What is it?

1987 treaty between the United States and Russia
Signed by U.S. President Reagan and Soviet Premier Gorbachev, beginning an era of bilateral arms-control cooperation
Prohibits production, possession, and testing of ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles (GLCMs) with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers and their launchers

Why is it important?

Eliminated an entire class of nuclear-capable weapons
Robust verification regime set the gold standard for U.S.-Russia arms-control agreements:
- Data exchange and on-site inspections
- Special Verification Commission (SVC) to resolve compliance concerns

What should I know?

Mutual accusations of treaty violations:
- U.S. argues Russian 9M729 GLCM exceeds the prohibited 500 km range
- Russia argues the U.S. MK-41 missile launchers violate the INF Treaty
The United States initiated 6-month withdrawal process on February 2, 2019; treaty terminates on August 2, 2019
Both countries announced plans to develop new intermediate-range missiles—potentially reigniting an arms race

For more information, visit: www.nti.org