

22 April 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. LEHMAN BROTHERS SITTING ON A STOCKPILE OF URANIUM 'YELLOWCAKE':

"The rump of the bankrupt bank Lehman Brothers is sitting on a stockpile of 450,000 lb of uranium "yellowcake" which could be used to power a nuclear reactor or, theoretically, to make a bomb."

2. BATTELLE AWARDED CONTRACT TO SUPPORT 649TH AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS SQUADRON MOVE FROM BROOKS CITY BASE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, TO THE ABERDEEN PROVING GROUNDS IN MARYLAND:

"The 649th is the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) defense program management organization for the Air Force."

3. NUNN-LUGAR PROGRAM MARCH UPDATE: *"1 biological monitoring station built and equipped in Kazakhstan."*

4. CANADIAN CHARGED WITH TRYING TO HELP IRAN GO NUCLEAR: *"Mahmoud Yadegari, a 35-year-old Torontonion, appeared bewildered yesterday during a bail hearing. As he listened to proceedings through a Farsi interpreter, he stood accused of buying devices destined to help centrifuges spin out highly enriched uranium, the material needed to make nuclear weapons."*

Chem-Demil News

1. PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT HAZARDOUS WASTE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION PERMIT DRAFT CLASS 3 PERMIT MODIFICATION - BRINE CONCENTRATOR FEED TANKS:

"This modification, if approved, would authorize the U.S. Army, the Department of Defense Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program and its contractor for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Project, Bechtel National, Inc., (the "Permittees") to construct Brine Concentrator Feed Tanks, which consist of three field-erected above ground tanks that will store waste from the biotreatment process."

2. LIQUIDATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT THE LAST RUSSIAN OBJECT IN KIZNER WILL BEGIN IN 2010:

"The poison gases in bodies of artillery projectiles (sarin, soman, VX gases and lewisite) will be liquidated in two stages according to Russian technology."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

LEHMAN BROTHERS SITTING ON A STOCKPILE OF URANIUM 'YELLOWCAKE'

By Andrew Clark
The Guardian (UK)
April 15, 2009

"The rump of the bankrupt bank Lehman Brothers is sitting on a stockpile of 450,000 lb of uranium "yellowcake" which could be used to power a nuclear reactor or, theoretically, to make a bomb.

Lehman's potentially explosive asset is a hangover from a commodities trading contract undertaken before the Wall Street bank went bust in September. The substance, yellowcake, is a solid form of mined uranium which is yet to be enriched.

Liquidators have been trying to offload the stuff for months. But the price of uranium has been dropping steadily, leaving Lehman's yellowcake languishing in a variety of secure storage facilities, some of which are in Canada."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/apr/15/lehmanbrothers-nuclear-weapons>

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BATTELLE AWARDED CONTRACT TO SUPPORT 649TH AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS SQUADRON MOVE FROM BROOKS CITY BASE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, TO THE ABERDEEN PROVING GROUNDS IN MARYLAND

Battelle Press Release
April 21, 2009

"The U.S. Air Force recently awarded a three-year, task order contract to Battelle to assist with the 649th Aeronautical Systems Squadron move from Brooks City Base in San Antonio, Texas, to the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. The contract has a ceiling of over \$32 million.

The move is part of the Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) process mandated by the Department of Defense as a way to gain greater efficiencies across the military base system. The 649th is the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) defense program management organization for the Air Force.

While the realignment process is underway, there will be concurrent operations at Brooks and Aberdeen."

Link not available.

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NUNN-LUGAR PROGRAM MARCH UPDATE

"U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar announced the following accomplishments for the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program in March:

- 10 Strategic nuclear warheads deactivated;
- 2 Intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) silos eliminated;
- 4 nuclear weapons transport train shipments secured; and
- 1 biological monitoring station built and equipped in Kazakhstan"

"The Nunn-Lugar scorecard now totals 7,514 strategic nuclear warheads deactivated, 752 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) destroyed, 498 ICBM silos eliminated, 143 ICBM mobile launchers destroyed, 633 submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) eliminated, 476 SLBM launchers eliminated, 31 nuclear submarines capable of launching ballistic missiles destroyed, 155 bomber eliminated, 906 nuclear air-to-surface missiles (ASMs) destroyed, 194 nuclear test tunnels eliminated, 433 nuclear weapons transport train shipments secured, upgraded security at 24 nuclear weapons storage sites, and built and equipped 18 biological monitoring stations. Perhaps most importantly, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus are nuclear weapons free as a result of cooperative efforts under the Nunn-Lugar program. Those countries were the third, fourth and eighth largest nuclear weapons powers in the world."

