YADERNY KONTROL

PIR CENTER

PIR CENTER E-BULLETIN
№ 4 (547)
AUGUST – OCTOBER 2026



SHENZHEN SUMMIT

BRICS SUMMIT IN NEW DELHI

THE MECCA AGREEMENT

WHAT FUTURE FOR PAKS II

VIETNAM'S "ATOMIC RENAISSANCE"



Diego Velázquez
"The Surrender of Breda" 1635

CONTENTS

PIR QUOTES: "Diplomacy Must be Divested of the Crusading Spirit"

THE DELEGATION OF PIR CENTER PARTICIPATED IN 4TH MINSK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EURASIAN SECURITY

HOT TOPIC: Trilateral Negotiations Between Russia, the U.S. and China; The Shanti Act; BRICS Summit in New Delhi

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW: The New Alliances of the Middle East; Vietnam's "Atomic Renaissance"

PIR POST: French "Forward Deterrence"; The Security Architecture of the Middle East

ANALYSES: Rarotonga: The Treaty That Lost Its Teeth

TRAVEL NOTEBOOK: Notes from Zambia

POLEMICS: What Future for Paks II

NOTHING NEW INDER THE SUN: Nuclear Energy Development of Vietnam and Southeast Asia

PIR PRESS NEWS: Launch of Security Index Yearbook Volume 2; Lecture by Konstantin Kosachev;

BOOK REVIEWS: Nuclear War: A Scenario

PIR TEST: Who Presented the Order of Friendship to Roland Timerbaev in 1996?

GOSSIP COLUMN: New Zealand May Officially Join AUKUS Pillar 2

OPEN COLLAR: Between Perception and Reality

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Delhi – Moscow

PIR TOAST: Birthday Wishes

GALLERY OF MEMORY: The 99th Anniversary of the Birth of Roland Timerbaev

PIR QUOTES

“DIPLOMACY MUST BE DIVESTED OF THE CRUSADING SPIRIT…”

“Diplomacy must be divested of the crusading spirit. This is the first rule of diplomacy, which a nation can neglect only at the risk of war. … No readiness for compromise can be expected from a nation which conceives of its foreign policy as a crusade for political or religious purposes”

Read more

Hans Morgenthau



Eugène Delacroix
Entry of the Crusaders into Constantinople. 1840

THE DELEGATION OF PIR CENTER PARTICIPATED IN 4TH MINSK INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EURASIAN SECURITY

The delegation of PIR Center, comprising **Vladimir Orlov**, Director and Founder of PIR Center; **Alexandra Zubenko**, Deputy Director; and **Vadim Kozyulin**, PIR Center Consultant, participated in the IV Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security. During the event, Vladimir Orlov delivered a report at the working session entitled "Back to the Future (of the Arms Race): Managing Risks"



HOT TOPIC

A DEAL ON THREE



Dr. Vladimir Orlov

The hypothetical idea of a "trilateral nuclear deal" between Moscow, Washington, and Beijing is far from today's reality; however, a trilateral summit could well reassure the world with a non-binding declaration. In this piece, Vladimir Orlov breaks down why Trump is engaging in wishful thinking and why China has its own agenda.

Read more

THERE ARE NO NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON RIGHT NOW



Dr. Vladimir Orlov

Vladimir Orlov explains why Donald Trump's statements regarding trilateral nuclear negotiations between the U.S., Russia, and China remain detached from reality, noting that systematic work is frozen and Beijing continues to stand aloof. The analysis further explores why a three-way arms control format is currently a myth, outlines expectations for the upcoming Shenzhen summit, and suggests the U.S. is more inclined to push partners into testing disputes than to ratify the CTBT.

Read more

“HUMANITY HAS A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE”: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. NANDAN UNNIKRISHNAN BY MR. MAKSIM NOSENKO ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 2026 BRICS SUMMIT IN NEW DELHI

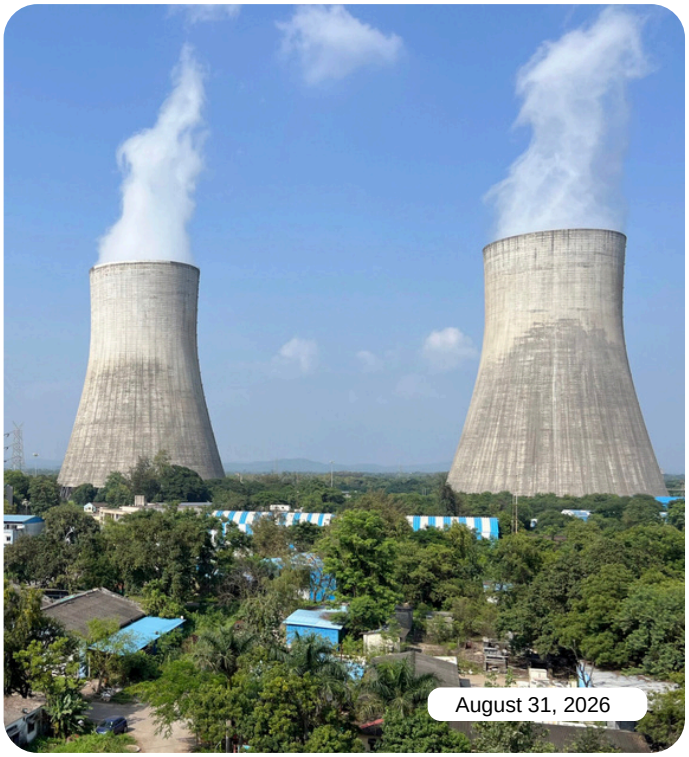


Dr. Nandan Unnikrishnan

As the dust settles on the landmark 2026 BRICS summit in New Delhi, the global geopolitical landscape stands at a critical crossroads. In an exclusive interview, Mr. Maksim Nosenko sits down with leading strategic analyst Dr. Nandan Unnikrishnan, Distinguished Fellow at Observer Research Foundation, to unpack the summit’s major breakthroughs, the shifting dynamics of multipolarity, and what India’s next presidency might look like.

