

FORTHCOMING AND RECENT HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT (at May 2010)

May 2010

United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference. All 192-member States of the world organization are expected to participate. 188 member-States have ratified the NPT. North Korea, Israel, Pakistan and India are not party to the treaty.

April 17-18, 2010

"Iran's Nuclear Energy For All, Nuclear Weapons For No-one": Nuclear Disarmament Conference, Tehran, Iran. Announcement made by Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili.

On 8 April, Susan Rice, the U. S. ambassador to the UN announced that she would meet with her counterparts from Britain, France, Russia, China (all Permanent Members of UN Security Council) and Germany to begin drafting a resolution seeking sanctions against Iran to be voted by the full 15-nation Security Council.

Western nations allege that Iran's nuclear program is aimed at producing nuclear weapons.

Iran rejects these allegations and insists that its programme is limited to generating electricity.

April 12-13, 2010

President's (U. S. President Barack Obama) Nuclear Security Summit; Washington, D.C., U.S.A. President Obama is hoping to reach an agreement on securing vulnerable nuclear stockpiles in an attempt to keep them safe from terrorists. The nuclear weapons of North Korea, Israel's reported nuclear arsenal, and the nuclear program of Iran as well as possible punitive measures against Iran are expected to be discussed.

Many Muslim nations have urged that the entire Middle-East region, including Israel, be made nuclear free.

April 8, 2010

President Barack Obama of the United States of America and Russian Federations President Dmitry Medvedev signed the new START Treaty-START II, in Prague, Czechoslovakia. The treaty calls for the United States and Russia to cut their long-range nuclear arsenals by about 30 percent by 2017. This agreement must also be ratified by U.S. Senate and the Russian Duma.

This latest treaty superseded the following arms agreements:

The START I treaty signed in July, 1991, by U.S. President George Bush

and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, led to the largest bilateral reduction on nuclear weapons in history.

START I stipulated that neither side can deploy more than 6,000 nuclear warheads and no more than 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles, which includes intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarines and bomber aircraft.

By 2001, the tightly regulated inspection regime and targets that START I imposed on the United States and Russia had been met, with a total cut of 6,941 deployed nuclear warheads, according to the U.S. State Department.

A START II treaty was signed by Presidents George Bush and Boris Yeltsin in 1993. It never entered into force, however, with Russia withdrawing in 2002 after President George W. Bush gave notice the U.S. would unilaterally withdraw from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty so that it could press ahead with a missile defence system.

START II was superseded by the Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty (SORT), also known as the Moscow Treaty, signed in 2002 by President Bush (U.S.A.) and President Vladimir Putin (Russia). Under the Moscow Treaty, both nations agreed to cut their arsenals of operationally deployed nuclear warheads to between 1,700 and 2,200 by 2012. However, unlike START I, the Moscow Treaty does not impose verification procedures, which according to arms experts is a crucial flaw.

In April 2009, U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev announced that they would start talks on a new agreement -also known as START II- to cut nuclear warheads.

April 7, 2010

U. S. President Obama released the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), a policy under which the United States will not launch a nuclear attack against any nation that signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and abides by it. The NPR, however states that exceptions could be made for North Korea and Iran, both of which are alleged to be trying to acquire or build a nuclear bomb. It also guarantees not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States. This policy is a reversal of the previous U.S. Administration's Pre-Emptive Strike policy as well as the one which reserved the right to retaliate for a biological or chemical attack by a non-nuclear State. Under the NPR, the United States will not develop any new nuclear warheads and carry out nuclear tests.

Germany welcomed the NPR as a decisive move toward reducing the likelihood of a nuclear conflict.

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