

Publications of the United Nations¹

THERE WERE four stages in the establishment of the United Nations as an organization. The *first* includes a series of preliminary steps which began with the Moscow Declaration of the Foreign Ministers of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States in October 1943.²

This stage was completed when the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, which were agreed to in October 1944, were supplemented by decisions made at Yalta in the Crimea by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Marshal Stalin in February 1945, in regard to the voting procedure in the proposed Security Council and the place and date for a general United Nations conference to prepare a charter for a permanent world organization.

The end of the *second* stage was reached at San Francisco on June 26, 1945, when fifty nations signed the United Nations Charter and established the Preparatory Commission.

Seven weeks later the *third* stage began in London with the opening session of the Executive Committee on Aug. 16, 1945, and closed October 27 of the same year with the adoption of its report.

The *fourth* stage is represented by the work of the Preparatory Commission in London, Nov. 24-Dec. 23, 1945.

The document which served as the start-

ing point for the United Nations is known as the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, a tentative plan for a world organization drafted in the autumn of 1944 after informal exploratory discussions by representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States, for consideration by their governments and subsequent submission to all the United Nations.

All together, there were four separate official editions of these proposals:

Dumbarton Oaks Documents on International Organization. [Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1944.] 22p. (Department of State Publication 2192, Conference Series 56).

Dumbarton Oaks Documents on International Organization: together with Chart and Questions and Answers. [Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1944.] 22p. (Department of State Publication 2223, Conference Series 60). A reprint combining two previously printed pamphlets, *i.e.*, the foregoing title, and *Questions and Answers on the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals*, issued as Publication 2218, Conference Series 58.

The United Nations: Dumbarton Oaks Proposals for a General International Organization, to Be the Subject of the United Nations Conference at San Francisco, April 25, 1945. [Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1945.] 8p. including chart. (Department of State Publication 2297, Conference Series 66).

The United Nations: Dumbarton Oaks Proposals for a General International Organization. (For the use of the delegates). [Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1945.] 22p. At head of title: The United Nations Conference on Interna-

¹ Abridgment of a paper presented at the meeting of the Committee on Public Documents, American Library Association, Buffalo, June 19, 1946.

² Complete text in *Toward the Peace: Documents.* [Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1945] (Department of State Publication 2298) p. 33-36.

tional Organization. General, Dec. 1. G/1. Interlined, lines numbered.

One of the provisions of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals called for an International Court of Justice as principal judicial organ of the new organization. A draft statute for this court was prepared for submission to the United Nations Conference at San Francisco by the United Nations Committee of Jurists, a group of legal experts from forty-three countries who met in Washington, Apr. 9-20, 1945, under the chairmanship of Green H. Hackworth of the State Department. Its records consist of eighty-seven mimeographed documents numbered consecutively throughout, Jurist 1 to Jurist 87. These are of two kinds: summary reports of the thirteen meetings, and draft proposals submitted by delegations and various draft statutes. The final document, *Report on Draft of Statute of an International Court of Justice*, was submitted to the United Nations Conference at San Francisco, and was known as Jurist 86 (in English) and Jurist 87 (in French). These documents, with the exception of the Chinese, Russian, and Spanish texts of the draft statute, were reproduced as Volume XIV of the UNIO-LC edition of the San Francisco documents.³

Preconference Publications

On the eve of the conference, the State Department issued two pamphlets in the now familiar "Stettinius blue" covers. One was a guide to the conference entitled *Guide: The United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco, 1945*. [Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1945.] 28p. The other, an oblong album, consisted of a set of charts and pictographs with some explanatory text, showing the structure and functions of the proposed organization and of its organs.

³ See p. 313.

There were Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish editions.⁴

The original documentation of the United Nations Conference on International Organization has been fully and expertly described by Nelle Marie Signor, librarian of the History and Political Science Library, University of Illinois, in *Special Libraries* 37:3-6, January 1946. A few additional comments only, based on the experience gained in preparing these documents for publication, may be made here.

The consecutive numbers assigned to the documents run from 1 to 1216. There were two lists:

Document 1184: Cumulative List of Documents Issued During the United Nations Conference on International Organization. 101p.

Document 1216: [List of documents arranged by symbol.] 110p.

