

THE
FIRST TEN YEARS
*OF THE WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION*



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
PALAIS DES NATIONS
GENEVA
1958

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FOREWORD

Ten years ago today, with the coming into force of its Constitution on 7 April 1948, the World Health Organization took its place among the specialized agencies established under the Charter of the United Nations.

In this anniversary publication, which it is my privilege to present, an effort has been made not only to review the history of these past ten years but also to place the events of that period against the background of previous achievements, and to indicate the broad lines along which future activities could develop.

The problems raised, the difficulties encountered, the solutions adopted, have been recorded as soberly and objectively as possible. Although the period under review is short as compared with the tasks to be accomplished, I believe that all those who from the outset have had faith in the Organization's aims and ideals will find in this Report the justification of their hopes and evidence that tangible, even if as yet modest, results have been achieved.

For me, this measuring, this looking back over the road we have travelled, vindicates my constant optimism and reinforces my own confidence in the Organization's destiny. The increasing desire on the part of our Member States to co-operate in the Organization's activities is yet another sign of this same confidence: if they had no faith in the Organization's future they would not co-operate with such wholeheartedness in its activities — and this applies not only to governments but also to scientific institutions, to administrators, as well as to thousands of scientists and research workers the world over who every day, in their laboratories, are quietly pursuing our common ends.

It is because of this persistent faith and hope that the Organization, in this auspicious year, finds itself, in spite of some setbacks, once more on the highroad to that universality which was its primary ideal and is now very nearly the world organization its founders intended it to be.

Not without importance too is the place in which our activities are conceived, and today seems to me to be an opportune time for the expression of our indebtedness to the spiritual atmosphere, to the climate of understanding and to the noble tradition of international co-operation of the country in which

it is our good fortune to have our headquarters. Everyone, whether he be a representative of a Member State or one of the Secretariat will, I am sure, wish to be associated with the tribute which on this occasion we should wish to pay to the Swiss Confederation and to the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

May I conclude with the hope that from the perusal of the chapters that follow we shall all be able to learn from a short but fruitful past and find the encouragement we need for the future.

Geneva, 7 April 1958

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M. G. Andau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Director-General