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## THREAT: Proliferation

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Proliferation once referred to the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) of 1970, an agreement of the nuclear *haves* and most *have-nots* that things should stay just like that. However, there were two other important aspects to NPT – the Treaty overtly agreed that this was an interim arrangement directed towards eventual total nuclear *disarmament*, and that technologies for peaceful use of *nuclear energy* were not only permitted but were to be cooperatively shared. The *haves* were the five *nuclear-weapon states* defined in the NPT, **China, France, Russia, UK, USA**, who happened to be also the *Big-Five* of the Security Council. But disarmament 30 years later is just as distant; the nuclear-weapon states continue to refurbish and maintain nuclear arsenals and the principle of proliferating nuclear technology without the chapters on weaponizing that technology has proven a noble and naïve ideal. During NPT and contrary to it, **South Africa** built, tested and later disassembled nuclear weapons and several countries, including **Brazil** and **Libya**, toyed with the capability and abandoned it. Today, it is an open secret that **Israel** has nuclear weapons from an unknown source and in an unknown state of readiness, and **India** and **Pakistan** have proven their nuclear capability – all contrary to NPT. Several other countries are regarded as *nuclear-capable states* – **Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Japan** -- they have everything needed to produce nuclear weapons except the political will. Of headline current interest is the controversy over whether **Iran** and **DPR Korea** have weapons capability.

This situation coincides with the view that “clean, green” nuclear energy is an obvious fix for the environmental disaster-in-waiting caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Wider use of nuclear technologies for energy raises the spectre of proliferation in a broader sense – proliferation of spent and part-spent radioactive byproducts from the *nuclear fuel cycle*. Although the 30-year old Australian *synroc* technology now seems to be a secure and irreversible means for the safe sequestration of spent fuels, a thousand more nuclear flowers blooming throughout the world offers an obvious challenge for non-proliferation efforts. Highly accurate auditing of materials in and materials out is one measure but in recent years some audits have found a useful quantity of weapons-grade material missing ... or a **rounding error** in the audit; no-one knows for sure. A thousand rounding errors world-wide magnify the chance of usable quantities of weaponisable materials changing hands without trace.

For these several reasons, the NPT principles have obvious practical shortcomings and *UN Security Council Resolution 1540* was promulgated in 2004 to address these. The core articles ...

*Affirming* that prevention of proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons should not hamper international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes while goals of **peaceful utilization should not be used as a cover for proliferation**;

*Decides that* all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to **non-State actors** that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery;

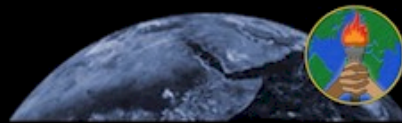
... are in very plain language and clearly more street-wise than NPT. Importantly, this is an instrument under **Chapter VII** of the *UN Charter* hence enforceable under the UN’s ultimate powers of coercion and enforcement. Also, the subject suddenly includes **chemical** and **biological** materials, and it importantly forbids proliferation into the hands of **non-State actors**. Although the only *peaceful* uses for these substances is research into antidotes to their non-peaceful uses, the letter of the resolution would allow any state to share or develop manufacturing technologies for these “peaceful purposes”. Also, any country could build manufacturing capability (for “peaceful purposes”) because the varying shelf-life of CB substances and pathogens requires periodic replenishment. So *Resolution 1540* is unfortunately, like the NPT, little more than a pious wish and, in the absence of an outright universal ban on possession of these substances, it does little to curtail *de facto* proliferation.

As the world approaches a cycle where *non-State* actors are an equal or greater threat to industrialized nations than conventional enemies, proliferation assumes new nuances. The *fear* of CBR(N) WMD is a **force multiplier** in *asymmetric* tactics and immense costs are brought upon any nation protecting itself

against the threat of a CBR incident. For the present, a multi-megaton air-burst bomb is unlikely, but a taxi loaded with 10 kilos of highly radioactive waste blown up in Time Square (or Trafalgar Square) would have a cumulative cost almost as great.

