

Editorial

Jacques WERNER

Changing Times

Dennis Thompson had a vision: create an instrument to encourage world economic cooperation and, hopefully, solve some of the world's economic problems. For this he created the *Journal of World Trade Law*. Under his splendid editorship a forum was established where, year after year, the main policy-makers of international trade could express their views.

For many years contributions were made mainly by officials of national governments, international organizations, and academics. This was quite natural, as trade policy was almost exclusively in the hands of governments and international organizations. However, the last few years have seen a significant widening of the contributors to trade policy making, with the emergence of international companies in the private and public sector. By an increased participation in forming their respective governments' policies, as well as by representing their views in international negotiations and, probably most important of all, by a stepped-up litigation of trade policy questions in the courts under antidumping, unfair trade practices or other similar legislation, the companies have become significant new contributors to the whole debate.

While maintaining the essential flow of contributions from officials of governments and international organizations and from academics, I will endeavour, as the new editor, to open up the debate to the companies by publishing contributions from their representatives, as well as documents concerning antidumping, unfair trade practices or other significant cases. By so doing, I hope I will keep the Journal true to its mission: to be an international forum where relevant issues can be debated by all those concerned.