

BOOK REVIEWS

The Inter-American Security System and the Cuban Crisis. Editor: Lyman M. Tondel, Jr. Published for The Association of the Bar of the City of New York by Oceana Publications, Inc. 1964. Pp. XI, 96. (\$3.95, hard cover; \$1.75, soft cover.)

Disarmament. Editor: Lyman M. Tondel, Jr. Published for The Association of the Bar of the City of New York by Oceana Publications, Inc. 1964. Pp. XII, 98. (\$3.95, hard cover; \$1.75, soft cover.)

In 1960-61, The Association of the Bar of the City of New York began exploring possibilities of fostering studies on the role of law in the settlement of international disputes. It was decided that this could best be done by a series of forums dealing with international problems of first magnitude. The series was appropriately entitled "The Hammarskjöld Forums" in honour of the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, an honorary member of the Association, who died while on a mission of peace during the final stages of planning for the series.

The first of these forums, held in 1962, dealt with the Berlin-German crisis, the second with United Nations action in the Congo; the two volumes under review formed the subject matter of the third and fourth forums. Each volume begins with a working paper prepared by an outstanding legal scholar. The paper on the Cuban crisis was prepared by Professor Covey Oliver of the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania; that on disarmament, by Louis Henkin, Professor of International Law and Diplomacy and Professor of Law at Columbia University. Each paper is followed by a condensation of the discussion at the forum, a chronological outline of events and an excellent bibliography.

Professor Oliver's paper traces the history of the United States' relations with Latin America from the Latin American revolutions in the early 19th century until the Cuban crisis in 1962. He deals briefly with United States interventionist policies of the early 20th century, which still bedevil United States-Latin American relations, and their supersession by the "good neighbour" policy, and then proceeds to examine the various international agreements culminating with the Organization of American States that constitute the inter-American security system. Then follows a lucid account of the powers of the O.A.S. and its organs and its relation to the security provisions of the United Nations

Charter. This discussion forms the background for his treatment of the Cuban dispute, which is all the more interesting because it was written at the height of the crisis in October, 1962.

Professor Henkin reviews the American and Soviet policy considerations resulting in the "seventeen years of failure" of the disarmament negotiations (the forum took place on April 29, 1963, some three months before the nuclear test ban treaty was signed), and explains why only modest steps — a test ban, reductions in existing weapons, agreements to slow the arms race and to curtail the spread of nuclear weapons, to disarm outer space — are to be expected. He also studies the implications of disarmament in the world order as well as on the domestic law of the United States.

The volumes are ideally suited to the needs of the busy lawyer seeking a brief, clear exposition of their subject matters, but their usefulness is not limited to this; the serious student of international law will profit from the exchange of views by the first-rank legal scholars and practitioners of international law who have prepared the papers and participated in the forums. The chronological tables of events are a useful aid to memory, and the bibliographies provide a convenient tool for further research. The Association of the Bar of the City of New York is to be congratulated on this interesting venture in promoting an understanding of the role of law in international relations. The experience recorded in these volumes clearly reveals that, while major international disputes cannot in practice be settled exclusively by legal means under the present international order, still, as Professor Oliver puts it, law is "an important variable in the power process, and if used intelligently by a master, can achieve sound and desirable foreign policy results."

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