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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FURNISHED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CONVENTION ON REGISTRATION OF OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE

Note verbale dated 30 September 1988 from the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, in accordance with article IV, paragraph 2, of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, has the honour to transmit the following additional information concerning the Cosmos-1900 satellite, launched into orbit in the Soviet Union on 12 December 1987, with a nuclear power plant on board.

As of 0800 hours on 30 September 1988, the Cosmos-1900 satellite is continuing a steady trajectory. The orbital parameters are: apogee 192 km and perigee 174 km. If the steady trajectory is maintained, re-entry of the satellite into the dense layers of the atmosphere is forecast for the period between 1500 hours on 4 October and 0600 hours on 6 October 1988 (Moscow local time in all cases).

The reactor core of the Cosmos-1900 satellite comprises 37 cylindrical fuel elements surrounded by beryllium reflectors. The nuclear fuel (total mass of 31.1 kg) consists of a uranium-molybdenum alloy (3 per cent by weight), with a 90 per cent enrichment of uranium-235. Upon re-entry into the dense layers of the atmosphere and after the cut-in of the back-up safety system, the reactor core will be destroyed, becoming fine particles of between 60 and 880 micrometres in size which are indissoluble in the natural environment and do not enter the food chain. Furthermore, the level of irradiation of the population, in the event of maximum fall-out, will not exceed 0.5 rem/year.

The reactor incorporates a lateral beryllium reflector which includes 6 cylindrical rods, each having a mass of 3.6 kg and measuring 100 mm x 250 mm, the radioactivity of which will be insignificant. Should they reach the Earth's surface, no direct danger will be posed to the population, unless, however, the rods are exposed. The remaining components of the Cosmos-1900 satellite, should they reach the Earth's surface, will present no radiation danger.

The competent services of the Soviet Union continue to observe the satellite closely and are making the relevant calculations.
