

Russia May Exit Arms Reduction Treaty — Top General

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A top Russian general said Thursday, Feb. 15, that Moscow may unilaterally opt out of a Soviet-era arms reduction treaty with the United States, which was negotiated by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan back in 1987.

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty eliminated an entire class of medium-range missiles that had been based in Europe.

General Yuri Baluevsky, the chief of the Russian Army's General Staff, was quoted by the *Interfax* agency, that Russian could pull out of the treaty. **He said the decision would depend on the United States' actions with its proposed missile defense system, parts of which Washington is seeking to deploy in Poland and the Czech Republic.**

Baluevsky's comments come after President Vladimir Putin said on Saturday, Feb. 10, that the INF treaty no longer serves Russia's interests.

(Emphasis Added)

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