

## 7) Global Referendum on Disarmament

World federalists endorse the proposal developed by Operation Dismantle for a global referendum on mutual and verifiable disarmament. This "made in Canada" idea is supported according to a Gallup poll, by three-quarters of Canadians. The Soviets have already said they would conduct such a referendum if it was adopted by the U.N.

A poll of this nature would strengthen the disarmament process by making palpable a world public will. It would also enhance the public presence and image of the U.N. Imagine the effect on hundreds of millions of people of being asked by the U.N. what they think.

**Recommendation 3-9: That Canada sponsor a U.N. Resolution on a Global Referendum on Mutual and Verifiable Disarmament.**

## 8. Soviet Proposal for U.N. World Space Organization

In August, 1985, the Soviet Union proposed the establishment of a U.N. World Space Organization. The proposal is designed to counter the militarization of space, noting that "such an organization will be possible when agreements which effectively ensure the non-militarization of outer space have been reached."<sup>2</sup>

Most significantly, the proposal envisages a role for the space organization in the verification of arms control agreements. According to the proposal, the space organization would "facilitate the necessary monitoring of compliance with agreements which have already been concluded or will be concluded with a view to preventing an arms race in outer space."<sup>2</sup> Canada's Paxsat would find direct application in such an organization.

Canada should explore this idea with the Soviets, with a view to co-sponsoring the initiative, because:

- The proposal is valuable in its own right, since it expands the U.N.'s responsibilities and capabilities in a new environment, and gives credence to the concept of a U.N. verification role in space, so providing an edge of the wedge for ISMA.
- It could lead to technical cooperation and trade in space technology with the Soviet Union, and may open a potentially vast new market to the Canadian aerospace industry.
- Our involvement with the Soviet Union on such a momentous project would increase Canada's importance to the Soviet Union and give us greater diplomatic opportunity and leverage on the rest of our agenda in the area of arms control and international organization. This, in turn, would increase our importance to the U.S. and give us added leverage in all our dealings with the U.S.
- It would underline our determination to resist the militarization of space.

**Recommendation 3-10: That Canada endorse the proposal of the Soviet Union for a World Space Organization and explore the best means of advancing the proposal.**

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<sup>2</sup> U.N. Document A/40/192