

U.S.-Russia Initiative to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

Американо-Российская инициатива по предотвращению ядерного терроризма

October- November 2010 Newsletter

Информационный бюллетень за октябрь-ноябрь 2010 года



ИСКРАН

NEWS:

Ex- Secretaries Urge Senate to Ratify New START

Five former secretaries of state have urged the Senate to ratify the New START Treaty in order to ensure, among other things, Russia's support in prevention of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. "Although the United States needs a strong and reliable nuclear force, the chief nuclear danger today comes not from Russia but from rogue states such as Iran and North Korea and the potential for nuclear material to fall into the hands of terrorists," Henry A. Kissinger, George P. Shultz, James A. Baker III, Lawrence S. Eagleburger and Colin L. Powell said in the *Washington Post* on December 2nd. The former top diplomats argue that Russia's cooperation will be needed if we are to make progress in rolling back the Iranian and North Korean program and "to continue our work to secure "loose nukes" in Russia and elsewhere."

Belarus to Give Up HEU Stock



The former Soviet republic of Belarus announced on December 1st that it will transfer its stockpile of material used to make nuclear weapons to Russia by 2012, AP reported. The pledge was made public by Belarusian Foreign Minister Sergei Martynov and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on the sidelines of the OSCE Summit in the Kazakh capital of

Astana. The U.S. will provide technical and financial help to enable Belarus to dispose of its HEU stock which, according to a senior State Department official, is estimated to be 485 pounds (220 kilograms).

Russia Opens International Atomic Fuel Bank in Angarsk

Russia announced on December 1st that it has officially opened the world's first international



atomic fuel bank in the Siberian city of Angarsk as part of a global effort to curb the spread of nuclear arms to nations such as North Korea and Iran, AFP reported. The Rosatom state atomic energy corporation said the Siberian fuel reserve -- which

will operate under the auspices of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) -- will have enough material to refuel two civilian nuclear power plants.



Kazakh HEU and Plutonium Secured

U.S. and Kazakhstan completed the transfer of weapons-grade nuclear materials stored in the Central Asian republic, *McClatchy Newspapers* reported on November 16. Working under secrecy in the largest such operation ever mounted, U.S. and Kazakh officials transferred 11 tons

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of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and 3 tons of plutonium, enough material to make more than 770 bombs, some 1,890 miles across Kazakhstan by rail and road from a location feared vulnerable to terrorist access to a new high-security facility. The U.S. spent \$219 million on the project, while Britain kicked in \$4 million and Kazakhstan contributed additional funds.

Suspects Admit to Smuggling HEU into Georgia

A pair of Armenian nationals admitted in court to attempting to sell weapon-grade uranium for \$1.5 million to an undercover operative posing as an Islamic extremist in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia. Georgian authorities detained Hrant Ohanian and Sumbat Tonoian in March once they had illicitly transferred three-fifths of an ounce of HEU into the country, GSN reported on November 11. The men transported the uranium from Armenia inside a cigarette carton coated with lead to conceal the nuclear material from radiation scanners. Georgian officials said the uranium had an 87-percent enrichment grade. Armenian officials confirmed it detained one of its citizens earlier this year for allegedly supplying uranium to the two confessed traffickers, but insisted that the HEU did not originate in Armenia.

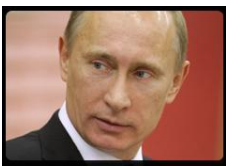
Matthew Bunn Warns of Insider Threat

Matthew Bunn, Associate Professor at the Harvard Kennedy School and IPNT member, contributed an op-ed to *The Guardian* on November 7 in which he argues that insider thieves are the new nuclear threat. According to Bunn, “new measures to protect against insider thieves — who have perpetrated nearly every known nuclear material theft to date — must be put in place.” Every country that has nuclear materials needs an urgent review of the sites where they are held to assess whether the continuing use of the materials is worth the costs and risks, and whether security there can provide effective protection, Bunn argued.



Russia Agrees to Negotiate Conversion of Research Reactors

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has asked State Corporation Rosatom to negotiate an executive agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy to conduct a feasibility study on “conversion of Russian research reactors with the aim of using low enriched uranium (LEU) as fuel,” according to a November 10 report on Russian nuclear news portal Nuclear.ru. U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel B. Poneman is reported to visit Moscow in December to conduct negotiations. Russia’s consent to negotiate conversion of its reactors with the U.S. represents a shift in Moscow’s position, given that Russian officials have previously insisted that the commitment for such conversion outlined in the U.S.-Russian 2005 Bratislava Declaration applies only to third countries. Russia has some 60 HEU research reactors, more than any other country in the world.



