

aggressive purposes), while at the same time, by harnessing space for the purpose of confidence and security, facilitating access to space by all interested States and promoting cooperation in space for civilian and scientific purposes.

I - CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES IN SPACE

In France's view, any legal regime of confidence-building measures must be based on the principle of non-interference with non-aggressive activities in space, the strengthening of the 1975 Convention on the registration of space objects and the drawing up of a "code of conduct in space", which might be complemented by measures to provide information on the occasion of the launching of space objects.

1 - The principle of non-interference

With the rise in the quantity of orbiting space objects and the number of space Powers, as well as in potentially dangerous technological capabilities, the risks to security in space activities increase. France considers that the time has come to lay down a more reliable regime for satellites in orbit.

As has been shown by the discussions in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, one of the essential concerns is that of how to protect satellites which merit protection. Consequently, France wishes to propose a criterion whereby a satellite is or is not protected depending on its aggressive capacity. In this way, a satellite possessing a capability for active interference would enjoy no protection.

On the model of the immunity mutually granted by the two main space Powers to their "national means of verification" of their bilateral disarmament agreements (in view of the fact that these space facilities play a stabilizing function), France considers that the principle of non-interference would constitute a first step towards internationally recognized immunity of satellites. Within the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, the discussion might focus, on the one hand, on the technical parameters to be used to determine a satellite's capability for active interference, and, on the other hand, on the possible juridical formulation of the principle of non-interference.

2 - Strengthening of the 1975 Convention on the registration of space objects

The 1975 registration Convention, which was initially designed as a way of facilitating the application of the 1972 Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects, offers considerable potential