

Chem-Bio News

1. BACKGROUND: LOOKING AT ISRAEL'S BIO-DEFENSE PROGRAM: "I will say that Israel has the best solution to this threat in the world," Giora Eiland, former head of the National Security Council, told *The Jerusalem Post* on Sunday."

2. FORMER U.S. ARMS CONTROL OFFICIAL OK'D FOR PENTAGON JOB: "The U.S. Senate confirmed Harvard University arms control specialist Ashton Carter to be the Defense Department's top weapons buyer on a voice vote."

3. FIVE CANDIDATES IN RACE FOR IAEA TOP JOB: DIPLOMAT: "The candidates to succeed him are: South Africa's long-time ambassador to the IAEA, Abdul Samad Minty, 69; Japanese ambassador Yukiya Amano, 61; Ernest Petric, 72, of Slovenia, a former IAEA ambassador; Luis Echavarri, 60, of Spain, current head of the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency; and former Belgian deputy prime minister, defence and energy minister, Jean-Pol Poncelet, 59, the diplomat said."

4. SNUB FOR SNP'S [SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY] ANTI-NUCLEAR LINE AS FASLANE PICKED TO BE SOLE SUB BASE: "Ministry of Defence documents suggest that the seven Trafalgar class submarines currently based in Devon will be relocated to Faslane on the Gare Loch near Glasgow by 2015."

5. CDC CONFIRMS FIRST U.S. DEATH FROM SWINE FLU: "In light of that threat, the Obama administration appears close to announcing a decision to make a vaccine against swine flu as early as this fall."

CB Daily Report

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BACKGROUND: LOOKING AT ISRAEL'S BIO-DEFENSE PROGRAM

By Yaakov Lappin
The Jerusalem Post
April 26, 2009

"I will say that Israel has the best solution to this threat in the world," Giora Eiland, former head of the National Security Council, told *The Jerusalem Post* on Sunday. "I can say with certainty that Israel has prepared a series of steps designed to deal with biological warfare."

Eiland said Israel had invested heavily in the field of bio-terrorism but added that the threat remained "huge."

"A bio-weapon can be dispersed in a hall full of people and the consequences would only be felt a week later," he warned. "This is unlike a chemical attack, which would be felt immediately. The swine flu [that has broken out in Mexico and, apparently, other countries] helps illustrate the threat of bio-weapons."

The bio-defense program Eiland alluded to was not always in place - it took the defense establishment decades to develop it."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull&cid=1239710795108>

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FORMER U.S. ARMS CONTROL OFFICIAL OK'D FOR PENTAGON JOB

Global Security Newswire

April 28, 2009

“The U.S. Senate confirmed Harvard University arms control specialist Ashton Carter to be the Defense Department's top weapons buyer on a voice vote.”

“Carter's nomination to become the assistant secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics had been stalled by Alabama's two Republican senators over concerns about the competition for aerial refueling tankers. Senators Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby lifted their holds after they received assurances from Carter and Defense Secretary Robert Gates that the Pentagon is committed to a fair and open competition for the tanker.”

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090428_6955.php

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FIVE CANDIDATES IN RACE FOR IAEA TOP JOB: DIPLOMAT

SpaceWar.com

April 28, 2009

“Five candidates are in the running to take over from Mohamed ElBaradei as head of the UN atomic watchdog, diplomats close to the election process said Tuesday as the deadline for nominations expired.

The deadline for nominations for the position of director general at the International Atomic Energy Agency expired at midnight (2200 GMT) on Monday.

Egyptian diplomat ElBaradei is stepping down in November after 12 years at the head of the agency.

"As of 4:00 pm (1400 GMT) yesterday, there were five candidates," a diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The candidates to succeed him are: South Africa's long-time ambassador to the IAEA, Abdul Samad Minty, 69; Japanese ambassador Yukiya Amano, 61; Ernest Petric, 72, of Slovenia, a former IAEA ambassador; Luis Echavarri, 60, of Spain, current head of the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency; and former Belgian deputy prime minister, defence and energy minister, Jean-Pol Poncelet, 59, the diplomat said.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.spacewar.com/2006/090428085713.m4ppxv09.html>

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SNUB FOR SNP'S [SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY] ANTI-NUCLEAR LINE AS FASLANE PICKED TO BE SOLE SUB BASE

By David Maddox

The Scotsman

April 28, 2009

FASLANE is set to be the UK's only submarine base in a move that will boost the economy yet will also be seen as a snub to the Scottish Government's anti- nuclear stance.

Ministry of Defence documents suggest that the seven Trafalgar class submarines currently based in Devon will be relocated to Faslane on the Gare Loch near Glasgow by 2015.”

The full article can be found at: <http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/politics/Snub-for-SNP39s-antinuclear-line.5210837.jp>

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CDC CONFIRMS FIRST U.S. DEATH FROM SWINE FLU

By Richard Knox

NPR

April 29, 2009

“Experts say that even if cases of the new swine flu disappear with warm weather, the virus may return — perhaps with a vengeance — next winter.

In light of that threat, the Obama administration appears close to announcing a decision to make a vaccine against swine flu as early as this fall.

Normally it takes six months to make a regular flu vaccine. An effective vaccine protects most people from getting the flu. It would be the primary weapon against a flu pandemic — if it can be made, distributed and gotten into people's arms in time.

Bruce Gellin, the nation's top vaccine official, says the plan is to make enough swine flu vaccine for all 304 million Americans by September — only five months from now. Gellin is deputy assistant secretary for Health and Human Services for vaccinations, immunizations and infectious diseases.

Gellin says the first decision points on whether to go ahead will be in early June. That's when manufacturers would be told to switch over from making regular seasonal flu vaccine to a special swine flu vaccine. Fortunately, he says, the nation's flu vaccine makers will be finished by then with making all the components for next season's regular flu vaccine.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=103593687>

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