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Chem-Bio News

- 1. ADMINISTRATION REJECTS CALL TO FURTHER PROBE AMERITHRAX:** *"The administration is citing U.S. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett's amendment to investigate the FBI's handling of the 2001 anthrax case as one of many concerns with the bills. Bartlett is a Republican from Frederick who represents Western Maryland."*
- 2. PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR 'GODFATHER' IN NEW INQUIRY:** *"The Pakistan government has said it wishes to question the shamed nuclear scientist A Q Khan over fresh claims that he tried to sell nuclear weapon technology to both Iraq and Iran."*
- 3. NUCLEAR TERROR RISK TO BRITAIN FROM AL-QAEDA:** *"Britain faces an increased threat of a nuclear attack by al-Qaeda terrorists following a rise in the trafficking of radiological material, a government report has warned."*
- 4. SECRETARY CHU, NNSA ADMINISTRATOR AND THE TENNESSEE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION JOIN LOCAL OFFICIALS IN DEDICATING HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM MATERIALS FACILITY AT Y-12:** *"Secretary of Energy Steven Chu today gave the keynote address at a dedication ceremony recognizing the start-up of operations at the nation's new, one of a kind storage facility for weapons-grade uranium. The Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF) — the ultra-secure uranium warehouse at the Y-12 National Security Complex — replaces multiple aging buildings with a single state-of-the-art storage facility."*

Chem-Demil News

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CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

ADMINISTRATION REJECTS CALL TO FURTHER PROBE AMERITHRAX

By Megan Eckstein
The Frederick News Post
March 20, 2010

"The administration is citing U.S. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett's amendment to investigate the FBI's handling of the 2001 anthrax case as one of many concerns with the bills. Bartlett is a Republican from Frederick who represents Western Maryland.

The House of Representatives adopted the anthrax amendment last month, which was proposed by Bartlett and Rep. Rush Holt, D-N.J., who represents the district from which the anthrax letters were mailed.

The amendment asks the intelligence community's inspector general to look into whether intelligence suggesting foreign influence in the anthrax attacks was overlooked.

The Senate never adopted the amendment, and the investigation would not take place unless the Senate agrees to it during a conference committee to sort out the differences in the two bills.

But negotiations haven't gone that far yet. On March 15, Office of Management and Budget Director Peter Orszag sent a letter to four congressional leaders, saying their versions of the budget bill "still contain several provisions of serious concern to the intelligence community."

Orszag said three of the issues -- the anthrax investigation was not one of them -- are so serious they would advise Obama to veto the entire bill if Congress does not fix them.

The concerns are outlined in a seven-page document, and the anthrax amendment is ninth on the list of issues. Orszag said an investigation would be "duplicative, and the Administration is greatly concerned about the appearance and precedent involved when Congress commissions an agency Inspector General to replicate a criminal investigation."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?storyID=102694>

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PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR 'GODFATHER' IN NEW INQUIRY

By Andrew Buncombe and Omar Waraich

The Independent (UK)

March 23, 2010

"The Pakistan government has said it wishes to question the shamed nuclear scientist A Q Khan over fresh claims that he tried to sell nuclear weapon technology to both Iraq and Iran.

In a petition before a court in Lahore, the government applied for permission to interrogate the "godfather" of the country's nuclear programme and prevent him from further speaking publicly about sensitive issues. The move follows the recent publication of two articles in a US newspaper which provided further details to longstanding allegations that Dr Khan – with the knowledge of the Pakistan military – was involved in efforts to illicitly transfer the technology to Iran and Iraq.

The articles claimed Iranian officials had approached Pakistan in the late 1980s and sought the nuclear know-how, and Saddam Hussein was offered the technology by an intermediary of Dr Khan in 1990.

The reports in The Washington Post said although the Iraqi dictator did not agree to the deal, blueprints were sold to Iran. It has long been claimed that nuclear technology now possessed by Iran came from Pakistan, but the authorities have always tried to project Dr Khan as a rogue operator, acting alone for money.

"We basically seek permission to see Dr Khan and investigate the matter as well as restrain him from making any statement and interacting with anybody," Naveed Inayat Malik, a government lawyer, told Reuters. The case was adjourned until tomorrow."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/pakistans-nuclear-godfather-in-new-inquiry-1925420.html>

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NUCLEAR TERROR RISK TO BRITAIN FROM AL-QAEDA

By Duncan Gardham

The Telegraph (UK)

March 22, 2010

"Britain faces an increased threat of a nuclear attack by al-Qaeda terrorists following a rise in the trafficking of radiological material, a government report has warned."

