

# **PORG MUN 2019**



## **ADDRESSING THE POSSIBLE END OF THE INF TREATY**

### **Forum: Disarmament and Social Security**

# **INTRODUCTION**

In 1987 the bilateral INF Treaty (Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty) was signed by the United States of America and the United Soviet Socialists Republic. The treaty was signed in order to permanently dispose of the land-based ballistic and cruise missiles with the ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometres, in the arsenal of both sides. This was the first time any of the two superpowers had agreed mutually to reduce their weapons stocks. However recently problems have been occurring regarding the treaty and the two sides involved. The United States had said that they would withdraw from the treaty, as they claim Russia (the successor of the USSR) has violated the agreement for a long time. Russia in response has said that the United States has no evidence to back the allegations, and that in fact the US has violated the treaty; which the United States has denied. The current events surrounding the issue has caused uncertainty and fear regarding the future of the treaty. If the situation continues it is possible for the agreement to be abolished entirely, which would aid in the creation of a dangerous scenario and in possible warfare or perhaps a new arms race.

## **DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

### **INF Treaty**

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, a bilateral treaty between the United States of America, and the United Soviet Socialists Republic (current successor Russian Federation) which enforces the two sides to dispose of their arsenal of ground launched ballistic and cruise missiles with the range 500 to 5,500 kilometres.

### **Cruise Missile**

A guided missile designed to deliver a conventional or nuclear warhead by flying at low altitudes in order to avoid detection by radar.

## **Ballistic Missile**

A missile with a high, arching trajectory, that is initially powered and guided but falls under gravity onto its target.

## **9M729**

Russian missile system which is claimed to violate the INF treaty.

## **Special Verification Commission**

Commission established under the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, which deals with compliance issues.

## **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**

An international organisation and military alliance composed of the US, Canada, Britain, and 26 European countries: established by the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949 for purposes of collective security.

## **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

The INF treaty signed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and US President Ronald Reagan in 1987, was a pinnacle in the Cold War era, and in the arms control effort. It is unarguably one of the most effective treaties in the area of arms control, with a successful elimination of the missile stocks of the United States and the USSR. The treaty went into effect in 1988 and by 1991 approximately 1,000 to 3,000 missiles were destroyed along with the equipment used for launching. The treaty not only destroyed the stock piles of the signatories, but also prohibited the future creation of the missiles and all flight tests of such missiles. The two sides had also agreed on inspections, which were made to confirm that both the US, and the USSR had eliminated their arsenal of INF missiles. The treaty had created a council called the Special Verification Commission. It was established in order to address and debate concerns about the treaty and the compliance of the signatories. The most recent meeting of the Special Verification Commission was held on the December of 2017, and the council has met a total of thirty times since its

creation. The treaty is currently still in effect, however recent problems have developed, putting the stability of the treaty at risk.

For a long time, the United States and Russia have been making claims about the violation of the treaty. The US accused Russia in 2014 in a NATO briefing. US officials have claimed that Russia has been conducting flight tests of a cruise missile since 2008. In the May of 2016 Russia claimed that a US missile system breaches the INF treaty. However, the most recent developments in 2018 have been the most concerning. US president Donald J. Trump has said that the US would pull out of the treaty, as he claimed that Russia has “violated” their side of the treaty. The US President stated that *“US would not let Russia go out and do weapons, while we are not allowed to.”*

Russia replied to this message by saying that pulling out of the agreement was a very dangerous step. *“If the US acts clumsily and crudely, then we will have no choice but to undertake retaliatory measures, including involvement of military technology”* said Sergei Ryabkov, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister.

In December 2018, NATO officially accused Russia of breaching the INF treaty, claiming that Russia kept, and flight tested a missile system called the 9M729 which violated the terms of the treaty. The reason for the accusation by NATO was made due to concerns of the threat to Europe by the 9M729 Russian missile system. NATO has claimed that the missile system was a threat to the peace in the Euro-Atlantic region. After the statement made by NATO, the United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo delivered a statement, in which he said that Russia had 60 days to comply with the terms of the treaty, after which if they fail, the United States will also break their compliance.

The reason for President Trumps “bold”, and “dangerous” move is believed to possibly have another reason other than the “Russian violations”. China may be an additional reason for President Trump’s decision to walk away from the treaty. China’s inventory of missiles has been a concern for both sides; they are free to build, test, and use INF- class missiles as they are not part of the treaty. China’s exclusion from the treaty, and their position as a world superpower makes them a threat to the United States. Both the Russia and the United States have acknowledged the fact that the growth of the Chinese arsenal of weapons has created a so-called imbalance which could lead to the downfall of the treaty.