When using these lists, however, caution should be exercised, as they were found to be inaccurate in places. This is especially true of the listing of various language editions which often does not correspond to actual fact. Also, the titles given do not always correspond to the titles of the documents themselves. Another point worthy of mention is the discrepancy frequently found between the English and French versions of a document.

There is further a most helpful chapter: "Conference Documentation and Records" in *Charter of the United Nations: Commentary and Documents* by Leland M. Goodrich and Edvard Hambro. (Boston, World Peace Foundation, 1946, p. 16-18.)

Documentation of Conference

The entire documentation of the confer-

⁴ Because of a misprint on the verso of the front cover, giving February 1944 instead of 1945 as date of the Crimea Conference, the English edition was withdrawn: U.S. Department of State. *Proposals for a General International Organization as Developed at Dumbarton Oaks, 1944*. [Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1945.] 24p., charts.

ence, as released upon the recommendation of the Secretariat in the final plenary session, June 25, 1945, was published by the United Nations Information Organizations, New York and London, in cooperation with the Library of Congress in photo-offset in fifteen volumes. In this edition the documents are arranged in logical order, by commissions, committees, and subcommittees. Each volume is preceded by a table of contents listing all the documents included, together with a finding list by symbol which indicates the location of any document in any volume. Only English and French texts are included, except in Volume IV, where proposed amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals in the original Spanish, Portuguese, or Russian are included. An index to the fifteen volumes has been prepared but has not yet been published.

The original edition of the Charter has a bibliographically interesting story. How and by whom the text in five languages was printed, how many copies were printed on treaty paper, how the deadline for the signing ceremony had to be met in spite of continual changes almost up to the last minute, is told in detail by Samuel L. Farquhar, manager of the University of California Press, originally in the *Publisher's Weekly* of July 7 and 14, 1945, in two papers entitled "Printing the United Nations Charter" and "Binding the Atlantic [*i.e.*, United Nations] Charter," respectively, and later in book form *Printing the United Nations Charter*. (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1946, 56p.).

Charter

Immediately after the close of the conference, the State Department arranged for a large printing of the text of the Charter for mass distribution. This was the pocket edition:

Charter of the United Nations, Together with the Statute of the International Court . . . Signed at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco, Calif., June 26, 1945. [Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1945.] 58p. (Department of State Publication 2353, Conference Series 74).

Simultaneously, a facsimile edition of the original Charter in five languages with the signatures affixed at San Francisco was printed and placed on sale:

Facsimile of the Charter of the United Nations, Statute of the International Court of Justice and Interim Arrangements, in Five Languages. Signed at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco, California, June 26, 1945. [Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1945.] Various paging. (Department of State Publication 2368, Conference Series 76).

An excellent over-all account of the background of the San Francisco Conference and the drafting of the Charter, primarily from the American point of view, can be found in the so-called Stettinius report:

Charter of the United Nations. Report to the President on the Results of the San Francisco Conference, by the Chairman of the United States Delegation, the Secretary of State, June 26, 1945. [Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1945.] 266p. (Department of State Publication 2349, Conference Series 71).

This contains, as appendices, the text of the San Francisco Charter and on opposite pages the text of the corresponding Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, with a key to chapters and paragraphs; the text of the Statute of the International Court of Justice; the text of the Interim Arrangements; a list of delegations; the complete composition of the U.S. delegation including consultants; and a chart of the organization.

Interim Arrangements

A separate edition of the Interim Ar-

rangements was issued by the State Department in the Conference Series, uniform with the pocket edition of the Charter:

Interim Arrangements, Concluded by the Governments Represented at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco, California, June 26, 1945. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1945. 4p. (Department of State Publication 2357, Conference Series 75).

This agreement called for the establishment of a Preparatory Commission of the United Nations, consisting of all the members of the organization, and entrusted it with certain duties. The commission was to function until the Charter came into force and the United Nations was established.

The first meeting of the Preparatory Commission, purely formal in character, was held in San Francisco on June 27, 1945. The documentary record of this meeting consists of two documents, the *Agenda* and the *Summary Report*, both issued in photo-offset from typed copy.

