

Address

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Excellencies, Dear Colleagues of the International Law Commission, Professors and Students of International Law, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At last year's session of the International Law Commission one of the subjects that were discussed in the Planning Group was the question of how the Commission was going to prepare its sixtieth anniversary. I suggested on that occasion that some universities might be interested in being involved in this celebration. This proposal was accepted by the Planning Group, members and afterwards by the Plenary of the Commission.

The colloquium "Peace through Law" is a good opportunity for the Commission to explain to academics, scholars and law students in more detail the functions, working matters and achievements of the Commission.

We are very pleased to be here in Germany today, in Munich. It is a privilege to be in this historical and at the same time modern city and to be guests in one of the most prestigious scientific foundations in Germany.

We are also aware of the important contribution of Germans to international law. I think that the Commission has benefited from those contributions. Last year, for instance, the members of the Commission received from Professor Zimmermann and Professor Giegerich the 2006 issue of the "German Yearbook of International Law" which is dedicated in great part to the work of the Commission.

It is also important to note that in the sixty years of existence of the Commission, several excellent German jurists were elected as members who actively contributed to the progress and development of international law. We all know about the important role that they played and still play in the work of the Commission.

This colloquium is an excellent opportunity to allow the Commission to present its contribution not only to the codification and progressive development of international law but also to peace, which constitutes one of the main purposes of international law. The only possibility to achieve stable peace is through international law. The great majority of the work of the Commission is related to peace. Several subjects that have been considered in the past and present are related directly or indirectly to peace. At this colloquium we are going to deal with three of these subjects, namely international responsibility, the law of treaties and shared natural resources.

I am sure that this colloquium is going to be a success. We are very happy that the Commission is a part of it and we will consider this as one of the ways to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Commission. On behalf of the Commission I would like to thank the University of Munich, the Humboldt University of Berlin, the German Foreign Office, the German Foundation for Peace, the Siemens Foundation and especially Professor Nolte for inviting the Commission to be part of this challenging gathering. Thank you very much.

Peace through International Law

The Role of the International Law Commission. A

Colloquium at the Occasion of its Sixtieth Anniversary

Nolte, G. (Ed.)

2009, IX, 197 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-03379-7