

BOOKS

national action in this sphere would continue to be justified. The experience of the last twelve years has, in effect, largely demonstrated its usefulness. It has been linked with that of the national governments and a large number of voluntary organizations to encompass the migrants with a more vigilant care and to ensure a better protection of their rights".

H. C.

PANAMERICANISMO DEMOCRÁTICO¹

by

DIEGO URIBE VARGAS

Some time ago, the appearance of this work by Mr. Diego Uribe Vargas, Professor at the Law Faculty of Bogotá and Doctor of the International Law Academy of The Hague, was eagerly hailed by specialists in International Law. The sub-title of the book states its purpose as aiming at laying the foundations for the transformation of the continental system for the defence of human rights.

Pan-American law is already well developed in this respect, especially since the Convention of Havana of 1928, which provided for the application of International Law in the event of civil war; however, Mr. Diego Uribe Vargas proposes to go beyond the present stage by setting up a duly constituted Pan-American court of international justice able to ensure the respect of fundamental human rights. Private persons, as well as States, would have access to this court, which would take legal proceedings against slavery, bondage, torture, degrading sentences, cruel treatment, forced labour, arbitrary arrest or imprisonment. This plan is set forth in detail in the last chapter of the book. The enunciation of the rights to be guaranteed and the general ideas on the formation and pro-

¹ Ediciones Nuevo Signo, Bogotá.

cedure of the court constitute a very original and constructive contribution towards a thorough examination of this important international question.

Those who are concerned about the future of humanitarian law cannot but be interested by this book with its clear, concise style and its reliable, scientifically presented documentation. It can be said that this subject is becoming daily more topical in view of the countless breaches of personal rights which are taking place so frequently everywhere in the world.

This was justly remarked by Professor J. M. Yepés, Honorary President of the American Hispano-Portuguese Institute of International Law, who, with the authority which his name inspires, has written a fine preface to the book. As Professor Yepés so rightly points out, "the position of the individual in the face of International Law is one of the problems with which law specialists are most occupied nowadays. In reality, this is perhaps the question which provides the most radical difference between the new International Law and that which could be called prehistoric International Law—which is unfortunately what is still taught in some of our universities. The place of the individual as the subject of International Law is a principle which is becoming more and more a part of the modern legal doctrine and practice of States".

H. C.
