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The Lugar Trip Report: Nunn-Lugar to Destroy Albanian WMD

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The Lugar Trip Report

Albania - Bosnia - Georgia - Ukraine

August 2004

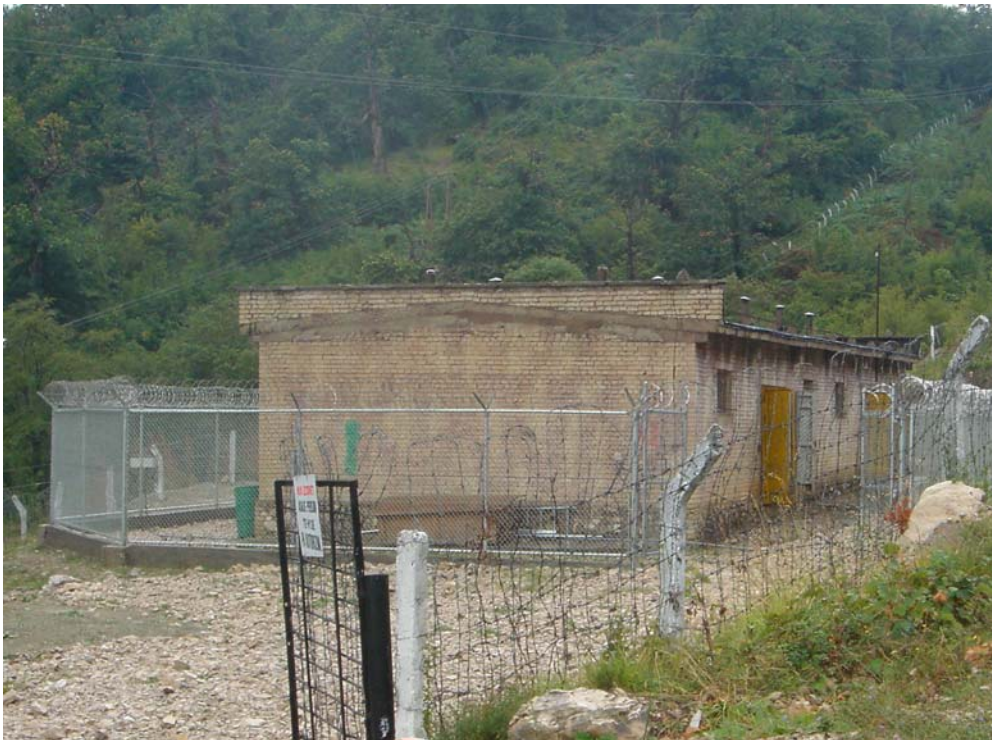
Nunn-Lugar to Destroy Albanian WMD

First Time Nunn-Lugar Used Outside Former Soviet Union

For the first time the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program will be used outside the former Soviet Union. It will be used to destroy chemical weapons in Albania.

plaud Albania's leadership in seeking United States assistance in destroying these dangerous weapons," said Lugar, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Last year Congress approved the Nunn-Lugar Expansion Act, authored by U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, which lets the President use up to \$50 million in Nunn-Lugar funds for activities outside the former Soviet Union. President Bush has signed the authorization for Nunn-Lugar work in Albania.



This storage barn houses some of Albania's chemical weapons, which will be destroyed by the Nunn-Lugar program. The security fencing and cameras were recently installed by the United States.

"The Nunn-Lugar Program has established a deep reservoir of experience and talent that could be applied to non-proliferation objectives around the world. The original Nunn-Lugar bill was concerned with the former Soviet Union, because that is where the vast majority of weapons and materials of mass destruction were. Today, we must be prepared with money and expertise to extend the Nunn-Lugar concept wherever it can be usefully applied. I ap-

"I am pleased that President Bush has embraced the Nunn-Lugar concept and has endorsed efforts to apply it worldwide. Russia will continue to be a major focus but emerging risks must also be addressed in the Middle East, Asia, and elsewhere. Nunn-Lugar has developed a unique capability to meet a variety of proliferation threats and I am

excited that it will address this unique threat present in Albania."