Read more

THE SHANTI ACT: WHY INDIA’S NUCLEAR ENERGY WILL NEVER BE THE SAME: INTERVIEW WITH SHAH NAWAZ AHMAD BY MAKSIM NOSENKO



Mr. Shah Nawaz Ahmad

In August India launched public consultations regarding the draft rules for its landmark SHANTI Act, a framework enacted last year to trigger a historic transformation in the nation’s nuclear sector. This regulatory revolution dismantles a 60-year state monopoly to help achieve a bold target of 100 GW by 2047. By opening the industry to private capital and overhauling restrictive supplier liability laws, the new framework completely rewrites the rules for global players.

Read more

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

SHIFTING SANDS: THE NEW ALLIANCES OF THE MIDDLE EAST: INTERVIEW WITH DR. GARY SAMORE BY MAKSIM NOSENKO



The guest of this exclusive interview is **Dr. Gary Samore**, Director of Crown Center for Middle East Studies and Professor of the Practice of Politics at Brandeis University. Dr. Samore previously served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Nonproliferation and Export Controls under President Clinton from 1996 to 2001, and as President Obama's White House Coordinator for Arms Control and Weapons of Mass Destruction from 2009 to 2013. In this interview, we have examined the war in Iran, emerging Middle Eastern alliances, the bilateral Pakistani-Saudi agreement, and the recent Pakistan-Saudi-Turkey trilateral pact, focusing specifically on nuclear nonproliferation.

The interview was conducted by **Mr. Maksim Nosenko**, Coordinator of Information, Publications & Digital Communications Program at PIR Center.



VIETNAM'S "ATOMIC RENAISSANCE": HOW VIETNAMESE AND RUSSIAN EXPERTS VIEW THE PROSPECTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NINH THUAN 1 NPP PROJECT. INTERVIEW WITH NGUYEN MINH NGOC BY ANNA TISHINA



On March 23, 2026, Russia and Vietnam signed an intergovernmental agreement on the construction of the Ninh Thuan 1 nuclear power plant (NPP) with two VVER-1200 power units with a combined capacity of 2,400 MW, according to the Russian project. This topic has already been covered in a PIR Center analytical note by **Danil Khryapin**, a specialist in Indonesia and Southeast Asian countries, titled "The revival of Russia's Ninh Thuan 1 NPP project in Vietnam: a step towards developing Rosatom's presence in Southeast Asia". The research work is commented by **Nguyen Minh Ngoc**, a specialist adviser on nuclear energy. The expert also describes Vietnam's technological capabilities for increasing electricity generation, evaluates the prospects for the introduction of low-capacity nuclear power plants, and compares the training systems for nuclear power specialists in Russia and Japan.

The interview was conducted by **Ms. Anna Tishina**, PIR Center intern.

Read more



PIR POST

FROM LESSONS OF CRISIS TO THE FUTURE: TRUST AND SCENARIO MODELS FOR THE SECURITY ARCHITECTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST



Ms. Alina Pashina

The origins of the current round of the crisis, which has entailed a transformation of the entire security architecture in the Middle East, trace back to 2023, when Hamas attacked Israel. In 2024, an exchange of retaliatory strikes occurred between Israel and Iran – albeit on a limited scale, yet they resonated with an alarming echo and unequivocally signified that the previous dynamics of confrontation were gradually receding into the past, giving way to a qualitatively different level.

Read more

FRENCH "FORWARD DETERRENCE" AND THE EUROPEAN NUCLEAR DEBATE: FIRST PRACTICAL STEPS AND GERMAN ASSESSMENTS



Ms. Alexandra Zubenko

For decades, Germany's nuclear policy has rested on a relatively stable compromise. Germany does not possess nuclear weapons of its own and remains bound by its obligations under the NPT, while at the same time participating in NATO nuclear sharing arrangements. US extended deterrence remains a central pillar of German strategy.

Read more

FRENCH “FORWARD DETERRENCE” AND THE EUROPEAN NUCLEAR DEBATE: FIRST PRACTICAL STEPS AND GERMAN ASSESSMENTS



Ms. Alexandra Zubenko

On July 16, 2026, the French and German air forces conducted joint exercises, the first held within the framework of cooperation on “forward deterrence.” Two French Rafale fighters and two German Eurofighters took off from the German air base at Nörvenich.

The exercise was aimed at practicing joint maneuvers and conducting aerial refueling using a French A330 MRTT Phénix tanker aircraft. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz also announced that the next exercise would take place in the second half of 2026.

