

dents", each Party "undertakes to act in such a manner as to reduce the possibility of its actions being misinterpreted by the other Party." A similar agreement (Agreement Between the USA and the USSR on the Prevention of Nuclear War) was signed in 1973.

35. The 1972 Agreement Between the USA and the USSR on the Prevention of Incidents On and Over the High Seas

This agreement sought to restrain overly aggressive behaviour on the high seas where near-collisions and aircraft "buzzing" had become common. The agreement called for naval vessels to manoeuvre according to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. Ships and aircraft were also prohibited from simulating attacks against vessels and aircraft of the other state. There is also a 1973 Protocol which covers non-military ships.

36. The 1972 ABM Treaty

Part of the overall SALT I package, the ABM Treaty limited the U.S. and the Soviet Union each to two widely separated ballistic missile defence sites, each with 100 missiles and 100 launchers. The Treaty includes extensive and precise quantitative and qualitative limitations to prevent the upgrading of facilities. Article XIII called for the creation of a Standing Consultative Commission to consider questions of compliance, provide "on a voluntary basis such information as either Party considers necessary to assure confidence in compliance with the obligations assumed", and "consider questions involving unintended interference with national technical means of verification." Article XII notes that national technical means of verification will be used to ensure compliance. It also states that both Parties undertake neither to interfere with these national technical means nor to impede verification through concealment.

37. The 1972 Interim Agreement Between the USA and the USSR on Certain Measures With Respect to the Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms

The Interim Agreement froze new ICBM launcher construction in the U.S. at 1054 and in the Soviet Union at 1618. Some launcher modernization was allowed. Ceilings on SLBMs were also established (710 for the U.S. and 950 for the Soviets in combination with decommissioning older systems). The actual documentation includes a protocol, five Agreed Statements, three Common Understandings, and four Unilateral Statements. Article V of the Agreement declared that both Parties would use national technical means of verification to ensure compliance. Neither Party was to interfere with the other's national technical means nor to impede verification through concealment.

38. The 1972 Agreement on Basic Principles of Relations Between the USA and the USSR

This is a twelve-point statement affirming the desires of the Soviets and the Americans to continue, improve and expand relations between the two states.

39. The 1972 Memorandum of Understanding Between the USA and the USSR Regarding the Establishment of a Standing Consultative Commission on Arms Limitation

This memorandum of understanding created the Standing Consultative Commission noted in the ABM Treaty, the Interim Agreement and the Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of Outbreak of Nuclear War. It was to "promote the objectives and implementation of the provisions of" those and future agreements. It remains a frequently cited example of a successful Confidence-Building Measure. A 1973 Protocol specifies certain regulations governing the Commission's operation.

