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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

66-16359

DRAFT TREATY

ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE
OF OUTER SPACE, THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES

The Governments ..., hereinafter referred to as the Parties to the Treaty,
Inspired by the great prospects opening up before mankind as a result of man's
entry into outer space,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the progress of the
exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Believing that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried on for
the benefit of all peoples irrespective of the degree of their economic or scientific
development,

Desiring to contribute to broad international co-operation in the scientific
as well as the legal aspects of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful
purposes,

Believing that such co-operation will contribute to the development of mutual
understanding and to the strengthening of friendly relations between States and
peoples,

Taking account of General Assembly resolution 110 (II) of 3 November 1947,
which condemned propaganda designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to
the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression, and considering that the
aforementioned resolution is applicable to outer space,

Have agreed on the following:

Article I

The exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and
in the interests of all countries and shall be the province of all mankind. The
Parties to the Treaty undertake to accord equal conditions to States engaged in the
exploration of outer space.

Outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for
exploration and use by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of
equality and in accordance with international law, and there shall be free access
to all regions of celestial bodies.

Article II

Outer space and celestial bodies shall not be subject to national appropriation
by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.

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 or 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.

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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