Albania is situated in Southeastern Europe and borders the former Yugoslav regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. Both regions have witnessed tremendous violence and Muslim extremism over the last decade.

(Continued on page 4...)

Lugar Visits Hoosier Troops in Bosnia

Tuzla, Bosnia -- U.S. Senator Dick Lugar met on August 28-29 with the men and women of the Indiana National Guard at Eagle Base, Bosnia, to personally thank them for their service overseas.

The Hoosier troops are part of the 38th Infantry Division that has been in Bosnia serving as

international peacekeepers since the spring.

In his speech, Lugar addressed the amount of time that U.S. forces have been in Bosnia.



Senator Lugar running with the Indiana National Guard Troops at Eagle Base, Bosnia.

“There has to be a patience factor. Here they got it right but it took a long time, nine years. It takes that long to make sure that

failed states do not become incubators of terror.”

Lugar also lauded the troops’ efforts saying, “As part of the NATO Stabilization Force, your mission here was to deter hostilities and stabilize the peace. You – and the thousands of American soldiers who came before you – have succeeded beyond anyone’s expectations.”

Lugar added, “Thank you for your service in the Indiana National Guard. Thank you for your service to the people of this recovering part of the world.”

Lugar breaks ground for new Nunn-Lugar facility in Georgia

Tbilisi, Georgia -- U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Dick Lugar broke ground for the new Central Pathogen Storage Facility here.

The facility will secure dangerous pathogens that were used in former Soviet Union bio-weapons programs, and now, under the Nunn – Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program, are part of joint international scientific research.

“Georgia’s Center for Disease Control scientists, in partnership with U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), including personnel from Walter Reed Hospital, and other international scientists, are making significant contributions to public health and disease surveillance.



Senator Lugar at the groundbreaking for the new biological pathogen storage center in Tbilisi, Georgia.

This is a shining example of international cooperation advancing science and improving the quality of life,” Lugar said.



Senator Lugar visits with scientists at a Georgian facility where Nunn-Lugar launched a classified mission to remove nuclear weapons material under Operation Auburn Endeavor in 1998.

Georgia has several endemic diseases that will be the focus of the research and prevention work, including tularemia, anthrax, visceral leishmaniasis, tick-borne encephalitis and West Nile. Work has also been done on reducing food – borne illnesses.

Security, health, safety and environmental conditions were remarkably non-existent at these former Soviet-era locations that had both legitimate and illegal weapons activities.

At one facility, Biokombinat, the Soviet Union manufactured vaccines for a wide range of infectious animal diseases such as sheep pox, swine plague and sheep brucellosis. But its nefarious dual-use was the large-scale production of biological weapons.

Interfax Georgia reports Georgian National Security Council Chairman Gela Bezhuashvili saying, “In eight months, a laboratory will be constructed in Georgia, the only one of its kind in the region, which will be used to store dangerous substances.” Overall, the United States will allocate \$30 million to build the biological weapons storage depot and laboratory.

The Nunn-Lugar program is dismantling the dual-use equipment and analyzing options for expanding the vaccine production, which currently includes those for foot-and-mouth disease and rabies. An animal feed and micronutrient pre-mix plant is one option.



Radioisothermic generators in Georgia that contain dirty bomb material in newly installed safe storage provided by the United States.

Lugar also visited the Institute of Radiobiology, where the United States has secured radioactive materials that could have been used to make “dirty bombs.” Georgia also had enriched uranium that was removed by the 1998 Nunn-Lugar Operation Auburn Endeavor. The Nunn-Lugar secure storage facility is now being constructed on the same site.

Lugar also met with security and legislative leaders involved in the Nunn-Lugar program during his visit.

Lugar Outlines 12 Necessary Nunn-Lugar Steps in Speech to the National Press Club

On August 11, 2004, Sen. Dick Lugar gave a speech at the National Press Club outlining 12 daunting steps the next president must take to fight the proliferation of WMD.

