors for Pak worry India

India is concerned over China's supplies of nuclear reactors to Pakistan which has a poor record as a nuclear power, Minister of State for Science and Technology Prithviraj Chavan said. "We have expressed our concerns at the appropriate place. If China and Pakistan do that within the exiting international regime, they can. We have protested citing the previous exchanges of nuclear technology illegally particularly through Abdul Qadeer Khan (Pakistan's rogue nuclear scientist). Nobody has addressed that," Chavan told reporters here, around 50 km from Chennai,

Speaking on the sidelines of silver jubilee celebrations of the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) and Radio Metallurgy Laboratory (RML), he said India had serious concerns about something like that - transfer of nuclear technology illegally - happening. He said India had established a good track record in the nuclear field whereas Pakistan does not have such a record.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Chinese-N-reactors-for-Pak-worry-India/Article1-610909.aspx>

Asian nations need to cooperate in nuclear field

As a whopping 271 nuclear power reactors are being planned in Asia, there is an urgent need for cooperation among countries of the region to the meet the various technological and infrastructural challenges and proliferation concerns, a top industry official said here Monday.

'The Asian nations have to face the challenges like choice of technology and reactor size, setting up acceptable infrastructure, developing human resource, developing safety and quality culture, gaining pubic confidence, setting up regulatory framework, management of spent fuel and instituting nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear security framework,' said S.K.Jain, chairman and managing director of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL).

He told the Asian Nuclear Prospects 2010 (ANUP 2010) conference that global, regional and bilateral cooperation is the need of the hour among the Asian nations in sharing technology, experience, resources and address the nuclear proliferation concerns.

He said India's strength lies in building small and modular reactors (SMR) an idea that is being discussed in the nuclear world. The country can export 220 MW pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWR) to friendly countries. 'The strength of Asia in the nuclear domain includes human resources, lowest cost, well developed industry and allied infrastructure and development of end-to-end technologies in the nuclear power field,' Jain added.

<http://sify.com/finance/asian-nations-need-to-cooperate-in-nuclear-field-news-default-kklsadhabjb.html>

India eyeing 63,000 MW nuclear power capacity by 2032: NPCIL

India has drawn up an ambitious plan to reach a nuclear power capacity of 63,000 MW in 2032 by setting up of 16 indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) each, including ten based on reprocessed uranium, a top Nuclear Power Corporation Limited. (NPCIL) official on Monday said.

"Out of the total target of 63,000 MW, about 40,000 MW will be generated through Light Water Reactors (LWR) with international cooperation," NPCIL Chairman and Managing Director SK Jain said.

He also said India would export 220 MW, 540 MW and 700 MW PHWRs by 2032. Beyond 2032, large capacity addition would be taken up by setting up metallic fuel FBRs and introduction of reactors based on thorium 232 and uranium 233 fuel cycle.

He also said large pool of technical manpower, developed nuclear technologies, including fuel cycle and waste management, developed industry and allied infrastructure, proven safety and cost advantages were the strengths of Asia in the nuclear sector.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/energy/power/India-eyeing-63000-MW-nuclear-power-capacity-by-2032-NPCIL/articleshow/6730724.cms>

Nagasaki, Hiroshima criticize U.S. for subcritical nuclear test

A recent U.S. subcritical nuclear test came under harsh fire in the world's only atom-bombed cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima on Wednesday.

Nagasaki Gov Hodo Nakamura and Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue pledged to file protests against the first such U.S. test under President Barack Obama, who has called for a world without nuclear weapons. "I deeply deplore it because I had expected President Obama to take leadership in eliminating nuclear weapons," Nakamura told a press conference. "I fear and am concerned that the test, which runs counter to a march toward a world free from nuclear weapons, will adversely affect the international situation," Taue said in a statement.

"The atom-bombed city will send a letter of protest to the United States and persist in our efforts for the elimination of nuclear weapons," he said.

The first U.S. subcritical nuclear test since August 2006 took place in Nevada on Sept 15, the U.S. Energy Department said. In protest at the test, Nagasaki and Hiroshima citizens, including atomic bombing survivors, launched sit-ins.

