1. Introduction

After the early success in 1986-1988 of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) sponsored seismic monitoring program in the vicinity of the Kazakh Soviet nuclear test site, IRIS took over the management of the program which has evolved into what we know today as the Joint Seismic Program (JSP). In the early years of the IRIS managed program, while the USSR was in existence, IRIS was interested, for verification purposes, in placing stations all over the Soviet Union, particularly near the Soviet nuclear test sites. For the Soviets, however, earthquake studies were a main concern, particularly the seismicity of populated areas in Central Asia, where major cities like Ashkabat, Leninakan and Spitak had been devastated by earthquakes. In order to accommodate the wishes of the Soviets in what was then a strictly joint program it was decided that two networks of seismic stations be installed in the Caucasus and in what is today the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. These JSP networks were intended to serve a dual role; to provide the data necessary for determining local seismicity characteristics for earthquake hazard and mitigation purposes, and to provide data that could be used to characterize regional wave propagation characteristics in regions of Western and Central Asia where we had little direct experience.

The Lamont-IRIS deployment in the Caucasus began in August 1990, under the leadership of David Simpson at Lamont. The deployment was seen as a first step towards a widespread effort spanning the seismically active areas of the Caucasus. The rapid change in political situation in the Caucasus in 1991 reshaped the project in two important ways. First, access was curtailed and for both political and economic reasons the Russian counterparts could no longer freely reach many sites in the Caucasus. This led to a smaller aperture array in the region around Kislovodsk, on the north slopes of the Greater Caucasus and on the southern Russian Platform. The new configuration has proven stable in the midst of political uncertainty. Second, new concerns of nonproliferation heightened interest in recording seismic signals from several new places. The Caucasus network now provided intermediate-period regional waveforms for sources in a number of regions of emerging interest, including the Caucasian Republics, the Middle East, Iran, southern Russia, and the Ukraine. These waveforms allow study of path effects through areas of unusual wave propagation beneath the Caspian Sea and Peri-Caspian depression from Central Asian events, through the Iranian Plateau, and directly sample differences between paths through the Caucasus and through stable Eurasia.

The first telemetered equipment was installed in April 1991 in the Kislovodsk area, just a few days before the largest (Ms =7.0) earthquake in the Greater Caucasus in the last several hundred years. Rapid re-deployment in early May 1991, by a Lamont-OME team in Ossetia, led to digital recordings of over a thousand aftershocks and produced a data stream orders of magnitude larger than previously anticipated. A visit in late 1991 re-stabilized the telemetered network and established a regular stream of waveform data from the Kislovodsk area, that form the basis for this information product. A major part of the effort has been an experiment in close collaboration between US and then-Soviet counterparts, the Obninsk OME group headed by Oleg Starovoit, and the Russian group has been heavily involved in most aspects of deployment. The OME group has long used Kislovodsk as a testbed for seismic deployments. The current data stream is used both by IRIS and by the OME group, in conjunction with their long-term monitoring efforts. The present information product represents the eleven months of recording following the late-1991 visit, of triggered 60 sample per second waveform data from the intermediate-period stations.

Those who wish to immediately install the information product and get a look at the data should proceed directly to the *Caucasus Network information product installation/tutorial manual* where the installation is described and a brief tutorial is given. All other details concerning the specific