



General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 August 2003

Original: English

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Note verbale dated 29 July 2003 from the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the Secretary-General*

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations (Vienna) presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and notes the following with respect to the Online Index of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

In two entries of the Online Index, the name of the Netherlands appears in square brackets and green in connection with the launch of a space object that is still in orbit. It concerns the following entries:

1. [2002-019A] (International Designator); [NSS 7] (Name of Space Objects); [(for Netherlands)] (State/Organization); [17/04/2002] (Date of Launch); No (UN Registered); [in GSO] (Status)
2. [2002-057A] (International Designator); [NSS 6] (Name of Space Objects); [(for Netherlands)] (State/Organization); [17/12/2002] (Date of Launch); No (UN Registered); [in GSO] (Status)

It is added in an “Important Note” to the Online Index that “information in square brackets ([and]) and highlighted in green has been obtained from other sources and has not been communicated to the United Nations in conformity with the Registration Convention or resolution 1721 B (XVI)”.

In respect of the above-mentioned space objects, the Kingdom of the Netherlands is not the “launching State”, “State of registry”, or “launching authority” for the purposes of (a) the Convention on International Liability for Damages Caused by Space Objects (General Assembly resolution 2777 (XXVI), annex), (b) the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex), or (c) the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space

* This document has not been formally edited.



(resolution 2345 (XXII), annex), respectively. The Kingdom of the Netherlands requests the Secretary-General to add this statement to the relevant entries.

The above-mentioned space objects were delivered in orbit to New Skies Satellites after they were launched and positioned in orbit by persons that were not subject to the jurisdiction or control of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. New Skies Satellites is a company that is incorporated in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Kingdom of the Netherlands is therefore not required to furnish to the Secretary-General of the United Nations information in accordance with article IV of the Registration Convention. Following the transfer in orbit of ownership of the space objects to New Skies Satellites, the Kingdom of the Netherlands is of the opinion that it bears international responsibility for their operation in accordance with article VI and has jurisdiction and control over them in accordance with article VIII of the Treaty on Principles Governing Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (resolution 2222 (XXI), annex).
