

of the Organization.

Paragraph 5 of Article 98 therefore provides that the Executive Board will make periodic studies of general problems arising out of the commercial relations between Member and non-Member countries. With a view to promoting the purpose of the Charter, the Board may make recommendations to the Conference with respect to such relations.

There would obviously be many considerations, applying to varying degrees in particular cases, which the Board will have in mind when making such recommendations on the relations of Members and non-Members. Such factors as the general economic circumstances of a Member, its creditor or debtor position, the volume and importance of its commercial relations, and other factors could all have a direct bearing in particular cases and thus affect the interests of the Member directly concerned and of other Members.

Any recommendations involving alterations in the provisions of this Article will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Article 100 dealing with amendments.

Article 99 - General Exceptions. Whereas Article 45 contains exceptions to Chapter IV only, the general exceptions contained in this Article are made to the whole of the Charter.

The majority of the exceptions provided in this Article are made for reasons of national security. Thus

- (a) No Member is required to furnish any information, the disclosure of which it considers contrary to its essential security interests;
- (b) Nothing in the Charter can prevent a Member from taking any action, "either singly or with other states which may or may not be Members of the Organization, which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests where such action related to the following:
  - (i) Fissionable (atomic) materials or to the materials from which they are derived.
  - (ii) Traffic in arms, ammunition or implements of war, or to traffic in other goods and materials carried on directly or indirectly for the purpose of supplying a military establishment of the Member or of any other country.

The expression "or of any other country", which was added to the Geneva text, makes it clear that the military establishment need not be that of a Member of the Organization. Under this provision a Member could impose, for example, an export embargo on exports to any other country of materials such as iron ore or steel.

- (iii) Any action which is taken in time of war or other emergency in international relationships.

This provision was not further defined although when it came to establishing the authentic French text, the expression "other