Read more

ANALYSES

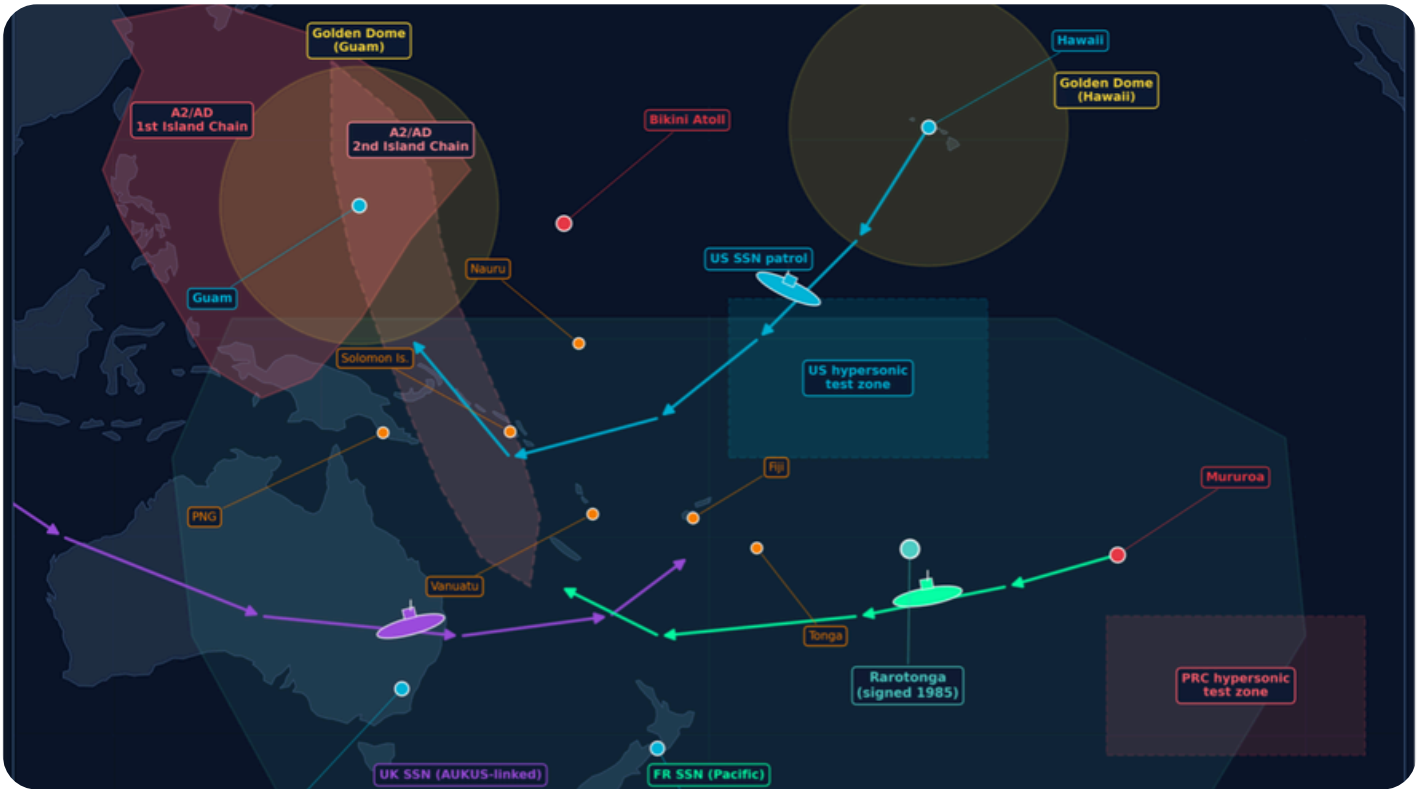
RAROTONGA: THE TREATY THAT LOST ITS TEETH

Mr. Artem Astvatsaturov,



"1985 saw Australia and New Zealand alongside 11 pacific islands countries (PICs) signed the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Treaty of Rarotonga. The parties have agreed on the emergence of the regional nuclear-free zone, aimed at keeping the region free from nuclear weapons, nuclear testing, as well as radioactive waste dumping. Following 40 years since the entry into force of the Treaty, the nuclear-free zone in the Pacific has been facing brutal challenges. From the one hand, a surge in military activity of Washington and Beijing coupled with AUKUS submarine (SSN-A) programme and increased nonproliferation risks worldwide jeopardises the stabilised Pacific as well as the sustainable NWFZ. But from the other hand, the region has been militarised by the key global and regional actors since the 1950s. Indeed, intensified military activity of China is making the Pacific more fluid".

Read more



POLEMICS

ATOM AND POLITICS: WILL PAKS II SURVIVE THE COURSE CHANGE? GABOR STIER AND KSENIA SMERTINA ON THE FAITH OF THE PAKS II NPP





Mr. Gabor Stier and Ms. Ksenia Smertina

In February 2026, the Paks II NPP project entered an active construction phase. However, due to the change of government in Hungary, a review of previously reached agreements was initiated. This calls into question the future of the project and poses a set of legal, financial and technological challenges to Hungary's energy strategy. What are the legal and financial risks for Hungary in the event of unilateral termination of the Paks II contract? How can the new geopolitical background and environmental arguments affect the project? What could be the consequences of terminating the contract for Rosatom State Nuclear Energy Corporation? Is Hungary's abandonment of nuclear power plants in favor of renewable energy and gas realistic, and will this lead to the country's increased energy dependence? These and other questions were discussed by Gabor **Stier**, foreign policy columnist for Demokrata, the founding editor of the moszkvater.con portal and member of the Valdai Club, and Ksenia **Smertina**, international political scientist, expert on Central and Eastern Europe and visiting lecturer at the HSE Institute of Media.

The polemics was moderated by Anna **Tishina**, PIR Center intern.

