

visited the Alpha Chemical Laser at the TRW facility at San Juan Capistrano, California, and the BEAR Neutral Particle Beam Experiment at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, New Mexico. The Soviet guests saw hardware up close and had an opportunity to ask questions of United States scientists conducting the research.

To continue the momentum, Secretary Baker took further initiatives. In the spring of 1990, the United States proposed that the United States and Soviet Union conclude a free-standing executive agreement on these measures. Later in 1990, the United States proposed pilot implementation of United States predictability measures - a "trial-run". And last fall, the United States proposed that the two sides conduct "dual pilot implementation" - the United States would demonstrate its proposed predictability measures, and the Soviet Union would demonstrate its measures.

The United States remains committed to reciprocal openness in this area which we believe would be inherently stabilizing, consistent with the developing trends in United States-Soviet relations. We also believe that early conclusion of a free-standing predictability measures agreement would afford us the opportunity to build greater trust upon which we could construct even greater successes in the Defense and Space Talks.

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With the proliferation of ballistic missile technology growing near Soviet borders, and with our GPALS plan, the United States believes Soviet attitudes should evolve to permit defences against mutual concerns. Although to date there has been no shift in the official Soviet position on the deployment of defences beyond the narrow limits of the ABM Treaty, we continue to see evidence of an internal Soviet discussion over the role of ballistic missile defences. In addition, missile defence is more consistent with the new Soviet emphasis on "defensive doctrine". Thus, incentives exist for the Soviets to join with us to explore constructive measures to counter emerging threats.

The changes in the international environment, the lessons learned from the Gulf War, the improvement in United States-Soviet relations, and the shift to a defensive doctrine in the Soviet Union all should encourage our Soviet colleagues to consider relaxation of ABM Treaty constraints to meet mutual concerns.

There is considerable reason for optimism in the Defense and Space Talks. Here in Geneva, following the signing of the START Treaty, Presidents Bush and Gorbachev, in their June 1990 Washington Joint Summit Statement, committed the United States and USSR to seek an "appropriate relationship between strategic offences and defences". This is a good sign. Soon, the United States and the Soviet Union will begin to construct this new regime that could permit greater reliance on defences. This commitment should enable the sides to build upon improving relations and achieve success in future Defense and Space Talks to deal cooperatively with the evolving international environment.