Commentary on the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. UN Doc. E/CN.7/590. [New York: UN Publication Sales. 1988. xii + 442pp. Price not given.]

The war on drugs through international law became legal if not actual reality through the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Drugs, done at Vienna in December 1988 (UN Doc. E/CONF.82.15). The Vienna Convention complements the earlier drug conventions, which are largely concerned with building a global legal structure for the control of the licit production of drugs, because it is dedicated almost entirely to measures for the suppression of the illicit traffic. The earlier conventions were the subject of official commentaries by the UN designed to be of assistance to States parties in establishing a uniform interpretation of the convention provisions. They have been joined now by a commentary on the 1988 Convention. Unlike the earlier commentaries, however, when the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary General in Resolution 1993/42 to prepare the 1988 Commentary, it made it clear that the new commentary should not only be of assistance to States in their interpretation of the 1988 Convention but also in their implementation of it. The result is not only a formal distillation of what the UN sees as the precise legal consequences of the provisions of the Convention, it is an instruction manual for parties, and in particular parties with weak legal infrastructures and poor legal research potential, on how to implement these provisions. This approach is obvious from the range of expertise, much of it practical, drawn upon in the collective authoring of the 1988 Commentary. It is also evident in the structure and content of the 1988 Commentary itself. The Commentary engages in a discussion of the provisions of the convention in numerical order. In doing so it follows the earlier commentaries, but discussion of each provision is now split in two.

The actual "commentary" is the UN's opinion of the correct legal interpretation of each provision, much as in the earlier commentaries. To place the provision in context the "commentary" sets out the background of each provision and in particular the factual situation that dictated the particular legal response, with frequent reference to examples. Where provisions are particularly vague, which they often are, the 1988 Commentary engages in exercises of contextual interpretation in order to give these provisions meanings that agree with the main aims of the convention as set out in its Preamble. Perceived gaps in the 1988 Convention are "closed" through repeated invocation in the 1988 Commentary of article 24 of the 1988 Convention. Entitled "Application of stricter measures than those required by this Convention", it provides that States parties may adopt "more strict and severe measures than those provided by this Convention" if they believe such measures are necessary to prevent or suppress the illicit traffic. In areas of greater domestic sensitivity such as the enactment of offences the emphasis is on indirect application and we are reminded constantly by the 1988 Commentary of the fact that Convention's provisions are not self-executing. With regard to more novel areas of general co-operation this sensitivity tends to disappear, which may be because the authors of the 1988 Commentary realise that these provisions are unfamiliar to parties and parties require a firmer directive hand in implementing them.

To complement the "commentary" on each article, the 1988 Commentary introduces a novel category of elucidation, entitled "implementation considerations". It is a kind of "soft" commentary by practical example of international practice in the relevant areas of drug trafficking control since 1988. Constant reference is made to the maze of domestic legislation and international agreements that has grown up in the 1988 Convention's wake, something which tends to give interpretative weight to the domestic and international

practice of more legally sophisticated States. The 1988 Commentary also suggests ancillary measures that can be taken by Governments beyond the positive obligations and even the permissive suggestions of the Conventions in an attempt to complete the global drug law enforcement regime.

At a general level, the philosophy of the 1988 Commentary appears to be to solve the drug problem through legally enforced drug prohibition. There is some discussion of the debate around prohibition, but alternatives to prohibition are rejected as impractical. The potential clash with human rights is openly acknowledged and sensitivity is urged, although not required. Ultimately, the 1988 Commentary's value is as a reference resource by less-developed States engaged in the process of developing the massive legal machinery being brought to bear globally against the illicit traffic and trying to find their way in the organisational labyrinth of the international drug control system. It may also serve as an authoritative text when States parties are in conflict over their obligations under the 1988 Convention. Nevertheless, the reader often gains the impression that the commentators are engaged in more than just interpretation of the 1988 Convention, and that they are colouring in the Convention's open texture because the authors of the 1988 Convention, constrained by State sensitivity towards international obligations in the area of criminal law, were unable to.

NEIL BOISTER

Ireland and the Law of the Sea. By CLIVE R. SYMMONS. [Dublin: Round Hall Sweet and Maxwell. 2000. 443pp. inc. appendices, select bibliography and index. ISBN 1–85800–168–4. £98]

THE second edition of this highly regarded book takes account of the developments since the first edition was published in 1993. Significantly Ireland ratified the Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) in 1996 and is now for the first time a party to a comprehensive multi-lateral treaty in this regard, having failed to ratify any of the four law of the sea conventions drawn up in 1958 (UNCLOS I). The implications of this development are carefully and critically analysed throughout the book. The author, currently teaching and researching at Trinity College, Dublin, has written extensively on law of the sea issues affecting Ireland and he has also taught international law and the law of the sea at various institutions.

