

17 June 2009

Chem-Bio News

- 1. SERBIA TO RETURN USED FUEL TO RUSSIA:** *"Russia has agreed to receive used highly-enriched uranium (HEU) fuel from the research reactor at the Vinca Institute of Nuclear Science, near Belgrade, Serbia."*
- 2. CONGRESS URGED TO FUND NO-HEU MEDICAL ISOTOPE PRODUCTION:** *"Medical and nonproliferation experts yesterday urged U.S. lawmakers to fund facilities for production of crucial medical isotopes that would not employ weapon-usable highly enriched uranium."*
- 3. OPCW DIRECTOR-GENERAL VISITS MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (MACAO SAR) AND GUANG DONG PROVINCE:** *"Officials from the Ministry of Defence of China provided a presentation and an update on the activities (discovery and excavations) dealing with Japanese abandoned chemical weapons in Guang Dong Province."*
- 4. NUCLEAR TERROR WOULD STRAIN SLEUTHS:** *"But knowledgeable scientists and the investigators behind a new U.S. government report say the American nuclear establishment needs more specialists and more background data on possible bomb sources to do the detective job that awaits on that day after."*
- 5. NUCLEAR SITE STUNG BY RADIOACTIVE WASP NESTS:** *"If workers cleaning up the nation's most contaminated nuclear site didn't have enough to worry about, now they've got to deal with radioactive wasp nests."*
- 6. NEW STRAIN OF H1N1 SWINE FLU VIRUS IDENTIFIED IN BRAZIL:** *"Scientists in Brazil say they have isolated and identified a new strain of the A(H1N1) swine flu virus from a patient who was hospitalized in São Paulo in April and who has since made a complete recovery. The scientists don't know if the new strain causes more severe infections."*
- 7. ITALY POLICE SEIZE RADIOACTIVE FUEL:** *"Police across Italy have seized 10,000 tons of wood fuel pellets contaminated by a radioactive substance, news reports say."*

Chem-Demil News

- 1. UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DESTRUCTION FACILITY - COURT TAKES NO ACTION ON REQUEST TO HALT BURNING:** *"After four hours the court agreed to continue the discussion of the case on June 26, said GAP attorney Richard Condit."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

SERBIA TO RETURN USED FUEL TO RUSSIA
World Nuclear News

June 11, 2009

"Russia has agreed to receive used highly-enriched uranium (HEU) fuel from the research reactor at the Vinca Institute of Nuclear Science, near Belgrade, Serbia.

An inter-governmental agreement has been signed by Sergey Kiriyenko, head of Russia's Rosatom, and Božidar Čelić, Serbia's deputy prime minister.

Rosatom said that the agreement, which is valid for ten years but could be extended, "provides a legal framework for the importation of used nuclear fuel from Vinca to Russia for its temporary storage and processing."

"The return of the fuel under this agreement will be conducted under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under the framework of the Russia-US agreement for the retrieval of Russian-produced research reactor fuel."

"The 6.5 MW Vinca heavy-water moderated research reactor began operating in 1960 and originally operated with Russian-supplied low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel until 1976, when HEU fuel elements were bought from Russia. After some period of operation with the both types of the fuel elements, the reactor switched completely to operation with solely HEU fuel in 1980. The reactor was shut down in 1984 and is to be dismantled."

"In 2002, almost 50 kg of unused HEU fuel was removed from Vinca and transported to Russia in a joint operation by Serbia, the USA, the IAEA and other partners."

The full article can be found at: http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/ENF-Serbia_to_return_used_fuel_to_Russia-1106094.html

[Return to Top](#)

CONGRESS URGED TO FUND NO-HEU MEDICAL ISOTOPE PRODUCTION

Global Security Newswire

June 16, 2009

"Medical and nonproliferation experts yesterday urged U.S. lawmakers to fund facilities for production of crucial medical isotopes that would not employ weapon-usable highly enriched uranium."

"The United States would normally carry out roughly 20 million medical tests using medical isotopes in a year; last month's closure of a Canadian production reactor, though, has forced the nation to rely on an unstable supply of isotopes from three aging European and South African reactors that operate using weapon-grade uranium, the letter says."

