

On 18 October 1988, in a statement before the First Committee at the 43rd Session of the UN General Assembly, Canadian Ambassador Yves Fortier discussed Canadian policy on the prevention of an arms race in outer space:

Canada has made major contributions to those discussions, which we think have contributed usefully to clarification of the issues involved. We will continue to do so. Clearly, the negotiations between the USA and USSR in this area are of crucial importance and should be supported. Continued strict compliance with existing relevant treaties, including the ABM Treaty, remains critically important. Equally clearly, this is a subject area of legitimate multilateral concern and decisions on whether additional legal measures may be required are of broad international interest.¹³

On 7 December 1988, the General Assembly passed Resolution 43/70, calling on the CD to give priority to the question of preventing an arms race in outer space, and to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on this question. It also called upon the United States and the Soviet Union to intensify their negotiations on this issue. The Resolution passed by a vote of 154-1-0, with Canada voting in favor of the motion and only the US opposed.¹⁴

In January 1989, the Arms Control and Disarmament Division of the Department of External Affairs released its latest compendium of final records and working papers from the CD. The volume includes all such materials on the outer space question for the sessions of the CD held in 1988.¹⁵

Ambassador de Montigny Marchand discussed the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the CD again on 7 March 1989. Suggesting that the Committee might have been "overly selective" in its focus on this issue in the past, he noted that the terms "international security" and "uses of space" were of particular importance and worthy of "greater conceptual thought--as was the relationship between them."¹⁶

In this regard, he explained that international security related not only to the absence of weapons as such in outer space, but also to the maintenance of a stable, controlled relationship between the two major space powers. Work in the CD aimed at enhancing rather than detracting from stability, and complemented the bilateral negotiations between the two major space powers. At the same time, while space activities in the past had been dominated by the two major space powers, the situation was changing rapidly. One challenge facing the "multilateral disarmament world," he continued, would

¹³ Department of External Affairs, *Press Release No. 42*, 18 November 1988, pp. 5-6.

¹⁴ UNGA Resolution 43/70, 7 December 1988.

¹⁵ Department of External Affairs, *Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space - Final Records and Working Papers 1988*. Ottawa: Department of External Affairs, January 1989.

¹⁶ Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, "Statement by Ambassador de Montigny Marchand before the Conference on Disarmament," 7 March 1989. p. 6.