

REQUIEM FOR A JOURNALThe Year Book of World Affairs, 1947-1984

It is with great regret that we have to report the cessation of publication of the Year Book of World Affairs. The more especially as Volume 38, the final volume, is fully up to the standard of its predecessors. For example, it contains three excellent articles on the Falklands/Malvinas war. One of these articles deals with the effect of this war on the strategic planning of the United Kingdom; one with legal aspects of the conflict; and one with repercussions of the conflict throughout Latin America. Three other articles deal with recent nuclear weapon developments; two with developments in the so-called North/South conflict; and one with the problem of international order, as seen both before and after the coming into being of the United Nations. There are also articles on the Middle East, on Southern Africa and on Russo-Polish relations. Of particular local interest is an article entitled "Pluralism and Foreign Policy: The States and the Management of Australia's External Relations," prepared by a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Political Science, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University. Professor Schwarzenberger, editor of the Year Book throughout its exciting history, contributes a final article entitled "Beirut 1982: An Interdisciplinary Test Case."

This "focus on Beirut," as Professor Schwarzenberger calls it, contributes to an "understanding of International Relations as an interdisciplinary and synoptic field of studies" and warrants, in his opinion, an analysis of the Beirut crisis on three levels with which readers of the author's previous publications will be familiar - namely, power, law and ethics. Professor Schwarzenberger makes the interesting point at the beginning of his article that Beirut is located in the area "misnamed the Middle East," which was previously "poignantly described as the Levant - and perhaps more logically as the Near East."⁽¹⁾ The gist of the article consists of a comparison of the reports of the Kahan and MacBride Commissions, both of which were set up after the massacres in Beirut in 1982. The Kahan

Commission was established officially by the Government of Israel, whereas the MacBride Commission was an unofficial body set up as the result of an initiative by "a small group of concerned and influential persons in the United Kingdom."⁽²⁾ Professor Schwarzenberger concludes this article with an extremely useful, if brief, bibliography under the three headings, Power, Law and Ethics.

The great merit of the Year Book of World Affairs - and one reason why it will be extremely difficult to replace - is that throughout its history it has remained interdisciplinary in character. Its articles have always been of moderate length, have avoided excessive verbiage and foot-notes; and have dealt with the historical, political, economic, strategic, legal, cultural and religious aspects of world affairs but always in a manner capable of being understood by non-specialists in the various disciplines. Moreover, the list of contributors reads like a hall of fame. It includes such persons - some of them more than once - as Lord Beloff, Yoram Dinstein, Abba Eban, Judge Elias (President of the International Court of Justice), Richard Falk, Wolfgang Friedmann, George Ginsburgs, Lord Gladwyn, Edvard Hambro, Sir Alec Douglas-Home (former British Prime Minister), Charles Douglas-Home (Editor of "The Times"), Ivo Lapenna, Harold Lasswell, Colin Legum, David Owen, Eugene Rostow, Ignaz Seidl-Hohenveldern and Lord Zuckerman. It is a sad reflection on modern times that a journal, with such a distinguished list of contributors - not to mention an annual contribution by Professor Schwarzenberger himself - cannot survive financially. It should also be stressed that, in addition to providing a platform for the great, the Year Book was ever most forthcoming in enabling promising young lecturers to venture into publication for the first time.⁽³⁾

It is not possible to mention the Year Book of World Affairs without mentioning the London Institute of World Affairs, whose baby it was and which fortunately looks set to survive the death of its offspring. The first article in the final volume is a fascinating account by Professor Brown, Director of the Institute,

of the somewhat turbulent history of the Institute since 1934. The London Institute as such was founded in 1943, but its ancestry can be traced back to 1934 when there was established the New Commonwealth Research Bureau (later the New Commonwealth Institute) as an offshoot of the New Commonwealth Society (subsequently called the David Davies Memorial Institute of International Studies). The early history of these organisations is not a little confused, but a few points of lasting interest stand out. One of course is the constant difficulty of raising funds for this type of enterprise. This in turn leads to a more or less constant state of tension between those members who favour recourse to a generous donor or foundation and those who wish to soldier on, placing the purity of research before all else. Even in the impoverished 1930's it was possible to find donors for such causes as a World Equity Tribunal, a World Federal Union and an International Police Force. But of course prior commitment to such causes precludes serious research into problems of international relations, which was the aim of the New Commonwealth Institute and has remained the aim of the London Institute.

