

6-1-1971

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### Recommended Citation

I. Zanotti, *Regional and International Activities*, 3 U. Miami Inter-Am. L. Rev. 317 (1971)

Available at: <http://repository.law.miami.edu/umialr/vol3/iss2/7>

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## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly of the OAS held its Third Special Session in Washington, D. C., from January 25 to February 2, 1971, to consider the documents prepared by the Inter-American Juridical Committee in compliance with Resolution AG/RES. 4 (I-E/70) adopted by the General Assembly, on acts of terrorism, particularly, kidnapping, extortion, and assaults against persons.

The General Assembly approved a convention and a resolution on the subject, as follows:

#### CONVENTION TO PREVENT AND PUNISH THE ACTS OF TERRORISM TAKING THE FORM OF CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS AND RELATED EXTORTION THAT ARE OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

(Adopted by the OAS General Assembly, February 2, 1971)

The preamble of this convention expresses, among other things, the following: The defense of freedom and justice and respect for the fundamental rights of the individual recognized by the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are primary duties of States; that the General Assembly of the OAS, in Resolution 4, of June 30, 1970, strongly condemned acts of terrorism, especially kidnapping of persons and extortion in connection with that crime, and declared such acts to be serious common crimes; that it is advisable to adopt general standards that will progressively

develop international law concerning cooperation in the prevention and punishment of such acts; and that in the application of those general standards the institution of asylum should be maintained and the principle of nonintervention not impaired.

In Article 1 the Contracting States undertake to cooperate among themselves by taking all the measures that they may consider effective, under their own laws, and especially those established in the Convention, to prevent and punish acts of terrorism, especially kidnapping, murder, and other assaults against the life or physical integrity of those persons to whom the State has the duty according to international law to give special protection, as well as extortion in connection with those crimes.

Article 2 provides that, for the purpose of the Convention, kidnapping, murder, and other assaults against the life or personal integrity of those persons to whom the State has the duty to give special protection according to international law, as well as extortion in connection with those crimes, shall be considered common crimes of international significance, regardless of motive.

According to Article 3, persons who have been charged or convicted for any of the crimes referred to in Article 2 of the Convention shall be subject to extradition under the provisions of the extradition treaties in force between the parties or, in the case of States that do not make extradition dependent on the existence of a treaty, in accordance with their own laws. In any case, it is the exclusive responsibility of the State under whose jurisdiction or protection such persons are located to determine the nature of the acts and decide whether the standards of the Convention are applicable.

Under Article 4, any person deprived of his freedom through the application of the Convention shall enjoy the legal guarantees of due process. Article 5 provides that when extradition requested for one of the crimes specified in Article 2 is not in order because the person sought is a national of the requested State, or because of some other legal or constitutional impediment, that State is obligated to submit the case to its competent authorities for prosecution, as if the act had been committed in its territory. The decision of these authorities shall be communicated to the State that requested extradition. In such proceedings, the obligation established in Article 4 should be respected.

Article 6 stipulates that none of the provisions of the Convention shall be interpreted so as to impair the right of asylum. According to Article 7, the Contracting States undertake to include the crimes referred to in

Article 2 of the Convention among the punishable acts giving rise to extradition in any treaty on the subject concluded among themselves in the future. The Contracting States that do not subject extradition to the existence of a treaty with the requesting State shall consider the crimes referred to in Article 2 of this Convention as crimes giving rise to extradition, according to the conditions established by the laws of the requested State.

Article 8 provides that, in order to cooperate in preventing and punishing the crimes contemplated in Article 2 of the Convention, the Contracting States accept the following obligations: (a) to take all measures within their power, and in conformity with their own laws, to prevent and impede the preparation in their respective territories of the crimes mentioned in Article 2 that are to be carried out in the territory of another contracting State; (b) to exchange information and consider effective administrative measures for the purpose of protecting the persons to whom Article 2 of this Convention refers; (c) to guarantee to every person deprived of his freedom through the application of the Convention every right to defend himself; (d) to endeavor to have the criminal acts contemplated in the Convention included in their penal laws, if not already included; (e) to comply most expeditiously with the requests for extradition concerning the criminal acts contemplated in the Convention.

According to Article 9, the Convention shall remain open for signature by the Member States of the Organization of American States, as well as by any other State that is a member of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies, or any State that is a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, or any other State that may be invited by the General Assembly of the OAS to sign it.

