
EDITORIAL

The Leiden Journal of International Law (L.J.I.L.) got off to a rather promising start with the presentation of its first issue, on 11 May of this year, to the former Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. M. van der Stoel. Before a large and distinguished audience, Mr. van der Stoel delivered a stimulating lecture on the role of international law in international relations.

We can imagine, however, that our Journal remains unknown to many readers. A short introduction may therefore be useful. The L.J.I.L., which until 1990 will be published twice a year, is to a large extent managed and edited by students from the Faculty of Law of the University of Leiden. Faculty staff members also form part of the Editorial Staff, and advise when necessary. The Journal intends, *inter alia*, to offer students an opportunity to publish articles on various topics of international law. We would like to stress the fact, that this opportunity is not restricted to students at Leiden University. On the contrary, all international law students are invited to submit contributions to the Editorial Staff. The contribution by a former student from the University of Groningen published in this issue, is a promising precedent in that respect.

Apart from the *Student Contributions*, this issue contains the other items which will be a regular feature of the L.J.I.L.: *Leading Articles*, *Current Legal Developments* and *Book Reviews*. As far as the *Telders Moot Court Competition* is concerned, excerpts from the best memorials of the 1988 competition on behalf of both parties to the dispute are published. The *Rights in Conflict Case* itself was published in our first issue.

In this issue two articles cover more or less the same issue: the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster. In his contribution, Professor Seidl-Hohenveldern provides us with an overview of the consequences of 'Chernobyl' for the development of international law. He does not restrict himself to the nuclear issue, but also includes topics which, as he himself states "will provoke further thought among the readers of this Journal". Dr. Cameron, on the other hand, examines in depth the two most important and direct legal consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the IAEA Notifications Convention and the IAEA Assistance Convention. In his article he investigates their advantages and shortcomings.

Special attention must also be paid to the honorary degree, recently bestowed on Mr. Perez de Cuellar. The United Nations Secretary General received the degree of *Doctor Honoris Causa* at the University of Leiden on 7 September, 1988. Parts of his public lecture are reproduced in this issue of the L.J.I.L. On this occasion, Professor Schermers (Leiden University) took the opportunity to stress the link between the United Nations and the universities. Generally speaking, he claimed that a good public image for the UN arouses wider interest in the study of international law and relations. Image and achievement, moreover, in this respect are not the same: "[t]he underdog may well arouse sympathy and support. Most students accept challenges.(...) But they must be convinced that it is worthwhile. And that conviction cannot be established when the image is poor." Wider interest in the UN would therefore be a logical consequence of a good image, which in its turn would result in a larger understanding and support of the UN in the future.

If Professor Schermers is right, and if the unexpectedly large and positive response to the L.J.I.L. is a reliable measure in such interest, there is a brilliant future in store for the UN! For the Editorial Staff, this response together with the promising number of subscribers, was encouragement indeed. At the same time experience - which the Editorial Staff is more or less proud to lack - shows that it may be easier to publish one good number, than to maintain a constant quality. It is this difficult challenge which the L.J.I.L. is glad to face.