

Russia advances no space weapons policy

by UPI

GENEVA, Switzerland - A space disarmament plan offered by Russia and China would include all armaments, not just nuclear weapons, a Russian official said Tuesday. The proposal was presented at the United Nations-sponsored disarmament conference in Geneva, reported Novosti, the Russian news agency. Explaining why the proposal was weapons-comprehensive, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, "Current international law does not prohibit non-mass destruction weapons from being deployed in space." The document, which bans the use of force and the threat of force against spacecraft in orbit, was distributed in June. Lavrov said the proposal has received a favorable reaction. He said Russian officials hoped to persuade the United States about the need to prevent weapon deployment in space. "We are aware that the U.S. has doubts on the matter, which we hope to dispel during our work on the text," Lavrov said.

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