

NORWAY - USSR: AERIAL INCIDENT ON OR ABOUT 13 SEPTEMBER 1987**TEXT OF SOVIET REPLY TO NORWEGIAN PROTEST** *

The cause of this accident - as it appears from the investigation which was carried out by a competent Soviet commission - was incorrect actions by the Soviet pilot as well as by the Norwegian pilots. The Soviet fighter plane did not follow the instructions as it came too close to the Norwegian plane in terms of distance in longitudinal and latitudinal direction which did not secure the air safety of planes. The Norwegian crew carried out dangerous manoeuvres in the direction of the fighter plane, dropped down the landing wheels and suddenly changed the speed of the plane.

On the basis of the abovementioned, the Soviet part acknowledge the fact that the Soviet fighter plane carried out unintended, incorrect actions which are regrettable. The Norwegian part must, however, at the same time, be aware of the dangerous actions which were carried out by the Orion plane crew and it is our hope that such actions will not be permitted in the future.

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* [The text of this reply, as published in the Norwegian media, is an unofficial translation provided by the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Canberra. The text of the Norwegian protest has not been published]