Near-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<p>Pious hopes are little protection against bad actors State or non-State of any ethnicity, politics or religion. The technologies and materials that were the subject of proliferation measures are already proliferated widely enough to now get anywhere else with the right theft, bribe, or accident. Although a CB attack by non-State bad actors is <i>possible</i> rather than <i>probable</i>, the consequences are such that it is an <i>acute hazard</i> and should be treated as such. It is unlikely that civil and military authorities in the US have sufficient planning in place to meet this hazard.</p>	<p>Pandora’s box is open. Getting the woes and pestilence back in the box will be very difficult – but that simply translates as very expensive. It is do-able and expensive. Security intelligence agencies throughout the world will believe they have some grasp on where hazardous technology, know-how and materials are and where they are moving, but the slight embarrassment on the <b>Iraq</b> assessment blunts confidence in this somewhat. Nothing short of a world effort, underpinned by instruments in the tradition of NPT and Resolution 1540, is urgently needed to start an exhaustive Inventory of CBRN materials throughout the world to last microgram. Obviously an agency similar to IAEA with expertise and powers across the range of CBRN would be key to that project.</p>	<p>Nuclear-generated power does seem to have long-term possibilities. If current experimental work in <i>fusion</i> by the <b>ITER</b> (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) project is successful this may prove to be spectacularly so – also, there will be none of the waste products produced in <i>fission</i> technologies and the technology will not lend itself to use by non-State actors. That may bring a time when <i>chemical</i> and <i>biological</i> agents are the only possible agents of WMD threat. But the nature of the world will be much determined by political wisdom displayed in the next five years and how successful any inventory and roundup of CBR material has been. A new concern may come from substantial work in recent years on <i>non-lethal weapons</i>. This may produce a new era of proliferation of simple, easily deployed debilitating economically crippling weaponry -- <i>Weapons of Mass Discomfort</i>.</p>

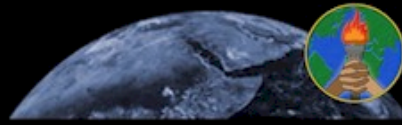
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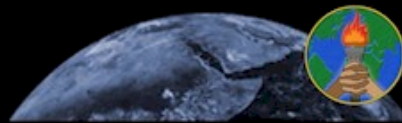
Hazard Level

Change Codes
↓ Deteriorated
• Steady
↑ Improved
↗ Alert

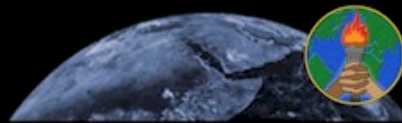
week-ended	See daily <a href="#">list of news items</a>
2007 Jul 01	<p>↓ In consultation with the IAEA, <b>Bangladesh</b> hopes to establish a 600 MW <i>nuclear power plant</i> at Ruppur in <i>Ishwardi</i>.  <a href="#">Big Powers Skirt Anti-Nuke Terrorism Treaty</a> -- "But most of the major powers, including those with nuclear weapons, are giving it a miss". A Foreign Policy in Focus discussion: "only one country, <b>South Africa</b>, has voluntarily given up this ultimate power" -- <a href="#">Just Nuclear Disarmament</a>. Also: "The <b>Carnegie Endowment for International Peace</b> gave the world's top powers an overall D-plus ..." -- <a href="#">Top world powers fail on non-proliferation</a>. Also: <a href="#">UK's [Foreign Minister] Beckett says nuclear states must cut stockpiles</a> -- "Our efforts on <i>non-proliferation</i> will be dangerously undermined if others believe... that <i>the nuclear weapon states</i> have abandoned any commitment to <i>disarmament</i>".</p>
2007 Jun 24	<p>↓ <b>Pakistan</b> is building a new <i>nuclear reactor</i> to produce <i>weapons-grade plutonium</i> at <i>Khushab</i> in <i>Punjab</i> province.            The <b>US</b> says it is ready to work on a new nuclear security regime to replace the <i>START</i> treaty -- "the [<i>START</i>] treaty has been largely criticized for the lack of <i>verification</i> provisions and the possibility of <i>re-deploying stored warheads</i>."            The <b>US Army</b> announces it has reached a major milestone under the <i>Chemical Weapons Convention</i> -- "we successfully met the 1-, 20- and 45-percent <i>destruction milestones</i> specified by the treaty while maintaining an outstanding safety record."  <b>Ukraine</b> says it will join the <b>Russian</b> international <i>uranium enrichment</i> project -- Russia's hopes its enrichment plant at <i>Angarsk</i> will obviate the need for nations such as <b>Iran</b> to do their own enrichment.</p>
2007 Jun 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]</li> </ul>
2007 Jun 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Syrian faces charge of FARC arms sale</a> -- "the men had agreed to provide the weapons for the <i>FARC</i> 'to use to protect their cocaine-trafficking business and to attack <i>United States</i> interests in <i>Colombia</i>'".  <i>"Zimbabwe's government is to take control of strategic resource sectors such as uranium under a new law due to take effect by year-end."</i> -- <a href="#">Zimbabwe to control strategic mining sectors</a>.</li> </ul>
2007 Jun 03	<p>↓ The US "<i>Missile Shield</i>" adventure seems, in one step, to have reinstated the <i>Cold War</i>; "<b>Russia</b> has not expressly targeted its <i>missiles</i> at Europe since the end of the Cold War but, asked if it would do this again if the U.S. missile shield plant went ahead, <b>Putin</b> said: 'Yes, naturally.'" -- <a href="#">Putin warns he will point missiles at Europe: paper</a></p>
2007 May 27	<p>↓ Despite some earlier indications to the contrary, <b>Australia</b> has decided not to sell <i>uranium</i> to <b>India</b> until it signs the <i>NPT</i>.            At least one <i>radioactive nuclear detection device</i> placed in the <i>Himalayas</i> during the 1960s by the <b>CIA</b> has gone missing; at least one other should be retrieved; "the device could not only lead to contamination of mountain for the next 300 years but can also make radioactive waters of Nepalese and Indian holy rivers ..." -- <a href="#">Nuclear Spy Device On Everest Could Contaminate Rivers</a>.</p>



