

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
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1. [White House Alleges Assad Used Sarin, Will Boost Opposition Aid](#) (06-13-2013)

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 13, 2013 – The White House in a statement today condemned Bashar Assad's regime in Syria for multiple uses of chemical weapons against Syrian citizens, and pledged increased aid to opposition forces there.

In a statement to Congress and the public, the administration alleged "that the Assad regime has used chemical weapons, including the nerve agent sarin, on a small scale against the opposition multiple times in the last year."

The statement, credited to deputy national security advisor for strategic communications Ben Rhodes, noted President Barack Obama has said his strategic approach to the Syrian conflict would change given clear evidence of chemical weapons use.

"Following on the credible evidence that the regime has used chemical weapons against the Syrian people, the president has augmented the provision of non-lethal assistance to the civilian opposition, and also authorized the expansion of our assistance to the Supreme Military Council, and we will be consulting with Congress on these matters in the coming weeks," the statement reads in part. "... Put simply, the Assad regime should know that its actions have led us to increase the scope and scale of assistance that we provide to the opposition, including direct support to the SMC. These efforts will increase going forward."

The United States and the international community have a number of other legal, financial, diplomatic, and military responses available, Rhodes said.

“We are prepared for all contingencies, and we will make decisions on our own timeline,” he said. “Any future action we take will be consistent with our national interest, and must advance our objectives, which include achieving a negotiated political settlement to establish an authority that can provide basic stability and administer state institutions; protecting the rights of all Syrians; securing unconventional and advanced conventional weapons; and countering terrorist activity.”

The statement cites intelligence reports, witness interviews, medical reports and open-source reporting, including on social media platforms, as providing “multiple, independent streams of information” on which to base the assessment of chemical weapons use.

“The intelligence community estimates that 100 to 150 people have died from detected chemical weapons attacks in Syria to date; however, casualty data is likely incomplete,” Rhodes said. “While the lethality of these attacks make up only a small portion of the catastrophic loss of life in Syria, which now stands at more than 90,000 deaths, the use of chemical weapons violates international norms and crosses clear red lines that have existed within the international community for decades.”

He added, “We believe that the Assad regime maintains control of these weapons. We have no reliable, corroborated reporting to indicate that the opposition in Syria has acquired or used chemical weapons.”

The White House and allies will “present a credible, evidentiary case to share with the international community and the public,” Rhodes said. “... We will also be providing a letter to United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, calling the U.N.’s attention to our updated intelligence assessment and specific incidents of alleged chemical weapons use. We request that the U.N. mission include these incidents in its ongoing investigation and report, as appropriate, on its findings.”

Related Articles:

[U.S. Officials on Easing U.S. Sanctions to Support Syrian People](#) (06-12-2013)

2. NSA Chief Urges Public Debate of Terrorist Surveillance (06-13-2013)

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 13, 2013 – Now that the existence of classified National Security Agency data-gathering efforts have been leaked to the public, the head of U.S. Cyber Command and NSA said yesterday he wants the public to understand the programs “so they can see what we’re doing and what the results of it are.”

Alexander testified along with interagency partners from the Homeland Security Department, the FBI and the National Institute of Standards and Technology during a hearing that U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, the committee chair, convened to discuss preparing for and responding to the enduring cyber threat.

But several senators -- given their first chance to question Alexander since NSA contractor Edward Snowden leaked information to newspapers June 6 about classified surveillance practices -- abruptly asked about the leaks and about legislation authorizing the practices.

In his leaks to the media, Snowden described two NSA surveillance programs authorized by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which Congress created in 2008. Section 702 of FISA authorizes access to records and other items of foreign targets located outside the United States under court oversight.

Section 215 of the Patriot Act broadened FISA to allow the FBI director or another high-ranking official there to apply for orders to produce telephone records, books and other materials to help with terrorism investigations.

