

Verification of compliance with the ABM Treaty is to be provided by the use of "national technical means... in a manner consistent with generally recognized principles of international law" (Article XII (1)). Each party also agrees not to interfere with the national technical means of the other when used in accordance with Article XII (1). Furthermore, the use of deliberate concealment measures to impede verification by national technical means is prohibited (Article XII (2) and (3)). This provision against non-interference with national technical means has direct relevance to the law of outer space because one of the primary components of national technical means are reconnaissance satellites. In essence this provision reinforces the legitimacy of such satellite activities.

A Standing Consultative Commission is created to deal with compliance issues and other questions relating to the implementation of the Treaty (Article XIII).

xiii) SALT I (1972)³⁵ and SALT II (1979)³⁶

These agreements limit the number of strategic delivery vehicles that the superpowers may deploy. Only one provision of these agreements directly relates to outer space. Article IX (1)(C) of SALT II prohibits the development, testing or deployment of: "systems for placing into Earth orbit nuclear weapons or any other kind of weapons of mass destruction, including fractional orbital missiles". A common understanding to this provision states that it does not require the dismantling of any existing launchers. This provision, however, would seem to reaffirm and extends for these two states the applicability of the restrictions regarding nuclear weapons incorporated into Article IV of the Outer Space Treaty.

The other features of these agreements that are of most interest here, are those relating to verification. SALT I incorporates the same provision (Article V) regarding use of national technical means as that found in the ABM Treaty (Article XII). Compliance questions are referred to the same Standing Consultative Commission (Article VI).