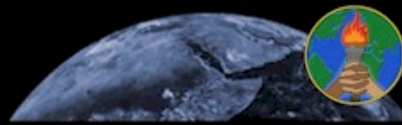
	<p>The <b>UK</b> government is being urged by some of its own members of Parliament to meet the <i>NPT</i> obligation to <b>disarm</b> -- "<i>to meet the country's commitment under the Non- Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to disarm instead of building a new generation of ballistic missile submarines.</i>" [i.e. <b>Trident</b>]</p> <p>The present <b>US</b> position is to let the <b>START nuclear treaty</b> expire in 2009; "<i>the pact is cumbersome and its complicated reporting standards have outlived their usefulness.</i>" -- but whoever forms the administration in <b>2009</b> can review this position. A report finds that the <b>UK</b> government has repeatedly breached its own guidelines on <b>arms exports</b> -- "<i>In the three years up to 2006, arms exports were approved to 19 of 20 states identified as "countries of concern", including <b>Colombia and Israel.</b></i>"</p>
2007 May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Russia</b> will build an atomic plant for the <b>Burmese</b> junta [<b>Myanmar</b>]- "<i>analysts believe the country's military leadership has sought Russia's help in an attempt to balance its traditional and lop-sided dependence on <b>China.</b></i>"</li> </ul>
2007 May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Russia</b> and <b>Kazakhstan</b> will build a <b>uranium enrichment</b> plant in <b>Siberia</b> with <b>IAEA</b> advice -- "<i>The plan will allow other nations to avoid building a similar plant themselves.</i>" [<b>Iran</b>, for example.]</li> </ul> <p>In the interminable exchanges between <b>Iran</b> and others on <b>uranium enrichment</b>, <b>Iran</b> has put the <b>second arm</b> of the <i>NPT</i> back on the table -- that obligates the <b>original five nuclear powers</b> to <b>dismantle arsenals</b>.</p> <p><b>Bahrain</b>, headquarters of the <b>US Fifth Fleet</b>, is seeking international help "<i>to ensure that Bahrain is protected from any nuclear danger</i>" [from <b>Iran</b>].</p> <p>"<i>At least some of <b>Khan's</b> associates appear to have escaped law enforcement attention and could, after a period of lying low, resume their <b>black market</b> business</i>" -- <a href="#">CIA did not focus enough on Khan network: researcher.</a></p>
2007 May 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King <b>Abdullah</b> pledged that <b>Jordan</b>, which has <b>uranium</b> reserves and imports nearly all of its <b>oil</b>, would be a model in the peaceful development of <b>nuclear energy</b>. "<i>The connection between <b>Khan</b> and the <b>Pakistani</b> government does not lend itself to easy delineation</i>" -- <a href="#">Pakistan may still be involved in N-smuggling: IISS.</a></li> </ul> <p>The new <b>George Tenet</b> book brings a reminder that not all former <b>Soviet nuclear</b> material can be accounted for -- <a href="#">Putin not able to track all nukes.</a></p> <p><b>Stockholm International Peace Research Institute</b> notes <b>Australia's uranium</b> reserves and its possession of classified <b>laser enrichment</b> technology make it a "concern".</p>
2007 Apr 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commander of <b>US</b> forces in <b>South Korea</b> says the best estimate of <b>DPRK's</b> capability is around <b>50kg</b> of <b>fissile weapons material</b>. But ... "<i>The U.S. intelligence community is <u>less confident now than five years ago</u> that North Korea has a program to highly enrich uranium.</i>"</li> </ul> <p><b>Oak Ridge National Laboratory</b> is ready to demonstrate a <b>reactor technology</b> that would consume [some] <b>nuclear waste</b> -- "<i>the aim of the demo ... is to transform nuclear leftovers into fuel for a new breed of reactors.</i>"</p>
2007 Apr 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first <b>Russian floating nuclear plant</b> will be commissioned in 2010 in <b>Severodvinsk</b> on the <b>White Sea</b> coast and will be followed by six others; 12 countries have shown interest in the technology.</li> </ul>
2007 Apr 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of the <b>IAEA</b> visited to discuss <b>Jordan's</b> hopes for a nuclear plant by 2015 for <b>electricity</b> and <b>water desalination</b>, and for <b>nuclear technology</b> in <b>education</b>. After the meeting, Mohamed <b>EIBaradei</b> expressed the hope that the <b>Middle East</b> could be made <b>free of nuclear weapons</b> -- "<i>this is the last chance to build a security system in the Middle East based on cooperation and trust and not the possession of nuclear weapons.</i>"</li> </ul> <p><b>DPRK</b> claims it is ready to close its nuclear reactor/s on receipt of <b>funds</b> presently frozen in <b>Macau</b>. [The deadlock lasting weeks is inexplicable given money transfers</p>



