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*"Rummaging in the government's attic"*

Description of documents:	Department of State (DOS) Communications Regarding Recovery of Deorbited Space Debris (Moon Dust), 1967-1972
Source of documents:	National Archives and Records Administration Records, College Park, Maryland, Record Group 59
Photographed:	March 2022

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SECRET-LIMDIS-NOFORN  
Classification

Department of State

# TELEGRAM

197722

SP 16

42 B

25 Nov 69 20 11z

INDICATE:  
 COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Amembassy KATHMANDU

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

STATE

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

LIMDIS

SUBJECT: Space Fragment

- SP16

REF: Kathmandu 4685 Aug 28, 1968; State 114584, Feb

1. Reftel noted Foreign Secretary KHANAL intended explore possibility space objects examined by US team in August 1968 being brought to US for analysis. We

continue to be interested in the fragments but are not certain about their present status. If Embassy perceives no objection, request you make low key inquiry of whereabouts and disposition of fragments, unless of course Embassy already has information that objects have been released to claimant and no longer in Nepal.

2. If items still have not been claimed and remain under GON custody you may repeat previous offer at

DRAFTED BY: PM/AE: JTKendrick:bpw  
DRAFTING DATE: 11/24/69  
TEL. EXT: x21147  
APPROVED BY: PM/AE - W. J. Lehmann

CLEARANCES:  
IO/UNP - Mr. McIntyre (draft)  
L/EUR - Mr. Stein  
DIA/CO-28 - Mr. McGarey (draft)  
NEA/INC - Mr. Kay (draft)  
SCI - Mr. Bowie (draft)  
INR/RSF - Mr. Bogosian (draft)

SECRET-LIMDIS-NOFORN  
Classification

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Authority NND 969000



SECRET-LIMDIS-NOFORN

Classification

Department of State

# TELEGRAM

CLASSIFY:  
 COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Amembassy KATHMANDU

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

Page 2

appropriate level to undertake complete laboratory analysis in US to determine origin and technical characteristics of fragments, with results to be fully shared with GON. In order to obtain complete data, largest amount available of rocket nozzle debris would be required, and analysis would be destructive, although residue could be returned if desired.

party to

3. You may note that as/~~XXXXXX~~ Outer Space Treaty and the Assistance and Return Agreement, both which now in force, /we respect right of originating nation to space fragments

but if there has been no claimant in course of last year we as space nation are interested in all aspects of space flight including effects of reentry and would be interested in examining items for this purpose and assisting GON in determining origin.

GP-1

END

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE TEL EXT

APPROVED BY:

[ROGERS]

CLEARANCES:

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

Saturday, June 14, 1969

THE YOMIURI

Eni A-542 EA  
Tokyo Sa

## Probe Into Soviet 'Shelling' Started

The Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) Friday started a full-scale investigation to determine what had actually fallen on the No 1 Shinei Maru off the Soviet Maritime Territory of Siberia on June 5, damaging the 2,996-ton freighter and injuring four crew members, one seriously.

The first radio report said that the ship had been shelled, but later MSA and Defense Agency experts said that they believed the falling objects were either missile fragments or part of a spaceship.

The MSA obtained a bucketful of fragments which the Shinei Maru brought home as evidence, and asked the Defense Agency to analyze them.

The Shinei Maru crew had concealed the fragments under its load of Russian lumber during a Soviet inspection of the ship immediately after the "shelling" occurred 11 kilometers off De-Kastri Port in the Soviet Maritime Territory.

Other fragments were confiscated by the Soviet authorities.

The freighter returned to Nanao Port, Ishikawa-ken, on Thursday via Otaru, Hokkaido

kilograms was a 20-centimeter long heavy white piece of metal that looked like a shell fragment with wiring.

The wiring had Russian words and numbers printed on it.

The Russian words included those meaning type, instrument number and number.

Skipper Masao Takara said MSA investigators that when noise was heard 150 meters off the side of his ship.

Seconds after, a flying object hit his ship, tearing holes in different places.

The cabin panels were broken in cabin port and the radio antenna was

An MSA official said the falling fragments were apparently different







Department of State *SP 16*  
**TELEGRAM**  
50

SECRET 739

PAGE 01 KATHMA 04685 290748Z

20  
ACTION SS 70

INFO CIAE 00, /070 W

R 280300Z AUG 68  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4444

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 4685

LIMDIS/NOFORN

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

PASS DEFENSE

REF: STATE 221878 - *SP 16*

*Kathmandu 4685*  
*8-28-68*

1. AMBASSADOR, MILATT AND DEFENSE TECHNICIANS, SWORTZEL AND VAN WINKLE, CALLED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY KHANAL AUGUST 26 TO PRESENT PRELIMINARY REPORT OF TEAM'S FINDINGS ON UNIDENTIFIED SPACE OBJECTS IN GON POSSESSION. REPORT WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED THROUGH APPROPRIATE DOD CHANNELS MADE UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT THAT OBJECTS NOT OF U.S. ORIGIN. IT CONCLUDED, ON BASIS OF EXAMINATION AND COLLATERAL TRACKING DATA, THAT SOME PIECES COULD BE OF SOVIET ORIGIN, POSSIBLY COSMOS 208 WHICH RE-ENTERED THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE ON NIGHT OF MARCH 25, 1968. REPORT ALSO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT BECAUSE SOVIET ROCKET TECHNOLOGY HAS HAD PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON CHINESE ROCKET DEVELOPMENT DEFINITE IDENTIFICATION OF LAUNCHING AUTHORITY BY U.S. TECHNICIANS WOULD BE POSSIBLE ONLY AFTER FURTHER EXAMINATION IN THE U.S. UNDER LABORATORY CONDITIONS. POINT ALSO MADE THAT SOME PIECES APPEARED TO BE FROM DIFFERENT SPACE OBJECT WHICH LIKELY FELL ON A DIFFERENT DATE.

2. FOREIGN SECRETARY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION AND QUESTIONED US CLOSELY ABOUT HOW DOUBT AS TO ORIGIN COULD BE RESOLVED. ALTHOUGH HE SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY ALL OBJECTS COULD BE RELEASED FOR

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

DECLASSIFIED BY 25/2

SECRET

(11)

(1)



Department of State

**TELEGRAM**

SECRET

PAGE 02 KATHMA 04685 290748Z

EXAMINATION IN U.S., HE THOUGHT THAT AS GON ANXIOUS TO HAVE DEFINITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF OWNERSHIP IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO GET GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT TO ALLOW SOME PIECES TO BE TAKEN TO THE U.S. FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION. HE PROMISED TO INQUIRE AND ADVISE AMBASSADOR RESULTS HIS EFFORTS. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION ABOUT WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE SHOWN INTEREST IN OBJECTS, FOREIGN SECRETARY REPLIED THAT INDIA AND CHINA HAVE ASKED TO SEE OBJECTS. BOTH ONLY TOOK PICTURES. THE SOVIETS HAVE SHOWN NO INTEREST AT ALL.

3. WHILE WE CANNOT PREDICT GON WILLINGNESS ALLOW US TO SEND BACK SOME PIECES OF OBJECTS, SITUATION APPEARS TO FAVOR THIS COURSE. GON HAS NO USE FOR OBJECTS ONCE POSSIBLE LAUNCHING AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN GIVEN CHANCE TO CLAIM THEM. SOVIET LACK OF INTEREST, IF IT CONTINUES, WOULD LEAVE OWNERSHIP PERPETUALLY IN DOUBT AND GON SEEMS DESIROUS TO RESOLVING POSSIBLE QUESTION OF CHINESE ORIGIN.

4. FOREIGN SECRETARY AGAIN REQUESTED NO PUBLICITY BE GIVEN TO THIS MATTER.

XVH

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969000

DEPT. DISTRIBUTION  
ORIGIN/ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

# AIRGRAM

10-5

~~SP #~~  
FILE DESIGNATION

Original to be Filed in \_\_\_\_\_ Decentralized Files.

REP	AF	ARA
EUR	FE	NEA
INR	E	P
L	FBO	AID
AGR	COM	FRB
LAB	TAR	TR
AIR	ARMY	NAVY
USIA	NSA	CIA
NASA		

HANDLING INDICATOR

*Encl. reproduced.*  
UNCLASSIFIED

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

A-2220

AUG 29 12 55 PM 1968

RS/AN  
ANALYSIS BRANCH

UNP/8-30-68  
*[Handwritten initials]*  
RMR

TO : Department of State

FROM : USUN - New York

DATE: August 28, 1968

SUBJECT : Nepalese Communication

REF :

copy of a

Enclosed is a/note from the SYG-UN, dated August 21, 1968, transmitting the text of a communication from the Nepalese UN Representative concerning certain metallic pieces discovered on Nepalese territory which are believed to be parts of an object launched into space.

The note states that Nepal, having failed to identify them and determine the launching authority, and in the spirit of the agreement on the rescue of astronauts, the return of astronauts and the return of objects launched into outer space, has decided to open them for examination by interested states and return them to the launching authority on identification.

BUFFUM *[Handwritten signature]*

- Enclosures: *att ch*
1. Copy of note from the SYG-UN
  2. Nepalese Communication

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

POST ROUTING			
TO:	Action	Info.	Initials
AMB/PO			
DCM			
POL			
ECON			
CONS			
ADM			
AID			
USIS			
FILE			

Action Taken:

Date:  
Initials:

FORM 10-64 DS-323

UNCLASSIFIED

For Department Use Only

In  Out

Drafted by: ADMIN:DADarrer:dad *[Handwritten signature]*

Drafting Date: Phone No.:

Contents and Classification Approved by: ADMIN:T P Schottke, JR. *[Handwritten signature]*

Clearances: Kallen *[Handwritten signature]*

SP  
16  
AUG 29 1968



The Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith the following communication from H.E. K.N. Bista, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"The Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal has the honour to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations that certain metallic pieces discovered in Nepalese territory are believed as parts of object launched into space. His Majesty's Government have failed to identify them and determine launching authority. In spirit of Agreement on the rescue of Astronauts, the return of Astronauts and the return of objects launched into outer space, His Majesty's Government have decided to open them for examination by interested states and return them to launching authority on receipt of identifying data. Highest consideration."

The Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

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Authority NND 969000

16 July 1968

2500  
8-28-68

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES  
NEW YORK

RECEIVED 22 7:12:58

CABLE ADDRESS - UNATIONS NEWYORK - ADDRESS TELEGRAPHIQUE

PO 141/1(3)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations ..... and has the honour to transmit, for the information of his Government, the text of the attached communication dated 16 July 1968 from the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 949000

21 August 1968

BK

SP 16  
221878



# OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE:  COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

SECRET - NOFORN  
Classification

15 AUG 68 22 05Z

FOR OC/T USE ONLY

Origin  
Info

ACTION: Amembassy KATHMANDU  
Amembassy LONDON  
Amembassy NEW DELHI

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

STATE:  
NOFORN LIMDIS  
LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

REFS: a. USDAO Kathmandu 265; b. USDAO New Delhi 0004

1. Based on examination of photos previously provided by DATT, determination has been made by DIA that potential value of physical examination of fragment by US experts sufficiently justifies dispatching team to NE Nepal. In response to GON invitation submitted by UNSYG and in accordance with approval of GON and Embassy reported reference a two man team plans arrive Kathmandu 1530 August 21 via IAC. Team desires access to greatest possible extent but will be governed, of course, by arrangements dictated by GON. If, as indicated by preliminary examination of photos and by tracking data, fragment is part of Soviet rocket body (Cosmos 208), team is authorized advise GON object appears to be of Soviet origin. If examina-

221878

RECEIVED 11 AUG 68

(3)

Drafted by: SCI:DWBowie:vml 8/15/68 Tel. Ex: 6751 Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: SCI - D. W. Bowie  
Clearances: NEA/INC-Miss Obrien; L/UNA-Mr. Reis; EUR/SOV-Mr. MacCracken; G/PM - Mr. Fulton; EUR/BMI - Mrs. Seasword; DIA-Mr. Hill; INR/RSF-Mr. Perez

SECRET - NOFORN  
Classification

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Authority NND 969000

indicates otherwise, team is to request further guidance from Washington. Any public statement is responsibility of GON.

2. British Defense Intelligence Liaison Office here requested approval from MOD for team enroute to Nepal to meet with appropriate individuals in London re results UK examination of three other objects recovered Nepal. HMG concurrence received August 15 and team scheduled arrive London between August 16 and 18.

3. In view Indian Air Force interest in object, we hope be able to relay informally to IAF our determination as to origin based on expert examination.

GP-1

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Authority NND 969000



SP 16

Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET 400

PAGE 01 KATHMA 04258 190652Z

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

Kathmandu 4258  
7-19-68

21  
ACTION SS 70

INFO CIAE 00, /070 W

P 190610Z JUL 68  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4205  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
DIA WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 4258

LIMDIS

SUBJECT: SPACE OBJECTS

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR (KELLAS) INFORMED ME LAST NIGHT (JULY 18) IN ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE THAT NEPALESE CIC GENERAL SURENDRA SHAH AND CGS GENERAL BASNAYAT HAD APPROACHED HIM SOME TIME AGO TO ASK BRITISH ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS. BRITISH VIEWED THEM, TOOK PICTURES AND "BITS AND PIECES" CAPABLE OF BEING EASILY TRANSPORTED HAVE BEEN SHIPPED TO LONDON. ONLY ONE VERY LARGE OBJECT REMAINS HERE APPARENTLY. AMBASSADOR KELLAS DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER MFA AWARE OF THIS ACTION AND INCLINED TO DOUBT IT. I TOLD AMBASSADOR KELLAS THAT ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS WE HAD ALSO SEEN SOME OF OBJECTS AND RECEIVED PHOTOS BUT WERE INTERESTED IN MORE COMPETENT INSPECTION. I ALSO SPECULATED (BASED ON INFORMATION FROM JAPANESE AMBASSADOR) THAT INDIANS MAY HAVE BEEN ACCORDED SAME TREATMENT AS WE HAD THROUGH THEIR CONTACTS IN MILITARY. ALL THIS COULD POSE EMBARRASSING PROBLEM FOR NEPALESE WHEN OBJECTS UNVEILED FOR INSPECTION DO NOT TALLY WITH WHAT WE PRIVATELY KNOW THEY HAVE. BRITISH AMBASSADOR AGREED BUT STRESSED ESSENTIALITY OF PROTECTING INFORMATION WHICH HE WAS SHARING WITH ME IN CONFIDENCE. HE SAID HE ASSUMED LONDON WOULD ACQUAINT US IN ANY CASE WITH RESULTS OF THEIR INSPECTION.

