

- the US insistence on a ban on heavy ICBM modernization; and
- the Soviet position that there be a ban on either country contributing to the modernization of a third country's nuclear systems; for the US this would preclude support for the nuclear deterrent force of Great Britain.

On 20 September 1989, US Secretary of State James Baker responded to Soviet criticism that the US was dragging its feet on arms control, by announcing that it would drop its demand for a ban on mobile ICBMs, provided that Congress approved financing for both the MX and Midgetman mobile missiles.

More significant progress related to the START talks was made during two days of discussion between Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at Jackson Hole, Wyoming on 22 and 23 September. During those meetings it was revealed that the Soviet Union had dropped its insistence that a START treaty be accompanied by an agreement on Defence and Space Arms that restricted the US Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). The Soviets did reserve the right, however, to abrogate a future START agreement if the US were to conduct SDI tests that violated the strict interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

Also at Jackson Hole, Baker and Shevardnadze agreed to conduct trial verification inspections of each other's nuclear arsenals prior to the signing of a START treaty, and to provide each other with at least two weeks' notification of one strategic exercise per year involving heavy nuclear-capable bombers. They announced as well that progress had been made on ways to monitor limits on mobile missiles, and to define ballistic missiles in terms of the missile and its associated launcher. Finally, in a significant move towards the US position, Shevardnadze suggested at Jackson Hole that SLCMs "could be limited outside of the text of a START treaty on the basis of reciprocal obligations."

At the Bush-Gorbachev Summit in Malta in early December, the two sides agreed to resolve the major disputes in START by June 1990 and to sign a treaty before the end of that year.

From 8 February to 10 February 1990 talks were held between Baker and Shevardnadze in Moscow. As a result, the two sides moved closer to resolving their differences over the counting of stored ballistic missiles, limits on SLCMs and ALCMs, and the issue of missile telemetry. They agreed to limit only those stored or undeployed missiles tested from mobile launchers. Regarding SLCMs, the US formally accepted the formula proposed by the USSR at Jackson Hole, namely that each side exchange binding declarations with the other side on the number of SLCMs deployed. These limits would be separate from, but remain in force for the duration of, a START treaty, with each side pledging not to exceed its declared number.