

Ballistic Missile Launch Notification Agreement 1988²⁰ and Prevention of Dangerous Military Activities Agreement 1989²¹

The Launch Notification Agreement provides for notification, no less than 24 hours in advance, of planned, launch area, and area of impact for any launch of a strategic ballistic missile (ICBM or SLBM), including the geographic coordinates of the planned impact area or areas of the reentry vehicles. In the 1989 Agreement, words and terms such as *lasers* and *interference with command and control networks* are defined.²² This Agreement also codifies the use of lasers in peacetime, Article 2 stating, for example, that each Party shall take the necessary measures directed towards preventing the use of "...laser in such a manner that its radiation could cause harm to personnel or damage to equipment of the armed forces of the other Party".

The above mentioned bilateral agreements establish a limited regime which seeks to protect satellites identified to perform a specific function and a limited and particular goal between the US and former USSR. Existing protection is thus limited to 3 types of satellite: early warning systems, reconnaissance satellites, and communication satellites. The protection is also extended in application to the corresponding ground stations. These bilateral agreements may set precedents in codifying the norm of non-interference with Earth-orbiting objects. This is thought to have opened up the possibility of codifying other case specific satellites and the widening of the scope of protection beyond the bilateral level.

Chemical Weapons Convention 1992.²³

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was negotiated within the Conference on Disarmament. It bans the production, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons. Each Party undertakes to destroy chemical weapons and any chemical weapons production facilities it owns or possesses.

The CWC is the first arms control treaty to widely affect the private sector, and its provisions covering chemical facilities were developed with the active participation of industry representatives.

The Convention contains very intrusive verification measures which are set out in an Annex to the Convention. Two verification regimes are established to enhance the security of States Parties to the Convention and to preclude the possibility of clandestine chemical weapons production. The first provides a routine monitoring regime involving declarations, initial visits

²⁰ Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Notifications of Launches of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and Sub-Marine Launched Ballistic Missiles. Opened for signature 31 May 1988; entered into force 31 May 1988. Referred to as the Launch Notification Agreement.

²¹ Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Prevention of Dangerous Military Activities. Opened for signature 12 June 1989; entered into force on 1 January 1990.

²² For the purpose of the 1989 Agreement, a *laser* "...means any source of intense, coherent, highly directional electromagnetic radiation in the visible, infrared, or ultraviolet regions that is based on the stimulated radiation of electrons, atoms or molecules". *Interference* is defined as "...actions that hamper, interrupt or limit the operation of the signals and information transmission means and systems providing for the control of personnel and equipment of the armed forces of a Party".

²³ Chemical Weapons Convention 1992. Opened for signature 13 January 1993; entered into force 31 October 1996.