Articles 10 to 13 are similar to those of the conventions approved under the auspices of the OAS. It should be observed that, according to Article 12, the Convention shall enter into force among the States that ratify it in the order in which they deposit their respective instruments of ratification.

**INSTRUCTION TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE OAS  
TO STUDY MATTERS PERTAINING TO TERRORISM,  
ASSAULTS AGAINST PERSONS, AND EXTORTION IN  
CONNECTION WITH THOSE CRIMES**

The General Assembly of the OAS, in Resolution 24 adopted on February 2, 1971, during its Third Special Session, instructed the Per-

manent Council of the OAS to study those matters pertaining to progressive international cooperation in the prevention and punishment of acts of terrorism having international significance, especially kidnapping and other assaults against persons, as well as extortion in connection with those crimes. The charge referred to those aspects of the acts not covered by the Convention adopted on the same day by the General Assembly, nor by other treaties.

To this end, the Permanent Council should take into account the aims and purposes of Resolution 4 adopted by the General Assembly on June 30, 1970, the documents prepared by the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the observations presented by the Permanent Council of the Assembly in January 1971, the drafts presented during the Third Special Session of the Assembly, the opinions stated during the session, and such observations that the Member States may make.

The Assembly also requested the Permanent Council in the same resolution, to transmit its conclusions to the General Assembly in due course, and suggested to the Member States of the OAS that they examine, with non-member States interested in this question, the possibility of adherence by the latter to the Convention referred to above, or that they take appropriate measures toward the adoption of a world convention on this subject.

#### FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The first regular session of the OAS General Assembly shall begin on April 14, 1971 in San José, Costa Rica.

The draft Agenda for this session was approved by the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly on February 12, 1971, according to Article 58 of the Charter of the OAS.

The draft agenda includes, among others, the following topics: Approval of the agenda; consideration of annual reports presented by the Permanent Council, the Secretary General on the activities and financial condition of the Organization, the Inter-American Juridical Committee, the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the inter-American specialized organizations, and other entities of the inter-American system.

Other topics are: Institutional developments in the field of international trade, coordination among the three Councils of the Organization

and the other organs of the system, situation of the States that have not yet deposited their instruments of ratification of the Protocol of Buenos Aires, annual schedule of conferences and meetings of the OAS, draft standards for the inter-American Specialized Conferences, draft standards for the application and coordination of the provisions of the Charter that refer to: (a) the cooperative relations that should exist between the OAS and its organs and the United Nations and its specialized agencies; (b) the inter-American Specialized Organizations.

Other topics on the agenda deal with the convocation of an Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law; approval of the Program-Budget of the OAS for the fiscal year 1971-1972, establishment of the quotas of Member States, and establishment of an Administrative Tribunal for the Organization.

#### FOURTEENTH MEETING OF CONSULTATION OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

This meeting was held in Washington, D.C., on January 30 and 31, 1971. In accordance with the agenda approved by the Permanent Council, the meeting dealt with the problems arising from measures that the Government of Ecuador considered in opposition to Article 19 of the Charter of the OAS, as stated by the Representative of that country in his note dated January 26, 1971 to the Chairman of the Permanent Council.

On January 31, 1971 the Fourteenth Meeting of Consultation approved a resolution on this matter. The preamble of the resolution repeats Article 3, b and Article 19 of the Charter of the OAS. It also states that the position of Ecuador is that without violating any rule of international law, and in the exercise of its sovereignty, it has established the extent of its territorial sea at 200 nautical miles. Therefore, according to Ecuadoran law, foreign vessels may not fish within those 200 nautical miles without a license or registration issued by the Ecuadoran Government; and that the position of the United States of America is that under international law coastal States' exclusive fishing jurisdiction may not extend beyond 12 miles from their coastline.

In the operative part of the resolution, the Meeting of Consultation urged the parties to avoid aggravating their differences, and urged them to resort to negotiations. It also urged the Member States that in their reciprocal relations they observe strictly the principles of the Charter of the OAS, and abstain from taking any measures that may affect the sovereignty of the States and the peace of the Hemisphere.

The Delegations of Chile and Peru entered formal reservations to the entire resolution.

### INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE

The Inter-American Juridical Committee commenced a regular session at its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro on March 11, 1971. Dr. Isidoro Zanotti, Contributing Editor of *The Lawyer of the Americas* and author of this report, participated in the meetings of the Committee as a staff member of the OAS General Secretariat.

The Committee is composed of eleven distinguished jurists from eleven Member States of the OAS.