## **MAJOR PARTIES AND THEIR VIEWS**

### **United States of America**

The United States President Donald Trump has stated that they would be pulling away from the INF treaty if Russia failed to comply. The US has continually blamed Russia for violating the treaty and has denied any allegations made towards the US. The US has said that they have been honouring their part of the treaty while Russia has not. If Russia fails to comply, the US claims they will be leaving the treaty.

### **Russian Federation**

Russia stands against any allegations made by the United States, believing that in fact the United States has violated the treaty. However, Russia has not made an open move against the abolition of the treaty. President Putin has stated that it was “very dangerous” to abandon an international arms control treaty. In the December of 2018, Russia has submitted a draft resolution in the UN General Assembly in favour of preserving the INF treaty. While Russia denies any allegations, and claims the US is breaking the treaty, they seem to support the INF treaty.

### **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**

While not being directly involved with the treaty, NATO is the entity which represents the many countries that may well be affected by the outcome of the treaty; just as Europe was in the past. NATO’s position in the matter is in accord with their member the United States. NATO has agreed with the claims the United States has made about Russia violating the treaty. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has stated that “NATO allies agree with the United States that Russian violations put the treaty at risk.”

## **People's Republic of China**

China carries an important role in the outcome of the INF treaty regardless of it not being a signatory of the agreement. The United States views China's quickly growing military as a threat; it's exclusion from the treaty allows the possession, testing and building of INF-class missiles, making them a threat as claimed by the US. China believes President Trump's decision to abandon the treaty is going to create a negative effect. "The U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the treaty will have a multilateral negative effect," said Hua Chunying, the spokeswoman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry. China supports the preservation of the treaty in this situation, as it can be seen.

## **TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS**

- 1987 December 8: The INF treaty is signed by the United States President Ronald Reagan and USSR Leader Mikhail Gorbachev.
- 1988 May 27: The INF is ratified by both sides.
- 1988 June 6 – July 15: The first meeting of the Special Verification Commission was held in Geneva.
- 1988 July 27 – September 8: INF missile reduction begins in the USSR on July 27, and in the United States on September 8.
- 1991 May 24: The US completes the reduction process.
- 1991 May 28: The USSR completes the reduction process.
- 1991 October 17: NATO agrees with the removal of all except 400-600 nuclear bombs in Europe.
- 2013 May: The US addresses their concerns for the first time to Russian officials regarding violations. Russia denies any allegations.
- 2014 July 31: The US goes public for the first time about the INF treaty concerns; publishes a compliance record claiming Russian violation of the treaty.

- 2017 Dec 12-14: The US assembles the Special Verification Commission.
- 2018 October 20: The US President Donald Trump states that Russia is not in compliance with the treaty and that the US plans to withdraw from the agreement.

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

Even though the INF treaty is extremely important, not much has been done in order to preserve the treaty, there seems to have been more denial and provoking than other efforts. Russian and US officials have met multiple times through the recent years regarding Russian and US violations and concerns, however these meetings were done in a small scale with the outcomes mostly being either of the sides denying violations. President Trump gave Russia 60 days to comply before they would withdraw. In December 2018 Russia has submitted a draft resolution in the UN General Assembly in favour of preserving the treaty, however it has not been of much help in lightening the situation.

## **QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ANSWER**

What the delegates should be trying to answer through the resolutions would be trying to find middle ground for the US and Russia to continue complying with the treaty. Delegates should try to find a way to diplomatically solve the issue either with negotiations, or even possible alterations of the treaty. As China and other nuclear and military powers stand as a threat to both Russia and the United States, delegates should put effort into finding a resolution which would either convince the US and Russia that the non-signatory countries are not a threat or would find a way to remove such threats.

## APPENDIX

Useful links on the issue:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/search?q=INF+treaty>
- <https://www.cfr.org/background/uncertain-future-inf-treaty>
- <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2018/10/26/what-is-the-inf-treaty>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/04/us-inf-russia-nuclear-treaty-deadline>
- <https://www.cvce.eu/en/collections/unit-content/-/unit/56d70f17-5054-49fc-bb9b-5d90735167d0/612c9803-a7d2-422d-9ab0-f3e1ca766004>
- <https://www.state.gov/t/avc/trty/102360.htm>



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