

THE ERRORS OF RUSSIA UPON US

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Tom Parfitt in Moscow and Julian Borger, diplomatic editor*

Russia to Raise Nuclear Missile Output FOURFOLD

- **70 ICBMs intended to pressure US in treaty talks**
- **150 billion dollar package includes tanks, ships and planes**

Russia has thrown down a new gauntlet to Barack Obama with an announcement that it will sharply increase production of strategic nuclear missiles.

In the latest of a series of combative moves by the Kremlin, a senior government official in Moscow said the Russian military would commission 70 strategic missiles over the next three years, as part of a massive rearmament program which will also include short-range missiles, 300 tanks, 14 warships and 50 planes.

Military experts said the planned new arsenal was presumed to consist of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) rather than submarine-launched missiles. If this is the case, the plans represent a fourfold increase in the rate of ICBM deployment. The arsenal will include a new-generation, multiple-warhead ICBM called the RS-24. It was first test-fired in 2007, with first deputy prime minister Sergei Ivanov boasting it was "capable of overcoming any existing or future missile defense systems".

The new missiles will be part of a 150 billion dollar defense procurement package for 2009-2011, a 28% increase in arms spending, according to Vladislav Putilin of the cabinet's military-industrial commission. There will be further increases in spending in the following two years.

Persecution in India

(Left) Rajni Majhi, a 20-year-old girl, was burnt to death by the persecutors in Orissa as the mob watched and cheered. The scene was an attack at a Catholic orphanage.



(Right) Fr. Edward Sequeira recuperating in the hospital. Father Sequeira, a priest belonging to the Society of the Divine Word (SVD), was one of those who were seriously injured when his mission station was



attacked by the mob in Orissa. When Fr. Sequeira arrived at the orphanage, the mob locked him and Rajni Majhi (a 20-year-old nurse) in separate rooms, and ordered the children to vacate the orphanage. The mob then ransacked Fr. Sequeira's room, poured petrol on him and Rajni, and set the orphanage on fire. "I was engulfed in flames, I could hear the cries of Rajni and the mob was cheering and shouting through the windows," recalls Fr. Sequeira. He managed to get to the bathroom and beat out the flames.

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Continued Violence Against Christian Churches

Cincinnati, Ohio — In 2008 alone, a Cincinnati Pastor was killed while attending a funeral. Governor Sarah Palin's church was torched in Alaska. A Christian radio station was attacked by a crazed gunman in Pennsylvania. A church shooting in Knoxville, Tenn., sent ripples of fear through the Christian community nationwide.

"Risks are only going up for the Christian community. The U.S. State Department now classifies faith-based organizations as one of the top five 'at risk' groups in the world today," said Jeffery Hawkins, Executive Director.