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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Legal Sub-Committee

USSR: Revised Draft

AGREEMENT

ON THE RESCUE OF ASTRONAUTS IN THE EVENT OF
ACCIDENT OR EMERGENCY LANDING

The Contracting Parties,

Noting the great importance of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which enunciated the principle of rendering all possible assistance to astronauts in the event of accident, distress or emergency landing,

Desiring to develop and give concrete expression to that principle,

Prompted by sentiments of humanity,

Have agreed on the following:

Article 1

Each Contracting Party which receives information or discovers that personnel of a spacecraft of another State have suffered accident or are experiencing conditions of distress or have made an emergency landing in territory under its jurisdiction or on the high seas or in any other place not under the jurisdiction of any State:

- (a) shall do its utmost to notify without delay the State which announced that it had launched the spacecraft concerned;
- (b) shall immediately notify the Secretary-General of the United Nations;
- (c) shall immediately make a public announcement by radio or through other means of communication at its disposal.

* Reissued for technical reasons.

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Article 2

If, owing to accident, distress or emergency landing, astronauts have appeared in territory under the jurisdiction of one of the Contracting Parties, this Contracting Party shall immediately take all possible steps to rescue the astronauts and to render them the necessary aid. It shall inform the State which announced that it had launched the spacecraft concerned, and also the Secretary-General of the United Nations, of the steps it is taking and of their result.

Article 3

Each Contracting Party shall extend every assistance to another Party to this Agreement which has requested its aid for the purpose of ensuring the speediest possible discovery and rescue of astronauts in the event of accident, distress or emergency landing. Such assistance may include permission to the State which announced the launching of the spacecraft to carry out with the use of the necessary means and the personnel to operate them, the search for and rescue of the astronauts who have landed in the territory of that Contracting Party.

Article 4

If information is received or it is discovered that astronauts have alighted, owing to accident or distress, on the high seas or in any other place not under the jurisdiction of any State, those Contracting Parties which are in a position to do so, shall extend assistance to the State which announced that it had launched the spacecraft concerned, in carrying out search and rescue operations for the astronauts.

Article 5

The expenses incurred by a Contracting Party in meeting the requests for assistance made by the State which announced that it had launched the spacecraft concerned, shall be reimbursed by that State.

Article 6

1. This Agreement shall be open to all States for signature. Any State which does not sign this Agreement before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of this article may accede to it at any time.
2. This Agreement 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 Agreement shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification by five Governments including the Governments designated as Depositary Governments under this Agreement.

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited subsequent to the entry into force of this Agreement, 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 Agreement, the date of its entry into force and other notices.

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

Article 7

Any State Party to the Agreement may propose amendments to this Agreement. Amendments shall enter into force for each State Party to the Agreement accepting the amendments upon their acceptance by a majority of the States Parties to the Agreement and thereafter for each remaining State Party to the Agreement on the date of acceptance by it.

Article 8

This Agreement, of which the Russian, English, French, Spanish and Chinese texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the depositary Governments. Duly certified copies of this Agreement 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 Agreement.

DONE in copies at