

Q24: Why were the parameters for Category I missile systems set at a range of at least 300 km and a payload of at least 500 kg?

A24: The 300 km range was established for two reasons. First, this parameter corresponds to strategic distances in the most compact theaters of potential conflict where nuclear missiles might become a threat. Allowing for military practice of deploying long range missiles well back from a national border, a strategic distance is approximately 300 km or greater. Second, a 300 km range is a workable parameter with respect to existing international commerce. There are no large missile systems in widespread commerce with ranges of 300 km, with the possible exception of the Soviet SCUD B. Because there is substantial trade in missiles with lower ranges, the 300 km parameter is the lowest realistically achievable control parameter.

The 500 kg payload parameter takes into account the fact that potential nuclear weapons relevant to this policy are not highly sophisticated. It takes a relatively high level of technological expertise to make a very small warhead. Warheads of concern are likely to require a payload of 500 kg or greater.