

A scheme like this provides the only possible alternative to financing by the military as in the case of 'Star Wars.' This is the practical shape 'Star Peace' might take. It would benefit the industrialized countries, who would save up to 50 percent on their investments in research and development, and the developing countries which would be given an opportunity to participate directly in the management of an enterprise in high technology research and development, with beneficial spin-off effects on domestic development. By removing these technologies from military control and internationalizing them, it would also enhance peace and security.

In the past, industrialized countries have objected to such schemes, and preferred an international "free enterprise" system, leaving them full independence and wider profits but, with the cost and risks of high technology and experience with such undertakings as Eureka, have begun to modify this attitude.

CANADA AND THE WORLD SPACE ORGANIZATION

Space technology, comprising micro-electronics, lasers, particle beams, materials technologies and others, has been developed largely under military auspices. However, it has also been commercialized, and Canada is one of the leaders in the industry. Canadian companies are studying a variety of space-based projects including one involving capsules of insulin-producing cells, and others concerning production of semi-conductors. Canada is also a leader in telecommunications and remote sensing. Products of Canadian technology, particularly image processing systems, are prominent on international markets.

Canada's advanced technical position, coupled with the actual and potential importance of space technology to the Canadian economy, is duly reflected, nationally, in the recent establishment of a Canadian Space Agency with a budget of 2 billion dollars, and, internationally, in Canada's position in the Geneva Conference on Disarmament (CD) and the special Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, to which the Canadian Delegation has already submitted two important working papers.

In 1986 the Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament, Douglas Roche, pointed out that Canada had established a Verification Research Programme with a budget of about one million dollars annually. This was Canada's response to the principles expressed at the United Nations Special Sessions on Disarmament. He stressed the importance of developing a space-based verification and referred to the Canadian PAXSAT A study which examined the feasibility of the practical application of space-based civilian remote sensing techniques to verify an outer space treaty.

CONCLUSION

The experience with the Law of the Sea suggests that a more comprehensive approach may succeed where attempts at partial solutions fail and the time may have come for a comprehensive approach in outer space, along the lines proposed by the Soviet Union. A verification system would be part of it, but Canada's interests in the rational management of the uses of outer space are far broader.

The Canadian space industries are faced with three problems: lack of investment in research and development, a scarcity of launching facilities, and an inadequate legal regime covering the economic uses of space. All three problems could best be solved by a Convention establishing a World Space Organization and harmonizing, unifying, and updating all aspects of space law, much as the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea has done for ocean space. Canada would appear to have a vital interest in such a development, from an economic, political, and security point of view. Economically, a World Space Organization, conceived along the lines here discussed, would offer the best hope for Canadian space industries to 'get off the ground.'

In assuming leadership in building a synthesis between the various proposals now before the United Nations — especially the French and the Soviet proposals — and moving towards the establishment of a World Space Organization, Canada would make an important contribution towards strengthening the United Nations system.

Canada has been one of the leaders in the Conference on Disarmament and has made important contributions to the discussions on international law relevant to arms control and outer space, which, obviously, is of crucial importance for Canadian security. The task ahead would be to link the disarmament aspect with the development aspect; Canada has an equal stake in the advancement of both.

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The views expressed in this paper are the author's own and should not be taken to represent the views of the Institute and its Board.

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