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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

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

Note verbale dated 4 October 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 to him the following information.

On 1 October 1988, at 0008 hours Moscow time, the radiation safety system on the Cosmos-1900 satellite with a nuclear power plant on board, launched into orbit in the Soviet Union on 12 December 1987, automatically cut in. The reactor was shut off and the nuclear power plant was separated from the satellite and transferred to a long-life orbit at an altitude of about 720 km in which it will remain for a time sufficient to reduce the radioactivity to a safe level. The remaining part of the satellite (the instrument compartment), which will soon burn up in the dense layers of the atmosphere, does not pose any radiation hazard.