

# BOOK REVIEWS

## LAW AND POLITICS IN SPACE

Maxwell Cohen, Q.C., Ed.

McGill University Press (Montreal, 1964) — 221 pp.

As an interested observer at the first McGill Conference on the Law of Outer Space, this reviewer welcomes the publication of this volume which preserves in permanent form the challenging papers and stimulating commentary and discussion that took place on that pleasant occasion. The distinguished Director of the Institute of Air and Space Law, Professor Maxwell Cohen, who has written an Introduction for the present volume, is to be congratulated both for his fine planning of the program and his skill in persuading so many eminent and busy men to contribute to the Conference. This volume will prove to be a very useful addition to the growing library of space law.

The format for the Conference, which is reflected in the book, provided principal papers, prepared comments thereon, and consequent general discussion by the participants. Some of the excitement and controversy of the general informal discussion is regrettably lost through the inevitable condensation, which is nonetheless skilful, as well as by the reduction of comments to writing without attributing them to specific individuals. If this reviewer's memory does not deceive him, some challenging remarks of the principal speakers have been omitted, perhaps on second thought in light of the commentary. Nevertheless, no reader can fail to appreciate the high quality of the discussion.

The first session emphasized the unique problems presented by satellite communications with particular reference to the United States Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (reproduced in Appendix 6), and the then U.S.S.R. position that only States could act in Space. George J. Feldman presented the principal paper. The second topic was pollution and contamination in space. John A. Johnson, in the principal paper, described the positions of various governments on these questions, with particular reference to the then Soviet "veto"

claim. The third session, on arms control, disarmament and observation in space, provoked the greatest controversy. John T. McNaughton and Leonard Meeker delivered the principal papers. The former stated the United States position on arms control, and the latter spoke on observation in space. Considerable disagreement with the views of the speakers was expressed. The final session was devoted to "Prospects for a Regime in Outer Space". Oscar Schachter discussed the role of international organizations in this area. Professor McDougal gave a conspectus of the regime that presently exists as he sees it as well as prospects for the future. In the discussion that followed, the presentation of alternative jurisprudential approaches to this central subject provided a fitting denouement for a most successful Conference.

This brief description of the menu may succeed in whetting the appetite of the potential reader. No effort will be made here to elaborate on the many critical questions that the papers, commentary, and discussion generated. Suffice it to say that this volume should serve to continue the dialogue. The value of the volume is enhanced by the reprinting in the appendices of pertinent documents bearing on the subjects discussed as well as a selected bibliography arranged by topic. It is hoped the volume will achieve the wide circulation it deserves.

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**CASE and COMMENT**