GP-1 LAISE

MICROFILMED BY M/A

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000



SP 16  
Department of State TELEGRAM

31

**CONFIDENTIAL**

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ 007

Kathmandu  
7-17-68  
4240

PAGE 01 KATHMA 04240 171115Z

17  
ACTION SCI 05

INFO NEA 13, INR 07, CIAE 00, NSAE 00, DODE 00, NASA 04, OST 01, GPM 04, L 03  
IO 13, RSC 01, RSR 01, /052 W

P 171040Z JUL 68  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4195

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ KATHMANDU 4240

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SPACE MATERIAL

*SP 76*

REF: KATHMANDU'S A-208 AND PREVIOUS: USDAO'S 0207 JULY 68

1. IN LETTER TO AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY, FOREIGN SECRETARY ADVISED OF GON DECISION TO PERMIT EXAMINATION (AND EVENTUAL RETURN TO LAUNCHING AUTHORITY IF IDENTIFICATION MADE) OF METALLIC PIECES BELIEVED TO BE POSSIBLE COMPONENTS OF SPACE OBJECT WHICH GON HAS BEEN UNABLE IDENTIFY OR DETERMINE LAUNCHING AUTHORITY (SEE DAO'S 0207).

2. DCM THANKED DHITAL AT MFA TODAY FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY, AND SAID HE ASSUMED WE MIGHT HAVE ONE OR TWO EXPERTS FROM WASHINGTON COME TO MAKE EXAMINATION. DHITAL SAID THIS WOULD BE FINE AND INDICATED THAT WE COULD, IF WE WISHED, WORK OUT DETAILS OF EXAMINATION DIRECTLY WITH DEFENSE MINISTRY. HE KNEW OF NO TIME LIMITATION ON OPPORTUNITY EXAMINE OBJECTS. WHEN DATT PAID PERSONAL CALL ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER BISTA LATER TODAY, LATTER ALSO INDICATED THERE WOULD BE NO RESTRICTION ON EXAMINATION OF OBJECTS AND PHOTOGRAPHY WOULD BE PERMITTED.

3. WE ARE CONSULTING DEFENSE MINISTRY TO SEE IF EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES CAN HAVE PRELIMINARY ACCESS NOW WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO LATER EXAMINATION BY EXPERTS.

CLASSIFIED BY:  
OFFICE:  
PER:  
DATE:  
FOI:  
MEMO OF AUTHORITY ATTACHED

①

EXEMPT. LAISE

*HYDROFILMED BY BS/B*

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Authority NND 969000

Todd, Robert

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~(UNCLASSIFIED)~~

Upon Removal of Attachments)

Dec. 10, 1980

OK

MEMORANDUM TO: OPR/FAIM - Mr. Price  
 FROM: A/CDC - Clayton E. McManaway *CEM*  
 SUBJECT: Change of Document Classification to CONFIDENTIAL

SP 16

Included in the documents of FOI Case No. 7900693 are four documents (No. 177 Memcon with Soviet Embassy; No. 179, Memcon with Soviet Embassy, No. 180, Note to the Soviet Embassy, and Kathmandu cable No. 4240 of July 16, 1968) which were designated LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. These documents have been denied to the requester under EO 12065 1-301 (b) and (d) and under Paragraph (b) (1) of Title 5 USC 552.

I have accordingly exercised my authority under Section 1-606 of the Executive Order to classify the four documents CONFIDENTIAL. Please make the appropriate changes in the Department's record copies of the documents.

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority NND 969000



Department of State

SP 16  
**TELEGRAM**

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MEXICO 00557 080400Z

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

Mexico 557  
8/8/67

10  
ACTION ARA 19

INFO SCI 05, GPM 03, DOD 01, NSC 10, NASA 04, RSC 01, L 03, INR 07, P 04,  
CIA 04, NSAE 00, USIA 12, ACDA 17, OSI 01, RSR 01, /092 W

R 080045Z AUG 67  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3864

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 557

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJECT: FALLEN SPACE OBJECT IDENTIFIED AS US

REF: MEXICO CITY 350 *SR 16*

1. DEFENSE ATTACHE (CRAWFORD) WAS INFORMED AUG. 4 BY DEFENSA THAT GOM ORDNANCE OFFICIALS WERE EXAMINING SPHERE TWO FEET IN DIAMETER WHICH FOUND IN CHIAPAS ON JULY 13.

PAGE 2 RUESMO 557 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR AIR ATTACHE (MOELICH) TO EXAMINE IT AUG. 7 AT 1000A.M. HE MADE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF US TITANIUM GAS STOWAGE SPHERE. SECTION OF SPHERE HAD BEEN CUT AWAY AND VARIOUS TEST BORINGS MADE BY GOM ORDNANCE OFFICIALS.

3. DEFENSE AUTHORITIES WILL ADVISE EMBASSY REGARDING PROCEDURE FOR RETURN OF SPACE OBJECT.

4. UNLESS EMBASSY INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, AIR ATTACHE WILL TRANSPORT SPACE OBJECT WHEN RETURNED TO KELLY

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Authority NND 969000



12

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Action

ARA

VZ IZCESA5 10A064

019536

1967 JUL 21 PM 9 50

Mexico 350  
7/21/67

## Info

GPM

FR RUEHC  
DE RUESMO 350 2030130

L

ZNY CCCCC

P

R 220109Z JUL 67

USIA

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC

CIA

STATE GRNC

NSC

E

NSA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 350

DOD

ACDA

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SCI

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SPACE OBJECT FALLS IN CHIAPAS

NASA

OST

RSR

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED TELEGRAM THIS MORNING FROM CHILON, STATE OF CHIAPAS, INFORMING THAT "SATELLITE OR SIMILAR OBJECT" FELL THERE IN JULY 13.

RSC

2. APPROPRIATE GOM AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN INFORMED INFORMALLY OF REPORT, WHICH CANNOT BE VERIFIED BY ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY.

3. WILL ADVISE SOONEST RESULT GOM INVESTIGATION.

FREEMAN

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969000

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State XR SP 16

ORg 7 NASA

R. 80

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Action

SYN MNNVZCZCESA980MIMIVV MOA121  
Info PP RUEHC  
DE RUESMO 6457 1400125  
CP ZNY CCCCC  
ARA P 200115Z MAY 67  
INR BY AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
CIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY  
NSA STATE GRNC  
DOD BT  
NASA

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

020867  
1967 MAY 19 PM 10 08

MEXICO 6457  
5/19/67

ORg 7 Xerox  
XR SP 16

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 6457

SUBJECT: RETURN OF SPACE FRAGMENT

REF: MEXICO CITY 4899 AND STATE 152219

1. SPACE FRAGMENT WAS OFFICIALLY TURNED OVER TO US CUSTODY THIS MORNING, PURSUANT EMBASSY'S REQUEST IN NOTE OF MARCH 14.
2. IN QTE ACTA DE ENTREGA UNQTE SIGNING OVER TITANIUM SPHERE, REASON GIVEN FOR DELAY IS QTE STUDY AND ANALYSIS ORDERED BY SUPERIOR AUTHORITY UNQTE. THIS APPEARS TO HAVE ENTAILED ABOUT FIFTEEN TEST BORINGS INTO METAL AND CUTTING AWAY OF SECTION

OF SPHERE.

3. AIR ATTACHE WILL TRANSPORT CRATED SPHERE TO KELLY AFB MAY 20 FOR TRANSSHIPMENT TO FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION, WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB IN ACCORDANCE USAF INSTRUCTION RECEIVED APRIL 11.
4. PLEASE ADVISE NASA AND DIA.

DEARBORN

Note: Copies sent S/S-O

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

REPRODUCED BY 85/E

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2

6 -34

XR Org 7 Rec  
SP 8/16

# OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE:  COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
Classification

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Origin: ACTION: Amembassy MEXICO CITY

Info: INFO: Amconsul MONTERREY

STATE: 152219

REF: MEXICO 4899

**DECLASSIFIED**  
 Authority NND 969000

152219

Embassy requested arrange with foreign office for space fragment, which definitely identified as of US origin, be turned over to Embassy. Embassy should ship by most expeditious means to NASA Headquarters, Code MAO (Attention Richard Schulherr) 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20546. Shipping expenses to be charged to NASA.

Since analysis of results of exposure of fragment to space environment of scientific interest and since chance of effective analysis diminishes rapidly, receipt of fragment in Washington desired ASAP. FYI: Nevertheless, scientific value of analysis would not repeat not warrant undue pressure on

scientific value of analysis would not repeat not warrant undue pressure on GOM for immediate release. Establishment of principle of ownership and orderly turning over procedure more important in this case. This orderly procedure, however, should take only reasonably short time. NASA will turn over fragment to DOD since it identified as DOD launch vehicle. END

FYI.

DECLASSIFIED BY 604

A  
W

Drafted by:

NASA:KFMautner

Tel. Ext.

6751

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by: SCI - T. H. E. Nesbitt

Clearance:

ARA/Mex: Boles

**DECLASSIFIED**  
 Authority NND 969000

34  
INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

Org 7 Recd  
X12 Sp 16

85

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Action

SCI

NNNNCZCZIESB872  
RR RUEHC  
DE RUESMO 4899 0660105  
ZNY CCCCC

5864

Info

ARA

R 06235Z MAR 67  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC  
ZEN/AMCONSUL MONTERREY  
STATE GRNC  
BT

1967 MAR 6 PM 9 08

TNR

CIA

NSA

DOD

NASA

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969000

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 4899  
REF MEXICO 4821

RSR

SUBJ/ SPACE FRAGMENT

1. ABERNETHY EXAMINED SPACE FRAGMENT THIS MORNING IN OFFICE OF DIRECTOR NATIONAL ARTILLERY ARSENAL. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MACKAY AND CHIEF SCIENTIST, DEPT OF NATIONAL SECURITY (DE LA ROSA).
  2. FROM EXAMINATION OF ARTIFACT ABERNETHY ESTABLISHED CONCLUSIVELY IT IS US MANUFACTURED TITANIUM GAS STOWAGE SPHERE FROM TITAN III-C UPPER STAGE.
  3. ABERNETHY BELIEVES FROM STUDY OF AVAILABLE REPORTS REGARDING EXACT TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES RE-ENTRY HIGH PROBABILITY SPHERE WAS PART OF ROCKET LAUNCHED BY DOD WHICH RE-ENTERED FEB 7 AFTER LAUNCHING SEVEN COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES.
  3. ABERNETHY RETURNING WASHINGTON MARCH 7 ON EASTERN 904 AND WILL MAKE FULL REPORT.
- FREEMAN  
BT

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969000

7/16/67  
3/6/67  
4899

83  
Action  
SCI  
Info  
ARA  
INR  
DOD  
NASA  
RSR

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNVZCZCFSA461VV MOA589  
RR RUEHC  
DE RUESMO 4821 520124  
ZNR UUUUU  
R 232038Z MAR 67  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC  
ZEN/AMCONGEN MONTERREY  
STATE CRNC  
BT  
UNCLAS MEXICO 4821

1967 MAR 2 PM 8 58

002600  
4821  
3/2/67  
7/2/67

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

SUBJ: SPACE FRAGMENT  
DEPARTMENT'S 146481.

1. GOVERNACION HAS BEEN INFORMED OF ABERNETHY'S PLANS AND WILL FACILITATE HIS MISSION BOTH IN MONTERREY AND MEXICO CITY.
2. SECRETARY ECHEVARRIA HAS AUTHORIZED INSPECTION OF SPACE FRAGMENT IN MEXICO CITY BY NASA OFFICIAL UPON PRIOR NOTIFICATION BY EMPASSY OF DATE AND TIME REQUESTED.
3. CONCEN: MONTERREY INFORMED BY TELEPHONE.  
FREEMAN  
BT

34  
OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE:  COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

UNCLASSIFIED  
Classification

X12 Arg 7 mata  
SP 16

~~SECRET~~  
FOR OCIT USE ONLY

Origin

ACTION: Amembassy MEXICO CITY  
Amconsul MONTERREY

Date

STATE: 1416481  
REF: 145577 *orig n next  
7/25/16*

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

Despite report suspected fragment now in Mexico City  
Abernethy wishes discuss with Consulate Monterrey initially  
and will proceed from there to Mexico City for examination  
of the suspected fragment. ETA ~~ix~~ Monterrey remains firm.

Amembassy Mexico City requested assure if possible that  
suspected fragment will be available for examination.

146701

Org 7 Rec  
XR SP16

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

91

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Action VZCZCESA225VV MOA446

1967 MAR 1 PM 5 00 001018

SGI OO RUFHC  
DE RUFSMO 4772 3522145

Info ZNY CCCCC  
O 012135Z MAR 67

CPM FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
L TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
ARA INFO ZEN/AMCONSUL MONTERREY  
P STATE GRNC  
NSC BT

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

3/1/67

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 4772

INR SUBJ: SPACE FRAGMENT

ACDA REF: STATE 145577; MACKAY-LEONHARDY TELECON.

OST 1. SECY ECHEVARRIA HAS INFORMED EMB THAT SUSPECTED SPACE FRAGMENT HAS BEEN MOVED FROM MONTERREY TO MEXICO CITY.

RSR

2. ACCORDINGLY, ABERNETHY SHOULD PROCEED DIRECTLY MEXICO CITY INSTEAD OF MONTERREY TO CONDUCT INSPECTION FOR NASA. EMB MAKING HOTEL RESFRVATIONS MEXICO CITY FOR HIM THROUGH MARCH 6 AND WILL MEET AT AIRPORT.

3. CONGEN MONTERREY ADVISED OF FOREGOING BY TELEPHONE. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST NEW ETA MEXICO CITY FOR ABERNETHY.  
FREEMAN  
BT

NOTE: ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O, WHITE HOUSE, USIA 3-1-67 5:10 PM

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE:  COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

14557  
FEB 20 6 13 PM '67

FOR OCIT USE ONLY

Origin  
Info

ACTION: Amconsul MONTERREY  
INFO: Amembassy MEXICO CITY

STATE: 145577

SUBJ: Space Fragment

Leo Abernethy, NASA official to arrive Monterrey  
March 2 1505 local time via Mexican Airline flight #715.  
Hotel reservations requested through March 6 and Consulate  
representative meet him on arrival if possible. Request  
notification soonest if suspected fragment moved from  
Monterrey.

145-577

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Authority NND 969000

end

RUSK



OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE:  COLLECT  
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Classification

145577  
FEB 20 6 13 PM '67

FOR OCIT USE ONLY

Origin  
Info

ACTION: Amconsul MONTERREY  
INFO: Amembassy MEXICO CITY

STATE: 145577

SUBJ: Space Fragment

Leo Abernethy, NASA official to arrive Monterrey  
March 2 1505 local time via Mexican Airline flight #715.  
Hotel reservations requested through March 6 and Consulate  
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notification soonest if suspected fragment moved from  
Monterrey.

