

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

RELEASED IN FULL

FACT SHEET: ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS

I. BACKGROUND

- o At end of Mrs. Thatcher's November visit, she and President agreed on arms control priorities: INF agreement with SRINF constraints, 50% cut in U.S./Soviet strategic weapons, and global CW ban. Also agreed nuclear weapons reductions would increase importance of eliminating conventional disparities.
- c These priorities, along with establishing stable lower level of conventional forces by eliminating disparities, were affirmed at June 12 Reykjavik NAC.
- o Mrs. Thatcher agrees we should concentrate on these priorities, opposes further nuclear weapons reductions (under 500 km range) which Germans are pushing.

II. INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES (INF)

- o INF Round VIII began April 23. Each side has treaty draft on table; working to produce agreed treaty text.
- o After extensive Allied consultation, U.S. tabled proposal June 16 for global elimination of U.S. and Soviet SRINF missiles as part of INF treaty. Soviets have not yet responded formally.
- o Key issues remain: getting Soviets to accept global zero SRINF (and, if possible, LRINF), and on-site verification of suspect sites; resisting last-minute Soviet effort to include FRG Pershings.

III. STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TALKS (START)

- o START and Defense and Space Round VIII began May 5. We tabled draft START treaty May 8; Soviet delegation unable to say when they might table START treaty draft.
- o Significant differences remain: we want warhead sublimits to deal with most destabilizing strategic systems -- ballistic missiles, particularly ICBMs; Soviets support sublimits along lines of their previous proposals or bomber weapons counting rules as agreed at Reykjavik, but not both.
- o Other major U.S. concerns are 50% reduction in Soviet throw-weight and verification. Chief Soviet concerns are SLCMs and mobile ICBMs.

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The official visit of Prime Minister
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IV. DEFENSE AND SPACE (D&S)

- o We tabled new proposal calling for commitment not to withdraw from ABM Treaty through 1994, contingent on 50% START reductions over seven years.
- o We have also proposed "predictability package" including data exchange, open labs, and reciprocal test observation.
- o Little Soviet response. Soviet goal appears to remain that of crippling SDI by insisting on limits on testing and development more restrictive than those imposed under narrow interpretation of ABM Treaty.

V. CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL

- o Reykjavik NAC resolved U.S.-French procedural impasse, placing new East/West stability negotiations in framework of, but autonomous from, CSCE process.
- o Alliance tabled military security proposal July 10 at CSCE in Vienna; it mandates continued confidence- and security-building work among 35 CSCE states and notes establishment of distinct stability negotiations to be held by 23 NATO/Warsaw Pact members.
- o NATO draft stability mandate will be presented after Alliance differences worked out.
- o MBFR deadlocked; should end when new talks launched.

VI. CHEMICAL WEAPONS

- o We remain committed to achieving a comprehensive, effectively verifiable global ban on chemical weapons.
- o In July 20 round of U.S.-Soviet CW bilaterals, plan to focus on bilateral data exchange and its verification. Also prepared to discuss challenge inspection and elimination of production facilities.
- o USG is reviewing French proposal on CW security stockpiles, but is concerned about potential impact on verification and CW non-proliferation.

VII. NUCLEAR TESTING

- o Next round of experts' talks begins July 13 in Geneva.
- o Impasse continues over mandate for future negotiations; Soviets pushing Conference on Disarmament proposal for multilateral testing regime, including 1KT limit on tests.

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