At a sit-in in which some 40 people participated at Nagasaki Peace Park, Koichi Kawano, chairman of the Japan Congress against A- and H-Bombs, said the congress opposes any nuclear test and is determined to continue its antinuclear activities until nuclear weapons are eliminated.

<http://www.japantoday.com/category/national/view/nagasaki-hiroshima-criticize-us-for-subcritical-nuclear-test>

B. Proliferation

Is the Obama administration retreating from its nuclear non-proliferation promise? *Josh Rogin, The Cable—Foreign Policy Magazine*

President Obama promised in his April 2009 speech in Prague that the U.S. would lead the drive towards a world without nuclear weapons. On Friday, top administration officials will meet to decide how far to press that goal in practice when expanding American civilian nuclear cooperation abroad.

"We need a new paradigm for civil nuclear cooperation that allows all countries to enjoy the benefits of nuclear power, while avoiding the spread of nuclear weapons and technologies," Obama said just after the speech.

The civilian nuclear agreements, known around town as "123" agreements, after the section of the Atomic Energy Act that governs them, weren't always tied to the issue of nuclear weapons material. But the Obama administration, following the Bush administration's lead, linked the two issues when it trumpeted the last 123 agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which includes prohibitions on producing nuclear fuel inside UAE borders.

The Obama team celebrated those prohibitions and called the UAE agreement the "gold standard" for all civilian nuclear agreements, but then hit a wall when Vietnam refused to agree to the same prohibitions. Jordan as well has indicated it wants to preserve what it views as its right to produce nuclear fuel sometime in the future.

If the administration insists on the prohibitions now, it risks causing the pending deals with Vietnam and Jordan to unravel in the short term, and perhaps losing out on other potential deals in the longer term. If the administration backs down and signs agreements without nuclear fuel production restrictions, it will cause a bipartisan uproar on Capitol Hill.

Even non-proliferation experts who are more supportive of the administration lament that the administration held up the UAE agreement as the "gold standard" apparently without thinking ahead to what would happen if other countries didn't go along.

"Unfortunately, people are calling it the gold standard, but the reality is that's unlikely to hold up," said Sharon Squassoni, director of the proliferation prevention program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "In a way, the Obama administration is stuck with this policy that the Bush administration was pushing."

Inside Friday's high-level meeting, two camps will square off on the issue. On one side, Steinberg will make the argument that the United States must insist as much as possible that prohibitions on enrichment and reprocessing (ENR) be included in the Vietnam and Jordan deals. On the other side, Poneman will argue that the deals should go forward even if the ENR restrictions can't be included.

A bipartisan and bicameral group of lawmakers wrote to President Obama on Aug. 26 urging him to include ENR restrictions in the Vietnam 123 agreement. Referring to the UAE standard, the lawmakers said that, "Failure to include similar restrictions in any deal with Vietnam could work against U.S. leadership and credibility on non-proliferation at a time when both are needed."

http://thecable.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/10/07/is_the_obama_administration_retreating_from_its_nuclear_non_proliferation_promise

Chinese firms bypass sanctions on Iran: US

The Obama administration has concluded that Chinese firms are helping Iran to improve its missile technology and develop nuclear weapons, and has asked China to stop such activity, a senior U.S. official said.

During a visit to Beijing last month, a delegation led by Robert J. Einhorn, the State Department's special adviser for nonproliferation and arms control, handed a "significant list" of companies and banks to their Chinese counterparts, according to the senior U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive issue in U.S.-Chinese relations. The official said the Obama administration thinks that the companies are violating U.N. sanctions, but that China did not authorize their activities.

The Obama administration faces a balancing act in pressing Beijing to stop the deals and limit Chinese investments in Iran's energy industry. U.S. officials say they need to preserve their ability to work with China on issues ranging from the value of its currency to the stability of North Korea. But the administration also wants to make progress in efforts to dissuade Iran from building a nuclear weapon and to convince other powerful states that China is not receiving lenient treatment because of its energy needs.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/17/AR2010101703723.html>

Sanctions begin to compound Iran's severe economic problems *Thomas Erdbrink*

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government, already faced with growing opposition from competing political forces within Iran, is confronting new pressure brought on by severe economic problems, including some triggered by international sanctions.

