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The Modern International Law of Outer Space

Howard S. Levie

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In this planning, some additional insights into the internecine strife of the Israeli Southern Command is provided. Further, some information with regard to the various players and their positions on a Sinai strategy, *viz* the Bar Lev Line, is presented in a new light. These several nuggets are gems for Israeli General Officer "watchers."

(If someone wants to publish a book that would be fascinating to write and would be read by professionals of all stripes, no better subject could be found than the command crises in Southern Command—the politics, personal battles, and professional quarrels of about eight or so general officers that made the campaign far more difficult than it had to be.)

There is one thing about this book that bothered me immensely. The author clearly has a thesis; not one that I cannot agree with, but, nevertheless, one that sets a disturbing tone to the book. A virulent anti-Soviet cast, along with an attraction to naked power politics, runs like the major theme of a fugue, providing a constant measuring standard for the behavior of all the players. This is certainly a way to approach the informal structure of a narrative, but it must call into question the breadth of perspective of the writer. One wonders what is left out. This reviewer prefers being asked to make his own judgments rather than being, however deftly, fed so obvious an approach.

The book is well written; it is a good entrance to the Arab-Israeli conflicts. But, there are limitations to the book aforementioned. Check it out of the library and save yourself \$18.00 for *On the Banks of Suez*.

MICHAEL S. LANCASTER
Major, US Army

Christol, Carl Q. *The Modern International Law of Outer Space*. New York: Pergamon Press, 1982. 932pp. \$85

Almost 20 years ago this reviewer participated in a regional meeting of the American Assembly on the subject of outer space at which one of the conclusions reached was that the adoption at that time of a comprehensive body of law on outer space was not desirable, but that, for the most part, such law should be permitted to evolve on a case-by-case basis.

Professor Christol's magisterial volume indicates that the conclusion so reached was a valid one and that evolution has been the method by which the law of outer space has developed and expanded over the past two decades, and is currently continuing to develop and expand. This evolution began with the 1967 Principles Treaty (Chapter 2), and was followed, as the necessity in each case became apparent, by the 1968 Rescue and Return Agreement (Chapter 5), the 1972 Liability for Damages Convention (Chapter 3), the 1975 Registration Convention (Chapter 6), and the 1979 Moon Treaty (Chapter 7).

Professor Christol concludes that the "challenge of space has led to the formation of an international legal regime for space." However, this does not mean that he believes there is now extant a complete, comprehensive regime in this area. Elsewhere he has made it clear that "there is a *maturing* international legal regime respecting the international space environment, e.g., outer space, *per se*, the Moon, and celestial bodies" (emphasis added).

That one can go no further than that is fully demonstrated by some of the titles and contents of the chapters dealing with problems as to which there is, as yet, no specific international legislation: Protection of Space from Contamination

and Pollution (Chapter 4); An International Legal Regime and Organization for the Natural Resources of the Sun and Moon (Chapter 9); and Direct Television Broadcasting (DTB) (Chapter 12). (The author specifically notes the current urgent need for a new treaty outlawing the launching or the stationing in outer space of anti-satellite satellites.)

Professor Christol is no newcomer to the field of the law of outer space. In addition to many articles on the subject, as the onetime incumbent of the Stockton Chair of International Law at the Naval War College he wrote a "Blue Book" entitled *The International Law of Outer Space* (Volume 55, International Law Studies). To see at a glance the extent of the development in this area the reader has but to compare the table of contents of that volume, published in 1966, with that of the present volume, published 16 years later, in 1982.

There can be little question but that Carl Christol's *The Modern International Law of Outer Space* constitutes a landmark in this comparatively young area of international law.

HOWARD S. LEVIE
Newport, Rhode Island

Blechman, Barry, ed. *Rethinking the U.S. Strategic Posture: A Report from the Aspen Consortium on Arms Control and Security Issues*. Cambridge, Mass.: Ballinger, 1982. 308pp. \$14.95

There are several decisions which are about to be taken in the very near future which will affect the course of Soviet-American and European-American relations, and the risks of nuclear war, for many years to come. At the same time the United States itself is in the middle of a period when the defense consensus associated with the election of President

Reagan is cracking up. The issue of the future of the US strategic posture is therefore both vital and open. Barry Blechman's edited volume could not be more timely.

During 1980-82 the Aspen Consortium on Arms Control and Security Issues met on a number of occasions: (i) to reconsider the basic factors that contribute to decisions about US strategic forces, to see whether they "withstand the light of present and prospective international reality"; and (ii) to devise an integrated policy for strategic nuclear forces, comprising not only the weapons programs necessary to maintain "an adequate military and political balance," but also whether, and if so how, arms control negotiations might enhance US security.

This volume is the report of the Consortium's deliberations on these issues. For the most part, the contributors are individuals who were identified with the Carter administration, but who cannot be identified with the unsophisticated image of those years.

Theodore Roosevelt might have described Jimmy Carter as somebody who "meant well feebly": in contrast, the writers of this report mean well sensibly. They eschew simple-minded faith in equating "security" with ever-accumulating stocks of weapons; they avoid caricaturing the adversary and other actors in foreign affairs; they reject the accountant's approach to strategy, which measures the potential military and political effectiveness of programs merely in terms of percentage increases in the defense budget; and they accept the continuing importance of military factors in the kaleidoscope of international politics.

The first ten chapters of the book have been written by individual contributors, and they address particular aspects of the