

carried out if all the States parties to an agreement recognize from the outset that ISMA can be regarded as an organ for verification of compliance with the agreement, in which case a provision to that effect will form an integral part of the agreement.

In addition, ISMA could grant the request of any State to provide information on the monitoring of natural disasters and other emergencies.

5. Proposed sequence of practical implementation of the ISMA concept

The ISMA concept can be successfully implemented, in our view, only by moving forward in stages and establishing a sound political, legal and technical basis for the implementation of subsequent steps. \*/

At the first stage a Space Image Processing and Interpretation Centre would be created as the main technical organ of ISMA.

In view of the heterogeneity of data coming from national space monitoring sources, it is of special importance to have a universal facility for converting initial data into a standard form for subsequent processing. Obligations to provide such a facility might be assumed by member States possessing the necessary means or having the technological resources for creating it. Such a facility could also be developed or acquired at the expense of ISMA's budget.

For preparing the data supplied in the form of various types of photographic materials, it would seem necessary for the Centre to have appropriate laboratories and subsystems for preparing and presenting the data for information analysis, as well as for drafting the final analysis documents. These subsystems would be based on appropriate computer and other technical equipment.

The Centre's personnel would be formed basically from among experts of those ISMA member countries which furnish space monitoring materials obtained by national means.

The reliability of data, data processing procedures at all stages in accordance with an established technological cycle, confidentiality of final documents and strict compliance with procedures for distributing them would be ensured by an editorial control and data distribution service.

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\*/ A variant of the organizational structure is given in Annex 2.