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REGISTRATION AND PUBLICATION OF TREATIES
AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. At the ninth session of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee at its 457th meeting approved a proposal requesting the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to examine questions raised in connexion with the publication of the United Nations Treaty Series in the light of the experience gained since 1950 and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its tenth session.^{1/} In pursuance of this decision the Secretary-General has placed the item - Registration and publication of treaties and international agreements - on the provisional agenda of the tenth session (A/2915) and submits the present report to the General Assembly.

2. The report is divided into four parts. Part I describes the present situation with respect to the registration and publication of treaties and the efforts made in the past to effect economy. Part II describes the discussions in the Fifth Committee and in the Advisory Committee during the past year which gave rise to this report. In part III, the Secretary-General outlines certain considerations which he believes should be borne in mind with respect to proposals for economy; part IV contains a review of possible measures to effect economy and to reduce the delay in publication.

I. PRESENT SITUATION AND PAST EFFORTS TO EFFECT ECONOMY

A. Present situation

3. Article 102 of the Charter provides that every treaty and every international agreement entered into by any Member of the United Nations after the coming into force of the Charter shall as soon as possible be registered with the Secretariat and published by it. The General Assembly, during the second part of its first session, adopted on 14 December 1946 regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter (resolution 97 (I)). It should be noted that in

^{1/} See report of the Fifth Committee on the budget estimates for the financial year 1955 (Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Annexes, item 38, document A/2886, para. 229).

article 10 of the regulations a provision has been made for the filing and recording of certain treaties and international agreements other than those subject to registration in accordance with Article 102 (see paragraph 58 below). Together with amendments adopted by the Assembly at its fourth and fifth sessions (resolutions 364 B (IV) and 482 (V)), the regulations govern the procedure for the registration and the filing and recording of treaties and international agreements and their publication.

4. Article 12 of the regulations provides, inter alia, that the Secretariat shall publish as soon as possible in a single series every treaty or international agreement which is registered, or filed and recorded, in the original language or languages, followed by a translation in English and in French.

5. The material registered and filed and recorded is published in the United Nations Treaty Series in accordance with the requirements of the above-mentioned article 12 of the regulations and of General Assembly resolution 482 (V) (see paragraph 21 below). The Treaty Series is a continuation of the League of Nations Treaty Series. Up to 31 July 1955, 3,805 treaties and international agreements had been registered and 567 filed and recorded. Up to the same date, 122 volumes of the Treaty Series had been published.

6. The following table shows the number of volumes which were required for the publication of the material received from 14 December 1946 to 31 December 1951:

<u>Treaties registered in:</u>	<u>Number of volumes required</u>
1946 and 1947	11
1948	12
1949	22
1950	32
1951	40

7. Thirty-five more volumes, from 118 to 151, some of which have already been printed and the remainder are in the hands of the printers, cover the material received in 1952.

8. The treaties registered and filed and recorded from 1 January 1953 to 31 March 1955 represent an estimated 31,500 manuscript pages, the publication of which will require approximately eighty volumes.

9. Thus, it may be noted that the inflow of material requiring publication, which had steadily mounted in the first five years, reached its highest mark of forty volumes in 1951 and has since dropped to a fairly even rate of about thirty-five volumes a year. The printing of such a quantity under present practice costs approximately \$52,000 a year, while the related cost of translation, typing, etc., amounts to approximately \$150,000 a year.

B. Past efforts to effect economy

10. The question of effecting economies in the registration and publication of treaties and international agreements has been of constant concern to the Secretary-General and the competent organs of the General Assembly.

11. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its thirteenth report of 1948^{2/} drew attention to the considerable expenditure involved in the registration and publication of treaties without, however, having made at that time any specific suggestions for the effecting of economies. In its second report of 1949,^{3/} the Advisory Committee suggested that "a substantial economy in this field is possible of achievement, if the General Assembly could see its way to assent to a modification of the prevailing practice in order to grant discretion to the Secretary-General in consultation with the contracting parties, to dispense with the publication of voluminous annexes to treaties dealing with commercial or technical matters of an ephemeral character".

12. These observations of the Advisory Committee were considered by the Fifth^{4/} and Sixth^{5/} Committees during the fourth session of the General Assembly. Both Committees were informed that the Legal Department was studying the manner in which the regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter worked in practice, and that the Secretary-General intended to submit to the General Assembly,

^{2/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Third Session, Part I, Plenary Meetings, Annexes, document A/744, para. 16.

