



# AUSA BACKGROUND BRIEF

## CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR ARMS CONTROL MEASURES

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World events today are changing the strategic equation and we are faced with the need to reassess the security threat as we have known it in the past. Of special importance are the ongoing arms reduction talks between the United States and the Soviet Union, to include conventional arms in Europe, strategic arms and chemical weapons. Successful completion of these talks, culminating in bilateral or multilateral agreements, would have a profound impact on U.S. national security policy in the future.

Since the end of World War II, numerous international arms control agreements have been negotiated and brought into force. Knowledge of the timing and general provisions of these various agreements is important in understanding the direction of ongoing negotiations. The chronology that follows briefly summarizes the major agreements and proposals in arms control negotiations of the post-war era and can serve as a quick reference guide for the reader.

1959 - Antarctic Treaty. Stated that Antarctica would be used for peaceful purposes only. Any measures of a military nature, nuclear explosions and disposal of radioactive wastes are prohibited. Twenty-two nations, to include the U.S. and U.S.S.R., are signatories.

1963 - "Hot Line" Agreement. Enacted in the wake of the Cuban Missile Crisis, this agreement established a direct communication between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. It was produced because of the need for assuring quick and reliable communications directly between the heads of government. Overall purpose is to reduce the danger that accident, miscalculation, or a crisis could result in the initiation of a nuclear war.

1963 - Limited Test Ban Treaty. Prohibited nuclear weapons testing in the atmosphere, outer space or under water. The parties to the treaty undertook an oath not to carry out such tests. The U.S., U.S.S.R. and over one hundred other countries are signatories.

1967 - Outer Space Treaty. Prohibited the stationing of weapons of mass destruction in outer space. It contained an understanding prohibiting the placement of nuclear weapons in orbit around the earth, and on the moon or any other celestial body. The U.S., U.S.S.R. and more than eighty other countries signed the treaty.

1967 - Treaty of Tlateloclo. Prohibited the testing, use, manufacture, or acquisition of nuclear weapons in Latin America. It is the only treaty to ever provide for a nuclear-weapons-free-zone in a populated region of the world. The U.S. and 23 Latin American and Caribbean countries are signatories.

1968 - Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Prevented the spread of nuclear explosives and provided for international safeguards on civilian nuclear activities. Countries possessing nuclear weapons pledged to refrain from assisting other states to gain nuclear weapons capabilities. They would, however, assist other states seeking the peaceful use of nuclear power. In return, non-nuclear capable states agreed to refrain from acquiring nuclear weapons and to permit international inspection of their civilian nuclear installations. Almost 100 countries, to include the U.S. and U.S.S.R., signed the treaty.

1971 - Seabed Arms Control Treaty. Prohibited the emplacement of nuclear weapons on the seabeds and ocean floor beyond a 12-mile coastal zone. This treaty grew out of oceanographical advances which opened up the possibility of using the ocean environment for nuclear installations. The treaty established rules of conduct to address these concerns. The 87 signatories included the U.S. and U.S.S.R.

1972 - Interim Agreement on Strategic Offensive Arms (SALT I). Sought limitations on strategic arsenals of U.S. and U.S.S.R. by limiting growth in numbers of weapons. Called for a shift from excessive reliance on fixed, land-based ICBMs. This shift would reduce first strike incentives for both Superpowers.

1972 - Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM). Imposed limitations on U.S. and U.S.S.R. defenses (air, land, sea, or space) against ballistic missile weapons. In terms of affecting the current Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), the ABM treaty banned significant aspects of strategic defense, including deployment of "nationwide" systems. A narrow interpretation of the treaty permits research on SDI. The broader interpretation allows the deployment and testing of technologies developed since 1972.

1973 - Mutual Balanced Force Reduction (MBFR). The MBFR proposal sought a reduction in Warsaw Pact (WP) conventional forces to rough parity with NATO forces in Europe. NATO sought this goal because of the preponderance of WP conventional capability which posed a major threat to Western security. Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) talks have replaced the moribund MBFR negotiations.

1974 - Vladivostok Accords. Goal of these accords was to provide the framework for continuing SALT II negotiations. U.S. and U.S.S.R. agreed to reduce the number of strategic launchers to 2,400 systems and to limit MIRVed systems to 1,320.

1975 - Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The U.S. and U.S.S.R. are major signatories to the Helsinki Final Act which provides a framework to resolve humanitarian, economic, political, scientific and military issues. Also known as the Helsinki Accords, the multilateral agreement contains a provision on confidence-building measures that provides for notification of major military maneuvers in Europe.

1979 - SALT II. Major concerns dealt with questions over long range cruise missiles and the role of the Soviet Backfire bomber. Talks began in 1972. Although both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. signed the treaty, it was never ratified by the U.S. Senate. Nevertheless, successive U.S. administrations have abided by the treaty.

1982 - Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) Proposals. START proposals (never signed or ratified) sought a reduction in the growth of numbers of U.S. and Soviet weapons. Gave priority to lowering risk of war and gaining greater stability. Original proposals sought reduction in deployed ballistic missile warheads by 1/3 to 5,000, with no more than 2,500 on ICBMs, and limited deployed ballistic missiles to 850. Talks resumed in June 1989.

1985 - Geneva Summit. US and USSR agreed in principle to a 50% reduction in strategic offensive systems, but disagreed on the systems to be included under this proposal.

1987 - Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. Called for removal and destruction of all U.S. and Soviet ground launched cruise missiles (GLCMs) and U.S. Pershing II missiles from Western Europe and all Soviet SS-20's from Central Russia. It was the first time that a complete class of weapons was to be destroyed, that the Super Powers actually destroyed weapons and both allowed intrusive verification.

1988 - Gorbachev Conventional Force Reduction Proposal. Proposes to cut Soviet Army forces by 500,000 personnel and remove 10,000 tanks from Eastern Europe and European U.S.S.R.

1989 - Bush Conventional Force Reduction Proposal. Proposes reduction of US forces in Europe by 30,000 personnel (down to a level of 275,000) and calls for the U.S.S.R. to reduce their forces to the same level.

1989 - Risk of War Agreement. Signed by CJCS and Soviet counterpart, the agreement focuses on measures to reduce the risk of conflict from accidental military encounters, to include limited territorial incursions.

1989 - Bush Chemical Weapons Stockpile Reduction Proposal. Before the United Nations General Assembly, President Bush proposed the U.S. and Soviet Union destroy 90 % of chemical weapons stockpiles over the next ten years. Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze countered with a proposal for the destruction of all stockpiles possessed by the two countries.