

sentence and statement. It may have been written for students but it is a guide at any stage of any lawyer's or academic's life. There are cross-references, English peculiarities, international comparisons, criticism of the views of renowned colleagues, all well-explained, sharp and to the point. This author always looks at all angles of a case, introduces the reader to various other writers, carefully guides, and still allows space for one's own thoughts.

A joy to read.

*Dagmar Reimann*, Tong Norton, England

*Eric P.J. Myjer* (ed.)

**Issues of Arms Control and The Chemical Weapons Convention**

Nova et Vetera Iuris Gentium

Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Dordrecht, 2001, 202 pp., € 72.00

This volume is the result of a seminar held July 2, 1997 at Utrecht University where a learned audience of academics, diplomats and (int.) civil servants, all experts in either general international or in the work of the Organization for the prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), debated two subjects.

The morning session dealt with the obligations *inter se* of the signatories of the Chemical Weapons Convention, an international law topic which has specific relevance for arms control treaties given the security interests of State Parties to these treaties in maintaining a minimal/minimum status quo between all signatories. In this respect the case of the Chemical Weapons Convention was illustrated because in May 1997 at the first conference 165 states had ratified it, Russia being among those who had only signed it while being one of the two principal possessors of chemical weapons. When this book was published in September 2000, though, 174 states had signed. Certainly this issue is highly relevant for other arms control treaties like the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) which in September of 2000 was not yet in force.

The afternoon session was devoted to the institutional aspects of the OPCW and its supervisory functions. Since this newly established international organization is the first completely devoted to supervision of arms control commitments the topic is of major relevance for the law of international organizations in general.

Following a quick introduction of the contributors to the volume Utrecht University's *Erik P.J. Myjer* – in the first chapter – introduces the core subject "The Law of Arms Control, Military Security and the Issues". He begins with the question if indeed there is such a separate area within international law that deserves to be distinguished as arms control law and how it relates to other areas with regards to arms, force and its application, namely the

law of collective security and humanitarian law of armed conflict. Naturally in this book the starting point is the position that arms control law as a separate area of international law indeed exists and that the Chemical Weapons convention is a treaty belonging to it. When the setting is evident the author explains the concept of military security and the ban of the use of force, the law of military security and the relationship between the law of arms control, the law of collective security and the humanitarian law of armed conflict.

The second chapter by *Jan Klabbers* from Finland is called “Strange Bedfellows: The Interim Obligation and the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention”. He outlines the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and discusses Art. 18 of the Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties, identifies the object and purpose of the CWC and describes the conditions under which acts can be said to actually defeat the object and purpose of a treaty pending ratification or entry into force and adds a brief word on the principle of estoppel.

In their comments the Dutch *E.W. Vierdag*, *Thilo Marauhn* from Heidelberg and *Jerzy Sztucki* from Uppsala call the speech ‘lucid and learned’ and list their agreements and disagreements offering a broad scope of interesting though so each reader can then draw his own conclusions based on a list of pros and cons. This is followed by a short summary of the most important issues by *Tim Sneek* from The Hague.

The third chapter about “The Organization for a Prohibition of Chemical Weapons: Closer Towards an International Arms Control Organization? A Quantum Leap in the Institutional Law of Arms Control” is by *Eric Myjer* again. After showing the historical development of the control of chemical weapons he describes first the CWC and then the OPCW in general. Extensively he deals with the supervisory functions of both OPCW and CWC and in his concluding remarks stresses the relevance of initial organizational practice. Here critical comments are by *Dieter Fleck* from Bonn, *Johan Rautenbach* from The Hague and *Thilo Marauhn*; again *Tim Sneek* provides the summary of discussion.

At the end of the book we find the text of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, in the version of August 8, 1994, which is a very helpful addition as one can simply turn back and check the relevant articles while reading the essays and comments.

There is an occasional problem with the English language, some parts of the work do not seem fluent or idiomatic, but this does not distract much from the well-presented content and bright yet controversial thoughts. The volume is an interesting and challenging read, and a valuable source of information for diplomats, academics and practitioners. Yet one wonders whether Dr. Fleck’s statement that it would take approximately 10 years to make a change in this area of international law was realistic when written as it appears much too positive in 2002. Still, this is a comprehensive analysis highlighting various aspects that are of major importance in evaluating the contribution of this particular convention to the institutional law of arms control.

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