Revelations about the programs have launched a debate nationwide about privacy, because Section 215 allows NSA to collect something called metadata -- information about call length and connections -- for phone calls that occur inside the United States and between the United States and other countries.

"These authorities complement each other in helping us identify different terrorist actions and ... disrupt them," Alexander told the senators. "If you want to get the content of the phone calls, you'd have to get a court order. In any of these programs ... we need court orders for doing that, with oversight by Congress, by the courts and by the administration."

Some of the senators asked for details about terrorism cases that the NSA surveillance programs have helped, and Alexander named a few but said he intended to bring a classified list of them to today's closed session of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

But Alexander said he also wanted to provide an unclassified version -- if he could make that happen, he said -- this week that could be released to the public.

"I think this is an area where we have to give Congress and the American people the details. They need to understand it so they can see what we're doing and what the results of it are," he added.

"We all had this concern coming out of 9/11 -- how are we going to protect the nation," the general said, "because we did get intercepts on Khalid Muhammad Abdallah al-Mihdhar, but we didn't know where he was. We didn't have the data collected to know that he was a bad person."

Mihdhar was one of five hijackers of American Airlines Flight 77 who flew that aircraft into the Pentagon as part of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"Because he was in the United States," Alexander continued, "the way we treated it then is that he's a U.S. person, so we had no information on him. If we didn't collect that information ahead of time, we couldn't make those connections."

Now through its surveillance programs, the NSA creates a set of telephone metadata from all over the United States, and only under specific circumstances can officials query the data, he said.

"And every time we do, it's auditable by the congressional committees, by the Justice Department, by the court and by the administration," Alexander said. "We get oversight from everybody on this."

The collection of U.S. telephone metadata is one of the elements that should be debated nationally, Alexander said, but he described why it was helpful in terrorism cases to do so.

“Let's take Mihdhar,” he said. “Congress had authorized us to get Mihdhar's phones in California, but Mihdhar was talking to the other four teams in other parts of the country.

“Today, under the business-record FISA, because we had stored that data in the database, we now have what we call reasonable, articulable suspicion. We could take that phone number and go backwards in time and see who he was talking to,” the general continued. “And if we saw there were four other groups, we wouldn't know who those people were -- we'd only get the numbers. We'd say, ‘This looks of interest,’ and pass it to the FBI. We don't look at U.S. identities. We only look at the connections.”

Alexander said he would like to see a nationwide debate on such topics for a couple of reasons.

“I think what we're doing to protect American citizens here is the right thing,” he said. “Our agency takes great pride in protecting this nation and our civil liberties and privacy, and doing it in partnership with this committee, with this Congress, and with the courts. We aren't trying to hide it. We're trying to protect America, so we need your help in doing that. This isn't something that's just NSA or the administration. ... This is what our nation expects our government to do for us.”

Alexander said he's not the only official involved in getting information declassified, but added, that if he can make it happen, he will.

“I do think what we're doing does protect American civil liberties and privacy,” he told the Senate panel. “The issue is that to date, we've not been able to explain it, because it's classified, so that issue is something we're wrestling with.”

“How do we explain this and still keep the nation secure?” he asked. “That's the issue that we have in front of us.”

Biographies:

[Army Gen. Keith B. Alexander](#)

Related Sites:

[Special Report: Cybersecurity](#)

3. Czech Republic, U.S. Agree on Nuclear Cooperation (06-13-2013)

Washington — The United States has signed an agreement with the Czech Republic that establishes a joint Civil Nuclear Cooperation Center in Prague, the U.S. Department of Energy announced June 12.

“The creation of this Center is another valued step in expanding U.S.-Czech energy collaboration and fulfills the commitment made by President Obama and Czech Prime Minister Nečas in October 2011 to establish such a Center to facilitate and coordinate joint activities and support regional initiatives in the fields of nuclear energy, nuclear security and nuclear non-proliferation,” the Energy Department said in a news release.

