a high sun angle to produce useable imagery. The cost of electro-optical systems may be a prohibitive factor, however, with typical prices of approximately (US) $250,000.

Satellite Imagery

Current overhead commercially available satellite imagery might be used to provide some kinds of information to support United Nations peacekeeping operations. There are, at present, two sources of commercially available satellite imagery which have sufficient resolution to be of use for United Nations peacekeeping support: the French SPOT satellite program and the Soviet Soyuzcarta satellite program. Imagery from the American LANDSAT satellite program is also available, but with resolutions of not less than 30 m this imagery would not be useful in mapping smaller features on the ground.

SPOT

The French SPOT-1 and recently launched SPOT-2 (Systeme Pour l'Observation de la Terre) satellites supply digital satellite imagery with a high spatial resolution. The two High Resolution Visible (HRV) sensors provide three-channel multispectral images with a resolution of about 20 x 20 m or single-channel panchromatic images with 10 x 10 m approximate resolution on the ground.

Table 2 outlines the general spectral, spatial and radiometric characteristics of the SPOT HRV sensors. The panchromatic mode is intended for users requiring fine geometric detail as would be required for peacekeeping support. The bands provided in the multispectral mode were optimized for analysis of vegetation which will typically have a response peak in the green band, strong absorption in the red band and a pronounced response in the near-infrared band.