

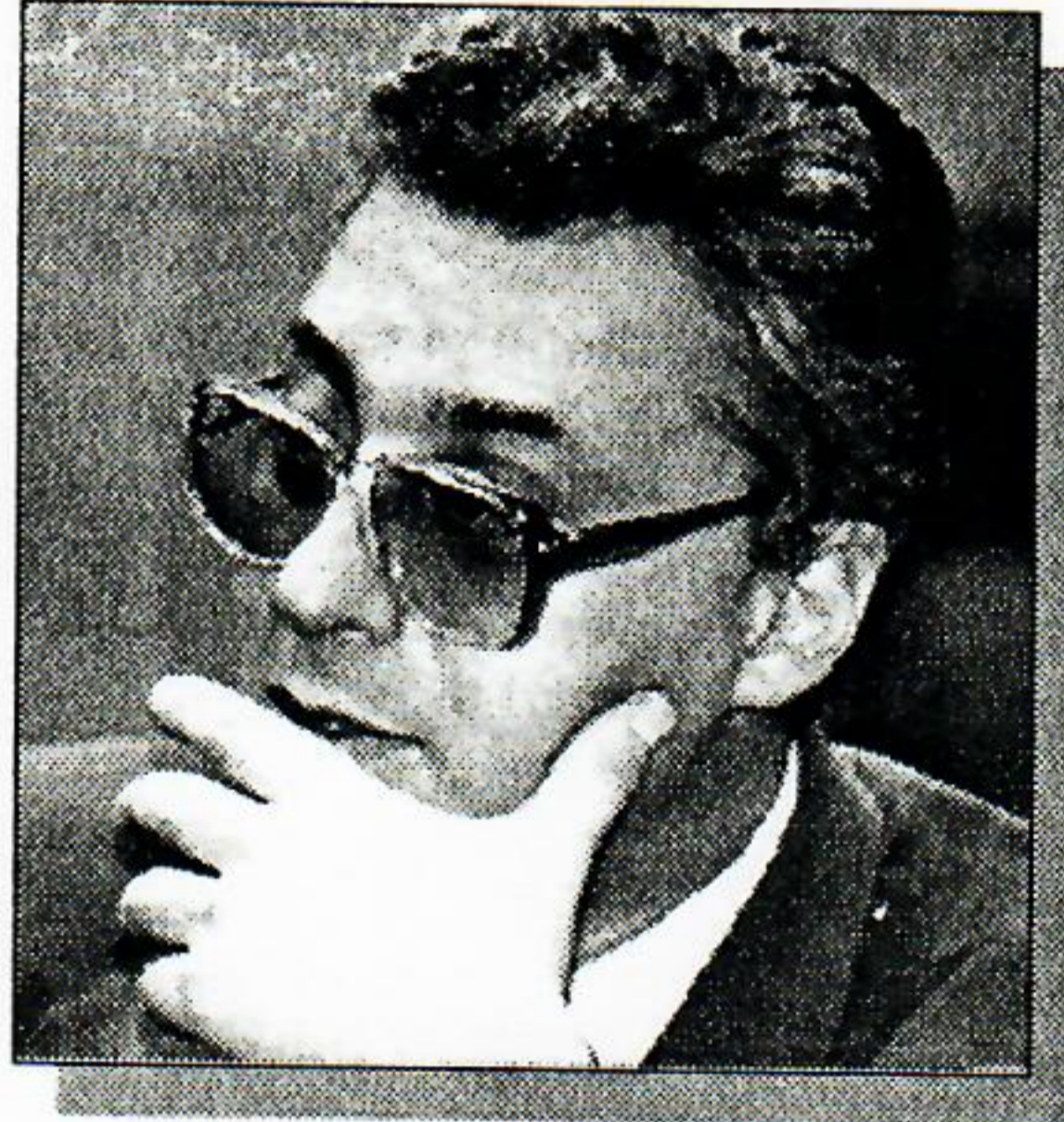
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# Politics

## Summit Over, Results Unclear

MN correspondent Vladimir Orlov talks to Yuri Baturin, presidential aide for national security.



Yuri Baturin.

**Moscow News: Is Russia ready for a full-scale cooperation with the G-7 nations in the field of nuclear safety?**

Yuri Baturin: Russia realizes the necessity to stop illicit circulation of nuclear materials. Samples of nuclear substances discovered should be analyzed under international supervision in the country where they were allegedly stolen. This is because legislation in many countries requires that samples of stolen or smuggled material be submitted to court as evidence.

**How would you assess the present state of Russia's relations with other countries in the field of nuclear safety?**

Germany is Russia's closest partner in fighting illegal circulation of nuclear materials. Now we are expanding our cooperation with the secret services of several former USSR countries including Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. We've held consultations with the intelligence services of Poland, Rumania, Hungary, France, and Britain. Russia is open to multilateral cooperation and exchange of experience aimed at improving nuclear safety and creating an efficient system of control, registration and physical protection of nuclear materials.

**Although the press has exaggerated the scale of nuclear materials theft, there must be some fire, if there's so much smoke.**

That is true. Now we are busy re-assessing the efficiency of the present system of registration, control and physical protection of nuclear materials.

Contacts have been established between American nuclear research laboratories and Russian research institutions.

Analyses of smuggled or stolen radioactive substances have shown that

in all cases they were not weapons grade materials.

As for weapons grade nuclear materials, Russia has always had a strict system for registration, storage and protection of nuclear weapons and their components, which meets the standards imposed by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

So far neither Russian nor foreign investigators have discovered any actual buyers of nuclear materials. No cases of "threshold" nuclear powers being involved in dealings with the stolen materials have been detected.

**One year has passed since the Nuclear Weapons Non-proliferation Treaty was extended indefinitely.**

That's right - and Russia still sees, with concern, that the treaty does not cover South Asia and the Middle East. Several East European countries that joined the treaty express a readiness to accept foreign nuclear weapons on their territories, in contravention of the spirit and letter of that document.

We should redouble our efforts to prevent the spreading of nuclear weapons to Eastern Europe. Furthermore, Russia fully supports the idea of creating zones free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Such zones could be created in the Middle East, Africa (where a nuclear-free zone is already being created), and probably even in Central and Eastern Europe.