

41. A proposal was made that the Members of the Conference on Disarmament should accept to declare, through the Ad Hoc Committee's report, that none of them has deployed weapons in outer space on a permanent basis. While some delegations, including the delegations of socialist countries, supported this proposal, others questioned its usefulness because, in their view, such a declaration was not verifiable and might interfere with the bilateral negotiations.

42. A presentation was made to the Ad Hoc Committee on the results of an ongoing research programme, known as PAXSAT, concerning the feasibility of the application of remote-sensing techniques to the verification of multilateral arms limitation and disarmament agreements and covering both space-to-space and space-to-ground remote-sensing. Delegations, in general, expressed their appreciation for the valuable contribution this project made to work in the area of verification.

43. Some delegations considered that verification did not raise insurmountable obstacles to the conclusion of agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space since, in their view, it should be possible to assure verification of compliance through a combination of national technical means and international procedures. Attention was drawn to the proposals for the creation of a world space organization and the establishment of an international inspectorate. Reference was also made to the possibilities offered by the PAXSAT concept and the proposed international satellite monitoring agency for further exploring the feasibility of multilateral means of verifying a non-arms régime in outer space. A number of delegations were of the view that verification functions should be entrusted to an international body, so as to provide the international community with an independent capability to verify compliance. Some delegations held that issues relating to verification needed to be considered in greater depth. They believed that such issues were particularly sensitive and complex in this area because, on the one hand, vital national security interests were at stake and, on the other hand, the vastness of space and the possibilities of concealment on Earth posed special problems. One such special problem related to proposals for a verification system that did not take into account that an operational ASAT system and an operational ABM system already exist. Another such problem related to the number of direct and indirect ways to attack a satellite and the other elements of a satellite system. A further problem arose from divorcing classes of "space weapons" from the context in which they are developed and might be deployed. Other delegations maintained that monitoring all launches of objects to be stationed in space, through an international inspectorate, would greatly reduce the relevance of such factors, particularly in the absence of any weapons permanently deployed in that environment. They also recalled that the experience being acquired in verifying some far-reaching disarmament measures on Earth, including SALT and other agreements, would help deal also with concealment problems in space disarmament context. More specifically, these delegations pointed out that some proposals to ban ASAT weapons provided also for the elimination of all existing weapons of this class, both the air-launched systems based on F-15 fighters and, the land-based one which was still not operational, these ASAT systems would be destroyed under strict international control, as provided for by the concept of international inspectorate. They recalled that the definitions of ASAT weapons proposed by various delegations covered all possible ways of attacking satellites or the other elements of a satellite