Russia planning to develop more missiles

8th February, 2019

Russia has responded to the USA withdrawing from an arms treaty by announcing it has plans to build more missiles. News that the USA will exit the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty (INFT) and Russia's response raised concerns about a new arms race. Moscow immediately said it would end its own involvement in the arms limitation treaty. In addition, Russian media stated that Russia's military would develop a "100 megaton nuclear doomsday device" in response to the USA pulling out of the treaty. The INFT was signed in 1987. It was an attempt to limit the number of missiles that were capable of hitting many European capitals. It banned both countries from using short- and medium-range missiles.

The media have written extensively about a new "super-missile". This is an unstoppable, undersea, 100-megaton nuclear warhead. Experts say it is so fast it can evade all current missile defense systems. They also say it is powerful enough to cause catastrophic devastation, such as creating 100-metre tsunami waves and enough radiation to wipe out life for a thousand kilometers. One Russian newspaper wrote: "One of the 100 megaton nuclear warheads will sit off the US coast. Any US attack on Russia would be a suicidal misadventure." However, the paper omitted to mention the concept of M.A.D. - Mutually Assured Destruction. This scary scenario sees both countries wiping each other out.

Sources: *bbc.com / thisisinsider.com / theguardian.com*

Writing

There will never be a Third World War. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Russia / arms treaty / plans / concerns / treaty / military / attempt / limit / missiles / media / warhead / powerful / radiation / coast / tsunami / suicidal / concept / scary

True / False

a) There are no concerns about a future arms race. T / F

b) Both Russia and the USA withdrew from the INFT arms treaty. T / F

c) The INFT treaty was signed in 1987. T / F

d) The treaty banned Russia and the USA from using long-range missiles. T / F

e) Russia's media have given little attention to Russia's "super-missile". T / F

f) Missile defense systems are not good enough to detect the missile. T / F

g) The missile could create 100-meter tsunami waves. T / F

h) The M.A.D. scenario is when the US and Russia destroy each other. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	responded	a.	prohibited
2.	build	b.	disastrous
3.	exit	c.	reacted
4.	pulling out	d.	widely
5.	banned	e.	construct
6.	extensively	f.	notion
7.	fast	g.	leave
8.	catastrophic	h.	situation
9.	concept	i.	withdrawing
10.	scenario	j.	quick

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) What do you think of a 'super-missile'?

c) How afraid should the USA be of an 'unstoppable' missile?

d) Do you think the USA and Russia would ever attack each other?

e) Will we ever have a World War III?

f) How scary is this news?

g) What do you know about Mutually Assured Destruction?

h) What questions would you like to ask the leaders?

Phrase Match

1. it has plans
2. develop a 100 megaton nuclear
3. an attempt to
4. capable of hitting many
5. short- and medium-
6. The media have written extensively about
7. it can evade all current missile
8. enough radiation to wipe
9. Any US attack on Russia would be a
10. This scary scenario sees both countries

a. a new "super-missile"
b. suicidal misadventure
c. range missiles
d. defense systems
e. to build more missiles
f. doomsday device
g. out life
h. European capitals
i. wiping each other out
j. limit the number

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think of nuclear missiles?
b) What do you know about arms races?
c) Why did the USA withdraw from the treaty?
d) Was Russia right to respond in the way it did?
e) What do you think of the term 'doomsday device'?
f) What do you know about the Cold War?
g) What are relations like between Russia and the USA?
h) What advice do you have for Russia and the USA?

Spelling

1. the USA whwitadgrni from an arms treaty
2. Russia's rosnspee raised concerns
3. the arms litmioiant treaty
4. Russia's marliity would
5. a 100 megaton nuclear aomsdody device
6. missiles that were elapcba
7. written lenexesyivt about a new "super-missile"
8. 100-megaton nuclear awehdar
9. osathtccapri devastation
10. a iuacsidl misadventure
11. dmiteto to mention
12. scary esnoirac

Role Play

Role A – Nuclear War

You think nuclear war is the scariest thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): cybercrime, there being no jobs or global warming.

Role B – Cybercrime

You think cybercrime is the scariest thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): nuclear war, there being no jobs or global warming.

Role C – No Jobs

You think there being no jobs is the scariest thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): cybercrime, nuclear war or global warming.

Role D – Global Warming

You think global warming is the scariest thing. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as scary. Also, tell the others which is the least scary of these (and why): cybercrime, there being no jobs or nuclear war.

Speaking – Scary

Rank these with your partner. Put the scariest things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- cybercrime
- civil war
- drought
- no jobs
- foreign invasions
- nuclear war
- global warming
- pandemics

Answers – Synonym Match

1.	c	2.	e	3.	g	4.	i	5.	a
6.	d	7.	j	8.	b	9.	f	10.	h

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.