There were eight items on the agenda. The following topics were assigned to a member of the Committee as indicated:

1. Draft statutes of the Inter-American Juridical Committee to be submitted to the first regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States — Rapporteur: Dr. Alejandro Montiel Argüello, Nicaragua.
2. Draft Inter-American Conventions on Bills of Exchange and Checks of International Circulation — Rapporteur: Dr. Jorge A. Aja Espil, Argentina.
3. Law of the Sea — Rapporteurs: Professor Cuthbert Joseph, Trinidad & Tobago and Professor Edmundo Vargas Carreño, Chile.
4. Treatment of Foreign Investments — Rapporteur: Professor William S. Barnes, United States.
5. Detailed Study on the Juridical Status of Foreign Guerillas in the Territory of Member States — Rapporteur: Dr. José Joaquín Caicedo Castilla, Colombia.
6. Revision and up-dating of the Inter-American Conventions on Industrial Property — Rapporteur: Dr. Adolfo Molina Orantes, Guatemala.
- 7., 8. Annual report and special report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee to be submitted to the first regular session of the OAS General Assembly — Rapporteur: Dr. Caicedo Castilla.

The other members of the Committee are: Dr. Vicente Ráo, of Brazil; Dr. Francisco González de la Vega, Mexico; Dr. Albert Ruiz Eldredge,

Peru; Dr. Américo Pablo Ricaldoni, Uruguay. The Chairman of the Committee is Dr. Vicente Ráo and the Vice-Chairman, Dr. Caicedo Castilla.

During the meeting, the Committee approved a draft of its statutes as well as a report on the revision and up-dating of the Inter-American Conventions on Industrial Property. These two documents will be appended to the annual report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

In its report on industrial property, the Committee mentioned the need for revising and up-dating the inter-American conventions on the subject, and submitted a draft resolution for the consideration of the General Assembly.

Among other things, the draft resolution provides for the convocation of a Meeting of Governmental Experts on Industrial Property and on Technology Applied to Development which would be given broad terms of reference and would express the opinions of the governments of the OAS Member States. The conclusions of the experts would be submitted to the Inter-American Juridical Committee, which, on the basis thereof, would prepare a draft convention or conventions on the subject.

The draft resolution provides further for the convocation of an Inter-American Specialized Conference on Industrial Property to consider the draft conventions prepared by the Committee, and for the adoption of the convention or conventions that it may consider appropriate.

## UNITED NATIONS

### SECURITY COUNCIL

On October 26, 1970, the General Assembly of the United Nations elected five countries to serve on the Security Council for a two-year term beginning January 1, 1971.

The Security Council is now composed of the following 15 members: Argentina, Belgium, Burundi, China, France, Italy, Japan, Nicaragua, Poland, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syria, USSR, United Kingdom, United States. Of these countries, three are Member States of the OAS: Argentina, Nicaragua and the United States.

### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

On October 27, 1970 the U.N. General Assembly elected nine countries to serve on the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1971.

The ECOSOC has 27 members. Of these, six are Member States of the OAS: Brazil, Haiti, Jamaica, Peru, United States and Uruguay.

#### UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL)

On November 12, 1970 the U.N. General Assembly elected 14 countries to serve on the UNCITRAL for a six-year term beginning January 1, 1971.

UNCITRAL is composed of 29 members. Of these, five are Member States of the OAS: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and United States.

#### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

On November 19, 1970 the U.N. General Assembly elected 15 countries to serve on the Industrial Development Board for a three-year term beginning January 1, 1971.

The Board is composed of 45 members. Of these, nine are Member States of the OAS: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

#### PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY

In Resolution 2651 (XXV) of December 3, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly endorsed the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary General on the convening of the Fourth International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy at Geneva in the autumn of 1971, and noted with appreciation the contribution of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the preparatory work of the conference.

In its Resolution 2665 (XXV) of December 7, 1970 the U.N. General Assembly stated that it had reviewed the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the establishment, within the framework of IAEA, of an international service for nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes under appropriate international control. The Assembly expressed its appreciation for the studies performed on the subject, and requested that IAEA continue to intensify its program in this field.

#### TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

In Resolution 2666 (XXV) of December 7, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly, recalled its resolution 2286 (XXII) of December 5, 1967 in

which it welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco), which was opened for signature on February 14, 1967. This treaty has an Additional Protocol II, opened for signature, on the same date, for States possessing nuclear weapons. It also noted that the Conference of Non-Nuclear-Weapons States expressed the conviction that for the maximum effectiveness of any treaty establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone, the cooperation of the nuclear-weapon States is necessary. The Assembly reaffirmed the appeals it has addressed to the nuclear-weapon States to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco) as soon as possible. It noted with satisfaction that one of those States had already signed and ratified the Protocol and that another had signed it and was actively engaged in the ratification process. The Assembly also deplored the fact that not all nuclear-weapon States had yet signed the Protocol. (The Treaty of Tlatelolco has been ratified by all the Latin American countries, with the exception of Argentina, Colombia, Cuba and Chile). Panama ratified the Treaty on March 22, 1971.

#### DISARMAMENT

In Resolution 2661 (XXV) of December 7, 1970, Part A, the U.N. General Assembly urged the Governments of the nuclear-weapon powers to bring about an immediate halt in the nuclear arms race and to cease all testing as well as deployment of offensive and defensive nuclear-weapon systems. In Part B of this resolution, the General Assembly indicated that it was aware of the development of new techniques of uranium enrichment, and that these new techniques may contribute to the promotion of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It stressed that the material produced by these new techniques may be diverted for weapons purposes unless subject to effective safeguards. Therefore, the General Assembly requested the International Atomic Energy Agency to pay attention to the safeguards required with respect to new techniques for uranium enrichment. In part C of the resolution, the General Assembly urged the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to intensify the efforts to achieve disarmament.

#### CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

In Resolution 2662 (XXV) of December 7, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly, reaffirmed its Resolution 2162 B (XXI) of December 5, 1966

and again urged the strict observance by all States of the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on June 17, 1925, and invited all States that have not already done so to accede to or to ratify the said Protocol. The General Assembly also requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue consideration of the problem of chemical and bacteriological (biological) methods of warfare, with a view to prohibiting urgently the development, production and stockpiling of those weapons and their elimination from the arsenals of all States.

#### ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ARMAMENTS RACE

In Resolution 2667 (XXV) of December 7, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly called upon all States to take effective steps for the cessation and reversal of the arms race and for the achievement of steady progress in the field of disarmament. It requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue to give priority to all matters dealing with the cessation of the arms race, particularly in the nuclear field.

#### NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS

In Resolution 2663 (XXV) of December 7, 1970, Part A, the U.N. General Assembly urged Governments to consider and, wherever possible, implement methods for improving their capability to contribute high quality seismic data, and invited those Governments that are in a position to do so, to consider assistance in the improvement of world-wide seismological capabilities in order to facilitate the achievement of a comprehensive test ban.

In Part B, the General Assembly, to its previous resolutions, urged all States that have not done so, to adhere without further delay to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in the Outer Space and under water. It also called upon all nuclear-weapon States to suspend nuclear weapon tests in all environments. It also requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue, as a matter of high priority, its deliberations on a treaty banning underground nuclear weapon tests.

#### INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

The U.N. General Assembly, by Resolution 2734 (XXV) of December 16, 1970, approved a Declaration for the Strengthening of International Security.

The Assembly reaffirmed the universal and unconditional validity of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as the basis of relations among States irrespective of their size, geographical location, level of development or political, economic and social systems, and declared that the breach of these principles cannot be justified in any circumstances whatsoever.

The Assembly called upon all States to adhere strictly to the purposes and principles of the Charter, including the principle that States shall refrain in their international relations from threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or act in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. It also reaffirmed that in the event of a conflict between the obligations of Members of the United Nations under the Charter, and their obligations under any other international agreement, their obligations under the Charter would prevail. Further, the Assembly reaffirmed that every State has the duty to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of any other State, and that the territory of a State shall not be militarily occupied by force in violation of the provisions of the Charter, and that the territory of a State shall not be acquired by another State as a result of threat or the use of force.

Moreover, the Assembly called upon the Security Council, including the permanent members, to intensify their efforts to comply, in accordance with the Charter, with its primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

In Resolution 2626 (XXV) of October 24, 1970 the U.N. General Assembly proclaimed the Second United Nations Development Decade starting January 1, 1971. It adopted an extensive document on international development strategy for the decade. The document is divided into the following main chapters:

A. Preamble. B. Goals and Objectives. C. Policy Measures: 1. International trade; 2. Trade expansion, economic cooperation and regional integration among developing countries; 3. Financial resources for development; 4. Invisibles, including shipping; 5. Special measures in favor of the least developed among the developing countries; 6. Special measures in favor of the land-locked developing countries; 7. Science and technology; 8. Human development; 9. Ex-

pansion and diversification of production; 10. Plan formulation and implementation. D. Review and appraisal of both objectives and policies. E. Mobilization of public opinion.

### HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

In Resolution 2657 (XXV) of December 7, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly, recalling Resolutions 2398 (XXIII) of December 3, 1968 and 2581 (XXIV) of December 15, 1969, requested the Secretary General to convene the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment at Geneva from 8 to 19 February 1971 and the third session in New York from 13 to 24 September 1971. It recommended that the Preparatory Committee, in its global and comprehensive preparations for the Conference in 1972, consider, *inter alia*, the financing of possible action in this field with a view of ensuring that additional resources are provided to developing countries in the context of the protection of the environment.

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In Resolution 2658 (XXV) of December 7, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly, recalling Resolutions 2082 (XX) of December 20, 1965 and 2318 (XXII) of December 15, 1967 on the strengthening of international cooperation in the application of science and technology to the economic and social development of the developing countries, recognized the interest of all countries in benefitting from the achievements of modern science and technology for the acceleration of their economic and social development and in having access to the world's intellectual and technical resources, especially with regard to the needs of the developing countries. It called upon the Governments to give due attention to the promotion of science and technology in their national policies and to encourage increased international technical and scientific cooperation, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the agreement already reached on specific measures in inter-governmental forums. It also recognized the importance of establishing direct channels of cooperation among universities, research institutes, laboratories and similar institutions, within countries and among countries, irrespective of their economic development.

The Assembly recommended that the Economic and Social Council, and particularly the Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology to Development, give special consideration to the long-term

economic and social implications of science and technology, having regard to the special needs of developing countries. It also recommended that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other appropriate organizations continue and intensify their efforts for the transfer of operative technology to the developing countries, including assistance for the promotion of indigenous technology.

### WORLD POPULATION YEAR

The U.N. General Assembly, in Resolution 2683 (XXV) of December 11, 1970, designated the year 1974 as World Population Year. It acknowledged that the formulation and implementation of population policies and programs are matters falling under the internal competence of each country and, consequently, that international action in this sphere should be responsive to the varied needs and requests of individual Member States.

### UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

In Resolution 2688 (XXV) of December 11, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly approved the provisions concerning the United Nations Development Program and declared that such provisions shall apply to activities of the Program commencing from January 1, 1971.

### SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

In Resolution 2692 (XXV) adopted December 11, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly, recalled Resolutions 626 (VII) of 21 December 1952, 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, 2158 (XXI) of 25 November 1966 and 2386 (XXIII) of 19 November 1968, and reaffirmed the right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources, which must be exercised in the interest of their national development and of the well-being of the people of the State concerned. It also recognized that the exercise of permanent sovereignty over their natural resources by developing countries is indispensable in order that they may, *inter alia*, accelerate their industrial development.

### DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW CONCERNING FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND COOPERATION AMONG STATES

In Resolution 2625 (XXV) of October 24, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly, recalling previous resolutions, approved a Declaration on Prin-

principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. This is a long document divided into several chapters.

### INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION

In Resolution 2634 (XXV) of November 12, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the International Law Commission, and approved the program and organization of work of the session planned by the Commission for 1971. The Assembly recommended that the International Law Commission should continue its work or studies on the following subjects: relations between States and international organizations, succession of States, State responsibility, the most-favoured nation clause, treaties concluded between States and international organizations or between two or more international organizations.

### UNCITRAL

In Resolution 2635 (XXV) of November 12, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) on its third session held in April, 1970.

The Assembly recommended that UNCITRAL should: (a) continue its work on the topics it has decided to give priority, that is, the international sale of goods, international payments, international commercial arbitration and international legislation on shipping; (b) continue to give attention to ways and means of promoting training and assistance in the field of international trade law; (c) continue to collaborate fully with international organizations active in the field of international trade law; (d) continue to develop working methods which will enhance the efficiency of working groups and ensure full consideration of the commercial practices and needs of all regions; (e) continue to give special consideration, in promoting the harmonization and unification of international trade law, to the interests of developing and land-locked countries.

### RULES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL WATERCOURSES

In Resolution 2669 (XXV) of December 8, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly recalled Resolution 1401 (XIV) of 21 November 1959 by which

it considered that it was desirable to initiate preliminary studies on the legal problems relating to the utilization of international rivers, and as a result of which useful legal material was collected in the report prepared by the Secretary-General (Doc. A/5409). It was also convinced of the necessity to promote, in accordance with Article 13 of the Charter of the United Nations, the work on the progressive development and codification of the law of international watercourses and to concentrate this work within the framework of the United Nations.

