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INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALTA LECTURES ON TERRORISM AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

His Excellency, Mr. D. P. Srivastava, High Commissioner of India to Malta was recently at IMLI and lectured on “Terrorism and International Law”.



*His Excellency, Mr. D. P. Srivastava, lecturing on “
Terrorism and International Law” to the Class of 2006-2007*

Ambassador Srivastava during his lecture briefly outlined the historical development of international law in the area of terrorism. He stated that the issue of terrorism was first addressed in an international forum, when the League of Nations adopted a Convention on the subject in 1937. The League Convention could not be ratified. However, since then 12 Conventions have been adopted under the UN, and are now part of international

law. In addition, the UN Security Council and the General Assembly have adopted a number of resolutions on the subject. They reflect a growing consensus that acts of terrorism are not justifiable, whatever the causes of national, ethnic or religious nature behind them.

The Vienna Declaration on Human Rights declared that actions and methods of terrorists could not go against the principles of freedom, democracy and security of States and duly elected governments. The Vienna Declaration did not accept any linkage between terrorism and self-determination. Indian freedom struggle showed that non-violent struggle could achieve independence. In a democracy, political dissent need not be expressed through violence.

In the 80s, use of refugee populations as a political asset unleashed a new phenomenon. Today, the clock has turned full circle. Many States are tightening anti-terrorism laws.

In the wake of events of 11th September, there is greater awareness of the menace posed by terrorism to international peace and security. The UN Security Council has adopted a series of resolutions on the subject under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which are mandatory. There is need also to expeditiously adopt and implement a Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism.

Ambassador Srivastava has been a member of the diplomatic corps of India and served as Director/Joint Secretary of the UN Division at the UN Headquarters in New York.

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