

## U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

### Российско-Американская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

Информационный бюллетень за июнь-июль 2013 года



ИСКРАН

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#### NEWS:

##### **Matthew Bunn Presents at IAEA's Conference on Nuclear Security**

[Matthew Bunn](#), Harvard Kennedy School Professor of Practice and member of the U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism (IPNT), presented a paper at the [International Conference on Nuclear Security](#) hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna on July 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.

In his presentation entitled "[Strengthening Global Approaches to Nuclear Security](#)," Professor Bunn noted substantial progress in improving nuclear security in recent years, but warned that the threats of nuclear theft and terrorism remain very real. He recommended that IAEA member states learn from the much stronger national and international efforts in nuclear safety, and take steps to build international understanding of that threat; establish effective performance objectives; assure performance; train and certify needed personnel; build security culture and exchange best practices. Prof. Bunn also urged to reduce the number of sites that need to be protected, strengthen the international framework, and continue the dialogue once leaders are no longer meeting regularly at the summit level.



More than 1,300 delegates from 125 member-states and 21 intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations participated in the IAEA conference, which culminated in the adoption of a ministerial statement. It welcomed "the substantial progress that has been made in recent years," but also asserted that "more needs to be done to further strengthen nuclear security worldwide." Russia added a reservation to the statement that the security of nuclear materials and installations used by the military is not within the competence of the IAEA.

##### **All of Vietnam's HEU Moved to Russia**

The United States and Russia have successfully removed all highly enriched uranium (HEU) from Vietnam. US Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz announced the [removal of 11 kilograms of HEU from the Dalat Nuclear Research Institute](#) during the IAEA conference on nuclear security in Vienna on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The HEU was securely transported to a military airport outside of Ho Chi Minh City and then flown by a Russian An-124 cargo plane to Russia to be downblended for use in power reactors, according to a press release issued by National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA).

Vietnam became the 26<sup>th</sup> country from which all HEU has been removed, leaving 31 countries with more than 1 kg of HEU on their territory, according to the International Panel on Fissile Materials.

##### **U.S. and Russia to Begin Converting Research Reactor Next Year**

The co-chairs of the Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security Working Group of the U.S.-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission have announced that the two countries will begin [conversion of Russia's Argus research reactor](#) to LEU fuel in 2014.

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In a statement issued on June 26<sup>th</sup> Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman and Director of Rosatom Corporation Sergei Kiriyenko also noted their organizations had completed conversion feasibility studies for all six Russian reactors previously identified in a 2010 U.S.-Russian



*Poneman*

*Kiriyenko*

agreement.

The co-chairs also pledged to finalize a new agreement on Cooperation in Nuclear- and Energy-Related Scientific Research and Development that will complement provisions of the U.S.-Russian Agreement for Cooperation in the Field of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

### **Megatons to Megawatts Program Nears Completion**

The NNSA announced on June 24<sup>th</sup> that it had monitored the [elimination of more than 475 metric tons of Russian HEU](#) under the Megatons to Megawatts program. With this milestone, deliveries under the program are 95 percent complete, and HEU roughly equivalent to 19,000 nuclear weapons has been permanently eliminated, according to the NNSA's statement.

### **Replacement of the Nunn-Lugar Agreement Announced at Putin-Obama Meeting**

Russia and the United States have signed a new agreement to replace the 1992 Agreement Concerning the Safe and Secure Transportation, Storage and Destruction of Weapons and the Prevention of Weapons Proliferation, commonly known as the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Umbrella Agreement, which expired on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

The new bilateral framework on threat reduction authorizes the United States and Russia to work in several areas of nonproliferation collaboration, including protecting, controlling, and accounting for nuclear materials, according to a [White House fact sheet](#).

The agreement limits the scope of the program in Russia, but enables the U.S. and Russian governments to work together to help third countries eliminate weapons of mass destruction. Chemical and biological weapons will no longer be in the threat reduction program implemented in Russia, according to U.S. officials. Also, while most projects led by the U.S. Energy Department in Russia will continue, the U.S. Defense Department's CTR-related presence in Russia will largely cease to exist, according to GSN.

While previously the Pentagon had the right to inspect classified nuclear sites in Russia, according to the new agreement, the two sides will devise new procedures, which do not require access by U.S. representatives. The clause that exempted U.S. contractors from liability has also been amended. From now on, the Americans will bear financial and legal liability if the intent to cause an accident is proven, according to Kommersant.

The agreement was inked by U.S. Acting Undersecretary of State Rose Gottemoeller and Russian Ambassador to the United States Sergey Kislyak on June 14<sup>th</sup>, but it was not announced until U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin met at the Group of Eight summit in Northern Ireland on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The new agreement is a sign of the "kind of constructive, cooperative relationship" that moves the United States and Russia "out of a Cold War mindset," Obama said.

