

Canada is a long time supporter of a stronger peaceful regime in outer space. In 1982, at the Second UN Special Session on Disarmament, the then Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Trudeau, called for efforts to prohibit the militarization of outer space. Since 1982, when the CD first began considering discussions on the prevention of an arms race in outer space, Canada has submitted a number of important working papers to the CD. In 1985, Canada submitted a working paper entitled "Survey of International Law Relevant to Arms Control and Outer Space at the CD."¹ In 1988, Canada presented three working papers. The papers dealt with terminology, a proposal for strengthening state practice under the 1975 Registration Convention, and a retrospective view of significant recent political, technical and military developments in outer space.²

As part of its programme on verification, Canada has conducted a research project known as PAXSAT A. The PAXSAT A study examined the feasibility of developing a system of satellites which could be used to verify arms control agreements in outer space. A similar project, PAXSAT B, examines the feasibility of verifying conventional arms agreements by using satellites for space-to-ground remote sensing. Canada presented its analysis of the PAXSAT study to the CD in 1987.

CURRENT CANADIAN POSITION

Canadian support for efforts to prevent the militarization of outer space continues to be strong, and the prevention of an arms race in outer space remains one of Canada's six arms control priorities.

As part of the summer session at the CD, two Canadian experts spoke to the Ad Hoc Committee on outer space at the CD in July 1990. Jeff Tracey from the Verification Research Programme at Canada's Department of External Affairs, spoke about the past, present and future capabilities of commercial satellites with respect to arms control verification. Peter Stibrany, of Spar Aerospace, spoke about the ambiguities that might arise in space programmes in the next twenty years. In particular, he discussed the difficulty inherent in distinguishing between weapon and non-weapon activities.³

Two resolutions on outer space were put forward at the United Nations General Assembly in December 1990, Canada voted in favour of both resolutions. Canada and Egypt co-sponsored

¹CD/618, CD/OS/WP. 6, 23 July 1985.

²Canada. *Working Paper on the Use of Certain Terms Relating to Arms Control and Outer Space*, CD/OS/WP. 27, 8 August 1988; Australia and Canada. *Strengthening State Practice under the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space*. CD/OS/WP. 25, 18 August 1988, Canada. *Arms Control and Outer Space: A Retrospective Review: 1982-1987*. CD/OS/WP 26, 8 August 1988.

³Department of External Affairs. "Canadians Address Ad Hoc Committee on Outer Space," *Disarmament Bulletin*. Fall 1990: 15.