

object. A PAXSAT 'A' satellite could then be launched or retrieved from a parking orbit to determine the function of the space object in question. Having accomplished that task, it could then be parked in orbit until the next operational requirement. It was also noted that the PAXSAT system was not a stand-alone verification regime but was designed to work in conjunction with other verification measures.

In response to a question concerning the use of PAXSAT 'B' outside Europe, it was reiterated that PAXSAT could be used wherever there was an agreement to be verified.

c) Roundtable

The Roundtable discussion saw a number of issues raised which served to underline some of the points made in earlier segments of the program. It opened with the several observations by Ambassador Beesley, the Chairman, to the effect that there were no quick-fix solutions, that there was a need for contextual updating of international and space law, in view of technological changes, and that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee should have broad scope for it to accomplish constructive work.

One theme which emerged in the ensuing discussion concerned the role of custom and state practice in the development of international law relevant to outer space. It was affirmed that state practice was both evidence of customary law and a major element contributing to its development. Several participants pointed to the difficulties of using state practice in this context. An analogy between outer space and the law of the sea was in the view of some only partially applicable. There seemed to be a widespread view that customary international law was only of limited assistance to development of an outer space legal regime.

The question also arose as to whether it was best to seek consciously to construct a comprehensive legal regime for outer space or to allow any legal regime to develop in an incremental manner. Some participants advocated working on comprehensive and limited regimes simultaneously. Other members, while favouring an eventual comprehensive regime, felt that efforts should first concentrate on selected measures, notably a ban on ASAT deployment. One participant wondered whether problems in outer space could be separated from those on earth, and whether a limited legalistic approach could be successful in outer space.

The separate roles and the interrelationship between the COPUOS and the CD were also discussed. It was pointed out that certain of the deficiencies and lacunae in existing space law could most appropriately be addressed by