

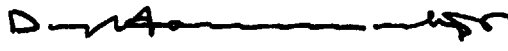
# FOREWORD

This Yearbook recounts the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies for the year 1953: the problems facing them and the efforts to meet those problems by the Member nations through this international machinery.

It was a year both of promise and of frustrated hopes. It saw the successful conclusion of an armistice in Korea but, at the same time, an increase in tension in the Middle East. It was marked by a bold new proposal for the peaceful development of atomic energy, but no real progress was made in reconciling the differences on control of atomic weapons. The work of the United Nations and the agencies in the economic and social field went steadily forward, but certain of their activities, for example in rendering assistance for economic development, were handicapped by lack of funds. However, it is important to remember that the work of building peace is a day-by-day, week-by-week and year-by-year affair. It is rarely marked by much-publicized achievements. It consists rather in continuing accommodations of differing interests and differing points of view and in a continuing effort to remove those obstacles that divide and hamper men and nations. For such purposes the Organization was created, and these it is steadily seeking to fulfil.

In reading this account, it is also important to remember that it represents one year in a continuing story. Many of the activities described in this volume had their origin in previous years, others will have their effect in years to come.

To be ready for the future it is necessary to know the past. To assess the United Nations and to render it that informed support without which it cannot be effective one must study the facts. It is in the hope of assisting such a study that the Yearbook of the United Nations, 1953 is here presented.



DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD  
Secretary-General