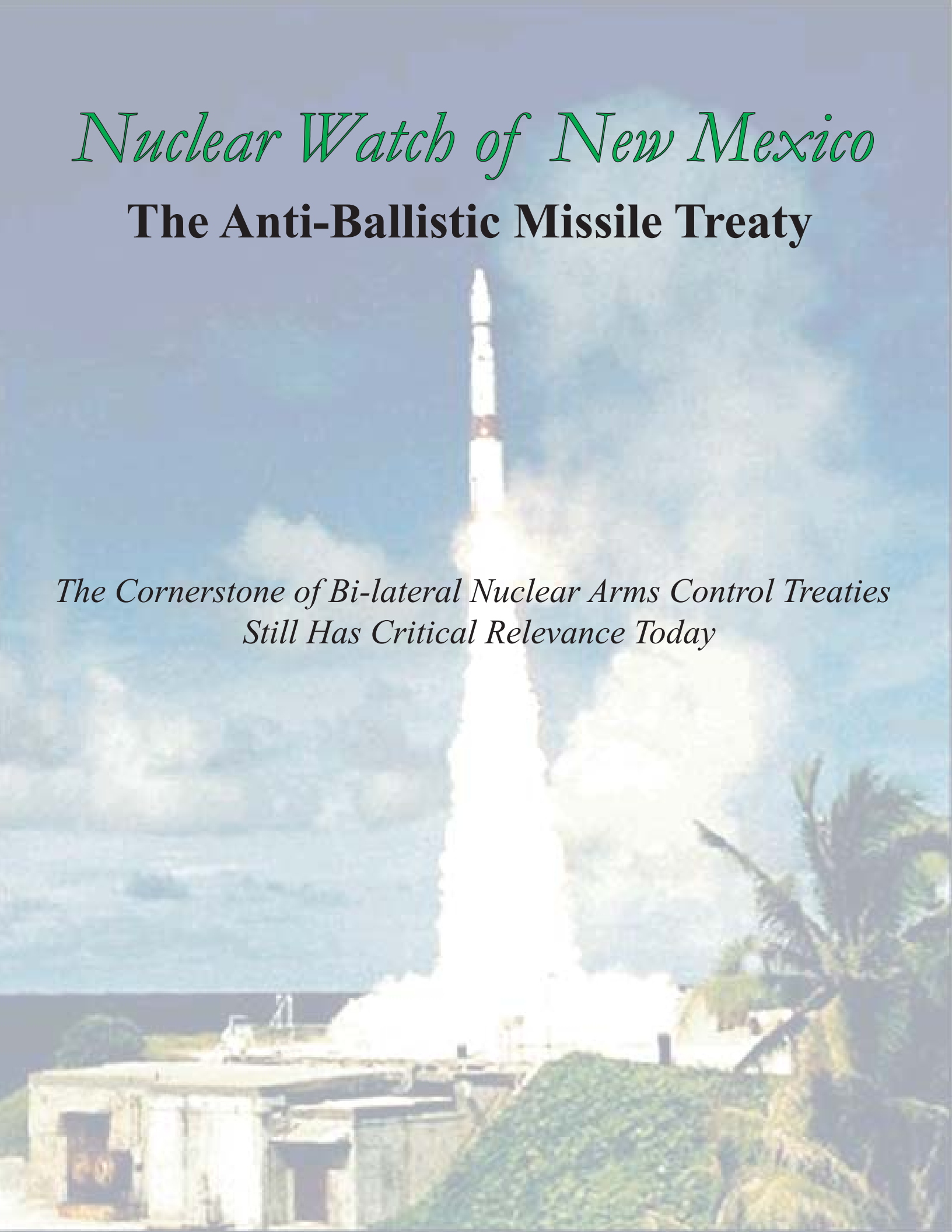


Nuclear Watch of New Mexico

The Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

*The Cornerstone of Bi-lateral Nuclear Arms Control Treaties
Still Has Critical Relevance Today*



responsible for developing NMD, states that American "Control of Space is the ability to assure access to space, freedom of operations within the space medium, and the ability to deny others the use of space protecting US military, civil, and commercial investments in space."²⁶ US Space Command "will have a greatly expanded role as an active warfighter with the potential for a space-based global precision strike capability [including] space-based strike weapons" and space-based laser systems for NMD.²⁷ This doctrine defies several international treaties, including the ABM Treaty which forbids the deployment of ABM systems in space and the Outer Space Treaty of 1967 which prohibits weapons of mass destruction in space. Current American space doctrine further pushes the US into a position in which it is forced to rely ever more on its military fire-power to achieve national objectives, rather than multi-lateral cooperation. The US Space Command agenda brings us one step closer to a true Fortress America.

