

In Memoriam Paul P. Heller

I first met Paul Heller at the Hague Diplomatic Conference in 1955, at which a Protocol was adopted for the amendment of the Warsaw Convention. Here he made perhaps his greatest contribution to the development of international air law. In that star-studded assembly, which included among others such personalities as Lord Wilberforce (as he now is) and the late Major Beaumont of the United Kingdom, (the co-author of Shawcross & Beaumont on Air Law) he was not eclipsed, and an examination of the record of the famous sessions in the Peace Palace will show how frequently Paul Heller and Hubert Drion (then a Professor at Leyden University and now a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands) together identified and solved so many of the knotty legal problems that confronted the conference.

Paul retired in due course from the international scene and became Financial Secretary in Western Samoa, before joining the Faculty of Law at Auckland University, where he lectured on air and space law. He contributed widely to legal periodicals, his last essay appearing (in English) in the German Yearbook of International law. He was a visiting lecturer at the Universities of Cologne and Utrecht and also lectured to the Royal Aeronautical Society in Oxford. His many admirers were delighted when he was awarded the O.B.E. and when the Austrian Government recognised his achievements by inviting him to attend the celebration in Vienna of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Republic.

His delightful warmth, his steadfast friendship, the twinkle in his eye, his love of music and of his little sheep farm in Parau, his profound understanding of the law, contributed to a unique personality which will be sadly missed.

ARNOLD KEAN