

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
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1. [The Prague Agenda: The New START's Next Steps \(03-31-2011\)](#)

By Sally Rountree
Staff Writer

Washington — The New START treaty not only represents a commitment by the United States and Russia toward nuclear disarmament, but also strengthens the reset between Washington and Moscow “that is helping us to address the most urgent proliferation threats we face in Iran and North Korea,” National Security Advisor Thomas Donilon says.

The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), signed April 8, 2010, by President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, marks the first major arms reduction pact since the last days of the Cold War.

Keynoting the Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference meeting in Washington on March 29, Donilon outlined the next steps to establish missile-defense cooperation.

Referencing President Obama’s vision for achieving the “peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons” in a speech the president delivered in Prague in 2009, Donilon presented the Obama administration’s plans to advance each of the four dimensions of the president’s agenda.

To reduce the number and role of nuclear weapons, the United States recently exchanged data with Russia on nuclear facilities under the auspices of the Bilateral Consultative Commission, the treaty’s implementing body, currently meeting in Geneva. On-site inspections conducted under the treaty will soon follow. Once the treaty is fully implemented, Donilon said, it will mark the lowest number of deployed nuclear warheads since the 1950s, the first full decade of the nuclear age.

The administration's next agreement with Russia should include nondeployed and nonstrategic nuclear weapons, Donilon said. "A priority will be to address tactical nuclear weapons." No previous arms control agreement has included such provisions.

"We are ready to begin discussions soon with Russia on transparency and confidence-building measures that could provide the basis for creative verification measures in the next round of U.S.-Russia nuclear arms reductions," Donilon said.

To ensure a safe, secure and effective nuclear arsenal that will facilitate arms reductions, the Obama administration intends to invest \$85 billion in the nation's nuclear infrastructure over the next 10 years, Donilon said. "If Congress approves the president's funding program for the nuclear complex, it allows us to reduce the size of our nuclear stockpile because we will be able to maintain a robust hedge against technical problems with a much smaller reserve force," Donilon said, adding that the arsenal is "necessary to defend the U.S. and our allies and partners for as long as nuclear weapons exist."

Paralleling the Russia discussions, President Obama is committed to deploying an effective missile-defense system to defend the United States and its allies against threats from such countries as Iran and North Korea, Donilon said. He cited the Phased Adaptive Approach, which provides a more effective and timely response to missile threats, an approach embraced by NATO at the Lisbon summit in November 2010, and widely regarded as a substantial improvement over the prior program, according to Donilon.

To advance the second element of the president's Prague agenda — nonproliferation — the administration is working with the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure inspections and verifications, while tightening international sanctions against Iran and North Korea.

The administration is committed to working with both political parties in the Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Ratification would serve America's national security interests by strengthening the legal and political barriers to a resumption of nuclear testing, "which would fuel the nuclear buildup in Asia," Donilon said.

Donilon also cited President Obama's support for a new international treaty, the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT), designed to verifiably end the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons.

To meet the third element of the Prague agenda, preventing nuclear terrorism by strengthening international cooperation on nuclear security, the administration has set a global work plan to secure all vulnerable nuclear materials within four years. An interim goal is to demonstrate significant progress by the next Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul, South Korea, in 2012.

The fourth element of President Obama's Prague agenda is to develop new mechanisms to support the growth of safe and secure nuclear power in ways that reduce the spread of dangerous technologies. Citing the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident in Japan, Donilon called for all nations with nuclear energy programs to ensure the safe operation of nuclear power plants and safe storage of nuclear waste.

The administration is working with the international community to meet the increased demand for low-carbon sources of electricity and access peaceful nuclear power without increasing the risks of proliferation, Donilon said.

2. State Department Official and Lawmakers Discuss Libya Crisis (03-31-2011)

By M. Scott Bortot
Staff Writer

Washington — U.S. Lawmakers discussed U.S. policy toward Libya — its implications for America and the Middle East and North Africa region — with Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg at a House Committee on Foreign Affairs hearing March 31.

Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Republican-Florida), chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, led the hearing and said that Americans question if involvement in the Libyan crisis may signal U.S. action in other countries experiencing turmoil, such as Côte d'Ivoire or Syria.

