

# Surge in Strategic Weapons? US Not to Step Up START Talks

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The United States will not accelerate the ongoing talks on a new START treaty, says the White House official spokesman Robert Gibbs. According to him, the US does not seek to put a time limit on the signing of a new agreement for a nuclear security summit, that's due in Washington on the 12th and 13th of next month. Yesterday the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov voiced hope that a new treaty would be signed in the next two or three weeks. Gibbs said in a comment on Lavrov's statement that the negotiators would agree the remaining unsettled issues and would work as long as it would take to achieve the objective. The previous START treaty expired late last year. Russia and the United States have been negotiating the conclusion of a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty since last summer. The stumbling block in the way of signing a new agreement is a control and cross-check mechanism.

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