

No. 12115

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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**and**  
**UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Agreement concerning cooperation in the exploration and use of  
outer space for peaceful purposes. Signed at Moscow on  
24 May 1972**

*Authentic texts : English and Russian.*

*Registered by the United States of America on 17 October 1972.*

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**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE**  
**et**  
**UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES**  
**SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Accord de coopération pour l'exploration et l'utilisation de l'espace  
extra-atmosphérique à des fins pacifiques. Signé à Moscou le  
24 mai 1972**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et russe.*

*Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 17 octobre 1972.*

AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS CONCERNING COOPERATION IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

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The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

Considering the role which the USA and the USSR play in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

Striving for a further expansion of cooperation between the USA and the USSR in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes;

Noting the positive cooperation which the parties have already experienced in this area;

Desiring to make the results of scientific research gained from the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes available for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries and of all peoples of the world;

Taking into consideration the provisions 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,<sup>2</sup> as well as the Agreement on the rescue of astronauts, the return of astronauts, and the return of objects launched into outer space;<sup>3</sup>

In accordance with the Agreement between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on exchanges and cooperation in scientific, technical, educational, cultural, and other fields, signed April 11, 1972,<sup>4</sup> and in order to develop further the principles of mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries;

Have agreed as follows :

*Article 1*

The Parties will develop cooperation in the fields of space meteorology; study of the natural environment; exploration of near earth space, the moon and the planets; and space biology and medicine; and, in particular, will cooperate to take all appropriate measures to encourage and achieve the

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 24 May 1972 by signature, in accordance with article 6.

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

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 672, p. 119.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 852, No. I-12212.

fulfilment of the Summary of Results of Discussion on Space Cooperation Between the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR dated January 21, 1971.\*

#### *Article 2*

The Parties will carry out such cooperation by means of mutual exchanges of scientific information and delegations, through meetings of scientists and specialists of both countries, and also in such other ways as may be mutually agreed. Joint working groups may be created for the development and implementation of appropriate programs of cooperation.

#### *Article 3*

The Parties have agreed to carry out projects for developing compatible rendezvous and docking systems of United States and Soviet manned spacecraft and stations in order to enhance the safety of manned flight in space and to provide the opportunity for conducting joint scientific experiments in the future. It is planned that the first experimental flight to test these systems be conducted during 1975, envisaging the docking of a United States Apollo-type spacecraft and a Soviet Soyuz-type spacecraft with visits of astronauts in each other's spacecraft. The implementation of these projects will be carried out on the basis of principles and procedures which will be developed in accordance with the summary of results of the meeting between representatives of the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the USSR Academy of Sciences on the question of developing compatible systems for rendezvous and docking of manned spacecraft and space stations of the USA and the USSR dated April 6, 1972.\*

#### *Article 4*

The Parties will encourage international efforts to resolve problems of international law in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes with the aim of strengthening the legal order in space and further developing international space law and will cooperate in this field.

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\* Not printed.

*Article 5*

The Parties may by mutual agreement determine other areas of cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

*Article 6*

This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain in force for five years. It may be modified or extended by mutual agreement of the Parties.

DONE at Moscow this 24th day of May 1972 in duplicate, in the English and Russian languages, both equally authentic.

For the United States  
of America :  
[Signed — Signé]<sup>1</sup>  
President  
of the United States  
of America

For the Union of Soviet  
Socialist Republics :  
[Signed — Signé]<sup>2</sup>  
Chairman  
of the Council of Ministers  
of the USSR

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<sup>1</sup> Signed by Richard Nixon — Signé par Richard Nixon.

<sup>2</sup> Signed by A. N. Kosygin — Signé par A. N. Kosygin.