
AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL LAW NEWS

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EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of Australian International Law News. The primary role of this publication is the establishment of better communication with and an information service for ILA members. The Australian International Law News is not intended to be a learned journal or a digest of international law. The Australian Year Book of International Law, for example, provides that type of service. (See the note below in "From the Journals"). But busy practitioners, impecunious students and even law teachers cannot possibly hope to absorb all of the material available on international law, and many members may have difficulty obtaining access to more esoteric sources. We hope to be of some assistance in overcoming this problem.

This publication is above all meant to be a co-operative and low-cost effort. Your contributions will be most welcome. You may send them to:

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We have adopted the following format:-

Editorial Comment

ILA News: (This will appear in the next issue and supersede the present newsletter of the Australian Branch of the I.L.A.)

Casenotes: (Brief notes of international law cases.)

Practice Notes: (To include brief notes of recent Australian and Overseas practice, legislation, treaties etc.)

Conferences and Events: (To include not only conference reports, but advice of forthcoming conferences.)

Short Comments: (We propose in future issues to include brief comments from time to time.)

From the Journals: (We shall briefly review important selected articles, and also publish the contents pages of some journals. This month, we feature the January and March issues of International Legal Materials, the American Journal of International Law, the European Law Review, and the International and Comparative Law Quarterly.)

In 1984 we hope the Australian International Law News will be published quarterly. In this first year we shall only attempt two issues. Your comments, suggestions and contributions will always be most welcome.

The typing and copying will be undertaken at the New South Wales Institute of Technology, School of Law. We are grateful to the Acting Dean, Mr. A.R. Godfrey-Smith, the President, Dr. R.L. Werner, and the Chancellor, the Hon. J.H. Wootten for the Institute's support. The recommended citation for the newsletter will be [1983] Australian I.L. News. The page numbering will be continuous throughout the year.

The annual subscription, post paid, is \$8.00, and for members of the IIA (Australian Branch) is included in their annual subscription. Proposals for membership may be made on the form on page 30. In the case of students, the subscription is presently only \$10.00; for full members \$20.00.

CASENOTES

Administrative veto unconstitutional: A recent decision of the United States Supreme Court renders the use of the administrative veto unconstitutional. Of considerable importance in foreign relations, the administrative veto was a device to keep the President "on a leash". For example, in relation to foreign arms sales, the appropriate legislation would provide for a power of congressional review of administrative action taken by the President. Finding that this practice offended the constitutional separation of powers, the Court rendered ineffective a number of statutory provisions which increased substantially following the presidency of Richard Nixon. (BBC World Service, 25 June, 1983; more information may be found in The Economist, 2 July, 1983, 33-35; The Australian, 5 July 1983, 7).

Sovereign Immunity: The United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama has upheld a class action by the present holders of bonds issued by the Imperial Chinese Government in 1911. The action was brought against the present government of the Peoples' Republic of China. The bonds were denominated in sterling. Principal and interest were payable in various places. Service was effected under the provisions of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, 1976, but China refused to appear, maintaining its absolute immunity from jurisdiction and declaring that the action was founded on the "odious debts" of the old regime. Judgment was