Horace Mann Model United Nations Conference XXII

Disarmament and Security Council

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Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you all to the Disarmament and Security Committee at HoMMUNC XXII! We have worked diligently to choose two topics that will hopefully spark your interest in the United Nations and debate in general. Such interrelated, yet independent issues have plagued the international community for decades and have only intensified in today's world. As delegates, it is your task to work together to discover lasting solutions.

The First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly places the international peace and security as its top priority. The Disarmament and Security Committee (DISEC) works with member nations to closely monitor breaches of international arms agreements as well as to arrange necessary adjustments to such pacts. This committee acts as a mediator between states in times of political and legislative dispute. Facilitation of information transfer and organizational transparency of ancillary institutions (such as the International Atomic Energy Association) also falls within the mandate of this salient committee.

It is your duty as members of this committee to discuss ways to insure international security with regards to arms proliferation. You all must remain constantly cognizant of international law and historical events concerning these issues. However, please remember that we are looking for ingenuity and innovation. In October, we hope to witness the discussion and formulation of new ideas, so make sure to be thoroughly prepared for the conference. This guide will provide you with a solid foundation necessary to understand the basics of these topics but this should not be the final extent of your research. Venture to research books, the Internet, and newspapers in order to fully comprehend the issues surrounding the New Arms Race and the Chinese Missile Test,

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time. We look forward to meeting you all in October and seeing your brilliant minds at work.

Best Wishes,

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TOPIC A

A New Arms Race?

RECENT INCREASING TENSIONS BETWEEN THE US AND RUSSIA

Statement of the Problem:

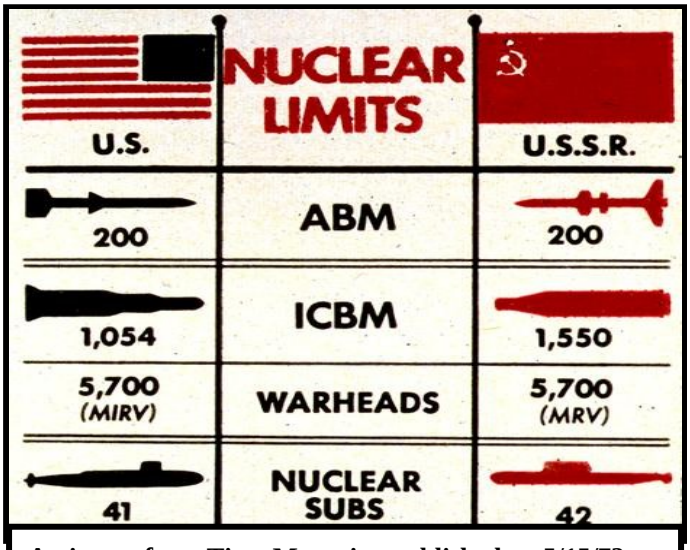
Useful Facts

Courtesy of UN Department for Disarmament Affairs[i]

- World military expenditure peaked at $1.3 trillion in 1987. After a period of decline, it slowly rising today and now stands at more than $ 839 billion, accounting for 2.6% of world GDP and corresponding to an average of $137 per capita.
- Industrialized countries account for about 80% of global military expenditures. The United States accounts for almost half of the world's total arms production; France and UK for 10% each and Germany, Russia and Japan – each roughly 4%.
- In 1945, only one nation possessed a nuclear bomb. Today, there are five recognized nuclear weapon States recognized in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and three more confirmed nuclear-weapon capable States.
- More than 30,000 nuclear warheads are still present in the world, many on high alert, ready to be launched on warning.
- Today, 80% of the world's spending on armaments is on conventional weapons and weapons systems.
- The annual global trade in conventional arms is estimated to be around $30 billion. Nearly 70% of this expenditure was incurred by importing countries from the developing world.
- About 550 million small arms are in circulation world-wide.

In March 2007, the United States announced plans to build new *anti-ballistic missile defense interceptors (ABM)* in Europe. The Federation of Russia viewed the system as a threat to its safety and has begun testing missiles that could possibly destroy this defense system. Much of the international community fears that a new cold war is impending and likely imminent. As Russia and the US abrogate more and more treaties, many worry that the world will revert to a dangerous Cold War-like build up of weapons.

