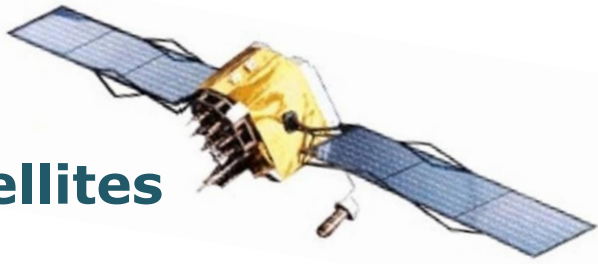


Conversation

The Spy Satellites



Joe: Boss , did you know that the US purchases all the photos taken over a certain areas by researcher or **commercial satellites**?

Ted: Yes, I've heard that before. It's part of US **military strategy**. The US government **monopolizes** satellite pictures to **prevent** other countries from knowing its troop **deployments**.

Joe: Under the Japan-US **Treaty**, doesn't the US have to share security information about Japan?

Ted: Yes. But it usually takes US intelligence a few days before they show Japan relevant security data. Furthermore, Japan has to buy those pictures for a **hefty** price. The **ballpark figure** is \$ 10,000 a piece.

Joe: Ah, so that's why the Japanese government decided to launch four satellites in Japan to **obtain** information about nuclear reactors and missile bases in nearby countries.

Ted: If that's the purpose of launching them, four are not enough. Japan's **surveillance framework** is nothing compared to the corresponding US system. If we want **round-the-clock** surveillance of sensitive sites, we need to launch at least 20 satellites. Besides, the most difficult part in using the satellites in capturing clear images of objects that need to be observed. That's a problem because each satellite will be flying through space 500 kilometers from the earth a speed of 25,000 kilometers per hour. Also, accurate satellite photo analysis requires at least 10 years of experience and there are only a few Japanese experts in the field as far as I know.

Joe: Maybe \$10,000 a picture isn't such a bad deal after all.

Conversation
The Spy Satellites

Vocabulary	Meaning
commercial satellites	capable of actively transmitting signals and was used for both telephone and television systems
military strategy	The art of employing the armed forces of a nation to secure the objectives of national policy by the application of force, or the threat of force.
monopolize	have and control fully and exclusively
prevent	keep from happening or arising
deployment	the distribution of forces in preparation for battle or work
treaty	a written agreement between two states or sovereigns
hefty	of considerable weight and size
ballpark figure	a rough numerical estimate; commonly used by accountants, salespersons and other professionals to estimate current or future results
obtain	come into possession of
surveillance framework	illustrates an enterprise approach for security
round-the-clock	at all times; non-stop