“Another area of concern is the scope, duration and objectives of the NATO-led operation and the political mission, that have not been sufficiently defined, nor have the anticipated short-, medium- and long-term commitments of the United States,” Ros-Lehtinen said.

Steinberg said that the Obama administration’s decision to work with the international community and support U.N. Security Council Resolution 1973 has prevented a massacre of Libyan civilians by Colonel Muammar Qadhafi’s security forces.

“All of this has been accomplished consistent with President Obama’s pledge to the American people that our military role would be limited, that we would not put ground troops into Libya,” Steinberg said.

As the situation in Libya unfolded quickly, Steinberg said President Obama acted decisively in working with the international community.

“As his troops headed toward Benghazi, Qadhafi again defied the international community, declaring, ‘We will have no mercy and no pity,’” Steinberg said. “Based on his decades-long history of brutality, we had little choice but to take him at his words.”

“As NATO assumes command and control of the military operations, we are confident that the coalition will keep the pressure on Qadhafi’s remaining forces until he fully complies with Resolution 1973,” Steinberg said.

Representative Howard L. Berman (Democrat-California), ranking member of the committee, said the burden of military action is being shared among U.S. allies, including some Arab countries. Action taken by the international community against the Qadhafi regime, he said, can help prevent instability that could derail democratic transformation in nearby countries.

“Libya’s neighbors, Tunisia and Egypt, have just gone through revolutions that are changing the nature of the region, hopefully for the better,” Berman said. “If Libya were to spin out of control and instability were to pour over its borders, the entire region would suffer.”

Steinberg discussed nonmilitary aspects of U.S. strategy on Libya, which include relief operations and continued pressure on the Qaddafi regime.

“We are working with NATO, the EU, the U.N. and other international organizations to get aid to people who need it,” Steinberg said, adding that the U.S. government has provided \$47 million to meet humanitarian needs.

Steinberg said that the recently formed Libyan Contact Group, a coalition of Arab and non-Arab representatives that will lead efforts to map out Libya’s future, is exerting pressure on the Qadhafi regime.

“The contact group on Monday sent a strong international message that we must move forward with a representative democratic transition and that Qadhafi has lost the legitimacy to lead and must go,” Steinberg said.

Stressing the importance of U.S. involvement in ending the Libyan crisis, Steinberg said a lack of action would send the wrong message to those who oppose democracy in the region.

“It would undercut democratic aspirations across the region and embolden repressive leaders to believe that violence is the best strategy to cling to power,” Steinberg said. “It would undermine the credibility of the Security Council and our ability to work with others to uphold peace and security.”

3. U.S. Military Pours Supplies, Equipment, Skills into Japan Relief (03-30-2011)

By Charlene Porter
Staff Writer

Washington — More than 18,000 U.S. military personnel have delivered 240 tons of supplies to quake-stricken Japan, with 19 ships and more than 130 aircraft participating in an operation they’re calling Tomodachi, the Japanese word for “friend.”

The supplies come in the form of food and fuel, drinking water, hygiene supplies and another 500,000 gallons of fresh water to pour on the overheating nuclear reactor at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant. Navy divers are clearing cluttered harbors for navigation. Pilots are delivering aid and personnel, flying over a ravaged landscape of collapsed bridges and blocked roads damaged in the March 11 earthquake and the punishing tsunami that followed.

Video footage like none ever seen before showed walls of water pounding ashore, tossing boats and vehicles like bathtub toys, crushing buildings and crumbling infrastructure. When the water receded, much of that debris was sucked back out into the ocean, and U.S. naval personnel joined Japanese counterparts to begin clearing channels out of Hachinohe on the northeast coast of Honshu Island.

The teams mapped the waters to establish routes for boats to operate safely through the channel. Using sonar identification, dive teams recovered foreign objects that were potentially blocking safe passage through the channel.

“Over 4 million square meters of harbor have been sonared,” said Chief Petty Officer Jon Klukas. “We have also pulled about five tons of wreckage, consisting of various items like cars, large shipping containers and diesel generators.” Klukas was quoted in a story published by the U.S. Pacific Command.

