

wills of men or to resolve the conflicts which beset them. The future for which mankind strives can be attained only in peace through law, each being the function and product of the other.

Law or Disaster

In the domestic legal system of states it is the function of the Rule of Law, and the courts which apply it, to regulate the conduct between man and man -- by proclaiming what is permissible and what is not, by prescribing principles or norms of human behavior and thus preventing disputes from arising, and by adjudicating on and settling conflicts when they arise.

In the larger sphere of the conduct and relations between state and state, the creation and interpretation of law must regulate relations between states, not by any one or several states, but by all states in common consensus and will.

The application of the Rule of Law internationally is the fundamental basis and assurance of peace, and one of the cardinal messages which lawyers throughout the world must carry to mankind is that the Rule of Law is synonymous with peace.

Forward steps have been taken towards this objective for many generations, and in this century one of the significant yet undramatic developments in the relations of state and state has been the evolution of the Rule of Law in the international sphere, as formulated and laid down by the International Court of Justice and its predecessor, the Permanent Court of Justice.

The history of international arbitration and of the pacific settlement of disputes in this century has shown that if a world order with the Rule of Law as its base is to be brought into being, there must be something more in existence than the machinery for settling international disputes.

International Court of Justice

The fifteen judges of the International Court have been men of capacity and ability, but only thirty contentious cases have been submitted to the Court, several of which were stricken from its list for lack of jurisdiction, and in addition ten advisory opinions have been given.

Eighty-five states are parties to the Statute of the International Court, of which thirty-eight states have accepted the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court. Of these, thirteen have accepted unconditionally, or subject only to the condition of reciprocity; nine have accepted subject only to reciprocity, and with respect to those disputes which arose after the declaration came into being; sixteen states have more restrictive conditions.