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Inter-American Bar Association

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The Council of IABA met in Caracas, Venezuela, July 27 to 30, 1974, at the Macuto Sheraton Hotel, with the Federación de Colegios de Abogados de Venezuela as the host association. Its President, Dr. Otto Marín Gómez, is the Minister of Justice of Venezuela. Among other matters, the Council considered the following:

1. Consideration of site for the XIX Conference
2. Topics for XIX Conference
3. Conference Regulations
4. Appointment of Chairmen and Co-Chairmen of Committees and Sections
5. Appointment of Conference Special Committees
6. Consideration of Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws
7. Inter-American Academy of International and Comparative Law

The Curatorium of the Academy, at a meeting held during the XVIII Conference of IABA in Rio de Janeiro, August 24-28, 1973, decided to transfer the site of the Academy from Lima, Perú, to Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Haroldo Valladão, a distinguished Brazilian jurist, was named President of the Academy to succeed Dr. Andrés Aramburu M., of Lima. The Curatorium elected the following members of the Board of Directors: Dr. Theophilo de Azeredo Santos, Rio de Janeiro; Dr. Carlos A. Dunshee de
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Abranches, Rio de Janeiro; Dr. Helio Dias de Moura, São Paulo; Dr. C. A. Camargo Aranha, São Paulo; and Dr. Miguel de Capriles, U.S.A. Members ex-officio of the Board of Directors were: The President of the Academy, the President of IABA, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of IABA and the Secretary General of IABA.

Since its transfer to Rio de Janeiro, the Academy has held two meetings at its present site, the Instituto dos Advogados Brasileiros, Marechal Camara 210, 5º andar, Rio de Janeiro, on January 11 and April 15, 1974.

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INDEX OF IABA RESOLUTIONS

An Index of IABA Resolutions—1941 to 1957—has been completed by Mrs. Jo. Dunn Dolan, of Miami, Florida (5 Law. Am. 657, 1973.) Mrs. Dolan previously prepared an Index of IABA Resolutions—1959 to 1969, which was published in 1972. The Inter-American Bar Association now has an Index of all IABA Conference Resolutions, from its First Conference in 1941 throughout its XVI Conference in 1969.

MEETING OF COUNCIL—ARGENTINA

On the occasion of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Caja de Previsión Social para Abogados de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, the Federación Argentina de Colegios de Abogados and the Caja invited the Council of the IABA to meet and participate in various official ceremonies in Buenos Aires and in La Plata on April 26 and 27, 1974. Unfortunately, the Council could not meet at that time but the IABA President, Dr. Sigfrido Gross Brown, of Paraguay, and other members were present and represented the Association.

INTER-AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION

At the meeting of the Council of the Inter-American Bar Association held at Caracas on July 28-30, 1974, the President of the Foundation reported as follows to the Council members present.

During the XVIIIth Conference of the Inter-American Bar Association held in Rio de Janeiro in August of 1973, the Foundation co-sponsored a Seminar on Population and the Role of Law in the Americas. The Seminar was co-sponsored by the Human Rights Committee of the Inter-American Bar Association of which our esteemed colleague, Dr. Carlos A. Dunshee de Abranches is Chairman.

The initiative for the Seminar came from Edmund H. Kellogg, Esq., Deputy Director, Law and Population Program of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts.

Papers at the Seminar were prepared and discussed by Pedro Calderan Beltrao, S. J. of Brazil; Dr. Benjamin Moraes of Brazil; Dr. José Thomaz Nabuco of Brazil; Dr. Nelson Moraes of Brazil; Dr. Francisco Cumplido of Chile; Dr. Elizabeth Odio of Costa Rica; Lic. José Cornejo
of Mexico; and Edmund H. Kellogg, Esq., of the United States. The papers and discussion at the Seminar were edited and published by the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy as a monograph entitled “Population and the Role of Law in the Americas”. The proceedings were widely distributed by the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and the Inter-American Bar Foundation has distributed a copy of the proceedings to the officers and to every member of the Council of the IABA.

The Foundation provided a modest honorarium of $100 each to the participants in the Seminar from Mexico, Costa Rica and Chile.

