

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE HAGUE CONVENTIONS ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

EDITORIAL

In 1974 this Review introduced a new feature, Information Concerning the Hague Conventions on Private International Law in Force (See 21 NILR 201). That was done to alleviate the difficulty experienced by so many practitioners in ascertaining the dates of entry into force of these Conventions and the reservations and declarations made by the Contracting Parties. The feature, which appeared in successive volumes of the Review, was due to the initiative of Dr. M.H. van Hoogstraten, at that time Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and a member of the Board of Editors. Continuation of the feature lapsed with his untimely death on 29 May 1980 (See 27 NILR 1).

The Board of Editors are pleased to record their appreciation of both the sympathetic understanding shown by Dr. G.A.L. Droz, Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, to its desire to see the valuable work of Dr. van Hoogstraten continued and of the generous co-operation of the staff of the Permanent Bureau of the Conference in making available the information that once again appears.

Re-introduction of the feature has been accompanied by certain changes. The lay-out is compatible with the facilities now offered by the computerized typesetting equipment in use at the T.M.C. Asser Institute for International Law, The Hague. In connection herewith, it has been decided to publish the feature yearly, up-dated to 1 September each year. A substantive change has been effected in the scope of the feature to the extent that it no longer confines itself to those Hague Conventions that are in force. Henceforth information concerning all concluded Conventions will be given, restricted only to the "modern" Conventions concluded since the renewal of the Conference's activities in 1949. It should be noted that the feature lists the Conventions in chronological order of conclusion and that they are numbered accordingly. This deviates from the *Recueil des Conventions de La Haye*, edited by the Permanent Bureau of the Conference, and, in consequence thereof, from previous issues in this Review.

Expansion of the scope to include all concluded Conventions has led to the decision, taken with regret, not to include henceforth the formal text of declarations, reservations and optional clauses. However, such information is disseminated by the depositary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague, through diplomatic channels to the authorities of Contracting States.

The decision taken at the introduction of the feature in 1974 to publish in English, one of the official languages of the Hague Conference, preceded the announcement by the Board of Editors in 1975 that the Review would be published exclusively in that language (See 22 NILR 1). That decision has been maintained. Consideration was given in 1974 to the fact that a similar feature appeared in French in the highly respected *Revue critique de droit international privé*. We are

pleased to repeat that observation, adding only that the *Revue* publishes the situation as of 1 March. The beneficial consequence is that in this way an up-to-date statement as to the Hague Conventions on private international law is made available every six months to those who seek this information.

The Board of Editors