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Foreword to the International Trade Conference International Trade After the Cold War: Revisiting the Allies' Idealistic Vision of the Post-World War II International Economic Order

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ARTICLES

Foreword

RODOLPHE J.A. DE SEIFE*

I am humbled by the honor granted me to write a foreword to this special issue of the Northern Illinois University Law Review. I am honored because of the rare opportunity to have been able to convene a stellar participation in the very short time given us to put together what I consider to have been a very significant conference on international trade.

At the time, after Professor Robert McGeorge and I talked about the convening of such a conference, the Uruguay Round was still in "progress" after six years of deliberations, often interspersed with confrontational arguments. It seemed to me, then, that it was the natural and orderly thing to do, that in order to prepare for tomorrow, we had to do something that we normally in this country do not seem inclined to do; namely to look to the past and see if there was anything in the history of international trade worthwhile saving as a basis on which to build the future.

Frankly, I was pleasantly surprised at the welcome the idea had, first on the part of Dean Alfini, then on the part of knowledgeable people in the international trade community, not only eminent academics, such as Professor Mikesell, but particularly those in the international business such as Mr. Paul Eitmant, Vice-President for International Marketing and Sales of Ideal Industries of Sycamore, Illinois and Dr. Samuel Efron, of Washington D.C.

We were exceedingly fortunate, in great measure thanks to Professor McGeorge, to secure the cooperation, on a most gracious basis, of Professor Raymond Mikesell and Dr. William Diebold. They brought the voice of history and experience to our meeting, and if there had been no other reason than to be able to record their contribution, this was reason enough to have held this conference.

All participants performed well beyond our high expectations. If it were not for them, I would not have had the opportunity to write this short foreword. I therefore thank all those who participated actively in this conference, for making it possible in the first place,

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and then to make it such a resounding success. I would like to add one short word of particular appreciation for Justice Richard Neely's last minute masterful contribution to the second round table discussion due to the unavoidable absence of the announced moderator, and to Professor Victor Rosenblum who so generously donated his time and to whom I cannot express enough gratitude and appreciation for his effort.

I want also to thank Ms. Sue Mellard and her able assistant, Robbin Tamblyn, who did such a fine job in arranging the logistics of the Conference. Finally, and not least, my thanks to our Dean, James Alfini, who understands the importance of the international dimension in law education today and who feels that conferences such as this are not only of academic interest, but have a more important message to give to the community at large. We hope that this will be the theme of our 1995 trade conference where we can look to the future with, maybe, a little less of a hazy crystal ball.

Thanks are also due to the forward-looking and supportive attitude of Dr. John LaTourette, the President of Northern Illinois University, the generous support of various sections of the Northern Illinois University administration and that of its law faculty, as well as the hard-working staff of the Northern Illinois University Law Review.