

Different legal problems arise in time of peace in relation to the status of military forces abroad. Canada, for instance, is a party to the Agreement between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of their Forces, which came into force last year. This agreement governs the legal status of Canadian military forces stationed in Europe in fulfilment of our North Atlantic Treaty obligations and contains detailed provisions governing such matters as jurisdiction in respect of offences committed by members of a visiting force, the settlement of claims for damage to property and fiscal immunities.

Tonight it has been possible for me to indicate only a few of the many problems of international law which are of concern to Canada. In doing so I would not wish you to forget the wider significance of these questions which is perhaps most clearly put in the words of St. Augustine..... "Peace is the tranquillity which comes of order."

Lasting peace can only be achieved in the context of law and its realization must therefore depend to a great extent on the increased willingness of states to accept and to apply the principles of international law in their dealings with one another.

In my opinion there is nothing impractical or visionary in this concept of peace through law. In modern civilized states the conviction that a lawful order is essential to their internal government has been long established. I believe that the same morality and respect for law is equally necessary in interstate relations.

Perhaps the best evidence that international law can function effectively is the work which has already been accomplished by the Permanent Court of International Justice and its successor, the present International Court. As Canadians we can be proud that a countryman of ours now sits on the Court, in the person of Mr. Justice John Read. I might say that it was my privilege to cast a vote in his favour when nominations for the new Court were being considered.

The truth surely is that international law is not just a subject for books but a system that is practised and will continue to be improved and extended, for it is the only means of marking out the sphere within which each state may exercise its governmental powers without trespassing on the sphere of other states. It is the basis for peaceful co-existence and its progress is therefore the only accurate measurement of successful international cooperation. The international lawyer who accepts the fact that peace is inseparable from law and increasingly must be waged with law can do much to further this end, no matter what his nationality or political beliefs.

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