The sanctions, intended to push the country to abandon its nuclear program, are not yet crippling the Islamic Republic, economists and analysts say. But they are causing prices to rise and making it increasingly difficult for Iranian companies to work internationally.

U.S. officials have noted recently that the sanctions are having an impact, and also acknowledged the confluence of challenges. "This all comes at a time when Iran is especially vulnerable because of its government's economic mismanagement and narrowed political flexibility," Stuart Levey, a senior U.S. Treasury official, said in a Sept. 20 speech.

In the first sign that Iranians are becoming nervous about the currency, some businessmen are starting to send cash abroad. "People are traveling outside with their pockets stuffed with hundreds of thousands of dollars," the steel trader said. "We feel the government is intentionally trying to break our backs."

Analysts doubt that the Ahmadinejad government has the money it needs to make all those handouts. The government has declared the contents of the treasury a state secret, and even parliamentarians don't know how many billions of dollars remain after two years of lower oil prices.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/05/AR2010100505972.html>

Iran ready for talks, won't yield nuclear rights



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is taking a hard line ahead of nuclear talks scheduled for next month with world powers skeptical of his government's intentions, local media reported Sunday. Ahmadinejad said that Iran is ready to hold talks, but warned that his country won't yield any of its international rights to peaceful nuclear energy development, according to the reports.

"Holding talks with Iran is the best choice for you," Ahmadinejad was quoted by state-run Press TV as saying at a rally in Ardebil in northwestern Iran Sunday. "You have no other option. All the other ways are closed. You know the fact very well,"

The United States and other world powers fear Iran is developing a nuclear program for military purposes. Iran has denied those allegations. "You should make it clear that what is your aim of negotiations, friendship or hostility? Do you want to follow logic or law or issue resolution and make threat?" the semi-official Iran Student's News Agency quoted Ahmadinejad as saying. He added that Western powers should also pressure Israel over its undeclared but widely-suspected nuclear capability, ISNA said.

Iran's semi-official FARS news agency also released figures claiming that trade with the P5 plus one economies had actually jumped 12 percent despite new sanctions aimed at reining in Tehran's nuclear ambitions. It claimed that during the six months since March 21, trade had climbed to \$9.3 billion. China accounted for most of Tehran's trade with the group.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/10/17/iran.ahmadinejad.nuclear/?hpt=T2>

The Iranian dilemma

If Israel were to attack Iran it would be disastrous for the US; negotiations must be the first resort.

MJ Rosenberg, on Al Jazeera



Bruce Riedel, a senior fellow at Brookings, wrote in the Nixon Centre's "National Interest" last month that an Israeli attack on Iran would be catastrophic. Riedel, no reflexive dove - he is a former CIA officer and adviser on terrorism to three Presidents - explains why the United States has to respond with a "clear red light" to any proposed Israeli attack.

An Israeli attack on Iran is a disaster in the making. And it will directly impact key strategic American interests. Iran will see an attack as American supported if not American orchestrated. The aircraft in any strike will be American-produced, supplied and funded F-15s and F-16s, and most of the ordnance will be from American stocks. Washington's \$3 billion in assistance annually makes possible the IDF's conventional superiority in the region.

Iran will almost certainly retaliate against both U.S. and Israeli targets.... Even if Iran chooses to retaliate in less risky ways, it could respond indirectly by encouraging Hezbollah attacks against Israel and Shia militia attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq, as well as terrorist attacks against American and Israeli targets in the Middle East and beyond.

It is hard to imagine that anyone could argue with any of that. How could an Israeli attack on Iran not be disastrous for the United States, the region, and Israel itself? At the same time, it is not hard understanding why some Israelis believe their country has no alternative but to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. After all, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is pretty emphatic about wanting Israel to disappear. Sure, he is not fully in charge of Iran (although he seems to have had his way in dealing with the stolen election and its aftermath). And, sure, the Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khomeini said in April that the use of nuclear weapons is strictly prohibited by Islamic law.

Riedel believes that the sure knowledge that a strike on Israel would be suicidal would deter any attack — and any Israeli need to strike at Iran's installations first. That makes sense, except for one thing. Israeli hawks (including Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu) believe, or pretend to believe, that the Iranian leadership is self-destructive. They say that they need to hit Iran because, unlike any other country in the history of mankind, Iran would happily commit suicide in exchange for the sheer joy of taking out its enemy.

