



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER

Press Release

MEMORIAL SERVICE OF JUDGE EDWARD A. LAING

The funeral service to mark the passing away of Judge Edward A. Laing and to celebrate his life was held at the Wesley Methodist Church in Belize City, Belize on 17 September 2001. The service was attended by numerous dignitaries and diplomats, including the Prime Minister of Belize, the Honorable Said Musa, and the Governor General, Sir Colville N. Young. After the service, a motorcade brought the coffin to the Lord's Ridge Cemetery where Judge Laing was laid to rest.

The President and other Judges of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea were represented by Judge Gudmundur Eiriksson, who repeated the words of his fellow Judges in reaction to the loss of a friend and colleague, for example those of Vice-President Nelson:

The Caribbean Community has lost an illustrious son. But his spirit, his example and his memory will remain alive in our hearts. May his family be assured that our thoughts will be always with him.

Judge Eiriksson also stated on the occasion:

I cannot but put our loss in the context of the evil and lawless deeds perpetrated last week in Washington and New York. We must doubly mourn in these times the passing of a man of peace; for such was Edward Laing, at the peak of his intellectual career, fully prepared to make further contributions to the cause of world peace, to the regard for the rule of law in the affairs of States and the promotion of the settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

Earlier that day, Judge Eiriksson had the opportunity to participate in a special sitting of the Supreme Court of Belize, held in honour of Judge Laing, during which he praised the life and work of his colleague.

Further information may be found on the website of the Government of Belize. (www.belize.gov.bz/laing_death/funeral.htm)

The Press Releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/> and from the Registry of the Tribunal. Please contact Mr. Robert van Dijk or Ms. Julia Pope at Am Internationalen Seegerichtshof 1, 22609 Hamburg, Germany, Tel.: (49) (40) 35607-228/227, Fax: (49) (40) 35607-245/275; E-mail: press@itlos.org

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