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Statement by James E. Dobbins
Chairman, NATO Special Consultative Group

The NATO Special Consultative Group met today for the fifth time this year.

We discussed the situation with respect to intermediate-range nuclear forces, and took note of the steps the West has taken since the beginning of the year to sustain deterrence at the lowest necessary level, and to promote a concrete and productive East-West dialogue:

- Allied leaders, individually and at their recent meetings together in North America and Europe, have strongly emphasized, as in their Washington Statement on East-West Relations, their desire for a more stable and constructive relationship with the East, and the opportunities available for progress in arms control.
- Western governments have taken major initiatives to advance the negotiations on chemical weapons, on conventional troop reductions in Europe, and on confidence- and security-building measures.
- Allied governments have repeatedly emphasized their willingness, under the terms of an equitable arms control agreement, to halt, reverse or modify NATO deployments of longer-range INF missiles, including withdrawal and destruction of missiles already deployed.
- NATO is continuing to implement its decision to reduce its nuclear stockpile in Europe to what will be the lowest level in more than two decades.

The Soviet Union has yet to respond positively to Western efforts to expand areas of co-operation and move the arms control process forward. The Allies are convinced that progress in all these arms control areas is possible, and particularly that an arms control solution to INF is obtainable and must be pursued. They await a positive Soviet contribution to this process, and underline the willingness of the United States to resume negotiations on INF, as on strategic nuclear forces, at any time without preconditions.