

Yearbook of the United Nations



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YEARBOOK OF THE UNITED NATIONS 1979

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Foreword

THE 1970s were a turbulent decade. Political and economic upheavals, wars and disasters, both man-made and natural, marked those years with violence and tragedy. The United Nations played an important role in containing or bringing an end to some of those conflicts and mitigating the anguish and suffering which they caused.

While dealing with the world's acute crises, the Organization also found time for novel and far-reaching initiatives to cement the peoples together and to deal with such basic human concerns as disarmament, environment, population, food, water, human rights, international trade and the law of the sea. Future historians may find that these efforts to strengthen social bonds have had a far more lasting impact on the world society than the headline-catching events of day-to-day calamities.

The *Yearbook of the United Nations* records the successes and failures of the United Nations in dealing with world crises and in the slow process of constructing a better world. Its pages detail the workings of international diplomacy and institution-building, not in theoretical terms but in concrete events. It is a case-book of humanity's halting effort to realize its potential through the United Nations.

Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Secretary-General

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	UNCITRAL	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations	UNDOF	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force
CMEA	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination	UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa	UNEF	United Nations Emergency Force
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ECWA	Economic Commission for Western Asia	UNFDAC	United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control
EEC	European Economic Community	UNFICYP	United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Office of)
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization	UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
ICITO	Interim Commission for the International Trade Organization	UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
ICJ	International Court of Justice	UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission	UNSO	United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office
IDA	International Development Association	UNTAG	United Nations Transition Assistance Group
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine
IFC	International Finance Corporation	UPU	Universal Postal Union
ILO	International Labour Organisation	WFP	World Food Programme
IMCO	Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization	WHO	World Health Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund	WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
ITC	International Trade Centre	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union	WTO	World Tourism Organization
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit	Y.U.N.	<i>Yearbook of the United Nations</i>
NGO	Non-governmental organization		
OAS	Organization of American States		
OAU	Organization of African Unity		

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON DOCUMENTS

To assist readers who wish to make a more detailed study of subjects discussed in Part One of this volume, documentary references are provided at the end of each chapter and subchapter. These references give the symbols and short titles of documents of the principal United Nations organs dealing with the subject concerned, records of voting, and texts of adopted resolutions and decisions. Also listed are the numbers of the meetings at which the subject was discussed, and for which summary or verbatim records are available. The following is a guide to the principal document symbols:

A/- refers to documents of the General Assembly, numbered in separate series by session. Thus, A/34/- refers to documents issued for consideration at the thirty-fourth session, beginning with A/34/1. Documents of the Assembly's special and emergency special sessions are identified as A/S- and A/ES-, followed by the session number: in 1979, A/S-11/- (eleventh special session), A/ES-6/- (sixth emergency special session) and A/ES-7/- (seventh emergency special session). A/C.- refers to documents of six of the Assembly's Main Committees, e.g. A/C.1/- is a document of the First Committee, A/C.6/-, a document of the Sixth Committee. The symbol for documents of the seventh Main Committee, the Special Political Committee, is A/SPC/-. A/AC.- documents are those of the Assembly's *ad hoc* bodies and A/CN.-, of its commissions; e.g. A/AC.105/- identifies documents of the Assembly's Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, A/CN.4/-, of its International Law Commission. Assembly resolutions and decisions since the thirty-first (1976) session have been identified by two Arabic numerals: the first indicates the session of adoption; the second, the sequential number in the series. Resolutions are numbered consecutively from 1 at each session. Decisions of regular sessions are numbered consecutively, from 301 for those concerned with elections and appointments, and from 401 for all other decisions. Decisions of special and emergency special sessions are numbered consecutively, from 11 for those concerned with elections and appointments, and from 21 for all other decisions.

