

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) – A SUMMARY (IAEA, INFCIRC/140)

The **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** opened for signature on 1 July 1968, and entered into force on 5 March 1970. The purpose of the NPT is to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, while allowing the promotion of nuclear power and other industrial applications of radionuclides.

Article IV of the NPT, proclaims that peaceful applications of nuclear technology is an “inalienable right.” This is interpreted to mean that access to a nuclear power plant is a state’s right. This very premise undermines nuclear disarmament, as it is possible to generate Plutonium in any nuclear reactor.

Article VI says that nuclear disarmament is the promise of all the States Parties. This treaty entered into force three decades ago, and the nuclear weapons industry is more entrenched in the national nuclear weapons laboratories now than ever. More is spent today on nuclear weapons than at the height of the Cold War— \$4 billion a year. This obsession with National Missile defense is Star Wars redux and it’s destabilizing.

The NPT, in **Article IX**, defines a nuclear weapon state as a state that detonated a nuclear test before 1967 and no others. This is one of the most contentious components of the NPT, the discriminatory nature of the nuclear “haves” and “have-nots”. The NPT must be continuously strengthened, with the ultimate goal of the systematic and progressive disarmament of the world’s nuclear weapons.

SUMMARY OF THE NPT TEXT:

Preamble— Nuclear war is a horrific prospect, which must be avoided at all costs. Nuclear weapon proliferation is dangerous, yet peaceful uses of nukes must be shared. Everyone detests the arms race, and the goal is nuclear disarmament. Establish peace and security, do not threaten to go to war, and do not waste resources on arms.

Art. I - Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) will not transfer nuclear weapons, nor will they assist in the development of nukes in any way.

Art. II - Non-NWS will not acquire nuclear weapons, nor will they manufacture nukes.

Art. III - NNWS’ civil nuke plants will be inspected by IAEA (while NWS are not inspected), but cannot hamper local civilian nuke industry, and transfer of fissionable materials and paraphernalia to non-NPT states is not allowed.

Art. IV - Nothing should impede the states “inalienable right” to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Art. V - Benefits from peaceful nuclear explosions should be shared all around.

Art. VI - Each State Party commits to work toward nuclear disarmament, with no date attached. The States Parties also commit to general disarmament.

Art. VII - NPT does not stop nuclear weapon free zones from being negotiated.

Art. VIII - The amendment procedure, the review process.

Art. IX - Everyone can sign and ratify this treaty; the NPT will enter into force when the US, UK, and USSR ratify +40 others (43 total); NWS are those states who blew up nuclear weapons prior to Jan 1, 1967 and no one else.

Art. XI - Everyone can withdraw from the NPT with 3 months notice and a reason based on supreme national interest; 25 years after entry into force, the NPT can end or be extended.