

U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

December 2015 – February 2016 Newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2015 – февраль 2016.



ИСКРАН

NEWS:

Nuclear Security Summit to Adopt a Consensus Document on Next Steps

Participants in the upcoming Nuclear Security Summit, which will take place in Washington DC on March 31-April 1, plan to sign off on a document, which will outline further steps to strengthen the global nuclear security architecture and spur progress on tangible nuclear security improvements, a senior White House official [told Arms Control Today](#) in February. The official said that the consensus document will “highlight progress” toward these goals and “look forward to further steps required to achieve them,” according to ACT’s March 2016 issue. The summit is also to endorse five action plans to advance the NSS agenda after such summits discontinue, according to ACT. The summit participants, who will represent 52 countries and four international organizations, will also hear new announcements on removal of HEU and plutonium, according to the U.S. official. [The March -April summit](#) will be the fourth and final one. The first Nuclear Security Summit was held in [Washington, DC in 2010](#). It was followed by additional Summits in [Seoul in 2012](#) and [The Hague in 2014](#). On March 21st Matthew Bunn, Marty Malin, Nicholas Roth, and William Tobey of the Belfer Center of Science and International Affairs will present their report that assesses progress achieved in the sphere of nuclear security since the 2014 summit and highlights the remaining gaps. The report, which will be presented at the offices of Carnegie Endowment in Washington DC, will also contain policy recommendations for participants of the upcoming summit, according to Mr. Tobey, who directs



Bunn

Tobey

Malin

Roth

U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism. Mr. Tobey is also to testify before the U.S. Senate’s foreign relations committee on NSS-2016 on March 17th.

Russia Won’t Participate in NSS, But U.S. Hopes for Continued Cooperation

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova has explained Russia’s decision to refrain from participating in the final Nuclear Security Summit by asserting that its “political agenda of these summits is exhausted.” On January 13th, she was quoted by TASS as [saying](#): Russia also “presume(s) that the IAEA should play the central role in coordinating the international community’s efforts in the physical nuclear security area, as it possesses the necessary expert potential.” U.S. Under Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller [told Interfax](#) on February 5th that United States regrets Russia’s decision to refrain from participating in the final nuclear security summit. In spite of that decision, the U.S. will continue to searching for various opportunities, including new ones, to cooperate with Russia in reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism, she said. And a White House official [told Arms Control Today](#) in February that Russia continues to work “constructively with the United States” on projects to remove nuclear

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materials from other countries and as a member of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. However, head of the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration Frank Klotz [told Sputnik](#) that he believes cooperation between the United States and Russia on nuclear nonproliferation issues has reached an impasse. As a result, NNSA requested a 6.4 percent decrease in funding for nonproliferation activities in 2017, according to [Sputnik](#). Of countries that participated in the 2014 summit Russia is the only one that won't be attending the final summit. In contrast, a number of other post-Soviet republics will be represented at the March 31-April 1 event. Leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine are among those who plan to participate in the event.



Zakharova Gottemoeller Klotz

Ageing Helicopters Can Make U.S. ICBMs Vulnerable To Terrorist Attacks

The fleet of helicopters deployed to protect U.S. intercontinental missile launch facilities around U.S. Air Force bases in Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota is too aged to allow a timely response to hypothetical terrorist attacks on these facilities, [Roll Call reported](#) on February 29th, citing U.S. lawmakers, military leaders and Defense Department documents. “They are not capable of doing the job of responding to an alert,” Mike D. Rogers, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives’ Armed Services committee, told [Roll Call](#) in reference to the UH-1N Huey helicopters. “This is about nuclear weapons that are at risk,” he said. The need to replace the Hueys became all the more evident after these helicopters came up short at a classified annual security exercise held at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming last summer, according to [Roll Call](#).

