

The basic principle would be that participating nations open their skies to regular unarmed, non-combat type aerial surveillance flights. While Soviet participation would be essential, the ultimate objective would be a regime founded as an agreement amongst the countries which chose to participate. These countries would be initially from both Alliances but their participation would not be on the basis of an alliance to alliance accord.

Factors for Consideration

While the initial proposal has been sketched out in general terms, the details are likely to be addressed in a conference of interested participants. The objectives of the conference would be to develop a cooperatively designed regime to be incorporated in an agreement amongst the participants. Such details to be addressed might include some of the following:

(I) Aircraft: In a confidence-building regime, the type of aircraft likely to be used would be national, non-combat type aircraft capable of carrying surveillance equipment, aircraft crew and a host country observer. Because there are basically three geographic areas over which surveillance flights might be carried out, North America, Europe (Atlantic to the Urals perhaps) and the remainder of the Soviet Union, a number of different type aircraft might be required. These could include for extended range operations an aircraft akin to the four engine, turbo-prop lockheed C130 type and for other purposes a shorter range version of twin-engine turbo-prop aircraft similar to the Boeing DHC Dash 8-300 series in flight characteristics. The latter, a commercial derivative, is particularly cost-effective in terms of life-cycle costs. The following map illustrates the theoretical ferry ranges of the DHC-8-300 series aircraft in the European context.

