FOREWORD

The fifth Yearbook of the United Nations presents the record of the Organization during 1951 and includes items considered by the General Assembly at its sixth session, which closed on 5 February 1952.

In spite of disappointments, the events of the year served to emphasize several facts of great importance to the United Nations in its struggle to maintain peace.

The indispensability of the United Nations as a meeting place for all nations was once again demonstrated. The Big Four meeting on disarmament represented a step forward; and when all agreed at the Assembly's sixth session on the creation of a new Disarmament Commission, it meant that for the first time in three years there was an opportunity for a new start on this question. Though little progress in resolving the political issues which divide the great Powers had been made up to that time, at least there was a resumption of serious discussion on the problems of disarmament. I have always believed firmly that we must seek every means for peaceful settlement or adjustment of disputes between nations by giving the United Nations the loyal support that will increase its influence for peace.

Another important way in which we can increase the influence of the Organization is by strengthening its power to prevent settlements by force. The lessons of Korea are significant. Although the armistice negotiations at Panmunjom were not completed successfully during the year, the United Nations made strongly manifest its determination to end the fighting in Korea on honourable and reasonable terms, to seek a peaceful settlement of this and other Far Eastern questions and at the same time to act collectively against any further armed aggression there or anywhere else in the world. The United States took the lead and has borne the main burden of United Nations action in Korea; but 22 nations, not counting the victim of aggression, the Republic of Korea, have taken an active part in the action and over 40 have given economic and financial aid as well, reaffirming their faith in the principle of collective security.

One of the great facts of our time is that the peoples of Asia and Africa and the peoples of all the under-developed countries are striving for greater freedom and equality in the world community. Almost six hundred million people have gained independence in the last seven years. The national aspirations of the peoples of the Middle East were reflected in the rising influence of the Asian-Arab States upon many of the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its sixth session. Reconciliation of old and new interests in the Middle East, and the Far East as well, is one of the pressing challenges of our civilization. I am certain that peaceful solutions will not be possible unless they are based on mutual recognition of rights and obligations accepted in the United Nations Charter.

During the year progress was also made in other matters affecting the welfare of the people.

The independence of Libya was proclaimed and United Nations financial, technical and economic aid will help the nation in its first difficult years.

The United Nations expanded programme of technical assistance got under way and governments pledged almost the full amount of $20 million requested for the year