

No. 10460

FRANCE
and
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Exchange of notes constituting an agreement regarding the implementation in the Kerguelen Islands of a project of photographic tracking of space objects and confirming the Franco-Soviet Protocol on the subject, concluded on 12 October 1969 (with said protocol). Moscow, 24 October 1969

Authentic texts: French and Russian.

Registered by France on 5 May 1970.

FRANCE
et
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES
SOCIALISTES SOVIÉTIQUES

Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif à l'organisation d'une campagne aux îles Kerguelen pour l'observation photographique d'objets spatiaux confirmant le protocole franco-soviétique relatif au même objet, conclu le 12 octobre 1969 (avec ledit protocole). Moscou, 24 octobre 1969

Textes authentiques: français et russe.

Enregistré par la France le 5 mai 1970.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT ¹
BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS REGARDING THE IMPLE-
MENTATION IN THE KERGUELEN ISLANDS OF A
PROJECT OF PHOTOGRAPHIC TRACKING OF SPACE
OBJECTS AND CONFIRMING THE FRANCO-SOVIET
PROTOCOL ON THE SUBJECT, CONCLUDED ON 12
OCTOBER 1969 ²

I

EMBASSY OF FRANCE AT MOSCOW

Moscow, 24 October 1969

No. 347

The Embassy of France presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and has the honour to bring the following to its attention:

In pursuance of the Agreement of 30 June 1966 ³ between the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on co-operation in the study and exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes, the implementation in the Kerguelen Islands of a project of photographic tracking of space objects was envisaged.

To that end the Centre national d'études spatiales (National Centre for Space Studies—CNES) and the Intercosmos Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences concluded the annexed Protocol in order to prescribe arrangements for this scientific project.

The French Government shall authorize one or two astronomers specializing in the photographic tracking of artificial earth satellites to come to the Kerguelen Islands to take part in the project.

During their stay in the Kerguelen Islands, French and Soviet personnel shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the senior district officer and shall comply with the laws and regulations in force. The French Government may, if it deems it necessary, temporarily or permanently halt the activities covered by the Protocol.

¹ Came into force on 24 October 1969, in accordance with the provisions of the said notes.

² See p. 290 of this volume.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 589, p. 99.

The French Government shall:

- (a) Arrange for transportation between Marseille, Réunion and the Kerguelen Islands within the limits of the regular services;
- (b) Provide the site and structures (except for the structure enclosing the camera) required for the station's proper operation, perform the necessary plant erection work and maintain the station's premises. The station shall include an open space for the camera enclosure and a laboratory and dark-room in close proximity to the tracking area;
- (c) Provide the Soviet personnel with living and working accommodations.

Compensation for any injuries caused to persons shall be made by the party employing the person concerned, even where responsibility for the injuries lies with the other party, except in cases of gross negligence or deliberate acts or omissions by the said other party.

Any damage to the installations or equipment shall be the responsibility of the party which owns them, even where responsibility for the damage lies with the other party, except in cases of gross negligence or deliberate acts or omissions by the said other party.

The Soviet Government shall guarantee the French Government against any international claims arising out of the activities of any of its nationals in connexion with the project.

The Embassy of France would be grateful if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics would inform it of the Soviet Government's agreement to the above proposals and its acceptance of this note and the reply to be made to it as the Agreement between the two Governments giving effect, as of this date, to the Protocol signed by the Centre national d'études spatiales and the Intercosmos Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The Embassy avails itself of this opportunity, etc.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR
Moscow

II

No. 224/Ieo

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presents its compliments to the Embassy of the French Republic and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of its note reading as follows:

[See note I]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics confirms the Soviet Government's agreement to the provisions of the note of the Embassy of France and also to the entry into force, as of today's date, of the Protocol relating to this matter.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity, etc.

Moscow, 24 October 1969.

Embassy of France
Moscow

FRANCO-SOVIET PROTOCOL

REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE KERGUELEN ISLANDS OF A PROJECT OF PHOTOGRAPHIC TRACKING OF SPACE OBJECTS

In pursuance of the Franco-Soviet agreement on space research signed on 30 June 1966, and with a view to broadening international co-operation in the study of outer space for peaceful purposes through the tracking of artificial earth satellites, the Centre national d'études spatiales (National Centre for Space Studies — CNES) and the Intercosmos Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences have concluded this Protocol regarding the implementation in the Kerguelen Islands of a project of photographic tracking of space objects.

1. The project shall have the purpose of tracking artificial earth satellites photographically in order to increase scientific knowledge in the fields of geodesy and geophysics.

2. The tracking programme shall be established by CNES and the Intercosmos Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences and shall be carried out jointly by French and Soviet specialist personnel.

Scientific supervision of the programme shall be the responsibility of CNES for the French side and the Astronomical Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences for the Soviet side. Each of the two parties shall designate a senior participant in the project to ensure co-ordination of activities.

3. For the purposes of the project, a temporary station shall be installed in the Kerguelen Islands to be used by a mixed Franco-Soviet team for not more than six months, i.e. a period of time sufficient for the conduct of one series of observations.

4. To provide for the station's functioning,
the Centre national d'études spatiales shall:

- (a) Assign specialists from its staff to work at the station;
- (b) Arrange for the determination of the local geodetic and astronomical co-ordinates of the station required for analysis of the tracking data.

The Intergovernmental Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences shall:

- (a) Arrange for the construction of the AFU-75 camera enclosure;
- (b) Equip the station with astronomical instruments, the AFU-75 camera and any other apparatus needed for the project and maintain them in good working order. Such maintenance shall be carried out by the astronomers and shall not require additional personnel.

5. The results of observations made from the station shall be transmitted in the first instance to CNES, not later than six months after their acquisition, and thereafter to the international scientific community by agreement between the two parties.

The said results shall be utilized by French and Soviet scientific organizations on a basis of equality.

6. Concurrently with the observations from the Kerguelen station, observations of the artificial earth satellites may also be made from other French and Soviet tracking stations.

The two parties shall communicate to each other the geodetic and astronomical co-ordinates of other stations engaged in tracking.

7. Scientific work carried out on the basis of the observations made from the station shall be published by CNES and by the Intergovernmental Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences, subject to agreement between the two parties.

8. The expenses of the project shall be borne by the Intergovernmental Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences. At the end of each operating period, CNES shall present a statement of expenses together with vouchers. Reimbursement for such expenditure shall be made to CNES in French francs.

9. This Protocol, which is concluded for a period of two years, shall enter into force on the date fixed in an exchange of notes between the French and Soviet Governments.

Upon request by either party made at least three months prior to the expiry of this period the present agreement may be extended for a further period of two years by agreement between the two parties.

10. DONE at Moscow, on 12 October 1969, in duplicate in the French and Russian languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Intergovernmental Council
of the USSR Academy
of Sciences:

B. PETROV

For the Centre national
d'études spatiales:

J.-F. DENISSE