

## VII. AIRBORNE OPERATIONS

An airborne reconnaissance system operating as support for a United Nations peacekeeping mission would be part of the Air Operations component of the force. Air Operations would be under the command of the Force Commander located at the Force headquarters.

For an airborne reconnaissance program to be effectively used, an United Nations Air Liaison Officer (ALO) should be assigned. All requests for overflights would be addressed to the ALO. The ALO would be the direct link between the aircrew and the United Nations peacekeeping force. The ALO would be responsible for briefing the pilot and on-board observer to ensure the aim and purpose of the mission is fully understood and all flight parameters are outlined clearly. It is the pilot who ultimately makes the final decision on conducting the mission, based on his analysis of the situation, to ensure safety for the crew.

Information received as a result of the overflights would be relayed by the ALO or, possibly, by the on-board observer to individual sector commanders. The utility of the information gained will determine who would receive the information. This decision should be made immediately by the ALO or the on-board observer to ensure the timely use of the information collected. "Operations Immediate" information must be effectively transmitted to all who will be affected. If appropriate, this information should be reported vertically to the higher ranking peacekeepers, especially if deemed as operations immediate. The reporting of relevant information should include copies to the Military Information Officer and his staff. The Military Information Officer would be responsible for updating maps with the latest information. Imaging airborne sensor and satellite data could prove to be a useful in this regard. Routine information of a general nature gathered during overflights would be archived in an