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COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
AND INSTITUTIONS REGARDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE THE  
TEACHING, STUDY, DISSEMINATION AND WIDER APPRECIATION OF  
INTERNATIONAL LAW

Addendum



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CYPRUS

/Original: English/

20 September 1963

1. Besides the replies to the Secretary-General's questionnaire, which are annexed hereto, and in relation to them, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus wishes to make the following general observations:
  2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus feels that international law is so vital to the very existence and effectiveness, of the World Organization and the advancement of its aims, that its promotion has rightly been made the subject of particular attention by the General Assembly.
  3. If an effective world legal order, based on justice, is to be established and maintained, then all Member States should make their contribution, which should be in earnest and continuous, for the elaboration and development of international law.
  4. At the moment, the Republic's contribution cannot be great, in view of the lack of means, enough trained specialized personnel and library facilities.
- It is, therefore, realized that effective and serious work cannot be done:

(a) Unless there is specialization in international law of a number of Government officers (at this stage) carefully selected. There is no doubt that these officers cannot be trained in Cyprus, but they have to be sent to well-known university centres like Paris, London, the Hague, etc., for the purpose. With the emergence of Cyprus as a State and with its growing participation in international life, the need has arisen for a body of experts in international law and affairs, upon whom the Government may rely for expert guidance and advice. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has no doubt whatsoever about this need, if the Republic of Cyprus is to play a serious role in the world of today; and

(b) Unless there exists in Cyprus a good library on international law affairs, comprising all the major works in the field and subscribing to the main international law periodical publications. This second requirement is no less important than the first. It is in this respect that Cyprus wishes to obtain immediate assistance. The Ministry of Foreign

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Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus wishes to emphasize the Republic's need of books and other publications and it is of the opinion that an official programme of requests, through the United Nations, should be established, towards both the United Nations directly and towards other organizations of international standing, for the supply of all or most of the available main publications. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus believes that it is round the nucleus of a good library that Cyprus and other developing countries can hope to concentrate specialized personnel; and

(c) Unless there is understanding of the problem and its requirements by the Governments of developing countries and willingness to advance its speedy solution.

5. On the international level much can be done by the organization of seminars on international law, particularly for developing countries, like the one held last June to July at the Hague, by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation.

6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus suggests that such seminars could well be organized to take place in Cyprus, for the reasons explained in the attached answers to the relevant questionnaire of the United Nations; but it is imperative that some parallel provision should be made for the creation of conditions mentioned in 5 (a) and (b) above.

7. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus believes that a suggestion which the United Nations may well consider, is to create, under its auspices, a permanent centre for the study of international law, with special reference to the law of the United Nations, which could be attended by specialized scholars from all over the world. It would be a kind of a world university on a specialized subject, and such an institution would, the Ministry maintains, contribute much to the creation of an effective international legal order based on justice.

8. Finally, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus wishes to emphasize its suggestion, made also in the particular answer to the relevant questionnaire, of working for the acceptance by all States of the optional clause for the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

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ANNEX

REPLIES TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Answer: (1) (i) (a) - Owing to the fact that we are a newly independent country and with very limited resources not having a university, there does not exist, for the time being, any programme of training and dissemination of international law in our country, except for the programme of the Office for Cultural Development which provides, inter alia, for the invitation to Cyprus of lecturers on international law, with a view to give public lectures on specified subjects and hold lecture seminars, which are, however, very rare.

(b) - Some articles on international law appear every now and then in various publications and newspapers, written by Cypriot lawyers and international law fellows.

(ii) (a) - From 4 June to 13 July 1963, Cyprus participated through the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Dag Hammarskjöld Seminar on International Law at The Hague Academy of International Law. The contribution of the Cyprus participant and of the other participants and lecturers will be circulated to those interested in Cyprus, both in the Government and other circles.

(b) - The Cyprus Government's opinion is that seminars of this kind should continue, because they help the training in and dissemination of international law, particularly in newly independent countries, and they assist these countries in contributing to the development of international law, a principle accepted and encouraged by the United Nations. Such seminars are closely connected with the emergence of many new States, which could and should be afforded the opportunity of making their contribution in the international law-making processes.