145-577

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

end

RUSK

24  
SP 16  
INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

53-44

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R 171930Z FEB 67  
FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC  
INFO ZEN/AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
STATE GRNC  
BT  
UNCLAS MONTERREY 160

1967 FEB 24 AM 10 1022302

REF: MONTERREY 156

PRESS TODAY REPORTS FULLY ON DISCOVERY AND HANDLING OF OBJECT INCLUDING ITS HAVING BEEN TURNED OVER TO CONGEN. EL NORTE ADDS THAT IT WAS RECOVERED BY STATE OFFICIALS AND PLACED AT DISPOSITION MINISTRY GOBERNACION WHICH WILL SEND IT TO MEXICO CITY FOR EXAMINATION. JAMISON

UNQTE  
BT

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority *NND 969000*

*Monterrey 160  
2/24/67*

INC  
INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

SP 76

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DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

*missed 4/23  
2/20/67*

NNNNVZCZCESB011VV MOA881  
PP RUEHC  
DE RUESMO 4623 511909  
ZNR UUUUU  
P 20185Z FEB 67  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATEW WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO ZEN/AMCONGEN MONTERREY PRIORITY  
STATE GRNC  
BT  
UNCLAS MEXICO 4623  
STATE'S 138873. *op 16*

018424

1967 FEB 20 PM 3 29

1. SECGOVT LUIS ECHEVERRIA TOLD ME TODAY THAT SPACE OBJECT NOW IN CUSTODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY NUEVO LEON AND THAT GOM WOULD BE VERY HAPPY HAVE NASA EXPERT OR EXPERTS EXAMINE IT JOINTLY WITH MEXICANS. HE ASKED THAT I INFORM HIM OF THE NAMES OF NASA EXPERTS AND THEIR EXPECTED DATE OF ARRIVAL IN MONTERREY IN ORDER THAT HE IN TURN MAY INFORM THE GOVERNOR.
2. I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SOONEST THIS INFO IN ORDER THAT I MAY PASS IT TO ECHEVERRIA.  
FREEMAN  
BT

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

CONFIDENTIAL

82

Action

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P 180030Z FEB 67

FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ZEN/AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

GRNC

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTERREY 158

REF: MONTERREY 156

16843

1967 FEB 17 PM 10 25

1. ACTING ON WHAT THEY DESCRIBED AS INSTRUCTIONS FROM MINISTRY OF GOVERNACION, STATE AUTHORITIES REQUESTED RETURN OF OBJECT AS A SURING US IT WOULD BE HELD INTACT PENDING EXAMINATION BY NASA EXPERT. CONGEN COMPLIED.

2. CHIEF LEGAL SECTION HAS RECEIVED REPORT FROM CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE THAT MINISTRY GOVERNACION DISPLEASED STATE AUTHORITIES RELEASED OBJECT TO CONGEN AND WILL SEND REPRESENTATIVE WHO WILL TAKE OBJECT TO MEXICO CITY.

3. NEVERTHELESS IF NASA WISHES SEND EXPERT EXAMINE OBJECT WE WILL OF COURSE ASSIST AS MAY BE FEASIBLE.

GP-3.

JAMISON

BT

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *NND 969000*

*monterrey*  
*2/17/67*  
*158*

# AIRGRAM

SP. 16

FOR RM USE ONLY

A-41  
NO.

UNCLASSIFIED

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FEB 23 2 02 PM 1967

*FWM*  
~~DWB~~  
*How*  
*BBM*

INFO: Mexico City

RS/AN  
ANALYSIS BRANCH

FROM : Amconsul MONTERREY

DATE: February 17, 1967

SUBJECT : Report of unidentified object which fell near Municipio of General Teran, N.L.

REF : Deptel 138873 and Monterrey 156

*ISCZ*

There is attached for forwarding to NASA a translation of a letter, and its enclosure, from the mayor of General Teran to the Private Secretary of the Governor of the State of Nuevo Leon regarding an unidentified object which fell near the town of General Teran on February 7, 1967.

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Authority NND 969000

JAMISON

*EAD*  
*by*  
*JEA*

Enclosures:

1. Translation of letter of Feb. 16, 1967 from the Mayor of General Teran, N.L. to the Private Secretary of the Governor of N.L.
2. Translation of the memorandum attached to INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS above letter.

FEB 24 1967

AM 7,8,9,10 11,12,1,2,3,4,5,6 PM

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969000

Page 1 of 1  
Encl. No. 1  
A-41 from Monterrey

Gral Terán  
City Hall

Ref: Submitting sphere

To the Attorney  
Juventino González Ramos  
Private Secretary to the Governor  
Monterrey, N. L.

I am sending you with a Traffic Department officer in a vehicle owned by I.P.I. of this town the sphere found in territory of this municipality, as per description made in the attached Memorandum for the necessary action.

Very truly yours,

Gral. Teran, N. L., February 16, 1967  
The Mayor

Ing. Plutarco Elías Calles Sáenz

The Secretary

In the Villa of General Teran, State of Nuevo León, on the fifteenth day of February of nineteen hundred sixty seven, at eleven o'clock. Prof. Ernesto TORRES Malagón appeared before the Presidente Municipal, Ing. Plutarco Elías CALLES Sáenz. Prof. Torres is a teacher in the Federal Rural School of the Ejido Las Anacuitas, Sección Victoria, of the municipality of General Teran and said that on arriving to work on Tuesday, February 7, the neighbors alarmed informed him that about 10:30 of that day they heard two or three explosions and suddenly they saw descending a sphere of indefinite size with direction to the West, covered by smoke and some signs of fire, which fell in the land belonging to the Ejido about 1,500 meters from the center of town, on seeing it they decided to go towards the place where the object fell but they could not reach the location due to the fact that the said object smelled strongly of gunpowder, so they decided to return to their place of origin. Next, Mr. Reyes PERALES Pérez, on Sunday 12 accidentally found the object first seen, which consisted of a metal sphere, of some unknown metal, of indefinite color, about thirty kilos in weight and about sixty centimeters in diameter. On advise from the Professor the following persons went to the location of the object: CC. Prof. Ruben GARZA Rodríguez, Secretary of the Ayuntamiento (City Hall), Mr. Genaro RODRIGUEZ Ramirez, Second Municipal Commandant and Prof. Leopoldo DIAZ Alejandro, Chief of the Traffic Department of that town, who agreed thoroughly with what the neighbor and the teacher had reported, and furthermore they could investigate that the sphere touched the branches of a tree on falling and that it was lying on a beehive. In order to transport it into town, it was rolled about forty meters to reach a road where it was loaded on a wagon and taken into town where three small screws were removed. Neighbors also informed that other particles of the object continued flying and that another one fell in a pasture nearby which is a private property and they have been unable to locate it. The man who found the sphere, it should be explained, gave the information very laconically and appeared somewhat selfish in giving information in this respect. The sphere, on falling, made a loud noise, a sort of humming noise.

This memorandum was written as proof and is signed by those who intervened and wished to do so. We agree-----

Torres Malagón (signed)

Garza R. (Signed)

Leopoldo Díaz A. (signed)

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Authority NND 969000

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

82

UNCLASSIFIED

Action

SCI NNNN.ZCZCZSD 72807 736  
 P RUEHC  
 Info DE RUESMO 156 0481725  
 ZNR UUUUU  
 GPM P R 171720Z FEB 67  
 ARA FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY  
 P TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY  
 USIA INFO ZEN/AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
 NSC STATE GRNC  
 INR BT  
 CIA UNCLAS MONTERREY 156  
 NSA  
 DOD FEB 17  
 ACDA  
 NASA REF: STATE 138873

016437

1967 FEB 17 PM 2 26

Monterrey 156  
2/17/67

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

RSR ON FEBRUARY 16 CONGEN NOTIFIED BY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO STATE GOVERNOR THAT REPORT HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM MAYOR OF MUNICIPALITY OF GENERAL TEHRAN THAT UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT HAD FALLEN NEAR TOWN AND BEEN RECOVERED BY LOCAL PEOPLE. CONGEN DISPATCHED CHIEF LEGAL SECTION TO GENERAL TEHRAN BUT ON ARRIVAL WAS TOLD OBJECT HAD BEEN TRANSPORTED MONTERREY.

ON FEBRUARY 17 CHIEF LEGAL SECTION AND VICE CONSUL EXAMINED OBJECT AT STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND GATHERED FOLLOWING INFORMATION: OBJECT FIRST SEEN BY CAMPESINOS FALLING FROM SKY TRAILING SMOKE ON FEBRUARY 7. AFTER IMPACT HEARD TWO EXPLOSIONS. OBJECT FINALLY

PAGE 2 RUESMO 156 UNCLAS  
 LOCATED ON FEBRUARY 12 ABOUT 1500 METERS FROM TOWN. NOTED GASEOUS SMELL SURROUNDING OBJECT. BELIEVE THERE IS STILL ANOTHER PART NOT YET FOUND SINCE OBJECT IS SMALLER THAN THAT OBSERVED FALLING FROM SKY. WILL SEARCH FURTHER.

CONGEN STAFF MEMBERS DESCRIBE OBJECT AS ROUND IN SHAPE, CIRCUMFERENCE 75 INCHES, WEIGHT APPROXIMATELY 70 POUNDS, MADE OF HARD METAL, BRONZE IN COLOR, WITH BURNED SPOTS ON EXTERIOR. IS MADE OF TWO PARTS WELDED TOGETHER. ON EITHER SIDE THERE IS FLANGED THREADED SOCKET WITH INSIDE DIAMETER OF 1 INCH. AROUND EACH THESE SOCKETS ARE 3 SMALL THREADED HOLES APPARENTLY MEANT FOR SCREWS. NEAR 2 SOCKETS THERE IS MOLTEN METAL. CURSORY PEEP INTO SOCKET HOLES INDICATES BALL COMPLETELY EMPTY. REPRESENTATIVES PRESS HAVE SEEN OBJECT AND WRITING STORIES LOCAL NEWS MEDIA.

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1

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Authority NND 969000



UNCLASSIFIED

-2-MONTERREY 156, FEBRUARY 17.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority WND 969000

AFTER RECEIPT REFTEL, CONGEN REQUESTED STATE AUTHORITIES SURRENDER OBJECT FOR SHIPMENT WASHINGTON. REPLIED WISHED TO SEND TO DEPARTMENT MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING OF LOCAL STATE UNIVERSITY FOR EXAMINATION AND STUDY. ON CONOEN INSISTANCE OBJECT NOT BE RELDAFED UNIVERSITY UNTIL EXAMINATION NASA EXPERT, AUTHORITIES SURRENDERED OBJECT TO US ON UNDERSTANDING WE WOULD DELIVER TO UNIVERSITY AFTER NASA INSPECTION. SUGGEST NASA SEND EXPERT IMMEDIATELY.

PAGE 3 RUESMO 156 UNCLAS  
IF AFTER EXAMINATION POSSESSION DESIRED, BELIEVE WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY  
NEGOTIATE IT. PLEASE ADVISE.  
YAMISON  
BT

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE:  COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

(55)

UNCLASSIFIED

Classification

138873

FOR OCIT USE ONLY

FEB 16 7 46 PM '67

Origin  
Info

ACTION: Amconsul MONTERREY  
Info Amembassy MEXICO CITY

STATE 138873

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

Ref: Telecon Stuart-Taylor Feb 16

ConGen requested to inform GOM authorities that object found quite likely part of space vehicle but without analytical examination it is not possible to identify as to nationality or technical origin. If GOM agreeable NASA prepared to conduct expert examination preferably by having object shipped at NASA expense to NASA Headquarters (Code MAO) Attn Mr. Abernethy, Washington, D.C. NASA also prepared send expert to examine object locally.

ACTING

(3)

16

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CSP HC 4  
FOR OCIT USE ONLY

# OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE:  COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

SECRET - NOFORN  
Classification

30 Sep 67 01 28Z

Origin

Info: 5

ACTION: Amembassy CANBERRA  
Amembassy COLOMBO  
Amembassy DAR ES SALAAM  
Amembassy DJAKARTA  
Amembassy LONDON  
Amembassy MOGADISCIO  
Amembassy NAIROBI  
Amembassy NEW DELHI  
Amembassy TANANARIVE

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 769000

INFO: Amembassy MOSCOW  
USUN NEW YORK

~~SECRET~~ NOFORN

SUBJ: USSR Request for Astronaut Assistance

1. Smart of British Embassy informed us September 28 of Soviet request to UK for assistance in locating and rescuing cosmonaut(s) in event of landing in Indian Ocean area. Soviet note does not specify intentions, <sup>or timing</sup> but requests that Government of UK and Indian Ocean territories under jurisdiction of UK be prepared to render whatever assistance necessary. Note also requests UK make available facilities for Soviet recovery activities, should need arise.

2. Smart reported UK intends respond affirmatively to Soviet request citing UK adherence to Outer Space Treaty and, in

Drafted by:

SCI: DWBowie:vml 9/29/67

Tel. Ext.  
6751

Telegraphic transmission and  
classification approved by:

SCI-Mr. THENesbitt

Cleared by:

EA Mr. Walstrom  
AP - Col. Megma  
L/UNA - Mr. Reis

UNP-JPLorenz

EUR/SOV-Mr. Toumanoff

SECRET - NOFORN  
Classification

SECRET - NOFORN  
Classification

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority WND 969000

particular, to provision on assistance and return. Since return aspect not mentioned in Soviet note, UK response will state assumption that USSR desires return of cosmonaut(s) and/or spacecraft, should recovery be made by UK personnel or personnel under jurisdiction of UK and that UK considers return to launching state or launching organization obligatory under terms of Treaty. UK reply will reserve decisions on extent of assistance and request from USSR orbital characteristics and other data relevant to rescue, as well as description of scale and nature of assistance desired. It will ask that such details be made available by appropriate Soviet authorities for review by UK Ministry of Defense.

UK has transmitted substance of Soviet note to governments in Indian Ocean area under UK ~~jurisdiction~~ jurisdiction.

Another source has reported that the USSR has approached the Government of Madagascar requesting facilities to assist in recovery of space vehicles and cosmonauts.

3. FOR LONDON: UK Embassy here did not have copy of USSR note. Department would very much like receive text by telegram.

4. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES: Department will appreciate any information on USSR interest in rescue and return of Soviet astronauts that may come to the attention of posts in the area.

