

INTRODUCTION

After the success of the first Joint Conference of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Internationaal Recht (NVIR), held in The Hague, The Netherlands, in July 1991, the Executive Councils of both societies decided to hold a second Joint Conference in the Summer of 1993. The present *Proceedings* are the result of that conference, on the theme "Contemporary International Law Issues: Opportunities at a Time of Momentous Change", which took place in The Hague on July 22-24, 1993.

This time, approximately 370 persons from 24 countries participated. This substantial increase of the number of participants shows that this event attracts a large and growing audience in Europe and North America, and even from beyond. The varied program, covering the fields of public and private international law, European law and international commercial arbitration, was prepared by a Program Committee chaired energetically by John King Gamble and Paul Peters.

The second Joint Conference lasted for two and a half days, one day longer than the first, with 24 panel sessions and 7 breakfast meetings and roundtables. The significant increase of the number of sessions during the Conference is reflected in these *Proceedings* which are almost twice the size of those of the first conference. The task of editing the *Proceedings* was entrusted to René Lefeber, whom we should like to compliment on the way he discharged this function.

We gratefully acknowledge the generous financial support of the listed Major Contributors and Law Firm and Corporate Law Department Sponsors. The ASIL staff at Tillar House and the T.M.C. Asser Instituut again provided invaluable help in the organization of the Conference. We would like to mention in particular Bert Barnhoorn, who again chaired the Technical Working Group of the NVIR.

Our two societies have in the meantime decided to hold a third Joint Conference, of a format similar to the second, in The Hague in July 1995. A Program Committee will be established shortly. In order to demonstrate that, on the European side, the joint conferences should be seen as a truly pan-European event, a number of European international law societies will be asked to co-sponsor the conference and designate a representative on the Program Committee.

We hope you will attend the third Joint Conference.

LOUIS HENKIN
PRESIDENT,
AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

ALFRED H.A. SOONS
PRESIDENT,
NEDERLANDSE VERENIGING
VOOR INTERNATIONAAL RECHT

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