

YURI MIKHAILOVICH KOLOSOV



1934 - 2015

*Legum Doctor, Professor,
Honoured Science Worker of Russian Federation,
Professor at the Chair of International Law of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations
(University) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia,
Editor-in-chief and founder of the Moscow Journal of International Law*

Professor Dr. Kolosov was born on September 7, 1934 in Syasstroy city, Leningrad Region, former USSR. He is known in international science and practice as an extraordinary, talented, kind and honest person. He contributed significantly to legal research and formation of sources of law, especially in the field of the following areas of International Law: International Responsibility and Liability; International Air Law; Mass Media and International Law; International Human Rights Law. He made a particularly significant contribution to the development of the principles of International Space Law.

He lectured on diverse issues of International Law at many universities all over the world and authored over 250 publications, including 5 monographs. He was widely known as a prolific writer in the field of space law, and his text-book co-authored with Professor Gennady Zhukov (International Space Law, Praeger, New York 1984) stands in testimony to his contribution to Space Law.

His wide experience includes, but is not limited to the following:

- *Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the 2nd class;*
- *Member of the Hague Permanent Court of Arbitration (since 1990);*
- *Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (1991-1999)*
- *Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2002-2010)*
- *Head/Member of Russian delegations at the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;*
- *Member of the International Academy of Astronautics (since 1985);*
- *Member of the International Institute of Space Law (since 1990);*
- *Head of the Chair of International Law of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia (1987 – 2005).*

To our deepest regret, Prof. Kolosov passed away on May 28, 2015. We will miss him very much.

Mariam Yuzbashyan (last student and disciple of Prof. Kolosov)

Note by Nandasiri Jasentuliyana

President Emeritus, IISL; Former Deputy Director-General, United Nations (UNOV) and Director United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing away of Prof. Yuri Kolosov, who should truly be considered a preeminent member among the galaxy of founders of Space Law. He was present at the creation of many of the Space Treaties and Declarations of Principles in the United Nations. First as senior adviser to the delegation of the former Soviet Union, replacing its giants of space law, Prof. A.S. Piradov and Prof Gennady Zhukov; and later, as a member of the chief negotiating team along with Ambassador Boris Maiorsky.

As a negotiator Prof. Kolosov was striving hard to meet the concerns of other countries, at times even patiently expounding and explaining the doctrines of international law to other delegates not only so that they would understand his own concerns and points of view, but also illuminating the entire discussion. He worked incessantly to reach agreement during the cold war and its aftermath.

It is to the credit of the untiring commitment and the intellectual genius that was displayed by the likes of Prof. Kolosov that Space Law emerged as an instrument in preserving space for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of humanity. While the space law community will be ever grateful for the brilliant contribution made by him, the legacy he left behind will benefit future generations. He was a brilliant scholar who authored many outstanding publications and as a professor, mentored a whole new generation of young Russian space lawyers. He was also a devoted supporter of IISL, having presented many outstanding papers at the annual colloquia. A man of simple taste, and exceptional wit, he will be sorely missed by all who came to know Prof Kolosov, whom I considered a personal friend.

Note by Peter Jankowitsch

Past Chair, COPUOS and Honorary Director of IISL

Deeply saddened by the demise of my esteemed friend Yuri Kolosov I should like to express my most sincere and profound condolences to all his associates as well those near to him. During my service as chair of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Yuri Kolosov was an eminent and active member of the then USSR delegation to the Committee and he always offered helpful and constructive advice in the course of its deliberations.

A fine legal mind he offered many useful contributions to the drafting of the legal instruments in which the Committee was then involved.

These contributions were based in his firm commitment to the preservation of space as an era of peaceful cooperation between states.

On a more personal level I was strongly impressed by his warm personality and friendly attitude.

He will be greatly missed by the international space community.