Robert Einhorn Calls for Continuation of U.S.-Russian Cooperation in the Field of Nuclear Security

On February 26th, a task force on U.S. policy toward Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia published a [paper](#) by Robert Einhorn, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, in which he states few nonproliferation problems can be resolved without Russia’s active support. Mr. Einhorn notes that the Russians have been eager to continue Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in part because of the co-leadership role they play in it. This, according to Einhorn, remains a promising area of bilateral cooperation, “given continuing concerns about terrorist groups seeking nuclear weapons and other WMD.” Although most of U.S.-Russian cooperation in the sphere of nuclear materials security has stopped, “some joint work may be salvageable,” according to Mr. Einhorn, who believes that cooperation in repatriating HEU-bearing fuels to Russia can continue. He also calls for further joint studies of converting Russian HEU-fueled research reactors and discussions on implementation of the 2000 Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement.

NNSA Announces Removal of Plutonium from Switzerland

The U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration has removed some 20 kilograms of separated plutonium from a facility in Switzerland and transported it to the

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December 2015 – February 2016 Newsletter Информационный бюллетень за декабрь 2015 – февраль 2016. United States. NNSA has worked in collaboration with the Government of Switzerland in removal of the plutonium from the Paul Scherrer Institute, according to a [press release](#) issued by the U.S. agency on March 3rd.

Iridium-192 Gone Missing in Mexico

The Mexican government has issued an alert for a part of central Mexico after the theft of an industrial device containing Iridium-192, [CNN reported](#). The device was being transported in a pickup that was stolen on February 28th in the state of Queretaro.

IAEA Chief Urges Application of Key Nuclear Security Agreement

In comments made on February 22nd director general of the International Atomic Energy



Agency Yukiya Amano urged more nations to ratify the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. So far 89 countries ratified the amendment, but 11 more need to do so for this key agreement to come into force. Its application would “reduce the likelihood of terrorists being able to detonate a ...'dirty bomb'” and reduce the risk of an attack on a nuclear power plant, [Associated Press quoted](#) Amano as saying.

Iridium-192 Recovered in Iraq

A cache of Iridium-192, which went missing last year after it had been stored in a device at a facility in Iraq, has been found dumped near a petrol station in the Iraqi town of Zubair, officials [told Reuters](#) on February 21st. The recovery of the material ended speculation that it could be acquired by the Islamic State terrorist organization to be used as a weapon. Iraqi authorities had been searching for the device, which contained Iridium-192, since it was stolen in November from a storage facility belonging to U.S. oilfield services company Weatherford near the city of Basra, according to [Reuters](#).

Graham Allison Cautions against Exaggerating Terrorist Threat to U.S.

Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Graham Allison has published an [op-ed](#) in *The Boston Globe* in which he cautions against exaggerating terrorist threats to the U.S. homeland. While polls find that 51 percent of Americans fear that they or one of their family members will be the victim of such an attack, the reality is that a person living in the United States is more than over 100 times more likely to be killed by falling objects than by jihadi terrorists, according to Professor Allison's February 19th article. According to his calculations, an average of 4 people in the United States have been killed by jihadi terrorist attacks each year over the past decade, 688 by falling objects. Professor Allison participates in the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism.



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Italian-Made Vessels Will Transport Decommissioned Nuclear Reactors in Russia

An Italian barge and floating dock designed for Russia to further assist in transporting Soviet legacy nuclear waste to safe storage will soon be towed to the port of Murmansk, according to Bellona. The Itarus vessel will transport reactor compartments from dismantled nuclear submarines to Russia's northerly Sayda Bay storage, according to this Norwegian NGO's February 19th [report](#).

