

AGREEMENT
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
“INTERSPUTNIK” INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM
AND ORGANIZATION OF SPACE
COMMUNICATIONS

The Contracting Parties,

recognizing the need to contribute to the strengthening and development of comprehensive economic, scientific, technical, cultural and other relations by communications as well as by radio and television broadcasting via satellites;

recognizing the utility of co-operation in theoretical and experimental research as well as in designing, establishing, operating and developing an international communications system via satellites;

in the interests of the development of international co-operation based on respect for the sovereignty and independence of states, equality and non-interference in the internal affairs as well as mutual assistance and mutual benefit;

in pursuance of the provisions of Resolution 1721 (XVI) of the United Nations General Assembly and the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies, of January 27, 1967;

have agreed on the following:

Article 1

1. There shall be established an international system of communications via satellites.

2. To ensure co-operation and co-ordination of efforts in the design, establishment, operation and development of the communications system the Contracting Parties set up the “Intersputnik” international organization, hereinafter referred to as the Organization.

Article 2

1. The “Intersputnik” is an open international organization.

2. The Members of the Organization shall be the governments that have signed this Agreement and have deposited their instruments of ratification in accordance with Article 20 as well as the governments of other states that have acceded to this Agreement pursuant to Article 22.

Article 3

The seat of the Organization shall be in Moscow.

Article 4

1. The international system of communications via satellites shall include as its components:

— a space segment comprising communications satellites with transponders, satellite-borne facilities and ground systems of control to ensure the normal functioning of the satellites;

— earth stations mutually communicating via satellites.

2. The space segment shall be the property of the Organization or is leased from Members possessing such systems.

3. The earth stations shall be the property of states or recognized operating agencies.

4. The Members of the Organization shall have the right to include the earth stations which they have built into the communications system of the Organization provided these stations meet the Organization's specifications.

Article 5

The international communications system shall be established by the following stages:

— The stage of experimental work done by Members at their earth stations with the use of satellite communications channels made available to the Organization free of charge by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on its communications satellites. This stage shall cover the period until the end of 1973.

— The stage of work, involving the use of communications channels on Members' communications satellites on the basis of lease.

— The stage of commercial operation of the communications system with the use of the space segment owned by the Organization or rented from its Members. Transition to this stage will be effected when the establishment of the space segment owned by the Organization or its lease are considered economically advisable by the Contracting Parties.

Article 6

Communication satellites owned by the Organization shall be launched, put into orbit and operated in orbit by Members which possess appropriate facilities for this purpose on the basis of agreement between the Organization and such Members.

Article 7

The Organization shall coordinate its activities with the International Telecommunication Union and cooperate with other organizations concerned with the use of communications satellites both in technology (the use of the frequency spectrum, the application of technical standards for communications channels and of equipment standards) and in international regulation.

Article 8

The Organization shall be a legal entity and shall be entitled to conclude contracts, acquire, lease and alienate property and to institute proceedings.

Article 9

1. It shall enjoy in the territory of the states whose governments are Members of the Organization the legal capacity necessary for the attainment of its goals and the performance of its functions. The scope of this legal capacity shall be determined by appropriate agreements with the competent authorities of the states in whose territory it carries out its activities.

2. The legislation of the states in whose territory the Organization carries out its activities shall apply to all matters not covered by the present Agreement or by agreements referred to in paragraph I of this Article.

Article 10

1. The Organization shall be liable with respect to its obligations within the limits of the property which it owns.