



US, Belgium Expand Nuclear Security After Brussels Attacks

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We need to see progress in Pakistan and India and make sure that as they develop military doctrines that they are not continually moving in the wrong direction, Obama said at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington.

He said world leaders had made "significant, meaningful progress" to prevent nuclear materials being reached by terrorists, but there was still a large amount of nuclear and radioactive materials that must be secured.

Hi, everybody. This week, I'm speaking to you from our Nuclear Security Summit.

Laura Holgate, the U.S. National Security Council's director for weapons of mass destruction and arms control, said the video found in Belgium suggested there was "at least some interest" by Islamic State militants in nuclear weapons. And the USA and Japan announced they had finished removing hundreds of pounds of weapons-grade material from a Japanese research reactor, and they pledged to do the same at another. Japan's pacifist constitution, arising from the country being the only victim of atom bombs, forbids nuclear weapons, while South Korea compensates the USA for its troops and nuclear umbrella, although Trump has characterized the payment as "peanuts".

Noting that China participates in the nuclear summits, engages with the International Atomic Energy Agency ([IAEA](#)), and has created the Center of Excellence, he said, "All of these are very good signs in terms of China's standing in the nuclear security community".

"Pakistan's nuclear security paradigm, evolved over the years, is effective and responsive against the entire range of possible threats".

The remarks alarmed many participants in the nuclear summit for the cavalier manner in which they were made, forcing President Obama to step in to mollify the leaders and explain to the world the untutored nature of Trump's pronouncements.

Russia's absence from the just-concluded NSS, yet another proof of the lingering tensions between Moscow and Washington, also indicated that the global nuclear disarmament efforts are somewhat losing steam, experts said.

Ted Galen Carpenter, senior fellow for defense and foreign policy at the Washington-based Cato Institute, told Xinhua on Friday that China has repeatedly emphasized the significance of nuclear issues and contributed to the improvement of dialogue among major countries. In recent years, China and the USA had obvious differences and conflicts regarding the South China Sea, internet security, among other issues.

Despite the bloodshed in Western Europe, Islamic State "continues to lose ground" in Syria and Iraq, Obama said in his weekly address to the nation, broadcast Saturday from the hall where the summit took place.

Obama said the required 102 countries have now ratified an amendment to a nuclear security treaty that would tighten protections against nuclear theft and smuggling.

So far Iran had followed the letter of the agreement, and Mr Obama urged patience as the country becomes re-integrated into the global economy. Obama said that deal was "a substantial success... focused on the dangers of nuclear proliferation in a real way".

The U.S. has removed 138 tons of its surplus highly enriched uranium - enough to build 5,500 nuclear weapons, Obama said. He said the assembled leaders were passing the baton to worldwide organizations. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, another nuclear-armed country, canceled his trip following a bombing on Easter that killed 72 people.