The full article can be found at: <http://lugar.senate.gov/press/record.cfm?id=311517&&>

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CANADIAN CHARGED WITH TRYING TO HELP IRAN GO NUCLEAR

By Colin Freeze and Joe Friesen
Globe and Mail (CA)
April 18, 2009

"Mahmoud Yadegari, a 35-year-old Torontonion, appeared bewildered yesterday during a bail hearing. As he listened to proceedings through a Farsi interpreter, he stood accused of buying devices destined to help centrifuges spin out highly enriched uranium, the material needed to make nuclear weapons.

Police, who seized the 10 devices - high-end gas-pressure gauges, essentially, worth about \$1,100 apiece - say the suspect broke United Nations Security Council regulations by planning to export the sensitive technology to Iran.

"It's the first time that I'm aware that a charge has been laid under the UN Act, Iran regulations, in the history of Canada," said RCMP Inspector Greg Johnson, as he announced the charges yesterday at the Mounties' Milton detachment. "... I believe the maximum penalty is \$1-million or 10 years imprisonment."

"The case at hand involves shipments of pressure transducers, which are legally used by

pharmaceutical and food-processing companies. They are freely traded between Canada and the United States, but controlled globally.

Police say the transducers in question were stripped of their shipping labels as they were sent from Boston to Toronto last month, and they were undervalued when declared. Allegedly, the packages were to go from Canada to Dubai, and from there "we have evidence to support that its ultimate destination was Iran," Insp. Johnson said.

For several weeks, Canadian and U.S. agents had been watching Mr. Yadegari, who became a citizen in 1998. His fortunes have apparently declined of late.

He once worked as a graphics-designer for a Persian-language newspaper in Toronto, though his current employment is unclear. In 2007, he bought a North York house in an Iranian neighbourhood. He took out a \$673,000 mortgage, through a subprime mortgage lender. Four months ago, records show, his interest rate jumped from 8 per cent to 20 per cent.

Last month, Setra Systems, a Massachusetts company, alerted authorities that "there was an unusual purchase from an unknown person in Canada," Insp. Johnson said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20090418.EXPORT18ART21423/TPStory/National>

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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT HAZARDOUS WASTE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION PERMIT DRAFT CLASS 3 PERMIT MODIFICATION - BRINE CONCENTRATOR FEED TANKS

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

March 29, 2009

"The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division has prepared a Hazardous Waste Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Permit that has incorporated a Class 3 permit modification for the proposed Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) to be constructed at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. The Pueblo Chemical Depot consists of approximately 23,000 acres of federally owned land located approximately 15 miles east of Pueblo and is owned and operated by the U.S. Army. The Depot's primary mission is the storage and subsequent treatment of chemical warfare munitions.

This modification, if approved, would authorize the U.S. Army, the Department of Defense Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program and its contractor for the Pueblo

Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Project, Bechtel National, Inc., (the "Permittees") to construct Brine Concentrator Feed Tanks, which consist of three field-erected above ground tanks that will store waste from the biotreatment process. This system includes three tanks, each with a capacity of 567,100 gallons, associated piping and equipment, and a secondary containment system consisting of a coated concrete slab surrounded by perimeter walls. Future piping construction associated with this modification but not located within a secondary containment system is not being approved for construction under this request. The Brine Concentrator Feed Tanks will be used at PCAPP to store and treat waste mustard agent hydrolysate generated from neutralization."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/HM/pcd/rdd/phase3mod/090329notice.pdf>

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LIQUIDATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT THE LAST RUSSIAN OBJECT IN KIZNER WILL BEGIN IN 2010

Voenno-Promyshlenny Kuryer, No. 13, April 08-14, 2009, p. 6 in DEFENSE and SECURITY (Russia)

April 10, 2009

"The poison gases in bodies of artillery projectiles (sarin, soman, VX gases and lewisite) will be liquidated in two stages according to Russian technology.

The plant in Kizner will be the key object of the last four stage of the federal program for liquidation of all reserves of chemical weapons on the territory of Russia. Its arsenals contain 5,680 tons of (14.2% of the entire stockpile) of sarin soman, VX gases and lewisite that should be liquidated until 2012."

Link not available.

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