Foreword

In the Yearbooks of the United Nations, we find mirrored the complexities that arise in the increasing endeavours of the world's peoples to cope with rapidly shifting economic, social and political environments and in their efforts to work together to this end through international organizations.

It is evident from the narrative accounts of events and diplomatic proceedings given in the present volume, which covers the calendar year 1969, no less than those given in earlier volumes, that solutions—by no means easy or quick to arrive at—can often be as complex as the problems to which they are the responses. It is, however, just as evident that the various nations can, and frequently do, harmonize their actions through the United Nations family in the common human interests of peace and of economic and social advancement in larger freedom.

Designed as a comprehensive, compact and fully-indexed guide to the yearly activities not only of the United Nations but also of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the specialized agencies, the Yearbook is the principal reference work of the Organization.

In furthering understanding of the role of the United Nations as the best available instrument to promote international security and progress for all, the Yearbook series, in which the present volume is the twenty-third, serves as a continuing source of basic information about the past which is so essential in fashioning the keys that can open the gateways to a better future.

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20 December 1971

Secretary-General