

(4) On the expiration of a period of three months from the date of the first of any notifications which may have been given under paragraph (2) above, each of the Contracting Governments shall, subject to any agreement which may have been reached to the contrary, be entitled to depart during the remaining period of the present Agreement from the limitations and restrictions prescribed in Articles 3, 4, 5, 6 (1) and 7 thereof.

(5) On the expiration of the period mentioned in the preceding paragraph, any Contracting Government shall be at liberty, subject to any agreement which may have been reached during the consultations provided for in paragraph (3) above, and on informing the other Contracting Governments, to depart from its Annual Programmes of construction and declarations of acquisition and to alter the characteristics of any vessels building or which have already appeared in its Programmes or declarations.

(6) In such event, no delay in the acquisition, the laying of the keel, or the altering of any vessel shall be necessary by reason of any of the provisions of Part III of the present Agreement. The particulars mentioned in Article 12 (b) shall, however, be communicated to the other Contracting Governments before the keels of any vessels are laid. In the case of acquisition, information relating to the vessel shall be given under the provisions of Article 14.

Article 26.

(1) If the requirements of the national security of any Contracting Government should, in the opinion of that Government, be materially affected by any change of circumstances, other than those provided for in Articles 6 (2), 24 and 25 of the present Agreement, such Contracting Government shall have the right to depart for the current year from its Annual Programmes of construction and declarations of acquisition. The amount of construction by any Government party to the Agreement, within the limitations and restrictions thereof, shall not, however, constitute a change of circumstances for the purposes of the present Article. The above-mentioned right shall be exercised in accordance with the following provisions:—

(2) Such Contracting Government shall, if it desires to exercise the above-mentioned right, notify the other Contracting Governments to that effect, stating in what respects it proposes to depart from its Annual Programmes of construction and declarations of acquisition, giving reasons for the proposed departure.

(3) The Contracting Governments will thereupon consult together with a view to agreement as to whether any departures are necessary in order to meet the situation.

(4) On the expiration of a period of three months from the date of the first of any notifications which may have been given under paragraph (2) above, each of the Contracting Governments shall, subject to any agreement which may have been reached to the contrary, be entitled to depart from its Annual Programmes of construction and declarations of acquisition, provided notice is promptly given to the other Contracting Governments stating precisely in what respects it is proposed so to depart.

(5) In such event, no delay in the acquisition, the laying of the keel, or the altering of any vessel shall be necessary by reason of any of the provisions of Part III of the present Agreement. The particulars mentioned in Article 12 (b) shall, however, be communicated to the other Contracting Governments before the keels of any vessels are laid. In the case of acquisition, information relating to the vessel shall be given under the provisions of Article 14.