

*CONFERENCE ON PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL MUTUAL
RELATIONS IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES*

From 14th to 17th of November, 1966, there was held in Jabłonna near Warsaw the international conference organized by the Institute of Legal Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences on problems of legal relations between socialist countries. The conference was a further step in continuous research works on international relations of socialist countries in the field of civil law the Institute carries of for several years. The aim of the conference attended by representatives of institutes of state and law of socialist countries academies of sciences was the exchange of information and experiences of different countries with reference to regulation forms of legal relations that are now in use between socialist countries, as well as a discussion on what are possibilities of their further development.

The Institute of Legal Sciences was represented at the conference by Prof. H. Trammer, chairman of a group working within the Institute on recent trends in international relations between socialist countries in the field of civil law; there also participated some of the members of the mentioned groups: Asst. Prof. J. Fabian, Dr. J. Jakubowski, Prof. W. Ludwiczak, Asst. Prof. J. Skapski, and E. Wierzbowski, M. A.

The conference was opened in the name of the 1st Department of the Polish Academy of Sciences by Prof. M. Rybicki, Vice-Director of the Institute of Legal Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The assembly elected Prof. H. Trammer for president.

To begin with there were read articles by representatives of all institutes; the subject was recent regulation in legal relations between socialist countries in the field of civil law and family law. As it is to be concluded from the presented papers, the basic form of regulation is a bilateral agreement on legal relations and legal assistance in civil, family, and criminal cases. There are now about 30 agreements that are binding in relations between European socialist countries; they all are much alike with regard to problems being a subject of regulation as well a accepted

solutions. In particular, the agreements regulate the following questions: determination of the proper law in personal family, guardianship, inheritance, property, and other civil law cases; and still they regulate jurisdiction, principles of recognition and enforcement of courts — decisions and arbitration in civil and family questions; the said agreements settle also rules for arranging co-operation of the appropriate organs in individual countries that deal with civil, family, and criminal cases.

One of the most frequent disadvantages of bilateral agreements in legal relations is lack of uniform interpretation of their provisions awards by courts of countries parties to the agreement. There is also to be observed non-uniformity of the judicial decisions in particular countries. The other disadvantage due to bilateral character of binding agreements is that they do not provide for situations in which a court of one of socialist countries deals with a case in which parties are citizens of two different socialist countries but no one is a country of the court.

In order to overcome such difficulties it may be of advantage to conclude in the future instead of now binding bilateral agreements a multilateral agreement that would regulate the questions of legal relations between socialist countries.

Polish delegation made a suggestion that it may be worthwhile to discuss this matter. A draft of such a multilateral agreement in the field of civil law as well as family and guardianship law elaborated by a team of scientific workers within the Institute of Legal Sciences was highly appreciated by the assembly. A number of comments and additional suggestions were made in discussion on the draft.

In agreement that all problems being a subject of the conference cannot be thoroughly treated the assembly made a resolution concerning further continuation of the works in the future.

Andrzej Burzyński