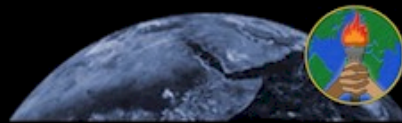
	usually take one-millisecond.] <b>Pakistan</b> says the danger of a <i>nuclear weapons exchange</i> is as high today as during the <i>cold war</i> -- there is a need for " <i>a new consensus on disarmament and non-proliferation</i> ".
2007 Apr 08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An <b>Australian</b> firm has announced a <i>uranium</i> mining project in <b>Malawi</b>. Iran's <i>Fars News Agency</i> is keen to report <b>Thailand's</b> interest in <i>nuclear energy</i>. <b>Uzbekistan</b> has ratified a treaty on <i>nuclear-free Central Asia</i>.</li> </ul>
2007 Apr 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After a considerable period of introspection, the <b>CIA</b> says the <b>North Korea nuclear test</b> was a failure -- "<i>the United States does not recognize North Korea as a nuclear weapons state.... It's because the nuclear test last year was a failure</i>". <b>France</b> is intending to try 42 for <i>arms trafficking</i> -- "<i>42 people, including the son of late French President Francois Mitterrand, stand trial for suspected roles in illegal arms sales to Angola ...</i>"  A survey of who's hot, and who's not -- <a href="#">A snapshot of the global uranium trade</a>.</li> </ul>
2007 Mar 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"How hard could it be to find hundreds of tons of radioactive nuclear material?" -- <a href="#">Secrets of a Nuclear Sleuth</a>.  Nuclear talks with <b>North Korea</b> came and went, largely occupied with returning a <i>frozen</i> \$25M from Macau to North Korea.  <b>Russia</b> again stresses the global strategic benefits of centralized well-secured <i>enrichment centers</i> obviating the need for countries [such as <b>Iran</b>] to enrich domestically.</li> </ul>
2007 Mar 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↓ 16 of 20 <i>nuclear waste</i> sites in the former Soviet Union and more than 700 <i>highly radioactive radioisotope thermoelectric generators</i> are <u>not</u> yet secure.  A <i>Radium</i> vial is missing from a holding site in the <b>US</b> -- this is not itself a severe hazard, but the loss points to faulty <i>control practices</i>.</li> </ul>
2007 Mar 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↓ There have been arrests in <b>DR Congo</b> over missing <i>uranium</i>, and a uranium "ring" smashed -- "<i>a large quantity of uranium is reported to have gone missing in recent years ...</i>"  As <b>Israel</b> has now all but formally admitted possession of <i>nuclear arms</i>, <i>Arab states</i> now want formal action by <b>IAEA</b> to bring Israel into conformance with international expectations.</li> </ul>
2007 Mar 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↑ President <b>Gadhafi</b> of <b>Libya</b> doesn't hold much hope <b>DPRK</b> or <b>Iran</b> will renounce <i>nuclear weapons</i> because he has still not received what Libya was promised by the Powers for renouncing his weapons programs.  <b>Russia</b> wants <b>Israel</b> to join the <i>NPT</i> -- "<i>a nuclear-free zone will become possible only when all countries in the region, including Israel, join the NPT ...</i>"  A senior <b>DPRK nuclear</b> negotiator has arrived in the <b>US</b> for talks -- talks at this senior official level may signify real progress.  <b>Chile</b> announces plans to research <i>nuclear energy</i> -- Chile currently imports <u>72%</u> of its energy in the form of <i>petroleum, gas</i> and <i>coal</i>.</li> </ul>
2007 Feb 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three <b>Russian</b> companies are forming a joint-venture to produce <i>uranium</i> in <b>Namibia</b> -- "<i>We are ready to produce electric power together and sell it together.</i>"</li> </ul>
2007 Feb 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↑ <b>North Korea</b> has ostensibly agreed to a two-stage plan of <i>disarmament</i>, "<i>but the diplomatic road ahead appears long and uncertain.</i>"</li> </ul>
2007 Feb 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An argument about whether it matters or not if <b>Iran</b> has "<i>the Bomb</i>" -- <a href="#">The Mullahs and the Bomb: Chirac's Analysis</a></li> </ul>
2007 Feb 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Georgia</b> and the <b>US</b> have signed an agreement to combat <i>smuggling</i> of <i>nuclear materials</i>.</li> </ul>
2007 Jan 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hans <b>Blix</b>, former head of <b>IAEA</b>, says <i>global warming</i> is more dangerous than <i>nuclear weapons</i> -- "<i>The [NPT] is under strain, but I think it is an exaggeration to say it is falling apart.</i>"</li> </ul>



