The Legal Regime of Hydrospace

E. D. BROWN

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THE LEGAL REGIME OF HYDROSPACE

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BY

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PREFACE

SINCE the manuscript of this work left my hands, there have been three developments of some note. First, on August 3, 1970, the United States tabled in the Sea-Bed Committee a Draft United Nations Convention on the International Sea-bed Area—an attempt at a detailed implementation of the somewhat vague principles with which the debate had previously been concerned. Secondly, on December 17, 1970, the United Nations General Assembly at last succeeded in adopting a Declaration of Principles Governing the Sea-Bed which, like the United States Draft Convention, helped to clear the way for an advance from abstract principle to hard negotiations. The third development, a Resolution on a Law of the Sea Conference, also adopted by the General Assembly on December 17, 1970, provided the institutional framework and a provisional timetable for such negotiations, culminating in a United Nations Conference in 1973. While full discussion of these advances has clearly not been possible, an attempt has been made to revise in proof the passages affected by these major developments. In addition, the texts of the two General Assembly Resolutions are reproduced in Appendices IV and V and, in Appendix VI, a tabular analysis is presented of the newly increased membership of the United Nations Sea-Bed Committee—the Committee in which preparatory negotiations for the 1973 Conference are already under way.

Earlier versions of parts of this work were stimulated by invitations to contribute to various Journals and Conferences and I should like to record my indebtedness to the publishers and editors of Current Legal Problems, the Juridical Review, the Natural Resources Journal and the Year Book of World Affairs, as well as to the organisers of the Fourth Annual Conference of the Law of the Sea Institute, University of Rhode Island (1969) and the Symposium on the International Regime of the Sea-Bed of the Istituto Affari Internazionali (Rome, 1969).

The difficulty of keeping abreast of current developments has been considerably eased by the kindness of many friends and colleagues among whom I am especially grateful to Thomas S. Busha of IMCO, J. E. Carroz of FAO, Francis T. Christy, Jr., of Resources for the Future Inc., Michael Hardy and R. S. Lee of the United Nations Secretariat, Sydney J. Holt of IOC, E. Seabrook Hull, Editor of Ocean Science News, Myron Nordquist of the United States Department of State and the staff of the Libraries of the United Nations Information Centers in London and Washington, D. C.

In the final stages of the preparation of this work it has been my privilege to enjoy the intellectual resources of the Washington, D. C. area as a Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars during its first year of operation and it is a pleasure to have this opportunity to express my

appreciation to the Director, Mr. Benjamin H. Read, and his team and to the secretarial and library staff.

To my friend and teacher Professor Georg Schwarzenberger, I am grateful not only for his encouragement in the preparation of this study but also for his editorial recommendation for its publication in the Library of World Affairs.

For their courteous co-operation my thanks are due to the publishers and printers.

Finally, my greatest debt is to my wife who, while responding to the calls of wife, mother, and "Women's Lib," has still somehow managed to cope with a difficult manuscript and help me in countless other ways.

E. D. B.

Washington D. C. March 12, 1971

INTRODUCTION

THE purpose of this book is twofold.

Its first object is to present an analysis of some of the most important current problems in the international law of the sea—delimitational questions; the regime of deep-sea mining and the prevention of marine pollution. As will be seen, Governments and international institutions have already done a considerable amount of work on these questions and have rightly treated each of them as an important question in itself. At the same time, however, these questions are so obviously inter-related that they can be adequately studied only if they are seen in a broader perspective.

The second object of this work is, therefore, to complement studies published separately on legal aspects of the military use of hydrospace¹ and of the protection of marine scientific research,² thus facilitating a comprehensive view of the developing law of hydrospace. It is hoped that these studies, taken together, will make a modest contribution to ensuring that, even if a single comprehensive conventional solution remains merely a desirable ideal, the answers produced separately to each of these problems will be developed in full awareness of the broader framework.

The international law of the sea is a very dynamic part of international law and, clearly, no single work can hope to cover thoroughly all of the aspects which have caused difficulties even during the post-1945 period. The emphasis in these studies has been largely determined by the desire to investigate the impact on the law of the sea of scientific and technological advances during the post-war era. For the same reason, the legal problems of what, in economic terms, is still by far the most important use of the seas—fishing—have not been considered in any depth, though reference is frequently made to fishery problems where they touch upon the main topics treated below.

The scope of this work ratione loci is also determined by functional considerations. Although it is primarily concerned with the sea-bed and subsoil, the problems raised by the exploitation of these areas extend to the superjacent waters and the overall problem for the law-maker is to develop not merely a legal regime for the sea-bed and the ocean floor but a regime for that part of the globe which extends vertically downwards from the air/sea interface to include the bed and subsoil of the seas and horizontally from land outwards to include the deep oceans. As a short-hand reference to this area, the term "hydrospace" is employed in this work.

¹ See E. D. Brown, Arms Control in Hydrospace, 1971, and "Law and Order on the Continental Margin and Ocean Floor," in Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Quiet Enjoyment: Arms Control and Police Forces for the Ocean (Proceedings of Pacem in Maribus Preparatory Conference, 1970) 1971.

in Maribus Preparatory Conference, 1970) 1971.

