

ABM TREATY

Q. Does ballistic missile defence violate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty?

Suggested Reply

- The development and deployment of certain missile defence systems would be contrary to the existing Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972. The US is pursuing discussions with Russia on this matter.

Q. Is Canada opposed to amending the ABM Treaty?

Suggested Reply

- The cooperative security relationship between the US and Russia, which is currently embodied in the ABM Treaty, is a key to strategic stability and an important foundation for international efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.
- While the ABM Treaty can be amended, as it has been in the past, care should be taken not to damage a system that has, for almost 30 years, underpinned nuclear restraint and allowed for nuclear reductions.

Q. What is Canada's position on the possible abrogation of the ABM Treaty?

Responsive Only

- This is a bilateral treaty which Canada is not a party to. It can be amended by mutual consent and we are encouraging the United States and Russia to negotiate any changes or new arrangement they are seeking bilaterally. At the same time, we encourage all countries to respect their treaty obligations.