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## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### CONFERENCE OF LABOR MINISTERS

The Third Inter-American Conference of Labor Ministers on the Alliance for Progress was held in Washington, D. C. from October 10 to 17, 1969. The Conference approved a series of proposals for a coordinated attack on the problem of unemployment and underemployment in the hemisphere. The Ministers of Labor recommended that international agencies step up lending for those projects that could create additional jobs in Latin America. They also called on member governments to incorporate employment policies into national planning mechanisms, and urged the establishment of national councils on human resources. Other major areas of concern at the meeting were labor's role in Latin American economic integration, the promotion of the rights of women workers in the hemisphere, and direct, long-term technical assistance to trade union research activities by the Labor Program of the OAS.

The 1969 Conference of Labor Ministers was the third to be held since the start of the Alliance for Progress. The first such meeting, held in Colombia in 1963, approved the basic document underlying the present OAS labor program. This was the Declaration of Cundinamarca, the *Magna Carta* for labor's participation in the Alliance for Progress.

### INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

The 1969 session of this Committee was held from June to September at its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro. It approved documents on international public corporations or companies, violations of international standstill commitments, revisions of old inter-American treaties and conventions, as well as a report of the Committee to be submitted to the first session of the General Assembly of the OAS, and a Final Act. It also adopted some resolutions, one of which deals with the cooperative

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relations between the Inter-American Juridical Committee and the Law Schools of the member states of the OAS. In this resolution the Committee expressed its hope that the Law Schools will cooperate with the Committee in the preparation of working documents, or comments on the reports and opinions prepared by the Committee. Another resolution dealt with relations between the Committee and the *Instituto Hispano-Luso-Americano de Derecho Internacional*. These opinions, report, Final Act and resolutions are published in a document issued by the General Secretariat of the OAS.

### INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL LAW IN AMERICA

The member states of the OAS have been studying a request made by the Council of the OAS on May 7, 1969 concerning international commercial law. On that date, acting on a report and a request submitted by the Inter-American Juridical Committee concerning harmonization of the laws of Latin American countries on companies, the Council of the OAS in transmitting the said report to the member states, urged those governments that had not done so to convey to the Council their opinions regarding the desirability of convoking an inter-American specialized conference on private international law and to consider, among others, problems of international commercial law. The holding of such a conference was recommended by the Inter-American Council of Jurists in Resolution II of its Fifth Meeting held in San Salvador in 1965 for the purpose of revising certain chapters of the Code of Private International Law (Bustamante Code).

The Council of the OAS also requested the member states which are in agreement with the convocation of the said conference to indicate whether they wish it to deal with the matters provided for in the aforementioned resolution II or whether they prefer that it deal, through special conventions, with those aspects of international commercial law whose solution the governments consider to be a matter of urgency. On the same date the Council of the OAS transmitted to the governments, for their observations, the draft inter-American Convention on Reciprocal Recognition of Companies and other Juridical Persons, prepared by the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

### INTER-AMERICAN SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

This Conference, which had been convoked by the Council of the OAS on February 2, 1969, was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from No-

ember 7 to 22, 1969. The Conference approved the *American Convention on Human Rights* and a Final Act, both dated November 22.

The Convention, which will be called *Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica*, contains eighty two articles. The first part of the document deals with state obligations and rights to be protected. The second part provides for the means of protection. It creates the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Commission will be composed of seven members and will represent all the member states of the OAS. The members shall be elected in their personal capacity by the General Assembly of the OAS from a list of candidates proposed by the governments of the member states. The Court also will be composed of seven judges elected by the General Assembly.

The convention is open for signature and ratification or adherence by all the member states of the OAS. It will enter into force when eleven states have deposited their instruments of ratification.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE IA-ECOSOC

This Special Committee was established by resolution I-M/69 of the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council at the Ministerial Level. The Special Committee held a series of deliberations from November 18 to 29, 1969 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the OAS in Washington, D.C. Its work was carried out by three Sub-Committees, and the main topics considered were commerce, transportation, tourism, foreign financing and private foreign investment, technical cooperation and scientific and technological development.