Read more



TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

NOTES FROM ZAMBIA



Mr. Andrey Kupriyanov

PIR Center publishes the notes from Lusaka written by Andrey Kupriyanov, 2nd-year student of *International Security* MA Program implemented jointly by PIR Center and MGIMO University.

“The key element of the trip was an immersion in the country’s energy sector, and specifically its nuclear dimension. The Embassy staff helped me to verify many of the assumptions and hypotheses I had formed earlier concerning Zambia’s readiness to undertake its first nuclear power project. – Andrey Kupriyanov, 2nd year student of *International Security* MA Program implemented jointly by PIR Center and MGIMO University”.

Read more



NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

ALWAYS ON THE RADAR: NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT OF VIETNAM AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

We invite our readers to take a look back at PIR Center's materials on the development of nuclear energy in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

You can familiarize yourself with an insight from Dr. Hoang Anh **Tuan**, former Director General of the Vietnam Atomic Energy Agency, regarding the development of Vietnamese nuclear power and the future plans at that time. This can be examined alongside the analyses provided by Ivan **Zolotukhin** in "Russia and Southeast Asia: Towards Nuclear Partnership" and Svetlana **Klyuchanskaya** in "Nuclear Energy in Southeast Asia and Russia's Interests".

Read more



PIR PRESS NEWS

KONSTANTIN KOSACHEV DELIVERED A LECTURE AT AN EXPERT SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY PIR CENTER JOINTLY WITH MGIMO UNIVERSITY

On October 28, 2026, PIR Center jointly with MGIMO University hosted an expert seminar titled “On the Prospects of Creating New Security Architecture in Europe and Eurasia”. The event was organized as part of the V *International Relations Week* and *International Security* MA Program implemented jointly by PIR Center and MGIMO University.
Mr. Konstantin Kosachev, Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, served as the keynote speaker. Welcome remarks were delivered by **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Director and Founder of PIR Center and Professor at MGIMO University, and **Dr. Andrey Sushentsov**, Dean of the Faculty of International Relations at MGIMO University. The seminar was moderated by **Mr. Grant Gevorgyan**, a second-year student of the *International Security* MA Program.

Read more



PIR CENTER PRESENTS NEW REPORTS

The new reports published by PIR Center in August–October, 2026 offer a comprehensive analysis of the evolving security architectures, missile programs, and strategic deterrence models across the globe. Report No. 51 by **Mr. Yuriy Shakhov** examines Australia's defense posture within the AUKUS framework, concluding that while acquiring naval nuclear propulsion technologies significantly enhances Canberra's military capabilities, it paradoxically deepens its strategic and technological reliance on the United States and the United Kingdom rather than fostering true nuclear independence. In Report No. 52, **Mr. Sergey Shashinov** assesses the geopolitical debates surrounding the potential deployment of nuclear weapons on Polish soil amid rising regional tensions and updates to Russia's nuclear doctrine; the author demonstrates that despite Warsaw's heightened interest in expanding its role within NATO's nuclear sharing mechanisms, Poland lacks the foreign policy autonomy required to acquire or independently host nuclear capabilities. Report No. 53 by **Mr. Roman Kalinin** details the shifting military balance on the Korean Peninsula, mapping the complex interaction between North Korea's diversified, nuclear-capable missile arsenal and South Korea's high-precision, conventional "Three-Axis" deterrence system, while noting that their qualitative rivalry has expanded into space reconnaissance and maritime domains. Lastly, Report No. 54 by **Mr. Vasily Pridein** explores Brazil's dual-track nuclear policy, which successfully balances robust civil nuclear energy production with national security goals such as its indigenous nuclear-powered submarine program; the study emphasizes that Brazil's persistent drive for technological sovereignty is clearly illustrated by its refusal to sign the IAEA Additional Protocol, even as the country officially maintains strict adherence to global non-proliferation regimes.



"FROM ALLY TO INDEPENDENT PLAYER: PROSPECTS FOR AUSTRALIA'S NUCLEAR INDEPENDENCE WITHIN THE AUKUS ALLIANCE"



"NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON POLISH SOIL: A BLUFF OR A REAL THREAT?"



"MISSILE PROGRAMS OF THE DPRK AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA: TRANSFORMATION OF STRATEGIC DETERRENCE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE 21ST CENTURY"



"ATOM UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS: BETWEEN PEACEFUL ENERGY AND BRAZIL'S NATIONAL SECURITY"

A LAUNCH OF SECURITY INDEX YEARBOOK: GLOBAL EDITION, VOLUME 2 (2026 – 2027) HELD AS A PART OF THE 130TH SUMMER SESSION OF THE *TRIALOGUE* CLUB INTERNATIONAL

A launch of Security Index Yearbook: Global Edition, Volume 2 (2026 – 2027), was held as a part of the 130th summer Session of the Trialogue Club International. Event was attended by representatives of 20 countries. Security Index Yearbook is a publication on international security issues prepared jointly by MGIMO University and PIR Center within the program "Priority – 2030". The launch took place on the margins of the *Trialogue* Club International Session where two panel discussions were held: "Russia and Global Security Challenges" and "Regional Security and Russia's Interests". The event was attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps from 20 countries and 2 international organizations, as well as aspiring international specialists, including participants of the XXIV International School on Global Security.

