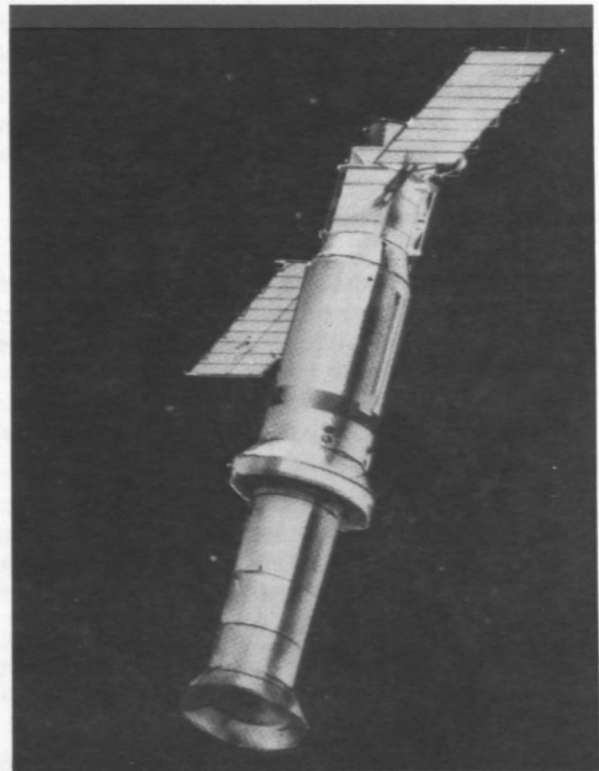


3(f) The UN Contribution to the Verification System

The US-manned early warning system, the two national surveillance stations and the reconnaissance overflights constituted three important mechanisms for verifying Egyptian and Israeli compliance with the Sinai II Agreement. The UNEF, an additional element in the multimethod system, also played a central confidence-building and verification role. Within the buffer zone, UNEF officials manned all checkpoints and observation posts, controlled all access to the zone and provided UN escorts for all Egyptian, Israeli and SFM personnel travelling to and from destinations within the zone. They also conducted inspections in the limited forces and armaments zones.²²

Though each of the contributors to the overall verification system had its own specific mandate, many of the US, Egyptian, Israeli and UN activities were of an interlocking nature. For example, UNEF personnel were required to notify the SFM watch officer of all authorized movement through the passes. The watch officer, in turn, alerted each US liaison officer in advance of traffic destined for his station. Incoming convoys were to be escorted by UNEF only as far as the gates of the respective national stations; entry to the stations by UNEF personnel was prohibited under the terms of the Sinai II Agreement. At the entrance to each station, the SFM liaison officer was empowered to inspect all vehicles, their contents and passengers.²³

The individual components of the multimethod verification system had a combined and mutually reinforcing effect that was greater than they would have had acting independently. This synergism is a key characteristic of the Sinai model.



△ This is an artist's drawing of the US "Big-Bird" reconnaissance satellite. While not explicitly mentioned in any of the agreements which formed part of the Sinai disengagement process, it seems likely that the US made use of its satellite reconnaissance capabilities to help verify compliance, at least at certain times during the process. It is not clear whether the data from this method of verification were ever communicated to the parties. (Photo from *Aviation Week and Space Technology*).

²² For details of the UNEF contribution to verification see the "Protocol to the Agreement Between Egypt and Israel", United States Sinai Support Mission, *Report to the Congress*, April 13, 1977, Annex B, pp. 5-14.

²³ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

