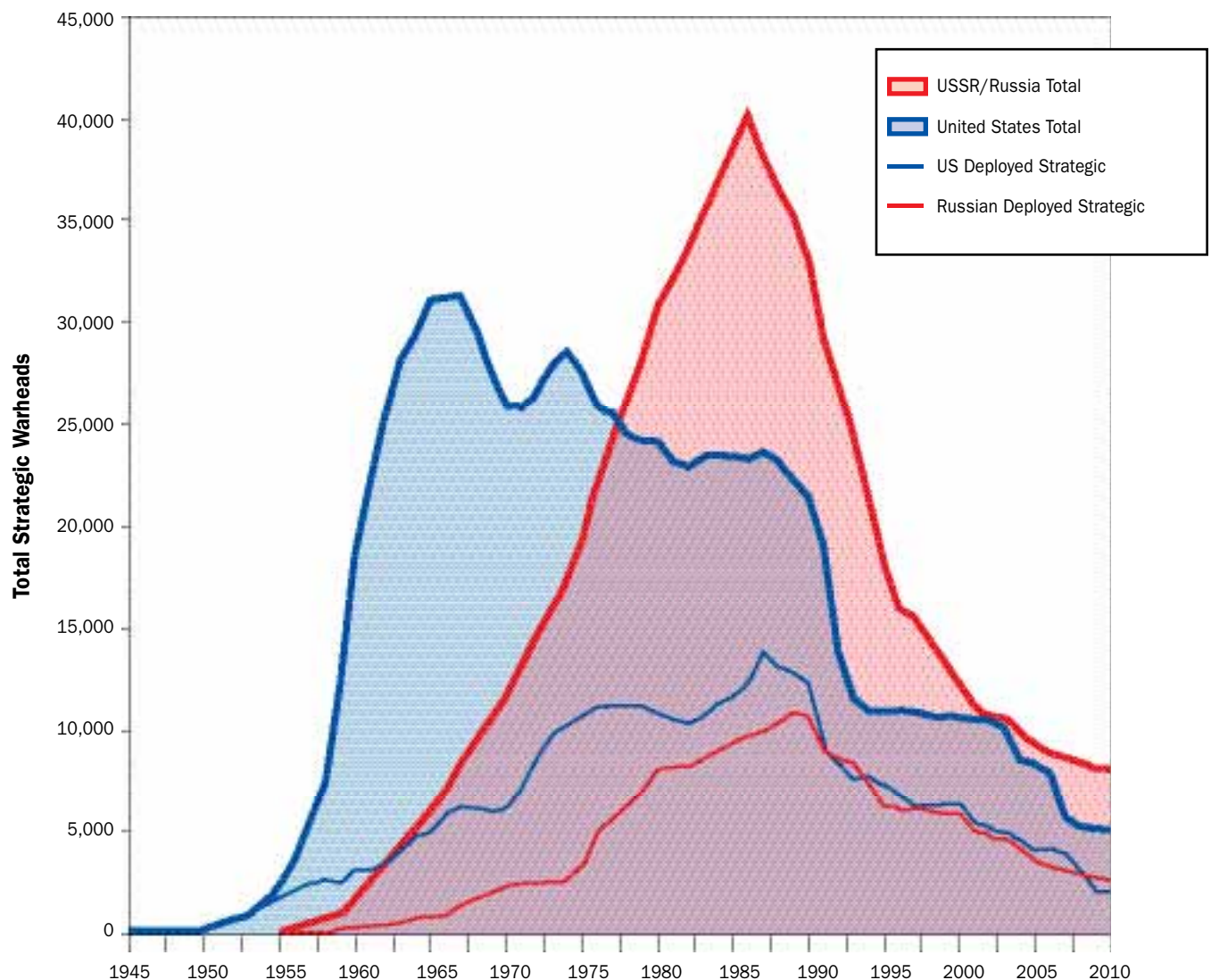


How Far Is Down?

The US and Russia (and predecessor USSR) have staged a massive flip-flop on nuclear arms. First, Washington and Moscow acquired awesome arsenals of tens of thousands of weapons. With the Cold War's end, though, both sides began abandoning nukes with alacrity. As the chart shows, Russia's total has fallen to 2,600 deployed strategic weapons (of 8,000 in its stockpile). The US has about 1,900 deployed strategic warheads (of

some 5,000 in its stockpile). Has the cutting gone far enough? Not according to major arms control groups in the West. They argue that the New START accord, which would bring the US and Russia down to 1,550 deployed warheads each, should be just an interim step on the road toward an eventual abolition of nuclear weapons.

US and Russian Strategic Nuclear Warheads, 1945-2010



Source: Hans M. Kristensen, Federation of American Scientists and Natural Resources Defense Council, presentation to UN panel on nuclear de-alerting, Oct. 13, 2010.