

Foreword

A former Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, said that "the basis of both the League of Nations and the United Nations is the pledge by sovereign states to co-operate, a pledge which involves some measure of sacrifice of sovereignty in the common interest". Far more than its predecessor, the United Nations is an organization expressly designed to promote international co-operation among sovereign states, not only in maintaining peace and security but also in solving international problems of an economic and social character and in encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The effectiveness of the United Nations is almost entirely dependent on the actions and policies of the member states. It is they that give it life and a sense of direction. In the last analysis, it is for the members to decide whether the United Nations will have the strength, flexibility and resources needed to fulfil the increasing demands made upon it.

Canada was one of the founding members of the United Nations. The Canadian delegation to the San Francisco Conference of 1945 made a significant contribution to the drafting of the Charter; and, as will be seen in this book, Canada has participated actively and responsibly in the United Nations throughout the 30 years that the organization has been in existence.