

by the Treaty. Within this upper limit, there is a sub-limit of 4,900 on warheads deployed on ICBMs and SLBMs. No more than 1,540 warheads may be deployed on heavy ICBMs, and no more than 1,100 on mobile ICBMs.

Under the terms of the Treaty, new types of heavy ICBMs are banned, as are heavy SLBMs and their launchers, and mobile launchers for heavy ICBMs. New ICBMs and SLBMs which have more than ten warheads are also prohibited. As part of a general trend towards having fewer warheads on strategic missiles, both sides will be permitted to "download" warheads from existing deployed missiles so that missiles which previously had ten warheads might now be deployed with only six or eight. Determining an upper limit of 1,250 on the number of free spaces that could be created this way was one of the final issues to be resolved in the negotiations. Placing an upper limit was considered very important because the possibility always remains that these warheads could be replaced (or uploaded) quickly.

The reductions the US and the Soviet Union will need to make to reach these levels amounts to approximately one-third of their presently deployed arsenals. (See STRATEGIC NUCLEAR BALANCE in the FACTS AND FIGURES section.)

Reductions will occur in three phases over a seven year period. The Treaty itself will last for fifteen years, with the option of renewal for five-year periods after that. Under a separate political agreement, both sides agree not to exceed 880 nuclear-armed sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs) with ranges above 600 kilometres. Since neither side is anywhere near that upper limit, this is a very minimal constraint. Annual declarations of policy and planned deployments of SLCMs will also be given. Confidential data exchanges about nuclear-armed SLCMs with ranges between 300 and 600 kilometres will occur.

Under the counting rules established for strategic bombers, bombers loaded with nuclear bombs and short-range missiles will count as one launcher against the 1,600 limit and one warhead against the 6,000 warhead ceiling, regardless of the number of weapons actually carried. The US bombers carry a maximum of twenty air-launched cruise missiles (ALCMs), but only ten warheads will be counted against the 6,000 ceiling. One hundred and fifty US bombers can be counted in this way. Bombers with ALCMs in excess of this 150 limit will be counted with the actual number of warheads deployed on them. The Soviet bombers can carry a maximum of sixteen ALCMs and will be counted as eight warheads against the 6,000 ceiling. The Soviet Union is permitted to count 180 bombers this way.

The START Treaty is also important for its extensive verification provisions. These include information exchanges, a consultative commission and twelve types of on-site inspection. On-site inspection provisions include suspect site inspections, continuous perimeter portal monitoring of