Dr. Vladimir Orlov, Founding Director of PIR Center, Founding President of the Trialogue Club International, delivered opening remarks. Then the speakers of the Trialogue Session, leading Russian experts, authors of the Security Index Yearbook, namely **Dr. Dmitry Trenin**, President of RIAC, Member of PIR Center Executive Board; **Mr. Dmitry Stefanovich**, Researcher at the Military Economics and Innovation Sector of the IMEMO RAS Center for International Security, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board; **Amb. Marat Berdiyev**, Ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Group of Twenty, APEC and GEP, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board; and **Dr. Andrey Kortunov**, Expert of Valdai International Discussion Club, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board, shared their thoughts and ideas about the current situation in the field of international relations.

Read more



BOOK REVIEWS

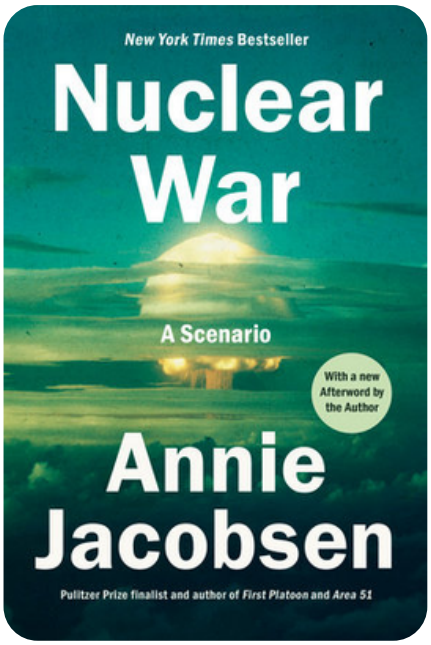
NUCLEAR WAR: A SCENARIO



Jacobsen A. Nuclear War: A Scenario. New York: Penguin Random House, 2024.

Mr. Albert Dominik

“In March 2024, American investigative journalist Annie Jacobsen – a Pulitzer Prize finalist and author of books on the secret Area 51 base, the Nazi scientists of Operation Paperclip, and covert CIA programs – published a work whose scope surpasses everything she had written before. The book’s premise is at once simple and audacious: to reconstruct, minute by minute, what would happen if a single nuclear warhead were launched at the United States. No fictional license, no embellishment – only facts, verified through more than forty exclusive interviews with presidential advisers, nuclear weapons designers, scientists, military officers, and intelligence officials. Among Jacobsen’s interlocutors are former Secretary of Defense William Perry, U.S. Strategic Command commander General Robert Kehler, physicist and creator of the first thermonuclear bomb Richard Garwin, climatologists Alan Robock and Brian Toon, MIT missile-technology expert Theodore Postol, Los Alamos National Laboratory director Charles McMillan, and dozens of other specialists. The result is a book that reads like a disaster novel, though it is written with the precision of a technical report”.



Read more

PIR TEST

WHO PRESENTED THE ORDER OF FRIENDSHIP TO ROLAND TIMERBAEV IN 1996?



a. Boris Yeltsin;

b. Andrey Gromyko;

c. Yevgeny Primakov;

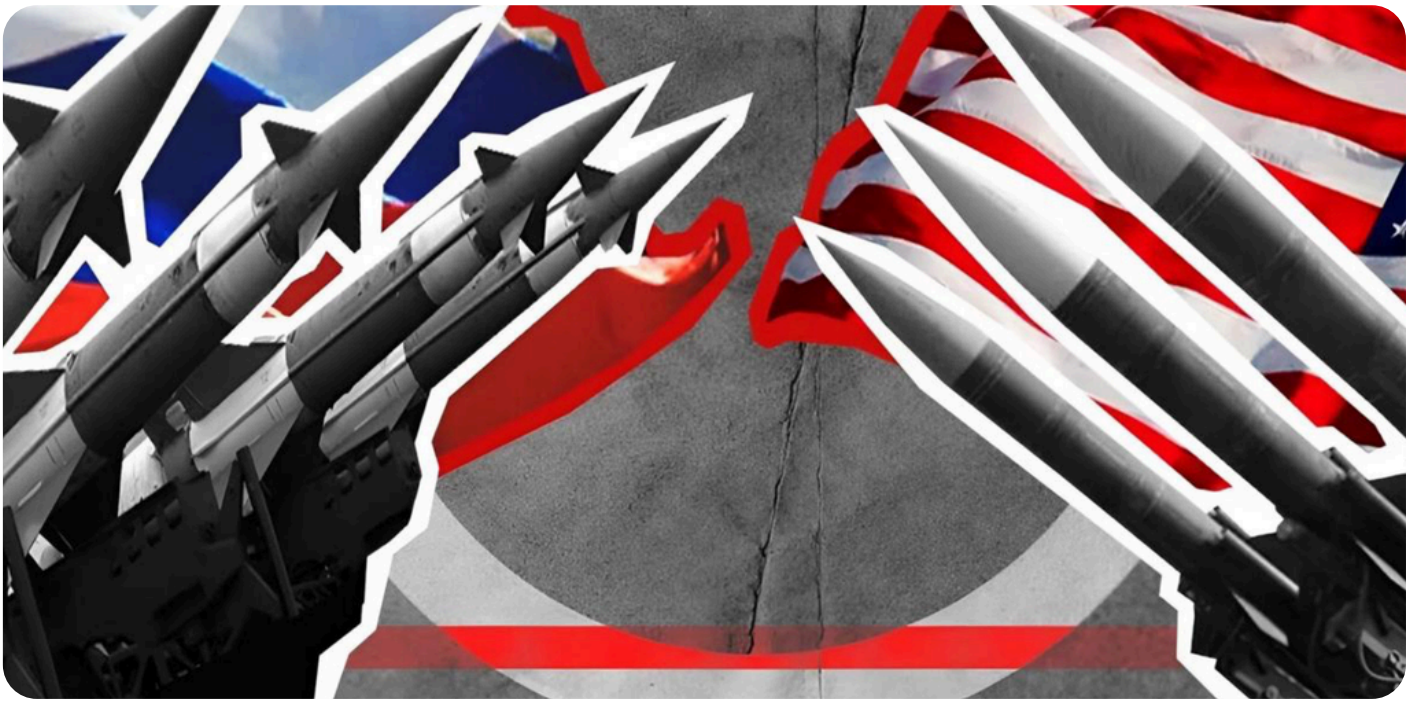
d. Igor Ivanov.