The establishment of the joint Civil Nuclear Cooperation Center in Prague also advances President Obama's “Prague Vision,” the release said. In 2009, Obama traveled to Prague to lay out his

nuclear agenda, including his commitment to the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear power around the world. He called for a new framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation, so that countries that play by the rules can gain access to nuclear energy to meet the demand for low-carbon electricity without increasing proliferation risks.

The United States and the Czech Republic have taken a number of steps since then to continue deepening their long-standing scientific, technical and commercial civilian nuclear energy relationship, and to advance nuclear safety and security objectives.

In 2010, following a successful civilian nuclear trade mission to the Czech Republic led by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the countries signed a joint declaration expanding cooperation in civil nuclear energy research and development and strengthening commercial relations.

In May 2013, the Energy Department completed the transfer of 75 kilograms of fluoride salt from its Oak Ridge National Laboratory to the Czech Nuclear Research Institute Řež for experiments that will advance research on next-generation reactors.

The U.S. commitment to peaceful nuclear cooperation with the Czech Republic was also recently demonstrated by the conversion of the Řež reactor to low-enriched uranium and subsequent removal of all remaining highly-enriched uranium from the Czech Republic in April.

“Given the breadth and depth of civil nuclear energy and nuclear security cooperation between our two countries, the United States and Czech Republic have agreed to jointly establish this Center in Prague and dedicate it to strengthening our collaboration in these areas,” said U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman.

“The Center will serve as a catalyst for our brightest scientists and researchers from our universities, national laboratories and private sectors to work together on advanced nuclear energy, nuclear security and nonproliferation technologies,” Poneman said.

“The establishment of this center is the latest addition to the strong foundation of cooperation we are building in the civil nuclear sphere,” said U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic Norman Eisen.

The United States has pledged \$500,000 in funding via U.S. contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency Peaceful Uses Initiative for regional activities to be performed in collaboration with the center, including research and development workshops, seminars, training activities and academic exchanges. This funding will be supplemented by contributions from the Czech Republic.

4. Hagel, Dempsey to Senate: Budget Uncertainty Can't Last (06-12-2013)

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 12, 2013 – The Pentagon is maintaining a fiscal balancing act that must eventually teeter into a potentially dangerous loss of combat power if Congress doesn't act to stabilize defense budgets, department leaders told the Senate Budget Committee today.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, each named fiscal uncertainty as the greatest enemy to effective military planning. In the

face of steep short-term cuts, they explained, long-term military readiness priorities take the biggest hits.

“When you're talking about ... abrupt cuts without slowing the growth, then what you're really, bottom line, saying is that you're going to cut your combat power,” Hagel said. “And in the end, combat power and the readiness and everything that fits into that is ... the one core asset that you must preserve and continually enhance for the future, whether it's cyber or anything else.”

Hagel noted that lacking certainty “from month to month, year to year, as to what our possibilities are for contracts for acquisitions, for technology, for research, the technological advantage that we have in the air and the superiority we have at sea, the training, the readiness, all of these are affected.”

Dempsey told senators the pace of defense spending decreases largely drives how drastic they will be.

“We've had deeper cuts. But sequestration is by far the steepest,” the chairman said. “And when the cut is steep, we limit the places we can go to get the money, frankly, because a lot of this money is unavailable in the short term.”

DOD is and has been reforming in many ways to cut costs and add efficiency, Dempsey said, but short-term crises soak up time and energy. “We can make long-term institutional reform, but you can't sweep it up in the near term,” he said. “That's the problem we're having.”

Dempsey and Hagel both urged senators to set clear and flexible spending limits for the department.

“Time and flexibility are absolutely key here,” Hagel said. “If we've got the flexibility and the time to bring spending down, we can do that. That's manageable. And there are a lot of things that we should be doing, we can be doing, to be more efficient and still protect the interests of this country and still be the most effective fighting force.”

