

would directly interfere with ongoing bilateral talks on outer space issues between two major Powers. The delegation stressed that its Government cannot now engage in multilateral discussions or negotiations of rules-of-the-road. As for the concept of keep-out zones, in its view it was beset by many difficulties and inconsistencies. This State considered that the current legal régime renders these zones superfluous. Specifically, verification, in its view, would be difficult, and keep-out zones also have the potential of interfering with national technical means of verification. Depending on how defiant, these zones could violate Article II of the Outer Space Treaty.

49. Many delegations focussed on the importance of transparency in the activities of States and of accurate information on how outer space was being used. The view was expressed by some delegations that there was a need for expert examination of the parameters on which information should be provided and it was suggested that a group of experts be set up for that purpose. Some delegations believed that strengthening of the Registration Convention would be a valuable confidence-building measure, and they discussed various ways and means of improving the system of notification established thereunder with a view to assuring the availability of timely and adequate information on the nature and purposes of space activities.

50. One delegation recognized the utility of elaboration of a kind of data base on the launching of satellites and the collection and classification of technical data. It considered that for this purpose it would be a good start to establish a scientific centre whose work could be shared among scientists in different parts of the world. In its view the more information and more experience and more opportunity for comparisons, the more could be built to contribute to deeper and more widespread co-operation, putting into practice the idea that space is a value common to all mankind.

51. One delegation made an expert presentation, emphasizing the role of notification on space activities as a confidence and security-building measure. This delegation noted that the implementation of the principle of legal immunity of satellites and non-interference with space activities of other States derived its verifiability from sufficiently precise information on the behaviour of space objects. The delegation stated further that the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space was insufficient in so far as it did not provide adequate data. In order to acquire the data, the delegation proposed a phased extension of information requirements, comprising pre-launch information, announcement of parameters