

FOREWORD

The third Yearbook of the United Nations presents to the peoples of the world a complete record of the Organization's activities for the period 21 September 1948 to 31 December 1949.

The period covered by this Yearbook is marked by a considerable increase in the Organization's activities in all directions. It is also noteworthy for the success of the conciliatory and mediatory functions of the United Nations in such complicated and critical problems as the Berlin question, and the armed conflicts in Palestine, Indonesia and Kashmir, each one of which constituted a potential threat to world peace.

In the no less important sphere of economic and social welfare, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the expanded programme for technical assistance for under-developed areas and the United Nations Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources may well be regarded as landmarks. Those who may be inclined to take a pessimistic view about the future of the Organization by merely dwelling on the stresses to which it is subjected in political and security matters would, undoubtedly, get a more balanced view of the United Nations by studying the record of its achievements in the economic and social spheres, and in the field of International Trusteeship.

It is hoped that this record of United Nations activities will be useful not only for the students of international affairs for purposes of reference, but will also meet the needs of those readers who wish to understand the organizational structure and the functions of the United Nations and the various specialized agencies associated with it and to find out what has been accomplished on the individual problems facing them.



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