Hagel noted he is now studying the strategic choices in management review that Dempsey led across the department. He will be discussing the review with Congress, he said, because it will guide the fiscal year 2015 budget request going into 2014.

Dempsey said the review made some factors more clear.

“This review ... allows us to see the impact of not only the president's fiscal year '14 submission, but also the Senate's plan and then full sequestration, and it does pose a series of choices which become pretty difficult,” the chairman said.

Adding the \$487 billion reduction in defense spending by the Budget Control Act and the \$500 billion in sequester cuts, on top of previous DOD efficiency initiatives, Dempsey noted, “comes out to about \$1.2 trillion,” which he said “leaves a mark on the United States armed forces.”

“We haven't decided that it would make our current strategy unfeasible,” he added, “but it would put it at great risk and could make it unfeasible.”

Hagel said the service chiefs tell him they can match force structure with the strategic guidance, and preserve and enhance U.S. security interests around the world, given clarity on what resources they will have.

“I cannot give them that,” the secretary said. “And when I can't give them that, then we have to continually go back and adjust and adapt. ... Furloughs for people are a good example of that.”

The 11-day unpaid leave most defense civilians will take between July 8 and Sept. 30 is triage, Hagel said. “It's the worst way to have to respond to anything,” he added. “But it was a necessity, and we all came to the same conclusion.”

Furloughs are only part of the cloud of uncertainty that envelops service members and the defense enterprise, Hagel told senators.

“It's very unfair to these people,” he said of furloughed civilian employees. “It's unfair to this country to ... be put in that kind of a situation and then still ask these people to make the contributions they are and the sacrifices they are for this country.”

Biographies:

[Chuck Hagel](#)

[Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey](#)

Related Articles:

[Carter Says DOD Doing All It Can to Minimize Sequester Effects](#)

Related Sites:

[Special Report: Sequestration](#)

5. State's Rose in London at Missile Defense Conference (06-12-2013)

Remarks by Frank A. Rose, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), London, United Kingdom

Thank you, Dr. Clarke for inviting me here today. It's good to be back at RUSI. I'm glad to have the opportunity this morning to share this panel today with Nancy.

At the State Department, I am responsible for overseeing a wide range of defense issues, including missile defense policy. Today, I would like to speak to you about three parts of U.S. missile defense policy:

- implementation of the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA),
- recent changes in U.S. missile defense policy, and
- ongoing cooperation efforts with the Russian Federation on missile defense.

Implementation of the European Phased Adaptive Approach

In 2009, the President announced that the EPAA would “provide stronger, smarter, and swifter defenses of American forces and America's Allies,” while relying on “capabilities that are proven and cost-effective.”

Since then, we have been working hard to implement his vision. As you know, we have made great progress.

EPAA Phase One gained its first operational elements in 2011 with the start of a sustained deployment of an Aegis BMD-capable multi-role ship to the Mediterranean and the deployment of an AN/TPY-2 radar in Turkey. With the declaration of Interim Operational Capability at the NATO Summit in Chicago last year, this radar transitioned to NATO operational control.

Demonstrating its commitment to NATO collective defense, Spain agreed in 2011 to host four U.S. Aegis-capable ships at the existing naval facility at Rota. These multi-role ships will arrive in the 2014-2015 timeframe; specifically, two are scheduled to arrive in 2014 and two more in 2015.

With regard to Phase Two, we have an agreement with Romania, ratified in December of 2011, to host a U.S. land-based SM-3 interceptor site beginning in the 2015 timeframe. This site, combined with BMD-capable ships in the Mediterranean, will enhance coverage of NATO from short- and medium-range ballistic missiles launched from the Middle East.

And finally there is Phase Three. Phase Three places land-based SM-3 Block IIA interceptors in Poland, per the Ballistic Missile Defense agreement between the United States and Poland which entered into force in September 2011. This site is on schedule and on budget for deployment in the 2018 timeframe. The interceptor site in Poland is key to the EPAA: when combined with other EPAA assets, Phase 3 will provide the necessary capabilities to provide ballistic missile defense coverage of all NATO European territory in the 2018 timeframe.

