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INTER-AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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XVI CONFERENCE

The Association held its XVI Conference at the Macuto Sheraton Hotel, Caracas, Venezuela, November 1 - 8, 1969. Approximately 500 lawyers from nearly all nations in the Western Hemisphere attended the Conference. The attendance was larger than anticipated, particularly in view of the fact that the Conference was originally scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 1969. The IABA is most grateful to the host association, the Federación de Colegios de Abogados de Venezuela, to former President of IABA, Dr. José G. Sarmiento Nuñez and to the members of the Organizing Committee, as well as to countless other Venezuelan colleagues for their work in making the Conference such an outstanding success.

The central theme of the conference was the *Legal Structure of Latin American Integration*. Many important resolutions were adopted by the Conference as a result of the excellent work of the various Committees and Sections of the Association which met throughout the week. The resolutions will be disseminated and widely distributed by the Headquarters Office IABA to all its member associations and individual members, as well as to the Organization of American States, to all embassies of the American nations in Washington, D.C., to the United Nations and to other international organizations.

In addition, there were many important papers presented at the Conference on the various approved topics. A summary of these papers will be included in the Conference Proceedings which are being compiled and will be published by the host association. It is expected that this publication will be available for distribution within four or five months.

Following is a summary of some of the resolutions approved at the Conference.

Collaboration with the Inter-American Juridical Committee. IABA expressed its firm conviction that the collaboration of the lawyers and other

* Mr. Dahlgren acknowledges the contribution of Dr. Isidoro Zanotti of the Department of Legal Affairs of the OAS to this report.

members of the legal profession of the American countries with the Inter-American Juridical Committee would give the Committee the benefit of the knowledge and experience possessed by the lawyers of the Americas. The IABA also advocated that the member associations urge their respective governments to nominate candidates for election to membership in the Inter-American Juridical Committee from those jurists most familiar with the juridical problems relating to inter-American relations, and who are able to make effective contributions to the improvement of the juridical institutions of the Continent. Further, the IABA suggested to the OAS that it intensify its relations with bar associations and other organizations of lawyers in the American countries. Lastly, the IABA recommended that the Juridical Committee hold some of its meetings elsewhere than at its official seat so that the members of the legal profession of the Hemisphere may become familiar with the activities of the Committee.

Industrial Property. The harmonization of national systems of protection of industrial property was the subject of a resolution. A companion resolution sought the modernization of the national offices in charge of industrial property.

Commercial Arbitration. The Association urged the creation of a School of Arbitrators for Commercial Arbitration to be organized in Caracas, the establishment of special courses in arbitration in the universities of the Hemisphere, and recommended to the governments of the American States that they ratify the 1958 UN convention on the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards. National governments were also urged to support the draft inter-American Convention on International Commercial Arbitration approved by the Inter-American Juridical Committee in 1967.

Multinational Corporations. A recommendation was made to the national governments that they adopt standards to govern the establishment and operation of multinational regional companies or corporations. For the effects of this recommendation, the following are to be considered as multinational regional companies: a) those established with government and private capital; b) those which operate in two or more Latin American countries; c) those whose control stays, ultimately, in the hands of nationals of the Latin American countries.

Lawyer of the Americas. IABA expressed its approbation of the initiative taken by the Law School of the University of Miami in the publication of a journal called *Lawyer of the Americas* in cooperation with IABA, and recommended the publication of a Spanish edition of the

journal. The Conference exhorted the members of IABA who have not done so to subscribe to the journal.

Space Law. IABA recommended to the governments of the American states to recognize the unifying factors of the exploration of outer space and related activities and the benefits to be derived therefrom in the quest for peace and social development. It recommended to the OAS that it make studies, a) of the international legal aspects of terrestrial and space communications in order to prepare revisions of existing inter-American instruments, or to prepare new conventions on the subject, and b) of legal problems concerning direct broadcast from satellites in order to prepare inter-American conventions or agreements on this matter, and to formulate the position of the nations of the Hemisphere on the subject for presentation to the United Nations.

