

legislation or even national constitutions.

The feasibility of international implementation can be seen from the jurisprudence of the European Commission of Human Rights and the Court of Human Rights. To date, over six thousand decisions have been given by the Commission; fifteen cases have been brought before the Court; and seven inter-state complaints and thirty-four individual applications have been given further examination by the Committee of Ministers. Moreover, the Committee of Ministers has exercised its jurisdiction to supervise the enforcement of a judgment of the Court against the Austrian Government.

Owing to the urgency of safeguarding individuals against further environmental deterioration, action must be taken at the international and regional levels. All too obvious is the fact that strictly

national judicial and administrative remedies are inadequate to deal with transfrontier environmental problems.

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The seminar proceedings will be shortly published under the title An Individual Right or an Obligation of the State? International Colloquium on the Right to a Humane Environment Organized by the European Council on Environment Law. Numbered Volume A 41, this title is incorporated in the series Beiträge zur Umweltgestaltung. (Erich Schmidt Verlag, West Berlin, 1975.) The German text is published verbatim in this volume, with comprehensive summaries in English and French also included. [Ed.] □

environments. As such, the book is not at all concerned with legal regimes, but does contain valuable insights for concerned citizens and for policy-makers. Although the material is technical in nature, it is readily comprehensible to the layman. This is fortunate, as the subject is one deserving careful attention from a large reading public.

Tropical marine areas may vary in composition, but all are extremely fragile in nature. Slight environmental changes in temperature, turbidity and water quality can cause catastrophic destruction to such components as fish life, coral reefs and mangrove forests. The authors duly explore economic, aesthetic and moral reasons for preserving such environments. These areas provide vast amounts of animal protein, mineral wealth and pharmaceutical materials to mankind as well as providing thousands of species with unique habitats. The authors' investigations into previous environmental degradations from dredging, dumping and other sources are invaluable for planning better control of future activities in tropical marine areas. On the negative side, however, the book is rather expensive and this may unfortunately limit the extent of its audience.

Human Settlements: crisis and opportunity. By Barbara Ward, Information Canada. SU 31-7/1974. Pp. xi, 60. Available without charge. In view of the UN Conference on Human Settlements ("Habitat") to be held in Vancouver in May-June 1976, the Canadian government asked Barbara Ward, chairwoman of the meeting of experts of May 1973, to express her personal view of the settlement issues throughout the world. This report is a clear-sighted portrayal of the existing situation and will surely provide a philosophical framework for the Conference. The emphasis on the urgency of finding appropriate solutions is clear from the author's numerous warning notes in the six "themes" of her book. Hoping to stimulate thinking about the basic problems and to shock the reader, the author describes for instance the harsh realities that poor people face, living in "bidonvilles, favellas, calampas, bustees, shantytowns. The name changes. The desolation is the same". In summary, these 60 pages convince the reader that radical changes in vision and policy are necessary and that Habitat has "to be a fruitful meeting of minds and stimulus to further action".

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BOOK NOTES

The Law of the Sea – Current Problems.

By René-Jean Dupuy. Sijthoff: Leiden. 1974. Pp. xiii, 210. Dfl. 42. Written in textbook format, the table of contents of this work could well serve as a syllabus for a student in sea law. This is a nicely organized and manifestly readable work. The book does not purport to narrate the entire range of positive law "but to analyse a number of crucial legal problems raised by the new uses of ocean space so as to indicate to the reader the changing structure of the law of the sea". The questions which Dupuy sets out to examine constitute a series of examples of the ways in which widely accepted needs could be met. The author divides the study into three convenient headings: general problems, seabed problems and regional problems. In the introductory chapter of Part I, we are confronted by "the opposition of the classical principles established within the framework of a law of movement and various new rules which appear on the basis of a law of appropriation". Part I goes on to treat the problems associated with delimitation between the international zone and the national zone. Part II deals with various sea-bed legal problems attached to the broader issue of peace and development. Part III considers several regional problems and demonstrates the inadequacy of merely national legal approaches to the challenge raised by pollution.

The book appears to be a fairly useful addition to existing publications on the law of the sea and is especially relevant in light of the ongoing fourth session of the Third Law of the Sea Conference.

The Spheres of Life: An Introduction to World Ecology.

By Joseph W. Mee-ker. Charles Scribner's Sons: New York. 1975. Pp. 123. \$ 7.95. Although not particularly designed for children, this book is an introductory textbook for environmental education. Its chapters originally appeared as a series of newspaper articles. Each concerns a particular sphere of world ecology (hydrosphere, biosphere, etc.) or a particular complex of problems (populations, evolution, etc.). The book is nicely illustrated and sometimes thought provoking, and might help to fill some gaps in the basic knowledge even of high-level environmental decisionmakers.

Tropical Marine Pollution. Edited by E. J. Ferguson Wood and R. E. Johannes. Elsevier Scientific Publishing Co.: Amsterdam. 1975. Pp. ix, 192. \$ 26.95. This book is the twelfth in Elsevier's series on oceanography. The volume is a compilation of six scientific studies concerned with the effects of various pollutants upon tropical marine