To read the text of the speech, visit <http://lugar.senate.gov/pressapp/record.cfm?id=225257>

Lugar: Redouble Security of Russian Weapons

Washington D.C. -- U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Dick Lugar called on the United States and European governments to “redouble their efforts to assist Russia in securing the nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and materials left over from the Soviet era.”

“President Putin has ordered the Russian military to increase security measures at nuclear weapons sites after the terrorist attack on the school in Beslan,” Lugar said. “Chemical and biological laboratories and sites are even more vulnerable.”

Lugar explained that just two years ago he toured a laboratory near Moscow where scientists were still growing anthrax spores. The windows were not locked and the security on the doors was limited to a string mounted with wax to report any break-ins, not to stop them. That lab is now secured through the Nunn-Lugar program that Lugar started with former Senator Sam Nunn in late 1991.

“There are still several biological and chemical weapons labs that we have not been able to secure,” Lugar said. “We need to do everything possible to help the Russian government contain, control and eliminate these materials before terrorists steal and use them.”

Lugar said he hoped the Russian government “will also address these issues with a greater sense of urgency” and that the Duma will quickly ratify an agreement to facilitate additional funding for Nunn-Lugar programs by the United States and European countries.

“While Washington is consumed over debates on intelligence reform, here is an issue that needs no debate,” Lugar said. “We know where these dangerous materials are. We know that terrorists have the motivation and wherewithal to steal them. No more intelligence gathering is needed. We need to act.”

Albanian WMD -- First Time Nunn-Lugar Used Outside Former Soviet Union

(...continued from the page 1)

Senator Lugar traveled to Albania on August 27 and 28 of this year to meet with Albanian leaders and visit the chemical weapons storage facility that has already received US assistance to enhance the security surrounding the stockpile. In meetings with Prime Minister Fatos Nano, Foreign Minister Islami, and Defense Minister Majko, Senator Lugar discussed the need for Nunn-Lugar to assist Albania in destroying its chemical weapons stockpile. The project is expected to take approximately two years to complete at a cost of approximately \$20 million to eliminate 16 tons of chemical agent.

The utilization of the Nunn-Lugar program in



Room filled with chemical weapons canisters that will be destroyed by the Nunn-Lugar program. Lugar visited the site on August 27.



A close-up photograph of a dusty chemical weapon canister stored in Albania.

Albania was facilitated by the May 2003 Agreement Between the Republic of Albania and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Cooperation in the Area of the Prevention of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Promotion of Defense and Military Relations. This agreement will provide the foundation for the Nunn-Lugar Program work. The United States has delivered a draft implementing agreement to the

Albanian Government that defines the scope of the destruction process.

Additional details of the project will be available in the future, but in the meantime the contents and location of the cache will not be released to ensure operational security or prevent revealing to potential proliferators or terrorists information that could endanger the stockpile.

“To combat the WMD threat in the former Soviet Union, our country has implemented the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. Since enactment in late 1991, Nunn-Lugar has devoted American technical expertise and money for joint efforts to safeguard and destroy materials and weapons of mass destruction,” Lugar said.

As of October 13, 2004, the weapons systems deactivated or destroyed by the United States under these programs include: 6,462 nuclear warheads; 550 ICBMs; 469 ICBM silos; 13 ICBM mobile missile launchers; 135 bombers; 733 nuclear air-to-surface missiles; 408 submarine missile launchers; 530 submarine launched missiles; 27 nuclear submarines; and 194 nuclear test tunnels. The International Science and Technology Centers, of which the United States is the leading sponsor, have engaged 58,000 former weapons scientists in peaceful work. The International Proliferation Prevention Program has funded 750 projects involving 14,000 former weapons scientists and created some 580 new peaceful high-tech jobs. Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan are nuclear weapons free as a result of cooperative efforts under the Nunn-Lugar program.

Lugar Meets with Peace Corps Volunteers in Ukraine

Hoosier Among Volunteer Group

Senator Dick Lugar met with Peace Corps volunteer Megan Tetrick of Noblesville, Indiana, September 1 during his trip to Ukraine.