^{3/} Ibid., Fourth Session, Supplement No. 7, document A/934, para. 116.

^{4/} Ibid., Fifth Committee, 202nd meeting, paras. 9, 17 - 21.

^{5/} Ibid., Sixth Committee, 174th meeting, paras. 7 - 9.

at its fifth session, a report reviewing all the economies which might be effected in the registration and publication of treaties including proposals to adapt the regulations to circumstances.

13. A memorandum on the question was submitted by the Secretary-General to the Advisory Committee on 9 June 1950. The Advisory Committee considered the memorandum and recorded its conclusions in its second report of 1950 to the General Assembly.^{6/} A report,^{7/} submitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its fifth session under agenda item 5⁴, was referred to the Sixth Committee which considered it at its 246th meeting.^{8/}

14. The report of the Secretary-General outlined possible economies both in the registration and in the publication of treaties. In connexion with registration, two measures were suggested, both requiring the amendment of the regulations:

(a) Amendment to article 7 so that the certificates of registration would be required to be issued only to the registering party or agency;

(b) Amendment to article 8 so that the Register would be required to be kept only in the two working languages of the United Nations.

Both measures were adopted by the General Assembly, resulting in appreciable economy.

15. In connexion with publication, the report of the Secretary-General outlined the following possible measures to effect economy:

(a) Amendment to article 12 so that the Treaty Series would be required to be published only in English and French;

(b) Dispensing with the publishing of certain annexes to treaties;

(c) Dispensing with the publishing in full of virtually identical texts based on a standard model;

(d) Forwarding of official translations by registering parties in cases where the original text of a treaty is not one of the working languages of the United Nations;

^{6/} Ibid., Fifth Session, Supplement No. 7, document A/1312, paras. 329 - 332.

^{7/} Ibid., Plenary Meetings, Annexes, document A/1408.

^{8/} Ibid., Sixth Committee, 246th meeting.

- (e) Printing of the Treaty Series in Europe;
- (f) Reduction of the free mailing list;
- (g) Use of lower quality paper;
- (h) Printing of the Treaty Series in smaller type.

16. In the discussion of the Secretary-General's report in the Sixth Committee, the view prevailed that any economy measure should always be evaluated in the light of its ultimate effect upon the underlying purpose of Article 102 of the Charter and not merely in the light of immediate budgetary considerations or present excessively heavy work-load. It was pointed out that international instruments currently being concluded would constitute an important source of material on international relations for future reference. Such instruments became inaccessible shortly after their conclusion, and one of the purposes of publishing them was precisely to ensure their availability in years to come.

17. With regard to the first of the specific suggestions, there was at the time general agreement that the existing rule contained in article 12 requiring the publication of treaties and agreements in the original language or languages, followed by a translation in English and French, should be maintained.

18. In regard to annexes, the Secretary-General's report noted that there were types of annexes to treaties and international agreements which, being in no way essential to an understanding of the main documents, might well be excluded from publication without any departure from the legal requirements of the regulations themselves. This would be done only after consultation between the Secretariat and the registering parties, having regard to the importance of the particular annexes in relation to their bulk. The Advisory Committee favoured the adoption of such a measure, observing that "since a condition precedent to registration is that the complete text of the instrument shall be submitted, the omission from the Treaty Series of a part or the whole of an annex to a treaty or agreement could not be construed as affecting the validity of the registration".

19. A proposal was made in the Sixth Committee by which the Secretary-General would be authorized, with the consent of the party or parties or the agency registering a treaty or international agreement, to refrain from printing in the

Treaty Series any annex to that treaty or agreement (A/C.6/L.156).^{9/} The representatives who were in favour of its adoption expressed the view that such procedure would not in any way enable States to evade the obligation to register the complete text of an agreement including annexes, and that its only purpose was to refrain from publishing detailed and unessential annexes.

20. It was argued, on the other hand, that an annex was normally an integral part of a treaty or agreement and often constituted the most important part of the whole text, that the omission from publication of annexes would defeat the underlying purpose of Article 102 of the Charter, that such procedure, if adopted, might provide a loophole which would enable States to withhold vital details of a treaty from publication, and that it was clear from the provisions both of Article 102 of the Charter and article 5 of the regulations, that what should be published was a "true and complete" copy of the agreement.

21. The proposal was rejected and, under the resolution which was subsequently adopted,^{10/} the Secretary-General was specifically requested "to publish all treaties and international agreements in their full and unabridged form, including all annexes, provided however that, in the reproduction of annexes, he may in his discretion employ less expensive methods of reproduction".

