Annual Survey of International & Comparative Law

Volume 13 | Issue 1 Article 2

8-30-2010

The Exeat of a Remarkable Man from the Academia: Distinguished Professor Dr. Sompong Sucharitkul: Statesman, Diplomat and Notable Scholar

Christian N. Okeke
Golden Gate University School of Law, cokeke@ggu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/annlsurvey

Part of the Biography Commons

Recommended Citation
Okeke, Christian N. (2007) "The Exeat of a Remarkable Man from the Academia: Distinguished Professor Dr. Sompong Sucharitkul: Statesman, Diplomat and Notable Scholar," *Annual Survey of International & Comparative Law*: Vol. 13: Iss. 1, Article 2.
Available at: http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/annlsurvey/vol13/iss1/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Academic Journals at Digital Commons: The Legal Scholarship Repository @ Golden Gate University School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in Annual Survey of International & Comparative Law by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons: The Legal Scholarship Repository @ Golden Gate University School of Law. For more information, please contact jfischer@ggu.edu.

THE EXEAT OF A REMARKABLE MAN FROM THE ACADEMIA: DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR DR. SOMPONG SUCHARITKUL: STATESMAN, DIPLOMAT AND NOTABLE SCHOLAR.

CHRISTIAN NWACHUKWU OKEKE*

The spirit of this essay is well reflected in a famous quotation:
"Render to all, their dues
Tax to who tax is due;
Toll to who toll is due;
Reverence to whom reverence;
Honor to who honor..."[1]

I. INTRODUCTION

"The history of the world is but the biography of great men,"[2] living or dead.

The quotation cited above aptly summarizes what some historians traditionally thought of history. To them, biographies made history, and since it was unlikely that biographies of slaves, serfs, servants, or of lesser men would be written, history then comprised of the biographies of great men

* Co-Director, Center for Advanced International Legal Studies, Golden Gate University, 2007 to the present, Associate Professor of Law; LL.M. (Magna Cum Laude), 1969, Kiev State University; Doctor in de Rechtsgeleerdheid (S.J.D. equivalent), 1973, Free University of Amsterdam.

1. Romans 13:7, *available at* http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab/bible/romans/romans13.htm (last visited on April 1, 2007).

2. Thomas Carlyle, *On Heroes and Hero Worship and the Heroic in History* 26, (1859).

- kings, rulers, warriors and potentates. These men of achievement were the people who made things happen the world over, at all times.

Today, historiography has gone beyond biographies and great men. Empires were built not only by the power of kings but also by the sweat of slaves. History is a total study of society. It does not study the lives of only great men. Neither does it deal with society of only yesterday, but also of today. This is not to say that biographies are no longer relevant to history. But today, the life of a man is not studied in isolation. It is not even localized. He does not operate like Robinson Crusoe who lived a lonely life in an island. If he does, he never can be seen as a great man whose biography is worth writing.

It is in this context that our essay on Sompong Sucharitkul,[3] a great Thai statesman, acknowledged diplomat and erudite scholar is being written.

Essays in honor of great living men and women by way of a contribution acknowledging some of their core achievements as they make their exeat into other engagements in life, occasionally face some dangers. One of them is that a contributor like us may be tempted to write too much about the honoree. The other danger is that indeed, too little may be written about the Eminent Scholar, Distinguished Educator, World-renowned Law-Maker and Jurist, A Veritable learned Judge, Diplomat and Statesman that may defeat the purpose of such contribution. It is highly unlikely that our essay in honor of Professor Sompong Sucharitkul may face such dangers. This is simply because the chances of his vetting some of what finally appears about him in print before it appears for public consumption should be there.

II. EARLY LIFE

The setting was Bangkok, Thailand. The month was December and it was in the year of our Lord 1931. After a brilliant academic career in many prestigious Universities and institutions across the world and obtaining high academic and professional qualifications,[4] he served in his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for many years.

---

3. Distinguished Professor Doctor Sompong Sucharitkul is known by many titles, but he is Sompong to many, and Professor Sompong to the multitudes of students who have had the pleasure of his tutelage.

