



General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Information furnished in conformity with the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space

Note verbale dated 23 August 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in accordance with article 5 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), approved by Uruguay through Act No. 13.658 of 17 September 1968, has the honour to inform him of the discovery of a space object in Uruguayan territory.

On 2 March 2011 at 22:30 hours, space debris was reported as having fallen to Earth in the Department of Artigas, located in the north of Uruguay. The Commission for the Receipt and Investigation of Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, of the Uruguayan Air Force, concluded that the debris originated from the third stage of the Delta II rocket launched in 2003 from Cape Canaveral by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America during a mission to place a GPS IIR-10 satellite (Navstar 53) in orbit.

The debris was located on a farm in the third judicial section (administrative subdivision) of the Department of Artigas on 23 April 2011, whereupon an order for the recovery of the debris (part of the propulsion system, the Star 48 motor of the third stage of the Delta II rocket) was issued immediately. The debris is currently in the safekeeping of the Commission for the Receipt and Investigation of Reports of Unidentified Flying Objects of the Uruguayan Air Force.



The Embassy of the United States of America in Uruguay was informed of the recovery of the debris in order that, in accordance with the relevant international treaties in force, information could be provided to confirm the identification of the series numbers of the parts discovered, established as ID85677 (G9 and NAS6705-5P, the latter belonging to the National Aeronautical Standard series manufactured by company Aerospace Fittings, according to the list of parts produced by that company).
