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Imagery Brief of Tunnel Complexes and Unidentified Building in Myanmar

On December 3, 2008 and June 9, 2009, Bertil Lintner reported on extensive tunnel construction projects in Burma overseen by North Korean engineers.¹ On July 21st, 2009, Secretary of State Clinton noted “growing concerns about military cooperation between North Korea and Burma.”² On August 1, 2009, *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported claims by Burmese defectors of a reactor construction project near Naung Laing.³ As reported in the July 22nd *Washington Post* article, ISIS has learned that intelligence agencies have tracked the suspicious procurement of extremely high precision equipment as well as the presence in Burma of officials from the notorious North Korean trading company Namchongang.⁴ Whether the nature of the cooperation is nuclear still remains unclear.

ISIS reviewed the ground photographs of suspected tunnel facilities in Burma obtained by Bertil Linter at YaleGlobal Online and determined that at least one of the purported tunnel entrances is a dam penstock (see figure 1). Other photographs do indeed depict tunnel entrances and indoor or underground storage facilities, and are likely not nuclear industrial facilities.

ISIS located the military towns of Pyinmama and Naypyidaw in satellite imagery but has not identified the larger dam penstock under construction in the aforementioned ground photographs in satellite imagery. ISIS has not identified nuclear industrial facilities within these military towns and in their vicinity. However, ISIS did locate several dams (see figures 2 and 3), tunnel entrances (see figure 4) and anomalous buildings (see figure 5) in the satellite imagery, but could not match them with any of the locations depicted in the ground photographs or ascribe them with obvious nuclear industrial characteristics.

¹ “Burma’s Nuclear Temptation”, Bertil Lintner, YaleGlobal Online, December 3, 2008:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=11673>

“Tunnels, Guns and Kimchi: North Korea’s Quest for Dollars – Part 1”, Bertil Lintner, YaleGlobal Online, June 9, 2009: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=12442>

² “US Concerns Growing About N. Korean Military Ties with Burma”, Glenn Kessler, *Washington Post*, July 22, 2009: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/21/AR2009072101021.html?sub=AR>

³ “Burma’s Nuclear Secrets”, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, August 1, 2009:

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/burmax2019s-nuclear-secrets-20090731-e4fv.html>

⁴ “Namchongang, or NCG, assisted with procuring for Syria’s reactor construction project”, Robin Wright and Joby Warrick, *Washington Post*, May 11, 2008: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/10/AR2008051002810.html>



Figure 1. Ground photograph obtained by Bertil Lintner at YaleGlobal Online. ISIS assessed that this photograph depicts a dam penstock.



Figure 2. Example of dam construction located in Burma at 20.598385, 98.292722.



Figure 3. Another example of dam construction. Yeywa dam construction project in Burma at: 21.68724, 96.42698

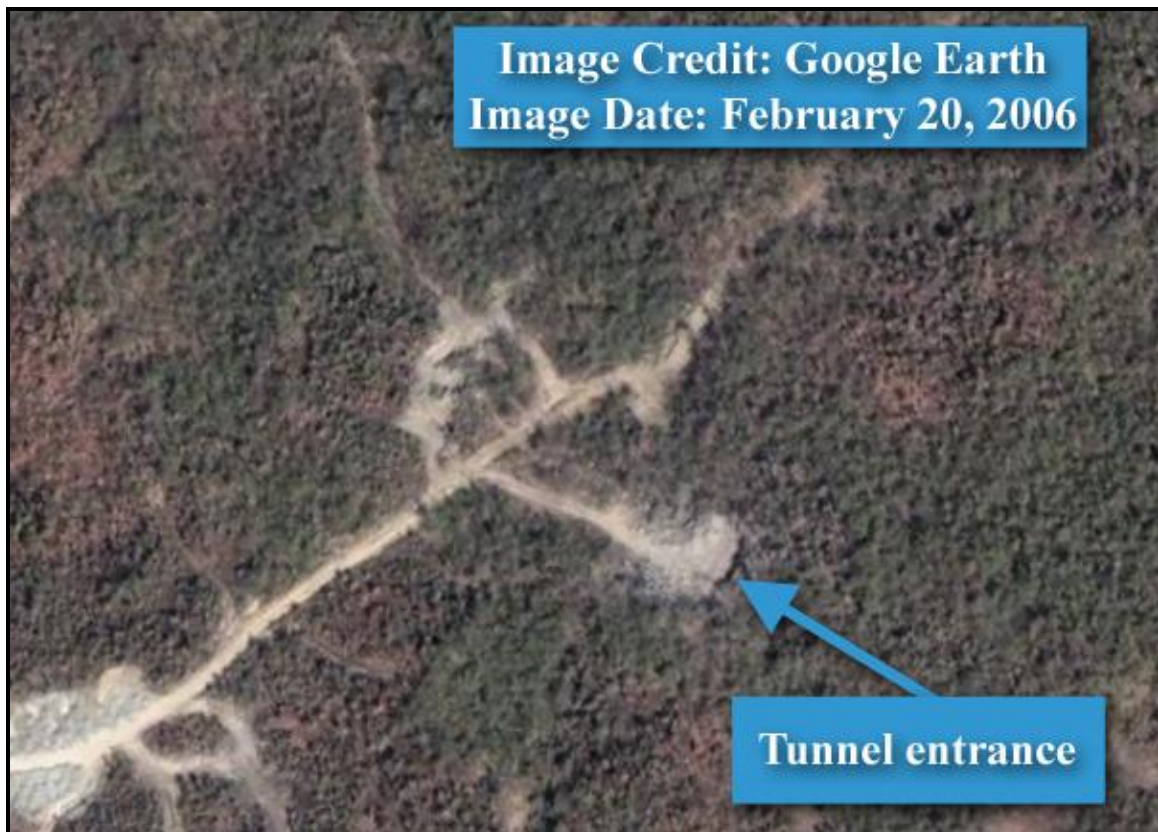


Figure 4. Example of a tunnel entrance near the military town of Nay Pyi Daw, Burma.



Figure 5. Anomalous building buried in the ground north-east of Maymyo, Burma at 22.05084, 96.62954.