

III). As a result of their dual-purpose character, the distinction between peaceful and military applications becomes very difficult to draw. Peaceful applications might include changing rainfall patterns, dissipating fog, and the diversion of hurricanes and earthquakes to name but a few.⁴⁹ Hostile applications might include triggering of earthquakes, upsetting the ecological balance of a region and destroying crops. The purpose of using environmental modification techniques in war also includes interfering with communications. Because of the difficulty of distinguishing research and development for peaceful applications from that for hostile uses, nowhere does the Convention prohibit research and development of environmental modification technologies for war-like purposes.

Article III (2) states that parties to the Convention undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of scientific and technological information on the use of environmental modification techniques for peaceful purposes. Article IV provides that each party to the Convention undertakes "to take any measure it considers necessary in accordance with its constitutional process to prohibit and prevent any activity in violation of the provisions of the Convention anywhere under its jurisdiction or control". Such a provision would seem to have little practical significance since no definition is given as to what constitutes an "activity in violation". Furthermore, recourse to different national laws precludes the establishment of a uniform and objective set of sanctions in case of non-compliance.

No means of verification are provided for in the Convention. However, a recent study⁵⁰ has indicated that military and civilian weather satellites could assist in verifying compliance with the provisions of the Convention, though it would be difficult to determine the cause of any unusual developing weather pattern which may have been detected.

Where a state questions compliance with provisions of the treaty, it may request consultation with another state in accordance with Article V. Consultation may also take place through suitable international procedures within the framework of the UN including the services of appropriate international organizations. Furthermore, a Consultative Committee of Experts may be convened to deal with compliance matters. It would be