The much larger second edition includes materials not available when the first edition was written, as well as new sections on topical matters of concern to Ireland in relation to the law of the sea. The chapter on baselines (chapter 2), for example, now contains information on the history of the Irish straight baseline system which the author discovered in a file in the Foreign Affairs' archive entitled "Embassies"! Although the historical background to the straight baseline system is the application of the ICJ's judgment in the *Anglo-Norwegian Fisheries* case, the deficiencies of the existing Admiralty charts must also have encouraged the implementation of a straight baseline system (see pp. 19–21 noting the "woefully inadequate" chart situation).

As noted in the review of the first edition of this work (see (1994) 43 I.C.L.Q. 958) the development of Ireland's laws and practices on the laws of the sea owes much to the significant role played by the Irish delegation at the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, in particular on the key issues of the outer limit of the continental shelf, delimitation based on equitable principles and the rule about rocks which cannot sustain human

habitation or economic life of their own (Article 121(3) LOSC). The proper documentation and critical analysis of these developments owes everything to the author's monograph and the second edition also notes the recent institutional changes that will hopefully improve the Irish government's handling of law of the sea issues in the future (pp. 23–25).

The work is organised in nine chapters detailing Irish practice on: baselines and internal waters, the territorial sea and contiguous zone, fishery zones and the EEZ, the continental shelf, the high seas and deep seabed regime, the delimitation of maritime zones around Ireland, Irish practice with regard to marine pollution and the Irish processing system for marine scientific research. Comprehensive use is made of a variety of primary sources including parliamentary (Dáil) debates, Irish newspapers, records at the Archives Office and the published findings of hydographers and geologists. Given Ireland's failure to ratify any relevant conventions until 1996, the accounts of Irish practice in the 1970s and 1980s are invaluable in helping to trace the development of fast-changing customary international law rules in a number of areas.

As Ireland is one of the comparatively few "margineer" States, i.e. States whose geographical continental shelf extends beyond a 200 mile limit, the chapter on the Continental Shelf (Chapter 5) is of particular interest. During the debate in the Dáil on the ratification of the LOSC in 1996, it was officially confirmed that 652,000 square kilometres of Irish shelf had already been designated, leaving 213,000 square kilometres still to be designated. Much of the still undesignated Irish shelf is contained within the conflicting claims of Iceland and Denmark. The author is critical of the Frontier Licensing Round announced in March 1996 because the most distant quadrants either abut or encroach the continental shelf designations of Denmark and Iceland. In the author's view the designations infringed the spirit of Article 83(3) of the LOSC and amounted to a countermeasure (rather than a counter-designation) of the type that Ireland has protested to the United Kingdom in the past (pp. 230–232).

Since the publication of the first edition, the international legal regime in relation to marine pollution has experienced important developments. The Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention 1990 (OPRC) was implemented in Irish law by the Sea Pollution (Amendment) Act 1999 and the Protocols to the Conventions on Civil Liability and the Fund Convention were also implemented with commendable speed. Growing Irish concerns over dumping on the seabed has led to the ratification of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic Convention 1992 (OSPAR) and its implementation into Irish law by the Dumping at Sea (Amendment) Act 1996.

Although Ireland has ratified the LOSC, the author notes that, apart from setting up an inter-departmental group on baselines, no specifically LOSC-orientated remedial legislative or other measures have yet been taken (p. 15). The Criminal Justice (Illicit Traffic by Sea) Bill, intended to update Irish marine drug interdiction legislation, which was published by the time the second edition went to press (July 2000) and is included in an appendix does not appear to have progressed beyond a first reading (see the Houses of the Oireachtas website http://www.irlgov.ie/oireachtas/ visited 16 February 2001).

The quality of the work is enhanced by the inclusion of six photographs (displaying Rockall and various maritime activities) and twenty-eight figures (largely maps of various maritime claims) and the typesetting and printing are both excellent. Sadly the cost of the book will place it outside the reach of the many undergraduate and postgraduate students studying the law of the sea on both sides of the Irish Sea. It is to be hoped that the publishers can be persuaded to offer an affordable soft cover version of this excellent monograph and, thus, help end Ireland's status as having the least known and documented maritime practice in the EU (see p. xii).

