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3.3.1 The Negotiation Process (Continued)

the existence and operation of a multilateral verification structure will have to be established in order to avoid subsequent treaty renegotiation.

3.3.2 The Participatory Status of an Outer Space Arms Control Agreement

The above analysis suggests that it is unlikely that an outer space arms control agreement will be negotiated on a multilateral basis. If the most plausible scenario for the operation of Paxsat is in the context of a multilateral treaty containing provisions for multilateral treaty administration and verification, the implications of this assessment are serious indeed. However, it does not necessarily follow that a bilaterally negotiated agreement need result in an agreement which is bilateral in terms of participation. As noted earlier, the accession of other states to bilaterally negotiated conventions has been sought in situations where their participation is seen as enhancing the effectiveness of the accord. In particular, when the Superpowers have an interest in ensuring that a prohibition on certain activities does not apply solely to them, multilateralization may be sought. Such interest usually reflects a desire to avoid treaty circumvention through the transfer of technology and capabilities to non-signatory states and to preclude the proliferation of capabilities through indigenous production by non-signatory states.

In addition, states other than the Superpowers may have an interest in encouraging the multilateralization of bilaterally negotiated accords. In areas where military developments adverse to the security interests of states other than the Superpowers are occurring or anticipated, those states may encourage the Superpowers to negotiate an arms control limitation agreement. Such persuasion may take the form of a willingness to sign an agreement which one or both Superpowers might deem inadequate in the absence of assurances that proliferation or circumvention could not take place.

Taken together, these considerations may well apply in the area of outer space arms control.