

Goldman of Washington College of Law. This text draws upon the Jessup problem of 1978, of which Solf was one of the authors. In general, the Jessup problems offer a unique model that others may yet choose to follow, for they provide perspective on the often sequential nature of the issues we face in international law.

We have relatively few experts in the law of war, so critical to the development of global order, who can couple work of impeccable scholarship with the experience of the practitioner. Wally Solf was one of these few.

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### CORRESPONDENCE

The *American Journal of International Law* welcomes short communications from its readers. It reserves the right to determine which letters should be published and to edit any letters printed. Letters should conform to the same format requirements as other manuscripts.

TO THE EDITOR IN CHIEF:

May 5, 1988

I would like to respond to Professor Alain Pellet's letter in the April 1988 issue (82 AJIL 331) lamenting the fact that out of 2,880 footnotes in a recent volume of the *American Journal of International Law*, only 41 cited references in French. Professor Pellet concludes that the American authors "certainly deprive themselves of the indispensable comparative dimension," and that "navelism" of this sort "might be the way empires collapse."

Professor Pellet might do well to inquire why foreign sources are conspicuous by their relative absence in AJIL footnotes. A look upward at the text of recent essays in our *Journal* reveals sharp controversy over the legality of actions taken and positions asserted by the Government of the United States. There has been not only robust criticism of the legality of what our Government has done, but challenge as well to the versions of the facts that have been officially reported. For instance, some of our colleagues—at personal risk—have traveled to Nicaragua to report on what the contras have been doing with U.S. aid. In addition, some of our colleagues have participated in legal actions against the Government of the United States in our courts and in international courts.

The essays that result from this kind of legal activism—whether they support or challenge the Government's position—challenge comfortable assumptions about the nature and sources of international law. As French thinkers historically have been among the first to realize, sharply contested expositional positions help articulate and stimulate the development of doctrine.

Frankly, I do not see very much that is new or challenging in French scholarship at the present moment. When we were having our clashes over

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Grenada and Nicaragua, why were the French journals not debating the facts and legality of the *Greenpeace* affair? Where was the debate over France's withdrawal from the general compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice after the *Nuclear Tests* cases? Are international lawyers in France collectively timid about criticizing their own Government? Or are the editors of French journals unwilling to publish iconoclastic essays submitted by unestablished authors? The absence of critical examination of issues such as *Greenpeace* in the leading French journals of international law not only discourages American scholars from reading and citing those journals, but also removes an opportunity for French scholars to engage in the intellectual challenge of reexamining the conceptual underpinnings of public international law as interpreted on the continent.

ANTHONY D'AMATO\*

#### THE FRANCIS DEÁK PRIZE

The Board of Editors takes great pleasure in announcing that the Francis Deák Prize for 1988 has been awarded to the French scholar, Elisabeth Zoller, for her article, *The "Corporate Will" of the United Nations and the Rights of the Minority*. The winning article appeared in the July 1987 issue of the *Journal* at page 610.

The prize, which is given annually in memory of Francis Deák, honors meritorious scholarship by younger AJIL authors. The Board of Editors is grateful to the Institute for Continuing Education in Law and Librarianship and to its President, Mr. Philip F. Cohen, whose continued generosity has made it possible to grant an award to the recipient of the prize. The Board also wishes to extend its congratulations to Professor Zoller for her outstanding scholarship.

\* Of the Board of Editors.