PAUL EDEN

Challenging Impunity for Torture: A Manual for Bringing Criminal and Civil Proceedings in England and Wales for Torture Committed Abroad. REDRESS. [The Redress Trust. 2000. 302pp. ISBN 0–9534892–1–3. £25.]

THE subtitle to this book accurately describes its function as "A manual for bringing criminal and civil proceedings in England and Wales for torture committed abroad". It is written in an accessible style and, whilst it does not probe the relevant legal issues in penetrating depth, it does present them clearly. After an opening section introducing the relevant concepts of international law and considering the definition of torture from an international legal perspective, the bulk of the book is devoted to two sections considering the possibilities and prospects for bringing criminal prosecutions and civil proceedings. Whilst theoretical questions are considered, the emphasis in both sections is on practical matters and this is a welcome departure from much of the existing literature which seems to assume that if international law can countenance such forms of actions then no obstacles remain.

Perhaps contrary to the authors' intentions, this book is something of an antidote to that perspective since it in fact highlights the very considerable difficulties which need to be overcome before such actions, both criminal and civil, can successfully be brought. Indeed, if there is a criticism to be made, it is that the authors seem reluctant to accept that this is the only conclusion that can reasonably be drawn from the material surveyed. For example, the chapters considering civil liability describe but hardly acknowledge the almost wholly exclusionary consequences of the Brussels and Lugano Conventions as regards contracting States and the currently near impassable barrier to actions against States erected by Article 5 of the State Immunity Act. Under these circumstances the considerable space devoted to the service of proceedings tends to mislead the reader into thinking that the prospects of success in civil actions against States are greater than they currently are.

If there is reason for hope for movement in the civil sphere (short of possible intervention by the European Court of Human Rights) it flows from the House of Lords' judgment in Pinochet No. 3 which, of course, is primarily concerned with criminal jurisdiction and immunity. However, the analysis given of that judgment will not meet with universal agreement, the authors having extracted an arguably over-generous ratio from decidedly opaque passages — particularly regarding the question of whether acts of torture are to be regarded as public or private acts. Unsurprisingly, this perspective also has repercussions for the examination of criminal proceedings. This, then, is a programmatic work and whilst one may have every sympathy with the programme, this needs to be remembered when consulting it.

These criticisms must, however, be put in their proper perspective. This is a valuable work which clearly points to the problems that need to be faced up to and addressed if there is to be greater use made of domestic proceedings in the fight against torture committed abroad.

MALCOLM D. EVANS

Multilateral Treaty-making. The Current Status of Challenges to and Reforms Needed in the International Legislative Process. Edited by VERA GOWLLAND-DEBBAS. [The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff. 2000. 144 pp. ISBN 90–11–1448–3. Price not given.]

IT is always of interest for international lawyers to be presented with a book on the classical issues of international law, such as the multilateral treaty-making process. The book under review has originated from Forum Geneva, held jointly by the American Society of International Law and the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva in 1998. The book examines the multilateral treaty-making process from the point of view of its dynamic evolution, thus taking into account various newly developing factors which influence this process.

The book is divided into several sections. Some of them consist of a keynote address followed by an essay; some of them of two essays. These sections are as follows: Multilateral

Treaties as a Source of International Law (Chair: L. Johnson; keynote address, A. Pellet, "Responding to New Needs through Codification and Progressive Development"; an essay, A. Boyle, "Some Reflections on the Relationship of Treaties and Soft Law"); Participation in Multilateral Treaty-Making by Non-State Entities (Chair: A. Clapham; an essay, L. Doswald-Beck; an essay, P. Malanczuk); Luncheon address (Chair: R. Rosenstock: luncheon address: Charles Brower, " The International Treaty-Making Process: Paradise Lost, or Humpty Dumpty?"); Multilateral Treaties and the Collective Interest (Chair: S. McCaffry; an essay, B. Simma, "How Distinctive are Treaties Representing Collective Interest? The Case of Human Rights Treaties; and essay, C. Redgwell, "Multilateral Environmental Treaty-Making"); Implementing Multilateral Treaties at the Domestic and International Levels (Chair: E.-U. Petersmann, an essay, W. Kälin, "Implementing Multilateral Treaties in Domestic law: from 'Pacta Sunt Servanda' to 'Anything Goes' "; an essay, F. Maupin, "The ILO's Standard-Setting Action: International Legislation or Treaty Law"; Concluding Remarks, G. Abi-Saab.

