

October 12, 1990

NATIONAL SECURITY DIRECTIVE 50

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY  
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS  
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
THE DIRECTOR, ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

SUBJECT: Decisions on START and CFE Issues (U)

I remain committed to achieving START and CFE agreements that enhance U.S. national security and strengthen international stability. Consistent with that objective, completion of both treaties during the remainder of 1990 remains an important goal. I have made the following decisions to achieve these two objectives. (C)

START

1. **Backfire.** The United States has reached an agreement in principle with the Soviet Union on a politically binding commitment not to give Backfire the capability to operate at intercontinental ranges, through in-flight refueling or in any other manner.

[REDACTED] (S) 1.5 (d)

2. **Missile and Re-Entry Vehicle Elimination.**

[REDACTED] (S) 1.5 (d)

3. Non-Circumvention.

[Redacted]

1.5  
(d)

4. Ban on Third-Country Basing.

[Redacted]

1.5  
(d)

5. **Limits on Heavy ICBMs.** On the understanding that the United States will seek the ultimate elimination of heavy ICBMs in follow-on negotiations, and that the Backfire and non-circumvention issues are satisfactorily resolved, the U.S. may accept a package of constraints on heavy ICBMs consisting of the following:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.

[Redacted]

1.5  
(d)

6. **Throw-weight Limits.** The United States and Soviet Union have agreed to a requirement to reduce current Soviet ballistic missile throw-weight by "approximately 50 percent." The specific throw-weight reductions the United States will require to achieve this objective will depend in part on Soviet willingness to accept U.S. proposals in related areas. For example, in the context of the proposed U.S.-Soviet compromise on the limitation of the "potential throw-weight" of future types of ballistic

missiles,

[REDACTED]

1.5  
(d)

(S)

7. Related Issues.

[REDACTED]

1.5  
(d)

(S)

CFE

1. Aircraft Limits.

[REDACTED]

1.5  
(d)

(S)

(S)

1.5  
(d)

2. Sufficiency Rule.

[REDACTED]

1.5  
(d)

(S)

3. Zones.

[REDACTED]

1.5  
(d)

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1.5(d)

(S)

4. **CSCE Summit.** It continues to be the policy of the United States that the CSCE Summit should only be held when the CFE agreement has been completed. Accordingly, my attendance at such a summit is contingent on the CFE agreement having been completed. (S)

Except as modified by the foregoing, NSD-40 remains in effect.  
(U)

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