

of military activities in space. Under the auspices of the United Nations Secretariat, it would have the following functions:

- collection of data for updating registrations;
- monitoring of space objects;
- real time calculation of all available trajectories.

It would keep the information without distributing it and would alert only the State or States concerned where necessary.

The proposal recently put forward by Canada (CD/1088) whereby all space objects would be equipped with beacons to enable them to be identified at all times deserves thorough study, since, if it was proved to be feasible, it might considerably facilitate the task of an international trajectography centre.

B - Regional agencies responsible for transparency

France has long considered that the pooling of information gathered by satellites can make an effective contribution to transparency, which is itself a vital component of security. This was the objective France sought when it proposed to the United Nations in 1978 an international satellite monitoring agency (ISMA), and in 1988 a satellite image processing agency (SIPA). Noting that the regional approach to disarmament and security is increasingly widely recognized as essential by the international community, France considers that the implementation of regional agreements on confidence and security could draw to an increasing extent on the use of satellite images. This approach links up with the philosophy of the "PAXSAT-B" concept put forward by Canada in 1987 (CD/PV.410).

Taking the example of Europe, which already has experience in the application of a regional system of confidence- and security-building measures, and which has recently strengthened the institutional machinery underpinning that system (cf. documents CD/1043: Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and CD/1070: Vienna Document on confidence- and security-building measures in Europe), it is France's wish that the existing CSCE Conflict Prevention Centre should shift towards a transparency function, in particular through the use of the data generated by an "Open Skies" agreement and by satellite images. It suggests that the other regions should make provision for the use of such machinery under regional agreements on confidence and security.