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COPUOS

Topic: Militarization of Outer Space

For almost a century, governments around the world have flirted with the idea of militarizing outer space for personal use. In the 1930s the Nazis attempted to build a space weapon when they overtook famous scientist Wernher von Braun's rocket club¹. Years later, the Soviet Union began its process of building the world's first-ever satellite in 1957 to show their dominance in the cold war era². In 1983 the United States, via President Regan, released plans for the "Strategic Defense Initiative" which included plans to send a satellite into space that would be capable of using nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles, and even x-ray lasers and particle beam weapons³. While talks of space attacks have died down since the ending of the Cold War era, in 2018 President Donald Trump made headlines when he spoke about creating the Space Force, the newest branch of the United States army⁴.

According to U.S President Donald Trump, the Space Force was created as a defense mechanism, as a way to defend against other world superpowers like China and Russia. This could potentially lead to other countries following suit and creating their space division in their army. As members of the Committee of the Peaceful Uses of Space, one of our most important goals is keeping outer space a neutral and safe place. It is our job to think about ways to prevent the militarization and escalation of possible space wars or attacks.

Some questions to consider while writing your paper:

- What should the committee be doing to make sure all countries adhere to international space law?
- Are the current standards for international space law in place sufficient? If not, can they be improved upon, or is a new resolution necessary?
- What should the consequences be for those who do not adhere to the laws set forth by COPUOS?

¹<https://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/history/vonbraun/bio.html>

² <https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/lw/103729.htm>

³<https://www.thereaganfiles.com/document-collections/sdi.html>

⁴<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2018/06/18/trump-says-hes-directing-pentagon-to-create-a-new-space-force/>

Please do not limit your research to these questions alone. It is your job to think about these questions in regard to your country and the international community so that together we can find peaceful resolutions on the ground that will keep peace in space. Additionally please be sure to represent your countries view in your paper, regardless of whether it is your own. Lastly, a reminder that your papers will be submitted through Turnitin, so please be cautious to ensure that all your work is in fact your own.

Once again, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Aibaron@mail.yu.edu.

Best of luck,

Adam Baron