

Rule 4 - It is prohibited to effect reprisals that are disproportionate to their antecedent provocation or to legitimate military objectives, or disrespectful of persons, institutions and resources otherwise protected by the laws of war;

Rule 5 - It is prohibited to use weapons or tactics that violate the neutral jurisdiction of non-participating states;

Rule 6 - It is prohibited to use asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and analogous liquids, materials or devices, including bacteriological methods of warfare. (Nuclear Weapons Legal Action, 1987.)

A global referendum on disarmament was proposed by Jim Stark in Canada, the founder of Operation Dismantle. The organization promoted this for many years, at the global level at the UN, where they tried to have Canada and then Costa Rica sponsor a resolution recommending to all UN members that a world vote be held. Many nations backed the plan, but it was never clearly proposed in a resolution. Operation Dismantle then turned to sponsoring municipal referenda on disarmament in Canada (discussed later), which were highly successful.

Cyrus R. Vance, a former US Secretary of State, and Elliot L. Richardson, a former US Secretary of Defense, proposed in 1987 that the UN should reflag ships in the Persian Gulf, instead of the US doing so. This would be a case of "diplomatic deterrence" (not military deterrence). It would not involve UN naval peacekeeping, as suggested by the USSR.