



Nuclear Weapons, Arms Control, and Non-Proliferation

Excerpts from recent speeches by Governor Bill Clinton

I believe we can dramatically reduce our nuclear arsenals through negotiations and other reciprocal actions. But as an irreducible minimum, we must retain a survivable nuclear force to deter any conceivable threat.

First, now that the nuclear arms race finally has reversed course, it's time for a prudent slowdown in strategic modernization. We should stop production of the B-2 bomber. That alone could save \$20 billion by 1997.

Since Ronald Reagan unveiled his "Star Wars" proposal in 1983, America has spent \$26 billion in futile pursuit of a fool-proof defense against nuclear attack. Democrats in Congress have recommended a much more realistic and attainable goal: defending against very limited or accidental launches of ballistic missiles. This allows us to proceed with R&D on missile defense within the framework of the ABM treaty -- a prudent step as more and more countries acquire missile technology.

At the same time, we must do more to stop the threat of weapons of mass destruction from spreading. We need to clamp down on countries and companies that sell these technologies, punish violators, and work urgently with all countries for tough, enforceable, international non-proliferation agreements.

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