

to the Contracting Governments on an equitable basis in accordance with the principles on which this Agreement has been based. If the contributions are insufficient to reimburse the Organization, the balance remaining due shall be met by the Contracting Governments in equal shares.

ARTICLE XIII

In the event that a Contracting Government, without the consent of the other Contracting Governments, fails to discharge in whole or in part its obligations under this Agreement in cash or otherwise, the Council shall consult with the other Contracting Governments as to appropriate action and shall convene a conference if an arrangement acceptable to a majority of those Governments, including all those whose financial responsibilities are affected, cannot be concluded through such consultation.

ARTICLE XIV

The Council may at any time convene a conference of interested Governments to consider any matter connected with this Agreement if it is requested to do so by one or more Contracting Governments and is satisfied that a conference is necessary.

ARTICLE XV

Any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of this Agreement or Annex II, which is not settled by negotiation, shall, upon the request of any Contracting Government party to the dispute, be referred to the Council for its recommendation.

ARTICLE XVI

1. This Agreement shall remain open until 30 April, 1954, for signature by the Governments named in the preamble thereof.

2. This Agreement shall be subject to acceptance by signatory Governments. Instruments of acceptance shall be deposited as soon as possible with the Secretary-General of the Organization.

ARTICLE XVII

1. Any non-signatory Government may accede to this Agreement by depositing with the Secretary-General of the Organization an instrument of accession, together with an undertaking to make, on the terms and subject to the conditions of this Agreement, such contributions, in cash or otherwise, as the Council may consider reasonable having regard to the benefits derived by that Government from the operation of the Stations.

2. The Council may also make arrangements, on a similar basis, with any Government which is not a party to this Agreement.

ARTICLE XVIII

This Agreement shall come into force, as between the signatory Governments which have notified their acceptance, not earlier than 1 July, 1954, when instruments of acceptance have been deposited by Governments responsible for the operation of not less than fifteen of the vessels referred to in Article I of this Agreement. As regards any Government notifying its acceptance thereafter, the Agreement shall come into force as from the date on which that Government deposits its instrument of acceptance.