2.2 Space-to-Space Weapon Situation (Continued)

satellites would merely serve notice of an impending nuclear strike. Nontheless, early warning satellites remain potential targets for antisatellite weapons in strategic war game scenarios.

Electronic Intelligence satellites (ELINT) are electronic 'ears' recording radio and radar transmissions from areas of military activity. They provide data about missile tests, missile defenses and early warning systems and thus serve an important role in the monitoring of ABM treaty articles. On the darker side of intelligence activities, ELINT satellites may even monitor government and civilian communications providing Communications Intelligence (COMINT) data for which the code cracking computers of the intelligence communities constantly hunger. Thus by their nature, ELINT satellites become potential targets for antisatellites.

Ocean surveillance satellites are satellites designed specifically to monitor military naval activities upon the high seas. To fulfill this function, two types of ocean surveillance satellites have evolved. EORSAT, an acronym for Electronic Ocean Reconnaissance Satellites, operate similar to the passive ELINT satellites listening for the telltale signatures of shipborne radars and communications signals. RORSAT, an acronym for Radar Ocean Reconnaissance Satellites, are active satellites employing radar to detect the presence of ships in all weather conditions. Soviet ORSAT's are of such an effect, that US Naval officials worry that they could facilitate attacks on US ships. Thus, ocean surveillance satellites can be expected to be high priority targets for any antisatellite weapon system.

Photo reconnaissance satellites or 'spy' satellites are major components of a nation's National Technical Means (NTM) providing irreplacable intelligence on the military and strategic activities of hostile nations. Their capabilities are shrouded in secrecy but are hypothesized to be able to discern an object on the order of 15 cm in diameter on the surface of the earth from their low earth orbits [15]. The US maintains three photo reconnaissance systems and the USSR two.