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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Letter dated 19 February 1991 from the Permanent  
Representative of Argentina to the United Nations  
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that certain fragments of a space object belonging, presumably, to the Soviet orbital station "Salyut-7" - "Cosmos-1686" have fallen over Argentine territory.

On 7 February 1991, the authorities of the Civil Defence Department of the Argentine Republic were notified by the people that many objects had fallen over various regions of the country. On the basis of subsequent investigations, and of the information provided by the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics at the request of the Argentine authorities, it was possible to establish that the fragments found possibly belonged to the above-mentioned orbital station. The Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics reported also that the orbital complex was not carrying dangerous substances which might endanger people, property or the environment.

The description and situation of the fragments found up to the present are given in the annex to this letter.

At the appropriate time I shall inform you of the results of the ongoing work of seeking and recovering the fragments and evaluating possible damage, as well as the results of the work on more precise identification of the aforesaid space object.

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The present information is being given pursuant to article V, paragraph 1, of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a General Assembly document under item 71 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jorge VAZQUEZ  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Situation and description of the fragments belonging presumably to the "Salyut-7" orbital station and found in Argentine territory, as of 13 February 1991

Entre Rios Province

Chañar District, Federación Department: One rectangular fragment of approximately 30 square centimetres; and another, tubular, fragment with a diameter of 3 metres.

Lucas Norte area: Two quadrangular fragments of 20 square centimetres, fallen on inhabited property.

Santa Fé Province

Capitán Bermúdez area: One circular fragment, 90 centimetres in diameter and 5 centimetres thick.

Firmat area: One metallic sphere, radius 50 centimetres.

La Pampa Province

Luan Toro area, Conhello Department: One sheet of 1 square metre, bearing the numbers 62-23-0-62-2-3.

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