

Letters

Parliament of Australia
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

October 8, 1996

Mr Greg McIntyre
President, NELA
GPO Box 1989
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr McIntyre

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties has had referred to it the Agreement for the Establishment of the **Indian Ocean Tuna Commission**. The National Interest Analysis was tabled in Parliament today and it is proposed that Australia deposit an Instrument of Acceptance by December 2, 1996.

The Committee would appreciate any comments you would like to make in relation to this Agreement. It is important that your comments reach the secretariat no later than October 18, 1996 as the Committee will need to table its response on **November 18** to meet the December 2 deadline.

If you would like any further information about the Committee's inquiries in relation to this Agreement, please contact me on telephone 06 277 4316.

Yours sincerely

Cheryl Scarlett
Secretary to the Inquiry

CALL FOR PAPERS Environmental Justice Global Ethics for the 21st Century

An International Academic
Conference

University of Melbourne

October 1 - 3, 1997

The conference aims to situate ethical debates in the context of the development of capitalism in the world economy; to explore whether a "justice ethic" is appropriate to address questions arising from environmental exploitation and conflict; and to discuss the institutional structures, and their ethical foundations, which must exist at global, regional, national and local levels for just resolution of conflicts of environmental issues.

Discussion will range over issues of philosophy, law and politics, geography, environmental ethics, economics and science, urban planning and design, and agricultural development.

The conference will be opened by Prof. Arne Naess. Among keynote speakers who have indicated acceptance of our invitation are Elmar Altvater, Robert Bullard, John Dryzek, David Harvey, Noel Pearson, Val Plumwood, Peter Singer and Oran Young. Expressions of interest and proposals for papers are now invited.

Further information can be obtained by writing to:

Nicholas Low, Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, The University of Melbourne, Parkville 3052

Fax: +61 (0) 3 9344 7458

Email: n.low@architecture.unimelb.edu.au

Also on Internet web page

<http://www.arbld.unimelb.edu.au/events/enjust.htm>

National Environmental Law Association

Limited

Representatives attending

NGO

CONSULTATIVE FORUM



Alan Bradbury

Nelson Quinn / John Reynolds

Atticus Fleming / John Snell

John Snell / Nelson Quinn

Richard Sharp

Nelson Quinn / John Reynolds

NGO Forum

Trade & Environment

Desertification

CSD

Bio Diversity

Climate Change /

Greenhouse

*Please contact Alan Bradbury at Telephone 06 274 0629
if you would like to make enquiries about the above or
would like to be invited*

The United Kingdom Environmental Law Association

The National Secretariat receives the Journal of the UK Environmental Law Association "ENVIRONMENTAL LAW". From Volume 10 NUMBER 1 Spring 1996 the following comment is reproduced.

Grey Suits and Green Ideas

"It is 10 years since Chernobyl. It is 10 years since UKELA was established. Environmental law has moved from the esoteric preserve of an eccentric few into the mainstream. The academics and outsiders involved in the early years are now partners in City firms and advisers to legislators and large corporations.

It would be easy to sit back and congratulate ourselves on these achievements and this influence. It is also sensible, however, at the end of a decade, to reflect on the underlying purpose of the Association. The opening words of its aims, defined in Articles are:

"to promote for the **benefit of the public** generally the **enhancement and conservation of the environment** in the UK and to advance the education of the public."

One man never let us forget that. Andrew Lees, the Friends of the Earth Campaigns Director who died in Madagascar the Christmas before last, was a regular attendee at Association events. He was a courteous but penetrating questioner of the establishment. At the last Garner Lecture before his death he lamented to me that UKELA was being taken over by "the Men in Grey Suits".

The Prize which we have established in his name is intended to stimulate people to write down some of the many ideas, capable of contributing to our fundamental aim, which are fizzing around in their brains. I never cease to be amazed at the wealth of creative criticism of law, practice and lawyers revealed in oral discussion at Conferences and elsewhere - but this needs to be disseminated more widely; the Prize offers acknowledgment to the best of it. How many ideas are locked up in your mind?

(The Andrew Lees prize will be awarded for an essay of not more than 5000 words critically appraising an aspect of the UK legal system (which term shall include administration, procedure and culture as well as substantive laws, and the same of the EU) in respect of its effectiveness in protecting or enhancing the environment, and making positive proposals for appropriate changes, indicating the means whereby the legal system can contribute to the process of change,

and nominating a holder of high office, if desired, to whom the essay should be directed for their observations.)

Membership of the Association has grown - it is well over a thousand. Its activities are many and various. The Garner Lecture, Regional meetings and the Annual Conference provide opportunities to meet people and exchange ideas in a relaxed and non-confrontational atmosphere. The Prize Moot attracts some of the best law students (who can now take environmental law as part of a conventional law degree). The lexicon would have been shorter ten years ago!

The realisation of the potential of the law to protect the environment cannot be left to the legal establishment. Environmental law is much too important to be the monopoly of lawyers; hence we welcome non-lawyers. I hope that those who have ideas as to what we can do in the next decade will pass them on to me or any Council member. A useful test is perhaps to be found in this question

"How could this publication or activity help to make the law a more effective means of protecting the environment?"

Radiation from Chernobyl (and CO2 from fossil fuels) can travel round the world silently and invisibly. Lawyers who want to use the law and educate the public must, however, be audible and active. They must persuade conventional decision makers. Perhaps the challenge for the Association is to prove that the green ideas can come out of grey suits - and become programmes of action. That would be the best tribute to Andrew."

Robert McCracken
Chairman of UKELA