Terrorist Suspect Spied on Belgian Nuclear Official

A suspect linked to the terrorists who killed 130 people in Paris last November, could have been involved in surveillance of a high-ranking Belgian nuclear official, *New York Times* [reported](#) on February 18th. The recovery of the surveillance footage from the home of Mohamed Bakkali, who was arrested after the Paris attacks on charges of terrorist activity and murder, stoked fears that the Islamic State might be trying to plot a dirty bomb attack in Europe. "We can imagine that the terrorists might want to kidnap someone or kidnap his family," so they can force their target to turn over the radioactive innards of such a device after removing the materials surreptitiously, a spokeswoman for Belgium's Federal Agency for Nuclear Control [said](#) in reference to the recovery of the surveillance footage. "The potential for a bad outcome when you have ISIS looking at nuclear people is substantial," according to William Tobey of the Belfer Center.

The Obama Administration Tries to End Funding for Half-Built MOX Plant

In the FY2017 budget request submitted to the U.S. Congress on February 9th, U.S. President Barack Obama proposes to terminate construction of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility in South Carolina. The U.S. has been building the plant because the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement, which Washington and Moscow signed in 2000, commits the signatories to eliminate 34 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium from their nuclear arsenals each. However, the 2000 deal does not require the United States to necessarily use the MOX recycling plant to dispose of plutonium, according to a [letter](#), which 13 American experts sent to U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz on February 22nd. The signatories of the letter included Dr. Gary Samore, who works as executive director of research at the Belfer Center and participates in the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism. A recent [report](#) completed by the Aerospace Corp indicates there are cheaper ways for the U.S. to get rid of plutonium other than building the MOX plant. The report estimates that the MOX approach would cost some \$700-\$800 million per year to implement. In comparison, it would cost about \$400 million to downblend the plutonium, according to the report. The Obama administration has repeatedly tried to end funding of construction of the MOX plant, but Congress would invariably restore it. In the meantime, the U.S. Department of Energy has made an initial decision to prepare 6 metric tons of surplus plutonium to be disposed of as nuclear waste. IPFM [blog reported](#) about this decision on January 6th, 2016.



Moniz

Samore

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U.S. Intelligence: Threat of WMD is Real

The latest [Worldwide Threat Assessment of the United States Intelligence Community](#), which director of national intelligence James Clapper presented to the U.S. Senate's Intelligence Committee on February 9th, states that "the use of chemical weapons in Syria by both state and non-state actors demonstrates that the threat of WMD is real." The assessment includes sections on terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, but it doesn't contain references to nuclear terrorism.

U.S. Nuke Secrets Found in Trash Bags at Y-12

A worker has found documents, which contained U.S. nuclear secrets, inside trash bags marked for disposal at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee. The find occurred in June 2014, according to the Center for Public Integrity's February 3rd [report](#).

Former DoE Official Admits to Trying to Infect Computers at Nuclear Labs

Charles Harvey Eccleston, a former U.S. Energy Department employee, pleaded guilty to the charge of attempting to damage protected government computers in an email "spear-phishing attack," *Washington Post* [reported](#) on February 2nd. Mr. Eccleston was initially accused of attempting to infiltrate the energy agency's computer system to steal nuclear secrets after he had allegedly targeted more than 80 U.S. Energy Department employees at four national nuclear labs with emails containing what he thought were links to malicious websites, according to *Washington Post*.

DoE's Ernest Moniz to Visit Kazakhstan

Kazakh Energy Minister Vladimir Shkolnik has met with US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz. The two officials discussed Moniz's upcoming visit to Kazakhstan in April and the signing of a joint statement of the US-Kazakhstan Energy Partnership, *Interfax* reported on February 1st.

A U.S. National Academies Report Calls for Further Reduction of Use of HEU in Research Reactors

A committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has released a [report](#), which calls for further reducing use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) in civilian research reactors with the eventual elimination of such use. The January 2016 report was prepared by the Committee on the Current Status of and Progress Toward Eliminating Highly Enriched Uranium Use in Fuel for Civilian Research and Test Reactors, of which director of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism William Tobey is a member. Before the dangers of proliferation and nuclear terrorism were fully understood, over two hundred research reactors in dozens of countries were fueled with HEU, according to Mr. Tobey's [analysis](#) of the [report](#), which was published by Nuclear Security Matters on February 3rd. Since then, U.S. efforts to convert HEU research reactors and to repatriate fresh and spent fuel have significantly advanced efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation and terrorism, Mr. Tobey writes. In Mr. Tobey's view, Russia's commitment to the conversion of research reactors remains uncertain.

