

U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

Американо-российская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

May 25, 2010 Newsletter

Информационный бюллетень 25 мая 2010 года



ИСКРАН

The U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism (IPNT) solicits papers, articles and commentary from readers for inclusion in the newsletter and publication on the Initiative's web site. Contact Belfer Center fellow Simon Saradzhyan at (phone) +1-617-496-8228, (fax) +1-617-495-8963, or simon_saradzhyan@hks.harvard.edu.

NEWS:

Aleksei Arbatov Calls for Russian-NATO Teams to Respond to Nuclear Terrorism Threat

Aleksei Arbatov, head of the Center for International Security of Russia's Institute of World Economy and International Relations and member of IPNT stated on May 21st that "Russia, the United States and NATO should conduct preparations for joint counterterrorism operations in any regions of the world," according to *ITAR-TASS*. He added, "They might also consider setting up a joint rapid-reaction force to counter terrorist threats, including the threat of nuclear terrorism. But interoperability is necessary for this force to be effective. Otherwise, our and NATO servicemen can simply shoot one another dead."



Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov Praises Past Nuclear Summit

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov believes the April 2010 Global Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C., has demonstrated that the international community is committed to countering the threat of nuclear terrorism, which "must not be underestimated." He said Russia is concerned that terrorist organizations are attempting to acquire nuclear weapons and technologies. At the same time, Ryabkov underscored that "security, protection and safety of special products and nuclear materials are absolutely ensured" in Russia. "I know this because I know the real situation and not because I am supposed to say this," Ryabkov was quoted as saying in the May 14th issue of the Defense Ministry's *Krasnaya Zvezda* daily. Ryabkov then went on to thank the U.S. for assisting Russia in improving security, protection and safety, but asserted that even "in the turbulent 1990s" we could not agree to Russia being defined as a source of risks in the sphere of proliferation of materials and technologies."



President Barack Obama Resubmits U.S.-Russia 123 Agreement to Congress



President Barack Obama resubmitted the U.S.-Russia Agreement for Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation, also known as the 123 Agreement, to Congress on May 10th. "I have concluded: (1) that the situation in Georgia need no longer be considered an obstacle to proceeding with the proposed Agreement; and (2) that the level and scope of U.S.-Russia cooperation on Iran are sufficient to justify resubmitting the proposed Agreement," President Obama wrote in his message to the Congress regarding the agreement. The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomed the move. The agreement would give Russia access to U.S. technologies and expertise on developing new reactors and reactor control and safety systems. It would also allow Russia to process fuel which has been supplied by U.S. to other countries. Russia is the only NPT-recognized nuclear weapon state with whom the U.S. does not have such an agreement.

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Graham Allison Hosts Mohamed ElBaradei at Belfer Center

Graham Allison, director of Harvard's Belfer Center and member of IPNT, hosted Mohamed ElBaradei, former IAEA Director General, who gave a talk at the Belfer Center on April 27th on how to further strengthen nuclear security and the non-proliferation regime. Although the U.S. and Russia recently pledged to cut down on nuclear weapons, world leaders must become more aggressive in making nuclear non-proliferation a top priority, ElBaradei said.



Rolf Mowatt-Larssen Proposes Building a Strategic U.S. - Pakistan Nuclear Relationship



IPNT member and Belfer Center senior fellow Rolf Mowatt-Larssen wrote an article published in the April 21st issue of the *CTC Sentinel*, in which he calls for U.S.-Pakistan cooperation in four strategic areas: understanding the risks associated with Pakistan's nuclear weapons program; considering broader trends that could impact Pakistan's nuclear security posture negatively; strengthening communications in case of a nuclear crisis; and increasing public outreach in Pakistan that counters the mysteries surrounding cooperation in this area of great national sensitivity. "[*Building a Strategic US Pakistan Nuclear Relationship*](#)"

Graham Allison Lectures Senior Black Sea Officers on Nuclear Terrorism

Graham Allison, director of Harvard's Belfer Center and member of IPNT, gave a presentation on the threat of nuclear terrorism to senior officers who participated in the Harvard Black Sea Security Program at the Harvard Kennedy School on April 19th. He then took questions from the participants, which included active duty officers from Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania.

