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Syria to Sign Chemical Weapons Treaty, Reveal Arsenal

By Jason Ditz

September 10, 2013

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem has confirmed that the Assad government is planning to sign the international Chemical Weapons Convention, declaring publicly the size of its arsenal for the first time as part of a US and Russia-proposed deal that will see the arsenal transferred to international control pending its destruction.

All members of the CWC are committed to the eventual destruction of their arsenals, though in some cases this can be a long, expensive process. The agreement in principle to move toward the destruction was made yesterday, and has already gained massive international support.

The least on-board nation appears to be the United States, which ironically is the one that went public with the offer yesterday, but continues to issue conflicting statements on its support for the idea while continuing to talk up war with Syria.

Syria is believed to have a massive chemical arsenal, produced as a foil against Israel's nuclear weapons arsenal, but this will be the first time official details will ever be unveiled, as much like Israel's arsenal, Syria has left it as a poorly-kept secret, only alluded to in public comments.