

19 October 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. 'ISRAEL MAY ATTACK IRAN AFTER DECEMBER': *"The magazine further reported that in a recent visit to France, IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi told his French counterpart Jean-Louis Georgelin that Israel was not planning to bomb Iran, but might send elite troops to conduct activities on the ground there."*

2. U.S. CONSIDERS A NEW ASSESSMENT OF IRAN THREAT: *"The intelligence agencies' rethink comes as pressure is mounting on Capitol Hill, and among U.S. allies, for the Obama administration to redo the 2007 assessment, after a string of recent revelations about Tehran's nuclear program."*

3. HANFORD'S VIT PLANT REACHES HALFWAY MARK: *"Eight years into work at Hanford's massive vitrification plant, the project has passed the halfway mark, the Department of Energy announced Thursday."*

4. BY CONSENSUS, OPCW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RECOMMENDS H.E. MR AHMET ÜZÜMCÜ OF TURKEY FOR APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL: *"The incumbent OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, congratulated the Executive Council for its decision and Mr Üzümcü for his recommendation."*

Chem-Demil News

1. DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT INSTALLS MERCURY FILTER: *"A \$33 million filtering system is now in place at Deseret Chemical Depot to capture mercury during the destruction of small cartridges containing mustard gas."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

'ISRAEL MAY ATTACK IRAN AFTER DECEMBER'

Jerusalem Post
October 15, 2009

"Israel is making preparations to carry out military attacks in Iran after December, a French magazine reported overnight Wednesday."

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"The magazine further reported that in a recent visit to France, IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi told his French counterpart Jean-Louis Georgelin that Israel was not planning to bomb Iran, but might send elite troops to conduct activities on the ground there."

These, according to the magazine, could involve the sabotage of nuclear facilities as well as assassinations of top Iranian nuclear scientists."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1255547721120&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

[Return to Top](#)

U.S. CONSIDERS A NEW ASSESSMENT OF IRAN THREAT

By Siobhan Gorman and Jay Solomon

Wall Street Journal Online

October 19, 2009

"U.S. spy agencies are considering whether to rewrite a controversial 2007 intelligence report that asserted Tehran halted its efforts to build nuclear weapons in 2003, current and former U.S. intelligence officials say.

The intelligence agencies' rethink comes as pressure is mounting on Capitol Hill, and among U.S. allies, for the Obama administration to redo the 2007 assessment, after a string of recent revelations about Tehran's nuclear program.

German, French and British intelligence agencies have all disputed the conclusions of the 2007 National Intelligence Estimate, or NIE, in recent months, according to European officials briefed on the exchanges."

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"In addition to the Qom disclosure, European intelligence services and United Nations inspectors have gathered new information pointing to a resumption of Iran's weapons work.

Germany's intelligence service, the BND, publicly challenged the U.S. NIE by disclosing information during a court case this year that pointed to ongoing Iranian nuclear-weapons work. The BND gave specifics on Iranian purchases of high-speed cameras and radiation detectors that could be used in testing atomic detonations.

A working paper composed by the IAEA, meanwhile, detailed evidence that Iran was continuing to experiment with nuclear warhead designs, according to people who have viewed it."

The full article can be found at: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125565146184988939.html>

[Return to Top](#)

HANFORD'S VIT PLANT REACHES HALFWAY MARK

By Annette Cary
TriCity Herald
October 16, 2009

"Eight years into work at Hanford's massive vitrification plant, the project has passed the halfway mark, the Department of Energy announced Thursday.

"It's great to be on the top side of the hill looking down," said Suzanne Dahl, of the Washington State Department of Ecology, the regulator on the project. "From now on we're getting closer and closer to getting waste into a glass form."

There were years when the ability to get a plant built to turn Hanford's worst radioactive waste into a stable glass form for permanent storage or disposal appeared in doubt. Plans made in 1989, 1993 and 1996 were terminated before any concrete was poured.

The current \$12.3 billion plant has had technical issues to overcome, plus schedule delays, budget increases and an expansion of treatment capacity. It originally was planned -- under what turned out to be a wildly unrealistic schedule -- to be handling radioactive waste two years ago and in full-scale operation in 2011. It's now expected to start operating in 2019."

The full article can be found at: http://www.tri-cityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/755894.html

[Return to Top](#)

BY CONSENSUS, OPCW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RECOMMENDS H.E. MR AHMET ÜZÜMCÜ OF TURKEY FOR APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons News Release
October 16, 2009

"The 41-member Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) decided today to recommend H.E. Mr Ahmet Üzümcü for appointment as the Organisation's next Director-General.

The Executive Council reached its decision to recommend Mr Üzümcü by consensus on the final day of its 58th Session this morning in The Hague. The recommendation will be considered by the 14th Session of the Conference of the States Parties when it convenes from 30 November to 4 December 2009 in The Hague.

The incumbent OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, congratulated the Executive Council for its decision and Mr Üzümcü for his recommendation."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.opcw.org/news/news/article/by-consensus-opcw-executive-council-recommends-he-mr-ahmet-uezuemcue-of-turkey-for-appointment-as/>

[Return to Top](#)

Chem-Demil News

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT INSTALLS MERCURY FILTER

KSL.com

October 16, 2009

“A \$33 million filtering system is now in place at Deseret Chemical Depot to capture mercury during the destruction of small cartridges containing mustard gas.”

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“The filtering units -- which are nearly 60 feet long and weigh more than 35 tons -- are designed to pull mercury from the furnace exhaust when the cartridges are incinerated.

Earlier this year, work to destroy thousands of the cartridges was stopped because higher-than-expected levels of mercury were detected.

Grieser said incineration of the smaller cartridges could resume in early 2010. Meanwhile incineration of large bulk quantities of mustard agent -- where mercury is less of an issue -- continues.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=8332305>

[Return to Top](#)

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