Heinonen Makes the Case for an Immediate IAEA Special Inspection in Syria

Olli Heinonen, Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center and IPNT member, contributed an op-ed to Policy Watch in which he calls for a “special inspection” in Syria, an intrusive visit made when

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the IAEA judges the information provided by a state to be inadequate. In his November 5 article, the former Deputy Director General of the IAEA and head of its Department of Safeguards notes that the agency found uranium particles at a Syrian site and satellite imagery and procurement information point toward possible construction of a nuclear reactor there. Together with Syrian reluctance to give the agency access to relevant information, persons, equipment, and sites, the resulting situation calls for the use of full inspection rights to ensure that all nuclear material in Syria is for peaceful purposes, he writes.



IPNT Director Visits Russia to Advance Initiative, Give Talks on Nuclear Security

William Tobey, director of the IPNT and a senior fellow at the Belfer Center, visited Moscow and St. Petersburg on October 27-29 to advance the Initiative. During his visit, Tobey conducted a series of meetings with senior representatives of IPNT's Russian partner organizations, the Security Council of the Russian president, and the Russian parliament. Tobey also gave a presentation on enhancing nuclear security at the AtomECO international conference in Moscow and delivered two lectures on countering nuclear terrorism to graduate students at the Russian State Academy of Public Administration in Moscow and St. Petersburg State University. The second lecture came as part of the teaching of a nuclear terrorism case study assigned to students of St. Petersburg State University's international relations department written by IPNT member and Belfer Center fellow Simon Saradzhyan. Also as part of the case study teaching, Rolf Mowatt-Larssen, Belfer Center senior fellow and IPNT member, gave a lecture on al Qaeda's WMD aspirations via a video link on November 5.



Exercises Conducted in Russia to Prevent Nuclear Terrorism

October saw Russian agencies conduct two exercises to prevent nuclear terrorism. First, units of the Interior Troops guarding the Smolenskaya nuclear power plant completed four-day tactical exercises, State Corporation Rosatom reported on its website on October 15. Troops will practice repelling an attempt by terrorists to gain access to the facility during the first stage of this exercise. Second, Russia's National Anti-Terrorist Committee launched "Atom-2010" at one of Russia's largest nuclear facilities, the Siberian Chemical Combine located in the Tomsk region, on October 22. Personnel of the Federal Security Service, Interior Ministry, Ministry of Emergency Situations, and Federal Corrections Service are participating in the exercise, according to a report on Rosatom's website.

Largest Return of HEU Research Reactor Fuel Completed

The largest return of HEU research reactor fuel in the history of an initiative to return fuel to its country of origin was completed with the removal of over 450 kg of HEU fuel from Poland to Russia, World Nuclear News reported on October 14. The U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced the completion of the project, which involved five shipments over 12 months to return the fuel from Poland's Ewa and Maria research reactors to Russia. In addition to being the largest fuel return campaign, the project also included the largest single shipment of spent HEU fuel in NNSA's history, 187 kg.

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Security Chiefs Meet in Russia, Warn of WMD Terrorism Threat

Russia hosted a meeting of high-level security representatives from 43 countries in the Black Sea resort of Sochi attended by, among others, U.S. National Security Advisor Jim Jones, Chinese Minister of Public Security Meng Jianzhu and security advisor to Indian Prime Minister Shivshankar Menon on October 5. In his speech, secretary of Russia's Security Council Nikolai Patrushev warned the participants that "global terrorism is characterized by intentions to possess weapons of mass destruction." Menon also called on participants to make sure terrorists do not gain access to weapons of mass destruction.

Warnings that terrorists are seeking WMD were echoed by General Jones. "As criminal enterprises grow increasingly global, complex, and sophisticated, only a multidimensional, multilateral strategy can combat them; one that takes advantage of the full range of our capabilities," Jones said.



Patrushev

Patrushev warned that al Qaeda wants to make the North Caucasus region part of the Islamic caliphate it strives to build and that it has strong ties to terrorist groups in the region. He also said the conference's participants shared intelligence on terrorism with Russia: "We were given information about where terrorist training camps were located; specific regions were named."



Jones

Georgii Arbatov, Russia's Leading Authority on U.S. Policy, Died

Georgii Arbatov, one of Russia's most authoritative experts on the U.S. and U.S.-Russian relations died on October 1 at the age of 87. Arbatov served as an adviser to several Soviet and Russian leaders. He also founded the Institute for the U.S. and Canada Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences in 1967 and served as its director until 1995. Under his leadership, the Institute, which is currently participating in this Initiative, has become the mainstay of Russian policy research on the North America. Even in the darkest years of the Cold War, Arbatov, who took part in the November 1941 military parade on Moscow's Red Square, still thought cooperation between the World War II allies was possible, advocating detente.



