

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1988 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT, TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A DOCUMENT ENTITLED "ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF VERIFICATION OF THE NON-DEPLOYMENT OF WEAPONS OF ANY KIND IN OUTER SPACE"

I have the honour to transmit herewith a document entitled "Establishment of an international system of verification of the non-deployment of weapons of any kind in outer space".

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this document to be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and as a working paper of the Ad hoc Committee on Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

(Signed) Y. NAZARKIN  
Representative of the USSR to  
the Conference on Disarmament

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF VERIFICATION OF  
THE NON-DEPLOYMENT OF WEAPONS OF ANY KIND IN OUTER SPACE

The USSR delegation shares the concern expressed by the representatives of many States participating in the Conference on Disarmament about the possibility of the arms race spreading to outer space.

During the 1987 session of the Conference on Disarmament the delegation of the Soviet Union proposed that, without waiting for the conclusion of an appropriate agreement on space, a start should be made on establishing a system for international verification of the non-deployment of weapons of any kind in outer space. The main purpose of such a system would be to determine that objects to be launched into and stationed in space were not weapons and were not equipped with weapons of any kind.

In the opinion of the USSR, the central place in such a system of verification might be taken by an International Space Inspectorate upon which the States parties to the agreement would confer the right of access, for inspection purposes, to any objects intended to be launched into and stationed in outer space.

In the present paper, the USSR proposal concerning the International Space Inspectorate is given concrete form. In this connection, the Soviet Union believes that, depending upon the specifics of the actual agreements on the prevention of an arms race in space, the system of verification, the structure of the International Space Inspectorate and its modes of operation can be worked out and refined in the course of negotiations.

I. Aims and definitions

1. The main aim in establishing the International Space Inspectorate is to implement measures to verify that any objects to be launched into and stationed in outer space by States parties are not weapons and are not equipped with weapons of any kind.
2. On-site inspection directly before launch is the simplest and most effective method of making sure that objects to be launched into and stationed in space are not weapons and are not equipped with weapons of any kind.
3. In order to ensure a complete ban on space arms, measures of verification with the aid of the International Space Inspectorate should include:
  - (a) advance submission by the receiving State to the representatives of the International Space Inspectorate of information on every forthcoming launch, including the date and time of launch, the type of launch vehicle, the parameters of the orbit and general information on the space object to be launched;
  - (b) the permanent presence of inspection teams at all sites for launching space objects in order to check all such objects irrespective of the vector;

(c) the start of inspection ... days before the object to be launched into space is mounted on the launch vehicle or other vector;

(d) the holding of inspections also at agreed storage facilities, industrial enterprises, laboratories and testing centres;

(e) the verification of undeclared launches from undeclared launching pads by means of ad hoc on-site inspections.

4. The expression "space object" means any apparatus intended to be launched into and stationed in outer space.

5. The expression "weapons prohibited for launching into outer space" means systems and devices, irrespective of the physical principles on which they are based, that are created ab initio or are re-equipped to strike objects in outer space or in the atmosphere or on the surface of the Earth (the list of such systems and devices will be agreed upon in the course of negotiations).

6. Ballistic missiles whose launches are not connected with placing any objects into the orbit of an artificial Earth satellite or on a flight path to other heavenly bodies shall not be subject to verification by the International Space Inspectorate.

## II. Structure and financing

1. The governing body directing the work of the International Space Inspectorate shall be a Council composed of representatives of all States parties to the Agreement. The Council shall hold regular annual sessions, as well as special sessions which may be convened by the Inspector-General at the request of a majority of States parties to the Agreement.

2. The executive body of the Council shall be the International Space Inspectorate; it shall be headed by an Inspector-General, who shall be elected by the Council for a term of five years.

3. The basis of the International Space Inspectorate shall consist of a corps of inspectors, who shall be selected from among the specialists of the States parties to the Agreement in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation.

4. The International Space Inspectorate shall have permanent inspection teams composed of ... persons assigned to the following launching sites of States parties (the list will be agreed upon in the course of negotiations).

5. Ad hoc inspection teams shall be composed of members of the corps of inspectors and of additional specialists assigned as necessary by States parties.

6. The activities of the International Space Inspectorate shall be financed out of the annual proportional contributions of the States parties (to be agreed upon in the course of negotiations).

### III. Permanent inspection teams

1. The permanent inspection teams shall be appointed by the Inspector-General, by prior agreement with the receiving State, from among the candidates nominated by the States parties on the principle of equitable geographical representation and totalling not more than ... persons.
2. The heads of the permanent inspection teams shall be appointed by the Inspector-General, by prior agreement with the receiving State, from among the candidates nominated by the States parties.
3. Every permanent inspection team shall include representatives of the State party conducting regular launches of space objects in whose territory the team in question serves.
4. The heads and members of permanent inspection teams shall be accorded the privileges and immunities which are granted to diplomatic representatives in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.
5. The receiving State shall render maximum assistance to the permanent inspection team in the performance of the team's functions.
6. The permanent inspection teams shall be stationed in proximity to the launching sites.
7. The permanent inspection team shall, by agreement with the receiving State, import and use the instruments, materials and equipment needed for the performance of its functions, the list of which will be agreed upon in the course of negotiations.
8. The activities of the permanent inspection teams shall be financed out of the budget of the International Space Inspectorate.

