

7415462

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

August 30, 1974

The President:

I have the honor to submit to you the Protocol to the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty). This Protocol was signed in Moscow on July 3, 1974. It is my recommendation that it be transmitted to the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification.

The ABM Treaty prohibits the deployment of operational ABM systems or their components except at two deployment areas, one centered on a Party's national capital area and the other in a separate area containing ICBM silo launchers, at least 1,300 kilometers distant. However, neither Party has yet deployed ABM systems or components in the second of the two ABM deployment areas permitted to it.

In the Protocol, which would amend the ABM Treaty, the Parties have agreed that they will further limit their ABM deployments to one site and will not deploy an ABM system or components thereof in a second deployment area as now permitted by Article III of the ABM Treaty. Upon its entry into force, the Protocol will become an integral part of the ABM Treaty.

The President,

The White House.

The Protocol consists of four preambular paragraphs and four articles. The preamble sets forth the common premises and objectives of the United States and the Soviet Union in concluding this Protocol. In the first and second paragraphs the Parties indicate the significance of the Basic Principles of Relations Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, signed on May 29, 1972, in the negotiation of this Protocol, and express their desire to further the objectives of the ABM Treaty. In the third and fourth paragraphs, the Parties set forth their view that further limitation of strategic arms would contribute to international peace and security, and that further limitations of anti-ballistic missile systems will create more favorable conditions for the conclusion of a permanent agreement on more complete measures for the limitation of strategic offensive arms.

Article I provides that each Party to the ABM Treaty shall be limited to a single ABM deployment area at any one time and shall not exercise its right to deploy ABM systems or their components in a second area as permitted by Article III of the Treaty, except as an exchange of one deployment area for the other in accordance with Article II of the Protocol. As a result the United States would not be entitled to deploy ABM systems or their components for defense of its national capital area and the Soviet Union would not be entitled to deploy ABM systems or their components to defend a separate area containing intercontinental ballistic missile silo launchers, except as permitted by Article II.

Article II of the Protocol provides that each Party may dismantle or destroy the ABM system and its components in the area in which they are currently deployed and deploy an ABM system or its components in the alternative area permitted by Article III of the ABM Treaty. As a result, the United States could transfer its ABM deployment to an area centered on its national capital and the Soviet Union could transfer its ABM deployment to a separate area, located at least 1,300 kilometers from Moscow, containing inter-continental ballistic missile silo launchers. The right of each Party to such a change in deployment areas may be exercised only once.

Notification of the exercise of this option must be given, prior to initiation of construction of the new ABM complex, in accord with a procedure to be agreed upon in the Standing Consultative Commission (SCC) established by the Parties pursuant to Article XIII of the ABM Treaty. Such notification may only be given during the year beginning October 3, 1977, and ending October 2, 1978, or any year which commences at five-year intervals after October 3, 1977. These years are the years prescribed for periodic review of the ABM Treaty.

Should either Party give notice and exercise its right to exchange deployment areas, dismantling or destruction of its existing ABM deployment and notification thereof must be carried out in accordance with Article VIII of the ABM Treaty in the shortest possible agreed period of time under agreed procedures to be negotiated in the SCC. New ABM deployment and notification thereof must also be carried out pursuant to procedures agreed to in the SCC.

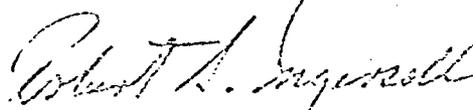
Article III provides that the obligations of the ABM Treaty shall remain in force except as modified by the Protocol, and that, in particular, the ABM deployments in the area selected by each Party shall remain limited by the numerical levels and other requirements established by the Treaty.

Article IV provides that the Protocol is subject to ratification in accordance with the constitutional procedures of each Party and shall upon its entry into force be considered an integral part of the ABM Treaty.

The ABM Treaty constitutes a major achievement in arms limitation and enhancement of strategic stability in that it limits the ABM capabilities of the United States and the Soviet Union to a low level. By means of this Protocol the permitted level and potential extent of ABM deployments will be further limited to one site for each Party, thereby reinforcing the ABM Treaty provision that neither side will establish a nationwide ABM defense or a base for such a defense.

This Protocol should further strengthen the strategic relationship established by the ABM Treaty and I hope that it can be brought into force as soon as practicable.

Respectfully submitted,



The Acting Secretary of State

Enclosure:

Protocol to the Treaty  
between the United States  
of America and the Union  
of Soviet Socialist  
Republics on the Limita-  
tion of Anti-Ballistic  
Missile Systems