It's nonsense and, in my opinion, the Israelis don't even believe it (their real fear of Iran is based on Israel's determination to preserve regional hegemony, not fear of nuclear destruction)

<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/opinion/2010/10/2010101862212355822.html>

Iran arrests 'spies' aiming to derail atomic work

Iran's intelligence minister said on Saturday authorities had arrested several "nuclear spies" who were working to derail Tehran's nuclear programme through cyberspace. Without saying how many people were arrested or when, Heydar Moslehi was quoted on state television's website as saying Iran had "prevented the enemies' destructive activity." His remarks came against the backdrop of reports that the Stuxnet worm is mutating and wreaking havoc on computerised industrial equipment in Iran and had already infected 30,000 IP addresses.

But Moslehi said intelligence agents had discovered the "destructive activities of the arrogance (Western powers) in cyberspace, and different ways to confront them have been designed and implemented." "I assure all citizens that the intelligence apparatus currently has complete supervision on cyberspace and will not allow any leak or destruction of our country's nuclear activities."

The website said Moslehi emphasised that his ministry was aware of the different activities of "enemies' spy services."

"We have always faced the destructive action of these (spy) services and a number of nuclear spies have been arrested," he said. Stuxnet, which was publicly identified in June, is a self-replicating malware found lurking on Siemens systems, mostly in India, Indonesia and Pakistan, but the heaviest infiltration appears to be in Iran, researchers say.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20101002/wl_mideast_afp/iranitcomputerstuxnetarrest

NATO looks at WMD aspects in combating terrorism

From 12 to 14 October, some 50 experts are meeting in Brno, the Czech Republic, to discuss chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) aspects in defending against terrorism. One of the central aims is to share information and experiences in CBRN resources used by terrorists and technological developments in protecting against CBR substances.

Ambassador Jacek Bylica, Head of NATO's Weapons of Mass Destruction Non-Proliferation Centre, Emerging Security Challenges Division, gave a presentation on current and future threats posed by the potential acquisition and use of WMD and CBRN materials by terrorists.

"The spread of WMD and their means of delivery, and the possibility that terrorists acquire them, are the principal threats facing the Alliance over the next 10-15 years," he said. "The safety and security of existing CBRN materials remain tentative in many corners of the world. There are indications that terrorists intend to acquire them for malicious purposes."

Improved intelligence sharing, information exchange and cooperation among and between NATO civil-military bodies, NATO and partner countries and international organizations were just some of the ways he said that NATO could enhance its capabilities to defend against CBRN terrorism.

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-3B2062FE-01042C30/natolive/news_66854.htm

Multinational PSI Drill starts off in South Korea

For the first time, South Korea is hosting a multinational military exercise aimed at preventing the transfer of weapons of mass destruction in the country's southern port city of Busan.

Starting Wednesday the two-day maritime drill involves the 14 member nations of the Proliferation Security Initiative or PSI including the United States, Canada, France, Australia and Japan. Seoul's Defense Ministry said about 10 vessels are participating in the exercise including a guided missile destroyer, maritime patrol planes and anti-submarine helicopters. The purpose of the training is to practice stopping and searching vessels suspected of carrying illegal weapons.

Prior to the drill the representatives of the initiative held a seminar. The PSI program was launched in 2003, with Seoul joining after North Korea's second nuclear test last year. The communist nation criticized the South's decision to join calling it a 'declaration of war.'

http://www.arirang.co.kr/News/News_View.asp?nseq=107932&code=Ne2&category=2

China calls for resumption of N.Korea nuclear talks

China on Thursday called for the resumption of six-nation talks on dismantling North Korea's nuclear programmes after a top envoy from Pyongyang met with Chinese officials in Beijing. North Korea's Kim Kye-Gwan, who has been Pyongyang's envoy to the disarmament negotiations for years, held talks Tuesday with China's Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and nuclear envoy Wu Dawei, the foreign ministry said.

"The two sides had a frank and deep exchange of views on bilateral relations, the situation on the Korean peninsula, the six-party talks and other issues of common concern," ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu told reporters. "Our position on the Korean peninsula is clear and consistent, we stand for maintaining the goal of the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and safeguarding peace and stability on the peninsula."

