

## FOREWORD

Thoughtful men and women everywhere are concerned about the constitutional crisis facing the United Nations. Their concern is justified, but the crisis must be placed not only in the perspective of the short twenty years of the United Nations' existence, but also within the framework of the years to come. Setbacks occur in the development of all institutions but if they have a fundamental vitality and fill an essential need the ground lost is in time regained and new advances are made. The immobilization of the nineteenth session was regrettable, but a confrontation was avoided and talks on the issue still continue with almost all members fully convinced that an effective United Nations is essential in the atomic age.

Despite disagreement in the membership as a whole over the constitutional issues related to the authorization and financing of peace-keeping operations, the Security Council was nevertheless able in 1964 to agree on the establishment of yet another United Nations force, to help bring peace to Cyprus. The United Nations system was also able to carry on its large and growing economic and humanitarian programmes. As described in this publication, it mounted the largest and most significant economic conference in its history; continued to direct hundreds of millions of dollars in loans, grants and technical assistance to the developing countries; and proceeded with its work of relieving hunger and caring for the homeless and displaced. Such activities do not capture many headlines, but the contribution they make to bettering the lot of the hundred of millions who live in the under-developed countries is unquestionable.

Pessimism and frustration with the shortcomings of the United Nations are as easy a refuge for the uncritical as are unjustified optimism and complacency about its future. We must regard the current crisis as serious, but we should also maintain a balanced judgment, recognize the distance that has already been travelled and, to paraphrase the words of the Secretary-General, place confidence in the reasonableness of men to reach reasonable accommodations.

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