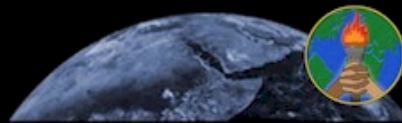
	<p>Russia will send <b>nuclear fuel</b> to an <b>Indian</b> plant -- "<i>During the second quarter of this year, we expect to deliver fuel to the first reactor at the Kudankulam.</i>"</p> <p>Seven <b>Cambodian de-miners</b> were killed by a <b>Khmer Rouge</b> booby trap -- "It was an old Khmer Rouge set-up," he said - <b>three anti-tank mines wired together</b>. A new technology allows detection of <b>land mines</b> with <b>sound</b> -- "<i>They were able to detect both metal and plastic mines ...</i>"</p>
<p>2007 Jan 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pakistan</b> is said to be building new <b>nuclear</b> facilities -- "<i>Pakistan may intend to render operational a new reprocessing facility</i>". A news report claims the <b>King of Jordan</b> wants his country to start a <b>nuclear</b> program, but the King is probably making a diplomatic point rather than announcing an initiative. The <b>Cold War</b> was "paradise" compared to modern threats says <b>Russia's Defense Minister</b> -- proliferation of <b>WMD</b> is a much greater threat than when "everything was predictable and measured-out".</li> <li>Plans by <b>Belarus</b> to destroy millions of <b>land mines</b> have been delayed owing to a lack of funds.</li> </ul>
<p>2007 Jan 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Radionuclides</b> from medical and a range of other applications such as those that would probably be used in a "<b>dirty bomb</b>" do NOT come within the purview of the UN nuclear watchdog, the <b>IAEA</b>.</li> <li>A meeting of <b>African</b> states declared they were "entitled to reap the benefits of <b>atomic energy</b>" -- "<i>Ministers and officials from at least 45 countries pledged in a joint statement to promote the safe and accountable use of nuclear energy.</i>"</li> </ul>
<p>2007 Jan 08</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>US</b> is using new <b>hybrid</b> design for new and refurbished <b>nuclear warheads</b> this raises the question of whether the US will end its moratorium <b>on underground nuclear testing</b> to make sure the new design works.</li> <li>The energy Secretary dismissed the head of the <b>National Nuclear Security Administration</b> for a series of <b>security lapses</b> at <b>Los Alamos</b> and other facilities; but some said "<i>It will take more than a new boss to fix the problems, which are far more systemic and pervasive in nature.</i>"</li> <li><b>Israel's defense exports</b> are now \$4B making Israel one of the world's top military equipment suppliers.</li> </ul>
<p>2007 Jan 01</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>US</b> federal authorities removed <b>cesium</b> from a site in New England -- to date the <u>domestic source recovery program</u> has recovered enough <b>radioactive</b> material to make over 1,400 potent <b>dirty bombs</b> from over 500 facilities.</li> <li>The <b>US</b> reported that (known) <b>nuclear trafficking</b> world-wide has <u>doubled</u> in 5 years -- but only "a handful" involved <b>weapons-usable</b> nuclear materials.</li> </ul>
<p>2006 Dec 25</p>	<p>↓ A small but dangerous quantity of highly <b>radioactive</b> material has been stolen in <b>India</b> in a state infamous for an <b>insurgency</b> -- "It carries <b>uranium</b> and radiation could have an adverse effect in an area of 1.5 kilometers". <b>Iran</b> has formally asked the <b>UN</b> to make <b>Israel</b> give up its unlawful <b>nuclear arms</b> -- "Israel is assumed to have about 200 nuclear weapons..." Some <b>Israel</b>-loyalists see recent comments in the Middle East as the "<b>Arab Race for the Bomb</b>" -- "We must also formally recognize that <b>Iran</b> has already declared war on us." In a UN operation 270 kilos of highly enriched [<b>weapon-grade</b>] <b>uranium</b> fuel has been successfully removed from <b>Germany</b> and transported to a processing centre near Podolsk in <b>Russia</b>. Unrelated ...<b>radioactive waste</b> being transported has falling out of a van in <b>Germany</b> and been strewn about when the drum broke open. <i>World Politics Watch</i> published a definitive article on <b>Russia's Angarsk International Uranium Enrichment Center</b>; see <a href="#">Nuclear Fuel Supply Proposals Aimed at Weakness in Nonproliferation Regime</a>. The continuing <i>WhoDunIt</i> on the poisoned Russian ex-spy focuses on the high cost of the likely quantity of <b>polium-210</b> used; probably \$10M -- "You can't buy this much off the Internet or steal it from a laboratory without raising an alarm." Others said</p>