### IV. Working procedure of the International Space Inspectorate

1. The receiving State shall submit to the International Space Inspectorate a general observation programme concerning each forthcoming launch of a space object ... days before the launch, at the same time forwarding a copy of the notification to the competent permanent inspection team.
2. A notification of a forthcoming launch shall include the following information: the place, date and time of launch, the type of launch vehicle, the parameters of the orbit and general data on the space object to be launched (the volume of information to be submitted will be agreed upon in the course of negotiations).
3. A reply to each notification of a forthcoming launch shall be transmitted by the International Space Inspectorate to the receiving State not later than ... days after the submission of the notification and shall be accompanied by the sending of instructions to the competent permanent inspection team to hold an inspection.

4. Together with the notification, the receiving State shall provide a general observation programme including the following information:

The date, time and place of the inspectors' access to the space object;

The planned duration of the observation programme;

The languages to be used for interpretation and/or translation;

Other necessary information;

The terms for the supply of any observation equipment that will be made available to the observers by the receiving State.

5. To enable the inspectors to determine with sufficient certainty that the space object is not a weapon and is not equipped with weapons, the receiving State shall in the course of the inspection, in accordance with the observation programme:

Provide the inspectors with the necessary instruments, materials and equipment, the list of which will be agreed in the course of negotiations.

The inspectors may also use their own instruments, materials and equipment, which shall be subject to checking and approval by the receiving State;

Provide the inspectors, in the course of the observation programme, with necessary information directly connected with the performance by the inspectors of their functions;

Provide the inspectors with transport for use in the area of the launching pad;

Admit the inspectors to the sites where space objects are mounted on the launch vehicle and to their launching sites;

Provide the inspectors with facilities for prompt communication with the International Space Inspectorate (the receiving State shall not be bound to bear the cost of the use of the means of communication by the inspectors);

Provide the inspectors with adequate board and lodging at a suitable place for carrying out the observation programme and with medical assistance if necessary.

#### V. Verification of undeclared launches

1. A State party has the right to ask the International Space Inspectorate for assistance in clarifying any situation which may be considered unclear as a result of suspicion of the undeclared launch of a space object. For the purposes of clarifying the situation, the International Space Inspectorate may request all necessary information from specially designated observatories (the list will be agreed in the course of negotiations).

2. A State party has the right to request the International Space Inspectorate to obtain clarification from any State party regarding a situation which may be considered unclear as a result of suspicions of the undeclared launch of a space object. In this connection the requesting State shall provide the International Space Inspectorate with all the information which has given rise to the suspicions of the undeclared launch of a space object.

In this case the following procedure shall be applied:

- (a) The International Space Inspectorate shall forward the request for clarification to the State party concerned within 24 hours after its receipt;
- (b) The requested State shall furnish clarification to the International Space Inspectorate within ... days after the receipt of the request. The International Space Inspectorate shall forward the clarification to the requesting State within 24 hours after its receipt;
- (c) In the event that the requesting State party considers the clarification insufficient, it may request the International Space Inspectorate to take a decision to hold an ad hoc inspection at the launching site and in the area in which detachable parts of the launch vehicle and spacecraft land.

3. The International Space Inspectorate shall inform the States parties of any requests for clarification of a situation which may be considered unclear as a result of suspicions of the undeclared launch of a space object.

VII. Ad hoc inspections as a result of suspicions of the undeclared launch of a space object

1. The decision to hold an ad hoc inspection in order to clarify a situation which may be considered unclear as a result of suspicions of the undeclared launch of a space object shall be taken by the International Space Inspectorate on the basis of a request from a State party which considers the clarifications received to be insufficient.

2. The ad hoc inspection shall be carried out by an ad hoc inspection team composed, on the principle of equitable geographical representation, of members of the corps of inspectors of the International Space Inspectorate and of the permanent inspection team in the country concerned. The State party which has requested the holding of an ad hoc inspection may nominate not more than two representatives of its own, who shall be included in the team as observers and shall enjoy all privileges and immunities equally with the other members of the team.

3. Within 24 hours after the adoption of the decision to hold an ad hoc inspection, the International Space Inspectorate shall address a request to the State party concerned. In the request for the holding of an ad hoc inspection, the International Space Inspectorate shall inform the receiving State of the following:

The grounds for the request;

The location of the area mentioned, as defined by geographical co-ordinates;

Preferable points of entry for the ad hoc inspection team;

Where in the area mentioned the inspection will begin;

Whether the inspection will be conducted on the ground, from the air or by both methods simultaneously;

In the case of an aerial inspection, what aircraft will be used;

Whether the ad hoc inspection team will use its own ground transport or that of the receiving State;

The particulars needed for the issue of diplomatic visas to the inspectors entering the receiving State.

5. A State which has received a request for the International Space Inspectorate for the holding of an ad hoc inspection shall be bound to afford the ad hoc inspection team from the opportunity to carry out such an inspection without delay.

6. A reply to a request for an ad hoc inspection shall be provided within 24 hours after the receipt of the request.

7. The ad hoc inspection team shall be composed of not more than ... persons. The inspection shall be completed not later than ... days after the arrival of the ad hoc inspection team in the area mentioned.

8. While the inspectors are in the territory of the receiving country in connection with the holding of an ad hoc inspection, they shall be accorded privileges and immunities in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

9. The receiving State shall provide the team with adequate board and lodging at a place which enables the inspectors to perform their functions and with medical assistance if necessary.

10. The ad hoc inspection team shall use its own maps, instruments, materials and equipment.

11. The ad hoc inspection team shall also have access to the appropriate means of communication of the receiving State, including facilities for maintaining continuous communication between members of the inspection team in an aircraft and others in a ground vehicle used in the inspection.