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NSO News

Updates from the LANL National Security Office

OCTOBER 2013
VOL 1, ISSUE 6

In this month's newsletter, we have chosen to highlight some of the Russian responses to President Obama's Berlin speech. These responses have been only lightly covered in the US press, but illustrate some of the challenges that the United States will face in future nuclear weapons arms control treaties and negotiations.

If you would like to have a more in-depth discussion on this or any related topics, please contact Sylvia Martinez at 667-6120.

Bryan L. Fearey, NSO Director

President Obama's Berlin Speech

On June 19, 2013, President Obama provided remarks where he announced, "After a comprehensive review, I've determined that we can ensure the security of America and out allies, while maintaining a strong and credible strategic deterrent, while reducing out deployed strategic weapons by up to one-third. And I intend to seek negotiation cuts with Russia to move beyond Cold War nuclear postures."

Russian Response

Russian officials and non-government organizations immediately responded to President Obama's speech and openly expressed doubts and concerns in the largely Russian and foreign press. They have raised the following specific issues with President Obama's proposal (see articles for more details):

- United States missile defense plans, and specifically European systems;
- Future nuclear weapons arms control agreements must be multilateral involving all nuclear weapon powers;
- Proposal will destroy existing nuclear parity;
- Russian concerns over a U.S. preemptive strike;
- United States Prompt Global Strikes plans; and
- Tactical U.S. weapons in Europe.

As an example, Igor Korotchenko, a member of a Defense Ministry advisory panel stated "The Obama initiative is a continuation of the consistent U.S. course toward drawing Russia into the process of further and quite dramatic nuclear disarmament, which for our country is of course absolutely unacceptable." (Quote from official RIA Novosti news agency).

Additionally, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin stated, "How can we take seriously this idea about cuts in strategic nuclear potential while the United States is developing its capabilities to intercept Russia's nuclear potential.

Lastly, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has stated that moving beyond the New START levels will make nuclear arsenals of the United States and Russia comparable to those of other countries with nuclear weapons, which means that "... further moves... will have to be reviewed in a multilateral format."

These responses show how difficult any future nuclear weapons arms control negotiations and treaties will likely be.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF INTEREST:

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
OCTOBER 31, 2013
FOR FORMER NUCLEAR WEAPONS
WORKERS AND URANIUM MINERS
WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY

RECENT & UPCOMING MEETINGS:

"TECHNOLOGY-STRATEGY SEMINAR:
ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE"
HENRY COOPER, FORMER DIRECTOR, U.S.
STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE ORG., AND
GEORGE BAKER, FORMER HEAD, DEFENSE
NUCLEAR AGENCY'S EMP PROGRAM
CSIS, ROOM 110
WASHINGTON, DC
NOVEMBER 6, 2013, 12:00 - 2:00 PM

"THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: U.S.,
RUSSIAN, AND SYRIAN VIOLATIONS"
DAVID A. KOPLOW, GEORGETOWN UNIV.
CISSM, UNIV. OF MARYLAND, MD
NOVEMBER 7, 2013, 12:15 - 1:30 PM

"SUSTAINING THE TRIAD: THE ENDURING
REQUIREMENTS OF DETERRENCE"
NUMEROUS SPEAKERS
NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE, KINGS BAY, GA
NOVEMBER 7-8, 2013

"COST AND BENEFIT TO U.S. STRATEGIC
INTERESTS FROM U.K. RENEWAL OF TRIDENT"
PAUL INGRAM, BRITISH AMERICAN SECURITY
INFORMATION COUNCIL, AND
PETER HUESSY, GEOSTRATEGIC ANALYSIS
CAPITOL HILL CLUB
WASHINGTON, DC
NOVEMBER 12, 2013, 8:00 - 9:30 AM

