

Foreword

Robert Quentin Quentin-Baxter

1922 - 1984

Robert Quentin Quentin-Baxter, Professor of Law at Victoria University of Wellington since 1968, died unexpectedly in Wellington on 25 September 1984.

Professor Quentin-Baxter was a lawyer of considerable learning and experience, particularly in the fields of international law and constitutional law. Upon graduating in law and philosophy as New Zealand Senior Scholar in Law in 1947, he spent the next two years assisting the New Zealand Judge on the International Military Tribunal at Tokyo. He served the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1949 to 1968 in Ottawa, New York and Tokyo as well as in Wellington, and was Assistant Secretary to the Ministry from 1964 to 1968. Professor Quentin-Baxter attended ten sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and diplomatic conferences on the law of the sea and the protection of the victims of armed conflict. During his sixteen-year association with the Faculty of Law, he served on the United Nations Human Rights Commission and at his death was in his third term as a member of the United Nations' principal law reform agency, the International Law Commission. He was leader of the New Zealand legal team at the International Court of Justice in the *Nuclear Tests* case and served as President of the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs. Law students also reaped the benefits of Professor Quentin-Baxter's experience as constitutional adviser to the Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands and Niue.

This is the first of two commemorative issues devoted to honouring the life and work of Professor Quentin-Baxter. The articles appearing in the first issue have been contributed by persons who were fortunate to have had a close working relationship with Professor Quentin-Baxter and who shared his interest in international law. This issue deals with the role and functions of two United Nations agencies and canvasses such topical issues as how to regulate the "Chernobyl-type" mishap and the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. It is hoped that our readers will find the collection a fitting and lasting tribute.

V.U.W.L.R. Editorial Committee