

1. **The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)\*.** This is an attempt to stop the spread of nuclear weapons to more countries. In effect, the states with nuclear weapons undertook not to supply either the weapons or the weapons technology to countries not possessing them, but promised to share their knowledge of the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. They also agreed to negotiate effective measures for nuclear disarmament. Canada has taken its responsibilities under the Treaty seriously and has imposed stringent controls on the sale of uranium and of the CANDU nuclear reactor for generating electricity. The government has been willing to sacrifice commercial benefits in its effort to control the spread of nuclear weapons. However, not every nation sees the NPT this way. Some regard it as a form of discrimination.

2. **Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons (BW).** A convention banning the development, production and stockpiling of these weapons was opened for signature in 1972 and came into force in 1975. Those signing agreed to destroy any stockpiles they might have, and it is the first multilateral agreement providing for the actual destruction of existing stocks of weapons.

3. **Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.** The first agreement was signed in 1972, and it included a ban on the deployment of anti-ballistic missile missiles (ABMs). SALT II, signed in 1979, set numerical ceilings for inter-continental and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (ICBMs and SLBMs). SALT II has never been ratified. President Carter withdrew it from the Senate after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. SALT is a bilateral process between the USA and USSR and the agreements are binding only on them. If nuclear arms control is to be truly effective, the other nuclear weapon states – Britain, France and China – will have to be included.

---

\* The NPT was opened for signature in 1968 and came into force in 1970.