So, as you can see; we are continuing to implement the President's vision for stronger, smarter and swifter missile defenses going forward. Of course, many of you are probably interested to hear more about recent changes to U.S. missile defense policy.

Recent Changes to U.S. Missile Defense Policy

On March 15, Secretary Hagel announced that, the United States will deploy 14 additional GBIs in Fort Greely, Alaska. This will allow the United States to add protection against missiles from Iran sooner while also providing additional protection against the growing North Korean threat. As a result of budget decisions, delays to the program, and the decision to pursue additional GBIs, the SM-3 IIB missile defense interceptor program - the core element of EPAA Phase 4 – has been cancelled.

While the SM-3 IIB interceptor would have provided some intercept capability against ICBMs launched at the U.S. homeland from the Middle East, the program had experienced significant delays, and would therefore not be available in time to meet the increasing threat. The additional GBIs deployed in the United States will address the potential ICBM threat from North Korea sooner than the SM-3 IIB would have been available.

Put another way: the name “European Phased Adaptive Approach” was chosen for a reason. The EPAA is structured to allow the United States and NATO to adapt plans to the changing global threat environment, as well as technical and budgetary realities.

Finally, let me emphasize that the U.S. commitment to Phases One through Three of the EPAA and NATO missile defense remains ironclad. This commitment includes the planned sites in Poland and Romania. Like the Administration, Congress has supported, and continues to support full funding for Phases 1 through 3.

I will tell you that the Transatlantic connection on missile defense is still strong. Phases One through Three of the EPAA will continue to provide important contributions to the defense of the

United States homeland. For example, the radar deployed in Turkey can provide important early tracking data on any Iranian missile launches against the United States. The interceptor sites in Romania and Poland, as well as BMD-capable ships at sea, will also be key to protecting the U.S. deployed forces in Europe. So, the SM-3 IIB interceptor will no longer be developed or procured.

Additionally, Secretary Hagel announced two other steps:

- First, with the support of the Japanese Government, an additional AN/TPY-2 radar will be deployed in Japan. This will provide improved early warning and tracking of any missile launched from North Korea at the United States and/or Japan; and
- Second, the United States will study the possibility of an additional domestic GBI site. While the Obama Administration has not decided on whether to proceed with an additional site, studying various options would shorten the timeline for construction should such a decision be made in the future.

Cooperation with the Russian Federation

At the same time we are developing a NATO missile defense capability, we also seek to work cooperatively with Russia. We remain convinced that missile defense cooperation between the United States and Russia (and between NATO and Russia) is in the national security interests of all countries involved. For that reason, missile defense cooperation with Russia remains a Presidential priority for this Administration, as it has been for nearly 20 years under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

As such, the United States is continuing discussions with the Russian Federation on missile defense cooperation. Secretary of Defense Hagel and Russian Defense Minister Shoygu agreed in March to reconvene missile defense discussions between Under Secretary of Defense Jim Miller and Deputy Defense Minister Antonov. My boss, Rose Gottemoeller, was in Moscow a few weeks ago continuing discussions with her Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs counterpart on missile defense cooperation, among other issues. We believe that through cooperation, Russia will see firsthand that this system is designed to respond to ballistic missile threats from outside the Euro-Atlantic area, and that NATO missile defense systems will not undermine Russia's strategic nuclear deterrent. Cooperation would also send a strong message to proliferators that the United States, NATO, and Russia are working together to counter their efforts.

Furthermore, in Chicago last year, the NATO Allies made a very clear statement of our intent regarding strategic stability and Russia's strategic deterrent. The Chicago Summit Declaration made clear that "...the NATO missile defense in Europe will not undermine strategic stability. NATO missile defense is not directed against Russia and will not undermine Russia's strategic deterrence capabilities."