He urged all nations involved to work toward resuming the long-running and frequently derailed talks, which are hosted by China and include the two Koreas, the United States, Japan and Russia. Pyongyang pulled out of the forum in April 2009 and conducted its second nuclear test a month later. It conducted its first test in 2006.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iaYbmP8Wz4rB6dMuJ4mUUcMm-USw?docId=CNG.54816e33debe3117debb062e3859e7f7.b51>

China's Anti-Ship Missiles

China's fiercest anti-ship missile, designed by Russia and dubbed the Sizzler by NATO, has a 300-kilometer range and accelerates to roughly three times the speed of sound as it nears its target. The Sizzler can reach farther and fly faster than the West's top anti-ship missiles, America's Harpoon and France's Exocet. Russia has also sold Sizzlers to India and possibly Iran, and Syria and Algeria have expressed interest, widening the threat. "Everyone in the Western world is wondering how you defeat it," says John Patch, a professor at the U.S. Army War College.



China sees missiles such as the Sizzler—and a missile currently in development known as the Dong Feng (DF)-21D—as key to its growing naval power in Asia. The Sizzler can be launched from submarines even when submerged, which could turn part of China's sub fleet from a manageable threat to a "very problematic" one, says Patch. The DF-21D, a ground-launched ballistic missile with a 1,500-kilometer range—is being redesigned by China to dive from space, traveling at about two kilometers per second, to cripple an aircraft carrier. As of today, the U.S. has no reliable countermeasures. With the DF-21D likely to be ready for a flight test in two years or less, the West is suddenly regarding China's anti-ship capabilities as "pretty daunting," says Eric McVadon, a former U.S. Navy rear admiral and defense attaché to Beijing.

China's new missile technology comes at a time when tensions between Washington and Beijing are decidedly strained, and when the U.S. Navy has never been so threatened by weapons systems since the end of the Cold War. In May, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates expressed reluctance to build new carriers, pointing to the growing range and accuracy of the anti-ship missiles of potential adversaries. For its part, Beijing is likely to continue to beef up its missile capabilities, and already boasts the world's most active ground-launched programs, according to a recent Department of Defense report.

<http://www.newsweek.com/2010/10/04/u-s-wary-of-china-s-anti-ship-missiles.html>

India Nears Fielding of New SAM Systems



The Indian air force is gearing up to field a raft of new air defense equipment and address long-standing concerns about the existing inventory.

New Delhi has long worried about gaps; and in areas where it has fielded air defense systems, the equipment is often out of date. Air Chief Marshal Pradeep Naik, the Indian air force (IAF) leader, says half of the equipment at his command faces obsolescence, with that label applying to the majority of air defense weapons.

That situation is now being remedied. By next March, the IAF will begin receiving the first of 18 Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)-Rafael Spyder quick-reaction medium-range missile systems. The offshore deal became necessary in 2006 because of development problems and delays in the indigenous Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) program. However, Akash has since turned the corner, and the IAF decided to order six more Akash batteries worth \$925 million—each with 125 missiles—in addition to the two systems already on order. The service will receive its first two Akash batteries in February, and is likely to deploy them in India's Northeast.

The IAF also anticipates joint development work kicking off in earnest on the 15-km.-range (9.3-mi.) Indo-French Maitri short-range SAM (SR-SAM), which is aimed at filling the void created when the Indian government decided to wind up the Trishul point-defense weapon program in 2006 and effectively de-link it from IAF and Indian navy requirements.

A workshare agreement between the Indian Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and European missile maker MBDA has been concluded. IAF sources suggest a formal accord sanctioning the program is likely soon, possibly when French President Nicolas Sarkozy visits New Delhi later this year.

An MBDA official says the SR-SAM would finish development work and the first phase of testing within three years of program go-ahead. While no official timelines have been revealed, the IAF expects the system to be available for deployment by late 2013.

