

7. NAVAL ARMS CONTROL

BACKGROUND

Since the end of World War II, there have been few attempts to develop arms control agreements which deal specifically or exclusively with naval weapons. Prior to 1945, there were extensive bilateral and multilateral efforts to develop treaties limiting naval arms. During the 1920s and 1930s, multilateral efforts resulted in three treaties: the Washington Treaty on Limiting Naval Armament in 1922; the London Treaty of 1930; and a follow-on to the London Treaty, the London Protocol in 1936. These treaties placed limits on the types and numbers of warships maintained by Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and the US. The limits also extended to the types and numbers of weapons deployed on the ships.

This emphasis on limiting naval arms was not carried over into the post-World War II period. In fact, the post-World War II period has been in sharp contrast to the 1920s and 1930s with little in the way of effort or achievement in naval arms control. In 1972, the US and the Soviet Union signed the Agreement on the Prevention of Incidents On and Over the High Seas, which seeks to reduce and prevent potentially dangerous incidents between the navies of the two countries. It does not limit naval arms. Similar agreements have also been signed by the Soviet Union with a number of NATO countries, including Canada.

Since World War II, a number of agreements which seek to ban nuclear weapons from a given zone or place limits on nuclear weapons themselves have been developed. As such, they may affect naval activity but do not constitute naval arms control. Of particular interest is the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, and the Partial Test Ban Treaty which *inter alia*, prohibits the testing of nuclear weapons under water.

The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, signed in 1972, prohibits the US and the Soviet Union from, *inter alia*, developing, testing or deploying an anti-ballistic missile system or component which is sea-based. The SALT II Treaty, signed by the US and the Soviet Union in 1976, placed upper limits on the number of submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) and ballistic missile submarines that could be maintained by the two countries. More recently, the proposed START agreement will require the US and the Soviet Union to reduce their numbers of SLBMs and ballistic missile submarines. A political agreement that will accompany the START Treaty will require the two to exchange information about their planned deployments of sea-launched cruise missiles on an annual basis. Negotiations on confidence-building measures in Europe have included discussions of measures relating to naval arms.