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## NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE ZONES AND THE NORDIC NWFZ PROPOSAL

As noted above, the vast bulk of arms control proposals focused on the Arctic region have consisted of variations on the theme of nuclear weapon-free zones. Proponents of such ideas often cite the fact that similar zones have been proposed for many other parts of the world, and that historical precedents exist for successfully negotiated agreements on the subject. Among the latter are usually included the Antarctic (1959), Outer Space (1967), and Seabed (1971) Treaties. However, the first two of these are more properly considered to be *demilitarization*, rather than *denuclearization*, agreements, the scope of their prohibitions extending well beyond (while admittedly encompassing) nuclear weapons. The Seabed Treaty is more strictly a denuclearization agreement, while covering in addition "other weapons of mass destruction," but, of course, applies only to unpopulated areas of the world and is global, rather than regional, in geographic scope.

It is true that NWFZs have been proposed for almost every region of the globe. In most cases, however, the idea has gone no further than successive United Nations debates and General Assembly resolutions, and in some cases not even this far. Nuclear weapon-free zones were a popular device of the Soviet Union and its allies in early attempts to forestall the deployment of American nuclear weapons in such areas as Europe and the Mediterranean, and were rejected by the Western states largely for this reason. Later, NWFZs were invoked primarily as a means of helping to stem the "horizontal" proliferation of independent nuclear weapons capabilities to countries that did not already possess them. In this role they were seen as