PONI FALL CONFERENCE
CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CSIS)
WASHINGTON, DC
DECEMBER 16-17, 2013

Office Director: Bryan L. Fearey

Joseph Pilat
J. Bradley Beck

Students:
Emily Saunders

Mark Domzalski
Sylvia Martinez
Lindsay Krelake

CURRENT ARTICLES OF INTEREST

President Obama's Berlin Speech:

Remarks by President Obama at the Brandenburg Gate -- Berlin, Germany, The White House Office of the Press Secretary, 2013/06.19

Russian Response:

Russia to Test Launch Newest ICBM by Year-End – Industry Official, by Sergey Kazak, RIA Novosti, 2013/10/03

Nuclear Arms Reduction Deals to Become Multilateral – Lavrov, by Sergei Guneev, RIA Novosti, 2013/06/22

Russia Skeptical Over Obama's New Nuclear Reduction Proposal, RIA Novosti, 2013/06/19

U.S. tactical nuclear weapons must be withdrawn from Europe – Russian Defense Ministry, Russia Beyond the Headlines, 2013/08/14

American idealist in Europe: Obama's nuclear talk, Alexander Kolbin, Russia Beyond the Headlines, 2013/06/26

Russian supersonic missiles behave like wolves, Dmitry Litovkin, Russia Beyond the Headlines, 2013/08/08

Reports on Russian submarine off the U.S. coast fuel tensions, Yelena Sidorenko, Russia Beyond the Headlines, 2012/08/17

How Russia views nuclear disarmament - and why it may resist, Fred Weir, The Christian Science Monitor, 2013/06/19

As Tensions with West Rise, Moscow Looks to Asia, Richard Weitz, The Diplomat, 2013/07/25

Chill in US-Russia relations dims disarmament hopes, Mathieu Rabechault, Dawn.com, 2013/08/14

Obama's nuclear reduction proposal falls flat in Moscow, Dan Peleschuk, Global Post, 2013/06/20

Nuclear Disarmament; Russia Right to Dismiss Obama Nuke Fakery, Finian Cunningham, Strategic Culture Foundation, NSNBC international, 2013/06/21

CATO Institute Minimum Deterrence Report

The End of Overkill? Reassessing U.S. Nuclear Weapons Policy, By Benjamin H. Friedman, Christopher A. Preble, and Matt Fay, CATO Institute, 2013/09/24

Comments on The CATO Institute Minimum Deterrence Report, by Peter Huessy, Mark Schneider, Family Security Matters, 2013/10/19

Iran:

Iranian Breakout Estimates, Updated September 2013, By Patrick Migliorini, David Albright, Houston Wood, and Christina Walrond, Institute for Science and International Security, ISIS Report, 2013/10/24

Rift widens on Iranian nuclear deal as Israel, Arabs warn against allowing enrichment, By Joby Warrick, The Washington Post, National Security, 2013/10/24

North Korea:

Two New Tunnel Entrances Spotted at North Korea's Punggye Nuclear Test Site, By 28 North, 38 North, 2013/10/23

Historical Dates in October

Oct. 3, 1952:	United Kingdom conducts their first nuclear test off the coast of Western Australia.
Oct. 4, 1957:	Soviet Union launches Sputnik I, starting the "space race"
Oct. 9, 2006:	North Korea conducts their first nuclear test.
Oct. 10, 1963:	Partial Test Ban Treaty signed, which ended nuclear testing in the atmosphere, underwater, and in space.
Oct. 14-28, 1962:	Cuban Missile Crisis occurs between U.S. and U.S.S.R.
Oct. 16, 1964:	China conducts their first nuclear test at the Lop Nor test site in Sinkiang Province.
Oct. 30, 1961:	Largest nuclear bomb test is conducted by the Soviet Union. Weapon is nicknamed the "Tsar Bomba"

National Security Office Mission:

The National Security Office (NSO) supports the Laboratory Director and senior management in our national security mission by developing and articulating national security strategies and providing policy and program analysis and advice to enable informed decisions about the strategic direction of our national security and science programs.