

13 January 2010

Chem-Bio News

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2. CLASSIFIED RECORDINGS OF FIRST FUSION BOMB TEST FOUND IN OLD SAFE: *"The long-distance scientific recordings of the blast wave from the first hydrogen bomb test have been rediscovered in a formerly classified safe at Columbia University."*

3. Y-12 FOCUS CHANGING FROM BOMB MAKING TO NATIONAL SECURITY: *"OAK RIDGE - Y-12 is not just a bomb plant anymore, and officials are anxious to spread that message."*

4. OPCW DIRECTOR-GENERAL, OTHER WMD AGENCY HEADS MEET UN SECRETARY-GENERAL TO DISCUSS STRENGTHENED COOPERATION: *"The OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, visited the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on 8 January 2010 for a meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, together with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, who will succeed Ambassador Pfirter as the OPCW Director-General in July 2010."*

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Chem-Demil News

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CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

ISRAEL AND US BEHIND TEHRAN BLAST - IRANIAN STATE MEDIA

BBC

January 12, 2010

"Iranian media have blamed Israel and the US for a bomb attack which killed an Iranian nuclear scientist in Tehran.

State broadcaster Irib said "Zionist and American agents" planted a remotely controlled bomb that killed Professor Masoud Ali Mohammadi near his home."

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"Masoud Ali Mohammadi, a nuclear physics professor at Tehran University, "was killed in a booby-trapped motorbike blast" in the city's northern Qeytariyeh district, state-run Press TV reported earlier.

It showed pictures from the scene of the blast, saying windows in the nearby buildings were shattered by the force of the explosion.

Local media reports say the bomb was attached to a motorcycle parked outside Prof Mohammadi's home, although one agency said it was planted in a rubbish bin.

Press TV quoted security officials at the scene as saying that the equipment and system of the bomb used in the attack had been related to a number of foreign intelligence agencies, particularly Israel's Mossad."

The full article can be found at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8453401.stm

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CLASSIFIED RECORDINGS OF FIRST FUSION BOMB TEST FOUND IN OLD SAFE

By By Alexis Madrigal

Wired.com

January 11, 2010

"The long-distance scientific recordings of the blast wave from the first hydrogen bomb test have been rediscovered in a formerly classified safe at Columbia University.

On November 1, 1952, physicists created the second fusion explosion the solar system has ever known. The first occurred around 4.5 billion years ago and ignited the ongoing fusion reaction in the sun. The second, the Ivy Mike experiment, was shorter lived and detonated on an atoll in the South Pacific. This 10-megaton blast was five times more powerful than all the explosives used in World War II combined, including the nuclear-fission bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The blast set off a low-frequency sound wave beneath the human hearing range, which was

recorded halfway around the world at special listening stations designed by the Lamont Geological Observatory in Palisades, New York, for monitoring just such an event. The microbarographs measured changes in atmospheric pressure, and were particularly well-suited to detecting a nuclear explosion. As the wave passed, the ink-filled needles of the instruments scribbled on paper rolling around a drum.

It was the first time a nuclear explosion had been detected from such a long distance and it marked the beginning of international test monitoring, a key element of nuclear non-proliferation plans. The recordings were swiftly marked "classified" and stuffed in a vault at Lamont. And there they sat for more than 50 years.

Then, in preparation for retirement in 2008, Lamont's former security director Ray Long began cleaning out the safe. Recognizing there might be something to the recordings, he contacted Paul Richards, a seismologist and specialist in nuclear-test tracking. Richards immediately knew the measurements "were of historic importance."

If they couldn't be declassified, they would have to be sent to the U.S. Air Force, which originally classified them, or destroyed. So, Richards tracked down the right people in the Air Force and asked them to declassify the documents so that they could be preserved for posterity."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2010/01/first-fusion-bomb-test/>

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Y-12 FOCUS CHANGING FROM BOMB MAKING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

By Frank Munger
The Knoxville News
December 29, 2009

"OAK RIDGE - Y-12 is not just a bomb plant anymore, and officials are anxious to spread that message.

Yes, the Oak Ridge plant still manufactures warhead parts to refurbish aging weapons in the U.S. nuclear arsenal. But dismantling weapons retired from the stockpile is a bigger emphasis these days, and other missions - efforts to counter terrorism and stem the proliferation of weapons worldwide - are gaining more attention in the Obama administration.

"What we're really trying to do is leverage Y-12 assets to support these national priorities," said Gerald Devault, the director of nonproliferation and nuclear security programs. At the same time that Y-12 is transforming its national security role, Devault said, the Oak Ridge plant is securing its own future."

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"Perhaps nothing illustrated Y-12's changing role more than a late September visit by Sergei

Kiriyenko, Russia's nuclear chief. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation of U.S. and Russian officials participating in a joint working group studying nuclear security and related issues. The field trip to Oak Ridge included extraordinary access to Y-12's newly constructed \$549 million Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility, which soon will house the nation's primary stockpile of weapons-grade uranium.

The visit was kept secret at the time, with no press availability, but it later was trumpeted as a significant event and indicative of U.S. willingness to share once-guarded information to help the Russians better secure their nuclear stockpile.

Darrel Kohlhorst, the general manager at Y-12, said Kiriyenko's arrival followed a weeklong visit by seven or eight Russians, who were in Oak Ridge to learn how the U.S. plant controls access within its high-security nuclear storage facilities and how the movement of special materials is tracked to make sure nothing is missing. "We want to make sure that the Russians are that particular and that specific when they handle that material (in Russia)," he said."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2009/dec/29/y-12-focus-changing-bomb-making-national-security/>

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OPCW DIRECTOR-GENERAL, OTHER WMD AGENCY HEADS MEET UN SECRETARY-GENERAL TO DISCUSS STRENGTHENED COOPERATION

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Press Release
January 11, 2010

"The OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, visited the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on 8 January 2010 for a meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, together with the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, who will succeed Ambassador Pfirter as the OPCW Director-General in July 2010.

