

To the Prime Minister
of the Russian Federation
V.S. Chernomyrdin
May, 1995

Dear Viktor Stepanovich!

Due to the need to include in the federal budget for 1996 the costs of carrying out the agreement signed in January of 1993 between the Russian Federation and the United States on further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START-II), and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons, the Council of the State Duma is concerned that these documents have not yet been submitted for ratification to the State Duma.

Furthermore, according to the Agreement and the Convention, Russia has certain obligations in terms of nuclear arms reductions and destruction of chemical weapons that are essentially not tied to the date of their ratification.

The Council of the State Duma asks the Government of the Russian Federation to accelerate the development of federal programs to implement the Agreement and Convention, which would allow to plan for the allocation of the necessary budget.

At the same time, we believe that by September of this year it would be appropriate to hold additional talks on potential assistance that the Convention's participating states could provide to Russia in destroying nuclear weapons, including on the basis of jointly using technology with the United States. Also, to clarify and supplement the provisions of START-II (with an additional protocol, for example), in part:

- To remove the provisions of paragraph b, Article II of the START-II Treaty on limiting the number of silo launchers for heavy ICBMs, which can be converted;
- Excluding from the process of conversion of silo launchers of heavy ICBMs step b, paragraph 4, section II of the Protocol on Elimination and Conversion, pursuant to which the silo base is filled with a five-meter layer of concrete;
- After the ratification of the START-II Treaty to announce our intention to immediately proceed with negotiations on further reductions of strategic offensive weapons, noting a specific level of subsequent total number of warheads for each side;
- To confirm the sides's strong commitment to the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missiles from May 26, 1972.

The Council of the State Duma requests the Government of the Russian Federation to present to the State Duma the available materials on these issues and its considerations as quickly as possible.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin

[Source: State Archive of the Russian Federation (GARF), Fond 10100, Opis 2, Delo 126.
Translated by Anna Melyakova for the National Security Archive.]