Historical Review of Developments relating to Aggression

The question of defining aggression has been under consideration within the framework of the United Nations since the earliest days of the Organization. In 1998, the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court adopted the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court granting the Court jurisdiction over the crime of aggression once a provision has been adopted defining the crime of aggression and setting out the conditions under which the Court shall exercise jurisdiction with respect to this crime.

The Historical Review of Developments relating to Aggression was prepared by the Secretariat and presented to the Working Group on the Crime of Aggression of the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court, in 2002, in response to a request by the Commission; and has since been published as an United Nations publication.

The study provides an objective, analytical overview of the history and major developments relating to aggression before and after the adoption of the Charter of the United Nations; and reflects developments relating to aggression as of mid-2001. Parts I, II and III review the major developments resulting from the establishment of tribunals to consider crimes against peace after the Second World War, including the constituent instruments and the jurisprudence of the tribunals. Part IV reviews the major developments resulting from the establishment of the United Nations after the Second World War, including the relevant provisions of the Charter which prohibit the threat or use of force and provide a role for some of its principal organs with respect to international peace and security. Also included are a series of annexes containing analytical tables providing a more focused element-by-element consideration of the aspects of aggression.

French and Spanish versions of the study will be available soon, with the Russian, Arabic and Chinese versions scheduled for release in 2004.



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