E/- refers to documents of the Economic and Social Council, numbered in separate series by year. Thus, E/1979/- refers to documents issued for consideration by the Council at its 1979 sessions, beginning with E/1979/1. E/AC.-, E/C.- and E/CN.-, followed by permanent identifying numbers, refer to documents of the Council's subsidiary *ad hoc* bodies, committees and commissions. For example, E/C.1/-, E/C.2/- and E/C.3/- refer to documents of the Council's sessional

committees, namely, the First (Economic), Second (Social) and Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committees, respectively; E/CN.5/- refers to documents of the Council's Commission for Social Development, E/CN.7/-, to documents of its Committee on Natural Resources. E/ICEF/- documents are those of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Symbols for the Council's resolutions and decisions, since 1978, consist of two Arabic numerals: the first indicates the year of adoption and the second, the sequential number in the series. There are two series, one for resolutions and one for decisions, each beginning with 1 (i.e. decision 1979/1, resolution 1979/1).

S/- refers to documents of the Security Council. Its resolutions are identified by consecutive numbers followed by the year of adoption in parentheses, beginning with resolution 1 (1946).

T/- refers to documents of the Trusteeship Council. Its resolutions are numbered consecutively, with the session at which they were adopted indicated by Roman numerals, e.g. resolution 2168(XLVI) of the forty-sixth session.

ST/- refers to documents of the United Nations Secretariat.

DC/- refers to documents of the Disarmament Commission.

DP/- refers to documents of the United Nations Development Programme.

ID/- refers to documents of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

ITC/- refers to documents of the International Trade Centre.

TD/- refers to documents of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

UNEP/- refers to documents of the United Nations Environment Programme.

"L" in a symbol belonging to one of these series refers to documents of limited distribution, such as draft resolutions; "CONF," to documents of a conference; "INF," to those of general information. Summary records are designated as "SR," verbatim records by "PV," each followed by the meeting number.

U.N.P. designates United Nations sales publications, each of which carries a sales number.

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PART ONE

United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

I

The past year has been full of uncertainty, tension and conflict. The international scene has never been more complex nor the old concepts of power so diffused. There have been sudden shifts in the political balance and unexpected developments rooted in a variety of forces—economic, political, social and even religious. There is an increasing uneasiness as to the manageability of the affairs, and especially the economic life and social organization, of the planet in the circumstances now prevailing. These uncertainties and unforeseen developments affect in different ways the lives and the future of virtually all nations and peoples and give rise to deep-seated feelings of anxiety and frustration, which in turn create a climate favourable to new and unpredictable events.

If ever there was a time for serious reflection and stocktaking on the state and future of the community of nations, it is now. In our current anxiety we have, to some extent, lost sight of the enormous advances that have been made on so many fronts in the past 30 years. What we now require is the necessary spirit of accommodation to take full advantage of those advances.

In the upheavals of our time we can discern certain general trends—the desire to remedy long-standing injustices or ancient grievances, the compulsion of national aspirations, anxiety over the possibility of a viable future for this or that nation, the fear of the designs and ambitions of others and the suffering, frustration and resentment caused by gross economic and social inequities. A generation of unprecedented change has inevitably left many unresolved problems, old and new, as well as a sense of disillusionment at the failure to realize many of the great aims and objectives proclaimed in the optimistic aftermath of the Second World War.

Most of the symptoms and problems I have mentioned are ones which the United Nations, if effectively utilized as the working structure of the world community of the future, could be of unique assistance in solving. We need, above all, to press on with the development of the elements of such a community on a global basis. This is not a matter of abstract idealism but of

practical self-interest. It is also a matter of urgency.

There are a number of obvious reasons why the development of an effective world community will be difficult and slow. At one end of the scale we have the complex relationships of the greatest Powers, which are still to a considerable extent prisoners of their mutual fears and suspicions and of the fearful destructive capacity of their weapons systems.

At the other end of the scale the majority of nations and peoples are afflicted in varying degrees by acute problems of instability, poverty and economic weakness, often exacerbated by political and economic developments elsewhere in the world. While the aspirations of their peoples are high, economic dependence or instability shackles many of them to an economic system which no longer meets the requirements of an interdependent world of free nations. For many of them their first generation of independence has coincided with the challenge of coming to terms with a new world, a world in a state of revolutionary technological change. Thus the general longing for peace and equity is shadowed by a widespread unease and lack of confidence in the future.