Military Law. IABA suggested, a) that the governments of the American states incorporate in their respective laws provisions making subversive activities and other forms of indirect aggression criminal offenses, and b) that the meaning of armed attack under the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance cover the concept of indirect aggression. It also recommended that the American states be ever vigilant of the threat presented by indirect aggression to the peace and security of the Hemisphere.

Nuclear Law. IABA recommended that the governments of the member states of the OAS which have not yet established national commissions on nuclear affairs study the possibility of creating such entities. The Association approved a draft treaty and an *expose des motifs* concerning the creation of a Latin American Nuclear Common Market for peaceful purposes. These documents dealt exclusively with the legal aspects concerning the creation of such a common market, and did not analyze the political problems related to the matter. Further, IABA declared that the work program and activities of the Special Legal Committee of the Inter-American Nuclear Energy Commission (IANEC), an entity of the OAS, are of importance and direct interest to the American states in their development and application of the uses of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

His Excellency, Dr. Rafael Caldera, President of the Republic of Venezuela, honored the Association with his presence at the Opening Session on Monday, November 3, at the Macuto Sheraton Hotel; approximately 1200 persons were in attendance. President Caldera delivered an inspiring address at the Opening Session and also hosted all the delegates at a reception at his home. This event was, undoubtedly, the highlight of the social program.

Other speakers at the Opening Session included the President of IABA, Dr. José G. Sarmiento Nuñez; the Attorney General of Mexico, Dr. Julio Sánchez Vargas, who delivered a special message of greeting from the President of Mexico; the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, Hon. Luis Negrón Fernández; the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Dr. M. Rafael Urquía; Hon. William T. Gossett, former President of the American Bar Association, and Dr. Sigfrido Gross Brown of Paraguay.

Other distinguished speakers at special committee sessions were the Honorable John A. Johnson, Vice-President International — COMSAT; the Honorable Edward L. Wright, President-elect of the American Bar Association; Dr. Enrique Tejera Paris, former Ambassador of Venezuela to the USA; and Dr. Arturo Uslar Pietri, a distinguished lawyer from Venezuela.

Two luncheon meetings were offered. The first was given by the Venezuelan Development Corporation and the Venezuelan Federation of Chambers and Associations of Commerce and Production (FEDECAMARAS), with Dr. Eduardo Gómez Tamayo, President of the Venezuelan Development Corporation and Dr. Oscar Guruceaga, President of FEDECAMARAS, as speakers. The second luncheon was offered by the Attorney's Social Service Institute, with Dr. Nectario Andrade Labarca, Minister of Justice, and Dr. Genaro Verde Ortega, President of the Attorney's Social Service Institute, as speakers.

The following international organizations were represented at the Conference: Organization of American States and the Inter-American Committee on the Alliance for Progress, by Dr. M. Rafael Urquía; International Law Association by Dr. Aristedes Rangel Romberg; United International Bureau for the Protection of Intellectual Property by Mr. Richard Wipf; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development by Dr. Fernando Cabezas; Council for Latin America by Victor C. Folsom, Esq.

The social program for the delegates was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. It included a reception at the Caracas Country Club offered by the National Banking Council and the National Banking Association; several receptions offered by the various embassies in Caracas; and various private receptions given by Venezuelan lawyers for the foreign delegates. A special program was also arranged for the ladies.

The Closing Session was held on Friday, with the attendance of the President of the National Congress, Dr. José A. Pérez Díaz, and

the Minister of Justice, Dr. Nectario Andrade Labarca. This session was followed by a reception offered by the Organizing Committee.

Mexico City was selected as the site for the XVII Conference of IABA to be held in 1971. Lic. Licio Lagos, current President of the Barra Mexicana Colegio de Abogados, the host association, was designated as President of the Inter-American Bar Association for this Conference. In the *interim*, there will be at least two Council meetings. The Council accepted the cordial invitation extended during the Conference by the Colegio de Abogados de Bolívar to hold the first 1970 meeting in Cartagena, Colombia — probably within six months.

The large attendance at the Caracas Conference exemplifies the enthusiasm and interest being shown in the steadily growing Inter-American Bar Association. Any lawyer not a member of the IABA interested in further details regarding its activities may direct his inquiry to the Headquarters Office: 1730 "K" Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.