The full article can be found at: http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090616_9488.php

[Return to Top](#)

OPCW DIRECTOR-GENERAL VISITS MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (MACAO SAR) AND GUANG DONG PROVINCE

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Press Release

June 13, 2009

“Officials from the Ministry of Defence of China provided a presentation and an update on the activities (discovery and excavations) dealing with Japanese abandoned chemical weapons in Guang Dong Province.

At the invitation of the Government of the People’s Republic of China, the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, visited the Macao Special Administrative Region (Macao SAR) of China on 11 June 2009 and Guang Dong Province on 12 June 2009 respectively.

During his visit to Macao SAR on 11 June 2009, Director-General Pfirter met with the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Ms Florinda Chan, and the Chief of the Office of the Secretary for Security, Mr Vong Chun Fat. Director-General Pfirter received a detailed briefing on the status of the draft “Bill of Judicial Regime of Controlled Chemical Products and Technologies” pertaining to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Director-General Pfirter emphasised the importance of such legislation being an essential requirement to advance the non-proliferation objectives of the Convention, including its contribution to the international community’s struggle against terrorism. In this context, the Director-General reiterated that the effective enforcement of the Convention through legislative and administrative measures was necessary to prevent the misuse of toxic chemicals by individuals or groups. Director-General Pfirter also offered any technical or legal assistance from the Technical Secretariat that Macao SAR may require to deal with this issue.

On 12 June, Director-General Pfirter visited Guang Dong Province for meetings with authorities in charge of implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Officials from the Ministry of Defence of China provided a presentation and an update on the activities (discovery and excavations) dealing with Japanese abandoned chemical weapons in Guang Dong Province. Director-General Pfirter was also given a guided tour of the newly built warehouse in the Province for such abandoned chemical weapons.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.opcw.org/news/news/article/opcw-director-general-visits-macao-special-administrative-region-macao-sar-and-guang-dong-province/>

[Return to Top](#)

NUCLEAR TERROR WOULD STRAIN SLEUTHS

By Charles J. Hanley

Associated Press on LJWorld.com

June 14, 2009

“President Barack Obama calls nuclear terrorism “the most immediate and extreme threat to

global security." It's an unthinkable that's being thought about daily in classified corners of world capitals.

But knowledgeable scientists and the investigators behind a new U.S. government report say the American nuclear establishment needs more specialists and more background data on possible bomb sources to do the detective job that awaits on that day after.

"I don't believe the intelligence community is ready for the challenge," said Rolf Mowatt-Larssen, who worked for years as a U.S. intelligence leader on weapons of mass destruction.

Report notes concerns

The concerns are evident in the June 1 government report, an unclassified version of a classified assessment by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and in an earlier study by major U.S. scientific organizations.

They say an aging, shrinking corps of nuclear forensic experts and U.S. analytical facilities would be badly stretched if a city-leveling nuclear weapon or a "dirty bomb" spreading radioactivity was detonated in the United States.

The scientists also said international databases cataloging characteristics of nuclear materials worldwide, essential for tracing clues in such an event, are currently "not nearly extensive or usable enough."

"If you have the reference data, you can identify the origin. It's just like a fingerprint database," explained Richard Hoskins, a security expert at the International Atomic Energy Agency, in an interview at the IAEA's Vienna headquarters."

The full article can be found at: <http://www2.ijworld.com/news/2009/jun/14/nuclear-terror-would-strain-sleuths/>

[Return to Top](#)

NUCLEAR SITE STUNG BY RADIOACTIVE WASP NESTS

By Shannon Dininny

Associated Press on Pantagraph.com

June 13, 2009

"If workers cleaning up the nation's most contaminated nuclear site didn't have enough to worry about, now they've got to deal with radioactive wasp nests.

Mud dauber wasps built the nests, which have been largely abandoned by their flighty owners, in holes at south-central Washington's Hanford nuclear reservation in 2003.