Between these two poles, many middle and smaller Powers, within the United Nations and in various groupings outside it, have steadily developed a sense of co-operative responsibility on many global issues. The non-aligned movement is a good example of this positive trend. In the United Nations they have shown by and large a mixture of idealism and pragmatism which constitutes a most constructive middle force in the affairs of the world. This, in my view, is one of our best hopes and assets for the future, particularly at a time when the polarization of the world situation caused by great Power tensions would appear to be becoming a less dominant factor of the international scene as other independent political, economic and social forces emerge.

The great Powers have special responsibilities and obligations in the United Nations system. They also have a special need for the world Organization as an alternative to the kind of confrontation which, in our nuclear age, could well

be fatal to us all. The United Nations, and especially the Security Council, has played a vital, if sometimes unappreciated, role for many years in providing alternatives to such a confrontation. In recent years the major Powers have on a number of occasions availed themselves of this moderating mechanism during periods of crisis. The United Nations has also played an invaluable role in insulating regional crises to the necessary extent from the delicate balance of nuclear Power relationships. This is certainly not the comprehensive system for the maintenance of international peace and security envisioned in the Charter of the United Nations, but in the extraordinary and, it is to be hoped, transitional conditions of our world, it represents an indispensable safeguard of world peace and survival.

Elsewhere, the United Nations, through the process of decolonization, through its pioneering activities in development, in its current search for a new international economic order and in an increasingly broad attempt to tackle global problems, has been, and is, the centre of an effort to find new arrangements fitting and adequate for our interdependent world. The objective of such arrangements should be above all to try to make the fundamental changes necessary to lessen the gap between rich and poor and open the door of opportunity to all. The problems and obstacles are uniquely complex and difficult, and progress is slow, but the focus and the objectives are there. Later in this report I shall revert in more detail to this central and essential part of our task.

It cannot be said that the past year has witnessed any striking progress on our main problems. Indeed, the lack of progress, especially on the economic side, is distinctly disappointing and in strong contrast to the evident urgency of most of the problems. Political determination and a sense of pragmatism are necessary to reverse this debilitating situation.

II

Adjustment to change is inevitably a difficult and long process, and we should not overlook what has already been achieved during the life of the United Nations. Indeed many of the developments which we now take for granted or complain about as inadequate would have seemed quite out of reach only a few years ago. What we are trying to create in the United Nations is a world order fundamentally different from any that existed before. This is no small task, and we must remind ourselves from time to time of how much has already been achieved, as well as of the formidable obstacles that remain.

In the relationships of the most powerful nations, for example, much has been done to temper the adverse climate which coloured so strongly the post-war years. In spite of ideological, political and other differences, accommodations have been reached which certainly contribute to making the world a safer and more productive place. We need only think, for example, of the positive development in the relations of China and the United States. This year, we should remember the conclusion, after most complex negotiations between the United States and the USSR, of the SALT II agreement, which offers hope of limiting the growth of strategic nuclear weapons, an indispensable prerequisite to progress on the general problem of disarmament.

The process of accommodation is vital to progress on the various acute regional problems which preoccupy the United Nations. International instruments are essential and useful only if their possibilities are utilized for achieving the accommodations—sometimes quite small in themselves—which could make enormous contributions to world stability.

I have been increasingly aware of the need to encourage by all means the kind of adjustments which could remove, or at least alleviate, the various regional tensions which are still, in my view, the most dangerous threats to world peace. It is mainly for this reason that I have travelled extensively in order to get a first-hand view of such problems and to discuss them directly with the Governments concerned. Very often, of course, little can be achieved in the existing political circumstances but, if a channel of communications or good offices can be of help, I feel strongly that the Secretary-General should be available. In any case there is no substitute for getting to know the problems on the spot and at first hand.

