(b) Constitutional and Institutional Developments

1. Triennial Elections of Five Members of the ICJ

On Wednesday 6 November 1996, the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council re-elected Judges Mohammed Bedjaoui (Algeria), Stephen M. Schwebel (United States), and Vladlen S. Vereshchetin (Russian Federation) as members of the Court. On the same date, Pieter H. Kooijmans (Netherlands) and José F. Rezek (Brazil) were elected as members of the Court as of 6 February 1997. Kooijmans and Rezek have replaced Judges Luigi Ferrari Bravo (Italy), who completed the late Judge Ago's term, and Mohammed Shahabuddeen (Guyana), who completed his nine year term.[1]

José F. Rezek was born in Cristina, Minas Gerais, Brazil, on 18 January 1944. His academic education took place in the Universities of Belo Horizonte, Paris (Sorbonne), and Harvard. Between 1971 and 1978, he was Professor in International Law and Constitutional Law at the University of Brasilia. He has also had a career as Attorney of the Republic before the Supreme Court of Brasil, of which he later became a Justice from 1992 until his election to the ICJ in 1996. Between 1990 and 1992 he was foreign affairs Minister of Brazil.[2]

Pieter H. Kooijmans was born in 1933 and studied at the Free University in Amsterdam. In 1965, he became Professor of Public International Law and European Law at the Free University in Amsterdam. Between 1973 and 1977, he was State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, after which he became Professor of Public International Law at the University of Leiden. He has held this position from 1978 until his recent election to the ICJ, only interrupted in 1993-1994 when he was Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. As chairman of the Board of the Carnegie Foundation, Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Hague Academy of International Law, Member of the Steering Committee of the International Crisis Group, Member and former Chairman of the Netherlands Branch of the International Law Association, and Associate Member of the Institut de Droit International, he is considered to be a prominent member of the international legal society.[3]

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1. ICJ Communiqué No. 96/29 of 7 November 1996.
2. *Id.*, Annex.
3. *Id.*, Annex. For more details on Kooijmans' extensive career, *see infra* at 121-136.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0922156597000101 Published online by Cambridge University Press

2. NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE ICJ

On 6 February 1997, Stephen M. Schwebel of the United States, who has been a Judge at the International Court of Justice since 1981, was elected President of the Court for a three-year term. He replaces Mohammed Bedjaoui of Algeria. Christopher G. Weeramantry of Sri Lanka, a Judge of the Court since 1991, was elected Vice-President, thereby replacing Stephen M. Schwebel in that position.[4]

4. ICJ Communiqué No. 97/2 of 6 February 1997.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0922156597000101 Published online by Cambridge University Press