

Rüdiger Wolfrum*

Ivan Shearer stands like a lighthouse at the beginning of my interest in the law of the sea. For my first articles on the subject, I intensively consulted the two volumes of DP O'Connell on *The International Law of the Sea* edited by Ivan.¹ The outstanding feature of these two books is that they deeply delve into the history of the international law of the sea. This keen interest in the historical basis of law was typical for Ivan.

We met frequently at the Max Planck Institute for National Public and International Law in Heidelberg, which Ivan visited frequently, but more intensively at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea where he served as judge three times. We were also together in the delimitation dispute between *Bangladesh v India*² and in the Chagos Archipelago case, *Mauritius v United Kingdom*, where Ivan acted as presiding arbitrator.³ Though in that case we were not on the same side, this did not spoil our relationship at all. Ivan was tolerant, eager to find compromises and to ensure collegiality amongst the arbitrators.

Having spoken about Ivan as a law of the sea expert does not do him justice. He had highly diverse interests, such as human rights, humanitarian law and refugee law. However, he always emphasised that in spite of any specialisation one should remain an international lawyer.

My last contact with him, only some months ago, was in relation to his research on where the principle *opinio juris sive necessitatis* had originated from. Unfortunately, we could not finish this research.

Finally, I should mention that Ivan was fond of music (he was particularly interested in Wagner), spoke excellent German and was even able to read the gothic script. Hardly any Germans of the younger generation can do this.

I shall remember Ivan as a leading scholar of international law, an experienced arbitrator and judge, a colleague you could fully rely on, and, a very good friend.

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¹ DP O'Connell, *The International Law of the Sea*, ed Ivan Shearer (Oxford University Press, 1982–84) vol 1; DP O'Connell, *The International Law of the Sea*, ed Ivan Shearer (Clarendon Press, 1st ed, 1982–84) vol 2.

² *Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary (Bangladesh v India) (Award)* (UNCLOS Arbitral Tribunal, 7 July 2014).

³ *Chagos Marine Protected Area (Mauritius v United Kingdom) (Award)* (UNCLOS Arbitral Tribunal, 18 March 2015).

