The Tide Flows On
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More than a decade after the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (LOS Convention) by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III) on 10 December 1982 in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the flow of books, articles, theses, and other writings in marine affairs continues nearly at its peak level. Although the LOS Convention will not enter into force until 16 November 1994, it has already profoundly influenced State behavior with regard to the sea. In addition, the Law of the Sea continues to develop through State practice outside (though not in opposition to) the Convention regime. And even now, leading actors in marine affairs are working under the auspices of the United Nations to find some formula for resolving their very real and intense differences over the provisions of Part 11 of the Convention, which establishes a historic, daring regime for governing mining of the seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. All of this activity has confirmed the predictions of myself and other writers in the mid-1970s, that the LOS Convention and related matters would keep lawyers, geographers, and others busy for decades. Each new book and most new articles provide more ideas and material for still more publications, generating a rich and diverse literature that can help us better understand the problems and the potentials of our uses of the sea. The books reviewed here illustrate this richness and diversity.

GENERAL REFERENCE WORKS

the texts of papers read in panels on various subthemes, each concluding with formal commentaries on the papers and discussions involving the audience, and, interspersed among the panels, speeches by distinguished guests.

In the 1990s volume, the panels covered these topics: the concept of international cooperation in the Law of the Sea, international navigation, living resources, deep seabed mining, reevaluation of the functions of the sea based on new knowledge of the sea, and international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. Presenters included such well-known people as Frances Lai, Casey Jarman, Douglas Johnston, Ivan Shearer, Jan Magne Markussen, John P. Craven, and Francisco Orrego Vicuña, as well as many relative newcomers to international conferences on marine affairs. The major speeches were given by Mochtar Kusuma-Atmadja, Shigeru Oda, Renate Platzöder, Anatoly Kolodkin, and José Luis Jesus, all of whom need no introduction to anyone familiar with the literature. Although the participants came from 28 countries, the great majority were from Japan and other Asian and Pacific countries—not surprising, since the conference was held in Tokyo. The marine environment conference panels covered the marine environment and sustainable development, sustainable development and nonliving resources, hazardous cargoes at sea, flag state and port state policies, an evaluation of the regional seas approach, and future marine education and training. The best-known presenters were Richard Bilder, Mochtar Kusuma-Atmadja, Robin Churchill, Lee Kimball, Alfred H. A. Soons, Patricia Birnie, Thomas Mensah, Douglas Johnston, Barbara Kwiatkowska, John P. Craven, and Dale Krause. Formal addresses were given by William L. Schachte, Jr., Renate Platzöder, Yakov Ostrovsky, and Lewis Alexander. The usual international cast of participants this time was predominantly from North America and Europe, again no surprise, since the conference was held in Malmö, Sweden. This is the home of the World Maritime University (WMU),¹ cosponsor of the conference, and WMU’s classes of 1990 and 1991, with graduates from all around the developing world, attended en masse.

By now the entire corpus of materials issued by LOSI has achieved considerable stature and is widely used around the world. In fact, my “formal” education in marine affairs began with attendance at its annual conferences in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The LOSI publications are highly recommended to specialists and novices alike.

Very different is International Organizations and the Law of the Sea: Documentary Yearbook, vol. 6 (London: Graham and Trotman/Martinus Nijhoff, 1992, ISBN 0-7923-1600-2, ISSN 0920-7767, xii + 744 pp., $236.00). This splendid research tool is issued by the Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS) and is commonly known as the NILOS Yearbook. It contains

1. Editors’ Note.—For a report on the WMU, see “The Role of the World Maritime University” in Appendix A of this volume.