

NUS Faculty of Law

THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Sir Michael Wood

Friday, 9th February 2007
Lee Sheridan Room: 2:30pm-3:45pm
Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore
Eu Tong Sen Building
469G Bukit Timah Road
Singapore 259776

The speaker will examine Security Council action in relation to internal conflicts (such as Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Somalia, Darfur) as well as in relation to terrorism (Lockerbie, the Taliban and Al Qaida), and weapons of mass destruction. In doing so, he will examine the following questions: How broad are the powers of the UN Security Council in exercise of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security? Are there limits to the “threats to the peace” with which it can deal? May the Council override all other rules of international law (Article 103 of the Charter)? How far is it bound by the rule of law? Is the Council subject to judicial or other control?

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Sir Michael Wood, KCMG, is a Senior Fellow of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge, and a barrister at 20 Essex Street. He was Legal Adviser to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office between 1999 and 2006. After joining the FCO as an Assistant Legal Adviser in 1970, he was a member of the United Kingdom delegation to many international conferences, including most sessions of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the Lancaster House Conference on Rhodesia, the “Two-plus-Four” negotiations on German Unification, the Cambodia Peace Conference, and the Dayton and Rambouillet Conferences on the former Yugoslavia.

His postings included three years (1981-1984) at the British Embassy in Bonn, and three years (1991-1994) at the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations in New York, dealing chiefly with Security Council matters. He was Agent for the United Kingdom for a number of years before the European Commission and Court of Human Rights, and Agent in the *Lockerbie* and *Legality of Use of Force* cases before the International Court of Justice, as well as in the *MOX Plant* proceedings before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the *OSPAR* and *UNCLOS* arbitral tribunals.

Sir Michael is visiting Singapore under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Visitors' Programme.