

MANUAL OF PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW, Edited by MAX SORENSEN.
[London, MacMillan & Co. Ltd., New York, St. Martin's Press,
1968. ixv + 930 pp.].

This is an unusual, if not a unique, book on international law. There are twelve different authors who have each written separate chapters¹ which, taken as a whole, are intended to display “objectively, from an international rather than a national point of view, the status and role of international law in the complex world of today” (p. viii). The project was sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and selected Max Sorensen to lead, as Editor, this special international writing team. The twelve contributors come from developed as well as from “developing” or “newly emerging nations” (Denmark, U.A.R., France, India, Japan, Poland, Uganda, United Kingdom, U.S.A., Uruguay and Yugoslavia) and include experienced and well-known authors as well as younger and newer but no less competent writers.

With this information and having been told, further that “no author was obliged to accept opinions which he did not share” one might have expected the book to abound with differences amongst the authors on certain fundamental concepts of international law or in their approaches to international law questions. But it is interesting to observe that this has not occurred; no real conflict between the authors can be discerned and, as the President of the Carnegie Endowment Mr. Joseph

1. The Chapters in the *Manual*, with names of authors in parentheses, are:- 1. The Function of Law in the International Community (*Clive Parry*); 2. The Legal Organisation of International Society (*Abdullah El Erian*); 3. The Sources of International Law (*Michael Virally*); 4. The Law of Treaties (*Clive Parry*); 5. Subjects of International Law (*Nkambo Mugerwa*); 6. The Authority of the State; Its Range with Respect to Persons and Places (*Milan Sahovic and William W. Bishop*); 7. Organs of State in Their External Relations: Immunities and Privileges of State Organs and the State (*Francis Deak*); 8. The Individual in International Law (*Shigeru Oda*); 9. International Responsibilities (*Eduardo Jimenez de Arechaga*); 10. Institutionalised International Cooperation in Economic, Social and Cultural Fields (*Max Sorensen*); 11. Settlement of Disputes (*B.S. Murty*); 12. Use of Force by States. Collective Security. Law of War and Neutrality (*K. Skubiszewski*).

E. Johnson states in his Preface, the *Manual* does therefore suggest that alleged "differences between various schools of thought as to the nature, content and functions of international law may not be as profound and unbridgeable as we are sometimes led to believe".

But the collaboration between intellectuals from different systems does bring out certain view points which are absent in the usual international law manuals. Thus we find Sahovic and Bishop, in discussing acquisition of territory, explicitly recognising the relevance of self-determination: "However, in contemporary conditions the right of self-determination of peoples deserves special attention in the process of territorial changes, since the application of all modes of acquisition or loss of title to territory should depend on the will of its people" (p. 324). This statement is interesting, first, because decision-makers as well as scholars have traditionally not paid sufficient attention to the importance of self-determination as a criterion for determining territorial claims. Secondly, the statement must particularly be of interest to Malaysia which finds in the self-determination concept an important argument to meet the Philippine Claim to Sabah.

But, in the main, the various authors of the *Manual* refrain from venturing to give their own views on the controversial or dubious areas of international law and, instead, have put in much effort to present to the reader the differing views, competing schools of thought or varying state practices.

Each chapter is a self-contained and substantial presentation of the subject. That the whole work has been ably edited is evidenced by the absence of overlapping and repetition amongst the various chapters. There are, however, several omissions in various chapters which are difficult to explain. For example: Clive Parry's excellent discussion on The Law of Treaties (Chapter 4) does not contain a discussion of the more recent controversial doctrine of *jus cogens* (peremptory norms of international law relating to invalidity of treaties; Shigeru Oda, in Chapter 8, presents an overall picture of the international protection of human rights but, regrettably, does not refer to the proposals made for a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; and B.S. Murty, in Chapter 11, when discussing the International Court of Justice and its Judges, does not mention the system of *ad hoc* judges provided for in Article 31 of the Statute of the Court. But these omissions are relatively minor and perhaps inevitable in a work of this nature.

Is the *Manual* useful as a reference work or as teaching material? The President of the Caregie Endowment, in his preface, hopes that it will be used both as a teaching tool as well as a reference work. This reviewer feels, however, that the *Manual* is not sufficiently detailed, exhaustive or widely encompassing in its treatment of the various topics as to commend itself as a reference work. But there is no doubt that it will be valuable for students and, in this connection, it should be noted that the paperback edition of the *Manual* is available for sale in developing countries at 17s. 6d.