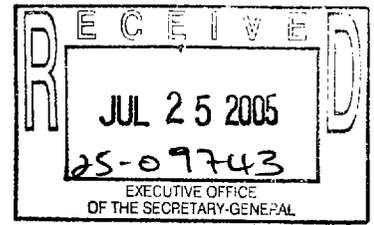


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NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Yearbook of the United Nations 2003

Notes
30/7

I have the honour to present to you a copy of the fifty-seventh volume (2003) of the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, which has just arrived from the printer.

The dust-jacket design depicts the memorial plaque that hangs in the General Assembly building in honour of the United Nations staff who died in Baghdad on 19 August 2003 and this volume is dedicated to their memory.

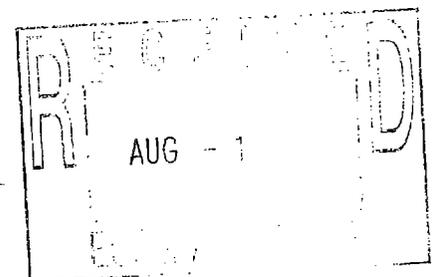
This edition covers all the major events of 2003, including the rift in the Security Council over the use of force against Iraq, the terrorist attack on United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, the establishment of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change and efforts to address the armed conflicts that continued to plague a number of African countries, particularly those of West Africa and the Great Lakes region. Also covered are the Organization's assistance in the reconstruction of Afghanistan, Timor-Leste and the Kosovo Province of Serbia and Montenegro, and the attempts by the Quartet and the Security Council to restart peace talks between Israel and Palestine.

In addition, the volume describes the outcomes of the major conferences organized by the United Nations in 2003, covering the special needs of landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours and on establishing the foundations for an information society for all.

The *Yearbook* team has maintained the goal, achieved last year for the first time since the 1960s, of producing this volume within the time frame that was set by the General Assembly.

Arrangements are being made for copies of the 2003 *Yearbook* to be delivered to Member States.

Shashi Tharoor
Shashi Tharoor
22 July 2005



24/7/05 # 3077