The Assembly recommended that the International Law Commission should, as a first step, take up the study of the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses, with a view to its progressive development and codification, and consider the practicability of taking the necessary action as soon as the Commission deems it appropriate. It requested the Secretary-General: (a) to continue the study initiated by the General Assembly in Resolution 1401 (XIV) in order to prepare a supplementary report on the legal problems relating to the utilization and use of international watercourses, taking into account recent applications in State practice and international adjudication of the law of international watercourses, and also intergovernmental studies in the matter; (b) to forward to the ILC the records of the discussion on this item at the twenty-fifth session of the General Assembly; the report prepared by the Secretary General pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 1401 (XIV); and all the pertinent documentation necessary for the Commission's work.

#### REVIEW OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

In Resolution 2697 (XV) of December 11, 1970, the UN General Assembly, recalling some of its previous resolutions, requested the Secretary General to invite Member States to communicate to him, before 1 July 1972, their views and suggestions on the review of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Secretary General to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session a report containing the views and suggestions referred to in the previous paragraph.

#### U.N. PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE IN THE TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

The U.N. General Assembly, in Resolution 2698 (XV) of December 11, 1970, authorized the Secretary General to carry out in 1971 the

activities specified in his report on the implementation of the UN Program of Assistance in Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. It authorized, among other things, the awarding of 15 fellowships at the request of Governments of developing countries. The Assembly expressed its appreciation to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research for its participation in the Program, particularly in the organization of regional symposia and training courses and in the conduct of the United Nations-UNITAR fellowship program in international law. The Assembly also expressed its appreciation to UNESCO for its participation in the Program, especially as regards its efforts to develop the teaching of international law.

#### REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

In Resolution 2723 (XXV) of December 15, 1970, the U.N. General Assembly, recalling that the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial body of the United Nations and considering the desirability of finding ways and means of enhancing the effectiveness of the Court, decided to invite Member States and States parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice to submit to the Secretary General, by July 1, 1971, views and suggestions concerning the role of the Court on the basis of a questionnaire to be prepared by the Secretary General. It invited the Court to state its views, should it so desire. It further requested the Secretary General to prepare a comprehensive report in the light of the opinions expressed by States and the Court.

The General Assembly took note of a statement in the report of the Sixth Committee, to the effect that the Committee had adopted a draft resolution on the International Court of Justice with the understanding that the draft resolution is without prejudice to whatever action may be taken in 1971.

#### BRYAN-CHAMORRO TREATY

Early in 1971 the U. S. Senate approved a U. S.-Nicaraguan convention ending the right of the United States to build a canal across Nicaragua. The new convention, signed in July 1970, terminates the Bryan-Chamorro Treaty of 1914 under which the United States acquired the rights for the construction of the canal.

## GENOCIDE CONVENTION

In March, 1971, the Foreign Relations Committee of the U. S. Senate approved the International Convention Against Genocide. The Convention dates from 1948 and has been vigorously opposed in the past by certain sectors in the United States. Senate action is the next step and it is expected that prolonged and sharp debates will take place when the Convention reaches the Senate floor.

*Editor's Note:* The following was received from Dr. Zanotti after his report had gone to the printers.

The first regular session of the OAS General Assembly was held in San José, Costa Rica, from April 14 to 23, 1971. The author of this report participated in the session as a staff member of the OAS General Secretariat.

The General Assembly approved 37 resolutions, recommendations and other documents. In one of them, the Assembly requested the Permanent Council to study the meaning and scope of Chapter VI of the Declaration of the Presidents of America signed at Punta del Este on April 14, 1967; the said chapter is concerned with limitation of military expenditures.

Another important resolution of the Assembly dealt with trade expansion. In other resolutions, the Assembly convoked five inter-American specialized conferences to deal with the following matters: (a) private international law; (b) revision and updating of the inter-American conventions on industrial property; (c) telecommunications; (d) application of science and technology to Latin American development, and (e) integral education of women. Several other resolutions and recommendations were concerned with budgetary, financial, organizational and procedural matters of the OAS.

In the next issue of *The Lawyer of the Americas* a comprehensive report will be presented concerning the resolutions adopted by the OAS General Assembly at its first regular session.