On February 7, before the US announced plans of the shield, Russian President Vladimir Putin, in a speech to the Munich security conference, accused the U.S. of "overstepping its borders in all spheres," imposing itself on other states, and employing a "hyper-inflated use of force."[ii] Putin's comments highlight the already strained relationship between Russia and the US. It is also necessary to note that the former has been concerned since President Bush's withdrawal from the *Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABMT)* on June 13, 2002. President Putin has said Russia will continue to improve its nuclear weapons systems as it sees fit, a reactionary move made after the US's recent ABM plan. In May, Russia test-launched a new intercontinental ballistic missile capable of carrying multiple independent warheads, which a top government official said could penetrate any defense system. "Despite numerous assurances that this [missile defense] base will not be used against Russia, we cannot fail to see this move as part of U.S. plans to set up a strategic component to its military contingent in the region," Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mikhail Kamynin said.[iii]



An image from Time Magazine published on 5/15/72

The US interceptors will be placed in Poland and the Czech Republic. The United States maintains that the interceptors are to protect Europe and Israel from attacks from Iran and North Korea. However, Russia has continuously stated that the plan threatens the balance of strategic forces in Europe. The military chief of staff has repeatedly suggested that Russia would regard elements of the US ABM system as potential targets and would actively target sites in Europe with nuclear weapons, a first since the end of the Cold War. After these bilateral tensions were highlighted by international press and media in mid-July, President Putin formally notified *North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)* governments that Russia would suspend its obligations under the *Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE).*

The US is also concerned with Russian collaboration with Iran, particularly the sale of sophisticated air defense missile systems. Last year the US called for a halt to international arms exports to Iran, and for an end to nuclear cooperation with the country to pressure it to stop uranium enrichment. Russia maintains that it is allowed to engage in deals with Iran, with Kamynin saying, "Military-technical cooperation between Russia and Iran is governed by international law and bilateral agreements."[iv]

In August Putin announced the creation of a new radar station near St. Petersburg. Moscow has said it would bolster its air defense capability. Putin also confirmed plans to double Russia's annual production of military aircraft by 2025. He also said he hoped the defense ministry, now led by Anatoly Serdyukov, would "do literally everything to ensure fulfillment of plans to modernize the army and navy."[v]

Putin also recently announced that Russia would resume long-range missions by strategic bomber aircraft capable of deploying nuclear weapons. Patrols over the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic began last week for the first time since 1992.[vi]

An arms race is potentially threatening to not only the US and Russia but to all members of the United Nations. It is important that DISEC encourages the cooperation of countries around the world against an arms escalation and the subsequently promotion of the creation of new treaties that will act as preventative measures as well as set a proper precedent for the resolution of this difficult situation.

During the twentieth-century Cold War, many nations were voluntarily and involuntarily caught in between the conflict. This committee must prevent the spread of arms races in order to secure global peace and stability.

Italic Terms Explained

Anti-ballistic missile defense interceptors: launch anti-ballistic missiles (ABM) designed to counter ballistic missiles.

Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM): a missile that has a range of greater than 5,500 km that is usually designed for delivering nuclear weapons. All five of the nations with permanent seats on the Security Council (Russia, US, China, Britain, and France) have ICBMs.

Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABMT): a treaty between the US and the USSR regarding the limitation of the ABM systems used in defending areas against missile-delivered nuclear weapons. The US said in a State Department press release that it withdrew from the treaty because:

- "[During the Cold War] Our ultimate security rested largely on the grim premise that neither side would launch a nuclear attack because doing so would result in a counter-attack ensuring the total destruction of both nations. Today, our security environment is profoundly different. The Cold War is over. The Soviet Union no longer exists. Russia is not an enemy, but in fact is increasingly allied with us on a growing number of critically important issues." [vii]
- "Under the terms of the ABM Treaty, the United States is prohibited from defending its homeland against ballistic missile attack. We are also prohibited from cooperating in developing missile defenses against long-range threats with our friends and allies."[viii]

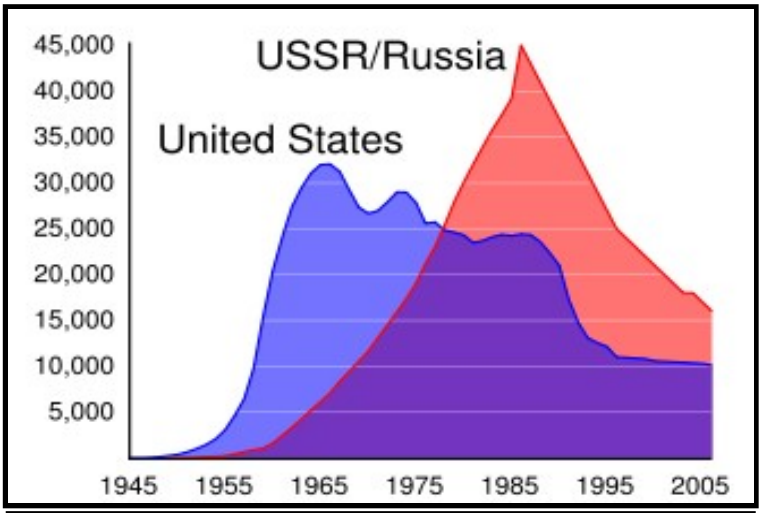
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): An alliance of states, originally Western Europe, the United States and Canada, that organized to ensure each other's safety. During the Cold War, NATO was the primary opposition to the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. Since the Soviet Union's dissolution, NATO has expanded into Eastern Europe, including former communist states.

Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE): The CFE treaty was first signed in 1990 (amended in 1999) and designed to maintain a balance of military forces in Europe at the end of the Cold War. Today, Russia is frustrated over the limits the treaty imposes on its troop and military equipment movements within its own borders. The treaty limits the number of aircraft, tanks and other non-nuclear heavy weapons around Europe. President Putin's explained the decision to indefinitely suspend Russia's treaty obligations as caused by "extraordinary circumstances" that "affect the security of the Russian Federation and require immediate measures."[ix] The US was upset by Russia's withdrawal from the treaty. "We're disappointed Russia has suspended its participation," said a White House spokesperson. [x]

History of the Cold War:

In order to understand and analyze recent developments in the impending arms race adequately, you, as delegates, must familiarize yourselves with Cold War relations and events. History can repeat itself if left unhindered—it is up to you to decide which path this twenty-first-century international community should follow.

Allied until the end of WWII, the US and USSR would, until the fall of the Soviet Union, be engaged in a complicated and protracted geopolitical, ideological, and economic struggle for over forty years. Although there was never a direct military engagement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the second half of the twentieth century saw much military accretion and many



The above graph shows US and Russian arms buildup since 1945

military battles by proxy states. This so-called Cold War was accelerated (and prolonged) by an unprecedented arms race. A seemingly never ending cycle, the race forced each state to continually attempt to surpass the other. During this period, billions of dollars were spent by each country on nuclear attack and defense systems. In 1945, the US built the first nuclear bomb. Despite an alliance against the Axis powers throughout World War II, the Americans did not trust the Soviets to keep information regarding the nuclear weapons from German spies. Relations between the two nations rapidly deteriorated at the defeat of the Nazis, though even during the war, many government and military figures in the US saw the USSR as future potential enemy.

By 1949, the USSR created a nuclear bomb, proclaiming the start of the arms race. Other states, such as France, China, and Great Britain, eventually developed their own nuclear weapons. By the 1950s, both the United States and Soviet Union had the power to obliterate the other side, paradoxically ensuring the defeatist nature of nuclear war for both sides, a concept known as Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).

On October 14th 1962 American spy plans discovered "offensive nuclear missile sites in Cuba."[xi] This led to a tense confrontation between American and Soviet leaders. No one wanted to make the first move. Eventually the two sides were able to diffuse the tension but not after the world was on the brink of destruction.

In the 1960's and 70's the US would engage in a war in Vietnam whose stated goal was to prevent the spread of communism. The Soviets would later engage in a war in Afghanistan and the US would support the rebels fighting against the Soviets.

By the 1980s, tensions between the US and the USSR slowly began to ease, allowing for more discussions and negotiations between the two sides. Many treaties were signed that helped reduce the number of nuclear weapons each party possessed, further helping to relieve the hostility between the two nations.

Below is a summary of Cold War-Present Treaties. It is noteworthy that several treaties are left out and should be researched prior to the conference.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-1982): reduced and limited the number of offensive nuclear weapons possessed by both the USSR and US. Both countries were prevented from deploying more than 6,000 nuclear warheads atop a total of 1,600 ICBMs SLBM, and bombers. Its final implementation resulted in the removal of about 80% of all strategic nuclear weapons.

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty-1987): eliminated the US and USSR's nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (300-3,400 miles).

Notifications of Launches of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (1988): requires both the US and USSR to provide each other with 24 hour notice before launching an IBM or SLBM.

The Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty Agreement (SALT-1969): froze the number of strategic ballistic missile launchers at existing levels, and also provided for the addition of new submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) launchers only after the same number of older ICBM and SLBM launchers had been dismantled.

Moscow Treaty/ The Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions (SORT-2002): limits the number of operationally deployed warheads to 1700-2200 allowed by the US and Russia respectively.

Possible Solutions:

An arms race will not simply have consequences for just the US and Russia but will also affect the rest of the international community by spilling over borders and pulling allies into a global conflict. Bear in mind that no unilateral solution will prove sufficient. A successful delegation will develop a multifaceted resolution that will take into consideration the differing opinions of all member nations as well as the need for both short and long term components.

General Solution Components

The Global Control System incorporates several internationally recognized solutions. The following solutions were summarized in the 2002 General Assembly Disarmament Support. These ideas have been repeated by nations in the United Nations and other international forums:

- Improving international disarmament agreements
- Implementing agencies: NPT and IAEA,
- Physical protection of nuclear material
- Tracking of illicit material traffic
- Vigorous chemical weapons inspection regime

- Monitoring of compliance and verification
- Ending Missile proliferation and missile defence programs altogether
- Information security regarding arms/possibly international transparency
- Cooperation with regional and inter-governmental organizations

A Global Control System

In the past, Russia has proposed a Global Control System, which would consist of global monitoring of missile launches, encompassing notification, exchange of early warning information, and the establishment of an international center for its headquarters. Broad international participation is imperative to the success of launch notifications. The creation of a voluntary system, which allows for any state's participation, would help legitimize this system. The Report of the Secretary-General on the Issue of Missiles in All its Aspects recommends that the main international mechanisms and measures of the Global Control System include:

