

CONCLUSION

Judge Manfred LACHS

On the question of East-West relations and telecommunication it is obvious that telecommunication will help to create a better understanding between Eastern and Western Europe and will help to dispel the mutual distrust and the lack of confidence which exists. Today we are witnessing a process which is very important in the development of mutual understanding and which is full of promises. Of course I cannot identify myself with one or the other part of Europe because I am an European and I am a judge at the International Court. But, I was delighted when during my last visit in Poland I saw a lot of satellite antennas in Warsaw and even in some villages.

My conclusion is that I am very grateful to all the participants in this Round Table for their co-operation. This exchange has again shown that law-making for outer space activities needs considerable stimulus. In this field lawyers are very much behind. There is a gap between the needs and reality. The progress on the part of the governments is rather reluctant and therefore the stimulus must come from other sources, perhaps from the academic world. Although the functions are usually divided — we are the thinkers and the others are the doers — now the functions should be linked. They should join each other in order to push law-making in the right direction. The Organizing Committee has done this by inviting thinkers *and* doers.

We owe you a debt of gratitude for having convoked this meeting because it has stimulated interest in a domain which is of the utmost importance for the world of today. Today we have realized that history is beginning a new chapter and that we have to co-operate in the making of this chapter. Telecommunication plays a very important role in this, it is a very important factor in spreading knowledge and developing knowledge among mankind. To use Albert Einstein's words : « knowledge pervades all aspects of life ». Telecommunication is an instrument which crosses all barriers and pervades development, and its further progress will only help the development of world civilization and the improvement of mankind.

Speaking for all my colleagues, I want to express how grateful we are to Professor van Hecke and the Organizing Committee for having brought us together and allow us to spend an intellectually stimulating and socially agreeable day.

Conclusion du Prof. G. van Hecke

Je vous remercie d'être venu et je voudrais dire que si cette journée d'études a connu un succès, c'est dû aux membres du comité organisateur : en tout premier lieu Madame N. Sybesma-Knol et également les professeurs Bossuyt et Van der Mensbrugge qui ont fait partie du comité organisateur et qui nous ont toujours assistés de leurs conseils.