

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1931

To state the policy of the United States on the intercontinental ballistic missile force.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 27, 2005

Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BURNS, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. THOMAS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To state the policy of the United States on the intercontinental ballistic missile force.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE**
4 **INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE**
5 **FORCE.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

8 (1) Consistent with warhead levels agreed to in
9 the Moscow Treaty, the United States is perma-
10 nently modifying the capacity of the Minuteman III

1 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from its
2 prior capability to carry up to three independent re-
3 entry vehicles to a single reentry vehicle system, a
4 process known as downloading.

5 (2) Through the downloading process and the
6 elimination of the Peacekeeper (MX) interconti-
7 nental ballistic missile, the United States is now
8 transitioning to a land-based intercontinental bal-
9 listic missile force of 500 Minuteman III missiles,
10 each equipped with a single nuclear warhead.

11 (3) A series of Department of Defense studies
12 of United States strategic forces has confirmed the
13 need for 500 Minuteman III missiles with a single
14 warhead, including the 1993 Nuclear Posture Re-
15 view, the 2001 Nuclear Posture Review, and an on-
16 going assessment by retired General Larry Welch.

17 (4) In a potential nuclear crisis it is important
18 that the nuclear weapons systems of the United
19 States be configured so as to discourage other na-
20 tions from making a first strike, and downloading
21 Minuteman III missiles further reduces the likeli-
22 hood of any country preemptively attacking the
23 intercontinental ballistic missile force of the United
24 States.

1 (5) The intercontinental ballistic missile force is
2 currently being considered as part of the delibera-
3 tions of the Department of Defense for the Quadren-
4 nial Defense Review.

5 (b) STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY.—It is
6 the policy of the United States to continue to transition
7 to an intercontinental ballistic missile force with 500 mis-
8 siles each equipped with a single nuclear warhead.

9 (c) MOSCOW TREATY DEFINED.—In this section, the
10 term “Moscow Treaty” means the Treaty Between the
11 United States of America and the Russian Federation on
12 Strategic Offensive Reductions, done at Moscow on May
13 24, 2002.

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