

FOREWORD

In this Yearbook the United Nations presents to the public a summary of its activities and achievements from its inception to July 1, 1947.

Our organization did not come into being spontaneously. It emerged during a long period of intense discussion between governments and among members of the public who energetically seized the unprecedented opportunity to express their views on every detail of the Charter during its development. This formative period is covered in the Yearbook. It follows the growth of the United Nations idea from war to peace. In the part dealing with the San Francisco Conference the meaning and intentions of the drafters of the Charter can be found clearly recorded. An account of the proceedings of the Executive Committee and the Preparatory Commission provides an insight into the actual creation of the organization in accordance with the Charter.

The Yearbook also covers the period of the first session of the General Assembly and the ensuing time during which we have used our energies to translate into action the decisions taken at that session. In many cases we have been successful; in others we have not yet succeeded. Granted the smoothest progress, some resolutions must take years to put into effect; in these cases we can only report progress. Other resolutions require permanent enforcement; here we can only show what action has been taken to enforce them. In yet other cases there have been difficulties of a practical or political nature; here we have at least been able to isolate and clarify those difficulties.

I present this overall account of our work in the conviction that such a collection of basic information in one volume is essential to anyone who wishes to know the United Nations and, in the light of his knowledge, to give it his enlightened support. Although such a balance sheet of our activities is not, and cannot be expected to be, entirely satisfactory it does serve to bring home the fact that the United Nations is a vital and energetic organism, heavily engaged, day after day, in the practical job of working out the world's problems by co-operation between the nations.

Here is the machinery. Here are its workings to date. It is for the peoples of the United Nations and their governments to see that its full potentialities are realized.

Trygve Lie

Lake Success, N. Y.
16 September 1947