

France itself, which is convinced that improved information can enhance security, is prepared to contribute to the establishment and operation of such regional agencies in three forms:

assistance in training specialists in the interpretation of satellite data;

study of the possible structure and size of the reception facilities (engineering) which might be made available to States participating in such agencies;

initiation of more far-reaching consideration of the question of access to data and satellite information and discussions with other countries producing space images, with a view to possible agreements to supply regional agencies at their request with the information they need to perform their tasks.

Discussions in the Conference on Disarmament in recent years have shown that the great and urgent need for thorough consideration of the establishment of a regime of confidence-building measures in space are increasingly recognized by the international community. Among the topics tackled by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, it would seem that this is the topic offering the best prospects for the future. France hopes that its contribution, together with that of other member States, will contribute to progress towards a consensus in this field.

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