

In addition, the parties agree to consult about implementation. Noteworthy also is the exchange of data provisions in the Protocol relating to test site coordinates, geology, and test details. This Treaty was not ratified and no data exchange occurred. The parties did however state that they would abide by the 150 kt limit, on a reciprocal basis.

The Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty is intended to complement the Threshold Test Ban Treaty by establishing a regime to govern underground nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes which by definition are those conducted outside test sites specified under the latter treaty. It limits any single peaceful nuclear explosion to 150 kt on a reciprocal basis. Any group of peaceful nuclear explosions is limited to 1500 kt. In the case of a group explosion, observers are to be invited on-site and they can bring their own monitoring equipment. Special detailed procedures for the shipment of this equipment are outlined. Other provisions for inspections are given regarding group explosions and individual explosions of different sizes. For explosions below 150 kt, national technical means of verification are relied upon, together with detailed data on the explosion provided by the party conducting it. The amount of information to be provided varies with the yield of the blast. A joint Consultative Commission is to be established to facilitate exchange of information and verification. Detailed procedures for the conduct of inspections are spelled out in a Protocol.

As with the Threshold Test Ban Treaty, the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty has not been ratified. The Treaty is significant because it involves on-site inspections that would take place at military-related sites on the territory of each superpower. Moreover, the two Treaties because they refer to non-interference with national technical means, again reinforce the legitimacy of military reconnaissance satellites as verification systems in the arms control and disarmament process.

xv) The Registration Convention (1975)

The Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space³⁹ entered into force on 13 September 1976. The Treaty establishes a mandatory and uniform registration system for objects launched into outer space. It provides for a general registry which is kept by the United Nations Secretary General and which is