

particular reference to the concepts of recognition, acquiescence and estoppel, and the applicability to Antarctica of the concept of the common heritage of mankind. In the final chapter conclusions are drawn in relation to various possible competing claims to sovereignty and to the right to exploit natural resources. Throughout the work particular issues are skilfully related to a clear exposition of legal principles. There is extensive citation of legal authorities and very detailed treatment of State practice.

Antarctica constitutes a particular challenge to international law and international lawyers. As exploration and research increasingly reveal the potential natural resources of the continent and its adjacent continental shelf and maritime zones, and in the light of the possibility of a review of the operation of the Antarctic Treaty, it has become particularly important that international law should keep abreast of technical and scientific developments and the needs of the international community, and ensure that it is able to provide a secure structure for the further development of an Antarctic régime. This scholarly work, which is of much wider importance than its title might suggest, makes an outstanding contribution to the study of Antarctica and is likely to lead to a better understanding of the role of international law in this context. It is essential reading for all persons charged with responsibility for the future of Antarctica. (David Lloyd Jones, Downing College, Cambridge.)

ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM: THE BEARDMORE DISCUSSIONS

ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM: AN ASSESSMENT: PROCEEDINGS OF A WORKSHOP HELD AT BEARDMORE SOUTH FIELD CAMP, ANTARCTICA, JANUARY 7–13 1985. US Polar Research Board, National Research Council (editor). 1986. Washington, DC, National Academy Press. 435p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0–309–03640–2. US\$22.50 in US, Canada and Mexico, US\$27.00 export.

The 1980s have demonstrated an increased tendency by governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to interpret Antarctica as a problem, perhaps even as a crisis point. This trend has encouraged a succession of Antarctic conferences and seminars in different parts of the world, including Canberra, Kiel, London, New Delhi, Rhode Island and Wellington. The reader interested in Antarctica has been confronted with a rapid succession of proceedings volumes, and the appearance of yet another one prompted a somewhat lukewarm response. All tend to show variable levels of editorial control, an uneven quality of individual contributions, and the repetitive use of certain individuals who have only so much to contribute.

Nevertheless I welcome this particular volume as a valuable addition to Antarctic literature, for it provides a range of informed and relatively well-balanced insights into the operations of the Antarctic Treaty System at an appropriate time: the celebration of the treaty system's 25 years of existence, when the international community is debating the future management of Antarctica. The book originated from a workshop organized by the US Polar Research Board, held in January 1985 on the Bowden Ice Névé in the Transantarctic Mountains. This recalls the 1982 symposium held at a Chilean Antarctic base, papers from which were published in *Antarctic Resources Policy* (1983) edited by Francisco Orrego Vicuña).

Like the workshop itself, the book is organized around five main themes: introduction, history and overview; legal and political background; Antarctic science; resource and environmental questions; the Antarctic Treaty System and institutional aspects. In a brief review it is impossible to be too specific about the uneven nature of the 20 or so papers. The names of many of the contributors, for example Christopher Beeby, John Heap, R.

Tucker Scully and John Gulland, will be familiar to readers of *Polar Record*, who will welcome attempts to provide global perspectives on the Antarctic scene, including those of Consultative Parties, non-Consultative Parties, new Treaty powers and outsiders. Perhaps the most interesting contributions emerge as part of the seven panel/floor discussions reprinted on various themes, as evidenced by the supportive and critical viewpoints revealed during the session on the Antarctic Treaty System (pp 413–35).

The general effect is to provide a relatively full, informed and supportive view of the Antarctic Treaty System, although Zain Azraai, the Malaysian representative at the UN, offered a critical and alternative viewpoint (pp 305–13, 433–35). Other speakers identified various weakness in the system, such as in the issue of environmental protection, and one would have liked more effective inputs from both non-Treaty governments and informed academics. From this point of view the workshop and the book might be dismissed as part of the public relations effort, now being conducted by the Treaty powers, to establish that the Antarctic Treaty System is working well and that Antarctica is neither a problem nor a candidate for UN action.

But this book is far more than a mere public relations exercise. It illustrates key aspects of the Antarctic scene today, and enhances the quality of current international dialogue on the future of Antarctica; discussion chapters display evidence of genuine debate, in contrasting to post-1983 UN discussions which tended only to state opinions. This dialogue will no doubt produce further compilation volumes, punctuated occasionally, one hopes, by single-author books offering more comprehensive, balanced and even syntheses. There is a reasonable number of illustrations and diagrams, especially for the scientific chapters; in so long a book the absence of an index is a matter of regret. (Peter J. Beck, School of Arts and Languages, Kingston Polytechnic, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 2EE.)

ANTARCTIC POLITICS AND RESOURCES

ANTARCTIC POLITICS AND MARINE RESOURCES: CRITICAL CHOICES FOR THE 1980s. Alexander, L. M. and Hanson, L. C. 1984. Kingston, Rhode Island, Center for Ocean Management Studies, University of Rhode Island. ISBN 0-932413-07-2, 263p, hard cover.

This is the proceedings of the eighth annual conference of the Center for Ocean Management, held 17–20 June 1984. It presents good analyses of a difficult series of problems at a time when these are becoming increasingly important. The work is divided into five sections, considering the Antarctic Treaty system, Antarctic science policy, marine living resources, the Antarctic minerals regime, and the future of the Antarctic Treaty system. Each section is followed by a report of subsequent discussion. The assessment of the Treaty is in the form of a debate between a supporter and one critical of it. The Antarctic science policy described is virtually that of the United States alone; although comprehensive, it could have benefitted by a discussion of some of the problems other countries have in this matter. The two sections on Antarctic resources emphasize the importance of obtaining sufficient scientific knowledge of Antarctica to be able to manage commercial exploitation efficiently; biological conservation, effects on the physical environment, and assesment of maximum sustainable yields are discussed as well as associated political problems. The possible future of the Treaty is considered by the Australian and Malaysian delegates to the United Nations and by a representative of a private conservation organization; their views show interesting contrasts. In general the book is a useful and timely assessment of Antarctic resources, their investigation, exploitation, and some of the associated politics. Unfortunately the high level of the