March 31, 2011

Navy teams worked with the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) for three days at Hachinohe starting March 25, according to a U.S. Embassy press release, and will be moving on to clear other damaged ports in this maritime nation: Miyako, Kamaishi, Ofunato and Sendai.

Admiral Robert F. Willard, commander of the Pacific Command, said soon after the military's role in the relief operation began that the U.S. Navy is in Operation Tomodachi "for the long haul."

HIGH-LEVEL COMMUNICATION

As U.S. and Japanese military personnel work side by side in the relief effort, their national leaders are also keeping the lines of communication open. President Obama spoke with Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan on the evening of March 29 in [their third telephone conversation](#) since the disaster struck. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of close U.S.-Japanese cooperation in dealing with the ongoing nuclear emergency. President Obama reaffirmed U.S. support for recovery efforts, for which the prime minister expressed his gratitude.

On March 30 the U.S. ambassador to Japan, John Roos, met with Liberal Democratic Party President Sadakazu Tanigaki at the U.S. Embassy. Tanigaki requested the meeting, and the two spoke of the situation facing the country, including the U.S. involvement in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

The ambassador expressed his gratitude for the close cooperation between U.S. and Japanese experts in the fields of health, safety and nuclear issues and reiterated that the United States will continue to stand by its friend and ally as Japan recovers from the earthquake and its aftermath.

SOLDIER TO SOLDIER

The victims of the disaster, the rescue volunteers, and the U.S. and Japanese military personnel are performing jobs not for the fainthearted. Sifting through the rubble of an epic catastrophe must be an extremely difficult job. But these military crews undertake this work with one more handicap: They don't speak the same language. Coordination of efforts must be channeled through trained translators who jump the language barrier to deliver instructions on the other side. JSDF Captain Masanori Ide is one of those liaison officers; he has come to appreciate the friendship of the two countries on a personal level.

"I am moved that all the people I am working with here are dedicating themselves to helping out not because they were ordered to, but because they care as friends," Ide said. He is quoted in a story filed from the Pacific by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Juan Manuel Pinalez.

Pinalez reports similar remarks from the Americans contributing to the effort.

"It's been a great honor and privilege to serve side by side with our Japanese partners," said Lieutenant Colonel William Arick of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. "Our liaison officer partners' enthusiasm, work ethic and dedication to help their country is a testament to the Japanese military and people and is humbling to witness."

4. Secretary Clinton at International Conference on Libya (03-29-2011)

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton at the International Conference on Libya
Lancaster House, London, United Kingdom

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much, Prime Minister, and thanks to you and your government for the critical leadership effort you have demonstrated in our common effort. Thanks too to France, which has been at the forefront of this mission, including by hosting many of us last week in Paris, and really thanks to everyone around this table. We have prevented a potential massacre, established a no-fly zone, stopped an advancing army, added more partners to this coalition, and transferred command of the military effort to NATO. That's not bad for a week of work at a time of great, intense international concern.

The United States has been proud to stand with our NATO, Arab, and European partners. We've been responding to the appeals of the Libyan people and to the Arab League's call for urgent action. And we have joined with countries around the world, including all three countries representing Africa on the United Nations Security Council, to pass two strong resolutions. So this has been truly an international effort and a reflection of our shared concern for the safety of civilians and our support for the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people.

Well, we meet now in London at a turning point. NATO has taken command of enforcing the arms embargo and the no-fly zone. On Sunday, it agreed to take on the additional responsibility of protecting civilians. Last night, President Obama expressed his full confidence that this coalition will keep the pressure on Qadhafi's remaining forces. I second that confidence. This coalition military action will continue until Qadhafi fully complies with the terms of 1973, ceases his attacks on civilians, pulls his troops back from places they have forcibly entered, and allows key services and humanitarian assistance to reach all Libyans.

But beyond our military efforts, all of us are called to continue to work together along three tracks: First, delivering desperately needed humanitarian assistance; second, pressuring and isolating the Qadhafi regime through robust sanctions and other measures; third, supporting efforts by Libyans to achieve their aspirations through political change. On the humanitarian front, under the leadership of the United Nations, we will work with NATO, the EU, other international organizations and regional partners to deliver assistance.

