



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 10 2005

NUCLEAR STOCKPILES COULD CREATE 300,000 BOMBS

September 8, 2005 NewScientist.com reported: The world has made enough explosives for more than 300,000 nuclear bombs, according to the latest scientific assessment of countries' nuclear stockpiles. Stores of plutonium are growing, and there are new dangers from two lesser-known nuclear explosives, neptunium-237 and americium. Experts are worried that terrorists could steal enough to trigger a nuclear catastrophe.

"Our first concern is the risk of nuclear terrorism," says David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), a think tank in Washington, DC, US. "We worry about what could happen in Russia, Pakistan, India and China."

Nuclear stores in Europe and Japan could also be vulnerable to theft, he warns. "Even the best protected bank can be robbed," he told New Scientist. "Someone, maybe an insider, could make off with something - and then we'll have hell to pay."

An updated global nuclear inventory, published by ISIS on Wednesday, reveals that there were 1830 tonnes of plutonium in 35 countries at the end of 2003. That is enough to make 225,000 nuclear bombs. The total amount of plutonium, which is created in nuclear reactors, is increasing by 70 tonnes per year, the report says. Most of it is combined with radioactive waste in spent fuel, and is hence relatively difficult to access.

But ISIS points out that 238 tonnes has been extracted by reprocessing plants, and that this total is expected to rise to 286 tonnes by 2010. The largest stockpile - 90 tonnes - will be owned by the UK, followed by Japan (62 tonnes), Russia (50), France (48) and Germany (27).

Efforts to reduce these stockpiles by blending the plutonium into mixed oxide (MOX) fuel for power reactors are "not going well", Albright says. World stores of highly enriched uranium, however, are on the decline, though there were still 1900 tonnes in more than 50 countries. That is enough for over 75,000 bombs.

The ISIS report also highlights the risks from neptunium-237 and americium, which declassified information from the US government suggests can be made into bombs. At the end of 2003, there were more than 140 tonnes of the two materials in 32 countries. If separated from other wastes, that would be enough for 5000 weapons..."

OBSTACLES COULD DELAY IRANIAN NUKE BY A DECADE

September 8, 2006 Middle East Newline reported: "Iran's nuclear program has encountered several key obstacles that could result in delays of up to a decade in Teheran's drive for indigenous weapons capability.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said in a report that Iran has failed to complete key elements of the nuclear fuel cycle required for indigenous weapons production. The institute, in a report entitled "Iran's Strategic Weapons Programmes -- A Net Assessment," said Iran could require between five and 10 years to acquire capabilities in the areas of uranium conversion and enrichment. "Our assessment is technical," Gary Samore, editor of the report, said.

The report said Iran must produce either 20-25 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium or 6-8 kilograms of separated plutonium for a single nuclear weapon. IISS said Iran did not have the facilities to achieve this within the next five years..."



NO LET UP IN TERROR FIGHT - BLAIR

September 7, 2005 BBCNews reported: "Tony Blair has vowed not to soften his crackdown on terrorism and its supporters either at home or abroad. Speaking during his visit to India, Mr Blair said he was determined to press ahead with moves in both the UN and the Commons to tackle the issue head-on.

He said he believed there was a mood for a tough UN declaration coming from other countries. And he said there was a line to draw over UK freedom of speech - one which terrorist supporters were crossing. That would anger the British people who would quickly start to think their natural tolerance was being abused, Mr Blair warned.

He also praised his Home Secretary Charles Clarke and dismissed any suggestion he wanted to sack him. On proposals for a statement from the UN meeting next week, he said: "I detect the mood is quite tough for action on that. The important thing is to send a very clear signal from the international community," he insisted.

Turning to his controversial planned laws at home, he said he expected them to be challenged in the courts but was not about to back down. "We are not stopping any freedom of speech. But with freedom comes responsibility and you have to draw a line.

"If you do not draw the line people get very frustrated and angry and think their tolerance is being abused "You have to make a judgement in the end about what is right and what is wrong. We have to take that clear line and we have to see it through. I set the process out very deliberately. We are going to take these measures. They will be tested in the courts and let us see what happens," he said..."

CHINA FIGHTS U.S. ABM SALES TO TAIWAN



September 7, 2005 SpaceWar.com reported: "China has renewed its efforts to stop America selling missile defenses to Taiwan as the island republic moves closer to accepting an arms package offered by President George W. Bush. In a policy document on arms control approved by its cabinet on Sept. 1, China warned that supplying anti-ballistic missile defenses to Taiwan would be destabilizing and was firmly opposed by Beijing, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The new document singled out the proposed American supply of six batteries of Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles, intended to shoot down incoming ballistic missiles. Taiwan has already put into service three US-made PAC-2 anti-missile systems to protect the

greater Taipei area, but has called for more help from the United States.

"As the Taiwan question involves its core interests, China opposes the attempt by any country to provide help or protection to the Taiwan region of China in the field of missile defense by any means," it states. "China does not wish to see a missile defense system produce negative impact on global strategic stability ... erode trust among big powers or undermine legitimate security interests of other countries."

But at the same time, the document restated China's policy that it would never be the first to use nuclear weapons in a conflict. Doubts had been raised by remarks made by Gen. Zhu Chenghu on July 14 to journalists in Hong Kong, in which he said China had no hope of prevailing in a conventional war with the United States.

China should therefore withdraw the "no-first-use" pledge and use nuclear weapons should the United States attack the mainland in a conflict over Taiwan.

Coming a week before Chinese President Hu Jintao is due to meet President Bush in Washington, the document may signal a new effort to find a compromise on U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, the Melbourne Age newspaper reported from Beijing. Hu's predecessor, Jiang Zemin, used a visit to Bush's Texas ranch in October 2002 to float the idea that China could reduce its array of missiles along the Taiwan Strait if Bush dropped his 2001 offer to supply the island with missiles, submarine-hunting aircraft, advanced destroyers and conventional submarines.

That approach went nowhere, but Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian is struggling to get a funding bill for the arms deal through the legislature, which is controlled by parties opposed to a rearmament they feel could reinforce moves for permanent separation from China. Last week, the Taiwan Government said it would trim the proposed special arms budget to \$11 billion from \$15 billion, in an effort to push the bill through."

EU: NO MILITARY ATTACK PLANNED AGAINST IRAN

September 3, 2005 Voice of America reported: "The European Union says there is no plan to attack Iran and that the dispute over Tehran's nuclear program must be resolved diplomatically. The EU foreign ministers have concluded two days of talks in Newport, Wales.

The EU is again appealing for Iran to resume negotiations to stop its uranium enrichment program in exchange for economic and political rewards. But the EU foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw say that, although the stalemate drags on, no country is contemplating military attack against Iran.

Mr. Straw spoke for the EU foreign ministers in Britain's capacity as the current president of the 25-nation bloc. "Nobody's proposing military action in respect of Iran," said Jack Straw. "Nobody whatever. It is not on anybody's agenda at all. This is an issue, which needs to be resolved, and can only be resolved, by diplomatic means."

The dispute with Iran is approaching a climax. A report is due Saturday by the chief of the UN's nuclear watchdog agency, Mohamed ElBaradei. And the International Atomic Energy Agency could refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions at a September 21 meeting.

Iran says its nuclear program is peaceful, and it will not give up uranium enrichment that experts say could produce bomb-grade material..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, and Santa Rosa
ljtuc@msn.com*