

No. 13445

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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and  
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Interim Agreement on certain measures with respect to the limitation of strategic offensive arms (with protocol). Signed at Moscow on 26 May 1972**

*Authentic texts: English and Russian.*

*Registered by the United States of America on 2 August 1974.*

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**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE  
et  
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES  
SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Accord intérimaire relatif à certaines mesures concernant la limitation des armes offensives stratégiques (avec protocole). Signé à Moscou le 26 mai 1972**

*Textes authentiques: anglais et russe.*

*Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 2 août 1974.*

## INTERIM AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON CERTAIN MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS

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The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Convinced that the Treaty on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems<sup>2</sup> and this Interim Agreement on certain measures with respect to the limitation of strategic offensive arms will contribute to the creation of more favorable conditions for active negotiations on limiting strategic arms as well as to the relaxation of international tension and the strengthening of trust between States,

Taking into account the relationship between strategic offensive and defensive arms,

Mindful of their obligations under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,<sup>3</sup>

Have agreed as follows:

*Article I.* The Parties undertake not to start construction of additional fixed land-based intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launchers after July 1, 1972.

*Article II.* The Parties undertake not to convert land-based launchers for light ICBMs, or for ICBMs of older types deployed prior to 1964, into land-based launchers for heavy ICBMs of types deployed after that time.

*Article III.* The Parties undertake to limit submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) launchers and modern ballistic missile submarines to the numbers operational and under construction on the date of signature of this Interim Agreement, and in addition to launchers and submarines constructed under procedures established by the Parties as replacements for an equal number of ICBM launchers of older types deployed prior to 1964 or for launchers on older submarines.

*Article IV.* Subject to the provisions of this Interim Agreement, modernization and replacement of strategic offensive ballistic missiles and launchers covered by this Interim Agreement may be undertaken.

*Article V.* 1. For the purpose of providing assurance of compliance with the provisions of this Interim Agreement, each Party shall use national technical means of verification at its disposal in a manner consistent with generally recognized principles of international law.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 3 October 1972, upon exchange of written notices of acceptance by the Parties (effected simultaneously with the exchange of instruments of ratification of the Treaty of 26 May 1972 on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems (see note 2 below), in accordance with article VIII (1)).

<sup>2</sup> See p. 13 of this volume.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, p. 161.

2. Each Party undertakes not to interfere with the national technical means of verification of the other Party operating in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article.

3. Each Party undertakes not to use deliberate concealment measures which impede verification by national technical means of compliance with the provisions of this Interim Agreement. This obligation shall not require changes in current construction, assembly, conversion, or overhaul practices.

*Article VI.* To promote the objectives and implementation of the provisions of this Interim Agreement, the Parties shall use the Standing Consultative Commission established under article XIII of the Treaty on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems in accordance with the provisions of that article.

*Article VII.* The Parties undertake to continue active negotiations for limitations on strategic offensive arms. The obligations provided for in this Interim Agreement shall not prejudice the scope or terms of the limitations on strategic offensive arms which may be worked out in the course of further negotiations.

*Article VIII.* 1. This Interim Agreement shall enter into force upon exchange of written notices of acceptance by each Party, which exchange shall take place simultaneously with the exchange of instruments of ratification of the Treaty on the limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems.

2. This Interim Agreement shall remain in force for a period of five years unless replaced earlier by an agreement on more complete measures limiting strategic offensive arms. It is the objective of the Parties to conduct active follow-on negotiations with the aim of concluding such an agreement as soon as possible.

3. Each Party shall, in exercising its national sovereignty, have the right to withdraw from this Interim Agreement if it decides that extraordinary events related to the subject matter of this Interim Agreement have jeopardized its supreme interests. It shall give notice of its decision to the other Party six months prior to withdrawal from this Interim Agreement. Such notice shall include a statement of the extraordinary events the notifying Party regards as having jeopardized its supreme interests.

DONE at Moscow on May 26, 1972, in two copies, each in the English and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the United States  
of America:

RICHARD NIXON

(President  
of the United States  
of America)

For the Union of Soviet  
Socialist Republics:

Л. БРЕЖНЕВ<sup>1</sup>

(General Secretary  
of the Central Committee  
of the CPSU)

<sup>1</sup> L. Brezhnev.

## PROTOCOL

TO THE INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON CERTAIN MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS

The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Having agreed on certain limitations relating to submarine-launched ballistic missile launchers and modern ballistic missile submarines, and to replacement procedures, in the Interim Agreement,

Have agreed as follows:

The Parties understand that, under article III of the Interim Agreement, for the period during which that Agreement remains in force:

The U.S. may have no more than 710 ballistic missile launchers on submarines (SLBMs) and no more than 44 modern ballistic missile submarines. The Soviet Union may have no more than 950 ballistic missile launchers on submarines and no more than 62 modern ballistic missile submarines.

Additional ballistic missile launchers on submarines up to the above-mentioned levels, in the U.S. over 656 ballistic missile launchers on nuclear-powered submarines, and in the U.S.S.R. over 740 ballistic missile launchers on nuclear-powered submarines, operational and under construction, may become operational as replacements for equal numbers of ballistic missile launchers of older types deployed prior to 1964 or of ballistic missile launchers on older submarines.

The deployment of modern SLBMs on any submarine, regardless of type, will be counted against the total level of SLBMs permitted for the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

This Protocol shall be considered an integral part of the Interim Agreement.

DONE at Moscow this 26th day of May, 1972.

For the United States  
of America:

RICHARD NIXON

(President  
of the United States  
of America)

For the Union of Soviet  
Socialist Republics:

Л. БРЕЖНЕВ<sup>1</sup>

(General Secretary  
of the Central Committee  
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<sup>1</sup> L. Brezhnev.