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**Title:** Russia Gets Help on Weapons Control

**Summary:** MOSCOW (AP) -- A foundation led by Ted Turner and former Sen. Sam Nunn will spend \$6 million helping Russia reduce threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

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## Russia Gets Help on Weapons Control

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MOSCOW (AP) -- A foundation led by Ted Turner and former Sen. Sam Nunn will spend \$6 million helping Russia reduce threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

The Nuclear Threat Initiative project should help secure and dismantle weapons of mass destruction, prevent their spread and bolster cooperation between scientists on anti-terrorism issues, Nunn said Friday.

It also will help create civilian jobs for scientists in Russia's weapons industry so they are less likely to be lured by rogue nations trying to start their own weapons programs.

``Russia has enormous technical and scientific expertise, and Russia and the United States must join together in a global effort to secure weapons materials and weapons know-how," said Nunn, a Georgia Democrat who led the Senate Armed Services Committee before retiring in 1997.

The announcement came after CIA Director George Tenet told Congress Wednesday that Russia remains a leading supplier of nuclear technology and missiles to countries hostile to the United States, and is ``the first choice of nations seeking nuclear technology and training."

The CIA report to Congress, covering the first half of 2001, said the Russian government's ``commitment, willingness, and ability to curb proliferation-related transfers remain uncertain."

Russia's Foreign Ministry responded angrily to the report, saying it caused ``not only extreme surprise but also serious concern."

``Russia strictly meets its international obligations to control the export of sensitive trade and technology," a ministry statement said.

Russia has an \$800 million deal to build a nuclear power plant in Iran, assistance the CIA report said ``enhances Iran's ability to support a nuclear weapons development effort."

Russian and Iranian officials fiercely deny that claim, saying the project serves strictly civilian purposes.

Also, President Bush recently denounced Iran, Iraq and North Korea as an ``axis of evil" that must stop pursuing weapons of mass destruction or face consequences. Russia has friendly ties with all three.

The bickering is the latest example of tensions marring U.S.-Russian relations, though overall ties recently have been strong because of President Vladimir Putin's strong support for the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan.

Nunn said that ``in the spirit of new partnership," the United States could share some intelligence data with Moscow to back its demand that Russia drop controversial export deals.

12/8/2016Russia Gets Help on Weapons Control

``There are some serious problems with their export policies, and I believe they themselves don't see it that way," Nunn said.

Nunn and Sen. Dick Lugar, R-Ind., wrote a 1991 law making \$4.7 billion available to Russia to help destroy some of its weapons of mass destruction weapons while safeguarding the rest.

Friday's initiative takes further steps to prevent the spread of nuclear and biological weapons technology to terrorists or other countries.

For example, NTI will contribute \$1 million to a Russian loan fund established to create permanent civilian jobs for workers of Sarov, a top Russian nuclear weapons design and production center that has been reducing staff.

Another \$1.3 million is earmarked for former biological weapons scientists working on a brucellosis vaccine, while \$250,000 will fund a feasibility study for a new hepatitis vaccine.







On the Net:

Nuclear Threat Initiative -- <http://www.nti.org/>

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