

## **Control**

The verification system -- involving as it would at least hundreds of personnel, vehicles, aircraft, ships, equipment, weapons, communications, logistic support and the like -- will need close control, particularly under the complex political circumstances to be foreseen following a Central American peace accord. The scope of the system spread out over vast distances and over several mutually-suspicious countries, will make that control difficult to exercise, as will the presence of the civil population, animals and possibly hostile armed forces and groups, not to mention the potential for terrorist acts perpetrated by those opposing the accords.

To ensure that the mission is accomplished, despite its complexity and obstacles, will be no easy task. The need for close control can only be met by a clear mandate, co-operation from the contending parties, careful selection of personnel, a clear chain of command, and an excellent system of communications. With at least this last element, high technology should be able to assist.

## **Ease of Operation and Maintenance**

The terrain of greatest sensitivity is often a vast and complex mix of criss-crossing mountain and jungle tracks. Its interest as an area of operations for insurgents comes, of course, from its isolation and difficulty of access. Unfortunately, these factors will complicate the work of verification teams. They will also make much more difficult the choice of where to place sensors, should such an option appear useful in particular areas.

Most sensors' usefulness will be greatly diminished when used in rolling country. Forests also detract from their efficiency, not only through extraneous noise but through density of foliage. Tracks are nearly always winding in the extreme and the combination of all these points reduces sensor value; and usually suggests that greater numbers and varieties of sensors be put in place to cover the area targeted.

All of this complicates not just the placement of sensors but also their operation and maintenance. It is difficult to be at all certain if higher levels of technology will be able to assist with this problem but, if they can, they will be greatly needed in Central America.