Tetrick is a Peace Corps volunteer in Krasyliv, Ukraine, a small town of about 24,000 people in the western part of the country. She was a 1997 and 1998 participant in the Lugar Symposium for Tomorrow's Leaders, an educational program for Indiana high school juniors that Lugar has hosted for more than two decades.

Tetrick has been in Krasyliv for over eight months and in Ukraine for a year. She teaches English to 6th through 11th grade students at a public school, talks with students about life in the U.S. and works with small groups of students to prepare them for various academic competitions.

Lugar Discusses Upcoming Election

Calls on Ukraine to Share Bio Strains

Kiev, Ukraine – U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Dick Lugar talked by phone with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. They discussed the upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine scheduled for late October.

Lugar also met with former Prime Minister Yushchenko at a meeting hosted by US Ambassador John Herbst. Lugar visited the Central Sanitary Epidemiological Station, a facility associated with the former Soviet Union's biological weapons program.

“Regardless of the outcome, free and fair elections will be a strong tribute to Ukraine’s maturing democracy and put Ukraine on the path to join the community of European democracies. Unfortunately, some in Ukraine are indifferent, and even hostile, to free and fair elections and to Ukraine’s chosen political orientation,” Lugar said at meetings today. “Additionally, we need to develop more avenues of U.S.-Ukraine cooperation.”

For one, Lugar said there needs to



Storage boxes used to safeguard dangerous biological pathogens, such as anthrax, are secured with wax seals. Nunn-Lugar plans to increase security surrounding these dangerous poisons.

be a stronger cooperation by Ukraine on biological pathogen threat reduction. “It is clear that the professionals at the Central Sanitary Epidemiological Station are excited about the prospects of working closely with their American counterparts and cooperating on joint research to address infectious diseases,” Lugar said.

“Unfortunately, the Government of Ukraine still has not signed a bilateral Biological Threat Reduction Agreement with the United States that would allow the Nunn-Lugar Program to provide a modern, safe, and secure diagnostic health laboratory and a national network

of epidemiological monitoring stations equipped to rapidly detect, diagnose, and respond to infectious diseases outbreaks, whether they are naturally occurring or a result of bio-terrorism.”

A similar agreement has been reached in Georgia, where Lugar visited the day before he arrived in Ukraine.

The agreement with Ukraine includes an essential provision for the transfer of pathogen samples to U.S. health laboratories for the purpose of developing and providing diagnostic assessments and medical countermeasures to better protect Ukraine’s population for infectious diseases.

“I urge Ukraine to quickly sign this important agreement to facilitate the sharing of pathogen strains like many of their neighbors in the Caucasus and Central Asia have already done. It is a critical step to increasing our cooperation in the areas of counter-terrorism and infectious diseases,” Lugar said.

For more information on the Nunn-Lugar program, visit:

<http://lugar.senate.gov/nunnlugar.html>

For more photos from the Nunn-Lugar program, visit:

<http://lugar.senate.gov/photos/nunn-lugar.html>

Albania's Cooperation on Chemical Weapons Destruction

By Richard G. Lugar

I recently visited Albania to help settle a disturbing piece of leftover Cold War business. My hosts in Tirana took me to a remote storage facility that housed 16 tons of deadly chemical weapons. This cache is Albania's deadly burden: it was imported during the 1980s by an earlier government without being declared under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

It is hard to overstate the potential danger these weapons pose. Albania is a struggling Muslim country that descended into chaos just a few years ago when the population was seized by a nationwide Ponzi scheme mania and its economy and government collapsed. It was during frantic efforts by the military to secure the vast Cold War supplies of small arms and conventional weapons from marauding gangs that the new Albanian government discovered these lethal chemical stocks.

