UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.105/INF.366
28 September 1977

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE

INFORMATION FURNISHED IN CONFORMITY WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1721 B (XVI) BY STATES LAUNCHING OBJECTS INTO ORBIT OR BEYOND

Note verbale dated 13 September 1977 from the Acting Permanent Representative of Japan addressed to the Secretary-General

The Acting Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1721 B (XVI), has the honour to transmit herewith information concerning a space object which was launched into geostationary satellite orbit by Japan on 14 July 1977 with the co-operation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America.

The Acting Permanent Representative of Japan avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

Geostationary Meteorological Satellite (GMS)

1.	Name of Satellite:	Geostationary Meteorological Satellite (GMS) "Himawari" or "Sunflower" in English
2.	International designation:	1977-065A
3.	Launching vehicle:	Delta Launch Vehicle 2914-132
4.	Date and place of launch:	
	(1) Date:	10:39 (UT), 14 July 1977
	(2) Place:	Eastern Test Range, Cape Canaveral, Florida, United States of America
5.	Launching organization:	National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America (NASA)
		Note:
		NASA furnished spacecraft launching and associated services to NASDA, at the request of NASDA and on a reimbursable basis for the launching of the GMS. NASDA injected the GMS into the geostationary satellite orbit.
6.	Basic orbital parameters:	
	(1) Apogee:	35,813 km
	(2) Perigee:	35,777 km
	(3) Inclination:	1.2°
	(4) Period:	1,436 minutes
	(5) Geographical longitude on the geostationary satellite orbit:	140° E

7. General function:

(1)	Tracking and control of the GMS	NASDA
(2)	Acquiring the data concerning the geostationary satellite tracking and control technologies	
(3)	Mission of the GMS	Organization in charge of meteorological services
(a)	Weather watch by the visible and infra-red spin scan radiometer (VISSR) aboard the spacecraft: Imaging the earth's surface and cloud, and measuring the temperature of both surface and cloud top.	Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA)
(b)	Dissemination of facsimile: transmission of processed data via the GMS to user stations with LR-FAX and HR-FAX.	
(c)	Collection of meteorological data: acquisition of data from drifting and fixed sensor platforms which are either interrogated by the GMS or self-timed.	
(d)	Monitoring of space environment: measurement of solar protons, alpha particles and electrons.	

8. Characteristics of satellite:

(1) Weight: Approximately 315 kg at an early stage on the geostationary satellite orbit

(2) Physical configuration and dimensions:

(a) Configuration: Cylindrical satellite

(b) Height: 2.7 m (in operational configuration)

(c) Diameter: 2.2 m

(3) Attitude control subsystem: Spin stabilization

9. Probability of survival in three years: More than 50 per cent

---