

included in recognition of the importance of the support rendered to scientific activities by naval vessels and personnel.⁸

The extent of the freedom of scientific investigation, as established in Article II of the Treaty, is set out in Article III. Freedom of scientific investigation is provided for to the extent to which it was actually exercised during the IGY.⁹ Furthermore, one of its important elements is that of international cooperation.¹⁰ The parties to the Treaty agree that to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, exchanges shall take place concerning plans for scientific programmes, or scientific personnel between expeditions and stations, and of scientific observations and results. Provision is also made for close cooperation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations having scientific or technical interest in Antarctica (Article II(2)).

Article V prohibits "any nuclear explosions in Antarctica and the disposal there of radioactive waste material".¹¹

In order to promote the objectives and to ensure the observance of the Treaty's provisions, the principle of open inspection was established in Article VII of the Treaty.¹² Under paragraph 3 of Article VII, all areas of Antarctica, including all stations, installations and equipment shall be open at all times to inspection by any observers designated by state parties. Each of these observers shall have complete freedom of access at any time to any or all areas of Antarctica. Aerial observation is also permitted. In order to facilitate observation, information is exchanged between the parties as to expeditions to and within Antarctica, on all stations therein and any military personnel or equipment intended to be introduced into Antarctica (Article IX(1)). No sanctions are provided for non-compliance with the Treaty's provisions. Disputes about interpretation of the Treaty are to be dealt with by consultations. If a dispute remains unresolved, it may be taken to the International Court of Justice (Article XI).

Article IX of the Treaty contains important elements for the joint administration of Antarctica. In particular, representatives of contracting parties so entitled shall meet at suitable intervals for the purpose of exchanging information and for consultation on matters of common interest pertaining to Antarctica; and for