COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE

INFORMATION FURNISHED IN CONFORMITY WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 1721 B (XVI) BY STATES LAUNCHING OBJECTS INTO
ORBIT OR BEYOND

Note verbale dated 13 September 1977 from the Acting Permanent
Representative of Japan addressed to the Secretary-General

The Acting Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations presents
his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in conformity
with General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI), has the honour to transmit herewith
information concerning a space object which was launched into geostationary
satellite orbit by Japan on 14 July 1977 with the co-operation of the National
Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America.

The Acting Permanent Representative of Japan avails himself of this
opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances
of his highest consideration.
Geostationary Meteorological Satellite (GMS)

1. **Name of Satellite:**
   - Geostationary Meteorological Satellite (GMS) "Himawari" or "Sunflower" in English

2. **International designation:**
   - 1977-065A

3. **Launching vehicle:**
   - Delta Launch Vehicle 2914-132

4. **Date and place of launch:**
   - (1) **Date:** 10:39 (UT), 14 July 1977
   - (2) **Place:** Eastern Test Range, Cape Canaveral, Florida, United States of America

5. **Launching organization:**
   - National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America (NASA)

   **Note:**
   NASA furnished spacecraft launching and associated services to NASDA, at the request of NASDA and on a reimbursable basis for the launching of the GMS. NASDA injected the GMS into the geostationary satellite orbit.

6. **Basic orbital parameters:**
   - (1) **Apogee:** 35,813 km
   - (2) **Perigee:** 35,777 km
   - (3) **Inclination:** 1.2°
   - (4) **Period:** 1,436 minutes
   - (5) **Geographical longitude on the geostationary satellite orbit:** 140° E
7. General function:

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<td>(1)</td>
<td>Tracking and control of the GMS</td>
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<td>(2)</td>
<td>Acquiring the data concerning the geostationary satellite tracking and control technologies</td>
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<td>Mission of the GMS</td>
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**NASDA**

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<td>(a)</td>
<td>Weather watch by the visible and infra-red spin scan radiometer (VISSR) aboard the spacecraft: Imaging the earth's surface and cloud, and measuring the temperature of both surface and cloud top.</td>
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<td>(b)</td>
<td>Dissemination of facsimile: transmission of processed data via the GMS to user stations with LR-FAX and HR-FAX.</td>
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<td>(c)</td>
<td>Collection of meteorological data: acquisition of data from drifting and fixed sensor platforms which are either interrogated by the GMS or self-timed.</td>
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<td>(d)</td>
<td>Monitoring of space environment: measurement of solar protons, alpha particles and electrons.</td>
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**Organization in charge of meteorological services**

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<td>Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)</td>
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8. Characteristics of satellite:

(1) Weight: Approximately 315 kg at an early stage on the geostationary satellite orbit

(2) Physical configuration and dimensions:

(a) Configuration: Cylindrical satellite
(b) Height: 2.7 m (in operational configuration)
(c) Diameter: 2.2 m

(3) Attitude control subsystem: Spin stabilization

9. Probability of survival in three years: More than 50 per cent