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China and Russia lead race to make hypersonic missiles – 29th March, 2018

Level 0

The USA is worried about hypersonic missiles. These can travel 20 times the speed of sound. They are a security problem for the USA. It could not stop Russia or China using these missiles, so it needs its nuclear weapons. U.S. President Donald Trump will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin soon to talk about the arms race.

Russia tested a hypersonic missile this month. President Putin said Russia needs the weapons because "unlawful sanctions" hurt Russia's development. He said: "You have failed to contain Russia." Mr Putin says the missiles can "strike like a fireball". The poisoning of a Russian spy in England this month has made relations worse.

Level 1

The USA is worried about China and Russia developing hypersonic missiles. These can travel 20 times the speed of sound. The U.S. military said hypersonic missiles are a security problem for the USA. It warned that the USA could not stop Russia or China using these missiles. It needs its nuclear weapons. U.S. President Donald Trump plans to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin soon to talk about the arms race.

Russia tested a hypersonic missile this month. China tested some last year. President Putin said Russia needed the weapons because "unlawful sanctions" from the USA and Europe have hurt Russia's development. He added: "You have failed to contain Russia." Mr Putin says the missiles can "strike like a fireball". Relations became worse this week after the UK and USA expelled Russian diplomats because of the poisoning of a Russian spy in England.

Level 2

The USA is worried about China and Russia developing hypersonic missiles. These can travel up to twenty times the speed of sound. A top U.S. military official said China and Russia having hypersonic missiles could be a security problem for the USA. General John Hyten warned that the USA could not stop Russia or China using these missiles against it. He said the USA needed small nuclear weapons to stop anyone attacking the USA. President Donald Trump plans to "get together in the not-too-distant future" with Russian President Vladimir Putin to talk about the arms race.

Russia successfully tested a hypersonic missile this month. China tested its missiles last year. It will soon have its weapons ready for use. President Putin said Russia needed the weapons because of actions other countries have taken against it. He said "unlawful sanctions" have hurt Russia's development. He added: "You have failed to contain Russia." Mr Putin says the missiles can fly anywhere in the world and "strike like a fireball". Tensions increased this week after the UK and USA expelled Russian diplomats because of the poisoning of a Russian spy in England.

Level 3

The U.S. military is worried about China and Russia developing hypersonic missiles. These are missiles that can travel between five and twenty times the speed of sound. Both Russia and China are developing the missile a lot faster than the United States. A senior U.S. military official said this could be a security problem for the USA. General John Hyten warned that the USA has no defense that could stop the use of such weapons against it. He said the USA needed small nuclear weapons to stop Russia attacking the USA. President Donald Trump said he has "plans to get together in the not-too-distant future" with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss the arms race.

Russia says it successfully tested a hypersonic missile earlier this month. China tested its missiles last year and will soon have the weapons ready for use. President Putin explained that Russia needs the weapons because of actions other countries have taken against it. He said "unlawful sanctions" by the USA and European countries have hurt Russia's development. He added: "You have failed to contain Russia." Mr Putin says the missiles will be able to fly anywhere in the world and will "strike like a fireball". Tensions increased this week after the USA and many European countries expelled Russian diplomats after the reported poisoning of a Russian spy in England.