

Nuclear Arms Pact --
155 Details Revealed

A 2-Part Accord on Weapons

Washington

The United States and the Soviet Union have each agreed to keep their offensive nuclear arsenals limited to fewer than 2500 bombers and missiles under the tentative accord worked out by President Ford and Soviet Party leader Leonid Brezhnev in Vladivostok.

American officials here and those who are traveling with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in Peking said that under the proposed arrangement, which would last until 1985, the United States would probably not have to make any substantial cuts in its current force, but that the Russians would.

The exact number of weapons that will be permitted each side has not yet been made public, pending Mr. Ford's briefing of key congressional leaders this morning.

At that time, he will reveal the dimensions of the agreement, the outline of which was made public in Vladivostok Sunday and which led Mr. Ford to return home in an exultant mood.

There were two major parts of the accord: One was the ceiling of fewer than 2500 on the number of strategic delivery vehicles; the other is a limit on the number of missiles within the total of strategic delivery vehicles that will be permitted to carry multiple warheads, a field in which the United States now has a large lead over the Soviet Union.

Under the accord, as explained by Kissinger and others, it appears that the Russians have agreed to curtail their lead in the number of strategic delivery vehicles over the United States, and the Americans to some restraint in the number of missiles on which it could conceivably put multiple warheads.

At present, the United States has converted more than 750 of its 1710 missiles

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to carry the so-called MIRVs, an acronym for multiple independently-targetable re-entry vehicles. The Russians, who have about 2300 missiles, have not yet been able to deploy MIRVs, but are testing them.

The United States has about 500 long-range B-52 strategic bombers on service, giving it a total of about 2200 delivery vehicles. This total does not include some 75 smaller bombers, the FB-111, based in the United States, or another 100 B-52s in mothballs.

The Russians, in addition to the 2300 missiles, also

have about 140 long-range bombers, giving them a total of about 2440 delivery vehicles.

Kissinger, in a news conference in Vladivostok Sunday, seemed to hint that the United States might, under the accord, be able to retain its force now in operation, while the Russians would have to cut back somewhat on the size of their combined missile-bomber force.

He was asked if the limits permitted were higher than the "existing forces" of both sides.

Kissinger said "no." He said that for the United States, "This is somewhat more complex to calculate,

depending on what weapons you count."

"For the Soviet Union," he said, "it is clearly below the limits and for both sides, it is substantially below their capability."

Newsmen were assured by Kissinger that the accord did not block any current weapons program, meaning that work could proceed on the next generation nuclear submarine, the Trident, and the newest bomber, the B-1.

But as these weapons are phased into the American arsenal at the end of the decade, older models must be removed so that the ceiling is not violated, Kissinger said.

On the crucial size of each side's number of missiles that can carry MIRVs, it was assumed by knowledgeable congressional experts that the United States will not have to give up any of the more than 750 missiles already equipped with multiple warheads, but that the total number of missiles that can be "MIRVed" will be fewer than the programmed total of about 1000.

Under long-range planning, the United States could "MIRV" all its 1,710 missiles.

The United States, as the result of the 750 missiles so far converted, is believed to have more than 6000 individual warheads, as against the Soviet Union's 2300.

With unlimited "MIRV" over a long period of time however, the Russians could outstrip the United States in the number of warheads since they have more individual missiles.

The exact nature of the accord, must still be worked out in detail over the next six months so that a formal agreement, including such matters as verification procedures, can be signed when Brezhnev visits Washington in June.

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