
Ad hoc Committee on Prevention
of an Arms Race in Outer Space

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Working paper

Establishment of an International Space Monitoring Agency

Introduction

At the third special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1988 the Soviet Union proposed the establishment of an International Space Monitoring Agency (ISMA), which would provide the international community with information relating to compliance with multilateral arrangements in the field of disarmament and the reduction of international tension, and would also monitor the military situation in areas of conflict.

ISMA would help States to evaluate compliance with multilateral agreements in the field of confidence-building measures, arms limitation and disarmament. It could assist the United Nations and interested States in monitoring implementation of agreements for the settlement of regional conflicts and the cessation of local wars and in following developments in focal points of tension.

In the opinion of the Soviet Union, placing the results of monitoring by national satellite systems at the disposal of an international organization, would be a major step towards promoting confidence and openness in relations between States.

In addition to the military-policy aspects, the activities of ISMA could be of national economic importance by supplying interested States with satellite data for purposes of their economic development.

The preparation of the Soviet proposal for the establishment of ISMA took into account ideas on the subject expressed by other countries, in particular France and Canada (United Nations documents A/S-10/AC.1/7 and A/S-15/34;