

## DESPITE GOP GAINS, ADMIN. STILL URGING LAME-DUCK 'NEW START' VOTE

*Clinton Says 'We Have Enough Votes,' but Questions Remain About Schedule*

Though Republican gains in the Senate during the mid-term elections last week could potentially complicate the Obama Administration's push to have the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty ratified during a post-election legislative session, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said last week that she believed there are at least 67 Senators willing to vote in favor of ratifying the arms control pact. That would be enough to ratify the treaty, and last week the Obama Administration renewed its push to have the Senate consider the treaty during a lame-duck session later this month, with President Barack Obama, the Pentagon and Clinton touting the urgency of the vote. "We believe we have enough votes to pass it in the Senate," Clinton told reporters in New Zealand during a Nov. 3 press conference with politicians there. "It's just a question of when it will be brought to the vote. It may be brought—and it would certainly be my preference that it be brought in any lame-duck session in the next several weeks. And that is what I'm working toward seeing happen. But we'll have to wait and work with the Senate and the leadership when they come back for that session."

At a separate event Nov. 4, Obama noted that arms control agreements with the Soviet Union typically receive strong bipartisan support and urged Senate ratification of the treaty, saying it would "send a strong signal to Russia that we are serious about reducing nuclear arsenals." He added: "We've made great progress when it comes to sending a message to Iran that they are isolated internationally, in part because people have seen that we are serious about taking our responsibilities when it comes to nonproliferation," he said. "And that has to continue."

In reductions to be made over the next seven years, the treaty would cap the size of the U.S. and Russian strategic deployed stockpiles at 1,550, down from the 1,700-2,200 range allowed by the Moscow Treaty, and would limit the number of deployed and reserve strategic delivery vehicles to 800 with a maximum of 700 missile launchers and bombers allowed to be deployed at one time. It would also reestablish verification and transparency measures that have been lacking since the START Treaty expired Dec. 5. The treaty will last 10 years. The initial START treaty expired Dec. 5, taking with it the verification and monitoring provisions that each country uses to keep an eye on each other's nuclear arsenals.

## GOP Gains Complicate Ratification

In recent weeks, several factors have complicated the potential consideration of the treaty during the lame-duck session. The GOP picked up six Senate seats in the Nov. 2 mid-term elections, including one Senator who will be seated before the lame-duck session because of a special election. That could certainly provide more ammunition for Republicans to argue that the vote should be pushed back until the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress is convened in January, when the Administration would need even more Republican votes to reach the 67 votes needed for the treaty's ratification. The Administration has also not yet updated its modernization plans to Congress in order to answer key questions that have been raised by Republicans.

Moscow politicians also began to waver in their support for the treaty last week as a Russian committee backtracked and withdrew its endorsement of the treaty. The Duma International Affairs Committee had signed off on the pact, but the withdrawal of its endorsement reflects Russian concerns about the treaty's ratification in the U.S. Senate as well as portions of the resolution of ratification that was passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in September, including language on missile defense and prompt global strike. The Duma has always been expected to wait until the Senate ratifies the treaty before acting on its own. "The presidents of Russia and of the U.S. have set the task of synchronizing all procedures concerning the new START treaty. Nevertheless, now we have to speak not only about synchronizing efforts to keep up with the deadlines, but of synchronizing the contents as well," Duma International Affairs Committee Konstantin Kosachev said last week, according to *Russia Today*.

## Should the 'New Guys' Make the Decision?

With the start of the lame-duck session looming, there is considerable uncertainty about whether the treaty will be part of the agenda. Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), the ranking member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the treaty's strongest Republican supporter, appeared to lower expectations a week before the elections when he suggested that the treaty was not a high priority for Republicans and Democratic Senators and that "people just simply are not prepared to discuss it." The election results didn't do much to diminish that opinion.

