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

PROPOSAL OF THE DELEGATION OF ITALY

Article 1
"Any Contracting State, or any international organization, which knows that personnel of a spacecraft have suffered accident, or are in distress, or have made an emergency landing shall

(a) immediately notify the State in which the spacecraft is registered and the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

(b) immediately make a public announcement by radio or through any other means of communication at its disposal."

Note. This text takes into account the texts submitted by the United States and the USSR.

(a) It introduces a reference to international organizations;

(b) for humanitarian reasons it refers to spacecraft in general and not to "a spacecraft of another State", as in the USSR draft;

(c) it refers to personnel (or crew) and not specifically to astronauts, since everyone on board has a right to assistance for humanitarian reasons;

(d) the notification is to be made either to the State of registry or to the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

(e) the text should say "knows", and not "discovers";

(f) like the Treaty of January 1967, the text should refer to the State of registry, and not the State which announced the launching.