

U.S., India report progress on nuke deal

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Progress is reported after three days of talks in Washington on the U.S.-India civilian nuclear deal, but a final agreement is still not ready. The Voice of America quoted a U.S. diplomat as saying the talks had "broken the logjam" on the deal, reached in principle by President George W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in July 2005. However, a firm agreement awaits a high-level review by both governments. The deal basically requires India, a nuclear-weapons state, to allow international inspection of its civilian nuclear facilities in exchange for access to U.S. civilian nuclear technology and fuel. The deal has been bogged down since July 2005 by a number of issues, mainly dealing with India's objection to U.S. demands that it not conduct further nuclear weapons tests, the report said. The United States also wants to curb India from reprocessing nuclear fuel. After three days of talks, U.S. State Department spokesman Tom Casey gave no specific time frame, but told reporters U.S. officials are very hopeful the remaining issues can be hammered out "in the coming days and weeks."

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