

Information Circular

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Communication from the Permanent Missions of the Russian Federation and the United States of America regarding a Joint Letter regarding the Agreement concerning the Management and Disposition of Plutonium Designated as No Longer Required for Defense Purposes and Related Cooperation

The Secretariat has received a communication dated 30 August 2010 from the Permanent Missions of the Russian Federation and the United States of America, transmitting the text of the Joint Letter from the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov and the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton addressed to the IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano on the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America Concerning the Management and Disposition of Plutonium Designated as No Longer Required for Defense Purposes and Related Cooperation, as amended.

The abovementioned communication and, as requested therein, the letter are circulated herewith for the information of Member States.

August 30, 2010

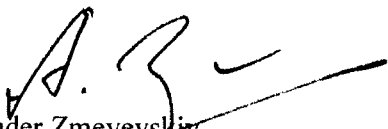
His Excellency Yukiya Amano
Director General of the
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna

Dear Mr. Amano:

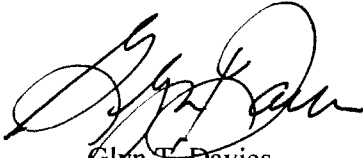
We are pleased to deliver the attached joint letter from Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton requesting that the IAEA undertake an important verification role under the amended Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the United States of America Concerning the Management and Disposition of Plutonium Designated as No Longer Required for Defense Purposes and Related Cooperation, with the goal of completing preparation of the necessary legally binding agreements in 2011.

The Governments of the Russian Federation and the United States of America respectfully request that you circulate this letter and its attachment to all Member States as an INFCIRC for their information.

Sincerely yours,



Alexander Zmeyerovskiy
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the
International Organizations in Vienna



Glyn T. Davies
Permanent Representative of
the United States of America
to International Organizations in Vienna

Enclosure: Text of Letter from Secretary Clinton and Minister Lavrov

Text of Letter from U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov to IAEA Director General Amano

His Excellency Yukiya Amano
Director General of the
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna

Dear Mr. Director General:

The Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning the Management and Disposition of Plutonium Designated as No Longer Required for Defense Purposes and Related Cooperation, as amended by the Protocol signed by us on April 13 of this year, significantly advances important disarmament, nonproliferation and NPT objectives.

For the first time it creates the framework for cooperation and establishes the infrastructure for disposition of weapon-grade plutonium designated as no longer required for each side's defense programs, initially 34 metric tons each or enough for thousands of nuclear weapons. It also provides guidance for the disposition of additional weapon-grade plutonium that may be declared excess in the future.

Moreover, it is the first-ever disposition agreement in this area that calls upon the Parties to undertake all "necessary steps to conclude appropriate agreements with the IAEA to allow it to implement verification measures with respect to each Party's disposition program."

The purpose of this letter is to request that the IAEA engage in all necessary efforts to undertake this important verification role, with the goal of preparing the necessary legally-binding verification agreements in 2011.

We hope the Agency will give prompt and positive consideration to our request.

Sincerely yours,

Sergey Lavrov
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
of the United States of America