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1946-1951

UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS

New York, 1954

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

and means for making the evidence of customary international law more readily available", which authorized the Secretary-General to undertake as soon as feasible

outlined in the Secretary-General's Report (A/4170),

meetings is in course of preparation. It is proposed to publish, at suitable intervals, further instalments

THE GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE *Repertoire*

In order to make it "more readily available" the voluminous material pertaining to the practice of the Security Council

itative account of its deliberations. The arrangement suggests the existence of procedures or practices which

times, within the framework of the Charter, "master

invited to the Report of the Secretary-General of

"The view has repeatedly been expressed in the Security Council that the Council is and should remain the master of its own procedure. It has been

very nature of the work of the Security Council inherent in the nature of the task

which have any binding character for the future.

"In the second place, the classification must avoid posing theoretical problems which have not so far

Sixth Committee that the *Repertoire* should confine

"Lastly, the *Repertoire* should present in a

ing the practice and procedure of the Council, but should not itself constitute a work of codification or interpretation. It should be left entirely to the reader to draw conclusions as to the interpretation of the Charter and the procedures and practice of the Council."

In the preparation of this volume every care has

to determine its own procedures in each case as it case history has been associated with another under

since the descriptive title is able to assist at relevant

as to the interpretation of the Charter and the pro-

The present volume, though analytical, is therefore

Council. It is expository, and, by presenting the results of an empirical survey of the procedures of the Council in a way calculated to make reference easy, constitutes essentially a guide to the proceedings

material has no bearing on the question whether the precedents having an influence, much less a binding

de faced with problems more or less cognate

from a factual or historical presentation of agenda

Repertore has been to assemble the relevant data in its entirety, and, on the basis thereof, to devise a framework within which the wide variety of practice

and ordering the actual proceedings in a generalized or analytical arrangement. Where, however, the historical presentation of material was not required for an understanding of the procedural aspects

without distortion through the adaptation of material to the exigencies of a particular presentation.

complete detail the particular proceedings in the Council on a particular issue.¹

METHOD OF ENTRY OF MATERIAL

In selecting and presenting in compact form

Council has in the main proceeded in a manner derived from the broad problems of practice involved rather than an arrangement of material under Articles

attempt was made to preserve the statements of representatives by means of verbatim quotations followed by the decision of the Council in each case. The selection of quotations here is based on

arranged under Articles of the Charter in chapters X—XII; an explanation of the method adopted will

The point of departure is the decision or other action

the strength and variety of opinions expressed in

proceedings from the text of the Charter, particularly

in a summarized fashion the chain of proceedings.

case. Throughout this volume care has been taken to

references to the places in the records where the state-

tions or other proceedings of the Council which do not bear in themselves any decision of the Council

the actual key words used in the course of the pro-

At the beginning of each chapter and at appropriate places inside each chapter notes have been inserted explanatory of the relation between the material and the arrangement adopted in the chapter. These introductory notes are intended first to explain and amplify the headings given in the table of contents, particularly in chapters where certain practices and procedures

quotations have been retained in some cases, especially in those instances in which paraphrase would not have done justice to the points expressed.

Where the chain of proceedings thus summarized led up to a decision of the Council, details of the

ment and second to draw together whatever in

the *Repertore* as a technical term in the construction

The concern of the Secretary General in determin-

numbers within each chapter to facilitate reference:

character of the Security Council as an organ charged with peace and security.

them, not as constituting examples or instances of any general practice but rather as factual accounts of

For example, where the *Repertore* deals with the question

make the evidence available by the use of categories,

is important for a purpose other than that of producing an historical account of the event.

Editorial Note

1. References to the Official Records of the meetings of the Security Council are given in the following form:

177th meeting: p. 1667.

References to other cases in the same chapter are in the following form:

See Case 11.

4. In citing statements in case histories it has been

Council and statements by representatives or other

ordingly. For S/ documents printed only in the
the meeting and page. S/ references without addition

in the Check List of United Nations Documents, Part

Security Council, 1946-1949. Presidents of the Security

the Council, with the official reference to the verbatim

points