

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEGAL INFORMATION

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

IJLI Vol. 13

February-April 1985

Nos. 1-2

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Walter de Gruyter Berlin · New York

New Publication

International Law

The Essential Treaties
and Other Relevant Documents

Edited by

Ingo von Münch and Andreas Buske

1985. 23 x 15,5 cm. XX, 702 pages. Cloth. DM 178,-

The book contains a collection of the most important treaties in international law with an introduction by the editors.

A variety of factors suggests that public international law is constantly gaining in importance. The prime cause is that the number of subjects of international law is considerably higher than previously. For example, the number of states – the most important subjects of international law – quadrupled within the past seventy years. In 1913, the record listed 43 states. In 1939, the League of Nations listed 63 member states while Brazil, Germany and Italy had left the League and the Soviet Union had been excluded. In December 1984, the United Nations Organization had 159 member states.

The process of decolonization has not yet finished. As a result, it is quite possible that, eventually, the world will have a total of more than 200 states. The increasing number of states causes both the number of parties to multilateral treaties and the number of bilateral treaties to multiply.

Three forms of law – public international law, constitutional law or a law sui generis – may govern the relations of a federal state with its member states and the relations of member states among each other. Public international law does not prescribe a specific form. Apart from a general rule, a federal state is free to determine the nature of these relations. Thus, a federal constitution may grant permission to the member states to conclude treaties with foreign states. Such treaties will be treaties of public international law provided that (1) the foreign state recognizes the "member state" as a subject of international law for the purposes of the treaty; and (2) the treaty concerns state acts.

Contents (Main Chapters):

General International Law. – Diplomatic and Consular Law. – Law of the Sea. – Air and Space Law. – International Legal Protection of Human Rights. – International Environmental Law. – International Law of Peace Security.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEGAL INFORMATION

Editor-in-Chief:

IVAN SIPKOV

Law Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. U.S.A.

EDITORIAL POLICY:

The International Journal of Legal Information invites for publication the submission of manuscripts for articles, bibliographies, notes, book reviews, and documents concerning the law and law-related information.

The views expressed in the articles, editorial comments, book reviews and other contributions which appear in IJLI are the responsibility of the individual authors/contributors and do not imply the endorsement of the Editorial Board.

MANUSCRIPT INFORMATION:

All materials intended for inclusion in any of the sections of the IJLI should be sent directly to the Editorial Office.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

Subscription rates are included in the IALL MEMBERSHIP.

Rates per subscription—individuals \$40.00 (U.S.) per year
institutions \$60.00 (U.S.) per year

Single copies: \$15.00 (U.S.)

Checks should be made payable to the IALL and sent to the Business Address of the Association.

Subscriptions, change of address notices, single copy requests, claims, and advertisements should be addressed to the Business Address of the Association.

Editorial Office:
4917 Butterworth Pl., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016 U.S.A.

Business Address:
P. O. Box 5709
Washington, D.C. 20016-1309 U.S.A.

Issued February/April, June/August, and October/December.

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Library of Congress No. 78-81409, ISSN 0731-1265. Printed in the United States.

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