

"Canada and the United Nations 1954-55"*

Canada and the United Nations 1954-55, the ninth in the regular series of reports prepared by the Department of External Affairs on the work of the United Nations is now available. The developments review in this volume occurred for the most part in the period July 1, 1954 to December 31, 1955, during which the General Assembly held its ninth and tenth sessions and the Economic and Social Council its eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth sessions.

Canada and the United Nations is a work of reference for those interested in United Nations affairs who may not have access to official reports and other more exhaustive sources of information. It is intended to present concise explanations of the problems with which the United Nations is dealing and of the work of the Specialized Agencies and other United Nations organs. Special attention is given to explanations of Canadian policy on specific issues. While the publication is concerned primarily with the period between July 1954 to December 1955, some background material is included when necessary for an understanding of problems and procedures.

Minister's Foreword

In a Foreword, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Lester B. Pearson, had the following to say about the first decade of the United Nations and about the problems which confront the organization in the future:

No one, I think, would now maintain that the United Nations has been able to achieve all that was hoped for it at the time of its creation in 1945. In fact, a rather dismaying number of the problems considered at the first session of the General Assembly are still unresolved. Some of them, such as disarmament or human rights, have acquired over the years a great difficulty and a greater urgency than ever. There have been disappointments, setbacks and delays. Although at the 1955 General Assembly we and the other 59 members of the United Nations were happy to welcome 16 new members, two great countries, Japan and Germany, are still not represented. To this degree the United Nations is still not yet a universal body, and is consequently handicapped in its activities.

The effectiveness and the unity of the United Nations has on occasion been seriously tried. There has also been undoubtedly some short-circuiting of the world organization through the establishment of *ad hoc* councils to deal with certain immediate problems for which it was considered that the procedures of the United Nations were too deliberate or its authority too weak. There has, of course, been no lessening of the vast sums spent on defence preparations, and recent sessions of the Assembly have been

* *Canada and the United Nations* is available from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa, at 50 cents per copy.