4. University of Oxford, B.A. Honours (Jurisprudence) 1953, D.Phil., M.A. 1955, D.C.L., B.C.L. 1990; University of Paris (Faculte de Droit) Doctueur en Droit 1954, Diplome d'Etudes Superieures de Droit International Public 1954; University of Harvard, LL.M. (International Legal Studies) 1956; Of the Middle Temple, Barrister- at- Law, 1954; Academie de Droit International de La Haye, Diplome de l'Academie 1958.

Dr. Sucharitkul cherished studying from his youthful years and would stop at nothing in learning from anybody that had some good knowledge to offer. In a recent exchange of recollections of his days at Oxford as a student with another contemporary scholar[5] from Nigeria at his office in San Francisco, both of them recalled their doctoral thesis supervisor Judge Sir Humphrey Waldock of the University of Oxford at the time. From the learned Professor Sompong's expressions, tone and body language during his brief discussion with the visiting Nigerian scholar, one could feel the pulse and passion for his pursuit of knowledge. According to him, he regularly followed the learned world acclaimed Professor Waldock to class whose rich lectures in the law he never missed, even though he was already writing his doctoral thesis at the time and was not registered for the courses Waldock taught.

While he worked in his country's External Affairs Ministry, he participated in numerous national and international conferences which were of vital interest to Thailand. He participated in the drafting of important legal instruments such as treaties and other international agreements. It is remarkable however, that while Dr. Sucharitkul played an advisory role as a legal draftsman, he refused to be lured into the game of politics. It is very rare indeed to find such a man who, in the midst of political struggles and desperate jockeying for power, stood aloof and confined himself to the onerous task of using the expertise of legal draftsmanship to curb excesses of politicians and protect the interests of the ordinary citizen.

One of the most erudite jurists Nigeria has produced, Dr. Taslim Olawele Elias,[6] sometime in 1974 during a brief introduction of the British Jurist, Lord Denning to the students of the Nigerian Law School said: "What Lord Denning does not know in Law is not worth knowing."

For the past ten years, during which time I have known and worked with Dr. Sucharitkul closely at the Golden Gate University School of Law, I have come to believe that his academic excellence, his many "firsts,"

5. Professor Dr. Oji Umozurike graduated with a D.Phil from Oxford in 1969 and passed through the supervision of Sir Humphrey Waldock who also supervised Professor Sucharitkul's doctoral work on Jurisdictional Immunity a few years before that of Dr Umozurike who was at the Golden Gate University Law School to deliver a talk to the students and the members of the community on the African Commission on Human and People's Right: Suggestions for Effectiveness.

6. Judge T.O. Elias set a record in his academic and professional accomplishments in law having attained all the known terminal degrees in the field and served in the academic and professional fields as Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, Attorney General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Justice of Nigeria and President of the International Court at the Hague to which he was elected on November 18, 1975. For detailed information of his academic achievements and laurels, *see* Oluremi Jegede, *Bibliography on the Writings of the Hon. Judge T.O. Elias*, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (1979) [on file with author].

make him a scholar of equal - if not better - capability than that British legal luminary, Lord Denning. Therefore, it may be submitted, by the time we give just a quick glimpse at Dr. Sucharitkul's academic and professional attainments[7] that what Dr. Elias said in the quotation stated above in honor of Lord Denning could be cited to commend Dr. Sucharitkul's academic excellence and contribution to legal knowledge: What the Distinguished Professor Dr. Sompong Sucharitkul does not know about law is not worth knowing.

III. DIPLOMATIC CAREER

In addition to achieving extensive and impressive educational credentials, Dr. Sucharitkul has had a rich and varied diplomatic career. Perhaps his most significant achievement in the projection of the national image of his country in the international field was during the reasonably long period of his diplomatic career at a very youthful age.[8] For fifteen years he served his country as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to the BENELUX,[9] Japan[10] and four other European countries, namely: France,[11] Portugal, Italy and Greece.[12] He also served his country at the European Economic Communities, UNESCO and FAO. For nearly three decades, he frequently represented Thailand at the United Nations General Assembly. He served as the Chairman of the Thai Delegation to the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea.[13] Further, Professor Sucharitkul served ten years as a Member of the International Law Commission,[14] nine years as Special Rapporteur of the Commission[15] and sometimes as its First Vice- Chairman[16] and Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

---

7. Discussed further *infra* Sections 3 – 6.

8. Already between 1957-59, at the very young age of 26, he was appointed Legal Consultant to the International Commission of Jurists at the Hague; Member of Thailand's National Research Council (1959-1970), and until 1967, Secretary of the Legal Section of that national body; Member and Secretary of the National Committee to Review Treaties and Conventions (1960-1970); and since 1964, Member of the Committee. Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Dircteur de Cabinet) (1964-1967); Secretary-General of ASEAN, National Secretariat of Thailand (1967-1968); Director-General of Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1968-1970).

9. Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg; and concurrently Chief of Mission of Thailand to the European Community (1970-1973).

10. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Japan (1973-1977).

11. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to France and Portugal; and concurrently Thai Delegate to UNESCO (1977-1978).

12. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Italy, Greece and Israel (1980-1985).

13. UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, *8th, 10th and 11th Sessions*, [insert location, if not in headquarters of organization] ([insert dates of the conferences]).

14. 1977-1986.

15. Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission on the topic: "Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property" (1978-1986). *See*, Eighth Report on Jurisdictional Immuni-

The former Ambassador Suchartikul has also been a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration[17] and is currently Member of the Commercial Arbitration Centre at Cairo and Regional Arbitration Centre at Kuala Lumpur, Member of the Panels of Arbitrators and Conciliators of ICSID.[18] He is also a Member of WIPO,[19] Mediation and Arbitration Centre, Geneva and Commissioner of the United Nations Compensation Commission, Geneva. Dr. Sucharitkul is an elected Member of the Institute of International Law (Geneva) and a Corresponding Collaborator of UNIDROIT (Rome). The above recitation of Sompong's many postings, while not complete, begins to illuminate the measure of his impact, not only in his own country or region, but around the world.

IV. SOMPONG AND HIS WORKS AS A SCHOLAR

The staggering works of Professor Sucharitkul, cutting across municipal and international legal fields, are second to none in the essential and particular areas into which he delved. In spite of the pre-occupation of the several high offices held by him in rhythmic succession, his fertile pen poured forth a series of scholarly and thought-provoking works, most of which broke new ground on different subjects of relevant importance.[20] As a legal scholar of remarkable breadth and depth of interest, few men in our times have written so authoritatively in such wide varieties of legal issues as Dr. Sucharitkul.

The legal issues dealt with in his plethora of works vary from the pioneering but inclusive analyses of Thai and Asian law on diversified subjects to the scientific and authoritative exposition of the different dimensions of international law, both in theory and in practice. He has written about a dozen books and has several articles in reputable journals to his credit having graced remarkable occasions with stream of lectures of boundless intellect.

To write an essay on such a prolific writer without an exposition of some of these several works is to do injustice to his enormous contributions to

---

ties of States and their Property, 1986, Vol. II (part one), Document A/CN.4/4396. *Available at:* http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/publications/yearbooks/Ybkvolumes(e)/ILC_1986_v2_p1_e.pdf (last visited on April 1, 2007) (*Yearbook of the International Law Commission*, 1986, vol. II (Part One), document A/CN.4/396). The Convention on this important topic of international law was adopted in 2004 by the United Nations.

16. 1984.

17. Thai National Group.

18. Appointed Member of the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes, World Bank, Washington D.C. (1988-2004).

19. World Intellectual Property Organization.

20. *See infra* notes 24-27.

the field of legal knowledge and to conceal that illuminating aspect of his career which characterizes him as a jurist of world acclaim. Space will however permit only a small sample exposition of some of these works in view of other sterling achievements which make up that great jurist equally calling for documentation. This shortcoming cannot be avoided in an all encompassing short essay of this nature.

V. SOMPONG AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THAI AND ASIAN LAW

Professor Sucharitkul has been acknowledged a pioneer writer in the field of Thai and aspects of Asian law.[21] In almost all his writings on the various fields of Thai and Asian law, he has re-echoed one of his main academic ambitions which is to evolve a common law for his country out of the existing bodies of law. He is an advocate of law as an instrument of social dynamics. With the gross inadequacies of Thai customary law, like the customary laws of other societies, to cater for the sporadic development within the Thai society, legal transplant must, no doubt, be a necessary evil. One of his early books on the Thai Legal system has become the preeminent source of information to subsequent writers on Thai law.[22] The book has been of immense assistance to students of law, legal practitioners, administrators and investors and all those interested in the study of the interaction between the Thai civil law and the indigenous customary law of the people. His book titled: "The Rule of Law under the Legal System of Thailand" is a scientific observation and an in-depth excursion into Thai law; a remarkable improvement on Henry Maine's quaint views about primitive societies.[23] The work dispels through a scientific study of the Thai legal system in action. Maine's view that "it is futile to seek a reason in tribal justice as it is not rational."[24] Professor Sompong's intimate knowledge as an observer of the functions of Thai society and his ability to restate these through the analytical method of pragmatic jurisprudence enabled him to demonstrate that Thai Law is beyond doubt part of the genius of law in general employing the same methods of adjudication motivated by the desire for justice.