² See E. D. Brown, "Freedom of Scientific Research and the Legal Regime of Hydrospace," 9 Indian Journal of International Law (1969), pp. 327-380.

The book falls into three main Parts.

Part I is concerned with the boundaries of the Continental Shelf, an issue which not only gives rise to difficult questions of delimitation but is intimately connected with the problem of devising a regime for the exploitation of the area beyond the outer limit of the Continental Shelf.

In Part II, consideration is given to the legal problems raised by one of the several users of hydrospace—Deep-Sea Mining, and, as mentioned above, two other users, the Military Uses of Hydrospace and Scientific Research in Hydrospace, are dealt with elsewhere.

The intensification of existing uses of hydrospace and the introduction of new uses brought about by scientific and technological advances have greatly increased the dangers of contamination of the seas by the varied products of our industrial society. Part III is accordingly devoted to a study of the developing law for the Environmental Protection of Hydrospace.

In a concluding section, the prospects for the future are briefly considered in the light of these studies.

In a work such as this, where the law is in a very fluid state and where developments de lege ferenda, if they are to be sensible, must reflect not only political realities but also technological realities, the writer is faced with two problems. First, his work is likely to be very quickly overtaken by events; in this case, for technical reasons, the cut-off date is, unless otherwise stated, August 1, 1970. Secondly, criticism of lex lata and proposals de lege ferenda are in this field peculiarly difficult to evaluate unless the reader possesses or is given a fairly full understanding of the technical subject matter with which the law is concerned. The writer is aware that he is unqualified for the several inter-disciplinary excursions made in the following chapters but feels that it is the better course to make explicit his understanding of the technical data on which his legal opinions are based.

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	Article 13
	Geneva Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources
	of the High Seas
1960	Optional Protocol on the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes
1962	International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea
1202	Treaty of Commerce, Establishment and Navigation between the United
	Kingdom and Japan
1963	Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
1964	Agreement between Germany and the Netherlands on the Boundary of the Continental Shelf
	Exchange of Notes between Japan and the U.S. on King Crab Fishery
	in Behring Sea
1965	Agreement between Denmark and Germany on the Continental Shelf
	Boundary
	Agreement between Denmark and Norway on the Boundary of the
	Continental Shelf in the Skagerrak
	Agreement between Finland and the Soviet Union on Boundaries of Sea Waters and Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Finland
	Agreement between the Netherlands and the United Kingdom relating to
	the Delimitation of the Continental Shelf under the North Sea 24
	Agreement between the United Kingdom and Norway on Delimitation of the Continental Shelf
1966	Exchange of Notes between Japan and the U.S. on King Crab Fishery
	in the Behring Sea
1968	Agreement between Italy and Yugoslavia on the Delimitation of the
22 00	Continental Shelf 60 Agreement between Norway and Sweden on Delimitation of the Contin-
	ental Shelf
	ental Shelf
	tinental Shelf
	in the Behring Sea
1969	Bonn Agreement for Co-operation in Dealing with Pollution of the
	North Sea by Oil
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1968	Committee on Sea-Bed
	Conference on Human Environment 198 General Assembly Resolution A/RES/2414 (XXIII) on International
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	of Establishing Appropriate International Machinery for the Sea-Bed
	General Assembly Resolution A/RES/2467 D (XXIII) on International Decade of Ocean Exploration
1969	Decade of Ocean Exploration
1909	of Convening Law of Sea Conference
	of Convening Law of Sea Conference 29 General Assembly Resolution A/RES/2574 D (XXIV)—Moratorium on Sea-Bed Exploitation 30, 99 IMCO Resolution A.176 (VI) on International Conference on Marine
	IMCO Resolution A.176 (VI) on International Conference on Marine Pollution (1973)
	International Legal Conference on Marine Pollution Damage (Brussels):
	Resolution on Establishment of an International Compensation Fund
	Resolution on Report of the Working Group on the Fund 166, 172-173 Resolution on International Co-operation concerning Pollutants
1970	other than Oil
1770	Effective Measures for the Prevention and Control of Marine
	Pollution
	U.N. Conference on Human Environment
	Principles Governing the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, etc 30, 84,
	99, 200, App. IV General Assembly Resolution A/RES/2750 C (XXV) on Law of Sea Conference (1973)
	Conference (1973)
	on regional oil pollution agreements

