

Themen, zu deren anschaulicher Darstellung schließlich noch die im Anhang abgedruckten Statistiken, Übersichtskarten sowie Gesetzesauszüge beitragen..

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Leiden Journal of International Law

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Another Journal of International Law? Yes, but not just another one. The Faculty of Law at Leiden University had a good start with its first volume of the Leiden Journal of International Law (LJIL). Both its structure and its concept are as simple as they are unusual in Europe: A Board of Editors comprising professors of international law as well as Judge Manfred Lachs shares editorial work and experience with an Editorial Staff of students of international law at Leiden University. As twofold as the structure is the concept. A nucleus formed by Student Contributions is surrounded by Leading Articles of teachers and practitioners of international law, by information on Current Legal Developments and, last but not least, the Book Review section.

The Journal does not only want to be a legal forum made by students, but also a source for students. The information given about the Telders Moot Court Competition and the plan to grant a bi-annual Hugo Grotius Award for the best student contribution submitted will ensure its attractiveness among students in both respects within and outside of the Netherlands.

The first article covers the question of Liability of International Organizations by *Henry G. Schermers*. Like the other two articles, by *Costa R. Mahalu* on Human Rights and Development and by *Nico J. Schrijver* on the case of the UN Council for Namibia vs. Urenco, it deals with a currently disputed issue. The article by Mr. Schermers was not the "first attempt in legal literature" (p. 3) to examine the liability in international organizations from a theoretical point of view¹ as pointed out by the editors. Nevertheless, it is a new subject and of great practical relevance. The need to answer the questions involved became obvious in 1985 upon the insolvency of the International Tin Council. After a thorough introduction into the legal aspects of liability for damage the author gives a survey of the scope of liability in international law, of liability provisions in particular treaties of international law and ways of enforcement. He then clearly distinguishes between obligations of member states

1 cf. Gerhard Hoffmann, Der Durchgriff auf die Mitgliedstaaten internationaler Organisationen für deren Schulden, NJW 1988, 585 - 590.

towards creditors and towards the organization. Schermers concludes that only the latter finds a basis in general international law.² For a better understanding, Schermers embeds his investigation into a variety of close parallels to the liability of companies according to national law. The comparisons do facilitate the understanding of abstract thoughts, but they bear the danger to be misunderstood as a methodical device to deduce solutions for issues in international law directly from notions and concepts of domestic law, a danger the author is aware of.

There is no room here to review all of the articles. Both, the leading article and the student contributions are clearly written and thus easy to read, although they all deal with delicate issues and the latest developments. The didactical approach followed in the leading articles is designed to ensure a good understanding of complicated matters. It may be doubted, however, whether the didactical language used is suited to meet the interest of students of international law. Yet, the difference in the prices for students, individuals and institutions within the Netherlands, the EEC and overseas will certainly increase the popularity among students. Presently, the Journal is published in two issues annually, however plans are set for quarterly publication.

This - in the best and double sense of the word - young journal is on the right track. It should find followers.

Ulf Marzik

2 In contrast to Schermers, Hoffmann (Fn. 1, p. 588) concludes that a general rule of customary international law provides for subsidiary liability of the member states of international organizations towards the creditors.