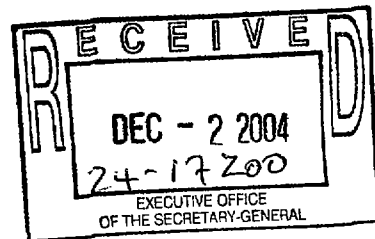


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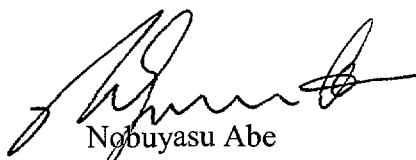
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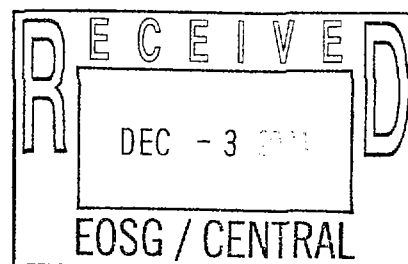
Note to the Secretary-General

SUMMARY OF DISARMAMENT ACTIVITIES
NOVEMBER 2004

Please find attached, for your information, a brief summary of the activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and salient developments in the disarmament field during the month of November 2004.


Nobuyasu Abe
2 December 2004

cc: The Deputy Secretary-General
All Heads of Departments at Headquarters and
Offices away from Headquarters



DDA

Monthly Report on Disarmament Activities – November 2004

The Department for Disarmament Affairs

- On 9 November, USG Abe delivered an address on “Closing WMD Proliferation Gaps: The United Nations Challenge and the Asian Perspective” at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

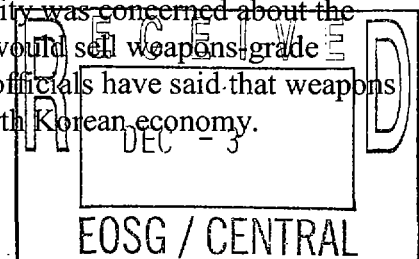
Multilateral and Plurilateral Disarmament Activities

- On 17 November, the European Parliament voted to maintain an EU arms embargo against China until it improves its human rights record.
- The Ninth Session of the annual Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention opened in The Hague on 29 November, with a record attendance of 118 States Parties. This annual Conference is the highest policy-making organ of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which comprises 167 Member States. Delegates will be considering inter alia requests for the extension of intermediate deadlines for the destruction of chemical weapons, submitted by Albania and Libya.
- Recent treaty ratifications -- (a) Rwanda deposited its instrument of ratification of the CTBT on 30 November; and (b) Ethiopia ratified the Mine-Ban Convention on 29 November.

Weapons Issues in the News

DPRK

- At a press conference on 29 November, UN General Assembly President Jean Ping discussed his recent visit to the DPRK, stating that the country supported a resumption of the six-party talks “as soon as possible,” though he was also told that there was a need “to improve the climate of negotiations.” He added that “according to what I have been told they are ready to reach the objectives of the dismantlement of their nuclear weapons.” On 15 November, the DPRK had announced that it would not join the six-party talks at the end of 2004 because of the “hostile” policy of the United States toward the country.
- On 19 November, General Leon J. LaPorte -- the Chief of U.S. forces in the Republic of Korea -- told a forum in Seoul that the international community was concerned about the possibility that North Korea, in its desire for hard currency, would sell weapons-grade plutonium to terrorist organizations. South Korean defence officials have said that weapons sales are a major source of revenue for the impoverished North Korean economy.



- On 15 November, the DPRK announced it would not join the six-party nuclear talks at the end of 2004 because of the United States' continued "hostile" policy toward it. Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan stated that the DPRK remained committed to a peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue through the six-way talks, but felt that the environment was not conducive to an early resumption of multilateral talks.

