

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 30, 1994

Dear Mr. Leader:

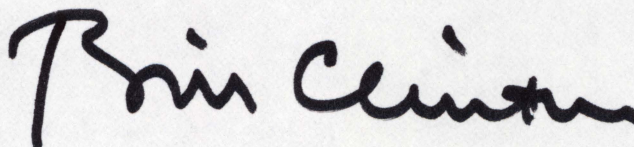
Thank you for your letter regarding theater missile defenses (TMDs). I appreciate your interest in the Administration's efforts to clarify the distinction in the ABM Treaty between TMDs and strategic ballistic missile defense systems while preserving the viability and integrity of the ABM Treaty.

During our meeting in September, President Yeltsin and I agreed that both the United States and Russia have an interest in developing and fielding effective theater missile defense systems and that we would work together in this crucial area on a cooperative basis. In this regard, we also took note of the recent progress made on the issue of ABM/TMD demarcation and multilateralization of the ABM Treaty and instructed our respective delegations to complete agreement on remaining issues in the shortest possible time. That said, I want to assure you that we are not going to rush this process or enter into any agreement that does not meet our national security requirements for highly effective TMDs.

With respect to Senate advice and consent, whether an agreement reached on the boundary between ABM and TMD systems requires the approval of the Senate is a question that can only be answered once we know more about the actual content of the agreement. We intend to continue to consult closely with the Senate on this point.

I look forward to working closely with you as we pursue the TMD programs required to carry out our national security strategy.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert Dole  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510