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3.1 Introduction (Continued)

broad administrative and decision-making structure governing the use of Paxsat in relation to the total treaty context?

3.2 Multilateral Verification and Arms Control Agreement

A central question in constructing a plausible scenario for the operation of a Paxsat system is the issue of whether or not an outer space arms control regime can be expected to be bilateral or multilateral in nature. If outer space arms control negotiations and the resulting agreement were to be a purely intramural superpower exercise, the task of defining a credible verification role for Paxsat would be entirely different from that present in the case of a multilateral treaty containing provisions for multilateral treaty administration and verification. Put somewhat starkly, the former would imply that Paxsat operate outside the treaty context, relying essentially on self-contained technical resources, and doing so possibly even against the wishes of the Superpowers. In the latter case, a more benign scenario can be envisioned, with US and Soviet acquiescence in and support of third party involvement in the mechanisms of treaty verification. Verification in this case might constitute, as is discussed in more detail below, a more cooperative multi-tiered activity, with far less onerous technical requirements for Paxsat in the context of a carefully constructed multilateral verification framework.

Prior to proceeding with this question, it will be noted that a central assumption underlying this discussion is that a legal framework is required to legitimate and direct the functioning of a Paxsat system. This is based on several factors. If the proposed purpose of Paxsat is to assist in verifying the existence or otherwise of certain classes of military activities or systems, it is difficult to envisage what role Paxsat would have in the absence of a treaty or agreement relating to these systems and/or activities. Without a treaty, Paxsat would merely be 'verifying' the occurrence of activities, or the existence of systems, which were sanctioned by international law. Moreover, were such a role be envisioned, several somewhat troublesome questions would arise. If Paxsat were to simply observe what was allowed, what would be the

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