

THE LAW OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, By D. W. Bowett. [London: Stevens & Sons 1963. xviii + 347 pp. incl. index. £2 15s. 0d.]

This is a good book and it is already on the list of recommended books for those taking Public International Law for the LL.B. in the University of Singapore. Dr. Bowett's avowed purpose is to provide "an introductory textbook....from which the law student might get an overall view of the field before turning to the numerous commentaries on particular organisations or to the monographs on special topics". In this he has admirably succeeded but he has also produced a book which is interesting and stimulating.

There are two chapters in this book which are particularly good. Chapter 3 (The United Nations) and Chapter 12 (The Impact of International Organisations on the Doctrine of Sovereign Equality of States). Dr. Bowett is outspoken — "the Assembly should never decline to fulfil its responsibility in taking up a matter simply because to do so would incur the displeasure of a particular State" (p. 23); generous with advice — "what is required is a proper balance between fulfilling the duties of the Assembly and, on the other hand, allowing the Assembly to become a forum in which one State may seek to embarrass another with which it has political differences" (p. 23); and prepared to speculate — "It may well be that, whenever the major political issues can be solved and the Security Council and Assembly assume a formal role, ECOSOC will come to the fore as the most active and useful organ of the UN", (p. 61). In discussing the impact of international organisations on the doctrine of sovereign equality of States Dr. Bowett is equally outspoken — "The assumptions that only States ought properly to be represented in the international sphere, that States should enjoy complete equality of vote, and that decisions required unanimity could, if carried to their logical conclusions, well-nigh stultify the promotion of common interests through the medium of international organisations", (p. 311). Dr. Bowett therefore goes on to show how the doctrine of sovereign equality has been evaded "by different techniques of membership, representation, voting and the like" (p.311).

Chapter 4 which discusses the Specialised Agencies is in a way the least satisfactory part of this book. This is due to the fact that Dr. Bowett has attempted an examination of all these agencies in about forty pages. Perhaps Dr. Bowett will claim exigencies of space but would it not be appropriate when one states that the par value of a currency cannot be changed by a member without consultation with the IMF (p. 95) to add that if a proposed change is less than 10% of the initial par value of the currency permission will always be given by the Fund.

In discussing the privileges and immunities of officials of international organisations Dr. Bowett observes that "the discrimination against their own nationals by

States is perhaps the largest problem in relation to the immunities and privileges of officials". The decision in *Zoernsch v. Waldock and Another* (*The Times*, March 25, 1964) will obviously be a welcome one.

Chapter 7 of this book includes a section on the regional organisations in Asia and the Far East. It is a pity that the Association of Southeast Asia (ASA) which is an association for economic and cultural cooperation among three Southeast Asian Countries (Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand) and which was formally launched with the Bangkok Declaration made on 31st July, 1961, does not even receive a footnote in this chapter. Those interested in ASA might look at Cmd. 13 of 1962 (Federation of Malaya).

There are some typographical errors and omissions but mostly of a minor nature. On p. 137 "regiona" should be "regional"; on p. 185 "premiss" should be "premise"; on p. 302 "prejudicial" should be "prejudiciel" and on p. 320 "eollective" should be "collective." The printer has also unwittingly added over a thousand years to the life of *The Times* (p. 184 footnote 6).

The reviewer would like to end as he started by saying this is a good book.

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