	that was nonsense.
2006 Dec 18	<p>↓ Chinese police have destroyed 194 <i>illegal gun factories</i> and shops in a crackdown on illegal weapons -- "Police seized <u>3,900 tons of explosives</u>, ... 178,000 guns, ... 2.06 million knives." <b>France</b> says it is finding many <b>Chinese</b> arms in <b>Africa</b> -- "... too often we see Chinese arms intervening in conditions that are sometimes contrary to <i>embargoes</i>." Secretary of State <b>Rice</b> questions why <b>Saudi Arabia</b> might need <i>nuclear energy</i>, [Analysis: If Saudi Arabia is called to explain, it will be rightly or wrongly be <b>Iran's</b> explanation – irreplaceable <i>petroleum</i> Resources can be hoarded or used to earn <i>foreign exchange</i>; whereas nuclear is sustainable.]</p> <p><b>Kazakhstan</b> and <b>Ukraine</b> are discussing cooperation on <i>nuclear</i> projects. ↓ 161 <i>depleted uranium</i> missiles [fragments?] have been found in southern <b>Serbia</b> -- "During its 78-day air strikes on Serbia's predecessor <b>Yugoslavia</b> in 1999, NATO dropped 31,000 missiles and bombs containing [tipped with] depleted uranium." The deadline for the <i>destruction</i> of certain <i>chemical weapons</i> by the <b>US</b> and <b>Russia</b> has been extended to April 30, 2012.</p>
2006 Dec 11	<p>↓ It may bode well that new secretary of defense <b>Gates</b> has cleared the air on the dangerous <i>Don't Ask-Don't Tell</i> policy on <b>Israel's</b> unlawful <i>nuclear</i> capability. Inaugurating a joint <i>uranium</i> venture, the head of Russia's atomic-energy agency (<b>Rusatom</b>) said <b>Kazakhstan</b> and <b>Russia</b> hope to lead "the world's nuclear market." A hearsay report on <b>Syria's</b> secret nuclear activity says the program is quite advanced. As expected by many, an <b>Australian</b> advisory committee says it is "conceivable" that Australian uranium sales to <b>India</b> would "not undermine the non-proliferation regime." <b>UK</b> Prime Minister <b>Blair</b> pushes to revamp Britain's <i>nuclear submarines</i> -- "...unstable, ... antidemocratic states ... having a nuclear capability is a distinct and novel reason for Britain not to give up its capacity to deter." Poisoned Alexander <b>Litvinenko</b> had not only smuggled <i>radioactive material</i> from <b>Russia</b> to <b>Switzerland</b> in 2000, but had also converted to <i>Islam</i> shortly before his death. Under auspices of the <b>IAEA</b>, <b>Argentine</b> state-owned <b>Invap</b> will refurbish a <b>Libyan nuclear reactor</b>.</p>
2006 Dec 04	<p>↓ A report shows that <b>Russian arms</b> trade with the developing world continues to grow. Another report said the world has 640 million <i>guns</i> and <i>missiles</i>. The security of <b>Congo's uranium</b> is worrying some diplomats -- "For quite some time there have been suspicions that <b>Iran</b> has been trying to exploit the chaos in Congo and purchase uranium via middlemen."</p> <p><b>Litvinenko</b> [poisoned in London] allegedly masterminded an <b>FSB</b> operation of <i>smuggling nuclear material</i> -- "The operation would have been one of the last carried out by Litvinenko while still an FSB officer, in a unit tackling organised crime and smuggling."</p> <p>Five <b>Russians</b> were detained with portable SAMs -- four <i>Strela 2M</i> heat-seeking missiles, small enough to pack in a <i>suitcase</i>, were seized from criminals in Adler, just south of the resort city of Sochi.</p>
2006 Nov 27	<p>↓ <b>Polonium-210</b> became the best-known element of the year as the mystery deepened this week over its use by persons unknown to kill an <b>FSB</b> defector in London. <i>Bio-terrorism, bio-security</i> and <i>disease surveillance</i> were on the agenda of the sixth review conference of the <i>Convention on Biological Weapons</i> in Geneva. One <b>US</b> contribution was that <b>Iran</b> might have <i>CBM</i> weapons.</p>
2006 Nov 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One of the <i>Axis of Evil</i> advises another to play nicely -- <b>Iran</b> calls for nuclear-free <i>Korean Peninsula</i> [Interpretation: Iran means both North and South Korea.] The <b>French</b> are the first to <i>search</i> a <b>DPRK</b> ship under <i>SC Resolution 1718</i>, at the island of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean.</li><li>• The <b>US</b> last year provided nearly half of the <i>weapons</i> sold to militaries in the developing world.</li></ul>
2006 Nov 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>BND</b> (German secret service) will create a department to dealing with fighting</li></ul>

