

some sidings on the west side of the holding lot. In the SAR imagery, the railcars are indistinguishable from rows of cars which are similarly oriented.

5.0 Conclusions

The high level of cooperation necessary for the successful conduct of an Open Skies observation flight is, in and of itself, an important means of confidence-building.

5.1 Sensor Resolution

The resolution presently being proposed in the negotiations limits the effectiveness of the regime. In particular:

- a. 30 centimetre resolution proposed for optical and electro-optical sensors limits aircraft ability to fly under cloud cover; and
- b. 3 metre resolution on SAR imagery produces a limited amount of information which may be insufficient to justify the high costs involved.¹

5.2 Costs

The relatively high costs of aircraft and sensors make cooperation highly desirable. Joint flights, leasing of equipment, and reduction of costs by sharing information on a commercial basis are all important ways of making the regime more cost-efficient. The treaty should provide a flexible framework allowing all possible ways of cooperation.

5.3 Data Sharing

Possible ways for data sharing in the case of SAR are:

- a. Dry silver print-out;
- b. Video tape of real time display;
- c. Provision of raw data (in view of gradual standardization, a special software capable of processing data from various types of SAR can be developed relatively cheaply and quickly).

1. The SAR used during this Trial Overflight provided 6 metre resolution imagery. An improvement in resolution by a factor of two, to 3 metre resolution, would not significantly enhance the interpretability of the SAR imagery for the Open Skies application.