

PREFACE

In his speech on 27 September 1989 to the forty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced that Canada would make available to the United Nations the results of Canadian investigations into the utility of overhead sensing technologies (both airborne and satellite-based) for peacekeeping. The primary objective of the original Canadian research, which was undertaken by the Verification Research Unit of External Affairs and International Trade Canada, was to examine the applicability of such technology for verification of arms control agreements relating to the control of conventional armaments in Europe. In the course of this work, it became increasingly evident that the relevant sensing technologies could also be beneficially employed in United Nations peacekeeping to provide cost effective supplementary information and support to ground-based United Nations forces. This report and the oral briefing which accompanies it represent the fulfilment of the Secretary of State's undertaking.