GP-1

KATZENBACH

SECRET - NOFORN  
Classification

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

**ACTION COPY**

CONFIDENTIAL

010743  
JANUARY 13, 1967  
5:23 P.M.

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CONFIDENTIAL USUN 3551

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Authority NND 969000

EXDIS

OUTER SPACE

1. UNDER LETTER DATED 5 JAN SOVS HAVE TRANSMITTED INFO ON OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE FOR UN SPACE REGISTRY. THIS SUBMISSION, UN DOC A/AC.105/ NF.50 OF 9 JAN, COVERS PERIOD FROM 27 AUG TO 12 NOV, SPECIFICALLY LAUNCHES OF COSMOS 129, 130 AND 131 ON 14, 20 OCT AND 12 NOV, MOLNIYA 1 ON 20 OCT, AND LUNA 12 ON 22 OCT.
2. THIS SUBMISSION FAILS MENTION TWO SOVIET LAUNCHES WHICH PUT INTO LASTING ORBIT AT LEAST FOUR SOVIET OBJECTS; ACCORDING TO MOST RECENT ISSUE AVAILABLE HERE OF SATELLITE SITUATION REPORT (15 DEC), THESE WERE THREE OBJECTS PUT IN ORBIT 17 SEPT (88B, 88E AND 88AY) AND ONE ON 2 NOV (101G), ALL OF WHICH HAD SIMILAR ORBITAL CHARACTERISTICS.
3. ON FACE OF IT THIS SOV SUBMISSION IS INCOMPLETE AND RAISES TRICKY QUESTION OF HOW WE RESPOND.
4. SOME OF THE COMPLEXITIES OF THIS QUESTION HAVE BEEN NOTED IN USUN A-1343 AND EARLIER MESSAGES WHICH DISCUSS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND SOV METHODS AND CRITERIA FOR SUBMITTING INFO TO UN SPACE REGISTRY. SOVS HAVE CONSISTENTLY REFRAINED FROM REPORTING ANCILLARY OBJECTS. DESPITE THEIR VOLUNTARY ACCEPTANCE OF OBLIGATION TO REGISTER, ASSERTION THAT THEY DO REGISTER, LAUNCH AND PAYLOAD ONLY. PERTINENT TO CURRENT QUESTION IS INTELLIGENCE SUGGESTING THAT 17 SEPT AND 2 NOV SHOTS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL TESTS OF ORBITAL BOMBARDMENT WEAPON IN WHICH PAYLOAD MAY NOT HAVE COMPLETED ONE ORBIT, OR IF IT DID MAY NO LONGER HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BY USSR AS MORE THAN USELESS DEBRIS OF SORT SOVS NORMALLY DO NOT REGISTER. THERE IS THUS QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THESE TWO LAUNCHES QUALIFY FOR WHAT IN PAST WE HAVE TERMED "SECRET" LAUNCHES.

CONFIDENTIAL

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1-13-67

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

-2-USUN NEW YORK 3551, JANUARY 13, 1967

5. STEVENSON LETTER 6 JUNE 1963 ON SUBJECT OF SOVIET SECRET LAUNCHES ADDRESSED ITSELF TO SOVIET FAILURE IN SIX SPECIFIC INSTANCES TO REGISTER "VEHICLES" AND DID NOT ADDRESS ITSELF TO NUMEROUS ANCILLARY OBJECTS SOVS ALSO FAILED TO REGISTER. PRESS, WHICH MAY NOT APPRECIATE THIS DISTINCTION, MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO PORTRAY THIS SUBMISSION AS FIRST SOVIET CONCEALMENT OF "SECRET" LAUNCHES SINCE THAT LETTER.
6. SATELLITE SITUATION REPORT APPEARS PRESENT CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF EXISTENCE THESE OBJECTS IN ORBIT AS OF 15 DEC, BY GIVING PRECISE ORBITAL CHARACTERISTICS. IF SOVS WERE TO DISPUTE THIS WE PRESUME THAT PROPERLY EQUIPPED OBSERVERS COULD IN FACT DETECT PRESENCE OF THESE OBJECTS (PROVIDING THEY ARE STILL IN ORBIT) AND THAT MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS OF THEIR ORBITS WOULD SATISFY SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY THAT THEIR ORIGIN WAS USSR. UNFORTUNATELY, ISSUES OF SATELLITE SITUATION REPORT SINCE OCTOBER HAVE ALSO LISTED THREE OBJECTS, CATALOGUE NUMBERS 2428, 2429, AND 2430, WITH EQUALLY PRECISE INFO AS TO THEIR ORBITAL CHARACTERISTICS, BUT FOR WHICH THE SOURCE AND DATES OF LAUNCH ARE "UNKNOWN". THIS SUGGESTS THAT OUR CASE MIGHT NOT APPEAR CONVINCING TO AN UNINFORMED AUDIENCE.
7. AL THINGS CONSIDERED IT WOULD APPEAR ADVISABLE TO PULL TOGETHER ALL FACTS (INCLUDING QUESTION OF WHETHER OBJECTS WERE STILL IN ORBIT ON 5 JAN, AND IF SO HOW MUCH LONGER THEY MAY REMAIN IN ORBIT) AND PREPARE URGENTLY FOR FRANK DISCUSSION WITH SOVIETS. NEED FOR SPEED IS SUGGESTED BY PENDING SPACE TREATY WITH ITS UNINSPECTED BAN ON ORBITING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND BY FACT THAT PRESS ALREADY HAS AT LEAST SOME OF THE STORY, SEE "TECHNOLOGY WEEK" OF 31 OCT.
8. ONE POSSIBLE LINE OF APPROACH WOULD BE TO RAISE WITH SOVIETS THE POINT THAT NOW THAT SPACE TREATY IS ABOUT TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY IN ARTICLE VII, IT WOULD SEEM HIGHLY ADVISABLE FOR ALL LAUNCHING STATES TO INCLUDE IN THEIR REGISTRATION NOT ONLY THE FACT OF LAUNCH OF PAYLOAD BUT ALSO OF ANCILLARY OBJECTS, PARTICULARLY SINCE LIABILITY SITUATIONS ARE MORE LIKELY TO ARISE FROM ANCILLARY OBJECTS. ON THIS BASIS THEIR ATTENTION SHOULD BE DRAWN TO FACT THAT NOT ONLY WERE FOUR ABOVE OBJECTS STILL IN ORBIT AS OF 15 DEC, BUT ADDITIONALLY THERE WERE AT LEAST

CONFIDENTIAL

ANCILLARY OBJECTS  
DRAWN TO FACT THAT  
ORBIT AS OF 15 DEC

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USUN NEW YORK 3551, JANUARY 13, 1967

49 ANCILLARY OBJECTS PUT IN ORBIT ON 17 SEPT WHICH HAD DECAYED BY MID NOV AND AT LEAST 32 SIMILAR OBJECTS PUT IN ORBIT ON 2 NOV OF WHICH 21 HAD DECAYED BY MID NOV (THESE FIGURES FROM SATELLITE SITUATION REPORT OF 15 NOV). WE MIGHT MAKE CLEAR TO SOVIETS THAT WE EXPECT QUESTIONS ON THIS SCORE TO ARISE DURING SENATE CONSIDERATION OF SPACE TREATY TO WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO RESPOND AND WE FEAR THEIR FAILURE TO REGISTER 17 SEPT AND 2 NOV LAUNCHES OR OBJECTS WILL CREATE UNNECESSARY EMBARRASSMENT FOR THEM. (USUN OFFICER CONVEYED ESSENCE OF THIS POINT TO TIMERBAEV IN EARLY NOVEMBER, SEE THACHER MEMO FOR RECORD OF 9 NOV.)

9. PLEASE ADVISE.

GP-2.

GOLDBERG  
BT

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969000

CONFIDENTIAL

USUN NEW YORK 3551, JANUARY 13, 1967

49 ANCILLARY OBJECTS PUT IN ORBIT ON 17 SEPT WHICH HAD DECAYED BY MID NOV AND AT LEAST 32 SIMILAR OBJECTS PUT IN ORBIT ON 2 NOV OF WHICH 21 HAD DECAYED BY MID NOV (THESE FIGURES FROM SATELLITE SITUATION REPORT OF 15 NOV). WE MIGHT MAKE CLEAR TO SOVIETS THAT WE EXPECT QUESTIONS ON THIS SCORE TO ARISE DURING SENATE CONSIDERATION OF SPACE TREATY TO WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO RESPOND AND WE FEAR THEIR FAILURE TO REGISTER 17 SEPT AND 2 NOV LAUNCHES OR OBJECTS WILL CREATE UNNECESSARY EMBARRASSMENT FOR THEM. (USUN OFFICER CONVEYED ESSENCE OF THIS POINT TO TIMERBAEV IN EARLY NOVEMBER, SEE THACHER MEMO FOR RECORD OF 9 NOV.)

9. PLEASE ADVISE.

GP-2.

GOLDBERG  
BT

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 969000



OUTGOING TELEGRAM  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

210234

FORM DS 322(OCR)

17 NOV 72 23 21Z

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CLASSIFICATION  
SPECIAL CHARGES

PM/AE: ARTURRENTINE: BPW  
11/17/72 EXT 21835  
PM/AE: COL. ABWITKO

NAME  
TEL. EXT.  
NAME

SCI/SAM: LTC BASTEDO {SUBS}  
7602 AIG: MAJ. NEMETH {SUBS}  
CLEARANCES

DOD/ISA: MR. ANDERSON {SUBS}

CLEARANCES

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

ROUTINE WELLINGTON

ACTION ADDRESSES

ROUTINE RUEKJCS/SECDEF, RUEFHQA/CSAF, RUEKJCS/DIA,  
RUVAADA/FTD WPAFB OHIO, RUEFHQD/7602 AIG FT BELVOIR

SPECIAL HANDLING

CAPTIONS

SUBJECT: MOONDUST: NEW ZEALAND

REFS: A. USDAO WELLINGTON 082105Z NOV 72;  
B. FTD/FAM 071945Z NOV 72.

1. EMBASSY MAY INFORM GNZ THROUGH CHANNEL DEEMED MOST APPROPRIATE THAT EXTENSIVE LABORATORY STUDY OF SPACE OBJECT SAMPLES HAS BEGUN. WE EXPECT CLASSIFIED REPORT ON RESULTS WILL BE ISSUED IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS. WE WILL OF COURSE SHARE THIS REPORT WITH GNZ.

2. YOU MAY INDICATE THAT SPACE OBJECTS WERE OF GREATER INTEREST THAN ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED AND THAT EXPLOITATION IS PROVIDING VALUABLE INFORMATION. COOPERATION OF GNZ IN THIS EFFORT GREATLY APPRECIATED.

3. DAO AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE ASSISTED ARE COMMENDED FOR THEIR SKILLFUL HANDLING OF THIS DELICATE ISSUE.

4. DOD CONCURS. TURRENTINE-GDS 44

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Authority NND 969052

INITIALS  
PM/AE:  
PM/AE:  
SCI/S  
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7602

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

# AIRGRAM

SP 16

ORIGIN/ACTION

PM-3

Original to be Filed in \_\_\_\_\_ Decentralized Files.

FILE DESIGNATION

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AGR	COM	FRB	INT
LAB	TAR	TR	XMB
AIR	ARMY	NAVY	OSD
1	1	1	1
USIA	NSA	CIA	NSA
	1	1	1

HANDLING INDICATOR SECRET - LIMDIS

A-44 NO.

TO : Department of State  
**RECEIVED DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
*noted*  
**CGPY NO. 1** **SERIES 8 25 AM 772**  
*no action required*  
**RSIAN ANALYSIS BRANCH**  
 FROM : Amembassy KATHMANDU  
 LIMITED DISTRIBUTION  
 SUBJECT : MOON DUST: Space Fragments - Nepal  
 REF : (a) Department's A-3864, April 17, 1972;  
 (b) Kathmandu's 997, March 15, 1972; (c) State 034850,  
 March 1, 1972

**AE**  
*RS/R*

DATE: May 12, 1972

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION

The Nepalese Foreign Ministry, which moved with great deliberation prior to loaning us the space fragment, has continued to operate at a rather stately tempo in arranging for its return. As indicated in the attached Memorandum of Conversation, the fragment is still being held by the Embassy pending completion of paper work within the Ministry to transfer the fragment to the National Museum. The Embassy is not, therefore, yet in a position to report GON reaction to the fragment itself. However, on the basis of our own visual inspection, we foresee no problem once the fragment is returned. We believe the technicians who performed the surgery did an excellent job and should be complimented for their work.

We passed one copy of the Technical Report transmitted under cover of reference (a) to the Foreign Secretary personally on May 9, recorded in the attached Memcon. As will be noted, the Foreign Secretary readily agreed to our stipulations regarding control of the document.

Although the operation as noted above has not quite been completely wrapped up, we consider it timely and appropriate at this stage to express our appreciation for the sensitivity to our requirements and responsiveness to our suggestions which the Department and other concerned Washington agencies have shown in carrying out their end of the work.

LAISE *[Signature]*

*att est*  
Encl: Memcon

POST ROUTING			
TO:	Action	Info.	Initials
AMB/FO			
DCM			
POL			
ECON			
CONS			
ADM			
AID			
USIS			
FILE			

Action Taken:  
 Date:  
 Initials:

FORM 0-64 DS-323

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For Department Use Only  Out

Drafted by: DCM:CSCon:ew  
 Drafting Date: 5/11/72  
 Phone No.:  
 Contents and Classification Approved by: DCM:CSCon  
 Clearances: SA:Mr. Turner; [unclear]; DATT:Col. Hoist

1972 MAY 16 PM 1 25

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Page 1, Encl. 1  
Kathmandu A-44

American Embassy  
Kathmandu, Nepal

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Space Fragment

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Bharat Raj Bhandary, Foreign Secretary  
Mr. Shardul S. Rana, Joint Secretary

Ambassador Laise  
Carleton S. Coon, Jr. - DCM

DATE AND PLACE: May 9, 1972  
Office of the Foreign Secretary, Singha Durbar

---

Mr. Coon recalled that in mid-March he and the Foreign Secretary had discussed the return of the space fragment and it had been agreed that the Foreign Ministry would arrange to have it picked up from the Embassy to be taken to the National Museum. Foreign Secretary Bhandary confirmed that this was his understanding also. He said he hadn't finished the paper work required to get it into the Museum and that he would turn the project over to Mr. Shardul Rana (Joint Secretary in the Foreign Ministry). (At this point he called Shardul Rana in to join the group.) He asked if we would be willing to keep the fragment for a while longer until the formalities could be completed. Mr. Coon agreed to this.

