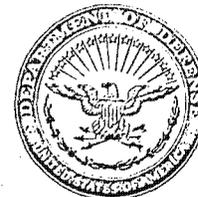




DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

December 7, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR L. J. MCCARTHY, AFXPDPA

SUBJECT: Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, The Return of Astronauts, and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

SAFSS and SAFSL feel that the term space object as used in the draft A & R Agreement is somewhat vague and generally is taken to mean those pieces or fragments of spacecraft which survive re-entry conditions. We believe it important to make it clearly understood that the term space object also specifically includes manned space ships. Without such a distinction, it is entirely conceivable that a country could refuse to return such a spacecraft, if it were to land on the territory of such country inadvertently, on the pretext that such spacecraft are not covered by the provisions of the treaty. To preclude such a possibility, we recommend that the following language be inserted in the draft Agreement either in Article 5, Return of Objects or in Article 6, which deals with conditions applicable to the Agreement:

"Under the provisions of this Article the term space object includes manned space ships. The unique character of manned space ships requires that these space objects be given extraordinary consideration as compared to any other space object. Each Contracting Party having jurisdiction over the territory on which a manned space ship has been discovered shall, upon rendering assistance to the occupants, take all practicable steps to promptly recover the space ship and return it to the launching authority. This action will assist the launching authority in determining the cause of the malfunction which resulted in the space ship returning to earth in a location other than that intended by the launching authority."

Harry W. Hean
HARRY W. HEAN

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR. 5200.10

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