



ИСКРАН

NEWS:

Nuclear Security Summit to Discuss Fukushima, Send Message to N. Korea

Participants in the Nuclear Security Summit, which will be held from Mar. 26-27 in Seoul, will discuss the Fukushima accident, according to the spokesman of the preparatory secretariat for the summit, Hahn Choong-hee. “What if that situation, such as the malfunction of pumps... could be done by intentional terrorists?” he asked. Threats to the security of nuclear material posed by instability in the Middle East and ongoing efforts to stop terrorists from building a “dirty bomb” will also be on the summit's agenda, Platts reported on January 30th. The summit may also send “a message to North Korea,” Choong-hee said.

The Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs plans to launch a web site dedicated to the summit. The site, which is to be launched in early March, will contain papers, articles, presentations and a fact sheet on nuclear security produced by the center for officials, experts and journalists attending the summit.



Tobey

William Tobey, director of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism (IPNT) and Belfer Center senior fellow, published an article on how to plan for success at the summit in the December 2011 issue of *Korea Review*.

Netherlands has already agreed to host what may be the last nuclear security summit in 2014.

William Tobey on Nuclear Scientists as Assassination Targets

IPNT director William Tobey published an [article](#) on assassination of nuclear scientists in the January/ February 2012 issue of *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. Looking at the recent cases of scientists and engineers connected with Iran's nuclear program that have been killed or injured in assassination attempts, Tobey argues that the possible advantages of targeting another country's nuclear scientists are modest at best, possibly delaying (but not halting) a nuclear weapons program while providing some deniability to the attacking country. The disadvantages are many, including the possibility that assassinations will inspire retaliation, reduce the likelihood of a diplomatic solution, and increase the difficulties international regulators face in monitoring a covert nuclear program.

IPNT Members Warn Iran Is Closer to Producing Weapons-Grade Material

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s January 9th confirmation that Iran has begun producing 20 percent enriched uranium at Fordow demonstrates how close the country has come to producing weapons-grade material, according to Belfer Center senior fellow and IPNT member Olli Heinonen. If Iran decides to produce weapons-grade uranium from 20 percent enriched uranium, it has already technically undertaken 90 percent of the enrichment effort

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required, Heinonen, who is a former deputy head of the IAEA, wrote in a January 12th Foreign Policy [op-ed](#).

“Iran needs not more than a year to build a nuclear explosive device and then a nuclear warhead - surely if Tehran makes such a political decision,” said Gen. (Ret). Vladimir Dvorkin, a senior fellow at the Center for International Security at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), which is member of the IPNT Working Group. Former chief of staff of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces Lt. Gen. (Ret) Viktor Yesin, who is currently a senior fellow at the U.S. and Canadian Studies Institute (ISKAN), concurred with Dvorkin’s assessment in a January 11th interview with Interfax: “Reaching the 20 percent enrichment level, the rest of the way toward enrichment up to 90 percent can be covered fairly quickly -- in about a year.”



Heinonen

Dvorkin

Yesin

NTI Releases First of Its Kind Nuclear Security Index

The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) has unveiled a first-of-its-kind [Nuclear Materials Security Index](#). The index, which NTI prepared jointly with the Economist Intelligence Unit, assessed security of nuclear materials in 32 states that possess one kilogram or more of weapons-useable material.

The United States and Russia ranked 13th and 24th respectively on the list, which was released on January 11, 2012. NTI used the following five criteria to assess the countries’ contribution towards nuclear security: quantities and sites; security and control measures; global norms; domestic commitments and capacity; and societal factors.

“Russia has made tremendous progress in securing its weapons-usable nuclear materials” but still ranked relatively low because of its quantities of nuclear materials, large number of sites which could be further consolidated, and the need for stronger regulations regarding the physical security of materials while in transit. For comparison, Ukraine ranked 15th, Belarus ranked 16th, Kazakhstan ranked 22nd, and Uzbekistan tied Russia for 24th.

The index, which Matthew Bunn, Associate Professor of Public Policy and IPNT member helped design, also ranked 144 countries with less than one kilogram or no weapons-usable nuclear materials.



