

Paragraph 4 emphasizes what is already inherent in the text of the Charter, that Members are not required to extend to non-Members most-favoured-nation treatment.

The last paragraph of the Article recognizes that in present circumstances, when the future membership of the Organization cannot be clearly determined, precise rules to govern the relations of Members with non-Members cannot be written, and, therefore, imposes on the Executive Board the duty to make periodic studies of the question with a view to making recommendations to the Conference. Any amendments to the Charter arising from such recommendations will be dealt with in accordance with the normal procedure of Article 100.

Article 99 : General Exceptions

It would obviously be impracticable to require Members to subordinate their essential security interests to the general provisions of the Charter and its aim of securing non-discrimination and absence of restrictions in international trade. Recognizing this fact, Article 99 makes the following provisions :—

Paragraph 1 exempts any Member from liability to disclose any information which it considers it should keep secret in its essential security interests.

It is also provided that any action taken by a Member which relates to atomic energy, traffic in armaments, or goods and materials intended for a military establishment, or which is taken in time of war or other emergency, shall not be subject to the provisions of the Charter.

Subparagraph (c) of paragraph 1 enables Members to make arrangements with each other for the purpose of establishing stock-piles of essential materials for use in time of war.

Subparagraph (d), which refers to Annex M, relates to the special treatment recognized by the Charter as being necessary in the case of trade between India and Pakistan.

Paragraph 2 accords to peace treaties and other permanent settlements resulting from World War II and the instruments creating trust territories and other special regimes established by United Nations, precedence over the provisions of the Charter.

Article 100 : Amendments

Because of the importance of any amendment to the Charter, this Article imposes a requirement of approval by a two-thirds majority. Any amendment which does not alter the obligations of any Member will become effective immediately the Conference has given its approval by the vote of two-thirds of all the Members. There are two other classes of amendments envisaged in this Article where obligations of Members are affected. In the first place, there may be amendments