It was with this end in view that I undertook, earlier this year, an extensive tour of East Asian countries. During this trip I had especially the Indo-Chinese and Korean situations in mind, and I very much hope that our talks in the various capitals may provide a basis on which the Governments and parties concerned may feel more ready to reconsider their positions and to use the possibilities the United Nations offers to assist them in solving their problems.

The United Nations has been especially preoccupied this year with developments in Indo-China—developments which not only raise fundamental questions of Charter principles but also have been accompanied by vast and tragic humanitarian problems. Naturally these matters were predominant in the discus-

sions I had during my visit to the region. The concern of the international community has, throughout this year, been focused both on the political and military developments in Indo-China and on their humanitarian consequences. It has seemed to me that, at the level of human tragedy now prevailing in that part of the world, humanitarian concerns must be attended to without delay.

This view is in no sense intended to downgrade the importance of a political settlement in the area. The situation which has followed the long and cruel war in Indo-China not only threatens the peace and stability of South-East Asia; it could very well also become a threat to world peace. It is of the utmost importance that the process of adjustment start at once and be carried on in a constructive and forward-looking spirit by all parties. As I have already informed them, I am ready to provide any assistance which the Governments concerned may think useful or desirable.

In this as in other situations that have recently arisen, it is imperative that all efforts be directed towards finding a settlement in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular respect for the territorial integrity and political independence of all States, non-interference in internal affairs and the non-use of force.

III

Of the great political problems for which the Organization has specific responsibilities, the Middle East continues to be the most urgent and complex. There can be no doubt that this question is central to the political, economic and military stability of the world. As long as uncertainty, discord, frustration and violence prevail in the Middle East, the world will continue to live with a profoundly destabilizing element in its affairs and with a grave and continuing risk of future disaster.

The Middle East problem is so sensitive that it is virtually impossible to make any suggestions or proposals about it without upsetting some, or sometimes all, of the parties concerned. This sensitivity has been faced by the succession of mediators, representatives, negotiators and good offices missions that have tried to be of assistance in the last 32 years. The question is how long the world, let alone the peoples of the Middle East, can afford to go on living with this explosive issue in its midst.

The dramatic developments which led to the conclusion of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel have created a new situation in the area. It is a measure of the complexities of the Middle East problem that this event has given

rise to controversy and division. Once again, understanding and far-sightedness, while maintaining principles and vital interests, are essential in what would otherwise be a hopeless situation. It is now more than ever necessary that all of the parties concerned review their position with the future rather than the past in mind.

A just and lasting peace in the Middle East can ultimately only be achieved through a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the question, including in particular the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Evidently, all parties concerned must be involved. I believe that the United Nations, if used with imagination and forbearance, offers in this regard unique possibilities which have not yet been fully utilized, and I hope that these possibilities will be more seriously examined in the coming months. For example, as I have previously suggested, an international conference, properly prepared, might well provide a way out of the present dangerous situation. Evidently a serious process of consultation with all of the parties will have to precede such an international meeting.

In the meantime, the practical involvement of the United Nations has continued to be mainly in the field of peace-keeping—the unceasing effort to keep down the temperature and to avert the confrontations which could so easily lead to widespread conflict and make all movement towards peace impossible. I shall revert later in this report to the subject of peace-keeping operations.

I must, however, mention here the situation in southern Lebanon. The most explosive elements of the Middle East situation exist in close proximity in and around southern Lebanon and their interaction represents both a national tragedy for Lebanon and a constant threat to the wider peace. In recent weeks there has been a serious escalation of violence in this area, resulting in civilian casualties, heavy damage and the flight of many inhabitants. After repeated efforts, an uneasy cease-fire is in effect at the time of writing. This tragic and volatile situation is a reflection of the wider problems of the region and will not be finally resolved until solid progress on those problems is made. In the meantime, we shall continue our efforts through United Nations representatives in the area, and especially the Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), to maintain the present relative calm. The situation in this troubled and tragic area has been for many years a vicious circle of violence and reprisal in which the perennial losers have been the civilian population. I appeal to all concerned to co-operate with

UNIFIL and to show restraint in maintaining a cessation of firing and hostilities pending the time when a more radical improvement in the situation is possible.

