

PREFACE

THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Principal Organs

The General Assembly

The General Assembly consists of the fifty-five states which are Members of the United Nations. Each Member has one vote in Assembly. Each Member may send to a session of the Assembly five representatives, five alternate representatives and as many advisers and experts as it considers necessary.

The regular annual sessions of the Assembly begin on the third Tuesday in September. The average length of a session will probably be five to eight weeks. Special sessions may be held. Thus a special session will eventually be held to adopt disarmament treaties or conventions based on plans drawn up by the Security Council.

Each regular session opens with a general debate during which the head of almost every delegation gives a speech outlining the approach of his delegation to the questions on the agenda of the session. The items on the agenda are then referred to the committees of the Assembly. The committees report back resolutions to the Assembly.

The Assembly has six main committees, on which each delegation is represented:—

First Committee—Political and Security (including the regulation of armaments);

Second Committee—Economic and Financial;

Third Committee—Social, Humanitarian and Cultural;

Fourth Committee—Trusteeship;

Fifth Committee—Administrative and Budgetary;

Sixth Committee—Legal.

The Assembly also has two special permanent committees: an Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Ques-