In conclusion, the US must proceed with great caution on the subject of NMD. The principle of self-defense is, of course, good. However, we need to think through unintended consequences, the appropriate allocation of resources, and how other nations will perceive NMD as a threat. The US must weigh every piece of evidence before it conclusively decides either to withdraw from the ABM treaty, unilaterally or otherwise. For its own good, the US must consider the global strategic balance as well as its own national security when making a decision in this world "forever changed" by September 11, 2001. Above all, American plans for a NMD should not be used as cover for future US militarization of space. What is required now is a skeptical approach to what will likely be the illusory safety of a National Missile Defense.

¹ "Space Wars," Senator Robert Byrd, The Congressional Record, 9/26/01. pp. S9826-28.

² Please see the source text and related documents on the US State Department web site at <http://www.state.gov/www/global/arms/treaties/abmpage.html>. All quotes from the Treaty are made from this text.

³ 1997 Annual Report, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA). <http://dosfan.lib.uic.edu/acda/reports/annual/chpt1.html>. Please note that the ACDA was folded into the US State Department in 1999, much to the dismay of the non-governmental arms control community.

⁴ "Agreed Statements, Common Understandings, and Unilateral Statements Regarding the Treaty Between the US and the USSR on the Limitations of Anti-Ballistic Missiles," May 26, 1972.

⁵ "Protocol to the Treaty between the US and the USSR on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems," July 3, 1974.

⁶ "Agreed Statement," Section I, Standing Consultative Commission, November 1, 1978.

⁷ "Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the US and the Government of the USSR Regarding the Establishment of a Standing Consultative Commission," December 21, 1972.

⁸ "US Unilateral Statement Following ABM Treaty Review," August 31, 1988.

⁹ "Soviet Statement in Connection with the Third Review of the Treaty Between the US and the USSR on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems," September 1, 1988.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² "Ballistic Missile Early Warning System," Federation of American Scientists, <http://www.fas.org/spp/military/program/nssrm/initiatives/clear.htm>.

¹³ Russian federal legislative body similar in some respects to the US House of Representatives.

¹⁴ "A Guide to the Nuclear Arms Control Treaties," David B. Thomson, July 1999, Los Alamos National Laboratory's Russian Nonproliferation Programs Office, LA-UR-99-3173, page 231.

¹⁵ Telephone conversation between Peter Olson, Arms Control Legal Advisor, US State Department, and Colin King, NWNM, July 2001.

¹⁶ Telephone conversation between Senate Foreign Relations Committee Aid and Colin King, NWNM, July 2001.

¹⁷ Senator Carl Levin, quoting James Baker, *Remarks of Senator Carl Levin on National Missile Defense* at the

National Defense University Forum Breakfast on Ballistic Missile Defense, May 11, 2001, <http://levin.senate.gov/releases/051101pr5.htm>.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Any possible transfer of technical information to India by the US would clearly be a violation of Article IX which explicitly forbids the transfer of technical information or expertise relating to ABM systems from any Party State to another nation.

²¹ "SCC Agreed Statement Regarding Certain Provisions of Articles II, IV, and VI of the Treaty Between the US and the USSR on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems of May 26, 1972, and the Utilization of Air Defense Radars at the Test Ranges Referred to in Article IV of the Treaty;" Section I; November 1, 1978.

²² "Status of the National Missile Defense Program," General Accounting Office, May 2000, <http://www.gao.gov/archive/2000/ns00131.pdf>.

²³ Telephone conversation between LANL retiree and Colin King, NWNM, September 2001.

²⁴ India and Pakistan have fought three wars since 1947 over the disputed area of Kashmir. Sporadic military conflict and terrorism continues to this day, raising the potential threat of a nuclear war in South Asia.

²⁵ "Full Spectrum Dominance" is the term used by the US military for American dominance in all potential battlefields. According to current US military doctrine there are four battlefields: land, sea, air, and space. Please see "Vision for 2020 Executive Summary," United States Space Command, August 1997, <http://www.spacecom.af.mil/hqafspc/>

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Ibid.*

Distribution of this report is encouraged. This paper can be found on the web at <http://www.nukewatch.org> in Adobe Acrobat PDF format.

Questions, comments, and corrections are welcome. Please send them to: Nuclear Watch of New Mexico, 551 W. Cordova Rd., #808, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-4100. Phone 505-989-7342. Email colinking@nukewatch.org

Cover photograph: a Minuteman II missile with Kill Vehicle launched from Kwajalien Missile Range, South Pacific Ocean. Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, <http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/bmdolink.html>

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