

**THE DECLARATION  
ON  
STRATEGIC DEFENSE COOPERATION  
BETWEEN  
THE CZECH REPUBLIC  
AND  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The Czech Republic and the United States of America (the United States) share a history of close ties between our people and our values, a commitment to democracy, a close defense relationship, and a willingness to confront common challenges and threats.

We believe that the development of durable and long-term strategic cooperation will increase the security of the Czech Republic and the United States, as well as the security of the North Atlantic area. The cornerstone of the Czech Republic – United States security relationship is the solidarity embodied in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which provides that an armed attack against one North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) country shall be considered an armed attack against them all. The Czech Republic and the United States acknowledge the importance of enhancing their individual and collective security by working within NATO, the United Nations, and other international organizations, consistent with United Nations Charter and international law.

The Czech Republic and the United States have established a strategic dialogue to facilitate consultations on international security matters, including missile threats and international terrorism, that may affect the security and defense capability of the Czech Republic or the United States.

Cooperation on missile defense strengthens the strategic partnership between the Czech Republic and the United States. Both nations believe that such cooperation will bring long-term mutual benefits for their security relationship. In that regard, they note the conclusion of the Agreement Between the Czech Republic and the United States of America on Establishing a United States Ballistic Missile Defense Radar Site in the Czech Republic, done in Prague on July 8, 2008, and note the conclusion of the Agreement Between the Czech Republic and the United States of America on the Status of United States Forces Present in the Territory of the Czech Republic, done in London on September 19, 2008.

Today, both nations face a growing threat from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and associated delivery systems. Missile defenses, including a radar site in the Czech Republic, provide a necessary and critical capability that can be used to defend both nations, and other NATO Members, as well as other allies and friends from long-range missile threats, thus enhancing the security of the United States, the Czech Republic, and the North Atlantic area.

Within the context of, and consistent with, both the North Atlantic Treaty and the Czech Republic – United States. strategic partnership, the United States is committed to the security of the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic and the United States will work together to counter emerging military or non-military threats posed by third parties or to minimize the effects of such threats. The increased strategic cooperation described herein would enhance the security of the United States, the Czech Republic, and that of the North Atlantic area.

The Czech Republic and United States the intend to enhance their security through cooperation in the following areas:

### **Political-Military Cooperation**

In pursuit of this shared vision of broader and deeper Czech Republic – United States strategic cooperation, the Czech Republic and the United States decided that the High-Level Defense Group (HLDG) will serve as the primary mechanism for furthering the Czech Republic – United States strategic defense relationship. The HLDG will be led by senior representatives from the Czech Republic Ministry of Defense and the United States Department of Defense will include senior representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Czech Republic and Department of State in the United States. The HLDG will meet regularly, or upon the request of the Czech Republic or the United States, and may establish working groups. In addition to cooperation on missile defense, for the purpose of strengthening mutual defense cooperation between the Czech Republic and the United States within the framework of Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty, the Czech Republic and the United States intend, through the HLDG, to:

- Consult regarding the security of the Czech Republic and the United States, and provide each other relevant information in this area in order to make evaluations and recommendations to each country's competent authorities regarding appropriate actions;

- Consult on important new initiatives that could be discussed in NATO;
- Consult on the use and development of the U.S. missile defense system, recognizing that this system contributes to the defense of the United States and the Czech Republic and other NATO Members as well as other allies and friends;
- Work to strengthen the operational capabilities of their respective Armed Forces, thereby enhancing contributions to the Alliance and its effectiveness. In furtherance of this objective, the United States will endeavor to assist the Czech Republic in transforming its Armed Forces, including with medium transport lift and logistical support capabilities;
- Explore opportunities to provide defense equipment and related materials, in accordance with each country's laws and regulations, with the purpose of improving the interoperability, deployability, and sustainability of the Czech Republic's Armed Forces;
- Develop and strengthen capabilities to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism;
- Support joint and combined exercises and exchanges;
- Support increased education and training exchanges;
- Collaborate in multinational operations when it is in the common interest of the Czech Republic and the United States; the United States will seek to support Czech deployments overseas within existing authorities and available assistance;
- Conduct political/military exchanges that support and extend security cooperation;
- Periodically review the implementation of agreements between the Czech Republic and the United States and related to the security of both countries; and
- Address other areas of mutual interest.

## **Information Sharing**

The Czech Republic and the United States recognize that countering new challenges and threats to international security, especially from terrorism and the proliferation of WMD, requires closer cooperation on information sharing. In this regard both nations will support increased exchange of intelligence information. For the purpose of strengthening defense cooperation between the Czech Republic and the United States, and within the framework of Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty, the United States intends to:

- Provide missile defense situational awareness to the Czech Republic;
- Provide information regarding threat assessments associated with U.S. military facilities, assets, and personnel present on the territory of the Czech Republic; and
- Establish procedures for the timely exchange of intelligence or warning/threat information regarding any threats to the radar site.

## **Defense Industrial and Research and Technology Cooperation**

The Czech Republic and the United States are committed to promoting defense industrial and research and technology armaments cooperation between both nations. In this regard, both nations recognize the importance of strict enforcement of export laws, regulations, and policies for defense goods, services, and technology and compatible industrial security practices. Both nations intend to identify projects that may be candidates for cooperative research, development, production, or procurement. Both nations recognize that cooperative research, development, production, and procurement enable sharing of technology and foster interoperability among the armed forces of both nations. Both nations further recognize that technology, research, and development are indispensable for maintaining an effective defense industrial base. The Czech Republic and the United States intend to seek opportunities to:

- Explore joint investments in the field of industrial security and defense technology;
- Support and develop research and development activities in the field of defense technology;

- Support the development of deeper industrial and technological cooperation, in accordance with each country's respective laws and regulations;
- Develop, negotiate, and conclude international agreements to support industrial and research technology armaments cooperation consistent with national policies;
- Additionally, as part of the expanded defense-related industrial cooperation, the Czech Republic and the United States intend to conclude a Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Framework Agreement to enable the parties to explore opportunities for cooperative research, development, testing, and evaluation, including industry-to-industry cooperation, related to ballistic missile defense systems. The United States has concluded such agreements with a limited number of close allies. The BMD Framework Agreement is intended to enable both countries to continue to expand the important missile defense cooperation being undertaken through the bilateral agreements to locate a missile defense radar in the Czech Republic; and
- Explore opportunities to gain better understanding of each other's export regimes and alleviate export barriers whenever possible.

Signed in London on September 19, 2008.

For the Czech Republic

For the United States of America