

NOTES AND COMMENTS

NAGENDRA SINGH (1914–1988)

Nagendra Singh, who died in The Hague on December 11, 1988, was among the last of the great generation of Indian jurists whose academic and professional legal formation was acquired under the British raj in the preindependence period (in Cambridge and Dublin as well as in Indian universities). On the announcement, at war's end in 1945, by Prime Minister Attlee of the British Labour Government's decision to give up sovereignty over India, Dr. Singh became a member of the Constituent Assembly charged with the elaboration of the new postdecolonization, republican, federal Constitution of India. He was to continue these constitutional law interests throughout his professional legal life, which included, among other offices, Secretary to the President of India from 1966 to 1972. Dr. Singh was elected to the International Court of Justice in 1973, serving continuously as a judge until his death in December 1988, and holding the office of President of the Court for the 3-year term from early 1985 until early 1988.

Dr. Singh's intellectual interests in law, as reflected in his published works and in his active involvement in scientific legal organizations like the Institut de Droit International, the International Law Association and the American Society of International Law (of which he was an elected Honorary Member), were broad and eclectic, covering such widely varied fields as maritime law, international environmental protection law, and nuclear and general disarmament. He had published a legally innovatory and politically influential monograph on the legality of nuclear arms, in 1959; it was republished, in a revised and updated and expanded version (with a coauthor), under the title *Nuclear Weapons and Contemporary International Law*, just a week before his sudden death.

Apart from his numerous judicial opinions, Dr. Singh will be remembered for his longstanding commitment to peace and disarmament, and also for his ability, as a graceful, tactful and persuasive interlocutor between East and West, to rally an intersystemic consensus in support of new international legal norms and norm making for the protection of the Earth's scarce resources, including the rapidly vanishing wildlife.

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CORRESPONDENCE

TO THE EDITOR IN CHIEF:

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I read with attention the article by Professor Yehuda Z. Blum, *The Seventh Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly: An Exercise in Procedural Abuse* (80 AJIL 587 (1986)). Its principal idea is that

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