



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



1st DISEC: Space Militarization

Hi, my name is Gabby Dunlap and I will be your head chair for the 2017 MVHSMUN Conference. I'm 16 years old and a sophomore at Mission Viejo High School. This will be my second year in MUN here at Mission. I also run Cross Country, compete in Track and Field as a distance runner, and am currently in photography class because I love taking photos! I enjoy surfing, spending time with family and friends, helping those in need, and traveling. I'm so excited you are in my committee and I cannot wait to chair for you during the conference!

I. Background

The idea of Space Militarization has been discussed internationally for several years. However, the distinction between space militarization and space weaponization is not very clear. As of recent times, space military is mainly used for earthly functions, but some nations are striving for warfare in space. But, to most, the idea of an orbital strike, or missiles coming down from space, is a terrifying concept. This is why the UN and many others believe space should remain for the use of peaceful purposes. Without fear of attacks from outer space, the focus can remain on problems on earth. It is necessary to prevent destruction at all costs, and the only way to attain this would be by the regulation of space technology that would be a potential threat to Earth.

II. UN Involvement

The United Nations is continually discussing and passing new resolutions to prevent an arms race in outer space. The UN created the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPOUS) back in 1959 to recognize the need for collaboration between international nations and the UN, and how they plan to manage the designated programs towards peaceful uses of space. In order to further protect the world from spatial warfare, the UN established a number of treaties that ban the placement of weapons in outer space, one of which was the UN Outer Space Treaty. This treaty, beginning in 1967, declares that space must be used to benefit mankind, and must remain undisturbed by weapons of mass destruction. In more detail, all nations may take part in the action to account for the peaceful uses of space. The UN is also considering strengthening the International Space Law, as discussed in the Fourth Committee, which may continue to help in their overall efforts. The UN's cooperation with nations, and determination to aid in prohibiting space militarization, will help maintain the well-being of outer space and abolish the potential threat of warfare.

III. Possible Solutions

As space militarization becomes more popular and more accessible to nations, there should be guidelines and regulations set. A summit or convention could be set, such as the one in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss the limits and regulations of what a nation is legally able to do in space. Through this, certain practices could be deemed illegal while at the same time limit a country's capabilities. The complete banning of all weapons in space is also vital to the safety of the international community. Less violent means of military, such as communication satellites and GPS systems could be the only things allowed into space. This is to protect less developed nations, who are unable to defend against weapons from space. Weapons in space should also be subject for inspection for dangerous payloads or for things of that sorts. A branch set exclusively



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growing
 militarization should be created from the UN in order to
 maintain and update international standards and regulations.

for the
 concern for space

IV. Country Bloc Positions

African: Less progressive in terms of space programs, the African bloc sees very little military activity outside of Earth. The African bloc is unconcerned and uninvolved with combat in space, but discourages space militarization.

Western: Highly innovative and advanced, the Western bloc has already taken to space for military purposes. Spying satellites are widely utilized by state militaries to assist in times of war. The Western bloc does not condemn the practice of weaponizing space as they believe it is vital for self defence.

Asia/Pacific: For self defence, the Asian bloc has an array of weapons dedicated to the militarization of space, and is continuing to develop weapons.

Europe: Also for self defence, the European bloc also has weapons specific for space combat, and is further developing such weapons.

Middle East: The Middle East, with some states in political turmoil, is hesitant with other nationstates developing space weapons in fear it would be used against them. However, the Middle Eastern bloc is pushing towards a space program, inevitably leading to their militarization of space.

V. Questions to Consider

1. How does your country feel about Space Militarization as a whole?
2. Would your country ever take part in spatial warfare?
3. How might your country benefit from the peaceful utilization of space?

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