

of the proposal, and the report (issued in 1981) was favourable. However, the superpowers were not willing to share their advanced remote sensing technology (interpretation of optical or infrared or "synthetic aperture radar" high-resolution photographs taken from space), and many other nations (e.g., Canada) balked at the cost. The highest estimated annual cost for optimum operation (3 billion dollars) is high for UN projects, because nations are in the habit of starving the UN financially, but it is, in fact, less than 1% of the world's annual arms expenditure. The technology could be developed independently from the superpowers; considerable expertise exists in many countries, including Canada. Canada has a research project called Paxsat, which is studying the feasibility of finding out the purpose and function (military or civilian) of foreign satellites under investigation, either by observation from space (fly-by satellites) or by observation from earth. These projects are called Paxsat A and Paxsat B, respectively. France is operating its SPOT (Système probatoire d'observation de la terre), and other nations are also experimenting in this direction. Many are now thinking in terms of a multi-national effort outside the UN, to overcome the bothersome question of who should have access to the data obtained--do we tell India about Pakistan? If information is to be available to all UN members, we would have to--and presumably to avoid being tied down by UN "bureaucracy." However, the increasing trend to act outside the UN should be resisted if we are to avoid further weakening of the world organization. If the problems connected with ISMA could be overcome, the world would gain a universally applicable method for the 4 functions mentioned by Dorn (1987): verification, conflict and crisis monitoring, peacekeeping, and management of natural catastrophes. At the same time, the ISMA would strengthen the UN. It is worth recalling (as Dorn does) that the official ISMA proposal grew originally out of the life-long "unofficial" work by Howard