FINAL ACT

OF

THE DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON WILLS

WASHINGTON, D.C.
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The Governments of the following 42 States were represented at the Conference:

Australia
Belgium
Brazil
Canada
China, Republic of
Czechoslovakia
Ecuador
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
Greece
Guatemala
Holy See
Honduras
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Italy
Ivory Coast
Japan
Jordan
Khmer Republic
Laos
Mexico
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
San Marino
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
United States of America
Yugoslavia
Zaire

The Governments of the following six States were represented by observers at the Conference:

Argentina
Denmark
Jamaica
South Africa
Trinidad and Tobago
Viet-Nam, Republic of

Observers from the following intergovernmental organizations were present at the Conference:

Council of Europe
Hague Conference on Private International Law
International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT)
United Nations

Observers from the International Union of Latin Notaries were also present at the Conference.

The Conference elected the Honorable Richard D. Kearney (U.S.A.) as President.

The Conference elected Attorney General L. A. M. Brewah (Sierra Leone), Professor Elliseo Perez Cadalso (Honduras), Minister Toshio Yamazaki (Japan), Mr. Jonkheer T. Van Sasse Van Yssel (Netherlands), and First Deputy Minister of Justice Aleksandre J. Sukharev (U.S.S.R.) as Vice-Presidents.

The Secretary General of the Conference was Mr. Francis J. Seidner, and the Deputy Secretary General was Mr. Jean-Pierre Plantard.

The Conference had before it:

1. the draft of a Uniform Law on the Form of the International Will, text prepared by the Committee of Governmental Experts, convened by UNIDROIT, with Explanatory Report;

2. the Observations presented by various Governments relating to the draft of a Uniform Law on the Form of the International Will;

3. a Draft Convention providing a Uniform Law on the Form of the International Will prepared for the Conference by the Committee of Governmental Experts, convened by UNIDROIT, with Explanatory Report.
The Conference also had before it other documentation prepared by the Secretariat.

The Conference set up the following Committees:

**Credentials Committee:**

Chairman: Professor Roberto Núñez Escalante (Mexico)

Members: Australia
          Italy
          Poland
          Sierra Leone

**Drafting Committee:**

Chairman: Professor Pierre Lalive (Switzerland)

Members: Brazil
          Canada
          France
          Germany, Federal Republic of
          Iran
          Ivory Coast
          Japan
          Mexico
          Nicaragua
          Philippines
          Spain
          United Kingdom of Great Britain and
          Northern Ireland
          Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
          United States of America

In addition, the Conference decided that a Rapporteur should be chosen to write a final report on the Convention and the Uniform Law. The Conference elected Mr. Jean-Pierre Plantard as Rapporteur.

As the result of its deliberations as recorded in the records of the Plenaries and the records of the Committees, the Conference has drawn up the following Convention:

Convention providing a Uniform Law on the Form of the International Will, with Annex.
The foregoing Convention was opened for signature on October 26, 1973, at the Department of State of the United States of America.

In addition, the Conference adopted a Resolution concerning the safekeeping and registration of wills, annexed to this Final Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned representatives have signed this Final Act.

DONE at Washington, D.C., this twenty-sixth day of October one thousand nine hundred and seventy-three, in the French, English, Russian and Spanish languages, each text being equally authentic. The original of this Final Act shall be deposited with the Government of the United States of America.

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