



140 EAST 45 STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by
Christina B. Rocca
Permanent Representative of
the United States of America
to the Conference on Disarmament
on the Joint Russian-U.S. Statement
on the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles
in the First Committee of the General Assembly
October 25, 2007

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to take the floor today to join my Russian colleague in introducing the Joint U.S. – Russia Statement on the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty). The INF Treaty was a significant moment in the relationship between the United States and what was then the Soviet Union. It was negotiated and signed at the height of the Cold War and served to reduce tensions through the increased transparency that accompanied the elimination of this class of weapons. That transparency was based on a system of information exchanges, on-site inspections, and monitoring of missile production facilities.

Mr. Chairman, the Cold War era during which the INF Treaty was concluded was dominated by two powers, with the world focused on the weapons in the arsenals of those two powers. While other states possessed such missiles, the threat from these weapons received little attention in the shadow of superpower confrontation.

Today's world is far different. The end of the Cold War has not seen a lessening in proliferation generally, and certainly not in proliferation of missiles. Each day the number of these missiles of a range captured by the INF Treaty expands, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The United States and the Russian Federation are concerned with this trend, and believe greater attention must be paid to this issue to ensure regional stability throughout the world. That is why we are making this joint statement today on the importance of focusing attention on the dangers inherent in a proliferation of these weapons.

Mr. Chairman, looking back it is easy to see the contribution the INF Treaty has made to international peace and security. As we look forward, we believe that the Treaty can continue to contribute to international peace and security. It is our fervent hope that others will join with us in making this hope a reality.

Thank you.