Baker Spring, a nuclear weapons policy expert with the Heritage Foundation, suggested that the significant turnover in the election provides ample reason for a vote to be delayed on the treaty. He also said it's unprecedented for the Senate to vote on a major strategic nuclear arms treaty with the Soviet Union or Russia during a lame-duck session. "If you're going to have a 10-year treaty it seems

to me that it's appropriate that the new guys are the ones that make the decisions on that," Spring said. That opinion was countered by Arms Control Association Executive Director Daryl Kimball, who said that Administration has answered any questions that Senators might have, including questions dealing with missile defense, prompt global strike and modernization. "There is no substantive reason why New START shouldn't be considered," Kimball said. "There is not a substantive problem with the treaty that enough Republicans have cited as reason to defeat it. If there's a vote, it would in all likelihood be passed by a wide margin."

### Could Delay Endanger Modernization?

Kimball suggested that delaying a vote on the treaty could endanger the deal that is emerging on modernization of the nation's weapons complex and arsenal. The Administration said earlier this year that it would need \$80 billion over the next decade for the NNSA's weapons program, a figure that Vice President Joe Biden acknowledged in September would increase when the Administration updates Congress on its modernization plans this fall. That increase is largely due to an expected rise in the cost of the Uranium Processing Facility planned for the Y-12 National Security Complex and the Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement-Nuclear Facility planned for Los Alamos National Laboratory. "If the Senate Republican leadership for some reason refuses to allow the New START Treaty to come to a vote, the fragile consensus that has emerged over the last year in support of increased funding for the weapons complex could fall apart," Kimball said. "The Obama Administration may not be able to convince Democrats in the House and the Senate to continue to increase the funding if the New START Treaty and eventually the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty are not going forward."

Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) has been the GOP point man on nuclear modernization and the New START Treaty and though the Administration may not need his specific vote in support of the treaty, observers believe his cooperation—and cooperation from Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.)—in allowing the treaty to come to the floor is essential. Biden is expected to meet with Kyl before the lame-duck session to provide an update to the modernization plan. Without Republican cooperation, there is little chance that Democratic leaders will risk valuable floor time during the lame-duck session on the treaty, said David Culp, a pro-arms control lobbyist with the Friends Committee on National Legislation. "We think we have the votes and the real problem is getting floor time," Culp said. "But if the Republican leadership doesn't want it to come up, they could do all kinds of things to block it."

### Brooks: 'Nail the Deal Down Now'

Former NNSA Administrator and START negotiator Linton Brooks suggested that Republicans accept the deal and cooperate with the Administration. "If I were Senator Kyl, who I believe is key here, I would figure I've gotten everything I'm going to get and I would nail the deal down now," Brooks said. "If the deal goes away I think the funding eventually goes away. I think it is a package deal." Kyl and other Republicans are seeking a greater commitment from the Administration on modernization, and Spring suggested one way to strengthen that commitment would be to amend the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's resolution of ratification with language mandating that the heads of appropriate Congressional committees, like the authorizing and appropriations committees that oversee the National Nuclear Security Administration's budget, sign off on the modernization plan. That couldn't happen, however, until the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress convenes next year, Spring conceded. "I'd feel much more comfortable if all the relative parties that have purse-strings in this issue were on the same sheet of paper at the start of this process," he said.

Kimball, however, said the Administration had done as much as it could already to demonstrate its commitment to modernizing the NNSA's weapons complex. "Senator Kyl is holding this entire treaty up until such time that he's personally satisfied by what the FY11 and FY12 NNSA budgets look like and probably he's looking for some more guarantees of some kinds about the out-years," Kimball said. "The reality is the Administration has put forward a bigger budget than any previous Republican administration has proposed or been able to deliver on and if there are cost increases for the UPF and CMRR then a future Congress should look at it and decide whether they want to spend more money on that, or a levy project in Iowa."

—Todd Jacobson

### NNSA SEEKING OPTIONS FOR TRANSFER OF KANSAS CITY PLANT HOME

With construction of a new home for the National Nuclear Security Administration's Kansas City Plant underway, contractor Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies has begun to formally look into options for the plant it will leave behind in several years. Honeywell released a Request for Information last week soliciting input from industry on potential uses of the 1940s-era site that could reduce the cost of preparing the site for a new owner to less than the \$85 million the NNSA is currently budgeting for the disposition of the facility. The NNSA currently shares the Bannister Federal Complex with the General