Foreword

In 1955 the United Nations celebrated its tenth anniversary. Perhaps the most significant of the many events which marked this memorable year in the history of the Organization was the General Assembly resolution which admitted sixteen new Members to the world family. The United Nations thus took a big step forward towards the goal of universality which the Charter had proclaimed ten years ago.

Created out of tragic experience and inspired by high hopes, the United Nations during its first ten years has dealt with many problems and situations for which the past bequeathed neither adequate machinery nor useful guidance. But the ideals which the Charter proclaimed and the principles upon which the United Nations is based have sustained it in its quest for peace and understanding.

Much was accomplished in 1955 towards helping future progress. The success of the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy opened the way to an unprecedented international effort to extend the advantages of atomic power among nations; the help given to less developed countries through technical assistance, to mothers and children through the United Nations Children's Fund, to refugees through the United Nations Refugee Fund, continued to increase; arrangements were made for the first plebiscite under United Nations auspices to determine the future of one of the Trust Territories — British Togoland.

The history of the United Nations, as does all history, tries to capture and record the contemporary scene before it becomes part of the backcloth of the past. This Yearbook is an effort to reflect and report the course of events in 1955.

DAG HAMMARSKJOLD
Secretary-General