

DECLARATION

In depositing this Instrument of Ratification the Government of Canada declared as follows:

The Government of Canada interprets the phrase "scientific purposes" in Article III, paragraph 1(a) as including scientific "research" and scientific "management" and considers that the term "taking" in Article III, paragraph 1, includes the capturing and killing of polar bears by the use of various means, including "aircraft and large motorized vessels", in order to meet the requirements of Article VII, despite the general prohibition of such means contained in Article IV.

2. As regards the hunting rights of local people, protected under Article III, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs (d) and (e), Canadian practice is based on the following considerations:

- (a) Research data, compiled annually by the Federal-Provincial Polar Bear Technical Committee, indicate that there is, in Canada, a harvestable quantity of polar bears. On the basis of these biological data the Committee recommends annual management quotas for each sub-population.
- (b) The polar bear hunt in Canada is an important traditional right and cultural element of the Inuit (Eskimo) and Indian peoples. In certain cases this hunt may extend some distance seaward. Traditional methods are followed in this hunt.
- (c) In the exercise of these traditional polar bear hunting rights, and based on the clause "in accordance with the laws of that Party", the local people in a settlement may authorize the selling of a polar bear permit from the sub-population quota to a non-Inuit or non-Indian hunter, but with additional restrictions providing that the hunt be conducted under the guidance of a native hunter and by using a dog team and be conducted within Canadian jurisdiction.

The Government of Canada therefore interprets Article III, paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs (d) and (e) as permitting a token sports hunt based on scientifically sound settlement quotas as an exercise of the traditional rights of the local people.

3. The Government of Canada interprets the requirement to "consult" in Article VII as applying only when any other Party requests such consultation, not as imposing a requirement to hold consultations annually.