Mr. Coon said that he had received a technical report from Washington of the results of the evaluation. He had been authorized to convey it to His Majesty's Government on the understanding that:

(a) HMG would not make the report available to any other government, and

(b) it would not be made available to Nepalese officials who would not otherwise have access to material of this nature and secret classification.

Foreign Secretary Bhandary expressed gratitude for the report and assured Mr. Coon and Ambassador Laise that these two understandings would be strictly adhered to. He pointed out that it was at least as much in HMG's interests as in that of the USG that the report not get

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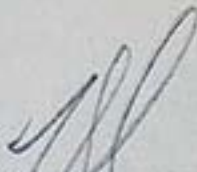
Page 2, Encl. 1  
Kathmandu A-44

into the wrong hands.

Mr. Coon told the Foreign Secretary that he had been asked to convey the United States Government's deep appreciation for HMG's cooperation in this matter. He said the instructions he had received had pointed out that the investigation had been of considerable interest and value to the United States Government.

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DCM:CSCoon:ew

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ACTION MEMORANDUM

12/23  
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SPY S/S M

March 27, 1972

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RF

To: The Secretary

From: PM Ronald I. Spiers

3/27/72

Disposition of Soviet Space Fragments

Background:

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Six fragments were recovered from a Soviet satellite (COSMOS 316) which broke up and fell across the US Middle West on August 28, 1970. The United States met its obligations under the 1968 agreement on the return of astronauts and space objects by informing the UN Secretary General and the Soviet Embassy that the fragments had been recovered and by offering Soviet representatives several opportunities to identify and claim them. Soviet Embassy officers declined either to inspect or claim the fragments. On June 9, 1971, the Soviet Embassy informed the Department by note (informal translation), "The Soviet side is not interested in further steps to study the origin of the said fragments, and believes that the American side can decide to its satisfaction the question about further destiny of said fragments."

SP 416

At the time of the Soviet note, negotiations on the Outer Space Liability Convention were in the final phase, therefore, we deferred disposing of the space objects or making detailed information available to the public to avoid a possible disruption. The Department of State has physical custody of the Soviet space fragments, the largest of which is roughly a square, 4 ft by 4 ft, weighing 640 lbs.

The Problem:

As you know, you signed the Outer Space Liability Convention on March 29. Publicity attendant on the signing of the Convention could

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PM - Ronald I. Spiers

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revive public and press interest in the fragments. Concurrently, our tactical reasons for withholding information regarding the Soviet space objects will largely disappear as soon as the forthcoming meetings of the Outer Space Legal Subcommittee (Geneva, April 10-May 5) and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (New York, May 3-13) are over. At that time the public's right to know more about the fragments becomes a primary consideration. In addition, we believe it is essential that disposition of the space fragments be completed and pertinent information be placed in the public domain officially by the Executive Branch prior to Senate hearings on the Liability Convention.

We do not wish to draw undue attention to the fragments prior to the signing of the Liability Convention. We also wish to avoid stimulating interest in the Mid-West fragments during the upcoming sessions of the UN space groups. Perhaps the best time to place the fragments in the public domain, therefore, would be in June, shortly after the President's trip to the Soviet Union.

The attached Staff Study contains a more detailed analysis of the above considerations and sets forth the options that were examined by the various agencies directly concerned with the problem.

Recommendation:

The recommended course of action, in which the various interested agencies concur, proposes that the Department of State arrange with the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum and the Air Force Museum (Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio) for the fragments to be put on public display starting in June. Under the agreements to be concluded by the Department of State and the two museums, State would retain legal custody rights enabling recall if in the national interest. Prior to displaying the fragments publicly, appropriate press guidance will be worked out on an interagency basis.

I recommend you approve this action.

Approve Wm Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

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3.

ACTION MEMO to: The Secretary  
from: PM - R.I. Spiers  
Subject: Disposition of Soviet Space Fragments

Attachment:

Staff Study

Drafted: <sup>ART</sup> PM/AE:ARTurrentine/HGHandyside:bpw  
3/23/72 x21835

Clearances: S/PC - Mr. Gathright (subs)ART  
IO/UNP - Mr. Rothenberg/Mr. Black<sup>ART</sup>  
SCI/SAM - Mr. Chapin (subs)ART  
EUR/SOV - Mr. Matlock/Mr. Kadilis (subs)ART  
L/UNA - Mr. Stowe (subs)ART  
INR/RSG - Mr. Lissfelt (subs)ART  
DOD/OSD/ISA - Mr. Anderson (subs<sup>ART</sup>--includes USAF  
and DIA clearances)  
NASA/I - Mr. Carl Jones (subs)ART

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Disposition of Space Fragments  
from Soviet COSMOS 316

The Problem

On August 28, 1970, a number of fragments from the Soviet satellite COSMOS 316 impacted across a wide section of the Middle West of the United States. Six fragments were recovered by the United States Government. In accordance with Article 5 (1) of the 1968 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the US notified the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Soviet Government of the recovery of the six space fragments. The Soviet Union was provided a full physical description of the fragments and invited to claim them if inspection confirmed Soviet origin. Soviet Embassy officers declined either to inspect or claim the fragments. On June 9, 1971, the Soviet Embassy sent a note to the Department of State which stated in part (informal translation), "The Soviet side is not interested in further steps to study the origin of the said fragments, and believes that the American side can decide to its satisfaction the question about further destiny of said fragments."

copy  
S 116

At the time of the Soviet note in June 1971, negotiations on the Outer Space Liability Convention were in the final phase, therefore, the question of how best to dispose of the fragments was deferred in order to avoid any unhelpful distraction. Since we now have agreement on the Liability Convention, with arrangements underway for signing hopefully by late March, we will soon be in a position to dispose of the fragments without jeopardy to the Liability Convention.

Inscription of an item on registration and identification on the agenda for the upcoming UN Outer Space Legal Subcommittee meeting (scheduled to open in Geneva on April 10) suggests we reinforce our position that national means of identification are adequate to deal with returning space objects. Although we hope no one will raise the Mid-West

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case, it would be prudent to prepare ourselves to counter the arguments of those who might cite our "inability" to identify the Middle West fragments as evidence of the need for an international means of identification.

The fragments are currently in the physical custody of the Department of State.

### Ownership

The question of ownership of the fragments is not clear. Under the Treaty on Outer Space, Article VIII states, "Ownership of objects launched into outer space...is not affected...by their return to the Earth." From a literal interpretation of the treaty it would seem that no state other than the launching authority could claim ownership of any space object unless the launching authority specifically transfers title of ownership to that state. If a state refuses to acknowledge ownership of a space object, as in the instant case, the state holding the object could be considered as the permanent custodian, but under the treaty would not become the owner.

### Identification

In considering liability, several countries have suggested creating an international space object identification system. For several years now, the United States has taken the position publicly that national means are adequate for the identification of space objects. We have not provided extensive supporting evidence for our stand. For security reasons we cannot reveal openly all of the identification techniques used by the intelligence community. However, we have cited publicly the basic methods of identification, i.e., examination of manufacturers' markings and numbers; analysis of bolts, threads, component configuration and design; analysis of alloys; and analysis of time and trajectory of reentry. In view of the extensive initial coverage accorded the Mid-West fragments by the media and the fact that the USG has not officially identified these fragments publicly, we must anticipate that the proponents of an elaborate international registration and identification

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system may use our "inability" to identify these fragments as proof of the need for international registration and identification. To reassert the validity of our "national-means-are-adequate" position, we may cite for the record if need be that we have in fact identified the Mid-West fragments as Soviet. On the other hand, we do not wish to precipitate a confrontation needlessly or call undue attention to the fragments during the UN Legal Subcommittee meeting (April 10-May 5) if the issue is not raised. It would be desirable to surface the fragments without fanfare after the next sessions of the UN Legal and Scientific and Technical Subcommittees, (the latter meets May 3-13 in New York) and after the President's trip to the Soviet Union. This could be accomplished by placing the Soviet space fragments on public display in early June and indicating the primary methods (tracking data and other means) used to determine their origin. Preliminary discussions indicate that both the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution and the US Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, are interested in the fragments. The Smithsonian plans to display them together with other space debris.

Display Conditions

If the fragments are loaned for display purposes, it would be desirable to include the following provisions in the transfer agreement:

1. The physical appearance of the fragments will not be altered in any way: the fragments will not be broken up further; no indelible markings or cuttings of any kind will be made on any fragment; no part of any fragment will be consumed in destructive testing.
2. The Department of State may reassume physical custody of the fragments at any time it determines it to be in the national interest to do so.
3. If additional fragments are recovered which are suspected to have come from COSMOS 316, all of the fragments may be assembled and used for an appropriate time in further intelligence evaluations.

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4. If additional fragments from COSMOS 316 are recovered, and the Soviet Union does not exercise its option to have them returned, the conditions which apply to the six fragments currently held by the USG will apply to the additional fragments upon their release for public display.
5. When on public display, identification signs will bear the following text:

"The space fragments on display are from a Soviet COSMOS satellite which broke up and impacted in the US Middle West on August 28, 1970. US tracking data confirms that a Soviet satellite decayed from orbit over the Middle West on this date. In compliance with provisions of the 1968 Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space, the United States informed the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Soviet Government that a number of space fragments had been recovered. The United States invited Soviet representatives to examine the fragments and offered to turn them over to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union did not exercise its option to have the fragments returned under the 1968 agreement."

No other text will be used or further explanation given without the explicit approval of all interested agencies.

#### Present Interest

After the initial flurry of inquiries following the recovery of the fragments, public interest dropped off, but has not disappeared completely. The Executive Branch has not yet officially placed information about the Soviet space debris in the public domain. Late last year, however, a Library of Congress Staff Report stated without qualification that the Mid-West fragments had come from the Soviet satellite COSMOS 316. The report, entitled Soviet Space

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Programs, 1966-70, was prepared for the Senate Committee on Aeronautics and Space (see page 341).

Recently an AP reporter asked about the fragments and was told the USG had no comment at this time. With the signing of the Liability Convention, we may face additional, more aggressive press inquiries.

In addition, the community of Pratt, Kansas, the small town near where the largest fragment impacted, has shown a continuing interest. The local farmer on whose land the fragment fell turned it over to the USAF only after being assured the USG would take under consideration his desire that the newly founded Pratt Museum received some appropriate memorabilia associated with the fragment. The USAF carefully made no commitment to return the fragment. Instead a cast of the fragment was made by the US Army Topographic Command for the USAF to present the town of Pratt at an appropriate time. Since the presentation will likely attract press attention, the USAF has agreed to delay turning the facsimile of the fragment over to the Pratt Museum until after the signing of the Liability Convention.

#### Courses of Action

Several feasible options for disposing of the Soviet space fragments have been considered.

Option No. 1 - Turn the fragments over to the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution and the US Air Force Museum on a permanent loan basis with the Department of State retaining its legal custodian role.

- PRO - the Smithsonian and Air Force museums are the most appropriate sponsors for public display of the fragments.
- public display of the fragments, clearly identifiable as Soviet in origin, supports US position that national means are adequate for identification.

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- best approach for maintaining control over events and keeping the surfacing of the fragments in a low-key framework to insure US interests are best served.
- State retention of legal custody avoids establishing US precedent on question of ownership of fragments.
- public display is responsive to interest the public has shown in space objects.
- retention of legal custody by State allows recall if the US desires to return fragments to Soviets in future.

CON - placing Soviet space fragments on display could draw more attention to the identification problem than otherwise might be the case.

- indication that Soviets failed to claim fragments could be used as evidence of weakness in the Liability Convention by critics.
- Soviets could possibly consider display provocative.

Option No. 2 - Turn the fragments over to the Secretary General of the United Nations for appropriate disposition.

PRO - demonstrates US dedication to the "spirit" of the agreement on the return of space objects.

CON - allows US to demonstrate routine identification techniques

CON - could establish precedent of returning space objects via the Secretary General, which may not be in US interest.

- there is no obligation under the agreement to turn over unclaimed objects to the Secretary General.
- presents Secretary General with political dilemma.

PRO - could cause Secretary General to use UN mechanism to confirm US identification of fragments thereby establishing precedent that may not be in US interest.

- Soviets could possibly consider action provocative.

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- is not responsive to interest of US public in space objects.
- indication that Soviets failed to claim fragment could be used as evidence of weakness in Liability Convention.

Option No. 3 - Make another effort to persuade the Soviet Union to acknowledge ownership of the fragments and accept them under the conditions of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

- PRO - Soviet acknowledgement that fragments are theirs would demonstrate adequacy of national means of identification and workability of return agreement.
- Soviet acceptance of fragments avoids leaving question of legal ownership unresolved.
  - return of the fragments under the Liability Convention, even though the one-year statute of limitations has expired and there are no liability claims involved, would confirm the Convention and establish a useful precedent.
- CON - The Soviet Union has had plenty of time to consider accepting the fragments, another approach would probably fail and at the same time suggest that we were begging them to take their fragments back.
- The Soviet Union is under no obligation to take its fragments back under the terms of the 1968 agreement.

Option No. 4 - Keep the fragments in storage in the physical custody of the Department of State.

- PRO - obfuscates fragment issue.
- if the Soviets ask us to return the fragments at some time in the future, it would be possible to do so on a very low-key basis without attracting any public attention.

- CON - leaves US vulnerable to charge we unable to identify fragments and international system of identification necessary.
- not responsive to interest US public has in space objects.
  - could invite criticism if issue raised in Senate hearings on Liability Convention.
  - more difficult to effectively handle possible aggressive press inquiries after signing of Liability Convention.
  - invites press speculation about range of topics much broader than fragments.

Timing

In Options 1, 2, and 3, the question of timing is central. To maximize the political usefulness of the fragments, yet keep risks at a reasonable level, we should be prepared to take action in early June. This would be after the signing of the Liability Convention, after the the next sessions of the UN Legal and Scientific and Technical Subcommittees, and after the President's trip to the Soviet Union, but prior to Senate hearings on the Liability Convention.

Attachments & Clearances:

See attached sheet

Drafted: <sup>MT</sup> PM/AE:ARTurrentine/HGHandyside:bpw  
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9.