The Special Committee studied several documents, among them: the Consensus of Viña del Mar, remarks by the President of the United States of America to the Inter-American Press Association, speeches by US delegates, several reference and information documents, technical studies, and documents presented by various delegations.

The Special Committee will meet again on January 26, 1970 in Caracas. Its conclusions and recommendations will be submitted to the special meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council at Ministerial Level scheduled to start in the same city on February 3, 1970.

#### NUCLEAR LAW

The Seventh Meeting of the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission (IANEC), an entity of the OAS, took place in Washington, D.C.

from November 18 to 21, 1969. It approved several resolutions on technical, administrative and budgetary matters.

In the field of nuclear energy law, IANEC recommended to its Special Legal Committee to include in its work program the study and preparation of proposals on legal standards for radiation protection.

IANEC also requested the Secretary General of the OAS to transmit to the member states of the OAS the recommendations approved by the Special Legal Committee at its Sixth Meeting held in Rio de Janeiro in 1968 on the "improvement and harmonization of basic legal standards on nuclear energy in the American states". This action by the above Committee was the first concrete step taken in the Inter-American System concerning harmonization of legal standards since the Declaration of the Presidents of America signed at Punta del Este in 1967. According to this Declaration, harmonization of legislation is a very important factor in the process of economic integration.

At its last meeting, IANEC also exhorted its Special Legal Committee to carry out the work program approved at its Sixth Meeting. This program contains ten important topics on nuclear energy law.

In the context of nuclear energy law, mention should be made of the publication prepared by the Division of Codification and Legal Integration of the Department of Legal Affairs of the General Secretariat of the OAS, entitled *Legislacion sobre Energia Nuclear en los Estados Americanos* published in Spanish in July, 1969. It contains a summary of the most important legislation on nuclear energy of the American states plus the text of the said legislation including the law of the United States translated into Spanish. A special chapter presents summary information on the multilateral treaties and conventions on nuclear energy and the states which have subscribed to them.

#### EL SALVADOR — HONDURAS

On October 27, 1969 the Thirteenth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the American Republics approved seven resolutions concerning the relations between El Salvador and Honduras. In the preamble of Resolution I, the Meeting recalled that by a resolution adopted on July 30, 1969, it was decided to keep the Meeting in session. In the operative part of Resolution I, the Meeting urged the Governments of El Salvador and Honduras to preserve peace between their countries, to refrain from taking measures of any kind that could compromise the peace, and to comply with all the agreements and treaties to which they are parties.

Resolutions II, III, IVa and V approved recommendations to the two governments in connection with the free transit of goods, reestablishment of diplomatic and consular relations, settlement of boundary questions, and advocated contacts with the other governments of the Isthmus so as to achieve a regional consensus that will lead to a restructuring of the Central American Common Market. In Resolution VI, the governments of El Salvador and Honduras were reminded of their agreement to submit to the procedures of pacific settlement those claims and differences which have arisen in connection with the conflict. By Resolution VII, the Meeting recommended to the two governments that, in applying their respective domestic laws to aliens, they do so with maximum respect for human rights and, especially, the right to life, personal security, liberty and property, and the rights with respect to the family.

### VIENNA CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF TREATIES

The second session of the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties was held in Vienna from April 9 to May 22, 1969. It approved the *Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties* which contains 85 articles and one annex. Its main chapters follow: Introduction, Conclusion and Entry into Force of Treaties, Reservations, Entry into Force and Provisional Application of Treaties, Observance, Application and Interpretation of Treaties, Treaties and Third States, Amendment and Modification of Treaties, Invalidity, Termination and Suspension of the Operation of Treaties, Procedure, Consequences of Invalidity, Termination or Suspension of the Operation of Treaties, Miscellaneous Provisions, Depositaries, Notifications, Corrections and Registration, Final Provisions. The Annex deals with a list of conciliators.

