

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

MANUAL OF THE TERMINOLOGY OF PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW (LAW OF PEACE) AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS — ENGLISH, FRENCH, SPANISH, RUSSIAN *

Dr. Paenson's reputation is already well established. A highly cultured and experienced man, this distinguished linguist has given us the third volume in a series of really valuable manuals; the first two are devoted to economic and social terminology and statistics and the fourth volume, which is already in press and much looked forward to, will deal with the law of armed conflicts.

A specialist in multilingual terminology, in this field Dr. Paenson has perfected an original method which some have even described as "revolutionary" but which has undoubtedly proved its worth. Over and above day-to-day speech there is a host of specialized modes of expression concealed under the heading "national language": a legal expert does not use the language of a merchant and an engineer does not talk like a doctor. In one of these specialized languages the same term might have a quite different meaning in the other. Since together the terms relate to a given subject and are far from being a mechanical grouping of isolated words, they form an organic system within which each term has a fixed place. An appreciation of the relationships between individual terms is very important for understanding their meaning, which can be entirely defined only in their logical context. In so far as possible, this context must encompass all the essential terms in the given specialized language.

Besides providing an in-depth understanding of the meaning of the terms, presenting them in this way differs radically from the method used in almost all current dictionaries and glossaries and has other advantages.

* Isaac Paenson, *Manual of the Terminology of Public International Law (Law of Peace) and of International Organizations — English, French, Spanish, Russian*, published for the Graduate Institute of International Studies (GIIS), Geneva, and the International Centre for the Terminology of the Social Sciences ("Intercentre"), Geneva; Emile Bruylant, S.A., Brussels, 1984, xlviii + 846 pp. (Foreword by Erik Suy, formerly Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Preface by Professor Christian Dominicé, formerly Director at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva.)

It makes for comparing often differing and at times even contradictory definitions which are in current use in the Western world and in Socialist countries. This comparison, which is particularly helpful as regards legal terminology, is greatly helped by the fact that the text is laid out in four parallel columns (one for each language) and therefore the reader can see at a glance the equivalent terms in the Manual's four languages. The main terms are printed in bold-faced type in the main body of the text and appear again in the alphabetical indexes at the end. This is the only place where the terms have been placed in alphabetical order and, although it is convenient to find the terms, it is not a suitable place to explain them.

The Manual therefore fulfils two functions: it is an excellent summary of public international law which could even be used as the framework for a course; on the other hand, it serves as a dictionary containing approximately 3,000 specialized terms.

This monumental work, the fruit of considerable and clear-sighted labour, therefore constitutes a valuable working tool which will render great service not only to translators and interpreters but also to professors, civil servants, diplomats and students who directly or indirectly come up against public international law. Any legal library worth its name should possess a copy.

Jean Pictet

LES GARANTIES FONDAMENTALES DE LA PERSONNE EN DROIT HUMANITAIRE ET DROITS DE L'HOMME *

*"The thing is you readily agreed to give up hope,
whereas I never have."*

Albert Camus

This book is a thesis presented at the Faculty of Law of the University of Nice and written under the direction of Prof. Maurice Torelli. It was awarded the Paul Reuter Prize by the ICRC in 1985.¹

The author, Mohammed El Kouhene, a Moroccan jurist, works at present at the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues.

* Fundamental guarantees of the individual in humanitarian law and human rights.

¹ Mohammed El Kouhene, *Les garanties fondamentales de la personne en droit humanitaire et droits de l'homme*, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Dordrecht, Boston/Lancaster, 1986 (French only).