

BACKGROUND PAPER

MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME

Questions and Answers

Q1: What is the purpose of the Missile Technology Guidelines?

A1: The purpose of the Guidelines is to limit the risks of nuclear proliferation by controlling transfers of equipment and technology which could make a contribution to nuclear weapons delivery systems other than manned aircraft. These Guidelines would complement existing non-proliferation efforts.

Q2: Which countries participated in the formulation of the Guidelines?

A2: Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Q3: Is this an international agreement?

A3: No. The seven governments have issued identical statements of national policy.

Q4: Is this just another attempt by the Economic Summit Seven to impose further controls on high technology to the developing world?

A4: No. The seven countries are the major Western suppliers of missile-related technology and equipment. It is the continuing aim of our policy to encourage international cooperation in the peaceful use of modern technology, but this should be done in a way fully consistent with the aims of our mutually agreed non-proliferation policy.

Q5: Is there any special reason why these Guidelines are being announced at this particular time?

A5: No. Discussions on the content of the Guidelines have been continuing for about four years and full convergence of views was only reached in December of 1986.

Q6: Were any developing countries invited to participate in these discussions?

A6: The participants in the discussion were those countries which are major suppliers of missile-related equipment and technology. As technology holders, they are therefore the