

Week Ending Friday, July 30, 1999

**Statement on Signing the National Missile Defense Act of 1999**

*July 22, 1999*

I have signed into law H.R. 4, the “National Missile Defense Act of 1999.” My Administration is committed to addressing the growing danger that rogue nations may develop and field long-range missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction against the United States and our allies.

Section 2 of this Act states that it is the policy of the United States to deploy as soon as technologically possible an effective National Missile Defense (NMD) system with funding subject to the annual authorization of appropriations and the annual appropriation of funds for NMD. By specifying that any NMD deployment must be subject to the authorization and appropriations process, the legislation makes clear that no decision on deployment has been made. This interpretation, which is confirmed by the legislative record taken as a whole, is also required to avoid any possible impairment of my constitutional authorities.

Section 3 of the Act states that it is the policy of the United States to seek continued negotiated reductions in Russian nuclear forces. Thus, section 3 puts the Congress on record as continuing to support negotiated reductions in strategic nuclear arms, reaffirming my Administration’s position that our missile defense policy must take into account our arms control and nuclear non-proliferation objectives.

Next year, we will, for the first time, determine whether to deploy a limited National Missile Defense, when we review the results of flight tests and other developmental efforts, consider cost estimates, and evaluate the threat. Any NMD system we deploy must be operationally effective, cost-effective, and enhance our security. In making our determination, we will also review progress in achieving our arms control objectives, includ-

ing negotiating any amendments to the ABM Treaty that may be required to accommodate a possible NMD deployment.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
July 22, 1999.

NOTE: H.R. 4, approved July 22, was assigned Public Law No. 106–38. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 23. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7210—Imposition of Restraints on Imports of Certain Steel Products From the Russian Federation**

*July 22, 1999*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

1. Article XI of the June 1, 1990, Agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Trade Relations (“the 1990 Agreement”), which was entered into pursuant to title IV of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (“the Trade Act”), provides that the Parties will consult with a view toward finding means of preventing market disruption, and authorizes the Parties to take action, including the imposition of import restrictions, to achieve this goal.

2. The Government of the United States and the Government of the Russian Federation (“Russia”) have mutually agreed that the conditions of Article XI of the 1990 Agreement have been met with respect to U.S. imports of certain steel products from Russia described in the Annex to this proclamation. Further, the Governments have concluded an Agreement Concerning Trade in Certain Steel Products from the Russian Federation (“the 1999 Agreement”) on remedial and