- transparency and a monitoring system for missile launches;
- consideration of security guarantees and incentives for States forgoing or relinquishing weapons of mass destruction-capable missiles;
- international consultations on missile-related issues;
- regional confidence-building measures;
- international cooperation for the launching of civilian space objects.[xii]

<u>Country and Bloc Positions:</u>

United States:

The United States believes it has every right to build anti-ballistic missile defense interceptors where it deems necessary for the safety of its allies. The nation also believes that the ABM Treaty, from which it has withdrawn, is obsolete and holds the right to withdraw from any treaty that interrupts with the national defense of the country and its allies.

The U.S. has said that its missile defense system is intended to deter Iran and other so-called "rogue nations." Further, the US claims it hopes to collaborate with Russia on the missile defense system in order to help create a safer world and deter terrorism. President Bush has said "Russia is not an enemy. There needs to be no military response because we are not at war with Russia."[xiii] He has also said that the shield is a "purely defensive measure aimed not at Russia, but a true threat."[xiv]

Officials from the United States have insisted that the missile shield is designed to defend Europe from a ballistic missile launch and could not possibly defeat a serious Russian attack anyway.

The US government points to their December 2001 Nuclear Posture Review, which revealed that by 2012 the United States will decrease the number of nuclear warheads deployed on its operational forces by two-thirds and will cut its total stockpile of nuclear warheads nearly in half, as evidence that they are not engaged in an arms race.

Russian Federation:

The Federation of Russia believes that the installation of ABM sites is a threat to their peace. Furthermore, since Russia has fewer long-range bombers, ICBMs, and SBLMs than the USSR did, the state will argue that it is not engaging in an arms race. Russia claims that the US will provoke a race if it does install the ABM sites.

Russia believes that although the US claims that the shield isn't aimed at Russia, the ABMs won't be programmed to avoid incoming Russian ballistic missiles. Russia is nervous about US's centralized focus near Russia's border. Because it is unlikely that Poland or the Czech Republic take the Iranian threat very seriously, Russia believes that the ABM sites represent a U.S. commitment to protect Eastern Europe both militarily and politically from Russia.

US President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in the Bush family house in Maine in July to discuss arms, among other issues.

Germany:

German Chancellor Angela Merkel stated that she does not oppose U.S. plans for an anti-missile shield to counter any future attack by Iran. "I am not against Mr Putin but also not against the idea," Merkel said at a semi-annual news conference in response to a question about the U.S. shield plan. "I have always said that one cannot say there's no threat coming from Iran."[xv]

Poland:

Poland is cooperating with the US and allowing the nation to build ABM sites within its borders. President Lech Kaczynski said, "The matter of the shield is largely a foregone conclusion. The shield will exist because for Poland this will be a very good thing."[xvi]

NATO Countries:

President Nicolas Sarkozy of France and Tony Blair, the former British prime minister, have called for a more constructive relationship between Russia and the US. At the same time, NATO's secretary-general defended the US's missile shield plan. "You don't have to be Einstein to understand that 10 interceptor rockets don't pose any threat to Russia and the Russian people," NATO's Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said.[xvii]

Iran:

While Iran has not officially allied with the US or Russia, current Iranian official statements have swayed towards the Russian side of the matter. Iran has a history of being the center of any geopolitical situation and will surely try to use the tensions to its advantage. While Iran currently denies a military nuclear program, US accusations have substantiated the recent ABM interceptors.

Middle East:

The majority of Middle Eastern nations, fearing what instability in the region may bring,

tend to support the status quo. Israel, Egypt, and other Arab nations have stratified themselves either to the US or Russian side for individual advancement. Israel supports the recent effort, as the ABM will also acts as a shield for Israel. Israel has also continuously criticized arms deals with Iran.

Asia:

Japan has supported the US effort whole heartedly. While China has been hesitant to take action afraid of seeming hypocritical while pursuing its new technological missile programs in space. Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will generally support Russia, or at least not criticize it.

Cuba:

Cuba generally disagrees with the US foreign policy, regarding US actions as imperialistic. At the same time Cuba may not have as good relations with Russia as during the Cold War, but still maintains closer ties with Russia than the US.

Venezuela:

President Hugo Chavez has consistently condemned the US for having an imperialistic foreign policy. Chavez has in recent years reduced its economic and military ties with the US and pursued relationships with other countries including Russia.

African Nations:

African nations do not have the resources to maintain a level of technological proficiency comparable to that of the US or Russia. Thus, these nations prefer to avoid nuclear warfare at all costs. Looking back at Cold War allegiances, several nations (primarily Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, and Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)) were ruled by European whites who had ties to their own nations and the United States. It is important for the delegates of these nations to understand the constant thirst of the US, Russia, and even China to gain the support of the "Third World" during the Cold War; a thirst comparable to one of this day.