While we seek to develop ways to cooperate with Russia on missile defense, it is important to remember that in keeping with its collective security obligations, NATO alone bears responsibility for defending the Alliance from ballistic missile threats. This is why the United States and NATO cannot agree to Russian proposals for "sectoral" or "joint" missile defense architectures. Just as Russia must ensure the defense of Russian territory, NATO must ensure the defense of NATO territory. NATO cannot and will not outsource its Article 5 commitments.

Russia continues to request legal guarantees that could create limitations on our ability to develop and deploy future missile defense systems against regional ballistic missile threats such as those presented by Iran and North Korea. We have made clear that we cannot and will not accept

limitations on our ability to defend ourselves, our allies, and our partners, including where we deploy our BMD-capable Aegis ships. As Secretary Hagel's March decision makes clear, the United States must have the flexibility, without legal limitations, to respond to evolving missile threats from states like Iran and North Korea.

Conclusion

Let me conclude by noting that we are proud of how much we have already achieved thus far with our European partners. Yet, there is still much to do. By working with our allies and partners to counter the threat from ballistic missiles, we look forward to achieving higher levels of BMD cooperation and effectiveness both in Europe and around the world.

Thanks very much.

6. Obama, Xi Agree North Korea Must Denuclearize (06-09-2013)

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 9, 2013 – During their two-days of informal talks in Rancho Mirage, Calif., that concluded yesterday, President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed that North Korea must denuclearize, and that the United States and China will work together to resolve cybersecurity and other issues, National Security Advisor Tom Donilon told reporters in Palm Springs, Calif., yesterday.

“I'd say at the outset that the President had very good discussions in an informal atmosphere, uniquely informal atmosphere, with President Xi over the last two days,” Donilon told reporters. “The discussions were positive and constructive, wide-ranging and quite successful in achieving the goals that we set forth for this meeting.”

A specific goal of the talks, Donilon said, was “to build a personal relationship between the President and President Xi, and have an opportunity not under the pressure of being on the margins of another multilateral meeting to really sit down and explore the contours of the U.S.-China relationship.”

During dinner on June 7, Obama and Xi “had a lengthy discussion about North Korea,” Donilon said. China, he added, has taken a number of steps in recent months to send a clear message to North Korea, including through enhanced enforcement of sanctions and through public statements by the senior leadership in China.

Obama and Xi “agreed that North Korea has to denuclearize; that neither country will accept North Korea as a nuclear-armed state; and that we would work together to deepen U.S.-China cooperation and dialogue to achieve denuclearization,” Donilon said.

Obama also emphasized to President Xi “that the United States will take any steps that we need to take to defend ourselves and our allies from the threat that North Korea presents,” he added.

“The two sides stressed the importance of continuing to apply pressure both to halt North Korea's ability to proliferate and to make clear that its continued pursuit of nuclear weapons is incompatible with its economic development goals,” Donilon said. “The discussions on this issue, I believe, will allow us to continue to move ahead and work in a careful way in terms of our cooperation to work together to achieve our ends.”

The bottom line, Donilon said, “is I think we had quite a bit of alignment on the Korean issue -- North Korean issue, and absolute agreement that we would continue to work together on concrete steps in order to achieve the joint goals that the United States and China have with respect to the North Korean nuclear program.”

Yesterday morning, Obama and Xi discussed economic issues, during which cybersecurity and other cyber issues were an important topic, Donilon said. The United States and China, he said, have a half-a-trillion-dollar-a-year trade relationship.

“Obviously, given the importance of our economic ties, the President made clear the threat posed to our economic and national security by cyber-enabled economic espionage,” Donilon said. “And I want to be clear on exactly what we're talking about here. What we're talking about here are efforts by entities in China to, through cyber attacks, engage in the theft of public and private property -- intellectual property and other property in the United States. And that is the focus here, which is why it was in the economic discussion this morning.

