

However one characterizes the legal impact of General Assembly resolutions, it is evident that subsequent space treaty law has reflected many principles embodied in these early resolutions. More recent resolutions in the General Assembly have had less impact on the development of the law of outer space. They have, however, since 1981, highlighted an apprehension felt by some nations over an apparent trend towards stationing weapons in outer space.

IV Summary

On the basis of the foregoing review of international law relating to arms control and outer space, certain themes emerge. These may be summarized as follows:

- (1) General international legal norms regarding military activities on earth (e.g. the UN Charter) also apply to military activities in outer space (Outer Space Treaty and Moon Treaty).
- (2) Outer space and celestial bodies are not subject to national appropriation and are free for non-prohibited uses such as exploration and scientific investigation by all states (Outer Space Treaty and Moon Treaty).
- (3) States bear international responsibility for their national activities in outer space and on celestial bodies (Outer Space Treaty, Moon Treaty and Liability Convention).
- (4) Certain military activities in outer space are consistent with international law. These include:
 - (a) The use of military personnel in space (Outer Space Treaty).
 - (b) The use of space-based remote sensors for military purposes (ABM Treaty, SALT Treaties, Threshold Test Ban Treaty, and Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty).