

France successfully tested its new long-range [M51](#) missile today, in what may be seen as a possible warning message to states such as North Korea and Iran on their nuclear ambitions. The M51 is a submarine-based missile, with a range of over 3,250 miles and can carry up to six nuclear warheads.

**Quote:** *"The missile carried no nuclear weapon for the test flight, which was closely monitored by specialists at a test center in Biscarosse, in southwest France, as well as by the Monge missile-tracking ship, ministry spokesman Jean-Francois Bureau said. The M51 is designed to replace the M45 submarine-launched ballistic missile, or SLBM.*

[North Korea](#) , [India](#) , and most recently [Iran](#) , have tested their own long-range missiles, also capable of carrying nuclear warheads. French President Jacques Chirac warned at the beginning of the year that his country would be willing to use [nuclear weapons](#) in retaliation, if a terrorist attack was carried out on French soil.

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