Bunn

Doomsday Clock Moved Closer to Midnight

The Fukushima nuclear accident and interest in nuclear power from Turkey, Indonesia and United Arab Emirates prompted American scientists to set the hands of the so-called “Doomsday Clock” forward one minute from two years ago. “It is now five minutes to midnight,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* publisher Kennette Benedict announced at a [press conference](#) on January 10th.

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American Scientists Develop a More Accurate Detector of Fissile Materials

U.S. researchers have designed a new detector that would allow the detection of nuclear materials with greater accuracy and at lower cost. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California announced that it has developed a new material that can easily distinguish between gamma rays and neutrons, *Newsday* [reported](#) on January 11th. Neutrons indicate presence of substances, mainly plutonium and enriched uranium, that may be used in improvised nuclear devices. “With al-Qaida's stated objective of obtaining nuclear weapons to use against the West, it is welcome news that Lawrence Livermore has made this breakthrough,” New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly was quoted by *Newsday* as saying.

RVSN to Double Rate of Security Equipment Installation

Russia's Strategic Missile Forces (RVSN) plan to double the rate at which it installs its sites with new security equipment, according to a spokesman for the service, which operates the country's ICBM force. RVSN spokesman Colonel Vadim Koval told Itar-Tass on January 7th that a sustained effort to develop and install modern automated security systems at RVSN units was launched in 2005. To date, the force has replaced equipment at 85% of its facilities. Starting in 2012, the rate of installment at remaining facilities of “will increase no less than two-fold,” the spokesman said.

Inventory of Russian Nukes Disproved Lebed's Claim of Missing Nuclear ‘Suitcases’

Gen. (Rtd) Vladimir Dvorkin said the Russian military thoroughly investigated claims made by Gen. Alexander Lebed in 1997 that a number of portable nuclear bombs went missing but found them to be false. Lebed, who served as secretary of Russia's Security Council in 1996, claimed the military could not account for dozens of portable nuclear devices. “I personally know people who were counting the weapons at centralized depots, and they have confirmed that nothing was stolen,” Dvorkin was quoted by AP as saying on January 8th. “They did the check after Lebed's statements and made sure that everything was in place.” Dvorkin, who headed 4th Central Research Institute of the Russian Defense Ministry in the 1990s, is now a senior fellow at IMEMO's Center for International Security, which is member of the IPNT Working Group.

Graham Allison on Twenty Years with Zero Nuclear Terrorism

Graham Allison, director of the Belfer Center and IPNT member, published an [op-ed](#) in The Huffington Post to highlight successes of the Nunn-Lugar cooperative threat reduction program, which turned 20 years old in December. The December 29th article praises Senator Richard Lugar and former senator Sam Nunn for inventing America's “most significant national security initiative in the post-Cold War era.” “Miracle of miracles, not a single nuclear weapon has been discovered outside control of Russia's nuclear custodians... Who can imagine the past 20 years with 250 loose nuclear weapons in the hands of Iran or al Qaeda?”



Allison

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Rogozin Appointed Deputy Prime Minister to Oversee Nuclear, Defense Industries

President Dmitry Medvedev decreed on December 23rd to appoint Russia's former envoy to NATO, Dmitry Rogozin, to a deputy prime minister post to replace Sergei Ivanov, who has been appointed head of the presidential administration. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin defined the zone of Rogozin's responsibilities as oversight of nuclear, aerospace and defense industries. Deputy Director of ISKRAN and IPNT member Pavel Zolotarev said of the appointment: "Rogozin is a pure politician, but by no means an expert in the military industry field."



Rogozin



Zolotarev

Arbatov and Rogov Elected Members of the Russian Academy of Sciences

The heads of two leading Russian think tanks, which are both members of the IPNT working group, have been elected to the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAN). Aleksei Arbatov, director of IMEMO's Center for International Security, and Sergei Rogov, director of ISKRAN, won membership in Russia's most prestigious scientific association at elections held in December. Both will participate in the academy's recently created Department for Global Studies and International Relations, RIA Novosti reported on December 22nd.



