

From a jurisprudential viewpoint the author considers the principle of 'unjust enrichment' as the basis for the requirement for prompt, adequate and effective compensation in cases of expropriation. However, the extent to which this principle is part of our Western law systems varies. Although I agree with the author's general approach, I feel the difficulties of deciding to what extent an 'enrichment' is 'unjust' in a particular case may be unexpectedly great. The case of a concession granted by a colonial power to a company registered in the mother country comes to mind: if, on achievement of independence, the former colonial country nationalizes the industry in which the concession has been granted, what amount of compensation is 'just' or adequate? If the company has paid dividends which amount to several times the amount of the capital, can it still claim as just or adequate the full value of its enterprise as at the date of nationalization? Should not the 'risk' character of the investment which enabled the payment of the rich dividends be taken into account in deciding on the justness or adequacy of any compensation? In the case of natural resources of a definitely limited character, such as oil deposits, should the loss which the nationalizing state has suffered by a reduction of its resources be taken into account? The fact that many of the most important recent claims (Mexican, Iranian) have been settled finally on the basis of partial compensation lends support to the proposition that 'adequate' compensation may in mid-twentieth century practice of states be very far from 'full' compensation.

The diplomatic practice, case law and other source material referred to is mainly that of Britain and the U.S.A.; in certain parts also that of France and other Continental countries. The book is almost free of typographical errors. On page 92 (footnote 1), the reference should be to the Crown Proceedings Act, 1947 (instead of '1937').

Professor Wortley's book can be warmly recommended to all those who seek up-to-date guidance in the highly topical subject of the public international law aspects of expropriation. The reviewer feels that, in a second edition, a separate bibliography will still further enhance the usefulness of the book.

J. LEYSER\*

*The Law of Awol*, by ALFRED AVINS, of the New York, Florida, District of Columbia and Court of Military Appeals Bars. (Oceana Publications, New York, 1957), pp. 1-288. \$4.95.

The author believes this learned treatise will be 'useful for the law student, for the practicing attorney and for the military service school'.

The wealth of detail contained in this masterpiece of research, on a section of military law, contains little matter of real value for the Australian law student, or indeed for the practitioner. However, the military defending officer searching for a technical defence and striving to fill the gaps in his non-legal mind may find Mr Avins' book of inestimable value.

The book is well set out with headings and sub-titles and amply sprinkled with usually hard-to-come-by references, so that the defaulting soldier could well supply a copy to his despairing counsel.

Should a criticism of this work be merited, it is that it showers com-

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plexity upon what was hitherto a simple and straightforward branch of military law.

It must be understood that Military Courts in Australia accept as their Bible the rulings of their own Judge Advocate General. English and American authorities, such as are cited amply in this work, are, at the most, persuasive only and have little effect in practice, and none in law. Mr Avins, however, must be congratulated on bringing together so many world authorities, even to the extent of quoting outmoded but nevertheless Australian sources.

I recommend this book to those who believe courts martial to be arbitrary or unjust, non-technical or clumsy; a speedy disillusionment will be the result.

All sections of the law from the offence of A.W.O.L., its punishment, mitigation, illegality and condonation are ably covered. In conclusion, it is a book for military, not civil, law men.

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