# PREFACE

The present Supplement is published with the first part of Volume 45 of the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* in January 1996. It consists of a report prepared by a study group established by the British Institute of International and Comparative Law which has examined the procedures and working methods of the International Court of Justice. The publication of the report as a supplement to the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* reflects a practice which the Institute has adopted in the past in preparing occasional supplements on topics of particular importance.

The present study group was established in September 1993 on the initiative of the Public International Law Section of the Advisory Board of the Institute. The Advisory Board, which is divided into sections which reflect the Institute's areas of specialism, advises on the Institute's work programme and the way in which research on topical issues may be conducted.

The publication of the present report is intended to fulfil a threefold purpose. First, to provide a report of a study group comprised of experts with specialist knowledge and experience of the procedures and working methods of the International Court of Justice.

Secondly, to provide an example of the working methods of the Institute as a body committed to the analysis of the operation of law in practice and a bridge between academic and practising lawyers. The report contains careful analysis of the present position and specific recommendations which are intended to contribute to improvements.

Thirdly, the report represents a contribution by the Institute to the United Nations Decade of International Law. Publication arises at the midpoint of the Decade and it is particularly appropriate that this should coincide with the forthcoming 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the International Court of Justice. To mark this occasion, the Institute proposes to hold a conference on 23 and 24 February 1996 to examine the report and the work of the Court.

The Institute is most grateful to all those who have contributed to the work of the study group and especially to the authors of this report. It is hoped that publication of the supplement followed by the conference will provide readers of the *International and Comparative Law Quarterly* and members of the Institute with an opportunity to discuss and develop the analysis and proposals which the report contains.

J. P. Gardner
Director
The British Institute of International and Comparative Law

London
December 1995



https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020589300060073 Published online by Cambridge University Press