Rogov



Arbatov

12th GUMO Chief: Russian Nukes Guarded As Reliably As Possible

In his first detailed interview, Col. Yuri Sych, head of the Russian Ministry of Defense's 12th Main Directorate (12th GUMO), asserted that the Russian military is prepared to thwart nuclear terrorism and insisted that tactical nuclear weapons are guarded as well as strategic weapons. "There are standby mobile forces that will be on the spot several minutes after a possible attack on military nuclear facilities, prepared to stop any unsanctioned actions," Sych told Russian media on December 17th. Military units are learning new ways of combating terrorist and extremist groups, taking into account the experience and methods used in the training of special formations belonging to the Federal Security Service and Russian Interior Ministry, Sych said. The 12th GUMO "seeks to keep up with the times, so the technical systems and security methods, ways to counter any threats, including terrorism, are constantly being improved" to make sure Russian nuclear weapons are guarded "as reliable as possible," he said. "So far as the reliability of the guarding of tactical nuclear weapons is concerned, the requirements to it, as well as the equipment of the facilities for stockpiling tactical nuclear weapons, are the same and are as reliable as those used for strategic nuclear weapons. We make no distinctions between them on that matter."



Sych (photo: Mil.ru)

The United States, Canada and Germany continue to finance efforts to strengthen the security of Russia's military nuclear facilities, but it is Russian companies that do the actual construction with Russian R&D and technologies, according to the Russian military's nuclear security chief. According to Sych, these cooperative projects will be completed in 2012.

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“This work has allowed us to elevate the qualitative level of nuclear security of Russian Ministry of Defense facilities as well as of preparedness to countering nuclear terrorism,” Sych said.

NOTABLE STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR TERRORISM:

- Director of the Brookings Arms Control Initiative Steven Pifer: “If somebody or a terrorist group got hold of a nuclear weapon, they would probably use it as quickly as possible. So the fact that you haven't seen a nuclear detonation ... reflects the fact that the nuclear weapons have been maintained in a secure way.” (AP, January 8, 2012).
- Russia’s Strategic Missile Forces spokesman Colonel Vadim Koval: “Under the conditions of existing terrorist threats one of the main tasks for the Strategic Missile Forces is to thwart nuclear terrorism attempts. As a result, one of the main activities for the command of the Strategic Missile Forces is to upgrade security and defense capacities of strategic facilities and increase their anti-terrorism resistance.” (Itar-Tass, January 7, 2012).
- Director of the Belfer Center Graham Allison: “Who imagined that 20 years on, not one single nuclear bomb from the entire Soviet arsenal would have been found loose outside Russia? (Recall that in December 1991, on Meet the Press, then-Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney forecasted: “If the Soviets do an excellent job at retaining control over their stockpile of nuclear weapons ... and they are 99 percent successful, that would mean you could still have as many as 250 [warheads] they were not able to control.”) (*Christian Science Monitor*, December 25, 2011).
- Head of the Russian Ministry of Defense’s 12th Main Directorate Col. Yuri Sych: “Russian nuclear weapons storage facilities are guarded as reliably as possible. In over the 60 years of Russian nuclear weapons operation there has not been a single incident of theft of nuclear ammunitions or even any prerequisites for it. What is more, the system of operation, set up and successfully applied in handling nuclear ammunition, rules out accidents.” (Itar-Tass, December 17, 2011).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 26-27, 2012. Second Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul.
- April 8, 2012. 2nd anniversary of signing of the New START treaty.
- May 24, 2012. 10th anniversary of the signing of the SORT treaty.
- May 2012. NATO summit in Chicago.
- May 2012. G8 summit in Chicago.
- May 2012. 20th anniversary Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine signing the Lisbon Protocol to the START I Treaty, and, therefore, committing to accede to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as non-nuclear states.
- June 2012. 20th anniversary of the United States and Russia signing the umbrella Cooperative Threat Reduction agreement.
- October 15-28, 2012. 50th anniversary of Cuban Missile Crisis.
- October 2012. 20th anniversary of the United States and Belarus signing the umbrella Cooperative Threat Reduction agreement.

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- December 8, 2012. 25th anniversary of the signing of the INF treaty.
- June 2013. The umbrella U.S.-Russian Cooperative Threat Reduction agreement expires.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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.

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:

- *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University [William Tobey, william_tobey@hks.harvard.edu, 1- 617-496-0518]*

- *Белферовский центр науки и международных отношений Института государственного управления имени Джона Ф. Кеннеди Гарвардского университета. [Уильям Тоби, william_tobey@hks.harvard.edu, 1- 617-496-0518]*

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