

The spread of nuclear weapons

South Africa's admission that it has developed six nuclear devices which were dismantled in 1990 has focused attention on the potential spread of nuclear weapons. When the Non-Proliferation Treaty was signed in 1968 there were five nuclear powers – 25 years later 12 countries either have developed nuclear weapons or are suspected of trying to build them

Key – estimated holdings of nuclear weapons



Acknowledged nuclear powers



Believed to have nuclear programmes



Backing away from nuclear programmes



Britain:

14 short-range
64 submarine-based



Brazil



United States:

21,000 warheads stockpiled



France:

18 medium-range
40 short-range
96 submarine-based



Israel:

Up to 60 nuclear devices



Former Soviet Union:

27,000 warheads in Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine



Argentina



South Africa

Unknown stocks



Iraq



Iran



Pakistan:

6-10 devices



India:
Up to 60 devices



China:

60 medium,
8 long-range



North Korea



Taiwan