William Tobey and Kevin Ryan Discuss U.S.-Russian Cooperation with Mikhail Margelov

Kevin Ryan, IPNT Director and Belfer Center senior fellow, and William Tobey, IPNT member and Belfer Center senior fellow, held a meeting on April 16th in Cambridge, MA with Mikhail Margelov, chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation's International Affairs Committee to discuss U.S.-Russian cooperation on enhancing nuclear security.



K. Ryan

W. Tobey

M. Margelov

William Tobey Calls for Relentless Focus on Preventing Nuclear Terrorism

IPNT member and Belfer Center senior fellow William Tobey wrote an op-ed, which was published by *AOL News* on April 14th, in which he reminds us that the key to preventing terrorists from using nuclear weapons is to secure the weapons in military arsenals run by states, and the fissile material in both military and civil stockpiles. The U.S. must continue to cooperate in improving nuclear security, which is "at the heart of efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism," throughout the world in cooperation with Russia and other responsible nations, according to Tobey. "[*Relentless Focus on Preventing Nuclear Terrorism*](#)"

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Global Nuclear Security Summit Calls for Securing Nuclear Materials in 4 Years

U.S. President Barack Obama hosted leaders of 47 countries, including Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, at the Global Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C., on April 12-13th. The summit concluded with a joint pledge by all the leaders to secure all nuclear materials in four years. The U.S., Russia, Ukraine and a number of other countries also made specific national commitments at the summit to strengthen nuclear security. Graham Allison, director of Harvard's Belfer Center and member of IPNT, led development of a [briefing booklet on nuclear terrorism](#), which was distributed to the heads of state that attended the summit. Allison and other IPNT members, including Mowatt-Larssen, Tobey and Matthew Bunn, granted interviews to preview and take stock of the summit. ["Assessing Obama's Nuclear Security Summit: Takeaways from Experts at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center"](#)

Russian Pledges at the Global Nuclear Security Summit

As part of its [commitments](#) made at the Global Nuclear Security Summit, which President Medvedev attended, Russia signed the Plutonium Disposition protocol with the U.S. to spend an estimated total of \$2.5-3 billion to dispose of plutonium. The Russian government has also pledged to contribute to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund and to remove fresh fuel from research reactors in Ukraine, Belarus, and the Czech Republic and spent research reactor fuel from Ukraine, Poland, Germany, Serbia, and Belarus – all in 2010.



HEU Intercepted in Georgia

The Georgian government in April charged an undisclosed number of individuals with a thwarted attempt to sell highly-enriched uranium on the black market in Tbilisi. Police took possession of HEU during a sting operation on March 13th. Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili confirmed the interception on April 22nd, according to the *Associated Press*. The Georgian government has notified IAEA of the incident, according to *Eurasianet*.

Rolf Mowatt-Larssen: ["Proliferation and Terrorism: Big Hype or Biggest Threat?"](#)

IPNT member and Belfer Center senior fellow Rolf Mowatt-Larssen wrote an article on the threat of nuclear terrorism, which was published in the March/April issue of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. In the article, Mowatt-Larssen offers his insights on the following questions: "Where are the sources of greatest threat today? Where is nuclear catastrophe most likely to occur over the next decade?" If we are able to anticipate the breaking news of a nuclear security meltdown, it stands to reason we might be able to prevent it from becoming tomorrow's news, Mowatt-Larssen notes.

NOTABLE STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR TERRORISM:

- **Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov** on the April 2010 Global Nuclear Security Summit: "Members of the international community are committed to fulfill tasks in the sphere of nuclear security, including physical security, as well as in the sphere of countering the nuclear terrorism threat, which in common assessment, exists and must not be underestimated." "Attempts by terrorist structures to gain access to nuclear materials and sensitive technologies are being registered." "This cannot help but worry us. We will work on this." (*Krasnaya Zvezda*, May 15, 2010).