Correct answer: States Parties undertake to provide assistance to victims of the use or testing of nuclear weapons

Read more

UNVEILING THE ANSWER TO THE PREVIOUS PIR TEST

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE AGREEMENTS ON THE DE-TARGETING (MUTUAL DETARGETING) OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR MISSILES BETWEEN RUSSIA, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM?



a. A full-fledged international treaty with legal liability for the parties and an inspection regime;

b. A temporary military measure automatically revoked when the level of combat readiness is increased;

c. A political declaration of intent without legally binding force or verification mechanisms;

d. Part of the obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

***Correct answer:** A political declaration of intent without legally binding force or verification mechanisms.*

GOSSIP COLUMN

Ambassador Roland M. Timerbaev was one of the authors of the NPT and founders of the international nuclear nonproliferation regime, a Soviet and Russian Ambassador, and our colleague at PIR Center for many years (1994-2010). He often became bored and restless at major international conferences because he did not like to listen to the platitudes that were often repeated there and was very happy to have coffee breaks. It was live communication with real people – exactly what he really valued – and the opportunity to learn the latest news, as well as unconfirmed information and "expert gossip" in the corridors, on the sidelines, over coffee… Ambassador Timerbaev would joyfully say at such moments: *"Well, now is the time for some good gossip".*

Hence the title of this column. PIR Center is not responsible for the accuracy of what our employees and authors heard in the corridors and on the margins of the conferences and told us without reference to the source. Although we know what these sources are.

WE'VE HEARD THAT NEW ZEALAND MAY OFFICIALLY JOIN AUKUS PILLAR 2 WITHIN THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR MONTHS…

We've heard that New Zealand may officially join AUKUS Pillar 2 within the next three to four months. Pillar 2 concerns cooperation among the state-parties in the field of advanced military technologies. This includes artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber technologies, quantum developments, hypersonic and counter-hypersonic capabilities, as well as electronic warfare.

Read more

OPEN COLLAR

«BETWEEN PERCEPTION AND REALITIES» – INTERVIEW WITH GREG DONG SUK YOO

The new guest of PIR Center's Open Collar Interview is **Greg Dong Suk Yoo**, a PhD candidate in Political Science at MGIMO University and a South Korean specialist in international security, nonproliferation, and Russia–Korean Peninsula relations. His academic and professional experience spans the University of Notre Dame, the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, MGIMO University, the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), government affiliated thinktank in South Korea. His current research focuses on alliance politics, nuclear issues on the Korean Peninsula, and Russia's role in Northeast Asian security.

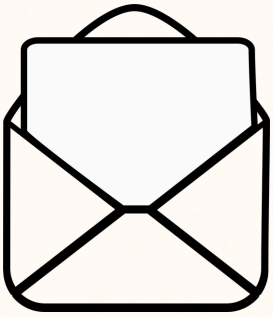
The interview was conducted by **Mr. Roman Kalinin**, Research Fellow at PIR Center.

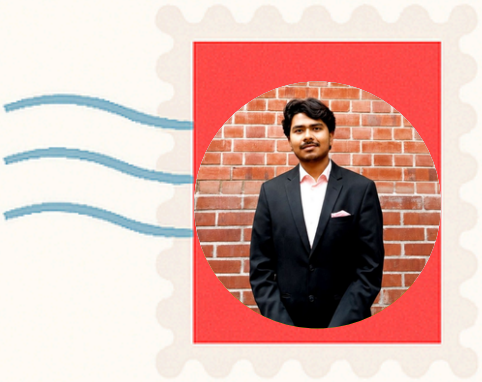




Read more

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR





MR. LOKENDRA PRATAP SINGH, MEMBER–GLOBAL YOUTH NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER UN OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, UNDERGRAD RESEARCH STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, INDIA

Yaderny Kontrol (Nuclear Control) E-Bulletin is a insightful publication that provides serious food for thought on current international security issues. It is notable not only for its broad coverage of topics – where regional issues, from the Middle East to Latin America, intertwine with questions of strategic stability and the NPT Review Process – but also for its personal columns, such as "Open Collar." All of this makes the publication highly relevant for an international audience, especially for students and young professionals. Given the wide range of sections, everyone will find something to their liking.