The Executive Committee held its first meeting in London, Aug. 16, 1945, and during nine weeks of intensive labor proceeded to carry out the recommendations provided for in the terms of reference of the Preparatory Commission. For this purpose, it set up ten technical committees dealing with the various organs of the United Nations, financial arrangements, relations with specialized agencies, the winding up of the League of Nations, and general questions such as selection of the site. By Oct. 27, 1945, the reports of the ten committees had been approved by the Executive Committee and had been assembled into a single 144-page document entitled:

Report by the Executive Committee to the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations. [London] Preparatory Commission of the United Nations. [H. M. Stationery Office] 1945. 144p. (PC/EX/113/Rev. I, Nov. 12, 1945).

The current documentation of the Executive Committee was in the form of mimeographed papers not available for public distribution.

In the meantime, the Charter of the United Nations had become a part of the law of nations when, on Oct. 24, 1945, the Soviet Government deposited its instrument of ratification with the State Department, thereby achieving the required number of ratifications to make the organization operative.

Preparatory Commission

The full Preparatory Commission, consisting of the delegates of the fifty-one United Nations, convened in London on Nov. 24 and completed its work on Dec. 23, 1945. The Executive Committee became the Steering Committee of the Preparatory Commission. The report of the Executive Committee was taken as the basis for the work of the commission and was apportioned for detailed consideration among eight technical committees: (1) General Assembly, (2) Security Council, (3) Economic and Social, (4) Trusteeship, (5) Legal Questions, (6) Administrative and Budgetary Matters, (7) League of Nations, (8) General Questions. In addition to these, there were also a number of special committees and subcommittees and a drafting committee. Not all the recommendations of the Executive Committee were adopted, still others were supplemented, a few were the subject of discussion. The result of these debates, primarily in the form of recommendations, was incorporated in the report which was adopted Dec. 23, 1945:

Report of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations. [London, H. M. Stationery Office] 1945. 151p.

The report also contains draft provisional staff regulations, the provisional rules of

procedure for the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the Trusteeship Council; also the draft agenda for the first meetings of these bodies, with the exception of the Trusteeship Council.

The original documents of the Preparatory Commission consist of:

- a) A printed *Journal*, no. 1-27, Nov. 24-Dec. 28, 1945, English and French in parallel columns, including in the form of supplements, the summary records of meetings of the eight technical committees.
- b) A printed *Handbook*, Nov. 23, 1945, containing a list of the delegates and their staffs and of the Secretariat officials and staff. Revised edition, Nov. 24, 1945. The latter was published also in French as *Commission Préparatoire des Nations Unies. Manuel, édition révisée.*
- c) Mimeographed reports and documents identified by symbols corresponding to the above-mentioned committees and subcommittees. These were not available to anyone except the delegations and the Secretariat. The more important ones, however, are included in their final form in the report of the Preparatory Commission.

At the close of the meetings, the *Journal* and its supplements containing the summary records of the meetings of the eight technical committees, together with the list of delegates, were reprinted in nine parts as:

United Nations. *Journal of the Preparatory Commission, 24 November-24 December 1945.* London, Church House, Westminster [Printed and published by H. M. Stationery Office, 1946] 146p. in double columns. 3s.6d.

— Committee 1: General Assembly. *Summary Record of Meetings, 24 November-24 December 1945.* 55p. 1s.3d.

— Committee 2: Security Council. *Summary Record of Meetings, 24 November-24 December 1945.* 30p. 1s.3d.

— Committee 3: Economic and Social. *Summary Record of Meetings, 24 November-24 December 1945.* 30p. 1s.3d.

— Committee 4: Trusteeship. *Summary Record of Meetings, 24 November-24 December 1945.* 41p. 1s.3d.

— Committee 5: Legal Questions. *Summary Record of Meetings, 24 November-24 December 1945.* 19p. 1s.3d.

— Committee 6: Administrative and Budgetary. *Summary Record of Meetings, 24 November-24 December 1945.* 56p. 1s.3d.

— Committee 7: League of Nations. *Summary Record of Meetings, 24 November-24 December 1945.* 16p. 1s.3d.

— Committee 8: General Questions. *Summary Records of Meetings, 24 November-24 December 1945.* 70p. 1s.3d.

