



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
29 March 2004

English  
Original: Spanish

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## Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

### **Note verbale dated 23 March 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna**

1. The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations (Vienna) presents its compliments to the United Nations Office at Vienna and has the honour to inform the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1, of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 2345 (XXII), annex, the "Rescue Agreement"), that, on 20 January 2004, a metal object, 1.40 metres in diameter, 1.60 metres long and weighing approximately 40 kilograms, in the shape of a cylindrical container with two hemispherical caps, fell to Earth in San Roque in the province of Corrientes. On analysis, it was found not to contain any chemical or radioactive elements that presented a risk of contamination.
2. The object bears the number 22879 (1993-068C) of the North American Aerospace Defense Command of the United States of America. According to information provided by the Orbital Information Group of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States, it was expected that an object with characteristics similar to those described would re-enter the Earth's atmosphere on that day. It is therefore believed to be part of the solid fuel engine of a United States Delta-2 launcher, which was launched on 26 October 1993 to place Global Positioning System satellites in orbit.
3. On 19 March 2004, the Embassy of the United States of America in Argentina confirmed in note 131/2004 that the component was from a Delta-2 launcher launched in the eastern United States on 26 October 1993.
4. Also pursuant to article 5 of the Rescue Agreement, the United States of America has requested that the return of the component be arranged between its embassy in Argentina and the Government of Argentina and has also confirmed that it will pay the costs of recovery and return of the component.



5. The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic has the honour to request that this letter be distributed to Member States as an official document of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

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