22. Pursuant to this resolution, all annexes have continued to be published in printed form but a smaller type face has been used with some resultant economy.

23. A further proposal put forward in the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/L.156), which would have authorized the Secretary-General to dispense with the publication of texts of agreements based on a standard model, met with criticism similar to that regarding the possible omission of annexes and was rejected.

24. Regarding the suggestion of the Secretary-General concerning the transmission of official translations by registering parties, it was pointed out that the furnishing of such translations, though not affecting the actual cost of printing, would inevitably result in considerable economy in terms of both financial outlay and Secretariat man-hours and would considerably reduce as well

^{9/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifth Session, Sixth Committee, 246th meeting, paras. 48 and 84.

^{10/} Resolution 482 (V).

the time involved in translation of lengthy material. A proposal to this effect in the form of a recommendation to the registering parties was endorsed by the General Assembly which, in resolution 482 (V), invited Member and non-member States parties to treaties and international agreements subject to publication under article 12 of the regulations to provide the Secretary-General, where feasible, with translations in English or French or both as might be needed for the purposes of such publication. This measure has not yielded great results. Only a small fraction of translations thus far required for publication has actually been provided by registering parties. A new approach to this question as a possible way of achieving considerable publication economy is considered in paragraphs 42-48 below.

25. In regard to the printing of the Treaty Series in Europe the following table shows how the transfer to Europe of the printing has gradually taken place:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of volumes</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>USA</u>	<u>Europe</u>	
1947	1	-	1
1948	9	-	9
1949	17	-	17
1950	16	8	24
1951	8	16	24
1952	2	5	7
1953	-	15	15
1954	1	30	31
1955*	5**	26	31
Total	59	100	159

* As of 31 July 1955.

** Internal offset process.

26. It should be noted that during the current year considerable economies have been achieved as a result of new printing contracts with European firms offering more favourable terms and also by the use of more economical methods of production. Consequently, the cost in 1956 for forty-eight volumes is estimated at \$71,600 as compared to \$103,000 - the cost estimated for the same number of volumes in the 1955 budget estimates.

27. Lastly, the Secretary-General's report submitted at the fifth session mentioned such additional economy measures as the reduction of the free mailing list, and the possibility of using lower quality paper and smaller type print. In regard to these measures the Advisory Committee, in its second report to the ninth session of the General Assembly^{11/} made the following observation: "It is doubtful whether a lowering of the standard of reproduction of these volumes would yield any appreciable saving or be desirable in itself. A similar consideration applies to the free mailing list which, as reviewed periodically by the Advisory Committee, appears to be restricted within reasonable limits".

II. DISCUSSION AT THE NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND IN THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

28. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its second report to the ninth session of the General Assembly^{11/} drew attention to the heavy annual expenditure involved in the publication of the Treaty Series. Having recalled past efforts to achieve economies in this field and the decision taken in this connexion by the General Assembly in 1950,^{12/} the Advisory Committee stated that the initiative for a reduction on this particular printing item rested with the Assembly, and further suggested that the matter might be examined by the Assembly.

29. The remarks concerning the publication of treaties contained in the above-mentioned report were examined by the Fifth Committee at the ninth session.^{13/}

^{11/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 7, document A/2688, paras. 215 and 216.

^{12/} Resolution 482 (V).

^{13/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Fifth Committee, 457th meeting.

30. Several representatives shared the view of the Advisory Committee that the problem was one of principle to be decided by the General Assembly, particularly since the question of interpretation of Article 102 of the Charter might be involved. It was thought, however, that the General Assembly had not at the time sufficient information on the subject to enable it to make a useful decision. Consequently, the Fifth Committee approved a proposal requesting the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee to examine questions raised in connexion with the publication of the Treaty Series in the light of experience gained since 1950 and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its tenth session.^{14/}

31. A report on the publication of the Treaty Series was submitted by the Secretary-General to the Advisory Committee on 13 June 1955. The Advisory Committee considered the report on 29 June and referred to it in its first report to the tenth session of the General Assembly,^{15/} reserving detailed comments on the matter pending receipt of the Secretary-General's definitive proposals. The Advisory Committee stated that "it is, however, already manifest that but for the comprehensive scope of the regulations established by the General Assembly in resolution 97 (I) of 14 December 1946, a part of the material now included would have no place in the Series. Agreements, for example, of an extremely limited interest or of such a character that, when submitted for registration, they are already obsolete, clearly cannot justify the high cost of translation and printing".

III. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

32. There are certain general considerations which must be borne in mind with respect to any suggested changes in the registration and publication of treaties. While the Fifth Committee, at the ninth session of the General Assembly,

^{14/} See report of the Fifth Committee on the budget estimates for the financial year 1955 (Official Records of the General Assembly, Ninth Session, Annexes, item 38, document A/2886, para. 229.

^{15/} See Official Records of the General Assembly, Tenth Session, Supplement No. 7, document A/2921, para. 178.

naturally showed particular concern for the heavy volume of publication mainly from the point of view of budgetary implications, another important aspect of the problem, that of delays in publication, deserves equally great attention.

33. The interval between registration and publication, which at one point stood at seven months, has gradually increased up to the present level of about three years. While this interval is now being narrowed, it is estimated that, under the existing requirements of the regulations and at the rate of forty-eight volumes per year as proposed in the 1956 budget estimates, it will be six years before the desired maximum of six months between registration and publication is achieved. It is important to give prompt publicity to registered treaties, lest the essential object of their publication be jeopardized and the Treaty Series become reference material of no more than historical interest. It may be recalled in this connexion that the General Assembly, at its third, fourth and fifth sessions, put special emphasis on the greatest possible speed in the publication of treaties.^{16/} It seems, therefore, that any change in the present practice must take into consideration not only the desirability of reducing the annual budgetary expenditure but also the necessity of speedily eliminating the existing backlog.

34. Another consideration is that, under the terms of Article 102 of the Charter, every treaty and every international agreement registered with the Secretariat must be published by it, and the word "published" has in practice been consistently interpreted by the General Assembly to mean "printed" in the Treaty Series.^{17/} The same interpretation was given to the word "published" in Article 18 of the Covenant of the League of Nations. Both in the report submitted by the Secretary-General to the Advisory Committee and in the present report the review of possible economies in the publication of treaties has been confined to such measures as appear compatible with the terms of Article 102 of the Charter and with the above-mentioned interpretation.

^{16/} Resolutions 254 B (III), 364 A (IV) and 482 (V).

^{17/} See, for instance, article 12 of the regulations (resolution 97 (I)) and resolutions 254 A (III), 364 A (IV) and 482 (V), para. 5.

35. Thought was given, however, to the question whether the requirement of publication in Article 102 could not perhaps be met in some other way than by printing. By departing from the accepted interpretation as described above and by limiting the word "published" to a requirement of making treaties generally accessible or available it is possible for instance to conceive of a method under which:

(a) Copies of all international agreements registered with the Secretariat could be deposited in a collection generally accessible;

(b) The list of treaties registered and filed and recorded would continue to be issued at monthly intervals as under the existing registration regulations, a brief descriptive notice being added in cases in which the particulars at present supplied do not suffice to give a general idea of the character of the instrument;

(c) The full texts of important agreements of general or wide-spread interest could be printed;

(d) Photo copies, or roneo copies (depending on circumstances), of agreements not so printed could be supplied by the Secretariat on request, free of charge to any Member State and at cost price to other applicants.

36. Apart from the legal question whether a method such as that outlined in the preceding paragraph would meet the requirements of Article 102, a number of problems would necessarily arise in its application.

37. One of the very first difficulties would be the question of selection of material which would not require printing, both from the point of view of criteria to be applied in such selection and of the organ with which the responsibility for making the decision would lie.

38. The requirement of accessibility to the public would also present practical difficulties, although it could possibly be met by arrangements to be made by the existing Library or Archives services.

39. Technical aspects and costs involved both in material and personnel in connexion with the issuance of photo copies or roneo copies of agreements not printed would also have to be considered.

40. While, as already mentioned, a system of this kind was explored in principle along with other possibilities, in view of the considerations stated in paragraphs 34 and 36 to 39 above, no attempt was made to examine in detail the financial implications of its application and no suggestion along these lines is made in the present report.

41. With the foregoing considerations in mind the Secretary-General feels that it should be possible to find measures capable of achieving a reduction in annual budgetary expenditure and at the time of reducing the delay in publication, which would not encroach upon the basic principles and purpose of registration and publication of treaties and would be compatible with the terms of Article 102 of the Charter. Such possible measures are discussed in part IV below.