(iii) (a) - There should be established in Cyprus a body or association of lawyers and other fellows interested in international law, with a view to disseminating and developing international law, through lectures, meetings, articles and other publications on international law in Cyprus.

(b) - This body or association may more specifically take and promote the initiative of grants and exchanges of teachers, students and fellows, and exchanges of publications in the field of international law.

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Answer: (2) (i) - Our Government is interested, in view of the above, to obtain assistance from abroad or arrange exchanges with countries, in order to promote the execution of the programmes envisaged in the proposal contained in (1) (iii) (a) and (b) above.

(ii) - As we have stated in the reply to question No. (1), there are at present no facilities available in our country.

(iii) - In particular our Government is interested in assistance at this stage, in regard to activities in the field of international law such as:

- (a) provision and training of teachers;
- (b) lectures;
- (c) seminars;
- (d) grants and fellowships for study and research abroad;
- (e) training and refresher courses;
- (f) obtaining books and publications (this should be emphasized).

Answer: (3) (i) - It should be already clear from what has been stated in Answers (1) and (2) above, that our Government will not be, in the immediate future, in a position to give effective assistance to other countries in the execution of their programmes of training in and dissemination of international law.

(ii) - One possible way of offering assistance, however, in these programmes on multilateral basis, undertaken by the United Nations or other international bodies or foundations, is for these programmes, particularly international law seminars, to be held in Cyprus, especially in cases where these seminars are held for the benefit of the Afro-Asian newly-independent countries.

(a) - Cyprus offers an ideal place for such seminars, since it lies in the cross-road between Afro-Asia and Europe from where lecturers and instructors will primarily, for the time being, be supplied. Cyprus can also provide ample and satisfactory accommodation for the participants and for the holding of meetings and, provided that our international law library in Nicosia is enriched through some assistance, it will offer an ideal place for such seminars;

(b) - Cyprus' non-aligned policy offers a neutral area for such impartial seminars;

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(c) - On the other hand Cypriot jurists, who are of a considerable number, though not yet organized in the form of a body or association for the purposes of promoting international law, will be able to give lectures on international law, e.g., our Attorney-General, a well-known jurist, may be invited for this purpose.

Answer: (4) - The answer to this question can be drawn from what has already been stated in the above replies.

Answer: (5) (i) - The United Nations, UNESCO and other related agencies may organize programmes of the kind undertaken by the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation mentioned in (1) (ii) (a) above and may also undertake the publication of writings, and studies on international law which are of current interest to the international community in general and the newly independent countries in particular, i.e., especially on those subjects which appear to be as yet unsettled and controversial.

(ii) - In organizing these programmes care should be taken so that there is no duplication or overlapping of efforts towards this effect, having in mind that some institutions or foundations are already working in some way on these subjects. In short, the United Nations, UNESCO and other related agencies should try in these programmes to fill the gaps which exist at present in such programmes, either in quality or quantity.

(iii) - Such programmes may be financed partly through the already existing funds of the United Nations and/or these agencies and partly through the proportionate contribution of States. Additional contributions may be arranged to be given by some foundations interested in the subject, such as the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment.

Answer: (6) (i) - The Cyprus Government supports the idea of the proclamation by the General Assembly of the United Nations of a United Nations Decade of International Law.

(ii) - Apart from the training programmes in international law, the said Decade could have practical effects, if the United Nations sets, as some of its relevant targets:

(a) The ratification and/or accession by the Member States to all the treaties already concluded under the auspices of the United Nations;

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- (b) The conclusion, e.g. of the two Covenants on Human Rights and the finalization of the Law of Treaties and other multilateral agreements, the revision and/or accession by all States to the optional clause of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, etc.;
- (c) The progressive codification of international law, might prove a dynamic target of this Decade;
- (d) The evolution of international law by means of a dynamic approach in interpreting it will immensely contribute towards its development.

IRELAND

/Original: English/

24 September 1963

The Government of Ireland believe that Resolution 1816 (XVII) adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 1962, is a constructive step towards the achievement of friendly relations and co-operation among States and they await with anticipation the report of the Secretary-General which the Resolution requests.

