

CRACKNELL'S LAW STUDENTS' COMPANION No. 9 — PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW. By F. G. JACOBS. [London: Butterworths. 1968. v + 175 pp. (including Index + Glossary) ].

One of the problems in teaching or studying public international law is that, while textbooks are plentiful, there is a paucity of publications setting out the texts of important documents. Yet documents (such as treaties and resolutions of the United Nations organs) are fast becoming indispensable for the study of contemporary expectations of the world community. As this book devotes most of its pages to the texts of important document, it does serve a useful function. There are, in addition, summaries of forty-nine international law cases, an index and also a glossary (which does not appear to be adapted for the international law student and thus of dubious value).

The documents set out include most of the important and relevant instruments. The reviewer has only two comments to make. First, the omission of the text of the *European Convention on Human Rights* is unfortunate and particularly regrettable when we note that Mr. Jacobs includes the 1965 Racial Discrimination Convention and the 1966 International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Inclusion of the European Convention would not only have made the collection of human rights instruments more complete, but would have been clearly appropriate since this treaty was in force years before the other human rights instruments were finalised and proved that human rights treaties are not necessarily always impractical.

Secondly, Mr. Jacobs has seen it fit to omit the 'final articles' from the texts of several of the multilateral treaties. (The omissions are clearly made known to the reader). The treaties involved are the four Conventions on the laws of the sea, the two Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and on Consular Relations, the 1965 Racial Discrimination Convention and the 1966 Human Rights Covenants. The disadvantages of such economy far outweigh any conceivable advantages. It would not have taken many more pages to have included these final articles and it is an error to minimise their importance for they concern such important questions as whether the treaty is subject to ratifications, the number of State Parties required for the treaty to come into force and questions relating to depositaries.

In the first twenty-two pages, Mr. Jacobs summarises forty-nine judicial decisions. Set out in alphabetical order and with no effort made to categories them according to subject matter, the summaries are too brief and, in view of the numerous casebooks available, this reviewer would suggest that for future editions these summaries can be left out thus making more room available for fuller presentation of the documents.

The book is nonetheless useful and will continue to be so until more carefully planned works appear presenting documents in international law in a more meaningful manner.