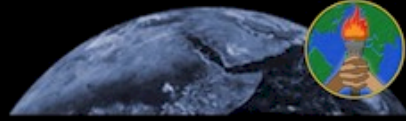


	<p>global nuclear arms proliferation.  <b>France</b> has tested a <i>nuclear-capable ballistic missile</i>; the 50 tonne <i>M51</i> with a range of some 8,000km is to replace France's existing submarine-based missiles by 2010. Speaking in <b>China</b>, the <b>Egyptian</b> Foreign Minister renewed Egypt's call for <b>Israel</b> to join the <i>NPT</i> and for a <i>nuclear-free Middle-East</i>.          One commentator sees the proliferation threats against the <b>US</b> approaching a <i>perfect storm</i> -- "... <i>the Islamists, Russia or China controls all oil transit choke points.</i>"</p>
2006 Nov 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A web-site reluctantly set up by <b>DNI</b> contained <b>Iraqi</b> information <i>on nuclear firing circuits and triggering</i> that was not already publicly available. [The information has now been removed from the site.]          A report claims "<b>China</b> has contributed at least indirectly to <b>North Korea's</b> nuclear program."          The <i>Nuclear Five</i> plus <b>Italy, Japan, Canada, China, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Australia, Morocco</b> have had the first meeting of a new anti-proliferation initiative.</li> </ul>
2006 Oct 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Egypt's</b> Foreign Minister announced the country will have its first <i>nuclear power</i> station in around 10 years.  <b>Israel</b> has confirmed it is vague on its nuclear status as a matter of policy – "It served us and is good for the future".  <b>Amnesty International</b> reported the majority of the world's governments have voted to start work on an <i>International Arms Trade Treaty</i>.          The <b>US</b> will create a <i>nuclear forensics center</i> that will be able to identify nuclear and radiological materials from all over the world.</li> </ul>
2006 Oct 23	<p>↓ Finally the <b>US</b> was able to confirm the nature of <b>DPR Korea's nuclear test</b>; probably less than 1ktonne and <i>plutonium</i>, but ... "this is good news because we have a reasonably good idea of how much <i>plutonium</i> they have made." The <b>US</b> announced it will convert its <i>nuclear arsenal</i> into a new stockpile of up to 2,200 deployed nuclear weapons. <b>IAEA</b> head General Mohamed <b>El Baradei</b> says as many as 30 new countries could get <i>nuclear weapons</i>; "We need to develop a new system of international approach". <b>Belarus</b> announced it would build a nuclear power plant, possibly as early as 2007.  <b>Amnesty International</b> says discovery of <i>arms</i> from many suppliers in <b>DR Congo</b>, which is under a <i>UN arms embargo</i>, again proves the need for an <i>Arms Trade Treaty</i>.</p>
2006 Oct 16	<p>!!! Proving the ultimate impotency of the six-party talks, <b>DPR Korea</b> fired an underground <i>nuclear test</i> but there are still doubts about the nature and extent of the event. Some immediately called for <b>Japan</b> to be nuclear armed. It was a close run thing but the U.N. Security Council finally voted <i>sanctions</i> in response; now a flurry of diplomatic talks start on how to implement the measures.</p>
2006 Oct 09	<p>↓ <b>North Korea</b> conducted its first <i>nuclear test</i> underground on 20061009.  <b>Iran</b> suggested <b>France</b> could enrich its <i>uranium</i> but a French official says "This is something that would be almost as dangerous as leaving the Iranians to do it alone"; France says there have been no discussions.          Illegal <i>arms</i> trafficking adds to global violence – a 1,000 people die every day as a direct result of armed violence.</p>
2006 Oct 02	<p>↓ In consultation with US-DOE, <b>Kazakhstan</b> has agreed to downgrade its highly <i>enriched uranium</i> stocks and convert its nuclear reactor to lower grade uranium. An analyst said that <b>Iran</b> is using the same strategies <b>Israel</b> used to covertly assemble it's nuclear arsenal without admitting it had one.          Former Dpty-Secretary Armitage said the <b>North Koreans</b> may simply stall until a new administration is in the Whitehouse.  <b>Egypt</b> announced plans to build a nuclear power station at <i>El-Dabaa</i> within 10 years.          With Jesuitic brilliance, <b>Australia</b> may find itself able to sell <i>uranium</i> to non-NPT</p>



