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Opinion

U.S. should stay in nuclear treaty

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Forces Treaty (INF) because of alleged violations by the U.S. and Russia, but it’s important to note that the INF is consistent with U.S. plans to loosen all international constraints on nuclear weapons, which is concerning to those who believe in the importance of the INF. But that’s because no nation wants to abandon the treaty, which has served European security well and abandoned the agreement would harm more than control solutions generally, a development that could have profound implications for Asian security.

The INF treaty was agreed in 1987 between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. It banned all nuclear, missile and intermediate-range ballistic missiles (IRBMs) with ranges from 500 to 5,500 km. It eliminated an entire class of nuclear weapons and effectively capped a nuclear arms race that threatened Europe. At their summit last summer in Helsinki, President Donald Trump’s administration signed a joint statement that the INF treaty has been “a vital element of Europe’s security.”

Four years ago, Washington announced Moscow of violating the treaty, the INF. In September, that exceeded limits. Three years later, the US. and Russia have repeatedly accused each other of “breaching” the treaty, which was signed in 1987. Moscow called the charges “false and unfounded” and continued to refuse to sign on to the INF. The U.S. administration has been working to revive the INF in Europe to make it a reality. The U.S. Senate votes to ratify the INF treaty in March.

The INF Treaty

The INF Treaty (or Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty) is an international agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union, now Russia, that bans the development, production, and testing of intermediate-range nuclear missiles (IRMs) with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometers.

The treaty was signed on August 26, 1987, and entered into force on June 1, 1988. It was the first of its kind to ban an entire class of intermediate-range missile systems, and it was seen as a significant step in reducing global nuclear arsenals.

The INF Treaty has been widely praised for its role in reducing the threat of nuclear war. It led to the destruction of more than 2,000 Soviet IRMs and 1,600 U.S. IRMs, and it helped to create a more stable and predictable global security environment.

However, the INF Treaty has faced challenges since its inception. In 2019, the United States withdrew from the INF Treaty, citing Russian violations of the treaty. The United States has also accused Russia of violating the treaty, but Russia has denied these accusations.

The INF Treaty is considered a key component of global arms control and nonproliferation efforts. Its future remains uncertain, but its legacy as a landmark agreement in arms control is undeniable.

The INF Treaty is a key instrument of arms control that has played a major role in reducing the threat of nuclear war. It is a crucial component of the global arms control and nonproliferation framework and has contributed to a more stable and predictable security environment.

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