FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to write this foreword to a newly revised edition of "The World Court: What It is and How It works" as my tribute to its author, Professor Shabtai Rosenne. Over half a century from the very day of inception of the International Court of Justice, Rosenne has untiringly dedicated much of his career to the study of the Court's work. His contributions in this respect have gained full recognition within the international legal community. Of all his writings on the Court, this book has become, to use the words of a former President of the Court, Judge Bedjaoui, "a classic in the literature of international law," along with his four volumes of the revised edition of "The Law and Procedure of the International Court of Justice, 1920-1996".

This sixth edition is completely revised by Professor Gill of Utrecht University at the request of Rosenne. The publication of this newly revised edition is indeed not only necessary but is also timely for at least two reasons:

First, since the publication of the fifth edition in 1995, the Court has delivered quite a large number of Judgments and other decisions, in which some of its statements and rulings deserve the attention of States Members of the United Nations and the international legal community at large. Thus, for example, in its Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, the Court states: "There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control" (I.C.J. Reports 1996, p. 267). Again, in the LaGrand case, for the first time in its history the Court ruled in explicit terms that the provisional measures indicated by the Court are binding upon the litigant Parties.

Second, in view of the increasingly heavy caseload of the Court, and in order to cope with this new situation, the Court is in the process of revising a number of its Rules and is seeking to adopt a certain degree of flexibility in applying its internal judicial practice. The results of some of its efforts to improve efficiency in its judicial work are reflected in the latest amendments to its Rules and in its Practice directions, which are occasionally published by the Court.

I am glad that, in preparing this sixth edition of Rosenne's book, Professor Gill has carefully taken into account all these new developments in the work of the Court. The present edition of this book, like its previous editions, is designed for the consumption of "the politician, the diplomat, the Member of Parliament, the student of international law and international relations, and the enquiring members of the public at large." I sincerely hope that this new edition will contribute further to the dissemination of the Court's functions and operations and to the ideals of the rule of law and justice pursued by the International Court of Justice, as reflected in its Judgments, Advisory Opinions and other decisions.

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