The presentations made at the Forum Geneva were indeed very thought provoking and to some extent provocative. The volume starts with the keynote address of Alain Pellet who assesses the usefulness and the achievements of the International Law Commission (the ILC) in a realistic and not in an apologist manner. He is fully aware of the advantages and the inherent limitations of the ILC. We have to agree with him when he perceives the main function of the Commission as "... to facilitate and encourage a uniform international law, responding to the needs of international society as a whole". Professor Pellet importantly states that the ILC should respond "[n]ot to its [international society as whole] new needs maybe; but its constant needs; its 'everlasting' needs and its renewed and developing need for uniform transversal rules" (p. 23).

Professor Boyle, in his submission on soft law, stresses its multi-faceted character, "whose relationship to treaties is both subtle and diverse" (p. 38). Soft law is under certain circumstances an attractive alternative to law-making by treaty. States are sometimes more ready to reach an agreement when the form is non-binding. The use of soft law is at times favoured because States' legal commitments and the consequences in case of non-compliance are more limited; and adherence to such soft law instruments is less complicated at the national level, since States avoid the domestic ratification process. Soft law instruments are not subject to the same amendment procedures as treaties. Some non-binding soft law instruments are the first step in a process which will result finally in the conclusion of a multilateral treaty. These instruments may be also used as a mechanism for authoritative interpretation or amplification of the terms of a treaty, as well as to provide the detailed rules and technical standards required for implementation of some treaties. Some treaties give binding force to soft law instruments by way of incorporating them into the terms of a treaty by implied reference.

Professor Boyle includes in the category of soft law instruments soft enforcement, as contrasted with settlement of dispute procedures, such as non-compliance procedures, as for example adopted by parties to the 1987 Montreal Protocol to the Ozone Convention.

Two essays (of Louise Oswald-Beck and of Peter Malanczuk) raised an important question of participation of non-State entities in international treaty-making. The first of these essays assesses the significant and growing role of NGOs in treaty-making in the field of conventional weapons, which involves two main stages of participation: the pre-diplomatic conference and the diplomatic conference stages. The role of multinational enterprises in the treaty-making process is increasing. It would be premature, however, to accord to these entities the status of subjects of international law. Likewise, they are not parties to multilateral treaties and bilateral treaties in terms of international law. As for the

treaty-making process is concerned, these entities have a formal consultative or informal lobbying function in the negotiating of certain types of treaties relevant to their commercial activities.

The luncheon address of Charles Brower must certainly have been (as it was no doubt intended to be) stimulating for his audience, though some may feel that both his premise—that the public international law treaty-making process has become so fraught with contentiousness as to be virtually a non-starter for many important causes—as well as his analysis of the causes of this alleged state of affairs—e.g. the spread of democracy among States involved in that process—fall rather into the category of the provoking than of the thought provoking.

With regard to the particular fields of treaty-making covered at Forum Geneva—those of human rights and of the environment—there are two essays, the one on the former subject by Bruno Simma and on the latter subject by Catherine Redgwell. Both of these fields belong to the category of promotion of collective interests. As both authors demonstrate, they have their peculiarities which derive from the nature of interests and obligations which they regulate. Human rights problems have impacted on treaty interpretation methods by generally emphasising a teleological approach. However, the Court of Human Rights developed this method of interpretation even further by adopting a so-called dynamic or evolutionary method. Reservations to treaties are yet another area in which the field of human rights has developed its own specialised approach in which special questions in relation to both admissibility and severability of reservations arise. Human rights treaties pose another problem: are they subject to denunciation; is there an exit option?

Redgwell manages, in an admirably succinct manner, to present an intricate picture of separate features of environmental treaties. Due to the speed of developments in environmental matters, the treaty regimes which regulate them must be flexible. Thus the preferred form of these treaties is a framework treaty. Environmental treaty systems have to address changes in our knowledge and the development of science. The nature of environmental obligations is such, also, that the principle of common but differentiated responsibility must be incorporated. This element of separateness which characterises treaty regimes in environmental law and human rights law does not, however, place them outside the general framework of the law treaties and State responsibility.

