Foreword

The activities of the United Nations and its related specialized agencies, in any one year, are always to a large extent derived from the endeavours of the past and lead to those of the future. Thus, in 1954, many of the political problems before the Organization, such as those in the Far East, in Palestine and in Africa, had their origin and development over previous years and require further efforts now and in the future for their solution. However, in two important matters it would be true to say that new beginnings on continuing problems were made.

The discussions concerning the development of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, stemming from the offer made in the General Assembly the previous year by the President of the United States, resulted in an Assembly decision to hold the 1955 Geneva Conference of experts on atomic energy. The Assembly at the same time supported the early establishment of an international atomic agency in relationship with the United Nations.

On disarmament, too, a new effort was begun to iron out the principal differences by direct negotiation in meetings of a Sub-Commission of the Disarmament Commission. Progress in this field has been, and must necessarily be, slow and measured, but the efforts of 1954 have been continued throughout the following year.

The progress of programmes designed to assist the peoples of under-developed countries to make full use of their resources was to some extent hampered during 1954 by insufficient funds. Such programmes were, however, carried forward, as were also the many other United Nations activities which have for their underlying purpose the securing to all men of wider opportunity for a better life in larger freedom.

All these activities reflect the continuity of the flow of developments in international life. It is important, therefore, for the present and the future, that the record of past years should be known and understood. It is in the hope of contributing to such an understanding that this Yearbook is here presented.

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