STAFF STUDY: Disposition of Space Fragments  
from Soviet COSMOS 316

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Attachments:

1. Chronology of Events
2. Description of Fragments
3. Article VIII of Outer Space Treaty
4. Article 5 of Return of Astronauts  
and Space Objects Agreement

Clearances:

S/PC	- Mr. Gathright (subs) <sup>AKT</sup>
IO/UNP	- Mr. Rothenberg/Mr. Black <sup>AKT</sup>
SCI/SAM	- Mr. Chapin (subs) <sup>AKT</sup>
EUR/SOV	- Mr. Matlock/Mr. Kadilis (subs) <sup>AKT</sup>
L/UNA	- Mr. Stowe (subs) <sup>AKT</sup>
INR/RSG	- Mr. Lissfelt (subs) <sup>AKT</sup>
DOD/OSD/ISA	- Mr. Anderson (subs) <sup>AKT</sup> includes USAF and DIA clearances)
NASA/I	- Mr. Carl Jones (subs) <sup>AKT</sup>



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Chronology of Events Related to  
Soviet Space Fragments from COSMOS 316

December 23, 1969	Soviet Union launched COSMOS 316.
January 29, 1970	Soviet Union reported launch of COSMOS 316 to UN.
August 28, 1970	Fragments from COSMOS 316 entered atmosphere and impacted in the Middle West of the US.
September 8, 1970	US Mission UN formally notified the Secretary General of recovery of three space fragments.
September 9, 1970	Copy of US note to the Secretary General passed to Soviets at UN.
September 11, 1970	Note handed to Soviet Science Counselor Belov by Soviet Country Director informing Soviets of recovery of four fragments and offering, as soon as fragments assembled in one location, the Soviets an opportunity to examine the fragments with subsequent turnover if Soviet origin confirmed.
September 14, 1970	USUN notified Secretary General of recovery of fourth space fragment.
mid-September 1970	Fifth and sixth space fragments recovered.
September 17, 1970	EUR/SOV telephoned Soviet Science Counselor Belov and informed him that the objects mentioned in our note of September 11 had been assembled and were ready for examination.
September 29, 1970	Belov telephoned EUR/SOV and said that the appropriate Soviet officials have "a doubt" that the space fragments are of Soviet origin. He requested 1) objects be photographed, 2) description

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of appearance, 3) chemical analysis, and 4) list of numbers or figures appearing on fragments. Belov noted that his instructions did not give him permission to view the objects.

October 9, 1970

In conversation with EUR/SOV, Soviet Counselor Bubnov following up Belov conversation of September 29 again requested identifying information.

November 2, 1970

USUN informed Secretary General of recovery of fifth and sixth fragments.

November 10, 1970

EUR/SOV informed the Soviet Embassy by note of the recovery of fifth and sixth space fragments, and provided requested data.

January 15, 1971

EUR/SOV telephoned Soviet Science Counselor Belov and reminded him that we have had no response following our note of November 10.

February 1, 1971

During call on Soviet Country Director, Soviet Minister-Counselor Vorontsov expressed thanks for photos and data. Vorontsov stated that the data had been examined and found not to be related to a Soviet space vehicle.

April 27, 1971

Amembassy Moscow delivered a note reaffirming the US conviction that the six fragments are of Soviet origin.

June 9, 1971

EUR/SOV received a note from the Soviet Embassy indicating that the American communication had been taken into consideration and that the Soviet Union had no interest in any further study of the origins of the fragments. Further, "... the American side can decide to its satisfaction the question about the further destiny of the said fragments." (Informal translation)

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Fragments Recovered from Soviet satellite COSMOS 316

Fragment No. 1: Dimensions: 28" x 7" x 4"

Weight: 180 lbs

Appearance: Rectangular solid

Place found: Pratt, Kansas

Fragment No. 2: Dimensions: 31" x 10" x 5"

Weight: 230 lbs

Appearance: Three flat plates burned by re-entry; impacted as a single object; subsequently broke apart while in transit; one plate has jagged curve burned area on one of the long sides

Place found: Beaver City, Oklahoma

Fragment No. 3: Dimensions: 27" x 7" x 2"

Weight: 86 lbs

Appearance: Generally rectangular with curved cut along one of the long sides

Place found: Perryton, Texas

Fragment No. 4: Dimensions: 47" x 8" x 1½"

Weight: 125 lbs

Appearance: Plate, presumably flat originally, appears to have been deformed into its present curved shape by impact

Place found: Adrian, Texas

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Fragment No. 5: Dimensions: 48" x 48" x 1½"  
Weight: 640 lbs  
Appearance: Very large, square, slightly concave plate with circular hole approximately 10" in diameter in the center  
Place found: Pratt, Kansas

Fragment No. 6: Dimensions: 27" x 7" x 1"  
Weight: 40 lbs  
Appearance: Generally rectangular with curved cut along one of the long sides  
Place found: Dumas, Texas

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Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States  
In the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including  
the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (Entered into force  
October 10, 1967) (TIAS 6347)

Article VIII

A State Party to the Treaty on whose registry an object launched into outer space is carried shall retain jurisdiction and control over such object, and over any personnel thereof, while in outer space or on a celestial body. Ownership of objects launched into outer space, including objects landed or constructed on a celestial body, and of their component parts, is not affected by their presence in outer space or on a celestial body or by their return to the Earth. Such objects or component parts found beyond the limits of the State Party to the Treaty on whose registry they are carried shall be returned to that State, which shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to their return.

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ATTACHMENT 4

Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, The Return of Astronauts and The Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (Entered into force December 3, 1968) (TIAS 6599)

Article 5

1. Each Contracting Party which receives information or discovers that a space object or its component parts has returned to Earth in territory under its jurisdiction or on the high seas or in any other place not under the jurisdiction of any State, shall notify the launching authority and the Secretary General of the United Nations.
2. Each Contracting Party having jurisdiction over the territory on which a space object or its component parts have been discovered shall, upon the request of the launching authority and with assistance from that authority if requested, take such steps as it finds practicable to recover the object or component parts.
3. Upon request of the launching authority, objects launched into outer space or their component parts found beyond the territorial limits of the launching authority shall be returned to or held at the disposal of representatives of the launching authority, which shall, upon request, furnish identifying data prior to their return.
4. Notwithstanding paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article, a Contracting Party which has reason to believe that a space object or its component parts discovered in territory under its jurisdiction, or recovered by it elsewhere, is of a hazardous or deleterious nature may so notify the launching authority which shall immediately take effective steps, under the direction and control of the said Contracting Party to eliminate possible danger or harm.
5. Expenses incurred in fulfilling obligations to recover and return a space object or its component parts under paragraphs 2 and 3 of this article shall be borne by the launching authority.

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ACTION PH-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 SCI-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00  
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FTD WPAFB OHIO  
1127 USAF FLDACTY GP FT BELVOIR VA

061815

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority *110969052*

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 0997

LIMDIS

JOINT STATE DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJ: MOON DUST/SPACE FRAGMENTS; NEPAL

REF: STATE 034850 - SP 16

RESTORED SPACE FRAGMENT ARRIVED IN GOOD CONDITION. I HAVE NOTIFIED FOREIGN SECRETARY BHANDARY AND WE ARE WORKING ON ARRANGEMENTS PHYSICALLY TO RETURN IT TO GON. WILL REPORT GON REACTION WHEN AVAILABLE.  
COON



SECRET MAR 72Z 00 47

034850

Classification

SP 16

# Department of State TELEGRAM

340

34850

INDICATE:

- COLLECT
- CHARGE TO

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority 11ND 969052

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Amembassy KATHMANDU

INFO: SECDEF  
 DIA  
 CSAF  
 FTD WPAFB OHIO  
 1127 USAFFLDCTYGP FT BELVOIR VA

STATE

LIMDIS

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJ: MOON DUST/Space Fragments: Nepal

REFS: A. Kathmandu 762 NOTAL;  
 - SP 16

B. State 231792 (DTG 282123Z Dec 71).

1. Restored space fragment will be on board Embassy support flight 115 arriving Kathmandu on or about March 10. Fragment is packed in shipping crate (cargo no. 72-33365) marked in care of DAO.
2. State and Defense representatives examined fragment prior to shipment finding restoration acceptable and

2

DRAFTED BY: PM/AE:ARTurrentine:bpw	DRAFTING DATE: 2/29/72	TEL. EXT. 21836	APPROVED BY: PM/AE - H. G. Handyside
---------------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------	---

CLEARANCES:

NEA/INC-Mr. Burleigh (subs) *AKT*  
 INR/RSG-Mr. Lissfelt (subs) *AKT*  
 SCI/SAM-LTC Campbell (subs) *AKT*

DOD/ISA-Mr. Anderson (subs) *AKT*  
 DIA - Mr. Green (subs) *AKT*

SECRET

Classification





Department of State  
**TELEGRAM**

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DISTRIBUTION

~~XXXX~~ PAGE 2 DEPTTEL to KATHMANDU

fragment in good condition. Restored fragment does not vary significantly from its appearance prior to removal of sample.

3. Report on fragment for Embassy to share with GON will be forwarded soon under separate cover.
4. Please confirm satisfactory condition of fragment upon receipt and report GON reaction when fragment returned.

GP-3

END



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET 819

PAGE 01 KATHMA 00762 251135Z

21  
ACTION PH-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 SCI-03 INR-05 IO-03 L-02 NASA-01 DODE-00  
NSC-12 NSCE-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 NEA-06 SA-01 /051 W  
048386

R 251050Z FEB 72  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1894

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 0762

LIMDIS

SURJ: MOON DUST/SPACE FRAGMENTS: NEPALI

REF: STATE 231792 - SP16

WHEN CAN WE EXPECT RETURN OF THE RESTORED SPACE FRAGMENT?  
IT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED AT THIS END IF IT COULD BE INCLUDED  
IN NEXT EMBASSY SUPPORT FLIGHT.  
LAISE

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969052

*Kathmandu 762  
2-25-72*



SECRET

Classification

DEC 7 1971 23

231792

Department of State

SP 16

# TELEGRAM

40 D

INDICATE:  
 COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

DECLASSIFIED

Authority HND 969052

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Amembassy KATHMANDU  
INFO: SECDEF  
DIA  
CSAF  
FTD WPAFB OHIO  
1127 USAFFLDCTYGP FT BELVOIR VA

7  
231792

STATE

LIMDIS

SUBJ: MOON DUST/Space Fragments: Nepal

REFS: A. Kathmandu 4567 (DTG 230610Z Dec 71) NOTAL

B. State 155730 (DTG 251419Z Aug 71)

C. State 82264 (DTG 121725Z May 71) NOTAL

1. We expect to return restored space fragment soon after Embassy support flight #115 is resumed.

2. In conjunction with return of restored fragment, or shortly thereafter, preliminary analysis of fragment will be forwarded to Embassy under separate cover in appropriate form for sharing with GON. Full scale technical exploitation of sample removed from fragment

(2)

DRAFTED BY: ART PM/AE:ARTurrentine:art DRAFTING DATE: 12/28/71 TEL. EXT.: 21835 APPROVED BY: PM/AE - Col. A.B.Witko

REFERENCES: DIA - Mr. Green (subs) ART DOD/ISA - Col. Nolan (informed) ART  
NEA/INC - Mr. Burleigh (subs) ART  
INR/RSG - MR. Lissfelt (subs) ART

SECRET

Classification

Department of State  
**TELEGRAM**

DECLASSIFIED

Authority HRD 969052

PAGE 2

DISTRIBUTION

~~ACTION:~~

will not be completed for several months. When final analysis completed, at discretion of Embassy additional results may be shared with GON. 7

3. FYI: Delay in restoration of fragment was due to illness of skilled craftsman rather than any technical problem. Instead of holding to estimated 45-day schedule, it was decided to wait until best craftsman able to return to duty and complete restoration. END FYI  
END

JOHNSON

16  
RA  
12-4-52  
Whitman 456  
ZOFHOM

SP 16



Department of State

TELEGRAM

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority MND 969052

SECRET 628

PAGE 01 KATHMA 04567 230839Z

17  
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 NEA-06 NASA-01 SCI-03 DODE-00 SA-01  
INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-04 NSCE-00 RSR-01 RSC-01  
1040 W

130335

R 230610Z DEC 71  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1468

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 4567

LIMDIS

SUBJ: SPACE FRAGMENTS; NEPAL SP 16

REF: (A) STATE 155730; (B) STATE 082264

1. IN CALL BY AMBASSADOR ON FOREIGN SECRETARY BHANDARY DEC 21, FONSEC RAISED QUESTION OF SPACE FRAGMENT BEING ANALYZED IN US. HE WAS TOLD FRAGMENT WOULD BE RETURNED SHORTLY. HE INDICATED SATISFACTION AT HEARING THIS BUT ADDED THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN GETTING A "REPORT". WE REPLIED WE WOULD GET HIM ONE.

2. LAST MAY WE GAVE FONSEC GIST OF FIRST, THIRD, AND LAST SENTENCES OF STATEMENT WE WERE AUTHORIZED TO CONVEY IN PARA 3 OF REF B. (CF. OUR 1792 OF MAY 21.) OBVIOUSLY BHANDARY EXPECTS MORE. WE CAN OF COURSE SIMPLY GIVE HIM THE FULL STATEMENT AUTHORIZED REF B, BUT WE BELIEVE SOMETHING FROM WASHINGTON, HOPEFULLY MORE IMPRESSIVELY PACKAGED IF NOT HEFTIER IN SUBSTANCE, IS IN ORDER. WE AWAIT YOUR SUGGESTIONS.

GP-3.  
LAISE

12-23-11



SECRET

Classification

19

155730

Department of State  
TELEGRAM

SP 16

09

INDICATE:  
 COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority 1110 919052

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Amembassy KATHMANDU  
INFO: DOD - *Defense*  
DIA  
CSAF  
FTD WPAFB OHIO  
1127 USAFFLDCTYGP FT BELVOIR VA

LIMDIS

STATE

SUBJECT: MOON DUST/Space Fragments: Nepal

REF: A. Kathmandu 2850; - *SP 16*

B. Kathmandu 2833;

C. State 146350

1. Method of removing sample proposed Ref C is deemed most ~~xxx~~ desirable taking into account all of our interests.

We are proceeding, therefore, with method outlined Ref C, para three.

2. FYI: Estimate 45 days required for removal of sample and restoration. END FYI.

3. Embassy's indefatigable efforts in securing loan of

(2)

155730

DRAFTED BY: *ART* PM/AE; ARTurrentine:bpw DRAFTING DATE: 8/24/71 TEL. EXT.: 29258 APPROVED BY: PM/AE - H. G. Handyside

CLEARANCES:  
NEA/INC: APBurleigh *APB*  
NEA/INC: DTSneider *DS*  
INR/RSG: RWBogosian (in draft) *RT*  
SCI/SAM: Col. Campbell (in draft) *MT*  
DIA: SGreen (in substance) *RT*  
DOD/ISA: Capt. Heg (in substance) *MT*

SECRET



SECRET

Classification

Department of State  
**TELEGRAM**

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority 11ND 969052

PAGE 2 DEPTTEL TO KATHMANDU

UTION

~~XXXXXX~~

space fragment and permission to remove sample are greatly appreciated.

