

Donald Trump Says He Wants to Expand U.S. Nuclear Arsenal



Washington, February 24 (RHC)-- U.S. President Donald Trump says he wants to expand America's nuclear arsenal to ensure it is at the "top of the pack," saying the U.S. had fallen behind in its nuclear weapons capacity.

In an interview with Reuters on Thursday, Trump said he is against a "one-sided" nuclear agreement with Russia that would limit the deployment of atomic warheads. "If countries are going to have nukes, we're going to be at the top of the pack."

The U.S. president also complained about Moscow's deployment of a cruise missile in violation of an arms control treaty and said he would raise the issue with Russian President Vladimir Putin when and if they meet.

Speaking from behind his desk in the Oval Office at the White House, Trump also declared himself "very angry" at North Korea's ballistic missile tests and said China could solve the threat posed by North Korea "very easily if they want to."

Trump has told Putin he does not want to renew a 2010 nuclear arms reduction treaty between Washington and Moscow because the deal was bad for the United States. During his first call as president with Putin on January 28, Trump said the New START treaty favored Russia, Reuters reported

earlier this month, citing current and former US officials with knowledge of the call.

New START gives both countries until February 2018 to reduce their deployed strategic nuclear warheads to 1,550, the lowest level in decades. However, it does not limit the number of operationally inactive nuclear warheads that remain in the high thousands in both the U.S. and Russian stockpiles.

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