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Pentagon Sees Need For More Troops

A recent report authorized by the Pentagon says that the U.S. military lacks sufficient troops to continue its current and anticipated operations.

Parts of this study, conducted by the Defense Science Board, were made public by Senator Jack Reed, a Democrat who is in the forefront of demanding an expansion in the size of the military. Reed said that the report found "inadequate total numbers of U.S. troops" and "a lack of long-term endurance."

The report was authorized by the Pentagon as part of its preparations for continuing a long-term "war on terrorism. In assigning the project, Michael Wynne, under secretary of defense, said "Our military expeditions to Afghanistan and Iraq are unlikely to be the last such excursion in the global war on terrorism. . . we may need to effect change in the governance of a country that is blatantly sustaining support for terrorism, or we may need to assist an ally who is unable to govern areas of their country, . . ." Reed himself added that while the U.S. must maintain high troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan, "Iran and North Korea are provocative," he said. "They very well might cause us to take military action . . ."

In Congressional testimony, Donald Rumsfeld called the report "provocative and startling." Rumsfeld further emphasized that the U.S. army is presently working to increase its combat strength by reorganization and assigning more administrative tasks to civilians so that uniformed soldiers can be assigned combat duty. Rumsfeld said that if this reorganization fails to meet the needs of military commanders "then, by golly, you're right, well have to go to an increase in end strength."

Already the Pentagon has arbitrary extended the duty tours of reservists assigned to combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and delayed retirement for soldiers in these countries. This

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U.S. Selling "Bunker-Busting" Bombs to Israel

On September 21, Israeli officials stated that they were buying 5,000 high-tech bombs, including 500 "bunker-buster" bombs, from the U.S., and that these bombs might be used to attack Iran's nuclear facilities.

An Israeli official admitted to reporters "This is not the sort of ordnance needed for the Palestinian front. Bunker busters could serve Israel against Iran, or possibly Syria."

At the same time, Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom threatened Iran, saying "we know that the Iranians will never abandon their plans to develop nuclear weapons. They're only trying to hide it."

Lately, many U.S. diplomats have also stated publicly that the U.S., or Israel, could launch air strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities.

The BLU-109 bombs, which can penetrate more than 7ft of reinforced concrete, are the latest weapons being sold under the U.S. military aid program to Israel.

Foreign Minister Underscores Iran's Right to Peaceful Nuclear Technology

United Nations, New York, Sept 25, IRNA (excerpted from Islamic Republic News Agency)

Kamal Kharrazi here Friday insisted on Iran's right of getting access to nuclear technology for peaceful aims.

Addressing the 59th session of UN General Assembly, Kharrazi also stressed the importance of taking action by the international community due to the existence and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

"As the only victim of the unbridled use of weapons of mass destruction in recent years, Iran feels very strongly about the absolute

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KCNA on Nuclear Scandal in South Korea

Pyongyang, September 18

(Korean Central News Agency — KCNA)

The recent disclosure of nuclear-related secret experiments in succession in south Korea is stirring up a big furor in the international community. South Korea made a clandestine laser-aided uranium enrichment experiment in 2000 and a series of plutonium extraction experiments in 1982.

No sooner had the nuclear scandal been disclosed than the United States and the South Korean authorities lost no time to assert that the experiments had nothing to do with the development of nuclear weapons only to arouse a bigger suspicion.

It is an open secret that South Korea decided in the 1970s when it was under military dictatorship to develop nuclear weapons and its researchers have since pursued nuclear experiments at the “Taedok Research Center”.

In the 1990s it made uranium enrichment experiments in secrecy and 150kg of metal uranium was churned out from a nuclear facility out of three nuclear facilities whose existence was not reported to the IAEA.

The continued disclosure of experiments in South Korea clearly proves that they were directed by the U.S. as they are aimed to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran's Right to Peaceful Nuclear Technology (from page 1)

imperative of a collective and rule-based multilateral campaign to eradicate all these weapons and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons as an interim measure.

“This must be done by the universal application of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments in a comprehensive and non-discriminatory manner,” he said.

He urged addressing the legitimate disarmament and non-proliferation concerns of the international community through transparency and vigorous application of monitoring mechanisms.

“Iran has always been prepared to contribute activity to this global effort. While we insist on our right to use technology for peaceful purposes, we have and will leave no stone unturned in order to provide assurances of our peaceful intentions,” he said.

Iran has been in the forefront of efforts to establish a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, the minister said, adding this initiative which has received the repeated approval of the General Assembly and the Security Council has been systematically obstructed by Israel's intransigence and its rejection of all multilateral instruments, regrettably with impunity.

“All countries of the region and beyond are unanimous in considering Israeli's arsenal, including its weapons of mass destruction, combined with its policy and record of aggression and state terrorism as the single greatest threat to regional and global peace and security. Israel cannot hide these facts behind smoke screens,” he stated.

He urged the international community to show its resolve to maintain the credibility of multilateral disarmament instruments by taking action to compel Israel to comply.

It is quite impossible for South Korea to make such nuclear-related experiments for years without the U.S. knowledge as it has a dense intelligence network serving the U.S. which has the prerogative of supreme command over the South Korean army. The experiments recently brought to light in South Korea were made with U.S. technology and the uranium with the concentration purity of up to 80 % has no other purpose than developing nuclear weapons.

What is strange enough is that even before the IAEA investigation came to an end, U.S. State Secretary Powell and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld came out to assert one after another that they were just at the experimental stage.

This indicates that the U.S. was aware of the inside story of South Korea's nuclear activities.

South Korea's clandestine nuclear experiments go to prove that the U.S. double standards are a fundamental factor of the nuclear proliferation.

The U.S. transfers nuclear technology to its allies and connives at their development and access to nuclear weapons. Meanwhile, it makes far-fetched assertion without any convincing evidence that the DPRK has pursued clandestine uranium enrichment program in a bid to hold in check its nuclear activities for a peaceful purpose for the mere reason that it has differing ideology and system.

It is by no means fortuitous that French, German and other media claimed that the U.S. was accountable for the nuclear suspicion in South Korea, commenting that had the similar incident occurred in North Korea the U.S. would be the first to make an outcry over it.

It is only the U.S. that tries to hush up the case, asserting that there is no cause for concern, though the international community is unanimously demanding a thorough probe into the truth behind the nuclear-related secret experiments in South Korea. This reveals the U.S. intention to wink at South Korea's nuclear weapons development as it did Israel's.

What infuriates the DPRK is that the U.S. has so far shut its eyes to the secret nuclear activities of its allies under its nuclear umbrella but has pressurized the DPRK to accept the CVID.

This means that the six countries having either access to nuclear weapons or perfect capability to develop them sat at the negotiating table to discuss the DPRK's nuclear issue only.

Now that the U.S. hard-line conservative forces' deliberate provocation have already overturned the groundwork of dialogue, it is self-evident that the resumption of the talks can no longer be discussed unless the U.S. drops its hostile policy based on double standards toward the DPRK and that the latter can never dismantle its nuclear deterrent force. . . .

In order to avert an arms race and ensure lasting peace and security in Northeast Asia it is necessary for the U.S. to come out to dialogue with willingness to drop its double-standards, the root cause of the nuclear issue, and renounce its hostile policy toward the DPRK in practice.

Pentagon Sees Need for More Troops (from page 1)

coercion is a form of forced military conscription — a partial draft.

At the same, the government is preparing for a full scale draft. Bills calling for reinstatement of the draft have been introduced in both houses of Congress and the President has already authorized the Selective Service System to take steps for military draft to be operational by June 15, 2005.