The essay of Walter Kälin focuses on implementation of treaties at the domestic level. The current tendency is to avoid the full implementation of a treaty by using a variety of techniques, such as proliferation of reservations, dynamic interpretation of treaty provisions, etc. He advocated three approaches "to make the walls between domestic and foreign policy more transparent and to allow for a certain interchange between the two levels" (p. 125), namely, to increase the participation of: (i) parliaments in the area of foreign policy; (ii) parliamentary organs of international organisations in treaty-making; and finally (ii) to lower levels of government in foreign policy if their interests are at stake.

The essay of Francis Maupin analyses the tripartite structure of the International Labour Organisation agreements. He favours the quasi-legislative character of international labour conventions which are the result of the treaty-making process itself. This derives from legislative interpretation of the Convention which allows for the creation of a single "legislative corpus". Moreover, the International Labour Conference is an organ which has the capacity to adopt and repeal international legislation.

Finally, Georges Abi-Saab analyses three aspects of multilateral treaty-making: its process; its fora; and its outcome. The main dilemma is how "to accommodate the increasing demand for, and trend towards diversity with the imperative of preserving the unity of the international legal system" (p. 141).

In conclusion, the book under review is an important contribution to the literature concerning the law of treaties. The essays approach the multilateral treaty making process as a dynamic phenomenon, which structurally exceeds the framework of the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. The changing structure of multilateral treaty-making

reflects the contemporary society of States and the role of non-State actors. Specific treaty-making techniques correspond with the requirements of particular fields (such as human rights and the environment). They are, however, linked inexorably with general international law. The particular value of the book lies in its diversified approach to the international treaty-making process and its link with contemporary developments.

MALGOSIA FITZMAURICE

State Responsibility for Transboundary Air Pollution in International Law. By PHOEBE OKOWA. [Oxford: OUP. 2000. 285pp. ISBN 0–19–826097–0. £65. (P/bk.).]

THE book under review analyses the legal regime of the regulation of transboundary air pollution. The book is divided into eight chapters which constitute a coherent and logical structure: Nature and Sources of Pollution (Chapter 1); Treaty Regimes Regulating Transboundary Air Pollution (Chapter 2); General International Law and Transboundary Air Pollution: Norms, Concepts, and Principles (Chapter 3); Norms of General International Law Applicable to Radioactive Contamination (Chapter 4); Procedural Obligations of States (Chapter 5); Determination of Responsibility (Chapter 6); Judicial Remedies for Transboundary Air Pollution (Chapter 7); and Non-Judicial Methods of Supervision and Enforcement (Chapter 8).

Dr Okowa analyses in depth the existing relevant Conventions; international customary law; the EC law; and State practice. One of the advantages of the book is that it takes into account transboundary air pollution as well as radioactive contamination. Thus it presents the problem of transboundary air pollution in its entirety. Furthermore, the problem of transboundary air pollution is analysed within the framework of general international law which greatly enhances the value of this study. Another valuable feature is the comprehensive use of case-law, such as the *Nuclear Tests* cases and the *Gabčikovo Nagymaros* case.

The author of the book reaches some very interesting conclusions, for instance in relation to the role of international customary law in transboundary air pollution. Due to the lack of a comprehensive treaty regime in this field, norms of international customary law, even in their limited scope of regulation, play an important role for example in shaping responsibility of States for radioactive contamination. One of the best parts of the book is the one on procedural obligations of States. The author analyses in depth the various obligations of States in relation to transboundary air pollution, such as that of notification. Dr Okowa deals with an interesting and, in my view, still unresolved question whether a State's failure to respond to notification attracts any legal consequences. She suggests that failure to respond may give rise to a presumption of acquiescence in the proposed activity, and preclude any subsequent assertion that the activity, as proposed and planned or executed, failed to take into account the interests of the affected States.

The author's conclusion is correct that most of these procedural obligations have not passed yet into the *corpus* of international customary law. In general, the author is correct in emphasising the imperfect treaty system in the field of transboundary air pollution. There are several factors which contribute to this state of affairs. One of them is the lack of mandatory treaty standards which is the common drawback of environmental treaties in other areas and which is particularly acute in relation to regulation of the location, construction and operation of nuclear installations.

Transboundary air pollution is characterised by particular features which increase the difficulties in the field of State responsibility. Obligations for the protection of the environment in respect of transboundary air pollution are fused (not bilateral); thus States are reluctant to sue in order to avoid themselves being sued. Moreover, enforcement is rather difficult due to the problem of proof of causation in cases where there are various sources of pollution coupled with the essentially bilateral and consensual character of dispute settlement procedures.

