



## Press Corps/Wall Street Journal

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### Press Corps

**Reporter:** Quinn Keighly Schweikhart

**Topic:** DISEC / Prevention of Arms Race in Space

“We need to ban all firearms”. This was one of the many ideas proposed by the Middle School DISEC committee. How fast do we need to stop this problem? Since the Cold War in late 20th century countries have been racing to put weapons in space. In recent years the development of weapons of mass destruction or WMD’s being put into space. Recently with more WMD’s being built and put in space civilian are having to deal with the possibility of being attacked from a weapon of mass destruction that is planted in space. With the civilians growing concerned and bigger worries the UN and its member states addressed the issue of an arms race in space at the MMUN conference.

I was unable to attend the first deliberations of the topic, but I made it to the end when all of the delegates were in one group. The group proposed that one of the most helpful things would be to create a definition for what a WMD was. They proposed to address the about of debris in space that still needs removed. DISEC also proposed a plan to educate people about space, and

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a ban against conventional weapons. After some lively discussion they came up with a few more ideas such as, suggesting a law that states that no-one can colonize space, annual meetings to address debris, update treaties. The committee also discussed the idea of a fine for shooting down another countries satellite, they said the fine would be for the cost of the satellite to be made and a 10% tax. DISEC thinks that all countries should have equal opportunity to explore space although they continuously stated that there are only 11 countries with launch capabilities. They also would like to create an organization that oversees all weapons launched into space, and they also supported the idea of restating the 1969 Outer Space Treaty.

A representative of the Outer Space treaty Jamaica was one of the most vocal delegations in the committee. Jamaica clearly stated that they have no space militarization, and do not have any plans to militarize space. "We need to focus on developing our country and help our people before we worry about space" said Jamaica. They also said that for any countries that do have weapons in space that they need to work taught to use space only for research.

Later in the conference there was more debates. The first being the classification of a "conventional weapon" the delegate from Cameroon said "If you throw anything hard enough it becomes a weapon". I also spoke to a delegate from Belarus about his countries view about an arms race in space and his view of the conference. He told me that Belarus does not have any launch capabilities. His view on the conference was very interesting. He said "4 delegates just took over". He also told the delegation from Jamaica "you guys just steal the spotlight, and then go and do it your self. Another lively debate began when Jamaica was asked the question "If a terrorist or other hostile group was to invade space how space would be defended" since in the

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resolution all weapons had been banned. Jamaica said “Since only 11 countries have launch capabilities it is very unlikely that a hostile group could ever make it into space, so we do not need to worry about being attacked in space”, and continued to state that hostile groups would never make it to space. However, later Jamaica said that in the case of an attack they should send a nuclear bomb to the moon and then implode the moon. The Guyana delegation strongly opposed imploding the moon. Belarus agreed to implode the moon but also stated that “we have a contingency plan but only the lads can know”.

I also had the opportunity to visit the Upper Elementary conference on the same topic. Their ideas were: All countries donate a small portion of their GDP to the removal of space debris, A ban on space weapons, Space transparency, The reduction of stuff launched into space, Limit the amount of satellites launched into space, A summit about the peaceful uses of space, The encouraging of all countries to get involved in space, Trust countries not to launch weapons, A program to monitor space.

The arms race in space is a serious issue and I am glad that we have to classes that have been working so diligently to solve this problem. With their amazing ideas and hard work hopefully we can solve this problem. In the words of Sally Ride “Stars do not look bigger, but they do look brighter.”