

SECTION I - ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT

The Institute welcomes comments on the Guide's utility and format, as well as suggestions for improvement. All such communications should be addressed to:

Background

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In January 1985 the Soviet Union agreed to begin negotiations "concerning the reduction of strategic and intermediate-range nuclear weapons, taking into account their interrelationships." Known as the Nuclear and Space Arms Talks (NSAT), the discussions have been divided into three distinct negotiations, involving: strategic nuclear arms, intermediate-range nuclear arms, and defence and space weapons.

An official name has been selected for the group dealing with strategic nuclear arms, though it is often referred to by the name of the earlier Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START). START, which ended without agreement in December 1984, was preceded by the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I (1969-72) and II (1972-79). Each of these negotiations dealt with intercontinental strategic nuclear weapons. Strategic weapons are generally defined as those weapons capable of reaching the territory of one superpower from that of another (specified in SALT II as those with a range in excess of 5500 km).

When the new START negotiations began on 27 March 1985, the opening positions of both sides demonstrated little change from those taken in the previous talks. By the end of the first round of the new negotiations (23 April 1985), the Soviet Union had suggested a track on