

17 March 2010

Chem-Bio News

1. BURMESE REACTORS CLOSE TO COMPLETION: MILITARY SOURCES: *"Burma's ruling junta has finished construction work on three nuclear reactors in the country's north and will soon be ready to put them into operation, according to military sources at the elite Defense Services Academy (DSA) in Maymyo, Mandalay Division."*

2. NATO WILL TREAT NUCLEAR IRAN AS THREAT, CHIEF WARNS: *"While Nato as such is not involved in the Iran issue, we support international endeavours to find a political and diplomatic solution. But if Iran at a certain stage actually acquires nuclear capability, then we would consider it a threat against the alliance," Anders Fogh Rasmussen [NATO Secretary General] told Gulf News."*

3. IRAN 'TRIED TO BUY NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM PAKISTAN': *"Iran attempted to buy nuclear weapons from Pakistan in 1990 but a putative deal was rejected at the last moment by the former head of the Pakistani military, according to an official transcript leaked in Washington."*

4. ANTHRAX THREAT TO BRITISH TROOPS: *"British troops in Afghanistan may be facing a new threat after claims by Taliban commanders that home-made bombs are being loaded with anthrax."*

5. CBP DEPLOYS RADIATION DETECTION PORTALS AT PORT HUENEME: *"Last year Port Hueneme processed more than 200 vessels discharging more than 80,000 new cars as well as more than 3.5 million cases of produce. During fiscal year 2009, CBP deployed 179 new radiation portal monitors throughout the nation's ports of entry, bringing the number of RPMs to 1,354 at the nation's land and sea ports of entry."*

Chem-Demil News

1. UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY DIRECTOR TO SPEAK AT MARCH 18 CEREMONY: *"Conrad Whyne, director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, Aberdeen, Md., will be the guest speaker at a ceremony Thursday, March 18, honoring six workers who died in a 1944 igloo explosion at the Umatilla Chemical Depot."*

2. PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - TALKS STALL ON MONITORING CHEMICAL ARMS IN COLO: *"State and Army officials say they've reached an impasse in negotiations on monitoring chemical weapons stored outside Pueblo, Colo."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

BURMESE REACTORS CLOSE TO COMPLETION: MILITARY SOURCES

By Min Lwin
Irrawaddy News Magazine – Thailand
March 13, 2010

"Burma's ruling junta has finished construction work on three nuclear reactors in the country's north and will soon be ready to put them into operation, according to military sources at the elite Defense Services Academy (DSA) in Maymyo, Mandalay Division.

The nuclear reactors, which the regime claims are for research purposes, are located at Kyauk Pa Htoe, a village in Thabeikkyin Township, northern Mandalay Division; Maymyo Fifty Miles, an area some 80 km from the setting of the DSA; and Pon Taung Pon Nya, a mountainous area on the border between Magwe and Sagaing divisions.

“They [military leaders] chose Pon Taung Pon Nya because it is a safe distance from highly populated cities,|| said a military official in Maymyo, also known as Pyin Oo Lwin.

According to local residents, the site is about 30 km from the village of Kyaw in Gantgaw Township, situated on the Pakokkuu-Kalay railway line in Magwe Division.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.irrawaddy.org/highlight.php?art_id=18036
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NATO WILL TREAT NUCLEAR IRAN AS THREAT, CHIEF WARNS

By Habib Toumi
Gulf News – U.A.E.
March 14, 2010

“While Nato as such is not involved in the Iran issue, we support international endeavours to find a political and diplomatic solution. But if Iran at a certain stage actually acquires nuclear capability, then we would consider it a threat against the alliance,” Anders Fogh Rasmussen told Gulf News.

“This is also the reason we are considering the establishment of a missile defence system that we can start to deploy by 2011.”

The full article can be found at: <http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/bahrain/nato-will-treat-nuclear-iran-as-threat-chief-warns-1.596719>
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IRAN 'TRIED TO BUY NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM PAKISTAN'

By Damien McElroy
The Telegraph (UK)
March 15, 2010

“Iran attempted to buy nuclear weapons from Pakistan in 1990 but a putative deal was rejected at the last moment by the former head of the Pakistani military, according to an official transcript leaked in Washington.”

“Iran had struck an agreement with Pakistan's army chief to buy "nuclear bombs" for \$10 billion (£6.6 billion) but Pakistani officials pulled out of the offer when an Iranian delegation travelled to Islamabad to collect the material in 1990.

Adml Ali Shamkhani, the former Iranian defence minister, attempted to finalise the sale in a meeting with Adml Iftikhar Ahmed Sirohey, then chairman of Pakistan's joint chiefs, according to an 11-page statement by Pakistan scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan that has been made public for the first time.

It said: "He had come to collect the promised nuclear bombs."

