

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT*

The Roosevelt Room

....Because of the vigilance, the democratic values, the military strength of the United States and our allies, we won the Cold War. Our inheritance, our victory is a new chance to rebuild our economies and solve our problems in each of our countries while we reduce military spending. But our profound responsibility remains to redefine what it means to preserve security in this post-Cold War era. We must be strong. We must be resolute. And we must be safe.

This great task has certainly changed with the passage of the Cold War. The technologies of mass destruction in the hands of Russia and the United States are being reduced. But technologies of mass destruction that just a few years ago were possessed only by a handful of nations, and still are possessed only by a few, are becoming more widely available. It is now theoretically possible for many countries to build missiles, to have nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. This is a new and different challenge that requires new approaches and new thinking.

During my campaign for President, I promised a wholehearted commitment to achieving a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. A test ban can strengthen our efforts worldwide to halt the spread of nuclear technology in weapons. Last year, the Congress directed that a test ban be negotiated by 1996. And it established an interim moratorium on nuclear testing while we reviewed our requirements for further tests. That moratorium on testing expires soon.

Congress said that after the moratorium expires, but before a test ban was achieved, the United States could carry out up to 15 nuclear tests to ensure the safety and reliability of our weapons. After a thorough review, my administration has determined that the nuclear weapons in the United States arsenal are safe and reliable.

Additional nuclear tests could help us prepare for a test ban and provide for some additional improvements in safety and reliability. However, the price we would pay in

(* Excerpt from broadcast)