

1987 INF NUCLEAR ARMS TREATY

Russia has officially declared it no longer considers itself bound by the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, a Cold War-era agreement signed in 1987. Russia accused the West of creating a direct threat to national security, referencing specific US military deployments and exercises.

1. Typhon missile system deployed in the Philippines.
2. Missile drills during the Talisman Sabre exercises in Australia.
3. Russia claimed these actions undermined global stability and increased strategic pressure.

INF Treaty(Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty)

Signed in 1987 between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Leaders Involved the U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. Negotiated at a time of heightened nuclear tensions in Europe, where both sides had deployed large numbers of intermediate-range missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads within minutes.

Key Provisions

1.Scope of Elimination

All ground-launched ballistic missiles and cruise missiles with ranges between 500 km and 5,500 km were to be eliminated. Included both nuclear and conventional variants.

2. Destruction Timeline

Both sides were required to destroy all covered missiles within 3 years of the treaty's entry into force.

3. Permanent Ban

A permanent prohibition on the development, production, and deployment of any such missile systems in the future.

4. Verification and Transparency

Introduced extensive on-site inspections, data exchanges, and continuous monitoring at production facilities an unprecedented level of verification at that time in arms control agreements. Helped build trust and set new transparency standards between the two nuclear superpowers.

Implementation

1. United States Destroyed

846 missiles, including the Pershing II ballistic missiles and Ground-Launched Cruise Missiles (GLCMs). Also dismantled associated launchers, training equipment, and support infrastructure.

2. Soviet Union Destroyed

1,846 missiles, including the SS-4, SS-5, and SS-20 ballistic missiles. Eliminated related launchers and facilities across multiple sites.

Nuclear Disarmament

Nuclear disarmament refers to the process of reducing or eliminating nuclear weapons to promote global security and prevent the potential catastrophic consequences of nuclear warfare. It encompasses several efforts aimed at controlling and ultimately abolishing nuclear arsenals, with the end goal of achieving a nuclear-free world.

1. Humanitarian Impact

The immediate consequences of a nuclear explosion include widespread loss of life, mass destruction, severe burns, and radiation sickness. In addition, long-term effects such as cancer and genetic damage can affect survivors and their descendants for generations.

2. Environmental Consequences

A nuclear detonation can cause large-scale environmental damage, including "nuclear winter," where smoke from explosions blocks sunlight, leading to drastic global cooling, agricultural collapse, and disruptions to ecosystems.

3. Ethical and Moral Considerations

The sheer destructiveness of nuclear weapons raises ethical questions about their use. The indiscriminate nature of their impact goes against the principles of just war theory and humanitarian law.

4. Economic Costs

Maintaining and upgrading nuclear arsenals require significant financial resources that could be used for development and addressing other pressing issues like poverty and climate change.

Historical Efforts of Nuclear Disarmament Efforts

1. Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

The NPT entered into force in 1970 to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament. However, it has faced criticism for being discriminatory, creating a divide between nuclear-armed and non-nuclear states.

2. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

Though not yet fully in force, the CTBT bans all nuclear explosions, aiming to curb the development of new weapons.

3. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

TPNW includes a comprehensive set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities. These include undertakings not to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.

Frameworks for Nuclear Proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament

1. Global International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The IAEA plays a crucial role in monitoring compliance with nuclear agreements and ensuring that nuclear technology is used for peaceful purposes.

2. Regional Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs)

These zones, where countries commit to prohibiting nuclear weapons, represent significant progress toward disarmament. Expanding NWFZs could help build momentum for a global ban. The first NWFZ was established in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

Significance

1. Arms Race Curb

Marked a major step in slowing the nuclear arms race during the Cold War, particularly in Europe.

2. Precedent Setting

First arms control treaty to eliminate an entire class of nuclear weapons, rather than just limiting numbers. Created a model for future agreements like START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty).

3. Strategic Stability

Reduced immediate nuclear threat to European NATO allies and Warsaw Pact countries. Built momentum for broader superpower dialogue and cooperation.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/back-to-cold-war-era-russia-ends-nuclear-treaty-as-trump-sends-uke-submarines-into-position/articleshow/123108576.cms?from=mdr>