

ANNUAIRE FRANÇAIS DE DROIT INTERNATIONAL. Vol. V, 1959. Paris, Centre, National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1960. pp. 1160 including index. 60 N.F.

Like its four predecessors, volume five (1959) of the *Annuaire Français de Droit International* is an impressive work in the field of international law. Compared with similar works on the subject, it may be noted that the encyclopaedic, seemingly unlimited size of the volume has undoubtedly enabled the Editorial Committee to present a detailed survey of current international events and to deal at an extensive length with the various legal problems thus raised

As in the previous years the work is presented in three large parts, études, chroniques and bibliographie, followed by the various indexes.

The études which may be conveniently described as studies or leading articles deal with current events in international law and politics. The articles, *La Conférence au sommet* by M. Virally, *Le cas de la Nigéria* by M. Fischer, *L'accord ayant pour objet l'indemnisation de la Compagnie de Suez nationalisée par l'Égypte* by M. Focsaneanu, and *La place des pactes de défense dans la société internationale actuelle* by M. Vignes are devoted to contemporary subjects of general interest while

the articles entitled *Le transit aérien les zones franches sur les aéroports et les aéroports francs* by M. Guinchard, and *De l'ordre juridique dans l'espace extra-aéronautique* by H. Mankiewicz have an additional justification in the desire for the regulation of activities presently pursued in the air belt around the earth and in outer space which have been brought about by the immense advance in technology in the past few years.

In his article on the summit conference, M. Michel Virally discusses the succession of events which led to the summit meeting in May 1960 and speculates in its merits and significance. He refers to the meeting of the Emperors in Paris in 1815, the Munich Conference in 1938, the previous conferences held in Teheran in 1943, in Yalta and Potsdam in 1945, and in Geneva in 1955, and suggests that they are the result of a natural process of evolution bringing about certain degree of international stability. He comments on the apparent decline in prestige of the Security Council and on the importance of summit meetings prompted by the desirability of personal contacts among leading statesmen but warns that whatever their desirability, summit meetings should be regarded as exceptional means of diplomacy being justified only by the widely recognised necessity of stopping the currently developing dangerous trend in international relations.

M. Georges Fischer discusses the question of Nigerian independence. He gives a thorough analysis of the political, constitutional, ethnical, economic and financial position of the country and offers an appraisal of the British colonial policy of gradual raising in status of its colonies and their education for self-government and finally for full independence. The article is very timely and instructive to the French readers as it makes them familiar with the British way of treatment of African nations at the time of the fast progressing emancipation of these nations from colonial rule.

M. Lazar Focsaneanu deals with the vexed problem of indemnity to be paid to the Suez Canal Company which has been nationalised by the Government of Egypt. He surveys the principal events from the day of nationalisation up to the conclusion of the permanent settlement, evaluates the significance and effect of the Egyptian nationalisation legislation, familiarises the reader with the legal structure of the Suez Canal Company and with the changes effected in it by the nationalisation law, comments on the view taken of the nationalisation by the contesting parties and gives an outline of the provisions of indemnity finally agreed upon. It is a deep analysis of facts, consequences and effects together with an evaluation of the legal and financial situation created by the nationalisation.

In his study on the agreements of mutual defence within the framework of the United Nations Charter, M. Daniel Vignes tackles one of the most important problems of the present time. He first examines the causes which gave rise to the creation of the various defence organisations, points to the weakness of the security system envisaged by the United Nations Charter and concludes that the uneasy atmosphere of the cold war was directly responsible for the existence of the numerous defence alliances. He then gives a detailed survey of the various defence systems all over the globe and proceeds with a systematic treatment of obligations of assistance undertaken by the participants. He further points to the need for co-operation both economic and military among participants and appraises the advance made in international law with respect to the interpretation of "*casus foederis*" which in addition to the many types of aggression had also to include psychological warfare, and the use of weapons of mass destruction.

M. Michel Guinchard calls attention to the usefulness of the establishment of free zones on international airports for passengers and goods in transit resulting in the reduction of formalities in international air travel.

M. R.H. Mankiewicz presents a comprehensive treatment of legal problems created by the exploration of outer space. He gives a survey both of the contemporary scientific achievements in outer space as well as of the literature on the subject, comments on the legal point of view taken by the powers in this matter and speculates on the various interests at stake and probable future developments. He makes use of the provisions of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation which he proposes would be a convenient starting point for the creation and formulation of rules and regulations applicable to activities carried on in outer space, advocates the establishment of an international organisation which would be entrusted with the regulation and control of these activities and discusses the numerous points on which agreement must be reached before the machinery for an effective control of these activities could be set up. The study is an up to date appraisal of the presently existing situation. While it reflects the general anxiety resulting from the unregulated and unrestrained use of outer space especially in view of the expected rapid scientific development, it underlines the desire of the entire humanity for an early stabilisation.

The chroniques are composed of sections dealing respectively with international decisions, matters affecting the United Nations and other international organisations, questions of interest in Europe, international problems with special reference to France, French decisions containing international elements, French practice in the application of international law, and chronological table of international events of legal importance.

The several sections of the chroniques are the gist of the *Annuaire*. They comprise valuable articles grouped in the relevant divisions according to their subject. All deal with current matters of exceptional interest to international lawyers. It is only natural that some of the topics discussed refer to problems of peculiar interest to the French reader yet by being included in the *Annuaire* they provide the international lawyer in the outside world with much sought after information on the treatment of these problems in France and on the French point of view. Consequently, the *Annuaire* is an indispensable source of information on the diverse aspects of international law and international relations affecting France. In this connection special mention may be made of the article by M. Jean Charpentier on the recognition of the provisional Government of Algeria, and of that by M. Maurice Flory on the position of Algeria in international law. Both give an excellent analysis of the problem in its manifold legal aspects. The *Annuaire* may thus be said to cater for the international lawyer irrespective of his nationality and the field of his specialisation.

The final part of the work entitled bibliographie carries numerous book reviews, a bibliography of works and articles published in French, a chronological table of international documents, and several interesting notes on current events. It is followed by a carefully prepared index both alphabetical and of the decisions cited.

The wide selection of subjects embracing the presently most discussed international topics and their detailed treatment make the work a formidable source of information which should be consulted by every international lawyer. Within a relatively short time, the *Annuaire* acquired a truly unique position in the literature of international law, establishing itself as one of the most important publications on the subject. It also proves that the French contribution to international law is as brilliant today as it has always been in the past (even though the names of many of the contributors point to their non-French origin).