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# Mid-South Regional Conference on International Law and Foreign Trade: Papers and Other Proceedings

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## **Mid-South Regional Conference on International Law and Foreign Trade: Papers and Other Proceedings**

This past spring the American Society of International Law with the assistance of the Ford Foundation sponsored a series of regional meetings throughout the country in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Society's founding in 1906, and as a prelude to its commemorative annual meeting in Washington, D. C. The meetings were keyed to the general theme "The Role of International Law in National Courts and Agencies: Fifty Years of Development" and were designed to stimulate the interest of practitioners, businessmen, and teachers in international law. The Law School of Louisiana State University and its co-host, the Louisiana State Bar Association, were privileged to be able to conduct the meeting for the Mid-South region, comprising the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, at a one-day session held on the L.S.U. campus on April 19, 1956. Because of these states' proximity to Latin America, and because of the increasing importance of international trade to the Gulf South region, it was decided to emphasize particularly the problems of international commercial relations with Latin America. Consequently, the papers presented and speakers and commentators invited reflect to some degree that emphasis.

The program was divided into a morning session devoted to the topic "Doing Business in Foreign Countries," a luncheon meeting which was addressed by Stanley D. Metzger, Assistant Legal Adviser for Economic Affairs for the United States Department of State, on the subject: "A Contract Approach to International Law," and an afternoon session on "Treaties as Law in National Courts." Both the morning and afternoon programs featured papers presented by the principal speakers, followed by a panel discussion of each main talk by especially qualified commentators. Questions were entertained from the audience which included a number of representatives of the consular corps at New Orleans who were invited to be special guests at the occasion.

The morning program was highlighted by a speech by Wood-

fin L. Butte, Counsel, Standard Oil Company (New Jersey) on the principal subject of that session, "Doing Business in Foreign Countries." Mr. Butte, a specialist in foreign law and a member of the bars of Texas, New York, Puerto Rico, The Virgin Islands, and Venezuela, has had extensive legal experience in Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. The session was opened by Professor Joseph Dainow of the L.S.U. Law Faculty, who presided, and by Dean Paul M. Hebert of the Law School, who welcomed those in attendance and in his remarks set the theme of the entire conference. Following Mr. Butte's presentation, his ideas were analyzed by a panel composed of G. R. Dundas, Consul General for Great Britain at New Orleans; Adolfo E. Hegewisch, a veteran importer and exporter in Mexico and the United States, and a founder and member of the Executive Committee of International House in New Orleans; Professor Harold J. Heck of Tulane University, a nationally-known expert on foreign trade; Mario Dubeux, a businessman and investor both in this country and in Brazil; and Professor Bernard F. Sliger of the L.S.U. College of Commerce, an economist and author on foreign trade.

Following the luncheon meeting, presided over by William W. Young of New Orleans, President of the Louisiana State Bar Association, and addressed by Mr. Metzger, the afternoon session got under way with Clarence L. Yancey of Shreveport, then President-Elect of the Louisiana State Bar Association, presiding. The first address was given by Professor Quincy Wright of the University of Chicago, then serving as President of the American Society of International Law. Professor Wright spoke on "Treaties as Law in National Courts — The United States." His address was followed by comments given by Professor John Henry Fox, Jr., of the University of Mississippi Law School, Professor Elvin E. Overton of the University of Tennessee Law School, and Professor Dainow. The Latin-American view of the same topic was then given by Dr. Ernesto Dihigo of Cuba, a distinguished attorney, Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Havana, and Director of the Inter-American Academy of Comparative and International Law at Havana. His paper was commented on by a panel composed of Dr. Erich Kaufmann, Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Munich, Legal Consultant to the German Foreign Office at Bonn, and in this country as a guest of the State Department; Henry L. Newell, an

attorney in New Orleans also admitted to practice in Panama, Honorary Consul for Panama and for Austria at New Orleans; Professor Rene DeV. Williamson, Head of the Department of Government at L.S.U. and an expert on Latin-American government; and Dr. Giuseppe Bisconti, an attorney in Rome, Italy, a specialist in private international law, and currently studying at L.S.U. on a post-doctoral fellowship and on Smith-Mundt and Fulbright scholarships.

Members of the planning committee for the regional meeting for the Louisiana State Bar Association included Clarence L. Yancey of Shreveport, chairman; Richard A. Anderson, Lake Charles; John C. Burden, Alexandria; Ben R. Miller, Baton Rouge; Thomas W. Leigh, Monroe; and Augusto P. Miceli, Max M. Schaumberger, and Benjamin W. Yancey, all of New Orleans. Representing the L.S.U. Law School were Dean Hebert, Professor Dainow, and the author. William C. Bradley of the Baton Rouge Bar, who reported on the Mid-South conference at the national meeting the next week in Washington, D. C., also served with the committee.

Because so many in attendance desired to obtain copies of the principal papers given at the meeting, they are being presented in this special section of the current issue of the Louisiana Law Review. With slight modifications, the articles published here are the same as presented at the meeting. Inasmuch as they were prepared for oral delivery, elaborate documentation was not called for and such references to outside sources as may have been given are indicated in the text by enclosure in parentheses.<sup>1</sup> Because of budgetary considerations, only the principal papers and the opening remarks are being reprinted. However, an exception has been made in the case of the comments of Dr. Bisconti, which are included, not only because they help supplement from a European standpoint the treaty problems discussed by Professors Wright and Dihigo, but primarily because Dr. Bisconti in his concluding remarks has so succinctly stated the value and meaning of this and other conferences on international law that they merit publication.

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1. At Dr. Dihigo's request, additional references for his paper have been added as footnotes.