



Prologue

This report is submitted pursuant to the “United Nations Participation Act of 1945, as amended” (Public Law 264, 79th Congress). Section 4 provides in relevant part:

“The President shall from time to time as occasion may require, but not less than once each year, make reports to the Congress of the activities of the United Nations and of the participation of the United States therein.”

In July 2003, the President delegated to the Secretary of State the authority to transmit this report to Congress.

The intent of the report is (1) to keep Congress informed of UN activities and of those of U.S. representatives in that organization, and (2) to provide for an official channel of information to the public on these matters.

The report is a survey of select U.S Government activities and policies in the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as of the activities of the United Nations and those specialized agencies themselves. More specifically, this report describes what the United Nations accomplished, what trends are evolving, what new issues have surfaced in a given year, and where the United States succeeded or failed in achieving its goals.

The present report covers calendar year 2002. As with previous years, it is organized thematically and divided into six parts:

- *Political and Security Issues* comprises country-specific assessments focused on UN Security Council and General Assembly actions and peacekeeping operations, disarmament issues, and a section on special political issues, including international terrorism;
- *Economic and Social Affairs* assesses the work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the General Assembly, and the variety of subsidiary bodies and commissions on issues including economic development, human rights, the status of women, humanitarian aid, and crime prevention and control;
- *Legal Developments* covers the International Court of Justice’s (ICJ) caseload, the work of other judicial bodies, such as the War Crimes Tribunals in Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia, and legal issues such as cloning;
- *Reform of the UN System* describes progress on reform of UN management, peacekeeping, and the Security Council;

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- *Administration and Budget* provides an overview of the United Nations current financial situation and resource management issues; and
- *Specialized Agencies* describes the work of a host of agencies from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to the World Health Organization (WHO), and assesses how they serve U.S. interests.

Questions about this report may be directed to the Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Department of State.