

It would serve, through consultation machinery, to provide proof of good faith in the event of allegations of deliberate collision (failure to declare a manoeuvre in advance would, for example, be a telltale sign).

Such a trajectography centre, which could be run discreetly and at low cost, could, like APSI, be attached to the United Nations international Secretariat. It would be open to all interested States possessing or using satellites.

It would not, however, under any circumstances be any kind of regulatory body laying down rules applicable to space, but merely the instrument of a confidence-building régime to which States would subscribe on a voluntary basis.

Moreover, it would, like APSI, be dependent on the data provided by each of those States concerning its own satellites or the satellites it had detected. Provision could be made for consultation machinery to deal with any disputes as to the identities or positions of particular objects.

This kind of relatively modest mechanism would be an invaluable tool for resolving difficulties associated with the notification of space manoeuvres that is an essential condition for the effective prevention of incidents.

---