Questions A Resolution Should Answer:

A resolution must be comprehensive in answering the following questions and should also address issues discussed in committee session:

- How can DISEC get the US and Russia to rejoin the treaties it has abrogated from?
- How can DISEC get both the US and Russia to work together to create a defense system?
- What is the best way to assure a new arms build up does not occur?
- How can DISEC prevent the arm race from occurring from more than just the US and Russia?
- Do the US and Russia pose a threat to international peace and stability?
- What sort of punishments, if any, should be leveraged upon nations that engage in an arms race?
- Should DISEC broaden the debate to include any county that begins increasing its weapons and defense systems?

TOPIC B

Above and Beyond National Boundaries

CHINESE ANTAGONIZATION OR MILITARY PURSUIT OF SPACE?

Statement of Problem:

Outer space and the rights of individual nations to that space will be of the most contested issues debated in the UN in the coming years.

In January, the Peoples Republic of China used a missile to destroy an orbiting satellite, supporting the US belief that Chinese prowess in outer space could undermine relations with the West and satellites that the US military values. The US and other Western nations reason that a Chinese missile could take out all western spy satellites if a potential conflict in the Asia region transpired. "The U.S. believes China's development and testing of such weapons is inconsistent with the spirit of co-operation that both countries aspire to in the civil space area," US National Security Council spokesman Gordon Johndroe said.[xviii]

The above image shows the location of the 2007 Chinese Anti-Satellite Missile test

In the test China shot down an orbiting weather satellite with a ground-based, medium-range ballistic missile. It was the first known satellite intercept test in over 20 years. American Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine had reported that a Chinese Feng Yun 1C polar orbit weather satellite had been destroyed by an anti-satellite system launched from or near China's Xichang Space Centre on January 11, 2007. The test is believed to have taken place at over 537 miles (865 km) above the earth.[xix]

Marco Caceres, a space expert at the Teal Group, an aerospace consulting firm in Fairfax, Virginia, told Reuters that China's test could bolster a host of military space programs in the US.[xx] The UN has played a distinguished role in military adventures into space and has always advocated the peaceful use of space only for the benefit of the world's populations.

China's test comes on the heels of a New US Space Policy which asserts US authority in space and states, "The United States considers space systems to have the rights of passage through and operations in space without interference. Consistent with this principle, the United States will view purposeful interference with its space systems as an infringement on its rights; The conduct of U.S. space programs and activities shall be a top priority, guided by the following principles:[xxi]

- "Peaceful purposes" **allow U.S. defense and intelligence related activities in pursuit of national interests**;

- The United States rejects any claims to sovereignty by any nation over outer space or celestial bodies, or any portion thereof, and rejects any limitations on the **fundamental right of the United States to operate in and acquire data from space**;

- The United States considers space systems to have the rights of passage through and operations in space without interference. Consistent with this principle, the **United**

States will view purposeful interference with its space systems as an infringement on its rights, capabilities, and freedom of action in; space.

- The United States will oppose the development of new legal regimes or other restrictions that seek to prohibit or limit U.S. access to or use of space.

- The United States Government will use U.S. commercial space capabilities to the maximum practical extent, **consistent with national security."**

Despite the nation's missile test, in a recent White Paper entitled *China's Space Activities* released in 2006 China stated that:

"The aims of China's space activities are to explore outer space, and enhance understanding of the Earth and the cosmos; to utilize outer space for peaceful purposes, promote human civilization and social progress, and benefit the whole of mankind; to meet the demands of economic construction, scientific and technological development, **national security** and social progress; and to raise the scientific quality of the Chinese people, **protect China's national interests and rights**, and **build up the comprehensive national strength**.
When developing the space industry, China will follow the principles guiding the development of the country's scientific and technological programs, namely, making innovations independently, making leapfrogging development in key areas, shoring up the economy and leading future trends. In the new development stage, the principles of development for China's space industry are as follows: [xxii]

- Maintaining and serving the country's overall development strategy, and meeting the needs of the state and reflecting its will. China considers the development of its space industry as a strategic way to enhance its economic, scientific, technological and **national defense strength**, as well as a cohesive force for the unity of the Chinese people, in order to rejuvenate China.

- Upholding independence and self-reliance policy; China relied completely on itself when it developed its space industry from scratch, and has made constant progress through making independent innovations.