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Nevertheless, the report recommends that technical and scientific interactions with Russia should continue with the goal of minimizing the use of HEU.

NNSA Details Its Threat Reduction Efforts in 2015

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has released a [report](#), which reviewed activities of this agency in 2015. According to the report's section on nuclear threat reduction, last year saw NNSA and its foreign partners remove some 130 kilograms of highly enriched uranium and plutonium from Kazakhstan, Switzerland, and Uzbekistan, making the last two countries free of all HEU. NNSA also recovered more than 250,000 curies of disused or orphaned radioactive material, and completing security enhancements at 80 international and 50 domestic buildings. In 2015, NNSA also down-blended additional HEU to achieve a cumulative total of 150 metric tons of U.S. excess, weapons-usable HEU – approximately 6,000 nuclear weapons worth of material, according to the report. NNSA also cooperated with the FBI to conduct eight WMD counterterrorism exercises inside the United States. The agency also conducted bilateral and multilateral training activities with more than 3,500 participants from 53 countries and provided radiation detection capabilities to more than 46 countries, according to the report.

Retired and Current Officials Ponder DPRK's Motives & Capabilities in Wake of Latest Nuclear Test

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's decisions to test-fire missiles and carry out nuclear tests are meant in part to advertise "his proliferation capabilities," CIA Director John Brennan was [quoted](#) by *Foreign Policy* as saying. Brennan made his comments shortly after North Korea announced on January 6th that it had tested a miniaturized hydrogen bomb. Olli Heinonen, former deputy director general of IAEA and a senior fellow at the Belfer Center, warned against rushing to conclusions on whether Pyongyang's claim was true. Major General Vladimir Dvorkin and Lieutenant General Viktor Yesin also expressed doubts about North Korea's claims. "There are doubts about North Korea's possession of hydrogen and thermonuclear bombs, it could have been a simulation," Dvorkin was quoted by *Interfax* as saying on February 8th. In any case North Korea is not yet in possession of a nuclear warhead that could be installed on a missile, according to General Yesin, who used to head the staff of Russia's Strategic Missile Forces before becoming a senior fellow at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies. "So far, North Koreans have not been successful in minimizing the mass, the dimensional characteristics of nuclear charges," the retired Lieutenant General was quoted by *Interfax* as saying on February 9th. General Yesin also dismissed claims that the North Korean rocket was developed with technologies obtained from Russia and said that the January 6th test did not pose a threat to Russia. Likewise, there's no imminent threat to the U.S. homeland, according to Dr. Siegfried Hecker, one of the world's most renowned experts on DPRK's nuclear program. "North Korea is still a long way off from being able to strike the US mainland," Hecker told *Agence France Press* on February 2, 2016.

The Belfer Center's executive director of research Dr. Gary Samore questioned whether the January 6th test served Pyongyang's interest. "I think it's very difficult to understand what national interest was served by testing right now. It may be another indication of Kim Jong Un's very poor judgment," Dr. Samore was [quoted](#) by Voice of America as saying on January 6th. In

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Gen. Yesin, Gen. Dvorkin, Dr. Hecker, Mr. Heinonen and Dr. Samore participate in the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism.



Brennan Yesin Dvorkin Hecker Heinonen

U.S. and Russia Receive Maxim Score for Nuclear Cyber Security From NTI

Russia and the United States were among the top 13 nations who received the maximum score for cybersecurity in the latest [Nuclear Security Index](#), which NTI released on January 14th. Russia and United States were also among the nuclear powers that have decreased their quantities of weapons and usable nuclear materials over the most recent four-year period measured by the Nuclear Threat Initiative. Former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, who is co-chairman and chief executive officer of NTI, travelled to Moscow in February to present the index in the Russian capital as well as to discuss possibilities for U.S.-Russian nuclear security cooperation.

