



**Mission Viejo High School MUN**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
*Vox Populi*



#### **4th SPD-Privatization of Space**

Hello delegates! My name is Brian Xie, and I'll be your head chair for the MVHS MUN 2017 conference. This is my fifth year in MUN, since I began back in middle school. I'm a senior who's one of those typical smart Asians that fit the stereotype- Honors, AP, IB, you name it. Besides MUN, I also commit myself to a lot of community service, especially to my own environmental service club, Help Our Planet, that runs the recycling program at our school. Although I am decently athletic, I prefer to train my brain and gear myself toward fun academic competitions such as Science Olympiad and Orange County Academic Decathlon. I look forward to chairing this committee and hope to see some unique and interesting debates arise from your innovative minds. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [mvhsmunspd@gmail.com](mailto:mvhsmunspd@gmail.com).

*4th SPD, also known as the United Nations Fourth Committee of the GA, specializes in dealing with crucial political issues that cannot be specifically addressed by the General Assembly. 4th SPD has consequently merged with the Special Political Committee to focus on solving political issues of major importance. 4th SPD mainly focuses on the issues of peacekeeping, decolonization, Palestinian refugees and human rights, mine action, public information, outer space, atomic radiation, and the University for Peace.*

#### **I. Historical Background**

On October 4th 1957 the Russian space program launched Sputnik into orbit, starting the race to send the first man into space. Russia was the one that sent the first man into space with Soviet pilot Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin. America was not far behind with the launching of Project Mercury. The race to privatize space was started during the 1930s with roots in Germany and continued throughout WWII. A lot of the wealthy nations of the times wanted to be the first in space but they were challenged by the technology of their times.

Recently, the main conflict between the space programs of the world is about the amount of projects that are planned for the exploration of space. With the US being the only country to have sent humans beyond Earth's orbit, India and China have begun to seek ways to become invested in space. Many countries are hoping to find ways to have manned missions make it to Mars with India already having one unmanned mission reach Mars in 2013. The problem is that the technology for a manned mission is not available and the ability to instigate laws to protect country's missions. The problem is leading towards the future of space exploration becoming a reason of conflict and strife between nations.

#### **II. UN Involvement**

The UN got involved in the conflict because they were hoping to find peaceful ways of sharing the space frontier. By the UN getting involved, international space laws could be put in place to protect the future. The UN is involved in the protection of the laws of space. On October 14th 2010, the fourth committee of the GA became involved. Of course, the private organizations that fund the research are involved in the conflict of how the laws of space privatization should be issued. The outcome was a treaty that was created in the 4th SPD committee of the UN, that would limit the use of nuclear technology in space, also that there should be no militarization of space because it would ruin the peaceful uses of space. The treaty



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has to be written in many different languages so the resolution would have to be revised at a later time.

**III. Bloc Positions**

- European Bloc: the countries of the EU are looking to find ways to gain and keep a lead in the influence of the exploration of space.
- Latin American Bloc: the countries in the Latin American bloc are setting up ways to create treaties that benefit the development of space privatization.
- Asian Bloc: many of the countries are looking to collaborate globally and for the good of the development of space. Japan has set out to find ways to expand their own explorations.
- Western/ North American Bloc: concerned about the peaceful uses of space and how the development of space technologies can benefit earth today.
- African Bloc: believed that setting up legal norms will be key in the space relations.
- Middle Eastern Bloc: wanted to first fix cooperations between the countries of the world on earth before beginning peaceful relations in space.

**IV. Questions to consider**

1. Is it possible for the countries of the world to have peaceful relations in space when they do not have such relations on Earth?
2. Will countries like India and China work together in the future to boost their space programs?
3. How can the UN guarantee the protection of space laws?

**V. Works Cited**

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3. *Council on Foreign Relations*. Council on Foreign Relations, n.d. Web. 29 Nov. 2016.
4. "Strength of International Space Law to Prevent Militarization of Outer Space, Respond to Other Current Challenges Weighed in Fourth Committee | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *UN News Center*. UN, n.d. Web. 29 Nov. 2016.