2006 Sep 25	<p><b>India</b> because India behaves as though it had signed.  <b>!!!</b> <i>Oxfam</i> said "...global <b>military spending</b> is expected to reach some \$1.06 trillion this year, higher than the previous record set during the Cold War." Destitute <b>Russian</b> nuclear specialists could easily be hired by terrorist groups to fabricate <b>dirty bombs</b>.</p>
2006 Sep 18	<p><b>!!!</b> The <b>IAEA</b> says there are two tons of <b>radioactive material</b> badly stored in <b>Serbia</b> that is an easy target for terrorists seeking to build a <b>dirty bomb</b>. <b>China</b> has underlined its support for <b>Iran's</b> peaceful use of <b>nuclear energy</b>, and has urged resumption of talks with <b>North Korea</b>. The <b>Arab League</b> conference in Bahrain has asserted Arab rights to <b>nuclear technology</b> and demanded that <b>Israel</b> give up its <b>nuclear weapons</b>.</p>
2006 Sep 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five <b>Central Asian</b> states have signed agreements against <b>nuclear weapons</b> at the Semipalatinsk one-time Soviet test site. <b>Australia</b> has reassured <b>Indonesia</b> that any future enriching of <b>uranium</b> would <i>not</i> be involved with acquisition of nuclear weapons.</li> </ul>
2006 Sep 04	<p>↓ <b>Indonesia</b> expressed "all-out support" for <b>Iran's</b> peaceful nuclear program and looks forward to exchange of <b>nuclear</b> technology with Iran—<b>Argentina</b> announced a strategic plan to significantly enlarge its nuclear power capacity—<b>South Africa</b> said "Whether we should now go back to enrichment for civilian uses is a matter we are going to have to study very carefully".</p>
2006 Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An editorial in a Lebanese daily observed that "For this part of the world ... a <b>nuclear war</b> at some point in the future is not just an alarming possibility: It is a virtual certainty."</li> </ul>
2006 Aug 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to report]</li> </ul>
2006 Aug 14	<p>↑ 40 kilograms of highly enriched <b>uranium</b> from <b>Poland</b> has joined another 230 kilograms brought back from previous satellite republics to <b>Russia</b>.</p>
2006 Aug 07	<p>↓ <b>US</b> has imposed trade sanctions on Russian firms (and others) for trading weapons components with <b>Iran</b> — <b>Nigeria</b> declared its intention to acquire peaceful <b>nuclear</b> technologies — one suggested approach for non-proliferation is a resolute clampdown on nuclear weapons from <b>Israel</b> to <b>Iran</b> — there was a warning that new recombinant DNA technologies brought unimaginably horrible possibilities for custom-made <b>weaponisable pathogens</b>.</p>
2006 Jul 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>China</b> says it has taken measures to restrict export of <b>biological agents</b>, but made no comment on improving the poor practices which led to the 2004 <b>SARS</b> release.</li> </ul>
2006 Jul 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A truck carrying <b>caesium</b> and other radioactive materials was stopped in <b>Bulgaria</b> on its way to Iran.</li> </ul>
2006 Jul 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>US</b> and <b>Russia</b> signed a significant agreement on disposal of weapons-grade Plutonium in fast-breeder reactors; <b>Turkey</b> ratified an agreement with the US on civilian nuclear cooperation; <b>South Africa</b> added its support to <b>Iran's</b> right to (peaceful) nuclear development.</li> </ul>
2006 Jul 10	<p>↓ Mr <b>Kim</b> went ballistic and the <b>US</b> and <b>Russia</b> agreed on a new level of civilian nuclear cooperation. <b>Hans Blix</b> said that nuclear weapons are a danger to all whoever possesses them.</p>
2006 Jul 03	<p>↓ Illegal nuclear sales by <b>Ukraine</b>, <b>Iran's</b> posture, <b>DPRK</b> brinkmanship, the <b>US</b> arrangement with <b>India</b>, and <b>Indonesia's</b> decision to go nuclear for energy – these and other developments indicate the <b>NPT</b> is in tatters and a new round of post-Cold War world summits is necessary.</p>

Commencement of Service



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