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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES  
OF OUTER SPACE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FURNISHED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE  
CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO  
OUTER SPACE

Note verbale dated 24 September 1988 from the Permanent Mission of  
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit to him the following information.

In accordance with article IV, paragraph 2, of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, which specifies that each State of registry of a space object may, from time to time, provide the Secretary-General of the United Nations with additional information concerning a space object carried on its registry, the following additional information is provided concerning the Cosmos-1900 satellite, launched into orbit in the Soviet Union on 12 December 1987 with a nuclear power plant on board and intended for observation of the ocean surface.

The satellite is at present still in a steady trajectory, and its main support systems are operating normally. On 22 September 1988 the orbital parameters of Cosmos-1900 were: apogee 214 km and perigee 193 km.

The Cosmos-1900 satellite is equipped with main and backup radiation safety systems, as recommended by the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The main system is designed to eject the nuclear power plant into a high-altitude orbit in which it will remain for a time sufficient to reduce the radioactivity to a safe level. The design of the satellite provides for the ejection system to engage automatically if the satellite's stability is impaired, if the instrument compartment loses pressure or if irregularities occur in the on-board energy supply system. In the absence of radio communications with the

satellite, this system may go into operation at any moment up to the cut-in of the backup safety system. The backup system, which cuts in if the main system fails, separates the reactor core from the reactor housing when re-entry and heating take place (at an altitude of about 100 km). This separation of the core and its independent re-entry into the atmosphere ensure that it will burn up completely in the dense layers of the atmosphere and the fuel will be dispersed (scattered in fine particles) in such a way as to have no substantial impact whatsoever on radiation levels in the fallout zone.

Forecasts indicate that, if a stable trajectory is maintained and if the nuclear power plant is not previously ejected, the satellite's entry into the dense layers of the atmosphere is likely to take place between 4 and 8 October 1988.

At present, while the Cosmos-1900 satellite continues in steady trajectory, accurate prediction of when and where it will enter the dense layers of the atmosphere is not possible. The competent services of the Soviet Union are continuing to monitor the satellite closely. Official notification of the trajectory of the Cosmos-1900 satellite has been transmitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Further information on the satellite's trajectory will be supplied in due course.

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