The good news is that President Bush has announced that the United States, through the Nunn-Lugar program, will provide money and expertise to help Albania destroy this stockpile. My purpose in Albania was to urge its leaders to seek our help to resolve this threatening situation, and I applaud the leadership of Prime Minister Nano, Foreign Minister Islami, and Defense Minister Majko in doing so. The Bush administration responded quickly to improve security of the weapons facility, and is now working out a destruction agreement.

This action marks the first use outside the former Soviet Union of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program, which aims to secure and destroy weapons of mass destruction in Russia. More important, it shows the next step forward in

preventing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons from falling into terrorist hands.

Our government was able to take prompt action in Albania thanks to the Nunn-Lugar Expansion Act, which I introduced and which President Bush signed into law in 2003. The legislation provides that \$50 million in Nunn-Lugar funds can be used outside the former Soviet Union, enabling us to take advantage of non-proliferation opportunities wherever they appear.

While Russia will continue to be a major focus of our efforts, the Albania case demonstrates that we must be prepared to address emerging risks in the Middle East, Asia, and elsewhere. Nunn-Lugar, which has deactivated more than 6,300

nuclear warheads and destroyed more than 1,500 long-range missiles since its birth in 1993, has developed a unique capability to meet a variety of proliferation threats.

Equally important, Nunn-Lugar has proved its worth beyond the raw numbers of weapons destroyed. Experience shows that the program, which requires close coordination among military, political and civilian officials on both sides, is an important vehicle for cooperation and communication. When other aspects of the U.S.-Russian relationship faltered, Nunn-Lugar remained as a constant, stabilizing influence.

It has improved military-military contacts between the U.S. and Russia and established greater transparency in areas that used to be the object of intense secrecy and suspicion. It can offer the same benefits in other countries if we are prepared to devote the



Rusty chemical weapons containers Albania obtained from China that will be destroyed under the Nunn-Lugar program.

money and expertise to extend the concept. President Bush has endorsed the Nunn-Lugar principles and endorsed efforts to apply them worldwide.

Victory in the war on terrorism must include an aggressive strategy to eliminate the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as other conventional weapons that terrorists could put to particularly malevolent use. In Albania, for instance, I saw firsthand the threats posed by such weapons at a military storage site containing 79 shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles.

These missiles, designed to shoot down military aircraft and helicopters, could be used by terrorists to attack commercial airliners. Numerous reports have suggested that al Qaeda has attempted to carry out such attacks on several occasions. More good news: the missiles I saw have been destroyed, and the U.S. plans to continue to help Albania destroy others in the months ahead.



Senator Lugar observes Albanian military officials explain to how to operate a MANPAD shoulder-fire missile.

We know Al Qaeda has tried to get nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the past. We must understand that if they succeed in the future, these weapons will be used against us. Our efforts to eliminate the chemical weapons in Albania must be replicated in each nation that has weapons and materials of mass destruction. This will take firm policy guidance and aggressive diplomacy to engage potential partners.

The American people expect their government to be working day and night to find and eliminate weapons of mass destruction. So do I. Our leaders and our non-proliferation experts must engage Russia to remove the last obstacles to the dismantlement of its weapons programs. Further, they should scour the globe to identify and create opportunities to dismantle dangerous weapons programs beyond the former Soviet borders. Success will come only with persistent diplomacy and constant attention from the highest levels of our government.

Lugar Voting Record Most ‘Economically Efficient’ in Congress

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar was ranked first out of all members of Congress in economic efficiency, according to a study published in the *Investor’s Business Daily* on October 27, 2004, and completed by the Department of Economics at the University of Delaware. Lugar scored 91 on a scale of 0 to 100.

According to the study’s authors, “The study included votes on legislation that economists would widely agree should yield national benefits that exceed costs (efficiency enhancing) or nationwide costs that exceed benefits (efficiency diminishing). Efficiency enhancing policies increase the size of the national economic pie; efficiency diminishing policies reduce its size.”

Lugar’s score of 91 indicates that he supported the efficiency enhancing position or rejected the efficiency diminishing position 91 percent of the time.

