



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr. GENERAL
A/AC.105/214
8 February 1978
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE

Note verbale dated 8 February 1978 from the Permanent Representative
of Canada addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the 1968 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

In accordance with article 5, paragraph 1 of that Agreement, the Permanent Representative of Canada hereby wishes to notify the Secretary-General that component parts of a space object have been discovered on Canadian territory. These are believed to be component parts of the USSR satellite Cosmos 954 which re-entered the earth's atmosphere in Canada on 24 January 1978. Some of these component parts were found to be radioactive. In light of the risk of hazards to persons and property in Canada, the Canadian authorities have carried out a comprehensive air and ground search for these parts and the search for additional parts is continuing. To date, the parts, as described in the attached annex, have been located in areas of Canada's Northwest Territories and are being removed to a safe location as local conditions permit. The Canadian authorities have taken every feasible precaution to limit to the greatest extent possible any harmful effects of these component parts on persons or property.

In accordance with article 5(1) of the 1968 Agreement cited above, the Government of Canada is also notifying the Government of the USSR.

It is requested that this communication be circulated to Member States as an official document of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Annex

DESCRIPTION OF PARTS LOCATED IN AREAS OF CANADA'S NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

1. Search Area One: at the eastern end of Great Slave Lake, near Fort Reliance, N.W.T.

Part No. 1:

Description: metal piece, 23 cm x 9 cm x 1.3 cm, charred, emitting man-made radiation indicated by fission product spectrum.
Location: 62° 50.5'N; 109° 29'5W

Part No. 2:

Description: grey metal, 2 cm x 2 cm x 8 cm, crushed ring, black liner, emitting man-made radiation indicated by fission product spectrum.
Location: 62° 52.1'N; 109° 32'W

Part No. 3:

Description: metal pipe, 25 cm in diameter, 30 cm long; lightweight, containing Mn, Mg, Pb, Fe, Cu; associated fibre and metal parts
Location: 62° 52'N; 109° 40'W

Part No. 4:

Description: semi-circular metal plate, grey-black, 2 cm x 2 cm x 8 cm, emitting man-made radiation.
Location: 62° 57.3'N; 109° 08.5'W

Part No. 5:

Description: thin metal, leaf-ribbed, lightweight, 7 cm in diameter, emitting man-made radiation.
Location: 62° 54.3'N; 109° 01'W

2. Search Area Four: near Warden's Grove, on the Thelon River, N.W.T.

Part No. 1:

Description: metal struts, approximately 3 cm long, attached to soft metal plate, emitting man-made radiation with technical characteristics indicating no fission products; activation products only.
Location: 63° 47.8'N; 104° 13.5'W