

Moldova: Overview

Moldova does not have the industrial capability to produce nuclear, dual-use nuclear, or other weapons of mass destruction commodities. There are no known nuclear or uranium mining facilities, nor are there any known quantities of fissile material on Moldovan territory.

In the 1990s, Moldova considered a proposal to allow the transit of spent nuclear fuel across its territory from the Bulgarian nuclear power plant at Kozloduy to Russia. In 1997, Moldova struck an agreement with Bulgaria allowing the transit, but as of June 1999, the Moldovan parliament had not ratified the agreement.[1,2]

Sources:

[1] D. Zobkov, "Novosti dnya: eshelon s otrabotannym yadernym toplivom iz Bolgarii pridet neskoro," Ural-Press, 22 April 1999.

[2] BTA, 10 June 1999; in "Stoyanov, Moldova's Andronic View Nuclear Fuel Transit," FBIS Document

FTS19990611000845.{Entered 4/17/2001 KB}

Moldova: General Developments

3/7/2003: NEW ARTICLE ADDED TO MOLDOVAN CRIMINAL CODE

Amendments to the Moldovan criminal code, adopted by the parliament of Moldova on 7 March 2003, include a new article that calls for criminal prosecution of individuals engaged in the production, storage, transport, and use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. Punishment for violation of this article is set at 7-15 years of imprisonment and increases to 15-25 years if the crime is repeated, is committed deliberately by a group of people, or resulted in particularly severe consequences. According to members of Moldovan parliament, the new article is designed to promote fulfillment the country's obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).[1,2]

Sources:

[1] "Parlament Moldavii vvel nakazaniya za izgotovleniye, khraneniye, transportirovku i primineniye oruzhiya massovogo

porazheniya," Interfax, 7 March 2003.

[2] "Parlament ustanovil ugovornuyu otvetstvennost za izgotovleniye i primineniye oruzhiya massovogo porazheniya," PRESS-Obozreniye, 15 March 2003; in Integrum Techno, <http://www.integrum.ru>. {Entered 3/24/2003 AD}

1/17/2003: MOLDOVA CONSIDERS SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL TRANSIT THROUGH ITS TERRITORY

A joint Bulgarian-Moldovan declaration, signed during a visit by the Bulgarian President to Moldova on 16-17 January 2003, committed Moldova to promote ratification of the quadripartite agreement on cooperation in the field of nuclear material transportation, which provides a legal framework for the transportation of spent nuclear fuel from Bulgaria (Kozloduy NPP) to Russia through the territories of Moldova and Ukraine.[1,2] Despite opposition from some environmentalists, the Moldovan government says that transit of nuclear materials has been going on for three decades and is not a threat to Moldova's environment.[1] According to Virdzhiliyu Andreyev, press-secretary of the Moldovan President, ratification of the above agreement will be considered after IAEA experts give their evaluation of the safety of nuclear fuel transit through Moldovan territory.[3]

Sources:

[1] "Prezidenty Respubliki Moldova i Bolgarii prinyali sovместnuyu deklaratsiyu," *PRESS-Obozrenie*, 18 January 2003; in Integrum Techno, <http://www.integrum.ru>.

[2] "Sovместnaya deklaratsiya Prezidenta Respubliki Moldova i Prezidenta Respubliki Bolgariya," *Nezavisimaya Moldova*, 17 January 2003; in Integrum Techno, <http://www.integrum.ru>.

[3] "Moldova gotova rassmotret vopros ratifikatsii Soglasheniya o tranzite cherez territoriyu respubliki iz Bolgarii otrabotannogo yadernogo topliva," *Nezavisimaya Moldova*, 17 January 2003; in Integrum Techno, <http://www.integrum.ru>. {Entered 1/23/2003 AD}

1/15/2003: MOLDOVA DEVELOPS NEW AUTOMATED INFORMATION SYSTEM

According to Vladimir Molozhen, General Director of Moldova's Department of Information Technology, Moldova has launched the Frontiera automated information system as a pilot project at the Kishinev International Airport. In the future the system will be installed throughout the Republic of Moldova. The Frontiera system

is designed to collect, update, and analyze data about people, vehicles, and cargo on Moldovan territory, which will help combat the illegal trafficking of goods and forgery of documents. The system will also facilitate the restriction of illegal migration, as well as the detection of fugitives, stolen vehicles, drugs and psychotropic substances, poisonous and radioactive materials, and weapons.

[“Departament informatsionnykh tekhnologiy razrabatyvayet sistemu ucheta i kontrolya peresecheniya granitsy,” *Nezavisimaya Moldova*, 15 January 2003; in Integrum Techno, <http://www.integrum.ru>.] {Entered 1/21/2003 AD}

9/5/2002: US IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON TWO MOLDOVAN ENTITIES

On 9 May 2002, the United States imposed sanctions on Moldova's Cuanta company and its former head Mikhail Pavlovich Vladov, for transferring to Iran WMD and missile technology covered by international export controls.[1,2] The sanctions prohibit US government procurement from and assistance to the entities as well as purchase by the entities of any item on the US Munitions List or receipt of a license for items controlled under US export regulations and the Export Administration Act of 1979.[1] Before it was liquidated in 2001 and turned into a state-run business, Cuanta produced radio control and tracing systems for ballistic missiles.[2] Sources:

[1] "Iran I: U.S. Publishes List of Sanctioned Entities," Global Security Newswire, 16 May 2002, Nuclear Threat Initiative Web Site, www.nti.org.

[2] "Iran: Sanctioned Moldovan Company is Gone," Global Security Newswire, 20 May 2002, Nuclear Threat Initiative Web Site, www.nti.org. {Updated 8/16/02 YP}