

Original: RUSSIAN

**LETTER DATED 11 JUNE 2003 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE
NOTIFYING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE
OPENNESS AND TO BUILD CONFIDENCE IN THE DOMAIN OF OUTER SPACE
ACTIVITIES**

I have the honour to notify you of the development of an initiative by Russia to promote openness and to build confidence in the domain of outer space activities, so as to ensure transparency in the use of outer space and to prevent the deployment in space of weapons of any type. The basic thrust of this proposal, which was put forward in October 2002 by Mr. Igor Ivanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, is to show Russia's willingness to provide advance notification of forthcoming spacecraft launches and of their purpose and main parameters.

After the necessary preparations, work has now started on the implementation of this initiative. The relevant details of forthcoming spacecraft launches, provided by the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation and the Russian Aerospace Agency, will be posted ahead of such launches on the official internet site of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the address www.mid.ru. In the disarmament section of this site there is a special subsection containing information on forthcoming spacecraft launches in the Russian Federation. The address of the English version of this subsection is www.ln.mid.ru/ns-dvbr.nsf/engdvzaprkt.

The Russian Federation calls on the other space Powers which have their own spacecraft launching facilities to join its initiative. By doing so they will help build confidence in the domain of outer space activities and set the stage for further joint efforts to reinforce the peaceful status of outer space.

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We regard the task of preventing the deployment of weapons in outer space as a priority and favour the earliest possible commencement of work on this issue in the Conference on Disarmament.

I would be grateful if this notification could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed):

Leonid Skotnikov

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the
to the Conference on Disarmament

Annex

Schedule of Spacecraft Launches for June 2003

According to the Russian Aerospace Agency, the following launches of spacecraft (SC) are scheduled for June 2003 under the federal programs of Russia, international cooperation programs and commercial programs:

Date	Cosmodrome	Craft/object to be launched	Carrier rocket	Goal	Notes
June 2, 2003 21:45:26 Moscow time	Baikonur	Mars Express SC	Soyuz with a Fregat upper stage	Carrying out scientific research	Placing the SC on a Mars-bound trajectory
June 7, 2003	Baikonur	AMC 9 (ЖЕ-12) telecommunications satellite	Proton with a Briz-M upper stage	Commercial launch	Previously scheduled for May 20 but had to be canceled for technical reasons
June 8, 2003 14:34:17 Moscow time	Baikonur	Progress M1-259 cargo spacecraft	Soyuz	Ensuring the operation of the ISS; delivering to it fuel components, expendable equipment, equipment for scientific experiments and containers with food and other cargo	<u>Orbit features:</u> period of reversal - 88,59 minutes inclination - 51,66 degrees min.altitude - 193 km max.altitude - 245 km
June 30, 2003	Plesetsk	Bridge and Mimoza SC, and Monitor-E space complex model	Rokot	Carrying out space research	6 foreign nanosatellites of varying purpose are planned to be orbited as an associated payload