

No. 20827

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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and  
JAPAN**

**Exchange of notes constituting an agreement relating to  
space co-operation in shuttle contingency landing sites.  
Tokyo, 28 January 1980**

*Authentic texts: English and Japanese.*

*Registered by the United States of America on 1 March 1982.*

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**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE  
et  
JAPON**

**Échange de notes constituant un accord de coopération en  
vue de l'utilisation, en cas d'urgence, de pistes d'atterris-  
sage pour les navettes spatiales. Tokyo, 28 janvier 1980**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et japonais.*

*Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 1<sup>er</sup> mars 1982.*

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND JAPAN RELATING TO SPACE CO-OPERATION IN SHUTTLE CONTINGENCY LANDING SITES

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No. 65

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and has the honor to refer to the Treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies (Outer Space Treaty)<sup>2</sup> ratified by the Governments of the United States and Japan on October 10, 1967. The Government of the United States wishes to inform the Government of Japan that, in furtherance of its goals of exploring outer space for peaceful purposes, the United States is planning to launch its space shuttle in the 1980's to provide a low-cost reusable space transportation system to replace expendable launch vehicles for the Government of the United States, commercial and foreign users and to provide routine, reliable and simplified operations in space. The space shuttle will make four to six orbital test flights. As these flights are experimental in purpose, the possibility exists that an emergency landing of the space shuttle may be required to ensure the safety of the astronauts. Because of trajectory constraints, it will not be possible to land the space shuttle on United States territory in all emergency situations. The Government of the United States therefore seeks to make such arrangements as may be necessary outside the United States. If such a landing should be necessary, United States personnel (both the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and contractor) would be dispatched to the landing site to prepare the orbiter for return flight to the United States.

The Government of the United States requests that, pursuant to article V of the Outer Space Treaty, the Government of Japan render all possible assistance in the event of an emergency landing of the space shuttle on an airfield in Japanese territory to safeguard the lives of the astronauts.

To deal with such a contingency, the Government of the United States will provide planning information and consult with the Government of Japan to ensure the safest possible landing of the space shuttle. The Government of the United States is prepared to assume liability for damage caused by the space shuttle on Japanese territory under article VII of the Outer Space Treaty and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on International Liability for damage caused by space objects.<sup>3</sup>

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

Tokyo, January 28, 1980

Embassy of the United States of America

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 28 January 1980 by the exchange of the said notes.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 610, p. 205.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 961, p. 187.

[TRANSLATION<sup>1</sup> — TRADUCTION<sup>2</sup>]

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
TOKYO, JAPAN

No. 27/SCSC

## NOTE VERBALE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the latter's Note Verbale No. 65 dated January 28, 1980, concerning the Space Shuttle emergency landing and to inform the Embassy of the following:

1. The Government of Japan fully understands that it is its obligation under article V of the Treaty on principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies (Outer Space Treaty) to render all possible assistance in the event of emergency landing of the Space Shuttle so that the Space Shuttle can make such landing on an airfield suitable therefor in the territory of Japan to safeguard the lives of the astronauts.

2. The Government of Japan deems it appropriate that adequate consultations, including the exchange of information, be made between the authorities concerned of the two Governments concerning the possible emergency situation.

3. The Government of Japan takes note of the statement contained in the above Note Verbale that the United States Government is prepared to assume liability for damage caused by the Space Shuttle in the territory of Japan under article VII of the Outer Space Treaty and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on international liability for damage caused by space objects.

Tokyo, January 28, 1980

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<sup>1</sup> Translation supplied by the Government of the United States.

<sup>2</sup> Traduction fournie par le Gouvernement des Etats-Unis.