That's when workers finished covering cleaned-up waste sites with fresh topsoil, native plants and straw to help the plants grow - inadvertently creating perfect ground cover for the insects to build their nests. Nearby cleanup work also provided a steady supply of mud,

which the wasps used as building material.

Today, the nests, which could number in the thousands, are "fairly highly contaminated" with radioactive isotopes, such as cesium and cobalt, but don't pose a significant threat to workers digging them up."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.pantagraph.com/articles/2009/06/14/wtf/doc4a324211a5a59893258162.txt>

[Return to Top](#)

NEW STRAIN OF H1N1 SWINE FLU VIRUS IDENTIFIED IN BRAZIL

Medical News Today

June 17, 2009

"Scientists in Brazil say they have isolated and identified a new strain of the A(H1N1) swine flu virus from a patient who was hospitalized in São Paulo in April and who has since made a complete recovery. The scientists don't know if the new strain causes more severe infections.

The new strain came from a sample isolated from a 26-year old São Paulo man who started to have symptoms of flu shortly after returning from Mexico. He was hospitalized on 24 April and has since made a full recovery. While in hospital the patient gave a sample for analysis.

A team at the Instituto Adolfo Lutz in São Paulo, led by virologist Dr Terezinha Maria de Paiva, isolated the new strain, A/São Paulo/1454/H1N1, from this sample at the end of April."

"They looked in particular at segments number 4 and 7. Segment 4 codes for the protein Hemagglutinin (HA) which is responsible for virus infectivity and triggers the production of antibodies in the human immune system. Segment 7 codes for the matrix proteins (MP) M1 and M2, which help the virus to develop and maintain its structure.

When they compared segment 4 and segment 7 of the new A/São Paulo/1454/H1N1 strain against the novel swine flu reference strain A/Califórnia/04/H1N1 they found that segment 7 appeared to be "completely conserved" while segment 4 showed a number of discrete alterations in nucleotide and amino acid sequences.

The complete nucleotide sequences for these HA and MP segments have been published in GenBank, the American open access gene sequence database, under access numbers GQ247724 (for the HA gene) and GQ250156 (for the MP)."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/154229.php>

[Return to Top](#)

ITALY POLICE SEIZE RADIOACTIVE FUEL

The Sydney Morning Herald (AU)

June 15, 2009

"Police across Italy have seized 10,000 tons of wood fuel pellets contaminated by a radioactive substance, news reports say.

The fuel seized on Saturday had been imported from Lithuania in the autumn and was found to contain caesium-137, a highly toxic isotope whose radiation can cause serious health problems, including various types of cancer."

The full article can be found at: <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/italy-police-seize-radioactive-fuel-20090615-c7jm.html>

[Return to Top](#)

Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DESTRUCTION FACILITY - COURT TAKES NO ACTION ON REQUEST TO HALT BURNING

By Annette Cary

Tri-City Herald.com

June 16, 2009

"Work to incinerate mustard agent at the Umatilla Chemical Depot is continuing despite a court hearing last week.

The Government Accountability Project was in the Oregon Circuit Court for Multnomah County on Friday to request a temporary restraining order to stop incineration.

After four hours the court agreed to continue the discussion of the case on June 26, said GAP attorney Richard Condit."

The full article can be found at: http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/v-print/story/615602.html

[Return to Top](#)

END of CB Daily Report.

Send subscription requests, unsubscribing requests, questions and comments to:

Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

Copyright 2008. *Analytic Services Inc.*

[Analytic Services Inc. DMCA Copyright Notice: http://www.homelandsecurity.org/bulletin/Draft_ANSER_DCMA_Copyright_Notice.htm](http://www.homelandsecurity.org/bulletin/Draft_ANSER_DCMA_Copyright_Notice.htm)

Use of these news articles does not reflect official endorsement.

In accordance with Title 17 (USC), Section 107, this material is distributed without profit or payment and is intended for nonprofit research and educational purposes only.

Reproduction for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions.

PRIVACY POLICY

Content provided in the *CB Daily Report* does not reflect the viewpoint(s) of Analytic Services Inc. Analytic Services Inc. does not share, publish, or in any way redistribute subscriber email addresses or any other personal information.