During the meeting the two presidents also signed a ["Joint Statement on Cooperation in Countering Terrorism"](#) that calls for preventing weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorists. Director of the Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies (ISKAN) [Sergei Rogov](#) told Itar-Tass that "cooperation on the fight against terrorism will undoubtedly develop

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further” after the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the two presidents. Rogov’s institute participates in the IPNT working group. [Alexei Arbatov](#), whose Moscow-based International Security Center also participates in the IPNT working group, was more skeptical. “It sounds good, but it is not yet clear what specifically this will lead to. Of course, cooperation against terrorism is an important area, but everything is classified there, so we do not know whether there will be more or less cooperation there,” Arbatov told RIA Novosti.

In a separate move, Obama extended the term of his executive order on payments for Russian uranium extracted from nuclear weapons for one more year, Itar-Tass reported on June 21<sup>st</sup>.



Obama

Putin

### **Matthew Bunn on Nuclear Theft Prevention**

[Matthew Bunn](#), Harvard Kennedy School Professor of Practice and IPNT member, has published an article on the prevention of nuclear theft in the *Journal of Nuclear Materials Management*. The June 17<sup>th</sup> piece, entitled “[Preventing Insider Theft: Lessons from the Casino and Pharmaceutical Industries](#),” calls for constant video surveillance of all vaults and insider-material interactions; frequent and rigorous material accounting; requiring everyone who touches material to sign for it. The article, which seeks to apply security lessons from the casino and pharmaceutical industries to the nuclear security sphere, also suggests implementing an expanded two-person rule and establishing incident databases and experience sharing in the nuclear sphere.

### **U.S. To Host Nuclear Security Summit in 2016**

U.S. President Barack Obama has announced his intention to organize a fourth nuclear security summit in 2016. Obama made the announcement during his June 16<sup>th</sup> [speech](#) in Berlin, where he called for another round of nuclear arms reductions with Russia. “America will host a summit in 2016 to continue our efforts to secure nuclear materials around the world, and we will work to build support in the United States to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and call on all nations to begin negotiations on a treaty that ends the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons,” he said. Obama also plans to participate in the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague.

### **Kevin Ryan and Matthew Bunn Present on Nuclear Security at Moscow Conference**

Elbe Group organizer [Kevin Ryan](#) and Harvard Professor Matthew Bunn participated in a conference on nuclear security held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at Russia’s National Research Nuclear University «MEPhI». The conference, which was co-organized by Russia’s Rosatom Corporation and Stanford University, saw U.S. and Russian nuclear scientists and experts present ideas on how to improve bilateral cooperation to prevent nuclear terrorism and to reduce the threat of a nuclear conflict between the two countries. The conference’s principal organizer from the U.S. side was [Dr. Siegfried Hecker](#), whose Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford participates in the IPNT working group.

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Hecker

Ryan

Ryan and Bunn also met with senior researchers from the [Institute for U.S. and Canadian Studies](#) and members of the Elbe Group to advance a follow-on report to the [U.S.-Russia Joint Threat Assessment of Nuclear Terrorism](#) toward publication.

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#### NOTABLE STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR TERRORISM:

- **New York Times columnist Tom Friedman:** “If there is one more 9/11 — or worse, an attack involving nuclear material — it could lead to the end of the open society as we know it.” (*New York Times*, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013)
- **U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz:** “The threat of nuclear terrorism is real and serious, and it will endure for the foreseeable future...Despite the strides we have made in dismantling core AQ, we should expect its adherents...to continue trying to achieve their nuclear ambitions.” (U.S. Department of Energy, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013)
- **U.S. Department of Defense:** “Today’s most immediate and extreme danger remains nuclear terrorism.” (U.S. Department of Defense, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013)
- **U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin:** “The joint efforts of the United States and Russia, including in the context of the Counterterrorism Working Group of the Bilateral Presidential Commission, are focused on preventing weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorists, and halting the funding of terrorist activities, the recruitment and training of those who commit terrorist acts, and the actions of lone terrorists.” (White House/Kremlin, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013)

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 5, 2013. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Limited Test Ban Treaty.
- September 3-4, 2013. Russian President Vladimir Putin to host U.S. President Barack Obama for a summit in Moscow.
- September 5-6, 2013. G20 summit in St. Petersburg.

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#### 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](mailto:simon_saradzhyan@hks.harvard.edu).

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**PHOTO CREDITS:** photo of Matthew Bunn by Belfer Center, photo of Daniel Poneman by U.S. Department of Energy, photo of Sergei Kirienko by World Economic Forum, photo of Barack Obama by U.S. federal government, photo of Vladimir Putin by the press service of the Russian President, photo of Kevin Ryan by Belfer Center, photo of Siegfried Hecker by U.S. Department of State.

***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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