The coalition military campaign has made it possible for more help to get through. For example, a convoy organized by the World Food Program was able to reach Benghazi this weekend with 18 tons of supplies, including food and blankets. But a great deal more aid is needed and we have to work quickly and cooperatively to assess and respond. Beyond the humanitarian crisis, we know long-term progress in Libya will not be accomplished through military means.

All of us have to continue the pressure on and deepen the isolation of the Qadhafi regime. This includes a unified front of political and diplomatic pressure that makes clear to Qadhafi he must go, that sends a strong message of accountability, and that sharpens the choice for those around him. It also includes financial pressure through the vigorous enforcement of sanctions authorized under Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973.

As President Obama said last night, while our military mission is focused on saving lives, we must continue to pursue the broader goal of a Libya that belongs not to a dictator, but to the Libyan people. Now, we cannot and must not attempt to impose our will on the people of Libya, but we can and must stand with them as they determine their own destiny. And we have to speak with one

voice in support of a transition that leads to that time. We agree with the Arab League that Qadhafi has lost the legitimacy to lead. We agree with the African Union on the need for a democratic transition process. And we support UN Special Envoy Khatib's planned travel to Libya following this conference to assess conditions and report to the international community.

We believe that Libya's transition should come through a broadly inclusive process that reflects the will and protects the rights of the Libyan people. The Transitional National Council and a broad cross-section of Libya's civil society and other stakeholders have critical contributions to make. Earlier today, I had the opportunity to meet with senior representatives of the council and to talk about the path forward. The UN, the African Union, the Arab League, the OIC, and the EU all have important roles to play. And through this, the United States will join the international community in our commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity of Libya.

This is a time of great change for Libya, for its neighbors across the region and around the world. Under different governments, under different circumstances, people are expressing the same basic aspirations – a voice in their government, an end to corruption, freedom from violence and fear, the chance to live in dignity, and to make the most of their God-given talents. Now, we know these goals are not easily achieved, but they are, without question, worth working for together. And I'm very proud that this coalition has come to this place at this time to try to pursue those goals. Thank you very much.

[Clinton Remarks on Libya, Mideast After International Conference](#) (03-29-2011)

[5. Fact Sheet: History of Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty \(03-29-2011\)](#)

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance

History of the CTBT

Key Point: The effort to end nuclear explosive testing has spanned five decades with efforts culminating in the [Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty](#) (CTBT), which was opened for signature in 1996.

The first nuclear explosive test was conducted by the United States on July 16, 1945. The Soviet Union followed with its first nuclear test on August 29, 1949. By the mid-1950s, the United States and the Soviet Union were both conducting high-yield thermonuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere. The radioactive fallout from those tests drew criticism from around the globe. The international community's concern about the effects on health and the environment continued to grow. In 1954, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru [proposed](#) a ban on all nuclear testing. The increasing public concern over explosive tests led to the negotiation and entry into force of the 1963 [Limited Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty](#) (LTBT). This Treaty banned nuclear testing in the atmosphere, outer space, and under water, but underground tests were still permitted.

When the [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) was being negotiated in 1968, a comprehensive test ban was discussed, but the international community failed to reach agreement on the issue. Advocates for a ban on explosive testing persisted.

In 1974, the United States and the Soviet Union signed the Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests, also known as the [Threshold Test Ban Treaty](#) (TTBT). It established a nuclear "threshold" by prohibiting the United States and the Soviet Union from

conducting tests that would produce a yield exceeding 150 kilotons (equivalent to 150,000 tons of TNT). The mutual restraint imposed by the Treaty reduced the explosive force of new nuclear warheads and bombs, which could otherwise be tested for weapons systems. The TTBT was not intended as a substitute for a comprehensive test ban. Article I of the Treaty states that, “the Parties shall continue their negotiations with a view toward achieving a solution to the problem of the cessation of all underground nuclear weapon tests.”

In 1976, scientists from different countries formed the Group of Scientific Experts (GSE) and began conducting joint research into monitoring technologies and data analysis methods for the verification of a comprehensive test ban.