More information about the study may be found at: <http://www.lerner.udel.edu/econ-e/>

The study was authored by Burton A. Abrams, Ph.D., Russell F. Settle, Ph.D. and Martin Kennedy, Ph.D. Candidate (the Econ-E Group) at the University of Delaware.

The U.S. Must Watch Ukrainian Elections

By Richard G. Lugar

As the American people prepare for presidential elections this November, we must watch political developments in Ukraine closely. On October 31 a critically important presidential election will determine the future of this former Soviet state. A stable and democratic Ukraine is in the national security interests of the United States, NATO, the European Union, and Russia. The U.S. must continue to demand and be prepared to play an active role in ensuring that democracy and basic freedoms are preserved.

When the Soviet Union crumbled, Ukraine emerged as one of the most powerful and geostrategically significant states in the world. The breadbasket of Europe inherited the third largest nuclear arsenal. Senator Sam Nunn and I visited Kiev in 1992 to discuss Ukraine's nuclear future and to offer Nunn-Lugar assistance to dismantle their arsenal. After spirited debate, the leaders of Ukraine wisely chose a nuclear-free status. The U.S. has provided more than \$670 million to dismantle hundreds of SS-19 and SS-24 ballistic missiles, silos, long-range bombers, and nuclear air-launched cruise missiles.

In those days the United States did not have an Ambassador or an embassy in Ukraine. I visited with Secretary of State Baker and informed him of the conditions in Ukraine and the need for a strong diplomatic presence as well as American assistance. Although the times and circumstances have changed, the need for strong American diplomacy and leadership in Ukraine has not.

The future of Ukraine will be decided not necessarily by the outcome, but by the conduct of the upcoming elections. To date the campaign has been marked by widespread political intimidation and the failure to give equal coverage to opposition candidates by the media. Numerous allegations of the government's illegal utilization of administrative resources to promote allies in parliamentary elections and unlawful use of federal tax and legal investigations are troubling. Free and fair elections with equal access to media outlets in the absence of physical intimidation and misappropriated funds will be a tribute to Ukraine's maturing democracy and put it on a path to join the community of European democracy.

A fraudulent or illegal victory will leave Ukraine's leadership and the country crippled. The new president would lack legitimacy with the Ukrainian people and

the international community. International condemnation and potential unrest could destabilize this important bridge between Europe and Asia. An unstable Ukraine could have deleterious effects on Europe with the proliferation of crime, illegal immigration, narcotics and other potential problems to its neighbors and the region. It could also become a flashpoint between the West and the Russian Federation.

The Bush Administration has invested a great deal of time and energy to deliver a firm message to Ukraine. The Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of State, and Congressional leaders have visited, written, and called Ukrainian leaders to press for a free and fair election process. Secretary of State Powell's leadership and the efforts of our Ambassador, John Herbst, have left no doubt of the impact an illegitimate election could have on the future of Ukraine and the U.S.-Ukrainian relationship.

