

SESIÓN DE CLAUSURA

La Sesión de Clausura se celebró el viernes 24 de agosto de 2001 y contó con la presencia de las siguientes autoridades: el Vicepresidente del Comité Jurídico Interamericano, Dr. Brynmor Thornton Pollard, el Secretario General Adjunto de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, Embajador Luigi Einaudi, el Subsecretario de Asuntos Jurídicos de la OEA, doctor Enrique Lagos, el ex-Secretario General de la OEA, Embajador João Clemente Baena Soares, y el Director del Departamento de Derecho Internacional de la Subsecretaría de Asuntos Jurídicos, doctor Jean-Michel Arrighi.

A continuación presentamos el discurso del Vicepresidente del Comité Jurídico, doctor Brynmor Thornton Pollard, en ocasión de la clausura del curso en su idioma original.

BRYNMOR THORNTON POLLARD
Vice-Chair of the Inter-American Juridical Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my colleagues on the Inter-American Juridical Committee and myself, I bring you greetings and extend our best wishes to you. I wish to associate us, in particular, with the welcome and congratulations extended to the participants in this year's Course on International Law conducted under the auspices of the Committee.

The usefulness of the course and, indeed, its importance for our system has oftentimes been acclaimed and lauded by representatives of Member States in the organs of the Organization. We, the members of the Inter-American Juridical Committee are convinced that the benefits to be derived by participants and, ultimately, by the Member States themselves, justify the annual conduct of the course taking account of the fact that there is keen competition for selection from among the candidates proposed by the Governments of Member States for selection.

It is, therefore, fitting for me at this stage of this morning's proceedings to express the Committee's deep appreciation for the efforts of those persons here in Rio, Secretary Manoel Tolomei P. Gomes Moletta, Dr. Daniella Vargas, Mrs. Monica Leite and Mrs. Mari de Souza Gomes – and the officials in the General Secretariat in Washington D.C., in particular, Dr. Jean Michel Arrighi and Dr. Dante Negro – for their roles in organizing for the Course.

Our thanks and deep appreciation must, of course, be extended to the distinguished lecturers who devoted their time to this exercise, perhaps, at times, at some personal inconvenience and, in the process, shared their knowledge and expertise with the participants.

Since I became a member of the Committee in 1997, participants on the course,

at least in its early stages, have expressed views on the intensity of the course conducted in a location such as Rio de Janeiro inhibiting them from enjoying the delights of the City and other parts of Brazil. From remarks which I have heard, I have reason to believe that this group of participants in 2002 has had a different experience.

This course is not intended to be about lectures, lecturers and papers only. Many of you will be utilizing your talents in the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs of your countries. I believe that participating in this course afforded you the opportunity to establish friendships which can be beneficial to you in your future careers and, in a wider context, in relations between states and their peoples.

Events of great significance are taking place in the world at this time. You will certainly face challenges which did not confront some of us. We hope that some of what you gained by participating in this course will stand you in good stead. I do not wish to impose an administrative burden on the organizers of this course or on the Committee's Secretariat but it has occurred to me that some mechanism can be devised so that we can keep in touch with you and take note of your progress.

On behalf of the Inter-American Juridical Committee and on my own behalf best wishes are extended to each of you as you leave Rio to resume or to enter upon your individual careers.