

Memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To:

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STAP agenda: "limited" space war
For many years I have been critical of what I thought to be undue emphasis on the manned role in space operations. But I see the Russians doing the same.

It now occurs to me that one of the futures we need to worry about is the equivalent of naval conflict in orbital space, free access to which is vital to many military and civil-economic values. Then, in the event of confrontation in that regime, it would be politically (if not technically) important whether a target were or were not ~~accessed~~ manned.

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In fact the US-USSR treaty on peaceful space 1967 can be seen as reinforcing the inviolability of the astronaut; and the prohibition of space weapons as a potential source of pretext for a power that decided to make a ^{tactical} bid to control orbital space.

This foreview may also illuminate the interpretation of certain potential weapons.

I have thought of a number of possible scenarios - but they may be too sci-fi in tone - and it might be better to walk out whether this is properly STAP's business; and to get more focused briefings

on current perceptions of these issues, before I and other STAPists exert much more imaginative effort on them.

J.L.