

Department of External Affairs



Ministère des Affaires extérieures

Canada

The Department of External Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and has the honour to refer to the 1968 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

In accordance with Article 5, paragraph 1 of that Agreement, to which both Canada and the USSR are parties, the Government of Canada hereby wishes to notify the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that component parts of a space object have been discovered on Canadian territory. These are believed to be component parts of the USSR Satellite Cosmos 954 which re-entered the earth's atmosphere in Canada on January 24, 1978. Some of these component parts were found to be radioactive. In light of the risk of hazards to persons and property in Canada, the Canadian authorities have carried out a comprehensive air and ground search for these parts and the search for additional parts is continuing. To date, the parts, as described in the attached annex, have been located in areas of Canada's Northwest Territories and are being removed to a safe location as local conditions permit. The