which would give maximum coverage of activity in the huge but sensitive border regions, key bodies of water, de-militarized zones, guerilla collection zones, and the like.

Detection, Discrimination and Sensors

Detection of the movement of groups of men may be rendered difficult by low-lying cloud, lengthy annual seasons of what can often be very heavy rain, mountanous terrain and heavy foliage. The size of the area in question, and the tremendous variety of possible landing places for light aircraft, would make such airplanes also difficult to detect. Technological means should help with these difficulties but the problems with air operations, particularly airborne surveillance, are considerable under these sorts of conditions.

Given frequent and often heavy civilian foot and vehicle traffic, as well as animals moving about, there is a danger of highly unfavourable signal-to-noise ratios in much of the Central American region to be covered. All sorts of noise and clutter may tend to activate ground sensors unless their sophistication were extraordinary. Added to frequently poor weather conditions for air and space surveillance missions, these noise factors, as well as those of neighbouring rivers, forests, jungles and mountains, may make for an over-taxed detection system. Difficulties of transport, climate, terrain and foliage will also mean a demand for sensors which are sturdy, resistant, flexible and easy to conceal.

Communications and Reporting

Communications will suffer from distance, high and common mountains, poor transportation possibilities, and unsettled weather patterns. As a result, reporting of incidents can be expected to be less than fully efficient. Line-of-sight systems would often be virtually useless and equipment would need to be de-centralized and organized to permit maximum relay potential. As with sensors, communications equipment would need to be robust and resistant.

The large number of likely stations on such a net, reflecting the dispersal of small teams and groups over a large area and on a number of simultaneous missions, will require equipment aimed at this function. It would appear that only the use of sophisticated high technology will offer effective means to provide personnel on the ground, in the air, and on the sea, with the communications required under Central American conditions. When these matters are added to inter-governmental "hotline," inter-staff, and other communications needs, it becomes clear that the "signals" component of such a verification regime would be considerable.