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_channel.jsp?channel=defense&id=news/awst/2010/10/11/AW_10_11_2010_p30-259987.xml&headline=India%20Nears%20Fielding%20Of%20New%20SAM%20Systems

C. Disarmament

Japan submits nuclear abolition resolution for 17th consecutive year

Japan submitted a draft resolution calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons to a disarmament committee of the ongoing U.N. General Assembly, U.N. diplomatic sources said. It is the 17th straight year that Japan has submitted a nuclear disarmament resolution to the United Nations.

According to the sources, the resolution calls for early implementation of action plans outlined in a final document adopted at a U.N. conference reviewing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in May. It also demands that non-NPT members with nuclear weapons reduce their arms and that North Korea and Iran continue denuclearization, the sources said. Following a successful conclusion of the NPT review conference, Japan has rewritten the content of the resolution this year to garner more approving votes than last year's record 170 countries, according to the sources.

In 2009, a Japan-proposed nuclear disarmament resolution was adopted at the assembly's Disarmament and International Security Committee, with the United States supporting it for the first time in nine years. The United States also co-sponsored last year's resolution, which specifically supported moves instigated by U.S. President Barack Obama with the aim of eventually achieving a nuclear-free world, for the first time ever.

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9IRJ4BO0&show_article=1

Draft NATO Strategy Calls for Nuclear Disarmament

The 28 NATO member nations have received a preliminary version of an updated strategic concept containing a divisive call for the elimination of nuclear weapons. NATO leaders resolved at their previous summit in April 2009 to update the military alliance's strategy to better address contemporary security needs. If they reach consensus on the

strategy at the group's next summit, scheduled for Nov. 19-20 in Portugal, the document would require approval by all NATO governments.

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen in recent months revised the original draft mission statement put forward in May by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright and other issue experts. Security experts said the first draft was overly verbose and vague in some areas. "Rasmussen does not want endless debates, revisions and arguments over the positioning of paragraphs, sentences and even commas," NATO spokesman James Appathurai said. Rasmussen hoped discussions this month by Cabinet-level officials would shed light on "which issues will go to the wire" for the November session in Lisbon, according to diplomats.

"So far, the nuclear issue has taken center stage," one high-level NATO diplomat said. "The nuclear weapons issue has boiled down to this: Is NATO going to retain the status quo by keeping its weapons for deterrence, or is NATO finally going to give arms control and disarmament precedence?" Five European nations -- Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey -- are believed to house roughly 200 U.S. B-61 nuclear gravity bombs.

An additional secret paper prepared by Rasmussen outlines how the alliance would respond to nuclear, conventional and other strikes. "If you think the strategic concept is classified, you cannot imagine how secretive the operational paper is and will remain," said one diplomat from East Europe.

Moscow wants "to better understand where this strategic concept is leading and what it will determine about relations with Russia and NATO's approach to international law," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told *Rossiiskaya Gazeta* in comments published yesterday.

http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20101001_8735.php

International community nowhere near goal of N-weapon free world: India

India has asserted that the international community is nowhere close to the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons by the year 2010 under an action plan presented by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to the United Nations over two decades ago. "22 years ago, on 9th June 1988, India's then Prime Minister, the young Shri Rajiv Gandhi, presented an Action Plan for a Nuclear Weapons-Free and Non-violent World Order, which set out a roadmap to attain the goal of nuclear disarmament by this year, 2010," Indian delegate and Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar said at the UN General Assembly.

"Tragically, we are no nearer attaining that goal today than we were 22 years ago," he added. "The promise of a nuclear weapon-free world, which seemed a real possibility near the end of the Cold War, has been belied." Aiyar, however, noted that the "one ray of hope" was that the countries that were once advocates of the deterrence policy that contributed to the nuclear arms race, were now speaking out against the possession of nuclear weapons.

Noting that several world leaders acknowledged the necessity of moving towards global zero, Aiyar said that India was "greatly encouraged" by US President Barack Obama's statement in Prague on April 5 last year when he expressed his commitment to 'seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons'.

At the same time, India affirmed its position of not joining the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty. "Nuclear weapons are an integral part of India's national security and will remain

so, pending non-discriminatory and global nuclear disarmament," Aiyar, also an MP, said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Intl-community-nowhere-near-goal-of-N-weapon-free-world-India/Article1-613731.aspx>

The Weaponization of Space: Corporate Driven Military Unleashes Pre-emptive Wars *by Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat*



First a brief examination of the backdrop of the political power relations at play today and their impact on forces that are propelling the inductions of weapons in Space that are likely to lead to an arms race in space akin to a cold war in a hitherto 'sanctuary of peace' and consequently to a situation of 'Mutually Assured Destruction' (MAD), of the planet.