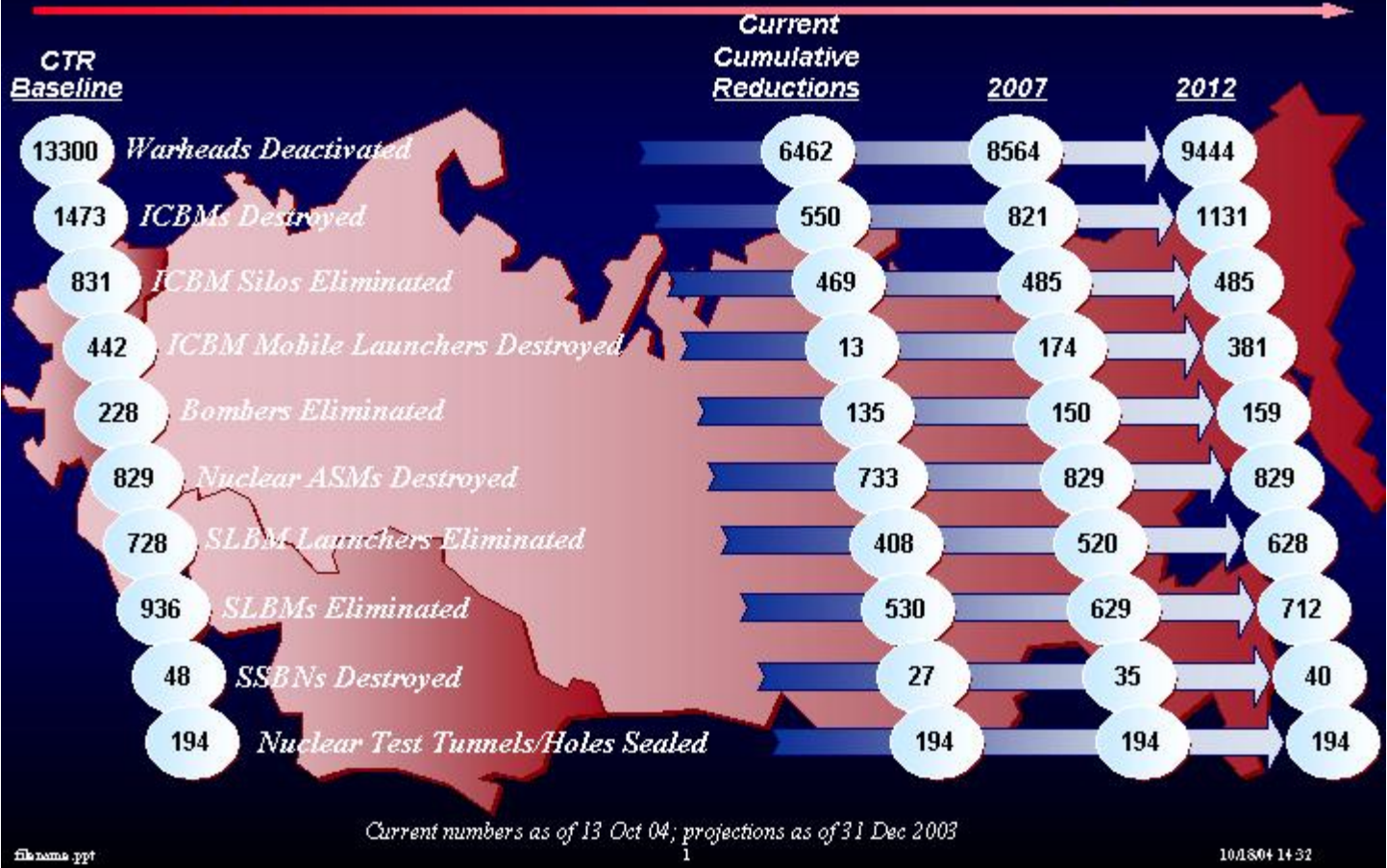
With the stakes so high, thousands of election observers must be sent by the US and European states through organizations such as the National Endowment for Democracy and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The presence of experienced election observers and democracy advocates will serve to dissuade illegal activities and make fraud more difficult to disguise on the preliminary ballot and the likely runoff expected to be held on November 21. The future of the country rests with Ukrainian voters but the United States and the West must continue to provide a foundation for democracy, rule of law, and a market economy which will allow the country to prosper and reach its full potential.

Ukraine has made wise decisions in the past, the voluntarily dismantling of their nuclear arsenal and the peaceful, democratic handover of power from former President Kravchuk to President Kuchma in 1994 highlight an important record of progress. Will Ukraine continue its march towards membership in Western institutions? Or will it suffer a devastating setback that will leave their future uncertain?

With democratic forces challenged in Russia, the West must commit itself to ensuring a free and fair electoral process in Ukraine. This is a true turning point in Ukraine's history that could have widespread effects beyond its borders and the region. We cannot stand for a retreat from democracy in Ukraine.



