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THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW BY IE INTERNATIONAL COURT

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PREFACE

THE purpose of this book is to provide the second edition of an essay composed of five lectures which I delivered in 1933 at the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies and which was subsequently published under the title "The Development of International Law by the Permanent Court of International Justice." The essay consisted of just over one hundred pages. The expansion of the size of the book is due largely to the fact that the period now to be covered has grown from ten to over twenty-five years, which include the first nine years of the activity of the International Court of Justice.

Like its predecessor, the present edition is not concerned primarily with giving a complete account of the substantive contribution of the Court to the various branches of international law. Its object is to present an assessment of the work of the Court—the two Courts-in terms of the persistent problems of the judicial function in general and of international tribunals in particular. The titles of the five Chapters of the original essay expressed well that purpose and I have decided for that reason to retain them. Unavoidably, while the present book examines mainly the general tendencies and methods of the Court, it does so by reference to the substantive law as formulated by it. However, primarily it is concerned with the more general aspects of judicial method and function. It is largely in that way that we can hope to appreciate the factors encompassing the contribution of the Court to the development of international law and the problems with which it has been confronted in administering a system of rules and principles which are often less clearly defined than those of the law within the State.

The manuscript of this book was almost complete when, at the end of 1954, I was elected one of the Judges of the Court. I have

come to the conclusion that, notwithstanding that event, which imposes a clear obligation of restraint, I ought to proceed with the publication of this edition in compliance with the wish, frequently expressed, that I should prepare a new and enlarged version of the essay which first appeared in 1934. That essay was intended to be mainly descriptive and informative. That feature I have attempted to preserve in the present edition. In any case I have considered it proper not to comment upon or to refer to any of the Judgments or Opinions given by the Court since I became one of its members. Clearly, any views expressed here are liable to change in the light of further study, reflection, or argument. I regret that, owing to circumstances outside my control, the publication of this second edition has been somewhat delayed.

I desire to express my warm thanks to Mrs. E. E. Jansen for her efficient secretarial assistance and her patience in copying the successive versions of the manuscript. I am grateful to Mrs. G. Lyons, B.SC.(ECON.), for the scholarly care which she bestowed upon reading the proof.

I am indebted to Messrs. Stevens & Sons and their printers and compositors for their co-operation.

H. LAUTERPACHT.

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PART ONE

THE LAW BEHIND THE CASES

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