- Maintaining comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development, and bringing into full play the functions of space science and technology in promoting and sustaining the country's science and technology sector, as well as economic and social development. China **will protect the space environment, and develop and utilize space resources in a rational manner.**

- **China supports all activities that utilize outer space for peaceful purposes.** It will strengthen exchanges and cooperation in this field with other countries on the basis of the principles of **equality, mutual benefit, peaceful utilization of outer space and common development.**"

According to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the UN office responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, "the Outer Space Treaty states that outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means. The treaty establishes the exploration and use of outer space as the 'province of all mankind'."[xxiii]

An outer space arms race is potentially imminent and certainly threatening to not only the US and China but to all nations throughout the world. It is important that DISEC encourage the alliance of nations to clearly define space with respect to the rights of all nations in space, while keeping in mind previous resolutions and treaties established on the matter. If one nation monopolizes space then all nations lose their rightful sovereignty in space to that country. It is the mandate of this committee to prevent this from occurring.

History of International Space Law:

The term "space law" is most often associated with the rules, principles and standards of international law appearing in the five international treaties and five sets of principles governing outer space which have been elaborated under the auspices of the United Nations Organization. However, space law also includes international agreements, treaties, conventions, rules and regulations of international organizations (eg. the International Telecommunications Union), national laws, rules and regulations, executive and administrative orders, and judicial decisions.

Previous space laws have addressed a variety of diverse matters, such as military activities in outer space, preservation of the space and Earth environment, liability for damages caused by space objects, settlement of disputes, protection of national interests, rescue of astronauts, sharing of information about potential dangers in outer space, use of space-related technologies, and international cooperation. It is important that every delegation be familiar with certain important resolutions and treaties.

Perhaps the most significant, The Outer Space Treaty prohibits nations from placing or stationing any types of weapons of mass destruction in space. The treaty also states that the moon and other celestial bodies can solely be used for peaceful purposes. It forbids the establishment of military bases of any kind, the testing of any types of weapons, and the conduct of military exercises on any celestial bodies. However, the use of military personnel for peaceful endeavor or scientific research is not prohibited. The treaty has been ratified by 98 nations, including China, and has been signed by 27 others.

States which have national law and legislation governing space-related activities include Argentina, Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, South Africa, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

Below is a short list of important international documents on the exploration and utilization of weapons in space. You should familiarize with these documents and explore several others as well.

General Assembly Resolution 1472 (1959): This resolution created the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The committee gives reports to the General Assembly. It's mandate is described as:

a. To review, as appropriate, the area of international co-operation, and to study practical and feasible means for giving effect to programmes in the peaceful uses of outer space which could appropriately be undertaken under United Nations auspices, including, inter alia:
    i. Assistance for the continuation on a permanent basis of the research on outer space carried on within the framework of the International Geophysical Year;
    ii. Organization of the mutual exchange and dissemination of information on outer space research;
    iii. Encouragement of national research programmes for the study of outer space, and the rendering of all possible assistance and help towards their realization;
b. To study the nature of legal problems which may arise from the exploration of outer space;

Any resolution must recognize the importance of this resolution.

Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies: One of the first international treaties that created space rules. Major points include:

- The prohibition of the instillation weapons of mass destruction in orbit around the Earth, on the moon or any other celestial body, or otherwise station in outer space
- The restriction of the use of the moon and any other celestial bodies to only peaceful purposes and expressly prohibits their use for establishing military bases, installation, or fortifications; testing weapons of any kind; or conducting military maneuvers

GA Resolution 36/97C Prevention of an arms race in outer space: The first resolution passed by the GA in 1981 that addressed an arms race in space. Every future resolution passed would use this resolution as not only a template but also would cite this resolution directly.

GA Resolution 61/58 Prevention of an arms race in outer space: DISEC passed this resolution. Clause 4 reads:

Calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

GA Resolution 61/111 International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space: The most recent resolution passed by the GA in regards to space. Clause 25 reads:

Urges all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space as an essential condition for the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

History of UN Involvement, courtesy of UNOOSA

In 1958, shortly after the launching of the first artificial satellite, the General Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (resolution 1348 (XIII)), with 18 members, in order to consider:

- the activities and resources of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international bodies relating to the peaceful uses of outer space;
- international cooperation and programs in the field that could appropriately be undertaken under United Nations auspices;
- organizational arrangements to facilitate international cooperation in the field within the framework of the United Nations; and
- legal problems which might arise in programs to explore outer space.

In 1959, the General Assembly established the Committee as a permanent body and reaffirmed its mandate in resolution 1472 (XIV). In 1961, the General Assembly, considering that the United Nations should provide a focal point international cooperation in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, requested the Committee, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and making full use of the functions and resources of the Secretariat:

- to maintain close contact with governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with outer space matters;
- to provide for the exchange of such information relating to outer space activities as Governments may supply on a voluntary basis, supplementing, but not duplicating, existing technical and scientific exchanges; and
- to assist in the study of measures for the promotion of international cooperation in outer space activities.

Frequently Asked Questions, Answered by UNOOSA[xxiv]

Do the five international treaties regulate military activities in outer space?

Yes. The Outer Space Treaty prohibits States Parties from placing in orbit around the Earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, installing such weapons on celestial bodies, or stationing such weapons in outer space in any other manner. The Treaty also states that the Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and prohibits the establishment of military bases, installations and fortifications, the testing of any types of weapons and the conduct of military manoeuvres on such celestial bodies. However the use of military personnel for scientific research or for any other peaceful purposes is not prohibited.