Nunn-Lugar Scorecard



Georgia and Ukraine: Addressing the Biological Threat

By Richard G. Lugar

On December 25, 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed and Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan emerged from the ashes as the second, third, fourth, and eighth largest nuclear powers in the world. President Boris Yeltsin was threatening his former countrymen with the possible use of force to remove those nuclear forces and the potential nuclear threat while the new states struggled with the enormity of their inheritance.

I traveled with Senator Sam Nunn to each of the new nuclear powers and offered Nunn-Lugar assistance to destroy their weapons of mass destruction. In Kiev, Ukraine we offered \$150 million for these purposes. President Kravchuk quickly called a press conference and announced that I had offered Ukraine

\$175 million in assistance. Fortunately, President Bush (41) agreed to this unique alteration of U.S. policy.

Without Nunn-Lugar, Ukraine would still have thousands of nuclear weapons. Instead, it is nuclear weapons-free. Nunn-Lugar has provided more than \$670 million to dismantle hundreds of ballistic missiles, silos, long-range strategic bombers, and nuclear air-launched cruise missiles. Many have forgotten the wise and brave choice Ukraine made in becoming nuclear-free, particularly with Russia seeking to exert influence over it. There were many in Kiev who advocated the maintenance of these weapons. The people and the leaders of Ukraine wisely chose a nu-

clear-free status and acceded to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Following the September 11th attacks, Ukraine sought to expand cooperation with the United States to prevent the spread of biological pathogens and expertise to terrorists. This high priority initiative will include construction of a modern, safe, and secure diagnostic health laboratory and a national network of epidemiological monitoring stations equipped to rapidly detect, diagnose and respond to infectious diseases outbreaks whether they be naturally occurring or a result of bioterrorism.

Unfortunately, bureaucratic obstacles and delays are blocking conclusion of an agreement on this important subject. The agreement includes an essential provision for the transfer of pathogen samples to US health laboratories for the purposes of developing and providing to Ukraine, diagnostic assays and medical countermeasures to better protect the population from dreaded infectious disease.

Delays in concluding an agreement with Ukraine stand in stark contrast to cooperative developments in the same areas with Georgia. On August 30, 2004, I was pleased to witness the signing of an agreement to double funding to \$30 million for biological pathogen threat reduction efforts in Georgia and break ground for a new Central Pathogen Storage Facility that will consolidate and secure all of the dangerous pathogens in the country. Georgia has shared pathogen samples with health laboratories in the United States. As a result, health experts at Georgia's Center for Disease Control, in partnership with the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), and personnel from Walter Reed Hospital are working closely and making significant contributions through joint scientific research on disease surveillance and countermeasure development.

Some in Ukraine question US commitments citing a disagreement over the elimination of missile fuel at Pavlograd. The fuel is from dismantled SS-19 and SS-24 missiles which carried 6 and 10 warheads, respectively. Ukraine requested assistance to recycle the missile fuel through a water washout process so it could be used as a mining explosive. After studying the proposal, the United States rejected it because of safety concerns and the possibility of accidental explosions. I am pleased the US has pledged to pursue other options to eliminate or recycle this fuel. But as we cooperatively seek an equitable solution to this issue we must not allow our cooperation in other important areas to be delayed.

To highlight the importance of this cooperation, I visited the Central Sanitary Epidemiological Station in Kiev. The station employs approximately 160 scientists and presides over more than 800 facilities in Ukraine. It houses a large pathogen collection and conducts work on many highly dangerous infections, including: anthrax, tularemia, brucellosis, polio, cholera, and typhoid. I found the laboratory leadership eager to commence cooperation with US experts on the threats posed by infectious diseases.

Together the United States and Ukraine have achieved tremendous results in reducing the threats posed by former Soviet weapons of mass destruction. Former adversaries have a proven track record of cooperation in eliminating weapons of mass destruction. We must work together to extend this to biological pathogens, materials, and laboratories. The lessons learned from this experience can and should be applied to other proliferation threats around the world. This is a critical step to increasing international cooperation in the areas of counterterrorism and infectious diseases. Statesmanship and patience will be required over many years if we are to achieve success.



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