

for example:

- lightning (EDF, CEA [French Atomic Energy Commission], the National Weather Service, ONERA, CEAT [Toulouse Aeronautic Test Center]),
- meteors (CNRS [National Center for Scientific Research], DGA [French General Delegation for Armaments]),
- line disturbances (EDF, France Télécom [French telecommunications company]),
- group sociology and, in particular, sects (CNRS, universities),
- photography, the study of films, the processing of satellite imagery (Fleximage company).

The following three applications should be emphasized:

6.5.1 Sample Analysis

GEPAN/SEPPA is supported by various civilian and military laboratories, including those of the Etablissement Technique Central de l'Armement (ETCA), [Central Technical Armaments Institution] for analyzing soil and plant samples collected during the course of investigations.

6.5.2 Use of Photographs

Image processing work was performed at ETCA between 1981 and 1988. This work enabled the techniques and procedures, listed in GEPAN technical memorandum no. 18, for studying supposed UFO photographs to be defined. Diffraction filters were issued to each gendarmerie regional unit to permit on-site collection of information over the light spectrum emitted.

6.5.3 Sky Surveillance System

A system called "ORION" was studied and partially deployed by [the Ministry of] Defense for the purpose of monitoring, identifying, and predicting the passage of satellites, particularly over national territory. It should meet, at least partially, the need for the surveillance of UFO-type light phenomena. The system consists of:

- the current surveillance and tracking radar systems and listening antenna on the ship *Monge*,
- two radar and optical surveillance systems and one optical imaging system:
 - the "GRAVES" surveillance radar system, which will be capable of detecting objects from 1 m² [in size] at a distance of 1500 km,
 - the "SPOC" [Sky Observation Probe System] optical surveillance system, which uses CCD cameras to detect and determine the trajectory of orbiting satellites or magnitude 7 to 8 space debris (the installation of equipment at two sites is currently under way),
- finally, the development of the 4 m diameter "SOLSTICE" telescope, which may be provided with adaptive optics, for the observation of objects in geostationary orbit (36,000 km).