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"Bomb makers who have been active in Afghanistan may already have the ability to produce a "dirty bomb" using knowledge acquired over the internet.

It is feared that terrorists could transport an improvised nuclear device up the Thames and detonate it in the heart of London. Bristol, Liverpool Newcastle, Glasgow and Belfast are also thought to be vulnerable.

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"The International Atomic Energy Authority recorded 1,562 incidents where nuclear material was lost or stolen between 1993 and 2008, mostly in the former Soviet Union, and 65 per cent of the losses were never recovered.

Another report, on the Government's "Contest" counter-terrorism strategy, said there was a danger that the increased expertise of insurgents in making bombs in Afghanistan had increased the threat from a radiological "dirty bomb".

It added that there was a "significant increase in the illicit trafficking of radiological materials, the availability of chemical, biological radiological and nuclear (CBRN) related technologies over the internet and the increased use of CBRN material for legitimate purposes", which could be acquired by terrorist organisations.

A third report, on Britain's strategy for countering chemical, biological radiological and nuclear terrorism, described al-Qaeda as the "first trans-national organisation to support the use of CBRN weapons against civilian targets and to try to acquire them".

The report said security around stockpiles of decommissioned material was "variable and sometimes inadequate, leaving materials vulnerable to theft by insiders and criminal and terrorist organisations".

Legitimate uses for such materials also "significantly increases the risk that they may be diverted and exploited by terrorist organisations".

The full article can be found at: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/7500719/Nuclear-terror-risk-to-Britain-from-al-Qaeda.html>

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SECRETARY CHU, NNSA ADMINISTRATOR AND THE TENNESSEE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION JOIN LOCAL OFFICIALS IN DEDICATING HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM MATERIALS FACILITY AT Y-12

US National Nuclear Security Administration News Release

March 22, 2010

"Secretary of Energy Steven Chu today gave the keynote address at a dedication ceremony recognizing the start-up of operations at the nation's new, one of a kind storage facility for weapons-grade uranium. The Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility (HEUMF) — the ultra-secure uranium warehouse at the Y-12 National Security Complex — replaces multiple aging buildings with a single state-of-the-art storage facility."

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"HEUMF was built to consolidate HEU from locations across the Y-12 National Security Complex into a state-of-the-art facility that will reduce operating costs and is designed to address current and future threats. It is a critical example of how we are leading by example and improving the security of our own nuclear material.

In addition to being a modern facility for receiving, shipping and providing long-term storage, HEUMF is an integral part of NNSA Administrator Tom D'Agostino's plan to move from a Cold War-era nuclear weapons complex to a 21st century national security enterprise. It also is a key part of Y-12's long-range modernization plan."

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Now that construction of HEUMF has been completed, the Y-12 National Security Complex has begun consolidating HEU previously stored at multiple locations across the site into HEUMF. Originally scheduled to take 13 months, Y-12 has adopted an accelerated plan to transfer much of the plant's inventory of enriched uranium to the new high-security facility

within 90 days which is expected to save about \$26 million in security costs.

The largest construction project at Y-12 in more than 40 years, the \$549 million building was completed in 2008 and began receiving material for storage at the end of January. HEUMF is a large (approximately 300 ft. by 475 ft.) reinforced concrete structure that will provide storage capacity for thousands of containers of material to be held in specially designed storage racks."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.energy.gov/news/8779.htm>

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Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - WORKER EXPOSURE STATUS UPDATE

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

March 22, 2010

"The following is an update on a worker's exposure to mustard agent March 17 while doing maintenance in the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's main processing building.

- The employee has been receiving medical evaluation and care since the incident occurred. The skin blister is healing well and no additional medical treatment or intervention is anticipated. The employee has not missed a scheduled day of work.
- Project leadership has determined that there was an exposure to mustard agent during the March 17 entry. This conclusion is supported by a review of plant activities, video records and agent monitoring, and by the worker showing the clinical signs of abnormal skin redness followed by blistering.
- The worker's blood and urine samples will be analyzed in two off-site laboratories in an attempt to provide independent confirmation of agent exposure. Lab results are expected to be made available 7-10 days following arrival at the laboratories.
- A root-cause analysis of the event continues. Subject matter experts from the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency headquarters at Aberdeen, Md., and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Ga., are on-site to assist.
- Meetings have been ongoing since March 17 with plant employees to share information about the incident. All entries into the facility's toxic areas remain upgraded to the highest protection level, pending completion of ongoing reviews and subsequent actions.
- "This is a reminder that mustard agent is an extremely hazardous substance," said Mike Strong, the U.S. Army Site Project Manager at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. "It's absolutely critical that we take care of our employees and take measures to prevent

this from happening again.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682597>

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Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

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