In yet another of Sompong's facinating works on the people of his country and how to live with and among them,[25] he described the essential

21. Many of Sompong's works have been written and published in Thai language.
22. *See* Sompong Sucharitkul, *The Rule of Law Under the Legal System of Thailand* (1957) [on file with author].
23. *Id.*
24. *Id.*
25. *See* Sompong Sucharitkul, *How to Live with the Thais*, Saranrom Journal (1975) [on file with author].

human nature of the people, the importance they attach to their cultural beliefs and their diverse religious and spiritual tenets which must be respected for one who aspires and hopes for a successful relationship with them in all fields of human endeavor.

He also wrote much on the place of The Republic of Thailand in her regional cooperation with the other countries in Asia.[26] Many of Sompong's writings are devoted to the important question of development of law in Asia. Owing to the limited space available to us on this project an attempt at examining their contents in detail for proper information and analysis is not feasible which is highly regretted.[27]

VI. REPRESENTING THAILAND AND OTHER POSITIONS HELD

It is an undeniable fact that Professor Sompong Sucharitkul made enormous contributions in projecting positively Thailand's image in international affairs through his many State representations at different important levels and circumstances. One is in great difficulty to decide which of those many important Sompong's appearances should be recounted here. Suffice it to concentrate on the landmarks. Already, at the very youthful age of 30, he had been identified by his country for his brilliance in the law and the ability to truly make productive use of his bountiful good qualities. Accordingly, in 1960 he commenced his representation of Thailand on important and controversial legal matters internationally.

The *Temple of Phra Viharn Case*[28] before the International Court of Justice at The Hague was an important national assignment at which the young jurist appeared among the strong erudite legal team made up of many older lawyers from his country and other countries. His brilliant performance in this matter which later lingered on for many years[29] put Sompong in the spot light for recognition by his peers from many other countries of the world. Particularly, he was noticed by the members of the prestigious Sixth (Legal) Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, where the finest minds of national academia in international

26. *See* Sompong Sucharitkul, *Thailand and Regional Cooperation*, 5 Foreign Affairs Bulletin No.6, 1966 [on file with author].

27. For a better understanding of his thoughts on the development of Law and Cooperation generally in Asia, *see* Sompong Sucharitkul, *The Role of ASEAN in Indo-China,* Saranrom Journal (1974); *Nationality and Juristic Persons* (in Thai), Bangkok (1976); *The Outlook of Afro-Asian Solidarity*, 5 Foreign Affairs Bulletin No. 2 (1965) [on file with author].

28. Case Concerning the Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia v. Thailand), 1962 ICJ Rep. 6 (June 15) summary available at: http://www.icj-cij.org/icjwww/idecisions/isummaries/ictsummary620615.htm.

29. 1962, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984.

law normally converged to commence their long journey to higher international legal appointments, first, to the International Law Commission, and second, ending up at the International Court of Justice if one is lucky.[30] But for the element of luck, we believe that few candidates that served or serve on that Court were better qualified than Sompong in terms of competence and experience. Appointment to the ICJ is usually more of a question of nomination of the candidate to the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization by either a national group of the candidate's country or by his/her Governmental authority. Many a time politics has to do with the matter of nominating candidates to the UN body that ultimately votes on the nominees to the Court.

It is therefore to his credit that Sompong had been found worthy of appointment to such numerous sensitive high public positions in his own native country and elsewhere. Some might envy him for those high national and international appointments in quick succession, but few are endowed with his whole-hearted devotion to duty, his prodigious ability to ignore all else, concentrate and get so much work done.

