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REPORT ON THE XXIII INTER-AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

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The Inter-American Bar Association (IABA) held its XXIII Conference in Tampa, Florida, November 6-12, 1982. The Hillsborough County Bar Association hosted the conference, which was attended by approximately 300 members of the legal profession from the American nations. The central theme of the Congress, "The Rule of Law in the Americas," was presented at a Special Session, by Dr. Jorge Reinaldo Vanossi, President of the Federación Argentina de Colegios de Abogados.

The Conference adopted twenty-five resolutions on different subjects, following consideration by the pertinent Committees and the Council. Several resolutions were directed to member associations and individual members of IABA, urging them to promote, through their respective governments, the enactment of legislation on specific subjects, the ratification of multilateral conventions and the adoption of new conventions. The following resolutions, adopted by the conference, are noteworthy:

- 1) a recommendation to the effect that the American countries settle international disputes by peaceful means alone and that these countries contribute to the observance of the principle of peaceful settlement through education, communication and other adequate measures;
- 2) a resolution urging the American countries which have not done so, to adhere to the United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees of 1951, and its Protocol of 1967;
- 3) a resolution urging ratification of the Inter-American Conventions approved by CIDIP I, in 1975, and CIDIP II, in 1979, and pointing out that this ratification would constitute valuable contributions to the juridical progress in the Hemisphere; the resolution also urged ratification of the Inter-American Conference on Extradition of 1981, which would

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represent a significant step toward cooperation in the field of international penal law;

- 4) a recommendation to ratify the American Convention on Human Rights and to encourage acceptance of compulsory jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;
- 5) a resolution suggesting that the Organization of American States (OAS) prepare, through the Inter-American Juridical Committee, a draft Inter-American Convention on Refugees, with special attention given to collaboration and institutional coordination among the appropriate organs of the OAS and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- 6) a recommendation to promote the enactment or updating of food laws to reflect modern scientific principles and progress;
- 7) a recommendation to promote enactment of national legislation on Foundations;
- 8) a resolution urging member associations of IABA to recommend to their respective governments that they strictly enforce treaties on illicit drug traffic.

The Conference also approved the following resolutions:

- 1) a resolution condemning any nation, person, movement, or cause that engages in practices of terrorism, and urging governments, bar associations and lawyers in the Hemisphere to increase their mutual cooperation to combat terrorism;
- 2) a resolution suggesting that the OAS, through the Inter-American Juridical Committee, study ways to provide for the entry, status, movement, and exit of emergency assistance personnel in case of disaster; and directing preparation of a draft multilateral convention to improve the preparation for, and cooperation in, life-saving efforts to take place when disasters strike in the Hemisphere.

The Conference recommended that the American governments study a Draft Tax Code prepared by Committee X. Fiscal Law, with a view toward harmonizing their legislation on this matter. It also recommended that the subject of the teaching of law be included as one of the main topics for the next Conference of the IABA and that a symposium be held at that time on methods and other important aspects of that subject.

In addition to the foregoing resolutions, the Conference adopted a resolution with respect to the conflict between Argentina and Great Britain, expressing its satisfaction with the recent resolution of the United Nations General Assembly which submitted the settlement of the Falkland Islands conflict to the jurisdiction of that organization. It also declared that member associations and individual members of IABA must contribute to dispelling the negative effects left in America by the Falkland Islands war.

The Conference also agreed to sponsor (in principle, and without financial responsibility for the IABA) jointly with the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Council of the Americas, and any other interested organizations, the first annual seminar on Current Legal and Financial Aspects of Bilateral Trade and Investment Between the Americas, to be held in Caracas or Rio de Janeiro, in 1984.

The full texts of the resolutions adopted at the XXIII Conference, as well as the paper which was awarded the Law Student Award First Prize, will be published in the next issue of this journal.