The General Assembly met in London at Central Hall, Westminster, Jan. 10-Feb. 13, 1946. It was attended by delegates from all the fifty-one United Nations. On January 11 six main committees were set up to carry out the work of the General Assembly: (1) Committee on Political Security, (2) Economic and Financial Committee, (3) Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee, (4) Trusteeship Committee, (5) Administrative and Budgetary Committee, (6) Legal Committee.

The report of the Preparatory Commission was the basic document before the assembly.

General Assembly Documents

The documentation of the General Assembly consists of a printed *Journal* which includes, as supplements, the summary records of meetings of the six main committees and two *ad hoc* committees set up to deal with specific questions regarding the League of Nations. The first part of the first session of the General Assembly was covered by *Journal*, No. 1-34, Jan. 10-Mar. 7, 1946. The *Journal* was printed and placed on sale by H. M. Stationery Office at 6d. per number. *Journal*, No. 34, which was compiled after the close of the meetings, contains the text of the resolutions adopted on the reports of the six main committees, on the report of the Committee on the League of Nations, on the report of the Permanent Headquarters Committee, and on the proposals

of the General Committee. These resolutions include, in the form of annexes, such documents as the terms of appointment of the secretary-general, the organization of the Secretariat, the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee on Information concerning the policies, functions, and organization of the Department of Public Information, the provisional staff regulations, budgetary and financial arrangements, a convention on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, etc. Two other printed documents have emanated from the General Assembly:

United Nations. *Provisional Rules of Procedure for the General Assembly*. London [H. M. Stationery Office] 1946. 17p.

United Nations. *First Session of the General Assembly [Handbook]*. London [H. M. Stationery Office] Jan. 10, 1946. 88p. fold. plans.

— Revised edition, February 1946.

A convenient account of the work achieved by the General Assembly in January and February of 1946 will be found in:

The United States and the United Nations. Report of the United States Delegation to the First Part of the First Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. London, England, Jan. 10-Feb. 14, 1946. Submitted to the President of the United States by the Secretary of State . . . Mar. 1, 1946. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1946. 54p.

The General Assembly proceeded on Jan. 12, 1946, to the election of the six non-permanent members to sit on the Security Council in addition to the five permanent members—China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The way was thus open for the first meeting of the Security Council which took place on Jan. 17, 1946, at Church House, Westminster.

In the course of twenty-three meetings

lasting until February 16, the council transacted procedural business. Since the council functions continuously, the first meeting to be held at Hunter College in the Bronx, after the members of the council and the Secretariat had established themselves in New York, was numbered the twenty-fourth.

Security Council Records

The records of the Security Council consist of the *Journal*, which like the journals of the Preparatory Commission and of the General Assembly is in English and French in parallel columns. Nos. 1-16, Jan. 18-Mar. 1, 1946, were published in London and printed by H. M. Stationery Office. Single issues were available for 6d. each.

The first *Journal* issued in the United States was Number 17 and dated Mar. 25, 1946. Beginning with this number, all important documents mentioned in the text of discussions are printed in the *Journal*.

To date, there have been two editions of the following:

Security Council of the United Nations, New York. *Provisional Handbook, March 1946*. 41p. Mimeographed.

— Apr. 30, 1946. Supersedes the above-mentioned earlier edition.

The *Handbook* contains certain useful information on location of offices and available services and facilities, a list of the delegates and their staffs, and a list of the personnel of the Secretariat. It is planned to publish frequent revisions, possibly monthly editions.

In accordance with the terms of the Charter, the eighteen members of the Economic and Social Council were elected by the General Assembly on Jan. 14, 1946. The council held its first meeting on Jan. 23, 1946, at Church House in London. During this first session, thirteen meetings in all were held in London, the last one

on Feb. 18, 1946. The second session opened at Hunter College in the Bronx on May 25, 1946.

Commissions

As proposed by the Preparatory Commission, the council established a Commission on Human Rights, including a Sub-commission on the Status of Women; an Economic and Employment Commission; a Statistical Commission; a Temporary Social Commission; a Temporary Transport and Communications Commission; and a Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The council further set up a Negotiating Committee to contact the specialized agencies and decided to convene an International Health Conference to be held by June 20, 1946, and an International Conference on Trade and Employment in the latter part of 1946. In accordance with the General Assembly's recommendations, a Committee on Refugees and Displaced Persons was appointed, which met in London during April 1946.