IV. REVIEW OF POSSIBLE MEASURES TO EFFECT ECONOMY AND TO REDUCE DELAY IN PUBLICATION

A. Omission of translations when the original language or one of the original languages of a treaty is English or French

42. Article 12 of the regulations requires that "the Secretariat shall publish as soon as possible in a single series every treaty or international agreement which is registered or filed and recorded, in the original language or languages, followed by a translation in English and French".

43. In addition to the printing costs occasioned by multiple reproduction of each treaty, this requirement is the principal source of delay in that it involves considerable translation work by the Secretariat, frequently of a technical character.

44. A sample survey of thirty-five volumes of the Treaty Series (volumes 76-111) covering the registration period from 3 November 1950 through 27 November 1951 shows that, out of 790 treaties published 324 were concluded in English, 211 in English and other languages, 86 in French, 13 in French and other languages, 42 in other languages than English and French and 114 in English, French and other language or languages. Thus, 535 treaties required translations into French, 99 into English and 42 both into English and French.

45. It may be asked whether, in view of the widespread use of both the English and French languages, it is essential for the purposes of the Treaty Series to publish a translation into the other working language of a treaty the original text of which exists in one of those two languages. It may, therefore, be considered whether, when the original language of a treaty is English or French, no translation need be published. When the original language is neither English nor French, however, translations in both languages would continue to be published.

46. A further study of the above-mentioned thirty-five volumes of the Treaty Series showed that of the total of 10,572 pages, approximately 3,300 pages, or about 31 per cent, were required for the publication of treaties concluded in English or French. On these volumes therefore the economy measure suggested would have saved some \$20,000 in printing costs and perhaps \$50,000 in translation costs.

47. The omission from publication of such material would inevitably result in considerable economy and, at the same time, would remove the main cause of delay in the publication of treaties without appreciably impairing the usefulness of the Treaty Series.

48. In the light of the foregoing, the General Assembly may desire to make an appropriate amendment in article 12 of the regulations, so as to eliminate the necessity of publishing translations of treaties the original text of which was drawn up either in English or in French.

B. Elimination of the publication of annexes

49. Paragraphs 18-21 above explain the circumstances in which the General Assembly in 1950 rejected a proposal whereby the Secretary-General, with the consent of the parties to a registered treaty or international agreement, might refrain from printing in the Treaty Series all or part of any annexes.

50. In view of the great volume of material involved and its effect on the expense and on the rate of publication of the material registered, the Secretary-General feels that the General Assembly may wish to re-examine the matter in the light of the following facts and observations.

51. The number of pages used for publication of various types of annexes in volumes 41 to 123 covering the material registered from 21 September 1949 to 5 March 1952 was:

Maps (Sheets).....	44
Forms.....	284
Schedules of goods.....	785
Tariff schedules.....	5,694
Other schedules, lists, etc.	445
Postal regulations.....	88
Other annexes.....	2,106
Total.....	<u>9,446</u>

52. An estimate has been made of the outstanding material and the following table shows the approximate number of pages which will be required for the reproduction in the Treaty Series of annexes to treaties registered from 5 March 1952 to 31 March 1955:

Maps (Sheets).....	9
Drawings.....	192
Forms.....	235
Schedules of goods.....	232
Tariff schedules.....	2,472
Other schedules, lists, etc.	178
Postal regulations.....	255
Resolutions, recommendations, etc.	907
Other annexes.....	2,398
Total.....	<u>6,878</u>

53. It will be seen from the above tables that the annexes alone to the agreements registered during the period from 21 September 1949 to 31 March 1955 amounted to 16,324 pages, or an equivalent of about 50 volumes out of a total estimate of 190 volumes necessary for the publication of the material registered during that period.

54. The cost of printing the 16,324 pages is estimated at approximately \$100,000. It is not, of course, suggested that all these annexes could have been or could be omitted. There are in fact annexes which actually spell out the text of the agreement, as for instance in a case of an exchange of notes formally recording the consent of both parties to an agreement embodied in an annex; there are annexes which are vital to the understanding of a treaty itself, such as those setting forth the agreed interpretation by the parties of the provisions of the treaty, containing additional undertakings by the parties, indicating conditions under which the provisions of the agreement are to operate, etc. The publication of such annexes is naturally as important as the publication of the agreement itself. There are, however, certain annexes which are in no way essential to an understanding of the main documents such as various forms attached, for instance, to postal or customs agreements of limited application; minor regulations for the execution of such agreements; schedules attached to short-term bilateral commercial agreements listing the kind and amount of goods subject to exchange between the contracting parties, sometimes even with detailed specifications of such goods; in certain cases drawings or maps where they relate for instance to agreements regarding the establishment of war cemeteries or the lease of buildings, etc.:

