

and other ancient manuscripts. There were 177 documents in the British case alone.

"Public hearings were held from September 17 to October 8. The deliberations of the Court took seven weeks and judgment was delivered on November 17, 1953, 23 months after the commencement of the proceedings.

"This case has been examined in some detail to illustrate the Court's procedure and the way in which it deals with contentious and complicated disputes. Further, it shows the time that it takes to dispose of a difficult and complex case.

"There are other aspects of the case which are not without interest. The judgment awarded both groups of islets to the British, and decided against the French contention on all points. It rejected French claims which had been maintained for 751 years, and actively advanced by the Quai d'Orsay for nearly a century. Nevertheless, Judge Basdevant, a French citizen and a former legal adviser of the French Foreign Office, concurred with the rest of his colleagues in the actual decision—a striking instance of the fact that judges disregard their national prejudices and deal with disputes objectively."

Read devoted his final lecture to considering how progress can be made toward the rule of law. He began with a warning:

"Too many people are prone to believe that the new Jerusalem can be built by creating an institution, passing a resolution or referring the matter to a committee. The international world is at an early stage of an historical process which comes into focus if we look back at the course of development of the rule of law on the national plane in England.

"The notion that men and women, great and small, should be governed by independent tribunals, i.e. national justice, came into English history eight centuries ago. The reorganization of the King's Courts, and their equipment with new and efficient techniques, furnished the instrument that made the development of the rule of law inevitable. That instrument, the Royal Courts of Justice, survived reactionary setbacks: the Wars of the Roses, Tudor totalitarianism, and the Stuarts. Today, the rule of law is beyond question and that chapter of English history is closed. But it took 600 years to do it.

"The movement towards the new Jerusalem—a world in which relations between nations will be based on good will and the rule of law—has outgrown its swaddling clothes. Its position is comparable to that which was reached in England in Bracton's time, mid-thirteenth century.... On the international plane, the World Court is firmly established, procedures have taken shape, international law has come into being, and, in the political background, the United Nations Organization has emerged—foundations on which succeeding generations may be expected to establish the rule of law."

Read then set out four ideas for making progress towards the rule of law. Here, three of them are summarized, in order to highlight the fourth, "the problem of conformity: the adaptation of international law to the world as it is."

Firstly, he argues that "a reasonable and natural interpretation," rather than a restrictive interpretation, should be given to the agreement that all jurisdiction should be founded on consent and must respect national sovereignty.