As the work of the United Nations becomes more complex and wide-ranging, the need for a concise and accurate record increases correspondingly. The *Yearbook of the United Nations* is designed to meet that need. Each volume of the *Yearbook* contains a succinct yet comprehensive account of the activities of the world Organization during a particular year.

The events and decisions of 1974 are chronicled here. This was a year of almost unprecedented activity in all parts of the United Nations, highlighted, among other things, by the first substantive session of the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea, the signing and implementation of an Agreement on the disengagement of forces in the Sinai in pursuance of the Geneva Peace Conference, the establishment of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and the implementation of the Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces on the Golan Heights, a major crisis over Cyprus, the World Population Conference and the adoption by the General Assembly of a Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order. I commend this volume to all those who wish to acquire an informed understanding of these events.

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