LETTER DATED 16 JUNE 1966 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Sir,

On the instructions of the government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I have the honour to transmit herewith a draft Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, the Moon and other celestial Bodies. The Soviet Government is submitting this draft Treaty for consideration at the twenty-first session of the General Assembly under the agenda item proposed for that session by the Soviet Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the aforementioned draft Treaty circulated to all delegations as an official United Nations document.

(Signed) P. Morozov
Acting Permanent Representative
of the USSR to the United Nations
Article III

The Parties to the Treaty shall carry on activities in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and understanding.

Article IV

The Parties to the Treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction and not to station such weapons on celestial bodies or otherwise to station them in outer space. The moon and other celestial bodies shall be used exclusively for peaceful purposes by all Parties to the Treaty. The establishment of military bases and installations, the testing of weapons and the conduct of military manoeuvres on celestial bodies shall be forbidden.

Article V

A State Party to the Treaty on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried shall retain jurisdiction and control over such object, and over any personnel thereon, while it is in outer space or on a celestial body. Ownership of objects launched into outer space, including objects delivered to or constructed on a celestial body, and of their component parts, shall not be affected by their presence in outer space or on a celestial body or by their return to earth. Such objects or component parts found beyond the limits of the State Party to the Treaty on whose registry they are carried shall be returned to that State, which shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to their return.

Article VI

The Parties to the Treaty shall bear international responsibility for national activities in outer space or on celestial bodies, whether such activities are carried on by governmental agencies or by non-governmental bodies corporate. The activities of non-governmental bodies corporate in outer space shall require authorization and continuing supervision by the State concerned. When activities are carried on in outer space by an international organization, responsibility for compliance with this Treaty shall be borne both by the international organization and by the States Parties to the Treaty participating in such organization.
Article VII

Each State Party to the Treaty which launches or organizes the launching of an object into outer space and on to celestial bodies, and each State from whose territory or facility an object is launched, is internationally liable for damage to another State Party to the Treaty or to its natural or juridical persons by such object or its component parts on the Earth, in air space, in outer space or on the celestial body.

Article VIII

In the exploration and use of outer space, States Parties to the Treaty shall be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance and shall conduct all their activities in outer space, including activities on celestial bodies, with due regard for the corresponding interests of other States. States Parties to the Treaty shall conduct research on celestial bodies in such a manner as to avoid harmful contamination. If a State Party to the Treaty has reason to believe that an outer space activity or experiment planned by it or its nationals would cause potentially harmful interference with activities of other States Parties in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including activities on celestial bodies, it shall undertake appropriate international consultations before proceeding with any such activity or experiment. A State Party to the Treaty which has reason to believe that an outer space activity or experiment planned by another State Party would cause potentially harmful interference with activities in the peaceful exploration and use of outer space, including activities on celestial bodies, may request consultation concerning the activity of experiment.

Article IX

States Parties to the Treaty shall regard astronauts as envoys of mankind in outer space, and shall render to them all possible assistance in the event of accident, distress, or emergency landing on the territory of another State Party or on the high seas. Where astronauts make such a landing, their safety shall be assured and they shall be enabled promptly to return to the territory of the State Party of registry of their space vehicle.

In carrying on activities in outer space and on celestial bodies, the astronauts of one State Party shall render all possible assistance to the astronauts of other States Parties.

Article X

In the event of disputes arising in connexion with the application or interpretation of the Treaty, the States Parties concerned shall immediately consult together with a view to their settlement.

Article XI

1. This Treaty shall be open to all States for signature. Any State which does not sign this Treaty before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.

2. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Governments of ..., which are hereby designated the Depositary Governments.

3. This Treaty shall enter into force after its ratification ...

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of this Treaty, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

5. The Depositary Governments shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification of and accession to this Treaty, the date of its entry into force, and other notices.

6. This Treaty shall be registered by the Depositary Governments pursuant to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article XII

This Treaty, of which the Chinese, French, Russian, English and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the Depositary Governments. Duly certified copies of this Treaty shall be transmitted by the Depositary Governments to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed this Treaty.

DONE in ..., at the city of ..., the .... day of ..... one thousand nine hundred and ......