GP-3

END

ROGERS



Department of State

SP 16

TELEGRAM

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority MND 919052

SECRET 193

*Kathmandu 2850*  
*8-13-71*

PAGE 01 KATHMA 02850 131100Z

12  
ACTION PH-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 SCI-03 NEA-06 INR-05 IO-03 L-02 NASA-01

DODE-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /040 W

051009

R 131045Z AUG 71  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 546

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 2850

LIMDIS

SUBJ: SPACE FRAGMENTS; NEPAL;

REF: KATHMANDU 2833 - SP 16

REQUEST FOLLOWING CORRECTION BE MADE TO REFTEL: PARA  
ONE SECOND SENTENCE SHOULD READ: FONSEC INITIALLY  
DEMURRED, STATING HE CONCERNED REPAIR JOB COULD BE  
NOTICED AND WOULD CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT.

GP-3\*  
COON



DECLASSIFIED

Authority HRD 969052

(11)



Department of State

SP 16

TELEGRAM

SECRET 903

PAGE 01 KATHMA 02833 121055Z

10  
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 SCI-03 NEA-06 INR-05 IO-03 L-02 NASA-01

RSR-01 RSC-01 DODE-00 /040 W

R 121033Z AUG 71  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 534

041430

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 2833

LIMDIS

SUBJ: SPACE FRAGMENTS; NEPALI

REF: STATE 146350 - SP16

*Kathmandu 2833*  
*8-12-71*

LIMDIS

SUBJ: SPACE FRAGMENTS: NEPALI

REF: STATE 146350 - SP16

1. I INFORMED FONSEC BHANDARY TODAY THAT WE HAD DETERMINED IT FEASIBLE REMOVE STRIP FROM FRAGMENT AND STILL RETURN IT IN CONDITION SUITABLE FOR DISPLAY AND ESSENTIALLY INTACT. FONSEC INITIALLY DEMURRED, STATING HE CONCERNED REPAIR JOB WOULD NOT BE NOTICED AND WOULD CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT. SUGGESTED INSTEAD THAT PIECE BE TAKEN OFF TOP OR BOTTOM AND REMOVAL MADE TO LOOK AS THOUGH IT OCCURRED DURING FRAGMENT'S RE-ENTRY. I SAID I DOUBTED THIS WOULD MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS. AFTER SOME FURTHER CONVERSATION I ASKED HIM POINT BLANK WHETHER HE WOULD TRUST ME TO GO AHEAD AS I SAW FIT UPON MY PERSONAL UNDERTAKING THAT THE FRAGMENT WOULD BE RETURNED "ESSENTIALLY INTACT". AFTER SOME THOUGHT, FONSEC AGREED.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: IF OUR REQUIREMENT CAN BE MET BY REMOVAL OF MODERATE SIZED PIECE FROM TOP OR BOTTOM, I WOULD PREFER THIS. OTHERWISE, BELIEVE YOU CAN PROCEED WITH SURGERY AS INDICATED REFTEL, PROVIDED YOU ARE SATISFIED THAT REPAIR JOB WILL BE GOOD ENOUGH TO PASS MUSTER UNDER ANYTHING SHORT OF DETAILED AND EXPERT VISUAL INSPECTION. TRUST YOU WILL BEAR IN MIND THAT WHILE THIS IS A MATTER INVOLVING VALUE JUDGMENTS RATHER THAN PRECISELY QUANTIFIABLE CRITERIA, QUESTION OF USG GOOD FAITH IS INVOLVED.

GE-3.  
SOON

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 969052

SECRET 22



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SP 16

SECRET 975

PAGE 01 KATHMA 01875 281024Z

20 11  
ACTION NEA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 PM-03 INR-07 DODE-00 SCI-03 NSC-10

NSCE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /054 W L  
----- 113461

R 280948Z MAY 71  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 09

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 1875

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority HRD 969052

LIMDIS

SUBJ: MOON DUST/SPACE FRAGMENTS; NEPAL

REF: KATHMANDU 1792 - SP 16

1. FON SEC RAJ BHANDARY TOLD DCM EVENING MAY 27TH THAT WHEN HE CONSULTED PRIME MIN BISTA PER REFTEL, BISTA DISTINCTLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IDEA OF REMOVING SECTIONS FROM MIDDLE OF FRAGMENT AND PATCHING THEM UP TO PASS VISUAL INSPECTION. ACCORDING TO BHANDARY, BISTA ASKED WHETHER USG COULD NOT SETTLE FOR TAKING A COUPLE OF PIECES FROM THE TOP OR BOTTOM OF THE FRAGMENT SO AS TO LEAVE NO HOLES.

2. REGRET THIS SWITCH IN SIGNALS BUT BELIEVE WE MUST PATIENTLY CONTINUE TO INDICATE OUR INTEREST IN COOPERATING FULLY WITH GON DESIRES. DESPITE THEIR OBVIOUS TECHNICAL NAIVETE, LEVEL AT WHICH THIS BEING HANDLED HERE INDICATES IMPORTANCE GON ATTACHES TO WHOLE OPERATION.

3. WHAT CAN WE TELL GON RE THIS LATEST SUGGESTION?  
LAISE

Kathmandu 1875  
5-28-71

SECRET  
32

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Department of State

SP 16  
**TELEGRAM**

SECRET 872

PAGE 01 KATHMA 01792 211127Z

50-44  
ACTION NEA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 PM-03 INR-07 DODE-00 SCI-03 NSC-10  
NSCE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 1054 W L 060394

R 211049Z MAY 71  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9957

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 1792

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority 11ND 969052

LIMDIS

SUBJ: MOON DUST/SPACE FRAGMENTS: NEPAL

REF: A. STATE 82264 B. STATE 87869

1. DCM SAW FONSEC BHARAT RAJ BHANDARY TODAY TO EXPLAIN IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHED TO FRAGMENT AND OUR DESIRE CONDUCT TECHNICAL ANALYSIS INVOLVING REMOVAL OF TWO OR THREE SEGMENTS EACH APPROXIMATELY 20 SQUARE INCHES IN AREA. DCM ALSO GAVE FONSEC PORTIONS OF INFO CONVEYED PARA 3, REF A (OMITTING MORE TECHNICAL PORTIONS THIS INFO ON THEORY THEY CAN BE PROVIDED LATER IF GON EXHIBITS INTEREST).

2. FONSEC EXHIBITED SOME CONCERN RE PROPOSAL REMOVE TWO OR THREE SEGMENTS. HE SAID IN ANY EVENT HE WOULD HAVE CHECK MATTER OUT WITH PRIME MIN BISTA. HE NOTED THAT INTENTION HAD BEEN EVENTUALLY TO EXHIBIT FRAGMENT IN MUSEUM. HE SAID IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING IF IT APPARENT THAT PIECES HAD BEEN REMOVED; GON WOULD NOT KNOW HOW TO COPE WITH PREDICTABLE QUESTIONS AS TO CIRCUMSTANCES OF REMOVAL. HE IMPLIED HE WAS CONCERNED ONLY WITH QUESTION OF VISUAL INSPECTION AND SUGGESTED WITH UNEXPECTED FRANKNESS, THAT IF USG COULD NOT SETTLE FOR "ONE OR TWO LITTLE PIECES FROM TOP OR BOTTOM," PERHAPS WE COULD PATCH THE THING UP AFTER REMOVING SEGMENTS SO THAT NO ONE COULD SEE THE DIFFERENCE. DCM SAID HE WOULD CHECK THIS OUT.

Kathmandu 1792  
5-21-71

SECRET

h)

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SECRET/LIMDIS

Classification

30

087869

Department of State SP 16

# TELEGRAM

100

INDICATE:  
 COLLECT  
 CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Embassy KATHMANDU

STATE  
LIMDIS

FOR COON FROM SCHNEIDER

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 1100939052

89869

REF: Kathmandu 1656

1. Your April 27 letter received and your comments given consideration before sending State 82264. - SP 16
2. Analysis would entail removal of probably not more than two or three segments of slightly differing shapes from fragment (which is roughly hollow cone). Each piece would be approximately 20 square inches in area (4 by 5, 6 by 3.5, etc.) and of thickness of fragment. Fragment would still be whole after analysis but substantial pieces missing.
3. We understand there considerably less interest in other pieces which GON possesses. Thus we would like to proceed with analysis this piece. We understand there possibility that GON may refuse request. We will back up your commitment to the Foreign Secretary and if his reply is negative are prepared return fragment intact (see State 18945). - SP 16
4. Although we fully understand and appreciate your hesitancy, ]

①

DRAFTED BY: NEA/INC:APB/leigh:ees	DRAFTING DATE 5/19/71	TEL. EXT. 20653	APPROVED BY: NEA/INC - David T. Schneider
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CLEARANCES:

FM/AE - Mr. Handyside

SECRET/LIMDIS

Classification



SECRET/LIMDIS

Classification

Department of State  
**TELEGRAM**

INDICATE:

 COLLECT CHARGE TO

PAGE TWO

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ACTION:

we believe intelligence requirements argue in favor of attempt to secure GON agreement. If destructive analysis in fact produces information which is anticipated, whole US space program will ultimately benefit.

END

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 1110919052



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Washington, D.C. 20520

7101051  
✓  
3/2

February 24, 1971

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority 11ND 989052

TO: U - The Under Secretary  
THRU: S/S *[Signature]*  
FROM: IO - Samuel De Palma *[Signature]*  
SUBJECT: Re-entry and Identification of Space  
Fragments: ACTION MEMORANDUM

Representatives of IO, SCI, PM, L/UNA and S/PC have unanimously agreed that early discussions among State, Defense and NASA officers should be held to consider the US response to a growing international concern with the implications of impacting space fragments.

ACTION REQUESTED

That you sign the attached letters to Under Secretary of Defense Packard and Acting Administrator Low of NASA.

Attachments:

- Tab A - Letter to Deputy Secretary Packard
- Tab B - Letter to Dr. Low

*has*  
IO/UNP:RGBrown:avw:clh  
1/21/71 Ext. 20572

Clearances: IO - Allen, *has* Rothenberg, *Rbb* McIntyre, *has* Yoder, *has*  
S/PC - Gathwright, *has* SCI/SAM - *has* LtCol Campbell  
PM - Handyside, *has* L/UNA - Doud, *has*

CONFIDENTIAL



Department of State

SP 16

TELEGRAM

SECRET 766

PAGE 01 KATHMA 00385 011116Z

54 40  
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-03 OC-01 RSC-01 RSR-01 /010 W  
----- 122117

R 010954Z FEB 71  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9267  
ODD WASHDC

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 0385

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority HND 969652

LIMDIS

NOFORN

SUBJ: SPACE FRAGMENTS

SP 16

REF: A. KATHMANDU 4122; B. KATHMANDU 0181

WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FOREGOING TWO  
MESSAGES. (A) WAS SPACE FRAGMENT RECEIVED, AND (B) PLEASE  
CONFIRM YOU WILL HANDLE FRAGMENT IN ACCORDANCE PARA 4, REF A.  
OP-3.  
COON

Kathmandu 385  
2-1-71



SP 16

SP 16



Department of State

TELEGRAM

(11)

SECRET 393

PAGE 01 KATHMA 00181 160752Z

12  
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 NEA-06 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-07 CIAE-00  
NSAE-00 SCI-03 NASA-01 OC-01 RSR-01 RSC-01 CCO-00  
/054 W ..... 008725

R 141045Z JAN 71  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9166

SECRET KATHMANDU 0181

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority MND 969052

LIMDIS  
NOFORN

SUBJ: SPACE FRAGMENTS

REF: KATHMANDU 4122

SP 16

BOX SHIPPED ON SUPPORT FLIGHT TO NEW DELHI JANUARY 14 UNDER  
POUCH NUMBER - BOX NO. 1; REGISTRATION NO. 797082. BOX  
ADDRESSED TO DEPT OF STATE, AAFB-115, INDICATOR NO. AF-305-1,  
WASH. D. C.  
LAISE

Kathmandu 101  
1-14-71

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority *HND 969052*

CONFIDENTIAL 16 DEC 70 20 06  
Classification

204322

Department of State  
**TELEGRAM**

*SP 12-4 US*  
*XR SP 16 US*  
*XR SP 16*



INDICATE:  
 COLLECT  
 CHANGE EO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Amembassy KHARTOUM  
Amembassy KAMPALA  
Amembassy NAIROBI

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

STATE:

REF: A. State 195262; B. State 114584, Feb. 13, 1968

SUBJ: Reentry of NASA OAO Satellite  
Ref A

1.  being transmitted for info to KHARTOUM
2. NASA has advised Department of more precise reentry  
Astronomical  
info on Orbiting/~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Observatory (OAO) satellite  
launched 1740 Nov 30, 1970 from Cape Kennedy, but which  
nose  
failed to achieve orbit as result failure of ~~HNMM~~ fairing  
to jettison from launch vehicle upper stage. Any parts  
of satellite, nose fairing, and upper stage of launch  
vehicle which might have survived reentry conditions and  
fallen to earth 30 to 40 minutes after launch time would  
probably have come down along a line defined by coordinates  
(a) 4.81 deg N by 31.86 deg E, and (b) 3.82 deg N by

204322

③

DRAFTED BY: SCI/SAM: RHCampbell: vml	DRAFTING DATE: 12/14/70	TEL. EXT.: 23622	APPROVED BY: RHC
CLEARANCES: AF/N-Mr. Jackson; AF/E-Mr. Kinter; AF/E-Mr. Marks; NASA/I-Mr. CNJones; PM/AE-Mr. Haddside; IO/UNP-Mr. Brown L/SCI-Mr. Maurer(info); L/UNA-Mr. Doud (info)			

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority MND 989052

OUTGOING  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SP 12-4 US  
XR SP 16 US  
195262  
~~XR SP 16~~

(11)

FORM DS 322(OCR) -1 DEC 70Z 06 20

195262 | 030620Z DEC 70 | IRWIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

IRWIN

195262

COL. R.H. CAMPBELL: BCI/SAM  
12/1/70  
S/S-O: G. RUECKERT

[13]

AF/E: E. MARKS

NSA/I: C. JONES (INFO)

PRIORITY KAMPALA, NAIROBI

GLK  
GLK

SUBJECT: NASA SATELLITE FAILS TO ORBIT

1. NASA LAUNCHED AN ORBITING ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY (OAO) SATELLITE FROM CAPE KENNEDY AT ABOUT 5:30 PM EST ON NOVEMBER 30, 1970. DUE TO NOSE FARING NOT SEPARATING FROM THE PAYLOAD, THE OAO SPACECRAFT DID NOT ACHIEVE ORBIT. BEST ESTIMATE OF NASA AT THIS TIME IS THAT PATH OF REENTERING SATELLITE IS OVER UGANDA AND KENYA INTO INDIAN OCEAN. PRECISE IMPACT POINT OF ANY SATELLITE PARTS THAT MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED REENTRY CONDITION NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME.