Belfer Center's William Tobey, Matthew Bunn, Daniel Poneman and Nicholas Roth also participated in the discussions as did Siegfried Hecker. While in Moscow, the experts "discussed the full range of options for nuclear cooperation between the United States and Russia, with Russian counterparts," Mr. Tobey said in a March 8th interview with IPNT.



Poneman Nunn

Ernest Moniz Informs White House of NNSA's Ageing Facilities To Request More Funds

Majority of NNSA's facilities and systems are beyond end-of-life, according to a letter, which U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz sent to White House budget director Shaun Donovan to request increase of funding for the agency. Also, "infrastructure problems such as falling ceilings are increasing in frequency and severity," as more than 50% of facilities are at least 40 years old and nearly 30% date to World War II, Mr. Moniz was quoted by *Wall Street Journal* as [saying](#) in the letter.

Three Men Arrested in Georgia For Trying to Sell Cesium-137

Three men have been arrested in the post-Soviet republic of Georgia on suspicions of trying to sell radioactive cesium, *Associated Press* [reported](#) on January 11. Georgia's security agency said the trio was nabbed in the capital, Tbilisi, while trying to sell an unspecified amount of cesium-137 for \$100,000.

Japan to Ship 331 Kilograms of Plutonium to U.S.

Japan will send 331 kilograms of plutonium to the United States as part of a deal to return the material that was used for research. The cache, which is enough to produce 50 nuclear bombs,

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Report: ISIS May Attempt CBRN Attacks in Europe

European governments and EU institutions need to consider publicly addressing the possibility of a terrorist attack using nuclear materials, according to a [brief](#) written for members of the European Parliament. “There is a genuine risk of (ISIS) using chemical, biological, radiological or even nuclear materials in the context of future attacks on European targets,” according to the brief written by Beatrix Immenkamp and published in December 2015.

Russia’s New Security Strategy Refers to WMD Terrorism Threat

Russia’s new national security strategy lists nuclear terrorism among threats to national security. The document’s section on threats [refers](#) to “activities of terrorist and extremist organizations, aimed at forcible change of the constitutional system of the Russian Federation as well as destabilizing the work of the organs of state power... through acquisition of weapons of mass destruction, radioactive, poisonous, toxic, chemically and biologically hazardous substances as well as through acts of nuclear terrorism, breaches of security and sustainability of the critical informational infrastructure of the Russian Federation.” The strategy, which President Vladimir Putin signed off on December 31st, also finds expansion of NATO and development of global missile defense by the United States to be unacceptable. At the same time, the document stated that “the Russian Federation is interested in building a full-fledged partnership with the United States on the basis of shared interests.”

Mayak Reprocesses More Spent Fuel

Russia’s Production Association Mayak PA reprocessed more than 200 tons of spent nuclear fuel in 2015. In previous years the plant reprocessed no more than 130 tons of such fuel per year, according to Nuclear.ru’s December 30th report.

RVSN Procures Robotic Guards, New Security Systems

The Russian defense industry is developing new robots, which will guard intercontinental ballistic missiles operated by the country’s Strategic Missile Forces, *RBTH* [reported](#) on December 28th. Mounted on a crawler, the Wolf-2 mobile robotic system is capable of carrying out a variety of missions. It can patrol the programmed territory, conduct reconnaissance, guarding facilities and support tactical groups with fire, according to *RBTH*. In the meantime five RVSN bases were equipped with modern security systems in 2013-2015, according to the commander of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces Col. Gen. Sergei Karakayev. In 2016 three more bases are to be re-equipped with such systems, the commander said on December 22nd.



