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4. A major concern of the Europeans is the role the USSR will play in development of a second generation maritime satellite system outside INMARSAT. They feel it would be necessary to invite the Soviets to join in some unspecified manner, but have no idea what contribution the USSR would be willing or able to make. If the USSR were to become a contractor in building a part of the system, it would be required to open its production facilities to international inspection; much the same issue exists within the INMARSAT context. The Europeans are anxious not to offend the Soviets, but would not be disappointed if the USSR simply declined to join the joint effort.
5. The Europeans are likely to present two proposals to the Second International Conference on the Establishment of an International Maritime Communications System in February 1976. The first will be to offer MAROTS to INMARSAT for use in an as yet unspecified manner. The second proposal will be to call for the establishment of an organizational working group to begin the detailed preliminary work necessary before requests for proposals are issued; this work would begin prior to the signing of a final agreement on INMARSAT in order to expedite the launching of the INMARSAT system.
6. One of the major general issues to be addressed at the February meeting is that of determining initial investment in INMARSAT, and perhaps equally important, a formula for investment adjustments once the system has become operational. The third world countries could try to mount a campaign to give the Assembly more authority, where the one nation one vote system will be used, than the Council, where a proportional voting system will be in effect. The Soviets seem to be favoring the US position that a two thirds of total investment vote should be required to initiate action on substantive matters in the Council.
7. The Japanese government appears to have decided that Kokusai Denshi Denwa, Ltd (KDD) will be Japan's designated entity in matters relating to INMARSAT.

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Domestic Collection Division  
Foreign Intelligence Information Report

*PN MARISAT*

COUNTRY International

DCD REPORT NO. [ ]

SUBJECT MARISAT-MAROTS Cooperation/Soviet Role  
in INMARSAT and MARISAT

DATE DISTR.

3 MAR 1976

NO. PAGES

2

REFERENCES [ ]

DATE OF INFO. January 1976

**THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION**

SOURCE [ ]

1. In the last week of January 1976, members of the European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) met with representatives of the Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT), Washington, DC, in Paris. The primary purpose of the meeting, which was called by the Europeans, was to establish a structure through which MARISAT and MAROTS can be made technically compatible. CEPT has established a subgroup, Maritime Satellite Telecommunications (SMT), which is chaired by Eric Sharp of the British Post Office, to represent the Europeans in discussions with COMSAT. A working group is to meet in March 1976 to begin examining the areas of incompatibility between the two systems with the objective of standardizing them for joint utilization. It would appear that the major incompatibilities are likely to be found in the shore stations and shipboard terminals; there appear to be few problems with the satellites themselves.
2. A second, and probably more significant, topic that was discussed concerned the European attitudes regarding the second generation of maritime satellites expressed by post and telecommunications officials from a number of European countries including the UK, Norway, West Germany and France, as well as ESA and CEPT representatives. These Europeans traditionally have been confident that INMARSAT would be operational in time to provide a second generation maritime satellite system. They are beginning to realize, however, that INMARSAT will not be in a position to launch a satellite until at least five years after the final agreements are signed at the earliest. The Europeans are becoming aware of the validity of COMSAT claims that INMARSAT will not be ready to assume international maritime communications responsibilities until the third generation of satellites is due to come on line.
3. The question posed to the Europeans was whether they care to join MARISAT in a joint venture for an interim second generation system. MARISAT is scheduled to have one satellite each over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by the end of 1976; MAROTS will have one satellite over the Indian Ocean in late-1977. The proposal has been before the Europeans for a number of years, but they have not given it serious consideration in light of their belief that the INMARSAT system would be functioning in time to launch a second generation maritime system. If the MARISAT/MAROTS joint effort is to succeed, a European decision must be made by the first quarter of 1977 to allow for the additional bidding time required for international projects. A delay beyond early-1977 would preclude the Europeans from joining MARISAT in launching a second generation system.

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