2. NASA PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE LAUNCH HELD AT CAPE KENNEDY EVENING OF NOV. 30. PRESS INFORMED THAT SATELLITE DID NOT ACHIEVE ORBIT AND THAT PROJECTED GROUND TRACK OF REENTRY EXTENDED OVER CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA INTO INDIAN OCEAN. NASA MADE NO PREDICTION ON PARTS SURVIVING RE-ENTRY TO IMPACT ON LAND OR IN OCEAN.

3. FYI POSTS MAY AT THEIR DISCRETION INFORMALLY NOTIFY HOST GOVERNMENTS ABOUT OAO SATELLITE LAUNCH FAILURE USING PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE, EXCEPT THAT SPECIFIC COUNTRIES (UGANDA AND KENYA) SHOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED. SAME INFO, WITH SAME RESTRICTION ON COUNTRY IDENTIFICATION, MAY BE USED TO MAKE INTERIM RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES FROM NEWS MEDIA. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY REPORTS OF IMPACT OF SPACE DEBRIS. POSTS TO TAKE NO. RPT NO. ACTION ON ANY SUCH REPORTS OF SPACE DEBRIS UNTIL

(7)

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *NND 989052**Memorandum of Conversation*

DATE: November 10, 1970

SUBJECT: Soviet Space Objects

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Yevgeniy Belov, Science Counselor, Soviet Embassy ✓  
 Mr. Adolph Dubs, Country Director, EUR/SOV  
 Peter Semler, EUR/SOV

COPIES TO: EUR - Mr. Davies  
 EUR/SOV - Mr. Dubs  
 SOV (3)  
 DOD/ISA - Mr. Anderson  
 SCI - Col. Campbell  
 NASA - Mr. D. Morris

L - Mr. Doud  
 INR - Mr. Wolff  
 PM - Mr. Handyside  
 UN/P - Mr. Armitage  
 USUN NEW YORK  
 Embassy Moscow

23

*INR9*

Mr. Dubs handed Mr. Belov the attached note which reports that two additional space fragments of Soviet origin impacted on the midwest of the United States on August 28 in addition to the four Mr. Dubs had told Mr. Belov about on September 10. An annex to the note contains descriptive material and a photograph of the fragments, as requested by Mr. Belov in a telephone conversation with Mr. Semler on September 29.

Mr. Belov thanked Mr. Dubs for the note. He said that it would be some time before he heard from Moscow since the Soviet Embassy's pouch had just left on November 10 and another pouch would not be going until November 20. Mr. Belov also checked to make sure that the Department's note contained an identification number from the fragments.

COPYFLO-PBR

EUR/SOV/PSemler:ama  
 (Drafting Office and Officer)

11/12/70



SECRET-EXDIS  
Classification

Department of State  
TELEGRAM

116015

SP 6 UN  
Xr SP 16  
Xr SP 16 USSR  
4 SEP 70 13 41z

INDICATE:  
COLLECT  
CHARGE TO

11

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: USUN NY  
INFO: NASA  
DOD  
Amembassy MOSCOW

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 969052

116015

STATE  
EXDIS

SUBJECT: Space Fragments Found in Middle West

REF: USUN 1777 - SP 6 UN  
SP 16 USSR

1. A number of objects from space re-entered earth's atmosphere evening August 28 and impacted in several states of US Middle West. Article 5(1) of 1968 Astronaut Agreement requires USG to inform UN Secretary General and authorities of launching state, if known, of return to earth of space objects. Although it would normally be preferable to hold up formal notification UNSYG until fragments had been thoroughly examined and their origin determined definitively, widespread publicity already accorded these objects together

Approved by: S/S-O

DRAFTED

PM/AE:HGHandyside:bpw

DRAFTING DATE 9/4/70  
TEL. EXT. 20620

XXXXXXXXXX Clearance:  
IO - Martin Herz

LEARANCES:

PM/AE:JT Kendrick

SOV:ADubs

INR:HWolff (in draft)

L/UNA:Galdrich (in draft)

SCI:RFPackard (in draft)

IO/UNP - Mr. Armitage (draft)

DOD/ISA:DAnderson (in draft)

NASA:DMorris (in substance)

S/S-O:JBrims

SECRET-EXDIS



SECRET

Classification

Department of State  
**TELEGRAM**

SP 16  
109467  
37 [Signature]

9 JUL 70 21 58Z

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Authority 11ND 969052

ACTION: Amembassies BANGUI, BLANTYRE, BRUSSELS, BUJUMBURA, DAR es  
SALAAM, FORT LAMY, KHARTOUM, KIGALI, KINSHASA, LONDON,  
LUSAKA, NAIROBI, OTTAWA, PARIS, REYKJAVIK, ROME, TANANARIVE,  
TRIPOLI, and TUNIS

~~Am~~  
AmConsul Generals GENOA, LOURENCO MARQUES, LUBUMBASHI and  
PALERMO

Priority

Request all posts report any indications in press or from oral reports or sightings of entry into atmosphere or landing of "space debris" on July 6. "Space debris" could have been described as meteorite, crashed plane, or satellite, etc. Local reports might not be accurate as to time. Washington estimates indicate time of impact probably between 1700 and 1800 GMT along trajectory from Mozambique and Malawi over Chad and Libya to United Kingdom, Iceland and Canada.

Recovery of any material from such space debris would be of great scientific interest to USG. Posts should not inform or initiate action with local government but should follow-up on leads as expeditiously as possible. Report priority. Avoid public comment.

End

**JOHNSON**

AEWellons:ksm	DRAFTING DATE 7/9/70	TEL. EXT. 22585	APPROVED BY: INR/DDC - Wymberley Coerr
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SECRET 044

PAGE 01 KATHMA 01450 150307Z

87-82  
ACTION PM-03

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Authority HRD 969052

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 NEA-08 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INR-06 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 DODE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /050 W

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R 141128Z MAY 70  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7761

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 1450

LIMDIS

NOFORN

DEPT PLEASE PASS DEFENSE

SUBJ: SPACE FRAGMENTS

REF: STATE 059303 - SP 16

1. AMBASSADOR HAS AGAIN DISCUSSED MATTER WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY KHANAL WHO, AFTER CHECKING QUESTION AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, RESPONDED VERBALLY THAT HE SAW NO REASON WHY GON SHOULD NOT REPEATLY NOT AGREE TO MAKE AVAILABLE AT LEAST SOME SPACE FRAGMENTS FOR ANALYSIS. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, GON DESIRE WHOLE MATTER BE HANDLED AS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.

2. DCM CALLED ON KHANAL'S IMMEDIATE DEPUTY, SPECIAL SECRETARY RAJBHANDARY, MAY 14 TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS. RAJBHANDARY SHOWED DC FIVE OBJECTS PLUS ASSOCIATED DEBRIS WHICH APPEAR TO BE ITEMS DESCRIBED IN FIRST PARA OF AUGUST 26, 1968 "REPORT OF EXAMINATION OF SPACE OBJECTS CONDUCTED AT SINGHA DURBAR DURING PERIOD AUGUST 22-26, 1968 BY A UNITED STATES TECHNICAL TEAM." ITEMS ARE: 1, 2 AND 3: "CONICAL ITEM AND TWO PIECES OF CORRUGATED MATERIAL FROM EXHAUST NOZZLES OF ROCKET ENGINES"; 4: "ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR FROM A CONTROL CIRCUIT"; 5: "OBLONG METALLIC AND NON-METALLIC ITEM FROM AN ANTENNA COMPONENT." (LATTER TWO ITEMS PACKAGED IN CARDBOARD BOXES WITH ABOUT A POUND OF DEBRIS.)



Department of State

TELEGRAM

SECRET

PAGE 02 KATHMA 01450 150307Z

3. RAJBHANDARY OBVIOUSLY UNWILLING PART WITH ITEM ONE OR WITH ALL OF EITHER ITEMS TWO OR THREE AS LISTED ABOVE. DCM PROPOSED, AD REFERENDUM, SENDING OFF FOUR OR FIVE POUND VERTICAL SLICE OF EITHER ITEM TWO OR ITEM THREE FOR SHIPMENT TO US ON UNDERSTANDING IT WOULD BE CONSUMED BY ANALYSIS AND NOT RETURNED. RAJBHANDARY THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE SATISFACTORY. RE ITEMS FOUR AND FIVE, RAJBHANDARY OBVIOUSLY UNWILLING HAVE GON PART WITH THEM PERMANENTLY BUT REACTED FAVORABLY TO SUGGESTION, ALSO AD REFERENDUM, THAT THEY BE SENT TO US FOR ANALYSIS ON UNDERSTANDING THEY WOULD BE RETURNED "SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT", WITH FURTHER UNDERSTANDING THAT ASSOCIATED DEBRIS WOULD ALSO BE LOANED TO USG ON SAME BASIS.

4. SHOULD EMBASSY PROCEED ON BASIS OF OUR TENTATIVE PROPOSALS TO GON AS SUGGESTED ABOVE? IF SO, FOR HOW LONG A PERIOD SHOULD WE REQUEST RETENTION OF ITEMS FOUR AND FIVE? ANY FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS?  
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SP 16

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TO : Amconsul MARTINIQUE

AID

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Authority NND 969052

MAY '6 6 14 PM '70

15  
PM  
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FRB INT

FROM : Department of State

DATE:

7

TR XMB

SUBJECT : Space Object Recovered

NAVY OSD

REF : Martinique A-8, February 6, 1970

5 34

CIA NASA

The tentative identification of the space object, as stated in State 030284 has been confirmed. The object is a portion of a shroud from an Atlas launch vehicle. These shrouds are jettisoned after launch from Cape Kennedy under controlled conditions and impact in the ocean with a wide safety margin. Some parts are on occasion buoyant and may drift great distances. Algae and barnacles on the object indicate it has been afloat for a considerable time.

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[Redacted]

A very interesting item on the Soviet space program, including the background to the Soviet interest in cooperation with NASA.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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DS-10, AID-5-50 & IA-68) GPO: 1969 O 345-219 (147)

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# Intelligence Information Report



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~~C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L~~

COUNTRY USSR

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Death of Soyuz-11 Cosmonauts Prior to Reentry/Fulminant Anoxia as Probable Cause of Death/Antiradiation Drugs/Lower Body Negative Pressure/Complete Recovery of Soyuz-9 Cosmonauts/Acclimation to Stress/ Probable Effects of Soyuz-11 Disaster on Soviet Space Program

DATE DISTR. 12 NOV 71

NO. PAGES 2

REFERENCES (2351)

FILE  
NASA

DATE OF INFO. October 1971

PLACE & DATE ACQ. BY SOURCE [REDACTED]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE [REDACTED]

1. The Soyuz-11 cosmonauts, contrary to widespread popular belief, were dead before their vehicle reentered the earth's atmosphere. This is the report of Dr Abram M Genin, a Soviet prominent in space medicine, according to a [REDACTED] attending the Yerevan Man in Space Conference. Genin said that electrocardiographic telemetry indicated that the three cosmonauts' hearts had stopped before the reentry procedure was begun. Based on this information and on some inconclusive remarks by O G Gazenko, Genin's superior, it seems fairly probable that the cosmonauts died of fulminant anoxia resulting from some type of leakage from the spacecraft of which they were completely unaware. (One gets the unverified impression that spacesuits were more or less readily available to the cosmonauts.) This is undoubtedly why the mission was aborted at 23 days. Gazenko indicated that there was no evidence of any struggle or attempt to take emergency action. He said that although a thorough autopsy has been performed on each cosmonaut, the complete report has not yet been collated.
2. Concerning antiradiation drugs, Yu G Grigoriev confirmed that the Soviets have indeed completed human toxicological tests on such a compound, but it has never been used on a cosmonaut in space. They probably do not know the precise mechanism by which it functions, but they think that it combines with something within the cell to increase the cell's tolerance of radiation. It would not be effective against a massive radiation dose. Grigoriev has shown that in dogs it has no therapeutic value and functions only prophylactically.
3. Soviet researchers are less impressed with the benefits of lower body negative pressure than their US colleagues seem to be. While they believe that it is a factor in protecting the individual, they do not consider it an effective substitute for exercise and earth-normal gravity.

SP-1-1-08-USSR

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4. Soyuz-9 cosmonauts Nikolayev and Sevastyanov both attended the Yerevan "Man-in-Space" Conference. They have now completely recovered from the effects of their flight.
5. The Soviets are emphasizing the study of hypoxic acclimation. Their research has demonstrated that adaptation to high mountainous terrain, for instance, can impart a measure of increased tolerance of hypoxia. They have conducted analogous studies of cold tolerance and G-tolerance, obtaining comparable results. While this work is undoubtedly valid, the operational question is whether or not the gain of half a G or a few degrees justifies spending three to four weeks living and exercising on a high mountain. It seems likely that most specialists will decide that the answer is no.
6. Shocked by the Soyuz-11 disaster, Soviet officials probably feel that their spacecraft design engineering must now drop back to the basic theoretical phase of its cycle, since they have exploited their present hardware to its maximum potential for progress. (This certainly is a principal factor behind their current interest in information exchange, joint docking procedures, etc.) While life scientists like Gazenko have suffered no adverse changes in status or prestige from the tragedy, it would be unlikely that any search for scapegoats would extend beyond the ranks of hardware engineers, since theirs, apparently, is the area of failure. Still, the reappraisal brought on by the deaths is understandably general. It has served to trigger the belated realization that their pursuit of mission objectives has dangerously outstripped their design engineering. A logical course for the Soviets to follow now would be to ~~try to~~ exploit the remaining potential of their present technology,

(perhaps with a mission linking four Soyuz, carrying 8-12 cosmonauts) while attempting to achieve the necessary quantum jump in spacecraft design engineering through a combination of information exchanges with and [redacted] The principal contribution the Soviets could make to such an exchange would stem from their more extensive research on self-generating life support systems, such as that dealing with chlorella and other algae. These researches, however, concern not only oxygen, but also encompass some programs concerned with food.

7. In retrospect, the Soviets pursued a narrow avenue of spacecraft design engineering in which they achieved a temporary time advantage with respect to the US' more broadly based efforts. Pressed to its limits, this cul-de-sac allowed them to achieve a functioning space station before the US. But it is a poor one compared to the station the US will launch shortly. Ironically, the effects of the tragedy of Soyuz-11 will now wipe out that time advantage and reduce the Soviets to a stern chase of US technology.

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