

INFORMATION AUS WISSENSCHAFT UND PRAXIS

The teaching of international law in the Law Faculty of the University of Angola

1. The Law Faculty of the University of Angola was opened in 1979, and is thus in its third academic year. The Faculty began only with first year students, of which there were about 200. Today, 1st, 2nd and 3rd year courses are running with a total of nearly 350 students.

The provisional curriculum for graduation is a four year course, followed by a one year compulsion practice period. Some subjects are of one semester duration and others of two semesters.

The overwhelming majority of the students are student-workers, who are released from their work at mid-day. A considerable number of students whose homes are far from Luanda follow the course by correspondence, but come to the Faculty for examinations.

For the opening of the Faculty we relied on foreign contracted teachers of various nationalities and some Angolan staff. This year the number of Angolan staff has grown significantly.

2. In the provisional course plan, International Law is a one semester subject given in the second year. So it was offered for the first time in 1980/81, the second time will be in the next semester of this academic year, beginning in April 1982.

The small amount of time reserved for this subject, together with the fact that the teacher giving it is not a full-time staff member (but combines teaching with a responsible post in the Ministry of Justice) explain to some extent the weak development of International Law last year.

We should point out that we have enormous difficulty due to lack of bibliography in the Faculty, and indeed in the country in general. The Faculty library is in its infancy. Only a few months ago we received some ILC yearbooks and odd copies of »Recueil des Cours de l'Academie de la Haye«.

3. In 1980/81 the following points were covered in the subject program: Concept of International Law; evolution of I.L.; nature and bases of I.L.; especially treaties; subjects of I.L.; international recognition; international organizations, especially UN and OAU; solving differences; international responsibility and international sanctions.

For current pragmatic reasons related to real necessities in our country emphasis was laid on the subject matter related to treaties and contracts.

As a basic text the Manual of I.L. of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, edited by Prof. Tunkin, was used, together with certain texts prepared by the course teacher.

The students also received essential I.L. documents, such as the UN and OAU charters, the Vienna Convention on Treaty Law, the 1970 Declaration on the principles of I.L.; the Declaration on the Granting of Independence, Definition of Aggression; Universal Declaration of Human Rights, main texts of the New International Economic Order, etc. It should be noted that the majority of these texts had to be translated during the course, as there were no Portuguese versions available.

4. For the next course, beginning in April 1982, we expect to considerably develop the reading material. Further points will be added to the program, such as: population and I.L.; territory and I.L.; diplomatic and consular relations and legal aspects of the New International Economic Order.

We will continue the translation and publication of other I.L. texts and are already working on a collection of I.L. cases.

We have also planned a number of seminars and lectures for the course, on such questions as Namibia, East Timor and the New International Economic Order.

5. With the experience gained in the next course we hope to collect ideas and experience that will allow us to alter and amend the teaching of I.L. in the future curriculum of the Faculty.

At the same time, and with the same object in view, we are extremely interested to start and maintain a permanent exchange with other law faculties especially in Africa. We are aware that with our first years of life we have little to offer, but we are sure that we will be able to learn many valuable lessons.

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