

CANADA

Report on a Workshop on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space held in Montreal, Quebec, 14-16 May 1987

1. Introduction

As part of its contribution to the work of the present Conference on Disarmament (CD) session, Canada invited heads of CD and observer delegations to attend an Outer Space Workshop in Montreal on 14-17 May 1987.

The purpose of the Workshop was to provide an opportunity for an exchange of views on broad legal questions relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, focussing in particular on the current legal regime relevant to outer space. The Workshop also provided an opportunity to introduce to the members of the CD, the results of Canadian research concerning the use of space-based remote sensing techniques for arms control and disarmament verification.

2. Programme

In addition to Canadian officials, thirty-nine representatives from thirty-five other countries, including eleven ambassadors, plus a representative of the CD secretariat, attended the Workshop. The programme consisted of the following main segments:

- A presentation of two papers on the outer space legal regime at McGill University and a discussion chaired by Ambassador J. Alan Beesley.
- A presentation on Canadian PAXSAT research at Spar Aerospace Ltd., a discussion presided over by Mr. G.A. Branchflower, Vice-President, Spar Aerospace Ltd. and a tour of Spar's facility.
- A banquet speech delivered by the honourable Jean-Guy Hudon, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark.
- A roundtable discussion of relevant issues, chaired by Ambassador J. Alan Beesley.

The following documents were made available to participants of the Workshop. The first two are the texts of the presentations made at McGill University.

- "Preventing An Arms Race in Outer Space: An Academic Perspective". Paper by Dr. Nicolas Mateesco Matte, Director, Centre for Research of Air and Space Law, McGill University.