

of such an arms race. It was suggested that the question should be put directly to the space powers in the Ad Hoc Committee. Another suggestion was that the term "weaponization" needed to be defined with care before such a question was posed. There seemed to be a widespread feeling that an authoritative, systematic study of this question remained to be undertaken, although some participants referred to the work being done under the aegis of SIPRI.

Professor Matte's idea that a future verification agency could initially comprise a limited number of countries, was taken up during the discussion. The suggestion was made that any country should be able to participate in an international organ on outer space even if it did not have its own extensive technical capabilities. Others pointed out that only a relatively small number of countries would be needed to get the agency started. Moreover, it was important that the technologically strong powers take the initiative. It was also suggested that given the considerable financial resources required, the countries with the technology might well be those that provide the necessary financing.

It was affirmed by one participant that we had about 10 years to put a regime in place to avoid an arms race in outer space and that this task ought not to be left to the two leading space powers alone.

There followed a presentation by Peter McRae of the Legal Operations Division of the Department of External Affairs of a paper entitled "Preventing an Arms Race in Outer Space: Selected Legal Considerations". The paper focussed on the central problem of the significance of the extension of state activity into areas where there was previously no national jurisdiction. The paper also noted the possible relevance of the work of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) to the efforts in the CD toward preventing an arms race in outer space. In the final section it focussed on areas where the CD could perform useful work. It concluded that when space activities involve the security of the whole world, the latter should have a say in how these activities are carried out.

Initial discussion of the paper focussed on the definition of "peaceful" and "aggression". The fact that the former was often defined in terms of the latter and that a number of treaties related to certain classes of "acts", as opposed to weapons systems, was discussed.

Discussion also focussed on the relevance of what was being done in COPUOS and other work done by the Brundtland Commission. The discussion concluded that it was becoming increasingly difficult to compartmentalize various activities in outer space. The use of nuclear power sources in outer space was cited as an example.