

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Case Concerning Laser Activities and the Use of Anti-Satellite Weapons in Outer Space

Cascadia

(APPLICANT)

vs.

Alvernia

(RESPONDENT)

AGREED STATEMENT OF FACTS

Cascadia is a space-faring State and has a highly developed space sector.

The Republic of Alvernia is an archipelago island State with highly developed space capabilities.

1. On 10 June 2048, Cascadia placed three satellites with laser capabilities at an altitude of 200 km above the Earth's surface, called JURA-1, JURA-2, JURA-3, which, simultaneously with their launch, were registered in both the international and the national register of space objects. The satellite system provided very important telecommunications services and also served scientific research purposes.
2. On 15 June 2048, the Republic of Alvernia launched a satellite with nuclear capabilities at an altitude of 300 km above the Earth's surface, called Danger-1. The State did not register the satellite in any of the existing international registers.
3. The launch of Danger-1 sparked a major international protest, and Cascadia delivered a diplomatic note of protest to Alvernia, in which the State accused Alvernia with the violation of the rules of principles of space law and general international law. However, Alvernia responded that the launch of the satellite is a legitimate action with a peaceful purpose, as it is used for testing purposes.
4. As no relevant action was taken, on 25 June 2048 Cascadia used JURA-1 to emit a laser beam directed at Danger-1 in order to dazzle and blind its sensors. The satellite was rendered completely inoperable during the operation.
5. On the same day, the Ambassador of Alvernia delivered a diplomatic note of protest to Cascadia, in which Alvernia accused Cascadia of the “unprecedented and unlawful weaponization of outer space” and called for the suspension of all “aggressive military” space activities, and particularly the immediate deactivation of the three laser systems on the JURA satellites.
6. In the absence of any response, one week later Alvernia launched a direct-ascent anti-satellite (ASAT) missile, which was directed at and successfully hit JURA-1. The satellite, including its laser system, was completely destroyed. The significant amount of debris generated by this strike accumulated in a part of the orbit.
7. The entire JURA system required the synergy of all three individual lasers to work effectively and, without JURA-1, it was rendered inoperable. It would be several years before Cascadia would be able to restore its space laser protection system.
8. In an attempt to settle their disputes, Cascadia and Alvernia entered into diplomatic consultations, the results of which proved inconclusive. Cascadia initiated these proceedings by Application to the International Court of Justice. Alvernia accepted the jurisdiction of the Court, and the parties submitted this Agreed Statement of Facts.
9. Cascadia requests the Court to adjudge and declare that:
 1. The launch of the JURA system and the use of JURA-1 was in conformity with international law
 2. Cascadia is not liable for the inoperability of Danger-1
 3. The use by Alvernia of the ASAT missile against JURA-2 constitutes a violation of international law
 4. Alvernia is liable for the destruction of JURA-2
10. Both Cascadia and Alvernia are Parties to the United Nations Charter, and the five United Nations treaties on outer space.
11. There is no issue of jurisdiction before the International Court of Justice.