

**PROTOCOL TO THE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON THE
REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS**

The Republic of Byelarus¹, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Reaffirming their support for the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of July 31, 1991, hereinafter referred to as the Treaty,

Recognizing the altered political situation resulting from the replacement of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics with a number of independent states,

Recalling the commitment of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States that the nuclear weapons of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will be maintained under the safe, secure, and reliable control of a single unified authority,

Desiring to facilitate implementation of the Treaty in this altered situation,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

The Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine, as successor states of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in connection with the Treaty, shall assume the obligations of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics under the Treaty.

ARTICLE II

The Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine shall make such arrangements among themselves as are required to implement the Treaty's limits and restrictions; to allow functioning of the verification provisions of the Treaty equally and consistently throughout the territory of the Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine; and to allocate costs.

ARTICLE III

1. For purposes of Treaty implementation, the phrase, "Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" shall be interpreted to mean the Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine.

¹ Spelling as appears in the original English Text of Protocol. In other documents, the revised official spelling "Belarus" is used.

2. For purposes of Treaty implementation, the phrase, "national territory," when used in the Treaty to refer to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, shall be interpreted to mean the combined national territories of the Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine.

3. For inspections and continuous monitoring activities on the territory of the Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, or Ukraine, that state shall provide communications from the inspection site or continuous monitoring site to the Embassy of the United States in the respective capital.

4. For purposes of Treaty implementation, the embassy of the Inspecting Party referred to in Section XVI of the Protocol on Inspections and Continuous Monitoring Activities Relating to the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms shall be construed to be the embassy of the respective state in Washington or the embassy of the United States of America in the respective capital.

5. The working languages for Treaty activities shall be English and Russian.

ARTICLE IV

Representatives of the Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine will participate in the Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission on a basis to be worked out consistent with Article I of this Protocol.

ARTICLE V

The Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Ukraine shall adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of July 1, 1968 as non-nuclear weapon states Parties in the shortest possible time, and shall begin immediately to take all necessary action to this end in accordance with their constitutional practices.

ARTICLE VI

1. Each Party shall ratify the Treaty together with this Protocol in accordance with its own constitutional procedures. The Republic of Byelarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine shall exchange instruments of ratification with the United States of America. The Treaty shall enter into force on the date of the final exchange of instruments of ratification.

2. This Protocol shall be an integral part of the Treaty and shall remain in force throughout the duration of the Treaty.

Done at Lisbon on May 23, 1992, in five copies, each in the Byelarussian, English, Kazakh, Russian, and Ukrainian languages, all texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF BYELARUS:

P. Kravchanka

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN:

T. Zhukeyev

FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

A. Kozyrev

FOR UKRAINE:

A. Zlenko

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

James A. Baker, III

THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

May 20, 1992

Dear Mr. President:

In connection with the impending ratification by the Republic of Belarus of the 1991 Treaty between the United States of America and the USSR on Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, I have the honor to advise you that the Republic of Belarus, in implementing this Treaty, will be able to assume the following obligations.

In accordance with the letter and spirit of the Declaration on the State Sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus, which has been given constitutional status, Belarus will take all the measures to achieve the status of a non-nuclear state. I note with satisfaction, Mr. President, that in its successful progress made in this direction, Belarus as of now has already completely freed itself of the tactical nuclear weapons that were located in its territory.

The Republic of Belarus guarantees the elimination of all nuclear strategic offensive arms located in its territory in accordance with the relevant agreements concluded by Belarus and during the seven-year period as provided by the START Treaty, on condition that the Russian Federation will be prepared to receive the nuclear strategic offensive arms removed from the territory of Belarus during this period of time.

Naturally, Mr. President, the Republic of Belarus will conduct this activity with due account of its national security interests, and when controversial issues arise, the Republic of Belarus will consult with the other Parties to the Treaty.

It is the view of the Republic of Belarus that the process of destruction of nuclear weapons should be carried out under rigorous and effective international control.

Accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my highest consideration.

S. Shushkevich
/s/

Chairman of the Supreme Soviet
of the Republic of Belarus

His Excellency George Bush
President of the United States of America
[Washington, D. C.]

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

May 19, 1992

To the President of the United States
of America
Mr. George Bush

Dear Mr. President:

In connection with the ratification by Kazakhstan of the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms of 1991, I have the honor to inform you that for the purposes of implementing the above mentioned Treaty, Kazakhstan undertakes the following obligation.

Kazakhstan guarantees the carrying out of the elimination of all kinds of nuclear weapons, including strategic offensive arms, located on its territory, over a period of seven years in accordance with the START Treaty.

Sincerely yours,
/s/

N. Nazarbayev
President of the
Republic of Kazakhstan

PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

May 7, 1992
Kiev

Dear Mr. President:

In connection with the ratification by Ukraine of the 1991 Treaty between the United States and the USSR on the Reduction of Strategic Offensive Arms, I have the honor to advise you that Ukraine, in implementing this Treaty, shall assume the following obligations.

In accordance with the Declaration on the State Sovereignty of Ukraine adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on July 16, 1990, and with the Statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the Non-Nuclear Status of Ukraine adopted on October 24, 1991, Ukraine shall have a non-nuclear status, will abide by the three non-nuclear principles in the future, and emphasizes its right to control over the non-use of nuclear weapons deployed in its territory.

Ukraine shall guarantee the elimination of all nuclear weapons, including strategic offensive arms, located in its territory in accordance with the relevant agreements and during the seven-year period as provided by the START Treaty and within the context of the Statement of the Non-Nuclear Status of Ukraine. Ukraine will take into account its national security interests in conducting this activity. In this connection, if any questions should arise Ukraine will consult with the other Parties to the Treaty.

In addition, I should like to note that the process of elimination of nuclear weapons in Ukraine should be carried out under reliable international control which should guarantee the non-use of nuclear charge components for repeated production of weapons and should prevent their export to other countries.

Respectfully,
/s/

Leonid Kravchuk
President of Ukraine

His Excellency George Bush
President of the United States of America
Washington, D. C.