
Aim

Canada and Hungary continued to coordinate their efforts in promoting a new round of negotiations, which began in Vienna in September 1991.

On 6 December 1991, the Secretary of State for External Affairs invited Hungary to conduct a reciprocal trial overflight of Canadian territory involving an enhanced technical program. This would include the use of sophisticated sensors such as synthetic aperture radar (SAR), low light level television (LLLTV) and fixed optical camera. The Hungarian delegation arrived in Ottawa on 13 January 1992 to commence a one week program.

2.0 Aim

The aim of this joint program was to contribute to the negotiations by demonstrating some of the sensor capabilities and limitations, by simulating the exchange of flight recorded data, and by presenting the results to negotiators in Vienna. It also provided a unique opportunity to test some operational Open Skies procedures still under negotiation in Vienna.

The Hungarian notification for the Open Skies trial overflight was sent to Canada through the CSCE communication network. The mission plan was submitted by Hungary and accepted by Canada.

3.0 Trial Overflight Program

Preceding the airborne part of the program were two days of briefings, technical discussions and demonstrations that helped set the stage for the flight trials. These events provided the opportunity to representatives of both countries to exchange views and further develop their mutual understanding on the technical requirements of Open Skies missions.

The subjects discussed and briefed were:

- a. Synthetic aperture radar (Appendix A),
- b. Aerial photography,
- c. Mission planning (Appendix B),
- d. Sensor development and aircraft modification engineering (Appendix C).