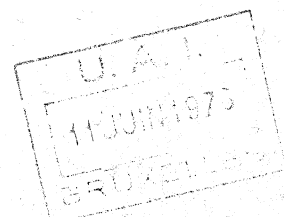


SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

# UNION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

1910 - 1970

Past, Present, Future



Documents

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for the study of international non governmental  
Union of international associations — Brussels 1970

60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE FOUNDING  
IN BELGIUM OF THE U.A.I.  
(Union of International Associations)

Extracted from the International  
Review "Synthèses", No 288, June 1970,  
Brussels - Paris



Pierre HARMEL,  
Belgian Minister  
for Foreign Affairs.

On behalf of the Belgian Government, I have great pleasure in paying my tribute to the Union of International Associations to mark the 60th anniversary of this body.

Belgium is deeply honoured to have witnessed the creation on her soil, during the First World Congress of International Associations held in 1910, of an organization which is universal in scope, and whose activities laid the foundations for the organization of world society.

In those days, this first step towards international co-operation was taken on the initiative of a handful of far-seeing men of great faith whose pioneer work gradually drew the world's nations along the road they mapped out.

The new diplomacy at the level of international organizations has set the seal of success on the work of those pioneers without, however, placing a brake on the individual drive of non-governmental organizations, whose vast range of multifarious activities is spread out for inspection in these pages.

But our world, which is becoming ever more complex as its solidarity grows, would be in great danger of falling into utter confusion were it to be deprived of the essential means of orientation, liaison and contact.

And it is precisely to that imperative need for cohesion and connection that the Union of International Associations has responded, for its specific mission is threefold: the overall, universal perception of human relationships; the study and stimulation of the international approach, now to be extended to embrace the transnational approach; the amassing of knowledge and the diffusion of the information of which government departments and private enterprise have a daily growing need.

The United Nations Organization has endorsed the unique competence of the Union of International Associations by officially entrusting them with the task of becoming a centre of documentation and information covering the entire range of international affairs. The Yearbook of International Organizations has thus, of all the many publications issued by the Union, become a sort of bible — a work of reference which is authoritative all over the world.

But competence and authority carry their own obligations, and these are readily acknowledged by the Union of International Associations who have just announced the expansion of their activities thanks to new computerised techniques.

In the light of these dazzling prospects for the future, I am very happy to take this opportunity of voicing Belgium's hope that the Union of International Associations will continue to be her guest for many years to come, as well as the Government's desire to help it to the greatest possible extent in the pursuit of its work and the achievement of its aims.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Harmel'. The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.



U THANT,  
Secretary-General  
to the United Nations

The commemoration of the founding of the Union of International Associations at the Brussels World Congress of 1910 evokes the pioneer days of international co-operation when private impetus bravely pointed the way to a world organization of nations.

Since then the San Francisco Charter has provided for the association of non-governmental organizations with the work of states by authorizing the Economic and Social Council to consult them on questions falling within its jurisdiction.

The Union's excellent "Yearbook" has become the reference book for all official or private persons who participate in international activities.

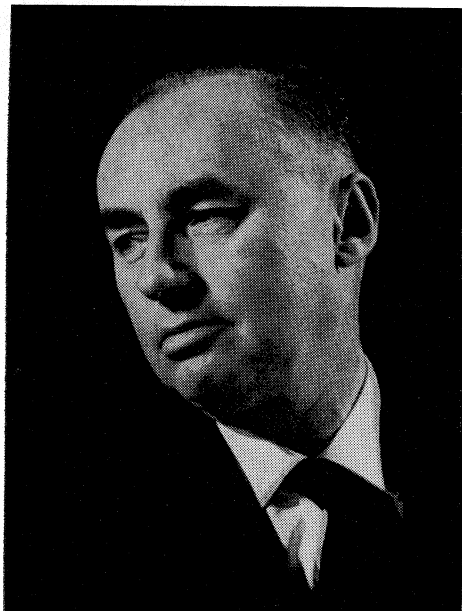
Year by year, the network of international contacts is growing, thanks to the constant improvement of communication and transportation and to the ever-growing access to them throughout all strata of society. International associations are being organized around all human activities, whether professional, scientific, social or cultural. This expansion of human interests on to a universal scale is one of the finest achievements of our era. Knowledge leads to understanding and tolerance. The task performed by international associations in support of the objectives of the United Nations Charter cannot be underestimated and I take this opportunity to pay warm tribute to them.

