- the question of warhead sublimits, with the Soviets not willing to agree to the US proposal for an ICBM warhead sublimit of 3300 and desiring a "freedom-to-mix" between SLBMs and ICBMs;
- counting rules for ALCMs, with the US proposing a count of six per bomber, regardless of the number an aircraft is capable of carrying, and the Soviets demanding separate counts for each type of bomber;
- the US desire for a ban on mobile ICBMs;
- the US proposal to exclude ALCMs with ranges of under 1500 km from restrictions (while the Soviets insist on using the SALT II definition for long-range ALCMs of 600 km); and
- the reduction period itself, with the Soviets suggesting five years and the US seven.

President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev met in Moscow in late May for their fourth summit, but it was clear some time in advance that a START agreement would not be reached at the meeting. Verification, counting rules and sub-limits continued to be major stumbling blocks on the way to an accord. Following the Moscow Summit, the sides issued a Joint Document outlining the meeting's achievements. In regard to START, the Document stated:

During the course of this meeting in Moscow, the exchanges on START resulted in the achievement of substantial additional common ground, particularly in the areas of ALCMs and the attempts to develop and agree, if possible, on a solution to