

all remaining nuclear weapons would be eliminated.

The nuclear freeze, insofar as it would stop nuclear testing, is related to the question of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTB), which itself stems back to before 1963 when the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTB) was signed. The idea of a comprehensive test ban has received renewed attention during the 1982-1988 period.

Direct tripartite negotiations on CTB among the US, UK and USSR were interrupted in 1982 when Reagan indicated that the US was no longer interested in a CTB. The lack of interest was due not only to doubts about verification (probably unwarranted, because of technical advances in seismology), but more to the expressed need for periodic testing of the stockpiled weapons to guard against deterioration (though other means of spot-checking exist, according to some experts), and even more (it is suspected) to the desire to test a whole new generation of nuclear weapons, e.g., the x-ray laser which would form part of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Some experts characterize this as "the third generation of nuclear weapons," the first being fission bombs and the second hydrogen (fission-fusion-fission) bombs. These third generation bombs would be more highly specialized, e.g., to enhance x-ray production, or neutron production (Taylor, 1987). Since the whole point of wanting a CTB is to stop such "modernization," it seems simply that the Reagan administration does not subscribe to the main purpose that a CTB would serve.

In 1985-6, the USSR carried out its unilateral moratorium on underground nuclear tests, as already stated, and challenged the US to reciprocate. When no reciprocation was forthcoming, the USSR resumed its underground tests, explaining that it must not get behind in the arms race--which