49th IAA HISTORY OF ASTRONAUTICS SYMPOSIUM (E4) Memoirs & organisational histories (1)

Author: Mr. Oleg A. Sokolov
The British Interplanetary Society, United Kingdom, oascst@gmail.com

REMINISCENCES ON PARTICIPATION IN THE JCIC SESSIONS ON THE PROVISION OF CONVERTED LAUNCH VEHICLE COMMERCIALISATION

Abstract

This paper is an elucidation of certain directions of the work of the Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission (JCIC) that accompanied the START-1 Treaty implementation during the second half of the nineteen nineties. These directions were concerned with talks on the possibilities to convert ballistic missiles into small launch vehicles to be used for satellite launching. The author was taking part in these talks as an expert from the Russian space/missile industry and he was trying to expand the capabilities for the commercial application of the converted launch vehicles which suffered from some serious limitations. Disputes with the U.S. party on main items of the converted launcher classification and application are described including discussions of the important problem of the possibility of the use of these launchers for terroristic purposes in the cases of them being transferred for launching from the territories of third countries. The author's arguments against an existence of this danger, which were reported during the JCIC discussions, are presented in the paper.