The recognition of his legal competence and erudition did not stop within his national State. For a few years, he taught international law and relations at Chulalongkorn University, Faculty of Political Sciences, Bangkok.[31] He was also a lecturer in International Economic Law, Thammasart University, Graduate Division, Faculty of Economics, Bangkok.[32] Before long his competence in law vibrated throughout Asia as he published widely on topical issues in law and delivered lectures across the land. Sompong was a participant in the academic circles - Round Table Conference of Professors of International Law of South East Asia in Singapore.[33] Also, he was a participant in the Round Table Conference on International Law Problems of Asia, held in Hong Kong.[34]

Through these positions and others, he was soon recognized beyond his home country, not only by others on the Asian continent but also in many other countries around the world. He led the Thai Delegation to several important Conferences; first on the Establishment of an International Compensation Fund for Oil Pollution, Brussels,[35] then he was Chairman

30. Dr. Sucharitkul has been a candidate twice for elections to the International Court of Justice (The Hague). In 1984, he was proposed for candidacy by thirteen National groups. Again in 1990, he was candidate for elections to the International Court of Justice, proposed this time around by the Netherlands National Group.
31. 1956-1957.
32. 1956-1957.
33. 1964.
34. 1967.
35. 1970.

of Thai Delegation to the Hague Conference on the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft in Flight,[36] and he continued on to be the Chairman of Thai Delegation to the Third U.N. Conference on Succession of States in respect of State Property, Archives and Debts, Vienna.[37] He was also the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of this Conference as well as the Chairman for the initial meetings of Legal Advisers of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, New York.[38]

VII. SOMPONG'S PUBLISHED WORKS ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND WORLD PEACE

Sompong Sucharitkul's works on International Law, jurisprudence and world peace are authoritative for various reasons. As a scholar of International Law, he has made his mark and contributed immensely to the development of the Law of Nations through his various and highly instructive writings, lectures and frequent trips to various recognized institutions throughout the world. He had served for a wide variety of international organizations such as the United Nations Organization, the International Law Commission and the Organization of ASEAN, to mention but a few. In various capacities he has distinguished himself as a reputable international jurist. As a distinguished international arbitrator and conciliator, he undoubtedly stands a better chance than many other scholars of international law to put to practice all his expositions on international law. And he has no doubt combined the role of a diplomat, jurist and international law expert with that of an adjudicator over international disputes, enabling him to view clearly and authoritatively the operation of the law in practice.

Professor Sucharitkul is an example of a rare breed, a scholar with not only depth, but breadth of knowledge. He knows not only his homeland in Asia, but also Africa and Latin America as well. His book on "Fifty Years of Asian African Legal Consultative Organization"[39] which we had the privilege of reading, eloquently traced the contribution of the Asian-African Consultative Organization to the Codification and Progressive Development of International Law. We strongly believe that the work, when published, shall be, no doubt, an invaluable source of authoritative information for teachers and researchers of international law from the third world perspective.

---

36. 1979-1982.
37. 1983.
38. 1983.
39. Sompong Sucharitkul, *Fifty Years of Asian African Legal Consultative Organization* (forthcoming 2007).

Other leading works of Professor Sucharitkul in international law include: "*Les immunites juridictionnelles de navires publics affectes aux activites commerciales,*"[40] "State Immunities and Trading Activities in International Law,"[41] and "The Immunities of Foreign States before National Authorities."[42] Within these three listed publications Dr. Sucharitkul examined and discussed to a great extent many important areas of contemporary international law that are of current interest.

VIII. HONOURS, AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

"Sees thou a man, diligent in his works: Behold he shall stand before kings, [for] blessed are they who toil and labor relentlessly, for they shall be duly rewarded." [43]

Those evocative and meaningful words which have their origin in remote antiquity better qualify and justify the status of Professor Sucharitkul in the hall of honors and awards. Nothing shall do enough reverence to a man so dedicated to the development of legal sciences every minute of his life; a man who has sacrificed his every human faculty bestowed on him by God to serve humanity. He is indeed a world citizen of the finest and rarest breed, qualified and equipped with important international working languages of the world in addition to his mother tongue.[44]

As can be seen from his very rich and highly intimidating resume, Sompong in less than two years, bagged in quick succession three law degrees with distinction, and at each level enjoyed scholarship awards and other deserving patronages as marks of rare academic excellence. Thus, by 1954 he had already earned a B.A. Honors (Jurisprudence) and a D.Phil., M.A. from the prestigious Oxford University in England. He also obtained Docteur en Droit in Public International Law from the University of Paris in 1954, about the same year he was still studying at Oxford. He was called to the Bar of the Middle Temple as a Barrister-at-Law in 1954. After obtaining these qualifications, he continued on to claim Harvard University's LL.M. degree in International Legal Studies

40. Sompong Sucharitkul, *Les Immunities Jurisdictionnelles de Navires Publics Aux Activities Commerciales*, (These, Paris 1954) [on file with author].

