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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN TWO PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Letter dated 6 January 1987 from the Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the replies given on 5 January 1987 by N. I. Ryzhkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, to questions from a TASS correspondent.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this text as a document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space".

(Signed) A. BELONOGOV

ANNEX

Replies given on 5 January 1987 by N. I. Ryzhkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, to questions from a TASS correspondent

Question. In June 1986, you sent a letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the question of promoting international co-operation in the prevention of an arms race in outer space and in the peaceful exploration of space. The letter set out a three-stage programme for joint practical action by States in studying and using outer space for peaceful purposes. It provided, in particular, for the establishment of a world space organization. What is the significance of this programme and what direct contribution will the Soviet Union be prepared to make to its realization?

Answer. Our programme is a call for co-operation, addressed to all States without exception. It is motivated by the deep conviction that development of large-scale international co-operation in the peaceful exploration of outer space is a constructive alternative to the ominous plans to extend the arms race to outer space. The salient features of our programme are its far-reaching goals, solid material nature and division into stages to be implemented by specific deadlines - in other words, its feasibility.

The programme is designed to pool the efforts of as many States as possible to advance the peaceful exploration of outer space. This should be done on a fair and equal basis, with account taken of the present level of development of space technology and prospects in this field, as well as of the real needs of the States involved in this co-operation.

It is this approach that marks the proposal, made by Mikhail Gorbachev in his address to the Indian Parliament, for the establishment, with the help of the leading space Powers, of an international centre to perform joint research and develop space technology at the request of developing countries, which would comprise a school to train specialists from these countries, including cosmonauts, and space launch facilities. We expect this proposal to be carefully studied by all interested countries. Its implementation can be an important stage in laying the foundations for "Star Peace".

We attach great significance to the idea, put forward by the USSR in the United Nations, of founding a world space organization. This would help to raise international co-operation in the peaceful exploration of outer space to a qualitatively new, higher level, involving the implementation, under the aegis of this organization, of major international projects in various fields of space science and applied cosmonautics.

Our country intends to take a most active part in implementing all stages of the suggested programme. In this connection, I should like to draw special attention to the Soviet Union's declared readiness to exchange information on its achievements in outer space with all States and to launch peaceful spacecraft for other countries and international organizations with the help of Soviet carrier rockets on mutually acceptable terms.

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Question. What **technical systems** does the Soviet **Union** plan to **use** for such **launches**?

Answer. The Soviet Union has **carriers** of several **types** and **so** we **can** orbit the most **varied** spacecraft. Expert6 single **out** rockets of the **PROTON class** as the most promising in this **respect**. They are **being** extensively **used** in the **USSR and** **have** proved **themselves** to be **most** reliable and versatile. The **PROTONs** have **quite a** service record including, for example, the launches of **automatic** interplanetary **stations of the VENERA, MARS and VEGA type, communication** satellites in the **EKRAN, RADUGA and GORIZONT** series, and the new Soviet manned orbiting **station MIR**.

We can also use other **kinds of rockets for launchings**, in particular the triple-stage **SOYUZ** or the **small**, single-stage **VERTIKAL**, which is fitted with a **return** equipment container. These carriers have **also** acquitted **themselves well** in our space programme.

Another possibility includes **mounting** foreign **instruments on Soviet satellites and space stations**. The space **station MIR** offers broad possibilities in this **field**. It will **be** recalled **that the new Soviet station has** six docking ports. This **means that. it will soon be possible to link it with** up to five orbital modules, each weighing up to 21 tons. These will **become specialized** research laboratories of a kind or production shops in orbit.

Question, In this case, it is intended that the Soviet Union will **launch** foreign spacecraft on **commercial** terms. In this connection, it **has been** alleged abroad that the Soviet Union **is** seeking to take advantage of **the well-known** difficulties which have arisen in the space programmes of Western **countries to** further its own selfish ends and, simply **speaking, to profit by these** difficulties. It is even **asserted** that the Soviet Union **intends to use the** launches of foreign spacecraft as a cover for prying into the secrets of Western **technology** and that a **satellite brought** into the territory of the USSR **from abroad** would no longer belong to its builders at all. What **can you say about this**?

Answer. It is against our principles to cash in on others' errors and setbacks. Our proposal for launches of Foreign spacecraft by Soviet carriers has been prompted by a desire to advance space exploration and use Soviet rocket and other space technology, which has repeatedly demonstrated high standards and dependability, **efficiently** For these purposes.

Of course, as it enters the international market of space technology and services, the Soviet Union cannot but reckon with **the laws** of this market. It is only natural that we expect to acquire some revenue. **At the same time, we shall be** **soaking to make the** Launch terms mutually advantageous to us and to the **clients**. **When** orbiting spacecraft **for developing countries**, the Soviet Union is **prepared** to grant them substantial (discounts. Soviet Financial organizations can also insure the payloads.

As to the claims about our dependence on foreign **technology, which** are being made in a bid to justify **the** "embargo" on technology exports to the USSR, I can say with confidence **that those** who are ill disposed towards **this** country are clearly

engaging in wishful thinking in this respect. The whole world has been able to see on more than one occasion that Soviet scientists and designers can develop and do develop extremely advanced equipment which is at least on a par with the best foreign systems.

As I have already said, we shall for the launching of foreign spacecraft sign commercial contracts on the basis of mutual trust. I can declare officially that Soviet State agencies will give the clients the necessary guarantees of safety for their spacecraft throughout their stay in the territory of the USSR - from the moment they cross the border until the launch.

We are prepared to exempt the equipment intended for a space launch from customs inspection and to permit its passage across the territory of the USSR to the cosmodrome in a sealed container, if this is more convenient for the client. Foreign specialists will be able to escort their spacecraft and watch it being transported and installed on a carrier rocket. It goes without saying that representatives of the client will be allowed into the cosmodrome. In short, we proceed from the conviction that the client, who has signed a contract with us for the launch of his equipment by a Soviet carrier rocket, should suffer neither financially nor from the standpoint of keeping his technological and other secrets.

In conclusion, I should like to stress once again that we favour co-operation that would be open and accessible to all, be free from any discrimination and bring palpable benefits to peoples. We want this co-operation to pave the way for mankind to a third millennium of peace and want the landmarks of this path to be major joint projects connected with the peaceful uses of outer space and outstanding discoveries made through joint efforts by all States.
