

We view the Open Skies agreement as a document in its own right which would not be formally linked with other arms control agreements. There must, however, be a substantive link to make sure that the agreement would serve to prevent possible violations of other international agreements and treaties and, in that sense, to a certain extent affect them. So we have to retain the possibility of adjustments in it with due regard for its relationship with the obligations of the participating states under other arms control and disarmament agreements and with relevant verification arrangements.

As we understand it, the Open Skies regime would permit participating states on a mutual and equitable basis to fly unarmed planes over the territories of other participating states to monitor military activities.

For the Soviet Union, the purpose of the regime is to build confidence, ensure the predictability of military activities, and promote the process of arms control and disarmament and verification of compliance with obligations assumed.

As we see it, participants in the regime could at the initial stage include those countries which are now actively involved in the dialogue on issues of disarmament. However, we do not rule out the participation of other countries, too, in this process.

In other words, the Open Skies regime should, in our view, be the result of concluding a multilateral agreement, either spelling out the details of the future regime or briefly outlining its objectives and substance as specified in technical protocols appended to the agreement.