This project of the Foundation is of great current importance since it serves as an example of a number of such seminars held in various parts of the world preparatory to the United Nations World Population Conference which will open in Bucharest, Rumania, August 19, 1974. That Conference will be directed by Antonio Carrillo-Flores, former Finance and Foreign Minister of Mexico, and it will result in a plan of action which outlines principles, policies and goals and lays the groundwork for increased international cooperation. Doubtless there will be further activities on behalf of the Inter-American Bar Foundation throughout Latin America during 1975 and beyond relating to the general subject of law and population.

The Seminar is also indicative of the kinds of activity in which the Foundation can engage in cooperation with law schools both in the United States and throughout Latin America. The Foundation welcomes proposals for cooperative ventures with such law schools.

On July 1, 1974 Edmund H. Kellogg, Esq., wrote to me of changes in the current situation as follows:

“(1) In General:

“Mexico, in January 1974 followed up its new liberal Sanitary Code of March 1973 with a new General Population Law, which sets forth the stabilization of population growth as national policy. It sets up a National Population Council and calls for the use of a number of techniques including the institution of family planning programmes through the education and public health services.

“Chile and Costa Rica are completing their Law and Population Projects, and the Governments are now considering specific suggestions for action offered by the experts.
"In Ecuador the Minister of Health announced in September 1973 the broad extension of family planning services through the Public Health Service.

"The proceedings of the Law and Population Seminar convened by the Human Rights Committee of the Inter-American Bar Association in Rio have been published as Population and the Role of the Law in the Americas, and distributed widely. There may be a Spanish translation shortly.

"(2) Specific Law Changes:

"In Argentina, in March 1974, the President by decree prohibited the dissemination of contraceptive information.

"On the other hand, in Chile, in Jamaica, and in Antigua, the prescription requirement for the dispensing of oral contraceptives has been given up, and the number of places where pills are available has been expanded.

"In Mexico, para-professional medical personnel are being trained for the insertion of the IUD.

"In Guatemala and El Salvador the abortion laws were liberalized in September 1973 and in January 1974, respectively, to authorize abortion to save the life of the mother and, (in El Salvador) on certain other grounds.

"(3) Symposium on Law and Population, Tunis, June 1974:

"As an event in the United Nations World Population Year, a number of U.N. agencies cooperated with the International Advisory Committee on Population and Law in organizing a Symposium in Tunis which was designed as an exchange of information among countries which have begun the process of law revision. At the Symposium a number of specific recommendations were agreed upon designed to make family planning more available to the general public. The Symposium was attended by experts from fifty countries which included Brasil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and El Salvador. Both El Salvador and the Dominican Republic are now planning to organize Law and Population Projects in their own countries. The Minister of Government from El Salvador, who attended the Symposium, is already in touch with the Project Director of the Costa Rican Project and plans to follow the example of that country. The Dominican Republic plans a Project under the administration of the
National Council of Population and the Family, with the help of the Catholic University of Santiago."

At the initiative of the Bar Association of the State of Michigan, the sum of $814 was collected and sent through the Inter-American Bar Foundation to Sra. María Haydée Flores P., Dean of Students at the National University of Nicaragua for the purpose of providing food, clothing, shelter, tuition grants, books and materials to needy students. The funds were raised by James Renfrew, Esq., a lawyer in Michigan whose wife is from Nicaragua. Mrs. Mary Zimmerman, a Director of the Inter-American Bar Foundation, greatly assisted in the project.

The Foundation also made a grant of $200 to help pay the expenses of two University of California law students to attend the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in Caracas, Venezuela from June 20 to August 29, 1974.

The Foundation is also in communication with the College of Law, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign regarding its course on Legal Aspects of International Business Transactions for Latin American Attorneys, to be held from September 29 to November 8, 1974. This seems to be the first such course held in the United States especially for Latin American Lawyers.

In conclusion, the Foundation is considering organizing a conference on the Legal Status of Women in the Western Hemisphere.

At the XIXth Conference of the Inter-American Bar Association the Foundation will again give to an outstanding jurist in the inter-American legal world the William Roy Vallance Award. While the XIXth Conference of the IABA is still some time off, the Foundation would appreciate receiving nominations for the Award.