The Moon Agreement expands upon the provisions of the Outer Space Treaty by also prohibiting any threat or use of force, any other hostile act or threat of hostile act on the Moon (or other celestial bodies in the solar system) and any use of the Moon (or other celestial bodies in the solar system) in order to commit such acts or threats in relation to the Earth, the Moon, spacecraft, personnel of spacecraft or man-made space objects.

Can any State claim a part of outer space as its own?

No. The Outer Space Treaty states that outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means. The Treaty establishes the exploration and use of outer space as the "province of all mankind". The Moon Agreement expands on these provisions by stating that neither the surface nor the subsurface of the Moon (or other celestial bodies in the solar system), nor any part thereof or natural resources in place, shall become property of any State, international intergovernmental or non-governmental organization, national organization or non- governmental entity or of any natural person.

The treaties control space-related activities of States. What about non-governmental entities active in outer space, like companies and even individuals?

The Outer Space Treaty states that States Parties shall bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, whether such activities are carried out by governmental

agencies or non-governmental entities, and for assuring that national activities are carried out in conformity with the provisions set forth in the treaty. The Treaty further states that the activities of non-governmental entities in outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the appropriate State Party.

Who owns satellites and other space objects that inadvertently return to earth or become "lost" in outer space ? Can they be claimed by anybody able to salvage them ?

The Outer Space Treaty states that ownership of objects launched into outer space, including objects landed or constructed on a celestial body, and of their component parts, is not affected by their presence in outer space or on a celestial body or by their return to earth. In other words, satellites and other space objects remain the property of their original owners regardless of their location. The Outer Space Treaty and the Rescue Agreement then go on to specifically provide for the return of all space objects or their component parts to their original launching authority or state of registry if they are discovered or recovered in a foreign territory or on the high seas.

Are States liable for damages which might be caused by their space objects in outer space or on the Earth?

According to the Outer Space Treaty and the Liability Convention, States Parties that launch or procure the launch of an object into outer space, or from whose territory or facility an object is launched, are internationally liable for damage caused by that object or its component parts. Such damage includes loss of life, personal injury or other impairment of health; or loss of or damage to property of States or of persons, natural or juridical (ie companies etc.), or of international organizations. The Liability Convention provides for damage suffered on the surface of the Earth, to aircraft in flight, and to other space objects or persons and property on such other space objects.

Country and Bloc Positions:

United States:

The last U.S. anti-satellite test took place on Sept. 13, 1985. Since then, the US has halted such Cold War-era testing, concerned that debris could harm civilian and military satellite operations on which the West increasingly relies for everything from pinpoint navigation to Internet access to automated teller machines to military communications. At the same time, the US will not support any international banning of this testing. The US has repeatedly stated that "proposed arms control agreements or restrictions must not impair the rights of the United States to conduce research, development, testing and operations or other activities in space for U.S. national interests."[xxv]

The US continually maintains its right to use space for its own interests and will not tolerate any infringement on that right. Furthermore, the US has promised protection to Taiwan against a potential Chinese attack because the superpower does not want China to have the ability to attack US satellites in space.

People's Republic of China:

This January, China launched a missile to destroy an orbiting satellite. The state claims that it solely wants to pursue peaceful uses of space, but maintains its right to defend its national sovereignty. Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao, while not denying the test took place, insisted China was committed to the "peaceful development of outer space."[xxvi] The nation stresses its consistent promotion of the peaceful development of outer space and its opposition the arming of space and military competition in space.

Taiwan:

The Taiwanese view the Chinese missile test as an act of aggression. “I don't think it's just limited to Taiwan only but of course... Taiwan stands out to be the first country that might have to suffer if a future conflict were to erupt between China and some other countries,” said a Taiwanese government spokesman.[xxvii]

U.S. President George W. Bush (R) and first lady Laura Bush (2nd L) gather on the South Portico of the White House with China's President Hu Jintao (2nd R) and his wife Liu Yongqing at a welcoming ceremony in Washington, April 20, 2006

China continues to see Taiwan as part of its territory and has threatened to use force if the island ever moved to declare formal independence. Because the US is committed to providing Taiwan with defensive weapons, the Asian nation will support most US policies.

Russian Federation:

Russia has been a long-time opponent of the militarization of space. The country would like to avoid an intergalactic arms race at all costs.

European Union:

The European Union has taken less drastic steps than the US, avoiding caustic remarks on the matter. Due to their close proximity to East Asia, European states have shown concerns about the humanitarian effects of missile test into space, primarily the distribution of debris across Europe. The EU desperately wants to prevent an arms race and has favored the demilitarization of space.