The author of the book realistically suggests that: "[u]ltimately, however, the reduction of transboundary air pollution will not wholly depend on the creation of appropriate legal structures. Too much should not be expected of law and a lot will depend on a number of extra-legal mechanisms, such as tax and other economic incentives and disincentives, public education, and willingness on the part of governments to create appropriate conditions for the prevention of air pollution" (p. 267).

In conclusion, the book under review is an extensive, coherent, well-structured and well-researched study on State responsibility for transboundary air pollution. The author managed to raise all the pertinent subjects and to link environmental law with the issues of general international law. The author analyses in depth all treaty regimes (including civil liability regimes) and the pertinent norms of international customary law. The book demonstrates original thinking and a very good grasp of the relevant problems of international law.

This area of law is very dynamic and constantly developing. Therefore, a second edition of the book would already be welcome. It would also give an opportunity for the inclusion of reference to: the 1997 United Nations Convention for Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (which was based on the ILC Draft); the ILC Draft Articles on Prevention (and the Reports of the Special Rapporteur, Mr Rao) within the framework of the Liability Draft; and the new Draft Articles on State Responsibility (and the Reports of the Special Rapporteur, Professor James Crawford) which involves far reaching changes (such as for example Article 19, as well as the most fundamental reformulation of the concept of an injured State). It would be interesting as well to know the views of Dr Okowa on the book on a similar subject by René Lefeber, *Transboundary Environmental Interference and the Origin of State Liability,* published in 1996.

MALGOSIA FITZMAURICE

Current Maritime Issues and the International Maritime Organisation. Edited by MYRON H. NORDQUIST and JOHN NORTON MOORE. [The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers. 1999. xvii + 433pp. ISBN 90–411–1293–6. Price not given.]

THIS volume presents the proceedings of a seminar held at IMO headquarters in 1999 by the Center for Ocean Law and Policy of the University of Virginia School of Law. The very valuable work of the IMO has long been carried on in semi-obscurity, known only to government officials and other bodies of the United Nations system dealing with marine issues. As a mature international organisation generally believed only to be dealing with arcane and technical shipping issues, IMO is to a certain extent the Cinderella of the international system, usually ignored by environmentalists and law of the sea specialists and unknown to the public at large. The genesis of the seminar was the realisation by the editors that interesting things were happening at IMO and that the "oceans law community" should learn more about them.

The seminar took place in the 50th anniversary year of IMO and was hosted by the Organisation. Following opening remarks by William O'Neil, Secretary-General of IMO, keynote addresses were given by Sir Robert Jennings, former President of the International Court of Justice; Glenda Jackson, former Minister for Shipping in the U.K. government; and Satya Nandan, Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority and former United Nations Under Secretary General for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. Apart from three internationally known experts on the law of the sea—Patricia Birnie, Shabtai Rosenne and Rudiger Wolfrum—most of the speakers were either members of the IMO Secretariat or representatives of IMO member governments and non-governmental organisations. It is regrettable that no representatives of environmental organisations were invited. Of the NGOs accredited to IMO, only representatives of industry organisations, trade unions and the Comite Maritime International were among the speakers.

There were six panels, addressing the following issues: Maritime Safety, Marine Environment Protection, Flag State Implementation and Port State Control, IMO Interface with the Law of the Sea, Legal Issues (topics being considered by IMO Legal Committee, in the field of "private international law"), and Implementing IMO Regulations and Oceans Policy. The subjects discussed are all still current. Because IMO has an extremely heavy agenda and because of the flag State-coastal State differences, the wheels of IMO usually move rather slowly. More frequent meetings would help, but that would require more money, something to which member governments are adamantly opposed. However, IMO's recent rapid response to the *Erika* oil spill disaster has demonstrated that it can move very quickly indeed in the face of a strong political imperative.

The book will be of interest to those involved in law of the sea and marine issues who would like to learn something of the work of IMO in shipping safety, flag State implementation, port State control and the "interface" between IMO and the law of the sea. Coverage of marine environment protection is minimal. Nevertheless, the contribution of Joe Angelo of the United States is extremely important in its heartfelt plea for more understanding and co-operation between developed coastal States and developing countries, in particular those with open registries. The topics he discusses are still on the agenda of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee and the co-operation he calls for will be needed for their successful completion.

LOUISE DE LA FAYETTE

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