55. Of the 16,000 pages of annexes, for instance, over 8,000 relate to tariff schedules. These are mostly schedules of tariff concessions to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. It may be asked whether, for the purposes of the Treaty Series, it is essential to publish this voluminous material, particularly as it seems possible that publication of much if not all of it duplicates work done in any case by the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the International Customs Tariff Bureau in Brussels. The latter organization, under article 2 of the Convention of 6 July 1890 (brought up to date by a Protocol signed in Brussels on 16 December 1949), translates and publishes for dissemination to Member Governments "the customs tariff of the various States of the globe and the modifications therein".

56. In view of the above, it is the opinion of the Secretary-General that the question of the omission of inessential annexes from publication merits some re-examination. The General Assembly might wish to consider whether the Secretary-General could not be authorized to omit the printing of annexes provided that such omission would be made only with the concurrence of the parties and when the purposes of Article 102 would not be affected because of the unessential character of the data contained. The concurrence of the Secretary-General and of the parties should afford reasonable protection against the creation of any loophole to evade the publication of essential details of a treaty. It should also be stressed that such procedure would not release parties from the obligation to transmit for registration the complete text of an agreement including all the annexes. Annexes omitted from the Treaty Series would be available for consultation in the Secretariat and photo copies of them could be supplied by the Secretariat upon request. In addition, references would be provided in the Treaty Series whenever texts of such annexes existed in other easily accessible publications.

C. Elimination of the publication of all or certain categories of agreements filed and recorded (not subject to registration under Article 102 of the Charter)

57. Article 102 of the Charter does not contain any provision for filing and recording. This system, based on voluntary submission to the Secretariat for the purpose of filing and publication of treaties which are not subject to registration under Article 102 of the Charter, originated in General Assembly resolution 23 (I). It was subsequently made part of the regulations adopted by resolution 97 (I).

58. Under Article 10 of the regulations the following categories of treaties and international agreements are susceptible of filing and recording:

(a) Treaties and international agreements transmitted by States Members as well as non-members of the United Nations which were entered into before the entry into force of the Charter, but which were not included in the Treaty Series of the League of Nations;

(b) Treaties and international agreements concluded between States non-members of the United Nations which were entered into after the coming into force of the Charter;

(c) Treaties and international agreements entered into by the United Nations or by one or more of the specialized agencies.

This latter category was included in the regulations with the understanding that it would cover agreements between the United Nations and non-member States, between the United Nations and specialized agencies or inter-governmental organizations, between specialized agencies and non-member States, between specialized agencies themselves and between specialized agencies and inter-governmental organizations.

59. In accordance with article 12 of the regulations all treaties and international agreements filed and recorded are required to be published in the same manner as those registered.

60. The following table shows the amount of space used in the Treaty Series for publication of treaties and international agreements filed and recorded and an estimated number of pages for those pending publication as of 31 July 1955:

		<u>Number of pages</u>	
		<u>Published</u>	<u>Pending * publication</u>
Agreements:			
(a)	Concluded before the entry into force of the Charter	6,151	806
(b)	Between non-member States	5	-
(c)	Between the United Nations or specialized agencies and non-member States	371	514
(d)	Between the United Nations and specialized agencies and between specialized agencies themselves	<u>507</u>	<u>42</u>
		<u>7,034</u>	<u>1,362</u>

* The estimate in regard to agreements pending publication does not include the amount of pages which will be required for printing of translations.

61. In establishing the system of filing and recording the General Assembly considered it desirable, as a matter of practical convenience, that arrangements should be made for the publication of treaties and international agreements which non-member States might voluntarily transmit to the Secretariat for such purpose.^{18/} Moreover, in order to avoid any gap in the publication of treaties between the termination of the League of Nations Treaty Series and the beginning of the United Nations Treaty Series, the General Assembly extended this system to treaties and agreements concluded before the entry into force of the Charter which had not been registered with the League of Nations. It considered it equally desirable to provide for filing and recording of the agreements concluded by the United Nations, specialized agencies and inter-governmental organizations, inter se.

62. However, as the publication of treaties filed and recorded is not obligatory under Article 102 of the Charter, the General Assembly might wish to consider the possibility of eliminating all or certain categories of such agreements from the publication in the Treaty Series. If the Assembly should so decide, an appropriate amendment to article 12 of the regulations would be required.

^{18/} Resolution 23 (I).