41. Sompong Sucharitkul, *State Immunities and Trading Activities in International Law* (Stevens & Sons Ltd., London 1959) [on file with author].

42. Sompong Sucharitkul, *The Immunities of Foreign States Before National Authorities* (Sijthoff, Leiden 1976) [on file with author].

43. See, I. O. Smith: Taslim Olawale Elias: A Jurist of Distinction, Published by Lagos State University, 1991. The authors quoted from Professor M.O.E. Iwuala's special citation in honor of Judge Taslim Olawale Elias on the occasion of the presentation to him of the award of Doctor of Laws (LL.D) degree (Honoris Causa) at a special convocation for the purpose held on Thursday 10th December, 1987 at the University of Jos, Nigeria.

44. Thai, English, French and Spanish.

in 1956. Two years later, he obtained the very prestigious Hague Academy of International Law Diploma in 1958, a rare qualification of the institution that has been earned by an extremely limited number of acclaimed international lawyers throughout the world since its inception.

While Sompong is an Asian; a Thai, he has received important decorations within, and even beyond, his homeland. He has received more than just scholastic distinction. In his own country, the Royal Republic of Thailand decorated him with the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the White Elephant. In Belgium, he collected the national honor of La Grande Croix de l'Ordre de la Couronne. While in The Kingdom of the Netherlands, he was decorated with the Grand Cross of the Order of Orange. The Republic of Japan bestowed upon him with the Grand Cross of the Order of the Rising Sun and The Republic of Italy gave him Gran Croce Della Republica Italiana.

CONCLUSION

It is our pleasant honor and exceptional privilege to contribute this short essay to this well-Honored and fame adorned man, this intellectual giant and genius, this scholar and solicitor extra-ordinary, Author and Editor, Statesman and Bench man of distinction, International Administrator and Conciliator, a Judge of Judges, Doctor of Philosophy, a true symbol of Asian eminence, an influential representative of the Third World and Distinguished Professor of International and Comparative Law.

I have personally learnt and benefited a lot from this humble yet great statesman, diplomat and notable scholar in my ten years of good collegial relationship with him at the Golden Gate University. His strong themes of personal philosophy as a devout Buddhist are three-fold. The first: *Fiat Justitia Ruat Coelum* - Let Justice be done, though the havens should fall. The second: Do to others as you would love them do to you. Third: Trust in God.

As is the case in the famous maxim in the Law of Tort: *RES IPSA LOQUITOR*- in terms of Sompong's character, the scent of fairness, equity, good conscience, humility and Buddhist life so emanates from him that one cannot but notice it and be affected by it. The very air around him is redolent with the essence of his good qualities. His profundity of learning in the law and sense of fairness and impartiality apart, there are other very rich and positive qualities to show that in the three areas of public life in which Sompong made his highest mark, his credentials, temper and disposition are beyond question - impeccable and pristine. He can still hold his own in any kind of legal outfit: public national service, diplomatic and academic calling in any part of the world. We wish

him well in life. Surely he will be missed by many of his colleagues and students at the Golden Gate University School of Law.

Finally, we elect to close this short essay on the Distinguished Professor Dr. Sompong Sucharitkul by echoing the wise words of Sir Winston Churchill who once remarked that only rash men try to predict the future, saying "it is always wise to look ahead, but difficult to look further than you can see."[45] My answer to this observation is that difficulty is not impossibility. Even though it is difficult to pierce the veil of the future, we should have no fear of it. We should go forward into its mysteries, tear aside the veils which obscure our view, and then move onward with confidence and courage. In obedience to this advice, we would make bold to say that more honors still await the Distinguished Professor Dr. Sompong Sucharitkul in the future.

45. *See* Colin R. Coote (ed.), *Sir Winston Churchill, A Self-Portrait* 278 (1954).