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“Gen Mirza Aslam Beg, the Pakistan Army chief who had reached a deal with the Iranians, was said to have revolted against the decision and demanded that then Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto go through with the deal.

Pakistan decided to provide a pair of centrifuge machines that refine uranium instead of the bombs. That shipment through a middle man laid the basis for Iran's current nuclear programme which has put the country in violation of UN resolutions.”

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iran/7449806/Iran-tried-to-buy-nuclear-weapons-from-Pakistan.html>

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ANTHRAX THREAT TO BRITISH TROOPS

By Marco Giannangeli

The Express (UK)

March 14, 2010

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BRITISH troops in Afghanistan may be facing a new threat after claims by Taliban commanders that home-made bombs are being loaded with anthrax.

So far there is no evidence of biological weapons being used by insurgents. But one of Britain’s leading terrorism experts warned last night that Taliban extremists linked with Al Qaeda would have the technology to produce the deadly disease.

An ITV camera crew filmed a bomb-making factory last week in caves at Tora Bora on the Afghan-Pakistan border. One bomb maker, identified as regional commander Mullah Doud, said: “We use anthrax so when a bomb explodes it produces a toxic cloud.”

The full article can be found at: <http://dailyexpress.co.uk/posts/view/162872/Anthrax-threat-to-British-troops>

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CBP DEPLOYS RADIATION DETECTION PORTALS AT PORT HUENEME

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Public Affairs News Release

March 11, 2010

“These systems do not emit radiation but are capable of detecting various types of radiation emanating from nuclear devices, dirty bombs, special nuclear materials, natural sources and isotopes commonly used in medicine and industry. They are completely safe for anyone passing by them, including children and pregnant women.

Last year Port Hueneme processed more than 200 vessels discharging more than 80,000 new cars as well as more than 3.5 million cases of produce. During fiscal year 2009, CBP deployed 179 new radiation portal monitors throughout the nation’s ports of entry, bringing the number of RPMs to 1,354 at the nation’s land and sea ports of entry.”

The full article can be found at:

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/local/03112010_6.xml

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Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY DIRECTOR TO SPEAK AT MARCH 18 CEREMONY

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Press Release
March 11, 2010

“Conrad Whyne, director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, Aberdeen, Md., will be the guest speaker at a ceremony Thursday, March 18, honoring six workers who died in a 1944 igloo explosion at the Umatilla Chemical Depot.

As CMA Director, Whyne is responsible for ensuring the secure storage and safe destruction of chemical weapons at UMCD and other sites across the country.

The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. in Bldg. 54 and end at the site of the explosion. The public is invited.

This is the third commemoration held in the past three years and this year’s ceremony marks the 66th anniversary of the March 21, 1944, igloo explosion in which six civilian depot workers died. The event also stands as the only fatal munitions handling accident in the depot’s history since its opening on the eve of World War II.

“This tragic accident is a significant part of the local area, the depot and the Army’s history. I feel it is very important that we honor these six depot workers who gave their lives in support of our country during World War II. It is not only important that we honor them today, but we continue to honor them following depot closure with ceremonies such as this,” said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, depot commander.

In the 1944 accident, a depot storage igloo, B-1014, containing 264 500-pound conventional bombs, was completely destroyed. Killed in the accident were: Kenneth LeRoy Fraser, foreman; Lance Stultz, lift truck operator; William Sanders, munitions handler; Harry Dwight Sever, munitions handler; Hiram Cook, truck driver; and Alice Wolgamott, junior laborer. Two crew members working on a nearby railroad pier survived – Glenn P. Long, foreman, and Cecil Pennington, foreman. An extensive Army investigation was unable to determine the specific cause of the accident.

Interested World War II-era depot workers or their family members should provide their names as soon as possible to the Umatilla Chemical Disposal Outreach Office in Hermiston at (541) 564-9339. This information will be used to permit access to the depot.

Bus transportation will be provided from the depot main gate to the accident site.

Ceremony guests should bring warm clothing.

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Note to Media: Those interested in covering the ceremony March 18 should contact Jim Hackett at (541) 564-5418/5312 by today, March 11 or by e-mail, james.s.hackett@us.army.mil .Please contact the Chemical Weapons Disposal Outreach Office at (541) 564-9339 after March 14 for further information.

Photography will be allowed within certain security requirements.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682525>
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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - TALKS STALL ON MONITORING CHEMICAL ARMS IN COLO

The Associated Press
March 16, 2010

“State and Army officials say they've reached an impasse in negotiations on monitoring chemical weapons stored outside Pueblo, Colo.”

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“The state says the sticking points are whether the munitions should be classified as waste and the level of protection workers get against chemicals other than mustard.”

The full article can be found at:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gyAVyrcaVnQKbphNzsDd_RN-H6wAD9EG0FA01

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