DISCUSSING DUKE'S WORLD RULE OF LAW CENTER are, left, Dr. E. R. Latty, dean of Duke University Law School, and Arthur Larson, professor of law and director of the Center which was established at Duke in September.

The threat of nuclear warfare seems to hang over the Center, and to make urgent its work. Larson often confers with the President and State Department on its planning, and says:

"I've never known the American Bar Association to catch fire with such enthusiasm for any idea as it has for Rule of Law in the last year and a half. Hardly a prominent lawyer makes a speech anywhere, but it is given emphasis. From Britain, Churchill and Macmillan have given strong support.

"We have had letters from lawyers throughout the country, and many of them, especially from nearby, offer their help. If we expand as we hope to we may well call on some of them."

Network Highly Important

The dream of expansion rests on the success of Larson's scheme for forming groups of lawyers within each country to act as centers for Rule of Law. These would feed information to the Duke staff.

The importance of this network, Larson says, could hardly be overestimated, for even in Communist nations, where law is quite a different thing from Western codes, common grounds of understanding between lawyers could be found and developed.

Even today precedents in international law are little known in some fields, simply because no one has yet bothered to collect and analyze them.

Larson says: "We think we have found a sound basis for working in Article 38 of the statute of the International Court, which cities the 'common principles of law accepted by civilized nations. If we apply that to the business of incitement to violence by radio, for example, we could soon work out principles anyone could understand."

A Simplified Example

The center will have a huge and delicate task of public relations and education, Larson confesses, since most of the world's peoples can hardly be persuaded to read about international affairs. He thinks the chief hope in this field is to "localize" news and interpretation, and put vital world affairs in terms any villager can understand.

For example, what would a man living in a small town in Oregon care about such matters? Suppose we could say to him: If we could build one small dam on the headwaters of the Columbia River in Canada, we could double the output of power from the stream, for what amounts to peanuts. But because there is is no way to administer a power basin in two countries, no way to settle who is to own what, and who is to benefit in what way, the project is impossible. It wouldn't take much to show an Oregonian what we mean by international affairs in that way."

The same principle could be applied the world over, Larson believes, and the belief is what lured him here from his Washington post.

A Critical Moment

"I'd say that right now is a critical moment in this movement," he says. "There is a high crest of enthusiasm of the idea over the world, and it presents a real challenge. We're willing to give it all we have."

As to just how to profit by the first project, on the use of national radio to "invade" neighboring countries, Larson explains that the Center would hope to publish a book on the findings, so that facts and conclusions would be available in specific form, and then take the matter to the UN.

The center will not delve into international politics, power or otherwise, Larson says, but will limit itself to matters which can be handled under law, by international courts.

Could Prevent Wars

As an example of the possibilities, he cites the findings of the grandfather of John Foster Dulles, a man considerably in advance of his time, who said, about 1900, that every war in which the United States has become involved since the Revolution could have been prevented by use of international law.

Larson is 48, a native of South Dakota and the son of a judge. He is an authority on workmen's compensation laws and social security, has taught law at Tennessee and Cornell, and was dean of the Pittsburgh Law School when called as undersecretary of Labor in 1954. He was a Rhodes Scholar.

"'By moving steadily toward the goal of greater freedom under law, for our own people, we shall be the better prepared to work for the cause of freedom under law throughout the world.

"All peoples are sorely tired of the fear, destruction and the waste of war. As never before, the world knows the human and material costs of war and seeks to replace force with a genuine rule of law among nations.

"It is my purpose to intensify efforts during the coming two years in seeking ways to supplement the procedures of the United Nations and other bodies with similar objectives, to the end that the rule of law may replace the rule of force in the affairs of nations."

—President Dwight D. Eisenhower

(State-of-the-Union Message to Congress, Jan. 9, 1959)

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Plans For Sixth Annual World Affairs Institute Launched

At the December 7th Boards of Directors and Advisors meeting in Greensboro, N. C., plans for the forthcoming Sixth Annual World Affairs Institute were initiated by those present. The dates for the Institute were set for July 24-26 (Friday through Sunday), at the Blue Ridge Assembly, Inc. (Y.M.C.A.), Black Mountain, N. C.

It was definitely decided that the American Freedom Association World Peace Award should be offered to Mr. Charles Rhyne, past president of the American Bar Association, for his tireless work in pointing out the need for enforceable world law while serving as President of the A.B.A. This Award would be made at the Institute this summer.

Various Church, professional and service organizations will be invited to join with the American Freedom Association in co-sponsoring the Institute this summer. An Institute Planning meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, February 22, beginning at 2:30 p.m., at 2501 West Market Street, Greensboro, N. C., and these prospective co-sponsors have been issued an invitation to join with the American Freedom Association in planning the Program and inviting the speakers.

Space Control Big Problem, Speaker Says

Existing international law contains no precedents for control of space, but the space age has not developed to the extent that the United States should submit itself to a code of laws governing space travel, Capt. Parker E. Cherry said at a luncheon meeting of the Greensboro Kiwanis Club during December. Captain Cherry is a member of the staff of the Navy's judge advocate general in Washington.

Under international law, he said, "the law governing the air space of the earth is based solely on each nation's absolute right of sovereignty over the space above its territory, a concept completely repugnant to the nature of our proposed travels in space."

Manned aircraft, said Capt. Cherry, can conceivably travel up to 42 miles above the earth. Beyond that, he said, space must ultimately be free to all nations, perhaps under supervision of the United Nations.

Capt. Cherry said the opinions he expressed were his own and not those of the Navy.

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World Affairs Center For The United States

The World Affairs Center, located on the ground floor of the Carnegie Endowment building at 47th. Street and United Nations Plaza, New York City, was founded by the Foreign Policy Association in cooperation with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The services offered by the Center are available to all groups and individuals. Basically, it is a clearinghouse for information on citizen activity in world affairs and a service bureau for organizations and individuals concerned.

Briefly stated, the purposes of the Center are: (1) to serve as a central point to which anyone can turn for information on international matters; (2) to serve as a central point to which anyone can turn for information about what citizens are doing in world affairs; (3) and, most important, to help bring about better communication among organizations and individuals concerned with world affairs, to encourage constructive activity, and to contribute to raising the level of effective and responsible non-governmental engagement in this field.

The Center's physical plant includes a two-hundred seat auditorium with full audio-visual equipment, a conference room for groups up to 70 persons, space and fittings for major exhibits, and a distribution and display area for books, pamphlets and documents in the field of international affairs.

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Suggested Reading

PERMANENT PEACE: A Check and Balance Plan. By Tom Slick. 181 pp. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall. $2.95. Continued on Page 4