

HOME PAGE | TODAY'S PAPER | VIDEO | MOST POPULAR | TIMES TOPICS | Get Home Delivery-Bay Area | Welcome, 75200 | Log Out | Help | TimesPeople

The New York Times Search All NYTimes.com

Politics

WORLD | U.S. | N.Y. / REGION | BUSINESS | TECHNOLOGY | SCIENCE | HEALTH | SPORTS | OPINION | ARTS | STYLE | TRAVEL | JOBS | REAL ESTATE

AUTOS

Search Politics **The Caucus »** **Video** **Opinion**

[The 44th President](#) | [The 111th Congress](#) | [The Latest Political News](#) | [Editorials](#) | [Columns](#)

Russia, U.S. To Sign Deal on Plutonium

By REUTERS

Published: April 12, 2010

Filed at 12:05 p.m. ET



Blog

The Caucus

The latest on President Obama, his administration and other news from Washington and around the nation. [Join the discussion.](#)

[More Politics News](#)



MOSCOW/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Russia and the United States will sign a deal on Tuesday on reducing stocks of weapons-grade plutonium, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Under the agreement, each country is to dispose of 34 metric tons of weapons-grade plutonium removed from military programs by burning it in reactors, U.S. officials said.

The United States and Russia initially reached a similar deal on plutonium disposal in 2000 but it never went into force.

The planned signing during a global nuclear security summit comes after Russia President [Dmitry Medvedev](#) and U.S. President [Barack Obama](#) signed the "New START" treaty committing the Cold War foes to reducing their deployed nuclear arsenals.

"Tomorrow in Washington a bilateral protocol will be signed to the agreement on the disposal of surplus weapons-grade plutonium," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said in an interview broadcast on Ekho Moskv radio station on Monday.

Senior Obama advisor Gary Samore said on Friday the deal "is very significant in the sense that over a period of a decade or so it will remove very large quantities of weapons-useable materials, and also it's an agreement that's been long stalled.

"It was really [President Obama's](#) focus on this issue and the reset of his relationship with Russia that has finally been able to finalize this agreement."

The U.S.-Russia Plutonium Disposition agreement would be signed by U.S. Secretary of State [Hillary Clinton](#) and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Samore said.

The deal will provide for the United States to spend up to \$400 million to transform the Russian plutonium involved, said Matthew Bunn, a nuclear expert at [Harvard University](#).

The process would involve taking plutonium that is "ready to be put right into a weapon" and "putting it in a much more secure form for decades to come," Bunn said on Friday.

Personal Tech E-Mail



Sign up for David Pogue's exclusive column, sent every Thursday. [See Sample](#)
info@californiaskywatch.com
[Change E-mail Address](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

E-MAIL

SEND TO PHONE

PRINT



He said U.S. critics question the deal because reactors used for the Russian plutonium could potentially be remodified to produce new weapons-grade plutonium.

Medvedev is due in Washington on Monday for a two-day nuclear security summit that Obama is hosting as part of his push to reduce threats from nuclear weapons and materials.

(Writing by Conor Humphries and Steve Gutterman; Editing by Mark Trevelyan and Bill Trott)

E-MAIL
PRINT



The Times of the Bay Area - now at 50% off when you subscribe for the convenience of home delivery.



Building a green economy

Also on NYTimes.com
On Par golf blog
Is dementia an occupational hazard?

nytimes.com

ADVERTISEMENTS

Follow us on Twitter



The New York Times
The Weekender
Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
[GO](#)

Follow us on Twitter

Watch today's top videos

Follow us on Twitter

The New York Times
Now with more coverage of the Bay Area
Subscribe **&** Save 50% ▶

INSIDE NYTIMES.COM



WORLD »



Europe Finds Clean Energy in Trash

HEALTH »



Duty Always Calls for Military Pediatricians

ART & DESIGN »



Governors Island Vision Adds Hills and Views

OPINION »

Does Reason Know What It Is Missing?
Stanley Fish on a noted philosopher's view that secular reason is missing something – religion.

BUSINESS »



O'Brien Will Move to TBS

OPINION »



Room for Debate: Why Do People Swear?

[Home](#) | [World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [N.Y./Region](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts](#) | [Style](#) | [Travel](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Autos](#) | [Back to Top](#)
Copyright 2010 The New York Times Company | [Privacy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Site Map](#)