“And again, we had a detailed discussion on this,” he continued. “The President underscored that resolving this issue is really key to the future of U.S.-China economic relations. He asked President Xi to continue to look seriously at the problem that we've raised here.”

The Chinese have agreed to look at this, Donilon said, noting that Obama and Xi have provided guidance to the new cyber working group that's been established as part of the U.S.-China strategic economic dialogue.

The cyber working group “will engage in a dialogue on the rules and norms of behavior in cyberspace that will explore confidence-building measures,” Donilon said. “And we instructed the teams to report back on their discussions to the leaders.”

Obama and Xi also discussed military-to-military relationships between the United States and China, Donilon said.

“It's the military-to-military relationship that lags behind our political and our economic relationship,” Donilon said. “This was acknowledged on the Chinese side, and we actually have some momentum behind increasing and deepening these relationships as we go forward here, as we try to build a comprehensive and positive relationship with China.”

Returning to the two presidents' discussion about North Korea, Donilon said, “The important point here is full agreement on the goals -- that is denuclearization; full agreement that in fact the Security Council resolutions which put pressure on North Korea need to be enforced, and full agreement that we will work together to look at steps that need to be taken in order to achieve the goal.”

If North Korea continues to pursue a nuclear weapons program, that would allow it to become a proliferator, which would present a threat to the United States ... "and which would allow them to really up-end, if you will, security in Northeast Asia,” Donilon said.

“A recognized nuclear weapon state in Pyongyang, weapons program in Pyongyang would of course have profound implications in the rest of Northeast Asia, and these are obviously results that the Chinese don't want to see,” Donilon added. “They're results the United States doesn't want to see. So I think what you have essentially underway here is a shared threat analysis and a shared analysis as to what the implications and impact would be of North Korea pursuing a nuclear weapons program.”

Related Articles:

[Obama, Xi Discuss Military-to-Military Relations, Cybersecurity](#)

[Obama, Xi Emphasize Importance of U.S.-China Relationship](#)

[Obama, Xi to Discuss Cybersecurity During Informal Talks](#)

7. State Department on U.N. Report on Cyber Issues (06-08-2013)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

June 7, 2013

2013/0705

Statement by Jen Psaki, Spokeperson

Statement on Consensus Achieved by the UN Group of Governmental Experts On Cyber Issues

The United States welcomes the issuance of a landmark consensus report from this week's meeting of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.

Through these discussions, the United States sought to achieve common understanding on cyber issues of critical national and international significance, particularly: the need to promote international stability, transparency and confidence in cyberspace; that existing international law should guide state behavior with regard to the use of cyberspace; and how the international community can help build the cybersecurity capacity of less-developed states. Our delegation leaves New York confident that comprehensive consensus report issued by the Group makes substantial progress on all these issues.

The Group agreed that confidence building measures, such as high-level communication and timely information sharing, can enhance trust and assurance among states and help reduce the risk of conflict by increasing predictability and reducing misperception. The Group agreed on the vital importance of capacity building to enhance global cooperation in securing cyberspace. The Group reaffirmed the importance of an open and accessible cyberspace, as it enables economic and social development. And, the Group agreed that the combination of all these efforts support a more secure cyberspace.

Furthermore, the Group affirmed that international law, especially the UN Charter, applies in cyberspace.

All UN member states share a common commitment to the pursuit of peace. We are all parties to the UN Charter, which seeks to prevent war of all kinds. We also subscribe to the Geneva Conventions and the Law of Armed Conflict, which are aimed at minimizing civilian suffering when armed conflict occurs. These norms are a cornerstone of international relations and are particularly important for cyberspace, where state-on-state activities are becoming more prevalent.

The United States is pleased to join consensus to affirm the applicability of international law to cyberspace. With that clear affirmation, this consensus report sends a strong signal: states must act in cyberspace under the established international rules and principles that have guided their actions for decades – in peacetime and during conflict.

The United States looks forward to future dialogue on these issues with the international community.
