



Disarmament and International
Security Committee

DISC

*Topic: Creation of agreements
regarding the militarization of outer
space*

ALEXMUN 2017

Delegates,

Welcome to the Disarmament and International Security Committee of Alexmun 2017; during the two days of the model, we will be discussing the topic of the militarization of space. We will debate whether or not it should be done, under what restrictions and what precautions should be taken. In the following document, we will enclose general information on the topic, including the impact space militarization might have if it's taken into action. We will also explain the stance of the most influential countries on this topic, both in favor and against the militarization of space.

Don't doubt to contact us if you have a question regarding protocol or the topic.

Thank you.

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DISC is the Disarmament and Security committee, created in 1946, after the nuclear attacks in Japan from the United States. It forms part of the UN General Assembly. It deals with topics that center around disarmament, global issues, and threats to peace that jeopardize international security, including Nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, cyber security, secret service actions and the regulations and or prohibitions of the use of the previously mentioned.

This committee is centered on the strengths and limitations each country has regarding arms race, weaponry, and their use. This committee will discuss the Militarization of space based on pre-existing treaties such as The Treaty of Space 1969.

Topic:

The militarization of space is the placement and development of weapons in outer space by the militaries of the world. The UN divided the “military” uses of space between weaponization and militarization; the latter refers to the use of satellites to command missile launches, for communications and as tactical tools. In other words, “peaceful uses”, meaning the use of communication and GPS satellites, as tools of war but not as weapons themselves.

Weaponization of space, is a different idea, being the placement of weapons of mass destruction into orbit. Hypersonic missiles that reach the stratosphere may also be studied as “space weapons”.

The idea was developed in the Gulf War, when allied forces would use satellites to gain an upper hand in the development of the battles. These satellites provided intel on the enemy’s troops. They were also useful to check for and alert about incoming enemy missile attacks. The use of these new technologies led to an early end of the War, helping both sides save many lives.

Ever since the 50’s, space systems have become exponentially more beneficial and important to homeland security, including surveillance, communication, and remote sensing of natural disasters.

The international impact of the militarization of space is disrupting the stability of controlled arms races, such as during the Cold War, since countries would be threatened by the orbit of different weapons. National and international security would see itself compromised, if its ongoing stability was suddenly attacked.

However, The Outer Space Treaty, created in 1967 prevents militaries from placing weapons in orbit, especially those of mass destruction. The treaty, however, is not directed specifically toward the issue of “militarization” of space, other than its section regarding the pacific use of the Moon and other celestial bodies, found in the article IV, section 2.

As of today, the militarization of space has been an international issue since the communication and verification capabilities offered by space systems make the creation of a global arms race more likely, similar to what happened during the Cold War.

Various countries such as Pakistan and India consider the non-pacific use of space as a global problematic with the potential of developing a military race for the optimal position of a military world power. Domination of space would mean having the upper hand regarding intelligence on covert operations, satellite communications and the placement and proliferation of mass destruction weaponry both on orbit and in satellites.

Space in the 21st Century offers an opportunity to move towards a world of common security and disarmament, however, it is usually considered a mean to obtain military and political power.

Some countries in favor and against of the militarization of space are:

United States of America:

The primary desire of the United States to militarize space came after the Bush administration commented that they wanted to expand military capabilities and have weapons in space, thus giving the country a total control among all the powers in the military field, where there have always been three specific fields; land, sea and air. In an informative pamphlet published by the special command of the United States with the name Vision for 2020, they resumed the ambitions they have for the armament of space, thus presenting propaganda that make people think the sole objective of this space militarization is to protect the national interests of the United States.

Lockheed Martin and Hughes Space & Communications Company was awarded a contract worth \$ 22 million dollars in connection with the development of the Advanced High Frequency (AEHF) program through the Special Systems and Missile Center. The system description pocket system in 2004, talking about the high frequency of this system and how this is a way to connect communication with the near-world in a more secure, functional and longevity; this system will consist of the capacity of three satellites with a total value of 477 million dollars each, with the great capacity of attention 4,000 networks and 6,000 terminals 24 hours a day. The first satellite was launched in 2007, the post-army mind began to develop a much faster system under the name Transformation Satellite Communications (TSAT), taking into account the AEHF to provide a "smooth transition" as complement the TSAT.

Russia:

The governments of Russia and China proposed an international agreement in 2008 to prevent the deployment of weapons and military tools into space, but the United States government intervened in this decision, rejecting it repeatedly, both in the government of George W. Bush Jr as in the Obama administration.

Viktor Poznikhir, Lieutenant General of the Russian General Staff, said the deployment of the United States meant to curb the nuclear retaliation capabilities in Europe and Asia-Pacific against Russia and China to tip the balance in favor of the United States. These two countries (Russia and China) were forced to respond to these threats and restore power. It is known that for Russia and China, the American system poses a great threat even if these countries undermine nuclear deterrence. By itself, the United States represents a great threat for any nation that has the interest to explore space.

"Anti-satellite capability is one of the reasons why the United States rejects any arms-in-space treaty," Poznikhir said. "The actions of the United States do not lend credibility to their statements on Russian and Chinese missiles and satellites."

China:

Although China is in agreement with Russia in the anti-militarization of space plan, China has a special program that developed the Aolong 1, a satellite that has the possibilities of moving other satellites with its robotic arm, and guide them into the atmosphere to burn. It is known that legally this satellite is exclusively used for the disposal of the space debris that are surrounding its orbit, but this could also be used to shoot down satellites of other powers that appear to be threatening it.

China demolished one of its own satellites in 2007; This seemed more like a warning towards the United States than a demonstration of the capacity of the machine. In 2002, the United States abandoned the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty. As a result, both China and Russia have increased distrust of the United States, since the United States has been increasing its research to develop a space armament system.

Due to this, America has been recently concerned that China wanted to do the same and start its own system of space militarization.

Topics discussed during the sessions:

- Should countries extend their weaponry to space and celestial bodies?
- Why, why not?
- What are some limitations that should be taken into consideration?
- What are some of the possible consequences to a space arms race, and how are the different nations prepared to deal with them?
- What are the international risks to world politics and laws if there were weapons in space?
- In the case the militarization of space occurs, what are the restrictions that would be enforced regarding weapons of mass destruction and nuclear armament?

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