

## BOOK REVIEW:

### A DICTIONARY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND DIPLOMACY

By Melquiades J. Gamboa, Quezon City: Central Lawbook Publishing Co., Inc. 1973, pp. 351.

The Philippines being a young developing State, International Law in this country is a relatively new field of study. Only a handful of scholars have seriously devoted themselves to this discipline. A much lesser number of individuals have written competent treatises on the subject. Likewise, there is a dearth of legal literature on diplomacy in this country.

Recent developments in international relations, however, have made it necessary for studies on these subjects. With the increasing participation of the Philippines in international events and the recent developments in international relations, serious studies have started in international law and diplomacy. There is now a need for a greater awareness of the facts and circumstances which are shaping the general principles and rules that govern the relations among States and other international personalities.

While there are publications on International Law written by local writers which are used as textbooks in law schools, students of law and foreign service, law practitioners, and those engaged in foreign affairs might find useful as ready reference a handbook of words and terms in diplomacy and International Law.

This book under review, as the title shows, is a dictionary of International Law and Diplomacy. The work is a result of long years of study and experience of the author who has been a law professor, a distinguished member of the diplomatic corps and a lawbook writer. Already a distinguished law professor and lawbook writer, he later served as ambassador in places such as the Court of St. James, the United Nations, India, Sweden, Norway and Denmark, where international law and diplomacy have been fully developed with expertise.

Containing about 1,200 entries of words and terms, the work is in itself a miniature encyclopedia. The important terms are more or less extensively discussed and further amplified by cross references with comments and annotations, depending upon the importance of the subject.

The book originated from a previous work by the author entitled *Elements of Diplomatic and Consular Practice, A Glossary* published in 1966. The present work is more comprehensive and more embracing.

including the latest terms used in contemporary international affairs and diplomacy.

The student in international affairs need not go through voluminous texts or international documents to readily understand terms frequently used in International Law and diplomacy: this work is a ready reference and handbook. Where the definition and comments may not be sufficient, the student or researcher can at least use this work as a guide book by looking up the reference materials indicated in the text.

The work also contains all the important abbreviations and initials as well as the Latin and French terms commonly used in International Law and diplomatic circles.

Three appendices are included, namely: the Charter of the United Nations, the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and the Vienna Convention of the Law of Treaties.

The book no doubt is a valuable contribution to Philippine legal literature. It is a result of excellent scholarship and research at its best. Indeed, it is a breakthrough in an unfamiliar subject in the Philippines. It should also serve as an encouragement for local scholars to engage themselves in the study of International Law and diplomacy, fields which are hardly explored in this jurisdiction.

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