Almost two decades later, the Cold War ended, bringing with it increased possibilities for progress on disarmament and self-imposed testing moratoriums from the United States and the former Soviet Union. Capitalizing on this momentum, the United Nations’ disarmament body, the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva, began formal negotiations on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1994. Capitalizing on the GSE’s research, the CD was able to reach consensus on the verification regime. Other parts of the negotiations proved more difficult, but members of the CD were able to find common ground and move forward. Australia submitted the Treaty to the U.N. General Assembly, where it was adopted on September 10, 1996 and opened for signature on September 24, 1996.

Since then, 182 nations have signed the Treaty, and 153 have ratified it. Of the 44 nations whose ratifications are specifically required by the Treaty for it to enter into force, 41 have signed and 35 have ratified.

For more information on the history of the CTBT, click [here](#).
[Fact Sheet on CTBT International Monitoring System](#) (03-29-2011)

6. Obama Addresses U.S. Security Interests in Libyan Crisis (03-28-2011)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama told Americans that it was not in the U.S. national interest to let the Libyan people suffer a massacre at the hands of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi because the consequences would have reverberated across the Middle East and North Africa and “stained the conscience of the world.”

“I refused to let that happen,” Obama said in a [nationally televised address March 28](#). “And tonight, I can report that we have stopped Qadhafi’s deadly advance.”

Obama made a televised address from the National Defense University in Washington to explain to the American people and those around the world why he took action with an international coalition to use military force against the forces of the Qadhafi regime that had begun attacking civilians for protesting against the regime. Libyans began calling for freedoms and a new government that was responsive to their needs.

Obama said the United States has not acted alone in taking military action, but has been joined by a growing international coalition that includes many members of NATO from Europe and Arab partners like Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. In a period of one month, the United States has

worked with international partners to create a broad-based coalition, secure an international mandate to protect Libyan civilians, stop an advancing army, prevent a massacre, and establish a no-fly zone, Obama said.

When the United States began this initiative, Obama said, he pledged to the American people that the U.S. role would be limited and there would be no U.S. ground troops put into Libya. He also said the United States would hand off command of the coalition as soon as practical.

NATO agreed March 27 to take command of the enforcement of the arms embargo and no-fly zone imposed by a March 17 U.N. Security Council resolution. NATO also agreed to take on the responsibility of protecting Libyan civilians, Obama said.

The transfer of command from the United States to NATO will take place March 30.

“The United States will play a supporting role — including intelligence, logistical support, search-and-rescue assistance, and capabilities to jam regime communications,” he said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton flew to London for a March 29 meeting with 30 international leaders and members of the Libyan opposition to discuss what kind of political effort is necessary to pressure Qadhafi to relinquish power, while also supporting a transition for the Libyan people that offers freedom and democracy, the president said.

[Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert Gates](#) appeared on a series of March 27 news talk shows to explain U.S. actions and what the United States hopes will be achieved by the international coalition that is enforcing the no-fly zone and conducting airstrikes against Libyan military forces.

The U.N. Security Council voted 10-0 with five abstentions March 17 to authorize the use of all means necessary to stop the military forces of the Libyan leader from attacking the Libyan people. The resolution also includes an immediate demand for a cease-fire and a no-fly zone over Libya, among other measures.

The U.N. resolution, 1973, came after the Arab League voted March 12 for a no-fly zone over Libya to protect human lives.

Obama said the coalition only took action March 19 when every effort to end the violence without using force was unsuccessful. He said the international community offered Qadhafi a final chance to stop his campaign of killing or face the consequences.

Earlier in the day, Obama spoke by videoconference with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister David Cameron. While they discussed a broad range of strategic issues, they specifically discussed the international conference being held in London, and they reviewed progress being made in Libya, the White House said in a prepared statement.

“They agreed that Qadhafi had lost any legitimacy to rule and should leave power, and that the Libyan people should have the political space to determine their own future,” the White House statement said.

[Obama Says U.S., Allies Succeeding in Libya](#) (03-27-2011)

[State Department Legal Adviser on Use of Force in Libya](#) (03-27-2011)

[Obama on Success of Mission in Libya](#) (03-26-2011)