The Convention shall be open for signature by all states members of the UN or of any of the specialized agencies, of the International Atomic Energy Agency, parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and by any other state invited by the UN General Assembly to become a party to the Convention. The Convention shall enter into force on the 30th day following the date of deposit of the 35th instrument of ratification or accession.

In addition to the said Convention, the Vienna Conference adopted some resolutions, which are published in the Final Act of the Conference. In one of these resolutions the Conference solemnly condemned "the threat or use of pressure in any form, whether military, political, or economic, by any state in order to coerce another state to perform any act relating to the conclusion of a treaty in violation of the principles of the sovereign equality of States and freedom of consent". The

Conference also invited the UN General Assembly to give consideration "to the matter of issuing invitations in order to ensure the widest possible participation in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties".

## INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

The International Law Commission of the United Nations held its 21st Session from June 2 to August 8, 1969 in Geneva. The Commission considered the following main topics: Relations between States and International Organizations, Succession of States and Governments and Responsibility of States. It also examined its work program, and dealt with the subject of collaboration with other international organizations. Concerning the last point, the report of the Commission refers to the collaboration with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, the European Committee of Juridical Cooperation, and the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

## UNCITRAL

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), established by Resolution 2205 (XXI) of the UN General Assembly on December 17, 1966, held its second session at the UN Office in Geneva from March 3 to 31, 1969. The report on the work accomplished during the second session is published in General Assembly Official Records: 24th Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/7618). The main topics studied during this session were: International Sale of Goods; International Payments: (a) negotiable instruments, (b) banker's commercial credits, and (c) guarantees and securities; and International Commercial Arbitration.

The Working Group on Time-Limits and Limitations (Prescription) in the International Sale of Goods established by UNCITRAL at its second session, met at the UN Office in Geneva from August 18 to 22, 1969.

## PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

The eighth session of the Legal Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space took place in Geneva from June 9 to July 4, 1969. At this session the Sub-Committee was unable to present an agreed draft convention on liability for damage caused by objects launched into outer space even though the subject has been under consideration by the Sub-Committee for some years. After an examination of the report of the Sub-Committee, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses

of Outer Space decided to hold further consultations and negotiations on the liability convention.

The Working Group on Direct Broadcasting Satellites of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held its second session at the UN Office in Geneva between July 28 and August 7, 1969. A report prepared by the Working Group concluded that there is a substantial potential in the long run for the application of direct broadcasts from satellites in the interest of all mankind. In the view of the Group, there is a need for bilateral and multilateral, including regional, international cooperation leading to the strengthening of international arrangements. The Group also reported that it will be necessary to seek wide international cooperation and orderly progress in all related fields, and further noted that there is no international institution which has the competence to take action in all these fields. It therefore believes that the United Nations should sustain the interest it has shown in coordinating efforts in the field of direct broadcasts from satellites. The Working Group also analyzed some international legal questions, for example: general legal framework, protection of copyright, protection of broadcasts, political, cultural, social and commercial aspects. The Working Group, noting the special value of direct broadcasting into community receivers for developing countries, strongly believes that direct broadcasting from satellites can make an effective contribution to the needs and the particular interests of developing countries. It recommended that appropriate international agencies, such as FAO, UNESCO, WHO and UNDP should study these needs and interests and provide information and appropriate assistance to developing countries.

#### INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

In September 1969, the United Nations published the Report of the International Court of Justice (I.C.J.) for the period 1 August 1968 to 31 July 1969.

#### SELF DETERMINATION

On December 16, 1969 the U. N. General Assembly endorsed a number of recommendations of its Trusteeship Committee concerning the grant of self-determination to twenty five territories. Specifically mentioned were the British Associated States of the Caribbean and the U. S. Virgin Islands.