In reply to the specific questions raised in the letter of the Secretary-General of 20 March 1963, the Government wish to reply as follows:

(1) Courses in training in International Law are available in the Constituent Colleges of the National University of Ireland and in Dublin University. International Law is a subject for the degree of B.C.L. in the National University and the degree of Legal Science in Dublin University. Courses of study for Higher Degrees in International Law are also available. International law is also a subject in the course at the Kings Inns for the qualification of Barrister-at-Law. No established programme exists in Ireland for seminars, grants, exchanges of students, etc. in the field of international law only. Students and graduates in law from other countries come to Ireland for training in specific fields of law, e.g., Draftsmanship and technical legal assistance has been given to developing countries by lending qualified personnel. Furthermore the law has recently co-operated with the United Nations in its scheme for fellowships in human rights. It would appear doubtful if such arrangements could be extended to cover training in international law.

The legal journals which are published in Ireland carry from time to time articles on aspects of international law and are circulated to appropriate bodies outside the country. There is, however, no journal of international law as such. At present Ireland in common with other

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Council of Europe countries is studying the question of the publication of digests of national State practice in the field of public international law.

The Committee on Irish and Comparative law meets at regular intervals to read papers and hear views on problems of comparative law.

(2) The Government of Ireland are anxious to co-operate fully in promoting the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. As has been pointed out an exchange of legal personnel between Ireland and other countries already takes place although not strictly in the field of international law. A survey will be carried out to see in what way the existing system might be extended to cover this field but it is not anticipated that the results will be encouraging since there is no practical method of training for international law in Ireland such as exists for example in other fields, e.g., training in a solicitor's office, in the Office of the Attorney-General or of the Parliamentary Draftsman. Owing to the small numbers engaged in Ireland in teaching international law, an exchange of teachers may prove difficult but the Government would be prepared to consider the holding of seminars on this subject in Ireland.

(3) The programmes of assistance already in operation in Ireland do not, as already emphasized, cover the field of international law as such. However as indicated in the preceding paragraph a survey of the position will be executed to see if the existing assistance programmes can be extended. The Government consider that the report of the Secretary-General in response to Resolution 1816 (XVII) should be of great assistance to Governments in clarifying how best the problem can be approached.

(4) There are at present no non-governmental sources of assistance in Ireland for this project.

(5) The Government of Ireland consider that the development of programmes of training in and dissemination of international law should come within the ordinary programmes of technical assistance of the United Nations. Technical assistance already covers a wide field. There are programmes for advice in aspects as varied as energy transport and statistics and training of

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economists. It seems appropriate that the technical assistance programmes should be extended to cover training and studies in international law. Enquiries such as those about to be undertaken by the Director General of UNESCO in connexion with the proposed publication dealing with the teaching of international law should prove an invaluable help in assessing individual countries' needs in the matter. Enquiries should also be pursued in the various countries as to library facilities; in this connexion official United Nations publications dealing with international law might be made freely available to universities and other institutions where international law is taught. The Government of Ireland consider that in the United Nations itself training facilities in international law might be made available for a limited number of students or graduates. These facilities might take the nature of scholarships which would enable the recipients to work for a limited time on the legal side within the Secretariat and at the same time attend such lectures on the subject as may be made available.

In so far as concerns the well-established existing institutions such as The Hague Academy of International Law, the Government think that they should play an essential role in implementing the ideas behind Resolution 1816 (XVII). The experience of such institutions should be a great asset and the programmes would probably be best implemented by a full utilization of the facilities which such institutions already provide and a consideration of how existing facilities might be expanded. Such an expansion would appear to be preferable to the creation of new institutions which would entail heavy expenditure.

The Government have considered with interest the stimulating proposal for a Decade of International Law. In the absence of more precise details they cannot comment fully on this proposal. They would, however, have some doubts as to the precise value to international law of the proposal and as to the appropriateness of the suggested period. The period of ten years would appear to be at once perhaps too extensive and yet not extensive enough. It is possible to envisage a successful intensive effort over a period of say two to three years in which great emphasis might be laid on the importance of international law and of its development to the community. Some of the impetus gained in such a period would, however, inevitably

be lost if the effort is called for over a period as long as ten years. On the other hand if a steady rate of progress is achieved there is no reason why it should not be extended to a period longer than ten years.

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