Developments have been disappointing in Zimbabwe and Namibia, for which the United Nations has a special concern. The difficulty in resolving the question of Zimbabwe and the now critical situation in that Territory are causes for grave anxiety. An enduring solution of this problem can only be assured if there exists a constitution which has the agreement and support of all parties concerned. The internal settlement as well as the elections held under it do not meet this requirement and cannot, therefore, be recognized as forming a basis for genuine majority rule. Renewed efforts must be made to bring all the parties together to co-operate on an acceptable and lasting settlement. Unless this can be done soon, there is a serious danger that all the progress made on this question will be lost in bloodshed, disorder and ruin with serious implications for the security of the whole region. I hope very much that the ideas and plans which emerged from the recent Commonwealth Conference at Lusaka may provide the means of achieving such a settlement. Meanwhile, it is important that all Member States adhere to the measures called for by the Security Council and work together in resolving this problem.

A year ago there seemed good reason to expect an early solution to the problem of Namibia on the basis of the plan of action approved by the Security Council. Unfortunately, the establishment of a United Nations presence in Namibia to supervise and control elections has been delayed. The full co-operation of all concerned is essential to the implementation of the Security Council's plan of action. Although difficulties have arisen over the interpretation of certain provisions of the plan, I hope that current talks will result in the necessary clarifications so that we can proceed, with the co-operation of all concerned, to practical action. After so much effort has been made, it would indeed be regrettable if we were unable to achieve the final adjustments necessary for success.

The present state of affairs in Namibia and Zimbabwe has serious implications for the security and economic future of the whole region, involving, as it does, continued loss of life in those countries as well as large-scale raids into Angola, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia, with resulting casualties and widespread destruction. It is absolutely vital that means be found to make practical progress on these two problems without sacrificing

the principles laid down by the United Nations.

Our aim should be the stable and prosperous future of southern Africa as a whole. This will not be achieved, however, as long as the problem of *apartheid* persists. One of the great challenges confronting the United Nations and all the peoples of the region is the absolute necessity of transforming the racial situation in southern Africa so that men and women of different races can coexist and exercise their rights as equals.

Another area of conflict with which the United Nations has been intimately involved, both in its peace-keeping and its peace-making roles, is Cyprus. The United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), which has been there for more than 15 years, continues to perform an indispensable function in maintaining calm in the island. At the same time, I have pursued the good offices mission entrusted to me by the Security Council to promote a just and lasting settlement. To this end, I convened a high-level meeting at Nicosia last May under my personal auspices. That meeting resulted in a 10-point agreement calling for the resumption of the intercommunal talks and setting forth the basis and priorities for them. While the talks were resumed amid high hopes, they soon encountered difficulties which necessitated an early recess. I have instructed my representatives to continue our efforts to overcome the difficulties in the way of restarting the talks in accordance with last May's high-level accord and the priorities established in that agreement.

The present situation in this regard comprises two sets of difficulties. One concerns the stated negotiating positions of the parties. The other relates to political problems that they face in tackling the compromises and accommodations that are essential if the talks are to have any meaning. Time and again it has proved possible to bridge important differences between the parties and to agree on guidelines and priorities that held out the prospect of progress towards a settlement. Time and again the momentum generated by these agreements has been allowed to dissipate. Moreover, the existing *status quo* tends to create a dynamic of its own, which does not necessarily facilitate an agreed solution. It seems to me, however, that a far-sighted and determined approach, based on the existing guidelines and accords, could lead to a rapid improvement of the situation in the island that would serve the interests of all concerned and would be vastly preferable to continuing to cling to an unsatisfactory and potentially unstable *status quo*. This could at the same time clear the way for a comprehensive political settlement, based on the fundamental and legitimate