The change of name from New Commonwealth Institute to the London Institute of World Affairs signified a growing connexion between the Institute and the University of London. This link, which was inaugurated by Professor Keeton and Dr. Schwarzenberger each giving in 1939 a series of University Extension Lectures, still subsists, indeed flourishes. The Institute organises one-year courses leading to the Associateship of the Institute, which is awarded on the basis of a thesis. It also awards a Diploma in Air and Space Law on the basis of an approved course of study. The Institute is also sponsoring no fewer than six research programmes in the fields of international law and organisation. Mention should also be made of the Library of World Affairs, the Institute's other major activity in the field of publication. This now runs to 70 volumes, ranging from No 1, Keeton and Schwarzenberger's Making International Law Work (now out of print) to No. 70, Professor Brown's The Legal Regime of Hydrospace. The Institute has survived many difficulties,

probably none more severe than during the war years when its Secretary was for a time interned and, after a temporary evacuation to Wales, its Director conducted the operations of the Institute from his own home in Hertfordshire. It is impossible not to admire the persistence and integrity of an Institute which still announces the following to its prospective students:-

"In accordance with its established policy of not accepting funds from governments, corporations or foundations, the London Institute of World Affairs cannot offer any assistance in financing research sponsored by it, but is willing to give guidance on research in these fields and facilitate the publication of worthwhile efforts in the form of articles and books."

So it is encouraging to note that, despite the demise of the Year Book of World Affairs, the Institute still proposes to publish ad hoc papers, to be entitled Focus on World Affairs

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Footnotes

- 1 This point is by no means as trifling as it might seem. All these expressions derive from a Eurocentric view of the world. The term Levant, derived from the Latin levare, and later the French lever, may be quaint, but at least it came to be understood as referring definitely to the Eastern Mediterranean area, where Beirut undoubtedly is situated. The terms "Near East" and "Middle East" - not to mention "Far East" - are both more sweeping and more vague. In the arbitration between France and the United States held in 1963-64 concerning Air Transport Services (38 I.L.R. 182), the interpretation of the term "Near East" was a major issue. The French argued that it meant "the Arab part of the former Ottoman Empire." The Americans put forward a much vaguer definition, saying that the term was "very often considered a synonym for 'Middle East'" and usually meant "the great 'land bridge' between Europe and Africa to the west, and the Indian

sub-continent to the east" and would thus include Turkey and Iran. The tribunal noted that the term "Near East" was "very vague and variable," was sometimes used as the equivalent of "Middle East," was sometimes used to designate a different region; and thus had no "natural meaning." Indeed, if one were to divide the region between Greenwich and 180° E into three segments, the "Near East" would include most of Europe and would extend almost as far as Pakistan; the "Middle East" would extend roughly from Pakistan to Manila; and the term "Far East" would cover the area between Manila and Fiji. Two factors seem to preclude the use of such simple distinctions. One is the insistence of the Europeans living east of Greenwich that "the East" does not begin until the boundaries of Europe have been reached, and the other is the presence of the vast, sprawling but ill-defined area known as "the Indian sub-continent" lying between "the Middle East" and "the Far East."

2 Mr. MacBride, the chairman, was formerly Irish Minister for External Affairs and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Two prominent international lawyers who participated in the work of the Commission were Professor Falk of Princeton University and Professor G. de La Pradelle of the University of Paris.

3 Looking through past volumes of the Year Book, I have picked out two articles which still have a bearing on Australia's current problems. These are "Australian Dilemmas in Asia" by Max Teichmann, Senior Lecturer in International Relations at Monash University, in Vol. 22 (1968) and "Indonesian Foreign Policy since Independence. Changing Preoccupations in Pursuit of Progress" by J.R. Angel, Senior Lecturer in the Department of History of the University of Sydney, in Vol. 31 (1977).