



Secretariat

Distr.
GENERAL

ST/SG/SER.E/72/Add.1
20 January 1983
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

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 18 January 1983 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 of the United Nations and, in accordance with article IV of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, has the honour to transmit the enclosed notification.

The Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations takes this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

NOTIFICATION TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

In accordance with article IV, paragraph 2, of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space, which specifies that each State of registry of a space object may, from time to time, provide the Secretary-General of the United Nations with additional information concerning a space object carried on its registry, the following additional information is provided concerning the COSMOS-1402 satellite, launched into orbit in the Soviet Union on 30 August 1982.

COSMOS-1402, carrying on board a small nuclear energy unit of the reactor type, completed its programme of work and, on command from earth, ended its active existence on 28 December 1982. The safety system with which the satellite was equipped then split it into three fragments, one of which burnt up on entry into the dense layers of the atmosphere on 30 December 1982. The two remaining fragments consist of the main part of the satellite structure and the reactor core, which has been separated from it. Before the satellite was split into fragments, the reactor was shut off on command from earth.

According to preliminary calculations, the main part of the satellite structure will enter the dense layers of the atmosphere during the last few days of January and the core separated from the reactor will enter those layers in mid-February 1983. The extraction of the core from the reactor ensures that the core will burn up in the dense layers of the atmosphere and be dispersed into fine particles.

Radio communication with the main part of the satellite structure, maintained for two days after the satellite was split into fragments, confirmed the fact that the reactor had been shut off and its core had been separated. The fragments of COSMOS-1402 are being observed in order to forecast the most probable time and place of their entry into the dense layers of the atmosphere.

Radiation after the fragments of COSMOS-1402 enter the dense layers of the atmosphere will be within the limits recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection.
