COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Legal Sub-Committee

LETTER DATED 11 JULY 1966 ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE USSR

Sir,

The delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Legal Sub-
Committee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
draws your attention to the fact that on 16 June 1966 the Soviet Union draft
"Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and
Use of Outer Space, the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies" was, at the request
of the Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations,
issued and circulated under the symbol A/6352 as a document of the twenty-
first session of the General Assembly.

I would request you to circulate this letter as an official document of the
Legal Sub-Committee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of
Outer Space at its fifth session, annexing thereto the letter dated 16 June 1966
to the Secretary-General from the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet
Socialist Republics to the United Nations and the above-mentioned Soviet Union
draft Treaty, in the form in which they were issued earlier (document A/6352).

(Signed) P. MOROZOV
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the USSR

GE.66-9072
66-18667
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 aforesaid draft Treaty circulated to all delegations as an official United Nations document.

(Signed) P. KOROZOV
Acting Permanent Representative of the USSR to the United Nations
DRIFT 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 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 aforesaid 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 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 rank 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.

Article X

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 XI

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 XII

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 XIII

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 .......

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