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ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LAWYER

A Brief Survey
by
Elliott E. Cheatham*

The great rise in interest in international law has a firm basis in the facts of modern life. Washington and New York are now closer to Paris and Moscow in travel time, not to speak of missile delivery time, than adjoining county seats were when Washington warned against entangling alliances. Travel time and ease rather than miles or kilometers are the measure of near and far. The shrinkage of space in time has increased enormously the importance of sound relations among peoples of the world. Science and technology are opening up new areas for human activities, particularly competition in outer space and the ocean depths. Wherever there are relations among peoples, there is need for law. Five international law organizations with which American law students may usefully be acquainted are here described.

The American Society of International Law. The Society, founded early in this century, affords the best means for a student or lawyer to keep up with developments in the field. The Society publishes and sends to its members The American Journal of International Law, the Proceedings of the annual meetings, and informational letters. The Journal's leading articles are usually characterized by breadth of view without narrow nationalism or parochialism. In addition, the Journal contains shorter comments, outlines of recent decisions, book reviews and notes, and some especially important documents. "International Legal Materials", a quarterly for which an additional charge is made, includes treaties, legislation, and, occasionally, judicial proceedings as well as an outline of most important current developments over the world.

The annual meeting of the Society is held in Washington at which there are scheduled discussions of selected subjects by panelists together with comments from the floor. At this

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time, too, there are the finals of the Jessup International Moot Tribunal Competition among the student international law societies in the universities. Regional meetings and the sponsorship of conferences on special topics are recent additions to its activities. The Society includes among its members not only lawyers but also a large number of political scientists, a reminder of the time when, because of the narrowness of law school curricula, international law was cultivated primarily by the political science departments. Law students are eligible for membership at the lowered dues of five dollars a year. Applications for membership may be obtained from members of the faculty. The issues of the Journal and of the Proceedings form a useful beginning of an international law library.

The International Law Association. The Association was founded in the 1870s with its headquarters in London. It is a confederation of national branches. The American Branch has its headquarters in New York City where its annual meetings are held. The Association holds biennial conferences in various countries for the consideration of a wide range of international, maritime and commercial law subjects and publishes reports of the proceedings. The resolution and draft statutes adopted have often been useful in promoting international trade relations.

The Institute of International Law. The Institute goes back in its founding to the 1870's and has its headquarters in Paris. New members drawn from all over the world are elected each year by the Institute. Its biennial meetings, with French and English as the languages, are held in various countries and the published proceedings include the proposals adopted and the supporting discussions. The Institute, too, has done much useful spade work in the earlier development of both public and private international law. At the 1967 meeting, two old matters dealt with are of newly increased importance. A proposed resolution calling for the legal protection of foreign investments as a means of stimulating economic developments over the world came to naught. The opposition came from the emphasis on national sovereignty and the fear of neo-colonialism which have accompanied the rise of the newer nations. A more fortunate

development was a move not yet complete toward support for the same broad principles of choice of law as to torts which are marking the contemporary change in conflict of laws in this country.

The American Foreign Law Association. The Association holds brief meetings several times a year in New York City for the consideration of foreign and comparative law matters of interest to American lawyers. Its members receive a notably fine and independently published periodical, The American Journal of Comparative Law. The Journal, which has had its headquarters in the University of Michigan Law School since its beginnings in 1952 with Professor Hessel Yntema as its first Editor-in-Chief, is a scholarly review. Through its articles, comments and book reviews it reaches out to all continents for its subjects as well as for its contributors.

The Section of International and Comparative Law. The American Bar Association carries on many of its activities through sections, which members of the Association join for a small additional charge. The Section here discussed has recently taken on new life and vigor. It sends to the members the periodical, "The International Lawyer", the latest issue of which includes an extensive treatment of the UN Human Rights Convention. Like the other sections of the Association it conducts its own conferences during the annual meeting of the parent association. The 1967 program was directed to "The Fourth Dimension of Sea Power -- Ocean Technology and International Law", "Developing the Resources of the Sea," and "The Developing Aerospace Law".

International law has its hardy perennials which continue to intrigue and to plague. In recent years it has had to face a variety of new conditions. It is a tribute to the alertness of today's international lawyers that they have perceived the legal problems which the new conditions will create. Never have men of law done more to canvass new social and legal problems not yet come to maturity before officials and courts.