

THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA

6.

The Committee recommends that the Government of Canada take all possible action to encourage the United States and Russia to continue the START process.

Response

Success in promoting continued action by the United States and Russia to reduce their nuclear arsenals and the inclusion of the other NWS in a plurilateral arms reduction process would significantly strengthen the global non-proliferation regime.

Both bilaterally and in multilateral forums such as the UN and the Conference on Disarmament, Canada continues to urge Russia to ratify START II. Canada urges both Russia and the U.S. to proceed rapidly to agree to further deeper cuts through START III. Canada also supports the broadening of the bilateral START process to include other NWS.



In particular, Canada should encourage Russia to ratify START II, should provide concrete support towards achieving this objective, and should encourage like-minded States to work with Russia to ensure increased political and economic stability in that country.

Response

As indicated in the response to the previous recommendation, Canada is encouraging Russia to ratify START II. This issue was a prominent feature of the Minister of Foreign Affairs' November 1998 visit to Moscow, and of the latest round of the Canada-Russia Strategic Stability Talks, held at officials' level in Moscow in December 1998.

Ratification of START II has domestic political and budgetary ramifications in Russia, which Canada believes can best be alleviated by constructive dialogue in the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council and within the G8, and by placing the Russian economy on a secure macro-economic footing and addressing necessary structural reforms.

Russian ratification of START II will encourage further progress on the early entry into force of the CTBT, and START III negotiations. Further disarmament measures would follow. Canada is committed to deepening dialogue with Russia on START II and the broader non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament agenda.