

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

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FACT SHEET: START

RELEASED IN FULL

I. BACKGROUND

- o Our Geneva negotiators plan to conclude this round of talks on 16 November, and will produce a new joint draft treaty that reflects all agreed and disputed treaty text. The principal agreed elements are:
 - 6000 deployed warheads on 1600 strategic nuclear delivery vehicles (ICBMs, SLBMs and heavy bombers).
 - 4900 deployed ballistic missile warheads.
 - 1540 warheads on 154 "heavy" ICBMs and 50 percent reduction in Soviet ballistic missile throw-weight.
 - Warhead attribution numbers for existing missile types.
 - Outlines of a comprehensive verification regime.

II. SIGNIFICANT UNRESOLVED ISSUES

- o ICBM RV Sublimit: US wants an ICBM RV sublimit; Soviets will accept one only with an equal SLBM RV sublimit.
- o Mobile ICBMs: US position bans mobiles until the sides can agree on an effective verification regime; Soviets oppose such a ban. Both sides have proposed such regimes.
- o ALCMs: US position attributes 10 warheads to each ALCM heavy bomber with an ALCM range threshold of 1500 km; Soviets attribute to each such bomber the maximum number for which it is equipped, with a threshold of 600 km.
- o SLCMs: Soviets want verifiable limitations on SLCMs; US believes SLCM limits are unverifiable without unacceptably intrusive on-site inspection and that the sides should instead declare their nuclear SLCM plans.
- o Linkage With Defense and Space: US believes START should not be linked to defense and space issues; Soviets say a START agreement cannot be signed without US assurances of compliance with their interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

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working visit of U.K.
Prime Minister Thatcher