

## V. COSTS

Remote sensing technology has provided many countries with support in environmental and engineering monitoring studies. Canada, for example, has developed a very strong base in the development of sophisticated remote sensing hardware, their operation and in the processing of data. There are a number of private commercial airborne remote sensing firms with a strong base in data acquisition, image processing and interpretation, and analysis of a variety of remotely sensed data products. While the description of many of the sensor systems and the airborne applications described in this report is based on what is available from Canadian commercial remote sensing companies, similar capabilities exist in other countries. These airborne remote sensing services are a result of decades of sensor and program development for specific applications.

The United Nations has three general options in terms of acquiring airborne remote sensing for peacekeeping operations:

- 1) purchasing off-the-shelf remote sensors and installing them into aircraft and operating the systems itself;
- 2) leasing complete sensor outfitted aircraft including the service to operate and maintain these systems; or
- 3) having the system contributed by member states to particular peacekeeping missions.

The following discussion will focus on the first two options. There is a considerable difference between the cost of purchasing versus the cost of leasing commercially available remote sensing systems.