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- **Osama bin Laden's former body guard Nasser al-Bahr:** "Sheikh Osama used to dream of possessing nuclear weapons, and I am sure that if he were to get his hands on a nuclear weapon, he would not have hesitated to use it." (*New York Post*, April 28, 2010).
- **Deputy chief of the Ukrainian presidential administration Andrii Honcharuk** on Ukraine giving up HEU: "From the point of view of escalation of the situation on the globe, worsening of the terror attack threats, uranium we have could be used for the so-called 'dirty bombs'." (*Ukrainian News*, April 17, 2010).
- **Russian Journalist Viktor Alekseyev** on the Global Nuclear Security Summit: "By merging the combating of terrorism with the fight for non-proliferation of nuclear weapons within the framework of the unified informational warfare operation against DPRK and Iran, the United States has achieved a result which is contrary to what this country has hoped for. It now appears that no one is taking the threat of crude nuclear terrorism seriously while many statesmen have started to think about possession of nuclear deterrence surrogate in the form of not even weapons-grade uranium, but rather in the form of merely highly enriched uranium." (*Nezavisimoye Voyennoye Obozrenie*, April 23, 2010).
- **Retired U.S. Army General Barry McCaffrey:** "The US will be attacked by a nonstate actor employing radiological devices or biological agents in the coming decade." There is "a 5% probability of use of low-yield nuclear device against a US city in the next 50 years." (*GSN*, April 19, 2010).
- **Russian President Dmitry Medvedev:** "At the beginning of nuclear history, it was about the use of nuclear arms in the confrontation between certain countries. At present, the danger of them being used is much higher. It is possible to urge countries to behave in a responsible manner but impossible to urge or call terrorists to do it. They must be eliminated or, if apprehended, brought to trial. But these are not just terrorists, these are those who attempt to possess nuclear weapons, create a 'dirty' nuclear bomb." (*Izvestia*, April 15, 2010).
- **U.S. President Barack Obama:** "Terrorist networks such as Al Qaeda have tried to acquire the material for a nuclear weapon, and if they ever succeeded, they would surely use it. Were they to do so, it would be a catastrophe for the world – causing extraordinary loss of life, and striking a major blow to global peace and stability." (*White House*, April 13, 2010).
- **Russian President Dmitry Medvedev:** "There are issues on which we should formulate a common position like nuclear terrorism, like nonproliferation, like control over states that are threshold countries and that are trying to use all the ways to sneak into the nuclear club." (*Brookings*, April 13, 2010).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 3-28, 2010. NPT Review Conference.
- June 2010. U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee to vote on the New START.
- June 2010. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to submit the New START for ratification by the Russian parliament.
- June 2010. Annual meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.
- June 25-27, 2010. G-8 and G-20 summits.
- Late June 2010. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to visit the United States.
- September 20-24, 2010. Annual general IAEA conference.
- November 2010. G-20 summit.

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- Late November-December 2010. 6th meeting of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and State Duma International Affairs Committee.
- Fall 2010. NATO summit to adopt a new Strategic Concept.
- December 2010. NATO annual Conference on WMD, Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Call for Joint Paper Proposals. The IPNT Working Group requests proposals for joint US-Russian papers, articles and commentary on the subject of nuclear terrorism. Submitted items will be considered for publication in the newsletter and on the internet. Contact Belfer Center fellow Simon Saradzhyan at (phone) +1-617-496-8228, (fax) 617-495-8963, or simon_saradzhyan@hks.harvard.edu.

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

В рабочей группе по осуществлению Американо-российской инициативы по предотвращению ядерного терроризма состоят следующие организации:

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- *Белферовский центр науки и международных отношений Института государственного управления имени Джона Ф. Кеннеди Гарвардского университета. [Генерал-майор К. Райан, Kevin_ryan@hks.harvard.edu, 617-495-1401, Симон Сараджян, simon_saradzhyan@hks.harvard.edu, 1-617-496-8228,]*

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