

98TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 129

Calling upon the President to seek a mutual and verifiable ban on weapons in space and on weapons designed to attack objects in space.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 14 (legislative day, JULY 11), 1983

Mr. PRESSLER (for himself, Mr. TSONGAS, Mr. PELL, Mr. PERCY, Mr. MATHIAS, and Mr. CRANSTON) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JOINT RESOLUTION

Calling upon the President to seek a mutual and verifiable ban on weapons in space and on weapons designed to attack objects in space.

Whereas the United States depends upon satellites for preserving the peace through command and control of United States forces worldwide and through early warning of strategic attack, among other functions;

Whereas satellites are vital for verification of arms control agreements;

Whereas the United States and other nations rely increasingly on space-based systems for weather forecasting, communications, natural resource exploration and other important commercial activities;

Whereas the maximum utilization of space technology for commerce and science is assured only under peaceful conditions;

Whereas the safety of such important missions including those performed by the space shuttle would be compromised by the threat posed by antisatellite weapons;

Whereas an uncontrolled space arms race would undermine strategic stability and divert resources needed to maintain strong and balanced defenses; and

Whereas the present pace of military developments, including weapons tests, will soon reduce the prospects of avoiding the weaponization of outer space: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That the President should seek agreement with the Soviet
4 Union to—

5 (1) declare an immediate, mutual and verifiable
6 moratorium of limited duration on the testing in space
7 of antisatellite weapons;

8 (2) immediately resume negotiations on a mutual
9 and verifiable ban on the testing, production, deploy-
10 ment, and use of any antisatellite weapon;

11 (3) seek, on an urgent basis, a comprehensive ver-
12 ifiable treaty prohibiting the testing, production, de-
13 ployment, or use of any space-directed or space-based
14 weapons system which is designed to inflict injury or
15 cause any other form of damage on the Earth, in the
16 atmosphere, or on objects placed in space.

1 SEC. 2. Such agreements should not restrict operations
2 in space not involving weapons, such as the United States
3 space shuttle program.

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