Middle East:

Middle Eastern states are known to have not acquired comparable space missile technology as the US or China. That having been said, the Middle East is fearful of a powerless position in the event that a space arms race is to occur. Middle Eastern delegates will have to decide the extent to which nations balance US allegiances and their nations own yearns for demilitarization.

East Asian Nations:

To these nations, regional stability is key. An international conflagration of any sort pertaining to Missiles will inevitably harm these nations. However, political alliances are key to understanding the roles of these nations with respect to Chinese missile aspirations. Nations such as Japan which are close allies to the US strongly oppose any form of Chinese aggression, even at the cost of angering a neighbor. Nations like India, however, strongly support national sovereignty and technological endeavors and can sympathize with their Chinese counterparts.

African Nations:

In this situation, economic interests are key for African nations. Nations like Sudan have great economic ties with China, and thus sympathize with the Chinese position. Countries like Ethiopia and South Africa are know to have ties to Europe and America and thus will sympathize with these respective stances.

Possible Solutions:

The General Assembly has established a set of legal principles to provide for the application of international law in the field of space militarization. The principles are:

- The application of international law,
- The promotion of international cooperation and understanding in space activities,
- The dissemination and exchange of information through transnational direct television broadcasting via satellites and remote satellite observations of Earth,
- General standards regulating the safe use of nuclear power sources necessary for the exploration and use of outer space.

In addition to the outlined GA principles, a lasting solution should deal with the following issues:

- arms control,
- the possible appropriation of space to a specific nation or group of nations,
- the freedom of exploration,
- liability for damage caused by space objects,
- the safety and rescue of spacecraft and astronauts,
- the prevention of harmful interference with space activities and the environment,
- the notification and registration of space activities,
- scientific investigation,
- exploitation of natural resources in outer space and the settlement of disputes.

The Democratic Party of the United States presented the Space Preservation Treaty in 2005, though no country has yet to ratify the Treaty. The treaty would ban the use of weapons in space completely, a measure many nations see as impractical. This committee will need to decide whether a decision should be made to ban space weapons or regulate them.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer:

When brainstorming possible solutions and writing resolutions, keep these following question in mind:

- What is the definition of space?
- What are the rights of sovereign nations in space?
- How should this committee react to China's test?
- What are the duties of the UN and DISEC to ensure peace in space?
- What can DISEC do to prevent an outer space arms race?

Additional Research / Recommended Sources:

All delegates should research and prepare for the conference with regard to the specific country they are assigned. Keep in mind that this background guide should be only a starting point in your preparations. All delegates are encouraged to do additional research on your respective country's stances.

One of the best starting points is the official United Nations Website, http://www.un.org. The UN site has almost every resolution on its website.
Each county has a UN mission and Ministry of Foreign Affairs websites that can be found either through Google or on the UN site itself, http://www.un.int/index-en/webs.html

www.globalpolicy.org Is a great site for finding information on countries policies.

news.bbc.co.uk Is an extremely informative site containing news from around the world and also features many in-depth country profiles

.

http://www.un.org/ga/61//first/first.shtml Is the homepage of DISEC and contains all previous DISEC Resolutions.
http://www.unoosa.org/ Is the homepage of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.
http://www.space.com/ Is a website with lots of information on space.

http://armscontrol.org/
http://defensetech.org/
These are both sites that contain pertinent information on arms.

http://www.foreignaffairs.org/ Is an informative website published by the Council on Foreign Relations.

[i] http://disarmament.un.org/
[ii] http://www.securityconference.de/konferenzen/rede.php?sprache=en&id=179
[iii]http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Russia_Criticizes_US_Missile_Shield_Plans_In_Europe_999.html
[iv]*Ibid*
[v] http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/328d9098-4909-11dc-b326-0000779fd2ac.html
[vi] http://www.guardian.co.uk/russia/article/0,,2153669,00.html
[vii] http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/12/20011213-2.html
[viii] *Ibid*
[ix] http://www.neurope.eu/view_news.php?id=76107
[x] *Ibid*
[xi] Gillon, Steven M., *The American Paradox: A History of the United States Since 1945* (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003), 171
[xii] The issue of missiles in all its aspects: Report of the Secretary-General , Sixty-first session
[xiii] http://www.iht.com/articles/2007/06/06/europe/prexy.php
[xiv] http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0706/05/ltm.01.html
[xv] http://www.javno.com/en/world/clanak.php?id=63227
[xvi] http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSN1637250020070716
[xvii] http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6239750.stm
[xviii] http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6276543.stm
[xix] http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6289519.stm
[xx] http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16689558/
[xxi] http://www.ostp.gov/html/US%20National%20Space%20Policy.pdf- US NEW SPACE POLICY UNCLASSIFIED
[xxii] http://english.gov.cn/2006-10/12/content_410983.htm
[xxiii] http://www.unoosa.org/
[xxiv] http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/FAQ/splawfaq.html
[xxv] http://www.thespacereview.com/article/755/1
[xxvi] http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/6289519.stm
[xxvii] *Ibid*