ABBREVIATIONS

A.J.I.L Alexander, I	•••	•••	American Journal of International Law Sea Institute Proceedings (1967) L. M. Alexander (ed.), The Law of the Sea. Offshore Boundaries and Zones, Proceedings of the First Annual Conference of the Law of the Sea Institute, University of Rhode Island (1966), 1967
Alexander, II	•••	•••	Sea Institute Proceedings (1968) L. M. Alexander (ed.), The Law of the Sea. The Future of the Sea's Resources, Proceedings of the Second Annual Conference (1967), 1968
Alexander, III		•••	Sea Institute Proceedings (1969) L. M. Alexander (ed.), The Law of the Sea. International Rules and Organisation for the Sea, Proceedings of the Third Annual Conference (1968), 1969
Alexander, IV		•••	Sea Institute Proceedings (1969) L. M. Alexander (ed.), The Law of the Sea. National Policy Recommendations, Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Conference (1969), 1970
Annuaire frança	ais	•••	Annuaire français de droit international
A.S.I.L. Proceed		•••	Proceedings of the American Society of International Law
B.F.S.P	•••	•••	British and Foreign State Papers
B.I.I.C.L.	•••	•••	British Institute of International and Comparative Law
B.Y.I.L	•••	•••	British Yearbook of International Law
			Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (formerly
	•••	•••	ENDC)
CCMS	•••	•••	NATO Committee on the Challenges of Modern Society
C.L.P	• • •	•••	Current Legal Problems
CMI	• • •	•••	Comité Maritime International
Cmnd	•••	• • •	Command Papers (United Kingdom), 1965-
CMSER Repor	t	•••	III.S.1 Commission on Marine Science Engineering and
<u></u>			Resources, Our Nation and the Sea. A Plan for National Action, 1969
CRISTAL	•••	•••	Contract Regarding an Interim Supplement to Tanker Liability for Oil Pollution
d.w.t	•••	•••	dead weight tonnage
d.w.t ECOSOC	•••	•••	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
ENDC	•••	•••	Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee
ENEA	•••	•••	European Nuclear Energy Agency
FAO	• • •		Food and Agricultural Organisation
GARP		• • •	Global Atmospheric Research Programme
GESAMP	•••	•••	Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine
GNEM	•••	•••	Pollution Global Network for Environmental Monitoring
Grotius Transa	ctione		Transactions of the Grotius Society
Grottus 1runsu	cnons	·	Transactions of the creams become
G. Schwarzenb Fundamental		rin-	G. Schwarzenberger, "The Fundamental Principles of International Law," 87 Hague Recueil (1955)
ciples	•••	•••	m 11 1 cm 4 1/ 1 1 Dunis Yestermentional de
Hague Recueil	•••	•••	Recueil des Cours, Académie de Droit International de la Haye
H.M.S.O.			Her Majesty's Stationery Office
Hudson, Int. I	Leg.	•••	Hudson, M. O., International Legislation, 1931-1950 (9 vols.)
IAEA			International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO	•••	•••	International Civil Aviation Organisation
ICE		•••	International Center for the Environment
TOTO		•••	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
	•••	•••	International Court of Justice
			International and Comparative Law Quarterly
ICLQ	•••	•••	Interagency Committee on Oceanography of the U.S.
ICO	•••	•••	Interagency Committee on Oceanography of the U.S. Federal Council for Science and Technology
ICRP	•••	•••	International Commission on Radiological Protection XVi
			to the second

ICSU				
				International Council of Scientific Unions
IGOSS		•••	•••	
	• • •	•••	• • •	Integrated Global Ocean Station System
ILA	• • •	•••	• • •	International Law Association
ILC		• • •		International Law Commission
I.L.M.	•••		•••	International Legal Materials
ILO	•••	•••	•••	International Labour Organisation
				The Comment of the Co
IMCO	•••	• • •	•••	Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation
IMF		• • •	• • •	International Monetary Fund
Indian J.	I.L.			Indian Journal of International Law
Indian Y	R.I.A.		•••	Indian Year Book of International Affairs
IOC				
	•••	•••	•••	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IWGMP		•••	• • •	Intergovernmental Working Group on Marine Pollution
LEPOR	•••			Long-term and Expanded Programme of Oceanic Ex-
				ploration and Research
LOT				Load-on-Top (see p. 135)
	• • •	•••	•••	
MAB	• • •	•••	• • •	Man and the Biosphere Programme
NATO		• • •		North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NPC	•••			National Petroleum Council
N.R.L.				Natural Resources Lawyer
	•••	• • •	•••	
ODAS_	• • •	• • •	• • •	Ocean Data Acquisition System
Panel Re	eports	• • •	• • •	[U.S.] Commission on Marine Science, Engineering and
				Resources, Panel Reports, Vols. 1-III, 1969
P.C.A.				Permanent Court of Arbitration
			•••	Permanent Court of International Justice
P.C.I.J.	•••	•••	•••	remailent Court of International Justice
p.p.m.	• • •		•••	parts per million
PV				Provisional Verbatim
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Rutgers		•••	• • •	Ruigers Luw Review
SCOPE	•••	• • •	• • •	Special Committee on the Problems of the Environment
				(of ICSU)
SIPRI		•••	•••	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
				The second secon
				SIPRI Yearhook of World Armaments and Disarmanient
SIPRI 1			•••	SIPRI Yearbook of World Armaments and Disarmament
SIPRI			•••	1969/70, 1970
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SIPRI	Y earbo	ok		1969/70, 1970 Safety of Life at Sea Tanker Owners Voluntary Agreement concerning Liability
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xviii **Abbreviations**

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