

## INTRODUCTION

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It seems peculiarly appropriate that we should at this time be embarking upon a program involving an intimate and intensive study of all aspects of international law and the United Nations. The very fact that the United Nations has now responded to its tenth birthday celebration, and the accomplishments of the last decade are being reviewed in San Francisco as of this very moment, is a thoroughly sound reason for the kind of consideration which we in this institute can give to that great organization and its achievements, not only the achievements of the past ten years, but the prospects for the next ten years and the indefinite future. These are subjects of mighty concern to all good citizens, not to mention persons particularly interested in international law. That is one good reason, then, for an institute of this sort.

Then I believe there is another reason. We can with substantial satisfaction look about the world today and entertain a feeling of gradual relaxation of the terrific tensions between nations that have been so much a part of our lives during the last ten years. There are evidences on all sides of a relaxation of these tendencies.

Looking forward, then, we may feel a greater assurance of friendly relationships between nations in the future, not only in a diplomatic sense but in a sense involving trade and international intercourse, cultural exchange, and all of the rest that goes along with free international give and take.

We may, therefore, we hope and we trust, look forward to a continuing relaxation of tensions, and a continual building up of relationships between nations. The phrase "One World" is condemned in high places, but it does look as though we can hopefully expect a greater unity in the world than that which we have had in the immediate past. If we are going to have greater international intercourse, we certainly will need to have the rules of law and order essential to the maintenance of the program. So this seems to me to be another reason for a conference of this sort on international law, the United Nations, and the legal problems relating thereto.

And then there is still a third reason for this program. We who are responsible for the teaching of the next generation of lawyers feel rather keenly the burden of that responsibility. We at Michigan, and I know you in other educational institutions, feel the responsibility which rests upon us to bring up the next generation in our profession to an appreciation of the problems of international intercourse, and particularly, of course, the legal problems, because after all they are our central concern.

We feel, in other words, that the teaching of international law and its first cousin, comparative law—foreign law—the teaching of these subjects to the next generation of lawyers, is one of our major responsibilities.

At Michigan, as in other law schools throughout the country, this burden is being lifted according to the lights as we see them, but we need to interchange ideas in order that we may all move forward successfully in this all-important area, the training of the men and women who are to participate in these programs of international intercourse in the future, stands as the number-one task of legal education in this country today.

This, then, is a third reason for the conference which we have called and in which we are all participating today.