The record of deliberations and work achieved by the Economic and Social Council is embodied in its *Journal*. The first session of the council is covered by Numbers 1-12, Jan. 25-Apr. 10, 1946. All but No. 12 were printed in London by H. M. Stationery Office and placed on sale at 6d. per copy. No. 12 was issued in New York and contains the text of resolutions adopted for these journals. While those of the Security Council are yellow, the journals of the first session of the Economic and Social Council are printed on pink paper, and those of the second session on blue paper. The journals of the General Assembly are white. The first journal covering the second session now being held is numbered 13 and is dated May 22, 1946.

International Court

With the election of the fifteen judges of

the International Court of Justice in February 1946 by the Security Council and the General Assembly sitting separately in plenary sessions, the court, one of the main organs of the United Nations, was established. Its seat, like that of its predecessor, the Permanent Court of International Justice, is in The Hague. A first session, mainly organizational in character, took place in April 1946. For a well-documented account of the drafting of the court's statute covering the work of the United Nations Committee of Jurists in Washington and of Committee IV/1 of the San Francisco Conference, see the following:

Preuss, Lawrence. "The International Court of Justice and the Problem of Compulsory Jurisdiction." In *Department of State Bulletin* 13:471-78, Sept. 30, 1945.

Thus all the main divisions of the United Nations, with the exception of the Trusteeship Council, have come into existence. It was fully realized in the preparatory stages that this body could not be set up at the first assembly since the Charter provides that prior to the formation of the council a number of territories must have been placed under the trusteeship system. It is possible that the council will be established during the second part of the first session of the General Assembly to be held in September 1946.

Prospective Publications

The *Official Record* is to be issued some time after the closing of each session. It will consist of the official verbatim text of the proceedings and their translations, together with the text of all relevant documents. It will be issued in five separate editions, in Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

Then, there will be the annual report of the secretary-general, a basic document

which, it is expected, will become available each year about the time of the General Assembly session in September.

At the present time, plans for two publications other than documents are well advanced. One is a weekly bulletin containing regular accounts of the activities of the United Nations, of its various branches and related agencies, background articles on topics under discussion, biographical notices on delegates and officials, and a bibliographical section. The other is a United Nations yearbook which will include, among other things, a chronology of United Nations activities, an account of the work achieved by each organ, with the resolutions passed, the structure of the United Nations, with

the names of delegates and officials, a who's who, a list of publications issued during the year, a calendar of forthcoming United Nations events, and basic texts such as the Charter, together with amendments, if any. Both of these publications will be issued by the Department of Public Information.

It is likely that in addition there will be specialized and technical publications, for example a treaty series to take the place of the treaty series issued by the League of Nations.

All publications of the United Nations intended for public distribution will be available from Columbia University Press, International Documents Service, 2960 Broadway, New York City 27.

University Library Service to the Public

(Continued from page 310)

of assistance. The university library's clientele seems homogeneous in comparison. The university library is no better equipped to satisfy all sorts of people than the public libraries and special libraries are. All three together, however, can greatly widen the range of available library resources and, by coordinating their activities, greatly speed up and improve the quality of their services. University library service to the general public at present plays a minor role, because it is normally something merely permitted or good-naturedly agreed to. But when we face it and look at its implications, we recognize that it is actually the old problem of how to organize libraries of all kinds into a coordinated system. An old problem, it has greater urgency now than ever before because the times are urgent. It is a problem which challenges us as members of the library profession. As librarians and as citizens, university librarians have the opportunity, if not the duty, to send out the

library's resources and services to inform and guide the American people.

Must Serve Public

We university librarians have three distinct clienteles—the students, the faculty, and the general public, including extension students. During the next few years we may be tempted to ignore this third clientele altogether. If we do, we can justify ourselves on the ground that we already have more than enough to do on the campus; but this atomic age gives us an exceptional opportunity, if we care to take advantage of it. We have the opportunity to provide some of the information the American people need in charting their course through this crisis. It is not our job to supply most of what they require, but rather to supplement and help coordinate the service by other libraries. We shall profit by cooperation in many ways, particularly by advancing our profession and the common good.