PIR TOAST

ON BEHALF OF PIR CENTER, WE WISH HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WHO CELEBRATED THEIR BIRTHDAY IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2026:



Ubeev, Aleksey V., Former Russian diplomat, former Senior Nuclear Security Officer at IAEA (2011-2015), Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2009
August 3



Ponamarev, Sergey V., CEO of MasterTradings LLC
August 7



Spassky, Nikolai N., Deputy Director General – Director of International Relations Unit of State Atomic Energy Corporation «Rosatom»
August 10



Istomin, Igor A., Head of the Department of Applied Analysis of International Problems at MGIMO University, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2023
August 10



Kortunov, Andrey V., Expert, Valdai International Discussion Club, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2003
August 19



Ozerov, Oleg B., Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Moldova, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2022
August 20



Zulkharneev, Albert F., Head of the representative office of Rossotrudnichestvo – Russian House in Bishkek, member of the Expert Council of the PIR Center since 2021
August 25



Torkunov, Anatoly V., Rector of MGIMO University, Member of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences
August 26

Demin, Sergey I., Regional Director of Rosatom International Network in East Asia; Member of PIR Center Executive Board since 2024
August 31



Eleukenov, Dastan S., Chairman of the Board of the Kazakhstan Agency for International Development (KazAID), Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 1994
September 10



Fedorov, Valery V., PhD in Political Sciences. General Director of VCIOM, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2011
September 11



Trenin Dmitry V., Member of PIR Center Executive Board; President of RIAC; Research Professor at the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, HSE University; Academic Supervisor, Institute for Global Military Economics and Strategy, HSE University; Leading Researcher at the Section for Non-Proliferation and Arms Limitation of the Center for International Security, IMEMO RAS
September 11



Kosachev Konstantin I., Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council
September 17



Danilov, Dmitry A., Professor at the Department of Integration Process of MGIMO University, Head of the Department for European Security at the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2011
September 22



Mursankov, Sergey G., Specialist in the Security service at the “Komus” Company, PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2010
September 29



Kibaroglu, Mustafa, Permanent Representative position at the Turkish Permanent Mission to the UN Office in Vienna. Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2013
September 30



Soltanieh, Ali Asghar, Multilateral Diplomat on International Security and Disarmament and Nuclear Scientist, President of Vienna International Institute for Middle Eastern Studies (VIIMES), member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2015
October 1



Orlov, Vladimir A., Founding Director of PIR Center; Founding President of the Trialogue Club International
October 4

Varma, Venkatesh, Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to the Russian Federation (2018–2021), Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2023



October 7

Antipov, Sergey V., Deputy Director of Strategic Planning and Project Management of Radiological Security at Nuclear Safety Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (IBRAE RAS), Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2004



October 11

Chernenko, Elena V., Member of PIR Center Executive Board; Special Correspondent of the Kommersant Daily; Co-Chair of the Trialogue Club International



October 15

Rauf, Tariq, Independent Expert, Former Head of Verification and Security Policy Coordination, Office reporting to Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2013



October 19

Rybachenkov, Vladimir I., PhD in Technical Sciences; Counsellor to the Russian Foreign Ministry (ret.), PIR Center Advisory Board Member since 2000



October 29

PIRTOAST

On August 31, 2026, **Mr. Sergey Demin**, Regional Director of Rosatom International Network in East Asia; Member of PIR Center Executive Board since 2024, celebrated his birthday.



Mr. Gleb Efremov, Deputy Director General – Head of the Department of New Technology Development – at JUSTA Group of Companies sent his congratulations to **Mr. Sergey Demin:**

Dear Sergey Igorevich,

From the bottom of my heart, I wish you a very happy birthday! My wishes to the closest, most sincere, and kindest colleagues and friends remain timeless and traditional. First and foremost, of course, I want to wish you robust health and a long, happy life! Coupled with a vibrant spirit and self-confidence, this provides an undeniable foundation for reaching and achieving all your goals. I am certain that a person as multi-talented, knowledgeable, and successful as you can handle any task! You have extensive experience managing major Russian enterprises and companies under your belt, and I am sure this track record will only continue to grow. Of course, the path to the top is often thorny, sometimes problematic, and not without its difficulties. But as the Japanese proverb goes: "If a problem can be solved, there is no need to worry about it; if it cannot be solved, worrying about it is useless." Therefore, in addition to everything mentioned above, I wish you peace of mind in your work!



On September 11, 2026, **Dr. Trenin Dmitry**, Member of PIR Center Executive Board; President of RIAC; Research Professor at the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, HSE University; Academic Supervisor, Institute for Global Military Economics and Strategy, HSE University; Leading Researcher at the Section for Non-Proliferation and Arms Limitation of the Center for International Security, IMEMO RAS celebrated his birthday.

Dr. Elena Chernenko, Member of PIR Center Executive Board; Special Correspondent of the *Kommersant* Publishing House; Co-Chair of the Trialogue Club International sent her warm wishes to **Dr. Trenin:**

Dear Dmitry Vitalievich,
I would like to wish you a very happy birthday! It is a great honor and a tremendous pleasure to collaborate and simply talk with you. For someone who has achieved such heights as you have, it is customary to wish simply health, and so I wish you robust, iron health. However, I also want to wish you something almost impossible: that there were not 24, but at least a few more hours in your day, so that you would have enough time for your grand new endeavor, all your plans and projects, your family and loved ones, and just a little bit for yourself.



On September 22, 2026, **Dr. Dmitry Danilov,** Professor at the Department of Integration Process of MGIMO University, Head of the Department for European Security at the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2011, celebrated his 70th jubilee.

Liet.-Gen. (ret.) Evgeny Buzhinskiy, Chairman of PIR Center Executive Board; Co-Chair of the Trialogue Club International, sent his warm wishes to **Dr. Dmitry Danilov:**

Dear Dmitry Aleksandrovich,
Please accept, on behalf of the PIR Center team, our most sincere congratulations on the occasion of your jubilee! We wish you professional success, brilliant research discoveries, as well as the strength, energy, and inspiration for new academic achievements!

