

# EDITORIAL

*The situation with regard to the Kyoto Protocol is looking worse: Without comment, we report that, according to Reuters news agency Andrei Illarionov, Vladimir Putin's economic adviser, has recommended that the President should reject the pact as Kyoto's impact would be devastating, "killing off the world economy like an international Auschwitz".*

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*Following ten years of service, Hans Corell, the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, has retired. At his final briefing to correspondents, he noted that while the Treaty Section's Web site received more than 1 million hits per month, "States needed to pay more attention to the way in which they applied international law because it seemed that the rule of law was being forgotten – which was why the Secretary-General had taken such a firm stance on the matter in his Millennium Report". He added that the NGO community, the private sector and civil society now had greater access and were participating in a much more organised way than in the past. "When all these good forces came together, it would be possible to steer the world community on a course towards the rule of law in international relations," he said. We knew Hans Corell as a great supporter of environmental law, whom it was always possible to approach for an opinion when a problem had to be solved.*

*When I left New York on 16 April, his successor was still a mystery. Normally there are rumours in such cases, but this time no information at all was available.*

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*In a draft recommendation of 5 April 2004, submitted by the Rio Group of nations, the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organisation recommends that the General Assembly establish, at its fifty-ninth session, a trust fund for the preparation, updating and publication of the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs, which should accept solely voluntary contributions by States and private institutions and individuals. Such a Repertory has been missing for years, but now that the Rio Group has taken this action, there is hope that it will be established.*

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*- Wolfgang R. S. -*