

## Leasing

Leasing complete remote sensing reconnaissance services on an annual or pre-selected time basis has several advantages for the United Nations. Leasing of aircraft and sensors together with imagery interpretation services would free the United Nations from carrying a financial burden for an extended period of time. Leasing would also enable the United Nations to use an airborne system only when required. Contracting a commercial firm which specializes in airborne remote sensing services would provide the United Nations with the least overall cost with maximum flexibility in terms of required operating timeframes. Provision and training of staff would not be necessary if a leased system were used. The contractor would be responsible for a complete "turn-key" service, providing the United Nations with a package that could be designed to meet the needs of the peacekeeping forces, including the analysis of overhead imagery. A United Nations on-board observer or sensor operator should be trained, however, to act as the liaison between the contractor and the United Nations force.

Table 4 shows the estimated annual lease costs for a remote sensing system and the costs associated with the purchase of a facility. The costs are not directly comparable, but they provide a relative perspective of the expected expenses.

A third alternative for the acquisition of an overhead sensing system would be the borrowing of the necessary equipment and related resources from a contributing United Nations member. Expenses associated with this option for the United Nations would likely include the manpower, operating and maintenance costs of the remote sensing program for the duration of the peacekeeping mission.