On October 4, 2026, **Dr. Vladimir Orlov**, Founder and Director of PIR Center, Founder and President of the *Trialogue* Club International, Professor at MGIMO University, celebrated his birthday.



Liet.-Gen. (ret.) Evgeny Buzhinskiy, Chairman of PIR Center Executive Board; Co-Chair of the *Trialogue* Club International, sent his warm wishes to **Dr. Vladimir Orlov:**

Dear Vladimir Andreevich!
I congratulate you on your birthday! I wish you successful accomplishments at PIR Center for the benefit of Russia! May your unquenchable energy be embodied in new ideas and projects, and may the work of PIR Center flourish! May there be more bright moments ahead, and may every day bring new victories, both in the professional sphere and in your personal life. Health, energy, and only the very best of events!

On October 7, 2026, **Amb. Venkatesh Varma,** Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to the Russian Federation (2018–2021), Member of PIR Center Advisory Board since 2023, celebrated his 65th birthday.



Ms. Elena Chernenko, Member of PIR Center Executive Board; Special Correspondent of the Kommersant Publishing House; Co-Chair of the *Trialogue* Club International, sent her warm wishes to **Amb. Venkatesh Varma.**

Please accept my most sincere and warmest birthday congratulations! In today's world, where the dialogue between Russia and India holds a special, strategic importance, your work and your role as a bridge between our cultures, foreign policy communities, and now expert circles, command the deepest respect. Wishing you good health and every success in all your future endeavors! जन्मदिन मुबारक हो

On October 15, 2026, **Ms. Elena Chernenko**, Member of PIR Center Executive Board, Special Correspondent for the *Kommersant* Publishing House, and Co-Chair of the *Trialogue* Club International, celebrated her anniversary.



Dr. Dmitry Trenin, President of the RIAC, Member of the PIR Center Executive Board, sent his congratulations on this occasion:

Dear Lena, happy birthday!
You've achieved a lot in life: you're a leading Russian international journalist, a recognized international expert on the very complex topic of arms control, a member of the PIR Center Council and the Presidium of the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, and also an indispensable participant in the Great Game… We all highly value your professional qualities, but you're especially dear to us as a reliable companion and friend. We wish you happiness in your wonderful large family, well-being in your home, good health and strength, and even greater professional achievements. And by the way, you look great — so keep looking that way!

GALLERY OF MEMORY

THE 99TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF ROLAND TIMERBAEV

On September 27, PIR Center celebrated the 99th anniversary of the birth of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Roland M. Timerbaev (1927–2019). Roland Mikhailovich was one of the founders of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. He actively participated in the development and signing of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the 1972 Soviet-American Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, the Threshold Test Ban Treaty and the Peaceful Nuclear Explosive Treaty, as well as in the negotiations on the Nuclear Suppliers Group formation, which was established to control the export of nuclear materials. In addition, he participated in the creation of the IAEA safeguards system and other documents that became the foundation of the modern nuclear non-proliferation regime.

In memory of Roland Timerbaev PIR Center jointly with MGIMO University hosted the XI Timerbaev Debates titled “Would a World with a Greater Number of Nuclear Powers Be More Stable and Predictable Than a World Founded on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime?”. The debate participants were divided into two teams – opposition and proposition. In preparing for the event, each team nevertheless formulated arguments both “for” and “against” the question under consideration. Participants learned of their assigned “position” only a few hours prior to the commencement of the debates. The Areopagus of the debates included Vladimir **Orlov**, Director and Founder of PIR Center; Igor **Vishnevetsky**, independent expert and member of PIR Center Advisory Board; and Alexander **Chekov**, Lecturer at the Department of International Relations and Foreign Policy, MGIMO University. The discussion was moderated by Alexandra **Zubenko**, Deputy Director at PIR Center.

Read more on the anniversary and the XI Timerbaev debates



YADERNY KONTROL

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Vladimir **Orlov**

Editor, design and DTP: Mr. Maksim **Nosenko**

Yaderny Kontrol (Nuclear Control) — PIR Center E-Bulletin. № 3 (546). May – July, 2026 // Ed. by Yuriy Shakhov // M.: PIR Center, 2026. — 28 p.

PIR CENTER

Founded 32 years ago, in April 1994, by Dr. Vladimir Orlov, PIR Center is a leading Russian nongovernmental organization dealing with international security, with the emphasis on nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear policy. PIR Center's portfolio currently consists of 27 projects combining research and consultancy, education and training, publishing and outreach, and networking and partnerships. Most recent addition to this portfolio (since April 2024) is an ambitious *Security Index* Yearbook (Global Edition). With its vibrant 1200+ member-strong alumni community residing in 72 countries of the world, with its internationally renowned Summer Schools on Global Security, with its two MA Programs, and with its online training planform Nonproliferation.World, PIR Center is in the forefront of educating new generation of security and nonproliferation experts. As an independent think-tank, PIR Center is engaged in various formats of policy discussions on the most urgent topics of global and regional security agenda. PIR Center's status has been recognized by the United Nations with its consultative ECOSOC status (since 2010) and by the Russian Government, which has granted PIR Center a privileged status of a socially oriented NGO (SONKO) (since 2020)

PIR CENTER'S LIST OF ACTIVE PROJECTS 2026

You may find the full list of the PIR Center's active projects 2026 here: https://pircenter.org/en/pir-centers-list-of-active-projects-2026-2027/

Editorial work on this issue of the E-Bulletin was completed on November 5, 2026.

PIR Center: https://pircenter.org/en/