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Preface

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PREFACE

In this issue of the *Journal* we turn our attention to a matter of critical importance to all nations of the world. As representatives of approximately 140 sovereign states prepare once again to direct their energies toward the preparation and ultimate ratification of a comprehensive law of the sea document, people of all persuasions look with great expectations — and some apprehension — to New York City. The significance of the third substantive session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, scheduled to begin in March, 1976, cannot be minimized. History may well document that the fate of the world, as we know it, was ultimately determined by the success or failure of the Conference.

Ambassador John R. Stevenson, former United States representative to the Conference, stated after the Geneva session that, "What was missing was the will to negotiate, to make the accommodations necessary to achieve specific agreements." In our small way, the *Journal* dedicates this theme issue to all Conference delegates in the sincere hope that they may strive to overcome human prejudices, ward off the persistent desire to be concerned solely with self-interest, and negotiate in good faith so that the Law of the Sea Treaty may truly represent and benefit mankind.

The *Journal* extends our sincere appreciation to Professors Maxwell Cohen, Oliver Schroeder, Jr., and Congressman John M. Murphy for taking time from their impossible schedules to write specially for this issue. We particularly want to thank Mr. Robert B. Krueger, Chairman, Subcommittee on International Law and Relations, National Security Council Advisory Committee on the Law of the Sea, for allowing us to publish his second, and third subcommittee reports.

For our symposium, we gratefully acknowledge Mr. Bert B. Lockwood, Jr., Program Director, World Peace Through Law Center, for his permission to publish five working papers presented at the Washington World Law Conference, October 12-17, 1975.

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Special thanks also go to the *George Washington Journal of International Law and Economics* for their initial editing of all papers presented at the Washington World Law Conference.

Our student notes consider the avoidance of taxation by American-owned ships registered under foreign flags, and the developing legal considerations affecting the polar regions of the world. The case notes analyze the recent Supreme Court decision on federal versus state sovereignty within and beyond the 3-mile limit, and a district court decision supporting admiralty jurisdiction over a wrongful death action arising from the crash of a Greek airliner.

Three law of the sea related books, each analyzing particular historical and contemporary legal trends, are reviewed. Additionally, our student reviewers have considered a series of books published under the auspices of the World Order Models Project of the Institute for World Order. Although not directly related to the sea, the contextual scheme of the books concern and encompass our entire physical world.

As operating costs skyrocket in this age of inflation, the *Journal* has been particularly burdened by increased operating expenses. Fortunately, Dean Lindsey Cowen has contributed the necessary sustenance which has enabled the *Journal* to publish. We are deeply indebted to Dean Cowen for his understanding and generosity.

As a final personal note I extend my congratulations to the editors and staff of the *Journal* for turning out a valuable, timely theme issue and, while doing so, tolerating their editor-in-chief.

PATRICK M. McLAUGHLIN