The stark reality that is now being seen throughout the world ,with successive wars of aggression and brutal bombing of small and , therefore , vulnerable countries for the seizure of resources and strategic areas, is that the UN Charter and the noble Declaration of Human Rights exists only in name despite the evocative words, "We the people of the United Nations determined to save generations from the scourge of war , believing in the equal rights of men and women and nations , large and small , to establish justice and promote social progress from the obligations from treaties and other sources of International Law."

The small financial elite , which is the oligarchy of political societies referred to ironically as democracies; the bankers, financial companies, big oil companies, giant GM Agribusinesses, drug and food companies and seed monopolies seeking to control the world's food and energy , to dominate nations and people across the globe in all continents , have effectively privatized public assets and commons and , therefore , diminished and emasculated democracy with the ulterior intent of depopulating the world . It is the policies of this oligarchy which determine priorities of national budgetary allocations on weapon systems and their expansion into Space to target the planet earth , and for use in the oceans , the seabed , and as earlier stated into Space . However all these areas of our small and vulnerable planet , the earth , the oceans , the atmosphere and space are intertwined and interconnected.

A 'Permanent War' system nurtured by a permanent 'War Economy' , fed by the predatory practices of Big banks and the MNCs has led to the establishment of the National Security State which in turn advances the private interest of the financial oligarchy . The three golden rules , therefore , are US / NATO global military presence , global projection of military power and the use of that force in one conflict or the other to threaten the 'lesser people' of the world with 'Full Spectrum dominance' --including in Space. The Ruling Class is actually an alliance of the 'Transnational Capitalist Class(TCC) which delivers to itself profit, power and privilege through policy control and weaponisation.

The 'US Space Command's Vision 2020, is but an expression of this reality. For reasons of serving this charade, of the US /NATO ---serving the country , defending the Constitution (this “goddamned piece of paper” as George W Bush used to say) and the people ; the military continues to wear the government issued insignia badges on their helmets and uniforms . The agenda is set by the financial oligarchy , the military is co – opted as an implementing partner. In any case 'private military companies' (PMCs) are in their direct chain of command and have the advantage of free functioning outside the US Military Law Manual . Both have the mandate to support the criminal enterprises of loot and plunder.

US Space Command Vision

The US Space Command Vision 2020 document pursues the idea of a Global Area Strike system , of which a key element could be ground based high energy laser capability which bounces off space based mirrors , the placement of Directed Energy Weapons (DEW) and Kinetic Energy Weapons (KEW), soft kill jammers. The 4 yearly Quadrennial Defense Reviews, periodical NSSDs and Nuclear Posture Reviews , the latest of April 2010 , are useful reference points for a detailed analysis of clues as to intentions and plans .

As US Space Command's drives ahead with building Space WMD systems and synergizing with Ballistic Missile Defense , National Missile Defense and Anti-Satellite (ASAT) weapon systems , China and Russia will enter with defensively oriented systems and if China does , India will follow and Pakistan too . The whole game is counter –productive and result in more 'Mutually Assured Destruction' (MAD) as with nuclear weaponsbut not in the minds of the Transnational capitalist class which loves the Midas touch.

Negotiations on a Treaty to prohibit Weapons and War in Space would have three components as proposed by Dr Rebecca Johnson: Ban on deployment and use of weapons in space thereby extending and strengthening the 1967 Outer Space Treaty so that directed energy and kinetic energy weapons are also banned along with “NO deployment” for any future offensive innovations with such a potential.

Establishing a code of conduct for peace supporting , non-offensive and non-aggressive uses of force (as also a short term breather and restraint on ASAT).

We are familiar with what science and technology enabled then . Now it has the potential to enable Space Powers to wage war, nay blow up planet earth or coerce and blackmail other countries to melt and allow one single economic and political ideology of the market and private enterprise , despite the financial bankruptcy it imposes on more than one country of the world termed as “Sovereign Debt” !

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=21432>

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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