Russia and U.S. to Complete Joint Analysis of Terrorism Threat

Russia and the U.S. will soon be through with a joint analysis of the current security challenges and threats facing both countries— including terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organized crime, and drug trafficking. The two sides will then draft a relevant document, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was quoted by Itar-Tass as saying on October 1.



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Matthew Bunn and Evgeniy Velikhov on Next Steps for Russia and the U.S.

Matthew Bunn and Evgeniy Velikhov, one of Russia's leading nuclear scientists and president of the Russian Research Center Kurchatov Institute, completed a report in October entitled "Promoting Safe, Secure, and Peaceful Growth of Nuclear Energy: Next Steps for Russia and the United States." The report argues Russia, the U.S., and other countries must cooperate to enable large-scale growth of nuclear energy around the world while achieving even higher standards of safety, security, and nonproliferation than are in place today. The authors argue that with holding more than 95% of the world's nuclear weapons, most of the world's weapons-usable nuclear material, and the world's longest experience in nuclear energy, the U.S. and Russia bear special responsibilities for strengthening global efforts to minimize the risks and maximize the benefits of nuclear energy.



Velikhov

NOTABLE STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR TERRORISM:

Thomas D'Agostino, head of the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration: "The most immediate and extreme threat (to international security) is a terrorist acquiring nuclear material." (*McClatchy Newspapers*, November 16, 2010).

Former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn: "Today, urgent security steps relating to nuclear weapons security are essential for both NATO and Russia. If we don't address this issue with urgency, we may wake up one day to a 1972 Munich-Olympics scenario, with a masked terrorist waving a gun outside of a nuclear warhead bunker somewhere in Europe. This time the hostages could be millions of people living close by." (*International Herald Tribune*, November 16, 2010).

U.S. Congressman Pete Hoekstra: China, Russia, and the UN need to get serious" about proliferation by "irresponsible state actors before we are forced to confront a global nightmare—the acquisition of WMD by terrorist, non-state actors." (*The Hill*, November 10, 2010).

Aleksei Arbatov, Director of the Center for International Security at the Institute for World Economy and International Relations: "It is these four 'nuclear threshold countries,' which have nuclear weapons, but are not participating in NPT, that the dangers of further nuclear proliferation, combat use of nuclear weapons in regional conflicts and nuclear materials and technologies ending up in hands of terrorists are associated with." (*Nezavisimoye Voeynnoye Obozrenie*, November 1, 2010).

Former Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, president of the Kurchatov Institute Yevgeny Velikhov, former chief of General Staff Mikhail Moiseev and Igor Ivanov, former secretary of the Security Council: "Small countries are currently viewing nuclear weapons as means of neutralizing the gigantic superiority of leading powers in conventional weapons. This represents one of the stimuli of nuclear proliferation on the regional level, which engenders the threat of nuclear terrorism." (*Izvestia*, October 15, 2010).

Secretary of Russian Security Council Nikolai Patrushev: "Terrorists are seeking to get access to facilities and technologies of chemical and bacteriological weapons, radioactive, toxic agents and biological formulas." (*Interfax*, October 5, 2010).

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U.S. National Security Advisor Jim Jones: “Most troubling of all is the trend that this enhanced collaboration is leading to criminals helping terrorists acquire weapons of mass destruction, a development that could threaten all our nations. (White House, October 5, 2010).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 2010. NATO annual Conference on WMD, Arms Control, Disarmament, and Nonproliferation.
 - December 2010. U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel B. Poneman to visit Russia to negotiate conversion of Russia’s HEU research reactors to LEU fuel.
 - December 2010. U.S. Department of Energy and other federal agencies conduct Nuclear Weapon Accident Incident Exercise to respond to nuclear-weapon incident.
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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.

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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 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]

- *Center for International Security, Institute for World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences [imemoran@imemo.ru, 7-499-120-52-36]*

- **Центр международной безопасности**, Институт мировой экономики и международных отношений РАН [imemoran@imemo.ru, 7-499-120-52-36]

- *Center for International Security and Cooperation, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University [Dr. S. Hecker, shecker@stanford.edu, 1-650-725-6468]*

- **Центр международной безопасности и сотрудничества** Института международных дел имени Фримана Спогли Стэнфордского университета. [Доктор наук З. Хэккер, shecker@stanford.edu, 1-650-725-6468]

- *USA and Canada Studies Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences [Dr. S. Rogov, pa.to.rogov@rambler.ru, 7-495-691-11-66]*

- **Институт изучения Соединенных Штатов Америки и Канады РАН** [Доктор наук С. Рогов, pa.to.rogov@rambler.ru, 7-495-691-11-66]

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