Iran

- On 29 November, the IAEA Board of Governors adopted a resolution on the implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in Iran. The resolution welcomed Iran's decision to continue and extend its suspension of all enrichment and reprocessing activities. The Agency, however, noted with concern Iran's policy of concealment up to October 2003 which had resulted in many breaches of Iran's obligations to comply with its NPT Safeguards Agreement. The resolution welcomed the IAEA Director General's intention to pursue investigations into remaining outstanding issues of Iran's centrifuge programme.
- On 25 November, IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei announced at the Board of Governors meeting that declared materials in Iran had not been diverted but that there was still a lot of work to be done with regard to possible undeclared material or activity.
- On 23 November, a CIA unclassified semi-annual report to Congress stated that Iran had "vigorously" pursued programmes to produce nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons during the latter part of 2003. It also stated that Iran's nuclear programme received significant assistance in the past from the proliferation network of Pakistani scientist A.Q. Khan.
- On 19 November, the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) accused Tehran of secretly using advanced laser technology to enrich uranium and of lying to the IAEA about the covert programme. The NCRI also said Iran was seeking to develop a warhead to put on its medium-range Shahab-3 and Shahab-4 missiles.
- On 15 November, Iran notified the IAEA that, starting 22 November, they would suspend the construction and testing centrifuges as well as uranium conversion.
- On 15 November, the IAEA announced in a confidential report that it had no proof to date of a secret Iranian nuclear weapons programme but could not yet conclude definitively that there was no covert activity.
- On 8 November, Iran announced it would strike Israel or any other country that attacked its nuclear facilities.
- On 6 November, the European Union and Iran announced they had reached a preliminary agreement at the expert level on the nuclear issue. France, Germany, and the United Kingdom reportedly offered Iran nuclear technology, access to nuclear fuel, increased trade and help with Tehran's regional security concerns in exchange for a halt to enrichment.

Republic of Korea

- On 25 November, the IAEA Board of Governors considered the Director General's report on the implementation of NPT safeguards in the Republic of Korea. While concluding that the failure of the Republic of Korea to report its uranium enrichment experiments to the IAEA in accordance with its safeguards agreements was "of serious concern," the Board welcomed the corrective actions the country has taken and the active cooperation it has provided.

Other Issues

- On 25 November, the IAEA Board of Governors announced that an agreement had been reached, in principle, with the Brazilian government on a safeguards approach to verify enrichment facilities in Brazil. The approach would enable the IAEA to undertake "credible inspections" and to take into account Brazil's need to protect certain commercially sensitive information. He added that he expected the agreement to be finalized in the next few weeks.
- On 22 November, the U.S. Congress denied the Bush administration funds to study a new generation of nuclear weapons. The final \$388 billion spending bill did not include the \$36.6 million President Bush sought for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator programme and the Advanced Concepts Initiative. Congress also eliminated \$30 million in funding to shorten the preparation time to conduct a nuclear test, if ordered by the President, and all but \$7 million of \$29.8 million requested for constructing a new facility to build plutonium pits.
- On 18 November, Russian President Putin stated in a speech that "We are not only conducting research and successful tests on state-of-the-art nuclear missile systems, but I am convinced that these systems will appear in the near future ... Moreover, they will be systems, weapons that not a single other nuclear power has, or will have, in the near future."
- On 11 November, a senior Russian government official outlined Russia's plans to eliminate its vast Soviet-era stockpile of chemical weapons by 2012. The country has placed on a "fast track" the construction of a disposal plant to be completed next year and is expected to complete the neutralization of about 6,900 metric tons of agent by 2010.
- On 8 November, IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei stated that the world needed to take immediate action against nuclear terrorism. He noted the existence of around 630 confirmed incidents of trafficking in nuclear or other radioactive materials since 1993.
- On 7 November, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer warned that terrorist groups were trying to obtain nuclear weapons and will not hesitate to use them.
- On 7 November, India tested a nuclear-capable Dhanush missile, which was launched from an Indian naval vessel in the Bay of Bengal.