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America's new approach to ballistic missile defence, announced by President Bush on 29 January, is called Global Protection Against Limited Strikes (GPALS). Half the size of the original SDI "Phase I" plan, the GPALS architecture shifts the focus of strategic ballistic missile defence away from deterrence of a strategic ballistic missile attack to protection against the emerging and limited ballistic missile threat. Because it is limited in scope and scale, GPALS will not threaten the Soviet strategic retaliatory capability, an oft-stated Soviet concern over SDI. Therefore, given improving United States-Soviet relations and growing concern for ballistic missile proliferation and accidental and unauthorized launch, GPALS represents an appropriate approach to defences based on the evolving international environment.

A GPALS defence would include various sensors and three ground- and space-based interceptors to ensure global coverage against missiles of all ranges:

- Space- and surface-based sensors to provide global, continuous surveillance and tracking, from launch to intercept, of ballistic missiles of all ranges - theatre to strategic. This is a crucial element for a successful global defence.
- Surface-based, non-nuclear, transportable, kinetic interceptors to protect United States forces deployed abroad and United States allies and friends against ballistic missiles of theatre range.
- Space-based, non-nuclear, kinetic interceptors to provide continuous, global interception capability against missiles with ranges in excess of 500-1,000 km (300-600 miles). Thus, the space-based element will protect the United States, allies and friends against both theatre and strategic missiles and will provide the broadest, most effective global coverage.
- Finally, surface-based, non-nuclear, kinetic interceptors located in the United States to protect the United States from ballistic missiles of all ranges.

IV

Any meaningful deployment of ballistic missile defences will require a change in the legal regime established by the ABM Treaty. Therefore, although the world has changed, and our Program adjusted accordingly, our goal in the Defense and Space Talks remains consistent. We seek to negotiate a cooperative transition to allow increased reliance on strategic ballistic missile defences.

Over the six year history of our Talks, we have explained to our Soviet colleagues that, despite the best of intentions, the ABM Treaty did not yield the stability nor the reductions in strategic offensive arms its framers intended. It is not the ABM Treaty but the improved relationship