

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACEUNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS: DRAFT INTERNATIONAL
AGREEMENT ON THE RESCUE OF ASTRONAUTS AND SPACESHIPS
MAKING EMERGENCY LANDINGS

The Governments of,

Recognizing the common interest of mankind in furthering the peaceful uses
of outer space,

Wishing to do their utmost to assist the crews of spaceships which may meet
with an accident,

Have decided to conclude this Agreement and for this purpose have appointed
their representatives who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and
due form, have agreed on the following provisions:

Article 1

Each Contracting State shall render assistance to the crews of spaceships
which have met with an accident and shall take steps to rescue astronauts making
an emergency landing; to this end it shall employ every means at its disposal,
including electronic and optical equipment, means of communication, and rescue
facilities of different kinds.

Article 2

A Contracting State which discovers that the crew of a spaceship of another
Contracting State has met with an accident shall do its utmost to notify the
launching State without delay.

Article 3

In the event of astronauts of a Contracting State making an emergency landing on the territory of another Contracting State, the latter shall immediately inform the launching State of the occurrence and shall take all possible steps to rescue the astronauts making the emergency landing and to render them the necessary assistance.

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Article 4

If the astronauts are presumed to have made an emergency descent on the high seas, a joint search for them shall be made, if necessary, by those Contracting States to which the launching State may make application.

Article 5

The assistance to be furnished when necessary by one Contracting State to another Contracting State shall in no way differ from the assistance which could be furnished to its own astronauts.

Article 6

Each Contracting State shall do its utmost to facilitate the early return to their own country of any astronauts of another Contracting State who may make an emergency landing on its territory or who may be rescued on the high seas.

Article 7

Foreign spaceships, satellites and capsules found by a Contracting State on its territory or salvaged on the high seas shall be returned without delay to the launching State if they have identification marks showing their national origin and if the launching State has officially announced the launching of the devices found.

Space vehicles aboard which devices have been discovered for the collection of intelligence information in the territory of another State shall not be returned.

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Article 8

The expenses incurred by a State in fulfilling the obligations provided for in articles 6 and 7 of this Agreement shall be reimbursed by the launching State.

Article 9

This Agreement shall be open for accession to all the States of the world.