The Union of International Associations has decided to give its information, study and liaison activities the extension and dissemination made possible by modern technological methods and called for by the growing importance of international relations.

On the threshold of this new epoch, I extend to your association my best wishes for the realization of the important task which you have undertaken.

*U Thant*

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René MAHEU,  
Director-General  
of UNESCO.

Tributes are now being paid to the Union of International Associations as it celebrates the Sixtieth Anniversary of its foundation, and Unesco is happy to subscribe to them.

The Union has in fact played the part of a pioneer in questions of international co-operation and very quickly understood that such matters, more than any other, require the making of efforts towards synthesis and co-ordination. Through its information service, through its research and publications, the Union has supplied an exceedingly useful link between numerous international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, providing them with valuable tools for their work: such indeed are their *Yearbook of International Organizations* and the *Annual International Congress Calendar*.

Moreover, Unesco has several special reasons for gratitude towards the Union. I would like to mention the fruitful collaboration which has arisen between both institutions, in the matter of scientific terminology, the circulation of scientific documentation, and the research which has been carried out on the subject of peace.

It is my most sincere hope that this collaboration will become even closer and in the name of Unesco, as well as in my own name, I send the Union of International Associations my warmest wishes for the continuation of its activity in the service of peace and of international intellectual co-operation.

RM

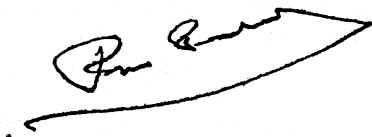
Viscount  
Paul VAN ZEELAND,  
Minister of State  
Past President of the U.A.I.

To all the documents dealing with the 60th anniversary of the Union of International Associations, I should like to add a double tribute.

Having followed the activities of the UAI fairly closely since 1949 as Chairman of its Executive Council for a certain period of time, then as a member, and also as President of the Federation of International Associations established in Belgium, I have been able to appreciate the very real concern of the directors and secretariat of the UAI to do efficient and constructive work totally dedicated to the development of international co-operation, with particular emphasis on non-governmental international relations.

Furthermore, the many years I have spent participating in international political activities and in the work of a vast number of intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, have only reinforced my convictions as to the importance of the part played by both public and private sectors, the insufficiency of their mutual relationships, and the need to make full use of all existing organizations.

Consequently, may I express the sincerest good wishes for the continuation and development of the work being done by the Union of International Associations.



Joseph E. JOHNSON,  
President  
Carnegie Endowment for  
International Peace.

I take pleasure in congratulating the Union of International Associations on its 60th anniversary. The Carnegie Endowment is glad to claim the earliest possible ties with the Union, as well as a close and continuing relationship. Both our organizations had, in a sense, their origins in The Hague Peace Conferences, and they were founded in the same year. Even before 1910, when the Union was established in its present form, Andrew Carnegie took a direct interest in the creation of the Central Office of International Associations, as it then was, and the first Yearbook of the Endowment gives a glowing account of the Office's plans, as well as showing that the Office was among the first recipients of Endowment support.

Since these early days, the Union has continued to grow and prosper, especially under the able leadership of its present Secretary-General, M. Georges Speeckaert. To single out only one of its valuable publications, the Yearbook of International Organizations has become an indispensable work of reference for anyone interested in international affairs. Most recently, the UAI has shown that it is prepared to meet problems of the future by undertaking an extensive program of computerization.

The Carnegie Endowment shares the Union's aims of fostering international understanding and co-operation. We congratulate it on past achievements and wish it well for the years ahead.