Karakayev

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HEU Removed From Georgia For Storage in Russia

Some 1.83 kg of HEU was removed from the post-Soviet republic of Georgia in December. IAEA [announced](#) on December 22nd that HEU had been removed from the Tbilisi State University and transported to a secure storage facility in Russia. Interestingly, those in the U.S. government involved in a 1998 project to retrieve 4.3 kilograms of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and low-enriched uranium (LEU) from vulnerable facilities in Georgia thought that was all the HEU there was in this post-Soviet republic, according to Harvard Kennedy School Professor Matthew Bunn's [post](#) in the Nuclear Security Matters blog on January 12th. "So it was a surprise when the IAEA announced the removal of another 1.83 kilograms of HEU from Georgia – apparently now the last of the HEU there," according to Pr. Bunn, who participates in the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism.

Russian, American Diplomats Underscore Importance of Preventing Nuclear Terrorism

Russian and American diplomats underscored the important of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, which obliges all states to establish national control systems to prevent weapons of mass destruction and related material from being acquired by non-state actors, at a recent meeting in the United Nations. Establishment of the systems, which UNSCR 1540 calls for, is of crucial importance as regional conflicts were being exploited by terrorists, a point confirmed by the challenge posed by the Islamic State and others in Syria and Iraq, Russian diplomat Vladimir Safronkov told a [meeting](#) of the UN Security Council's [committee](#) established pursuant to Resolution 1540. U.S. envoy Samantha Power told the December 22nd meeting of this committee that few efforts were more important than preventing weapons of mass destruction from falling into terrorist hands.

IPFM Releases Global Fissile Material Report 2015

The International Panel on Fissile Materials has released Global Fissile Material Report 2015. The global stockpile of HEU at the end of 2014 was about 1370 ± 125 tons, enough for more than 76,000 nuclear bombs, [according](#) to IPFM blog. About 99 percent of this material is held by the nuclear weapons states, mostly by Russia and the United States, this blog reported on December 21st. The world's stockpile of separated plutonium was 505 ± 10 tons. As for nuclear weapons, IPFM put their total number in the world at over 15,800 weapons, with the United States and Russia together holding about 14,700 of these weapons.

Report: Japanese Nuclear Facilities Might Be Vulnerable to Terrorist Attacks

The Japan Times has published an [investigative article](#) which warns that this country's nuclear power plants might be vulnerable to terrorist groups. The December 20th article quotes Japanese anti-nuclear activists as saying that the authorities should start preparing to counter terrorist attacks on local NPPs as soon as possible because of their country's decision to allow deployment of national self-defense forces for military operations outside Japan. Such deployments might make Japan more visible to terrorist groups like the Islamic State, according to the *Japan Times*. WikiLeaks has published what the site claims to be cables sent from the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo to Washington in 2006-2007, in which U.S. diplomats claim that armed guards are not present at all of Japan's nuclear facilities.

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Russian Government Plans Assessment of Nunn-Lugar Program

The Russian government plans an assessment of the Nunn-Lugar program, according to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin. “About 16 million dollars are allocated for each submarine. However, this allocation is conditioned on all sorts of touring of defense industry facilities, which we do not really like. So we want to calculate what real financial benefits we derive and what damage the technical verification of our production does to our defense potential,” Rogozin was quoted by Eastussia.ru on December 12nd as saying.

William Perry on Nightmare of Nuclear Terrorism

Former U.S. defense secretary William J. Perry published an [op-ed](#) on the state of U.S.-Russian relations in the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* in which he lists nuclear terrorism among the “nightmares” that he is most concerned about along with nuclear war. In Secretary Perry’s assessment, nuclear terrorism, while not as catastrophic as a large-scale nuclear exchange, is much more likely to happen. “No one should doubt that ISIS would expand their terrorism with nuclear attacks if they had access to these weapons. Given the huge store of fissile material in the world, some of it still not well secured, making an improvised nuclear bomb could be within their reach,” according to Secretary Perry’s December 5th op-ed.