They were joined by the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, and other senior advisers of Mr Ban Ki-moon on disarmament matters.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation among the represented agencies. The UN Secretary-General noted the developments and challenges in disarmament and non-proliferation in recent years and the window of opportunity for progress that has been opened. He underlined the need for the United Nations and international organisations with mandates in this area to work jointly to achieve mutual objectives, with a view to facilitating the effective exercise of their responsibilities.

All the agencies participating in the meeting reiterated their strong commitment to cooperation with the United Nations and among themselves within their respective

mandates.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.opcw.org/news/news/article/opcw-director-general-other-wmd-agency-heads-meet-un-secretary-general-to-discuss-strengthened-coop/>

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NNSA ANNOUNCES HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM REMOVED FROM TURKEY

US National Nuclear Security Administration News Release

January 12, 2010

“The National Nuclear Security Administration today announced the removal of the final 5.4 kilograms (11.9 pounds) of U.S.-origin highly enriched uranium (HEU) spent nuclear fuel from Turkey. The material – the last significant amount of HEU in Turkey – was removed and returned to the United States for storage at a secure nuclear facility, making Turkey the fourth country to be cleaned out of nearly all HEU since President Obama outlined his commitment to securing all vulnerable nuclear material around the world within four years.

“This shipment of HEU from Turkey represents a major step forward in NNSA’s ongoing efforts to implement President Obama’s unprecedented nuclear security agenda to reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism,” said NNSA Administrator Thomas D’Agostino. “This cooperative effort with the Turkish government underscores our mutual commitment to nonproliferation and nuclear security.”

For this operation, NNSA worked in close cooperation with the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority and the Çekmece Nuclear Research and Training Center to return the material. It was packaged into an internationally licensed transportation cask. The cask was then secured in a shipping container and transported in an armed convoy from the reactor site to a nearby port for transport by ship to the United States.

In a speech in Prague last year, President Obama called for an international effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear material around the world within four years. In addition to reducing and protecting vulnerable nuclear and radiological materials located at civilian sites, NNSA works to prevent nuclear smuggling by improving security at sites around the world, installing radiation monitors at ports and border crossings, and working with partner nations to strengthen international export control regimes.

The shipment is part of NNSA’s Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI). With the completion of this shipment, GTRI has removed all significant amounts of HEU from 17 countries. This results in permanent threat reduction because it eliminates weapons usable nuclear material at civilian sites. Each kilogram of HEU that is removed reduces the risk of a terrorist bomb. With the successful completion of this shipment, NNSA has now returned approximately 1,240 kilograms (2,728 pounds) of U.S.-origin HEU fuel. In addition, GTRI has removed more than 915 kilograms (2,013 pounds) of Russian-origin HEU and more than 187 kilograms (411.4 pounds) of gap material.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nnsa.energy.gov/2785.htm>

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TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (TOCDF) - DISPOSAL FACILITY RESUMES DESTRUCTION OF MUSTARD AGENT-FILLED MORTARS

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Press Release

January 12, 2010

“Workers resumed processing mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch cartridges (mortars) today as part of ongoing mustard disposal operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

Officials suspended processing of the mortars last year (and resumed destroying agent filled bulk containers) when sampling and analysis of the furnace exhaust gas conducted during start-up of mortar operations identified higher-than-anticipated levels of mercury.

Since halting mortar operations, a new \$33 million filtering system, designed to safely capture mercury from furnace exhaust gas streams generated while destroying munitions with elevated amounts of mercury, has successfully completed full-scale performance demonstration tests before Utah state regulatory authorities.

This new Pollution Abatement System (PAS) Filtration System (PFS) uses sulfur-impregnated carbon to capture mercury in furnace exhausts. To ensure maximum safety of the workers, community and environment, mercury-monitoring systems are located at intervals within the PFS filter beds. These mercury-monitoring systems ensure the carbon filters are working properly and complement other emission monitoring equipment.

More than 70 percent of the original mustard agent stockpile (by agent weight) has been destroyed. Planning for the elimination of DCD's relatively small remaining stockpile of GA (Tabun) nerve and Lewisite blister agent is in progress. Chemical weapons destruction operations at DCD are scheduled to be completed by the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty deadline of 29 April 2012.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682183>

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PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY - DEMOLITION ON THE FORMER BZ FACILITY COMPLETED

"PBCDF continued safe and compliant mustard disposal processing this week. On Friday, January 8 PBCDF received approval from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality of the Class 1 Permit Modification Request. PBCDF is now authorized to move from the restricted 75 percent feed rates to the maximum 100 percent feed rates for both the LIC and MPF. PBCDF will pause processing to adjust the set points for the furnaces to the new feed rates, and then begin processing at 100 percent.

On Monday, January 11 the subcontractor completed demolition on the <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682175> former BZ facility at the PBCDF site."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682175>

ANALYST NOTE: The report includes a photo of the BZ facility prior to its demolition.

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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - CHEMICAL WEAPONS SAFETY SUIT SETTLED

By John Norton
The Pueblo Chieftain
January 12, 2010

"State officials and the U.S. Army's Chemical Materials Agency apparently have reached a settlement over monitoring of chemical weapons here.

Details of the settlement were not available Monday.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment filed suit in federal court asking for closer monitoring of the igloos at the Pueblo Chemical Depot, where 780,000 weapons containing mustard agent are stored. The Army checks igloos quarterly for any leaking gas but state officials said that was not often enough."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2010/01/12/news/local/doc4b4c135eb71ec359074181.txt>

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