U.S. and Russian Experts Call for Revival of Nuclear Security Cooperation

U.S. and Russian participants in a recent meeting organized by the International Luxembourg Forum and Nuclear Threat Initiative have called for revival of nuclear security cooperation between the two countries. U.S. and Russia should “resume cooperation on WMD security, including nuclear material security, to prevent the threat of catastrophic terrorism. In particular, emphasis should be given to improving security of radiological materials to counter the growing danger of terrorist acts with the use of “dirty bomb,” according to a [statement](#) posted on Luxembourg forum’s site. The December 1-2, 2015 event drew leading arms control and non-proliferation experts from the United States and Russia, including Dr. Alexei Arbatov and Gen. Vladimir Dvorkin who both represented the Center of for International Security at Russia’s Institute of World Economy and International Relations, which participates in the working group of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism.



Arbatov

NOTABLE STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR TERRORISM:

- **Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates:** “The problem of how we prevent a small group of terrorists using nuclear or biological means to kill millions is something I worry about. If Government does their best work they have a good chance of detecting it and stopping it but I don’t think it is getting enough attention and I know I can’t solve it.” (News.com.au, March 9, 2016).

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- **U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher:** “Radical Islam has declared war on the United States... Drawing in Pakistan and the Caucasus, and expanding from there into Central Asia and beyond, the caliphate would claim a population roughly the size of the United States. It would possess nuclear weapons, which the Islamists have no qualms against using to destroy the modern world.” (*National Interest*, February 11, 2016).
- **Former acting CIA director John McLaughlin:** “How hard would it be for the IS to obtain what it needs for unconventional weapons? More difficult than its other weaponry but by no means impossible. The IS is wealthier than any previous independent terrorist group, and money talks in the black market for illicit goods.” (*Ozy*, January 28, 2016).
- **Commander of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces Col. Gen. Sergei Karakayev:** “In the context of the continuing terrorist threats, one of the major tasks that the Strategic Missile Forces are accomplishing is prevention of nuclear terrorism attempts. Therefore, protection and defense of facilities and enhancement of their anti-terrorist protection has remained one of the main priorities for the Strategic Missile Forces in the past few years.” (Interfax, 12.17.15).
- **U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump:** “The biggest problem this world has today is having some madman go out and get a nuclear weapon.” (*The National Interest*, December 21, 2015).
- **U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton** (when asked at a recent debate what the greatest national security threat to the United States) “It has to be the continued threat from the spread of nuclear weapons; nuclear material that can fall into the wrong hands.” (*The National Interest*, December 21, 2015).
- **Governor of California Jerry Brown:** “Terrorism killing people is a horror. But terrorists getting nuclear material is even a greater horror.” (*Sacramento Bee*, December 9th, 2015).
- **International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Yukiya Amano:** “Nuclear terrorism is a real threat and we need to get prepared and protect ourselves. Nuclear materials exist everywhere in the world and if nuclear materials fall into the hands of terrorist, that can be used for dirty bombs.” (*Philna*, December 7, 2015.)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2016. Regional Nuclear Security Training Center to open in Kazakhstan.
- 2016. Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom plans to complete a program being carried out with the United States to retrieve spent nuclear fuel.
- March 31-April 1, 2016. Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC.
- April 26, 2016. 30th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

CALL FOR PAPERS, ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY:

[The U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism \(IPNT\)](#) solicits papers, articles and commentary on nuclear terrorism and nuclear security from readers for inclusion in the newsletter and publication on the Initiative’s web site. Contact IPNT Assistant Director Simon Saradzhyan at (phone) +1-617-496-8228, (fax) +1-617-495-8963, or simon_saradzhyan@hks.harvard.edu.

U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

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The Working Group of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism includes the following institutions:

В рабочей группе по осуществлению Американско-Российской инициативы по предотвращению ядерного терроризма состоят следующие организации:

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