

PREFACE

In this edition of the YEAR-BOOK a number of new governments make their appearance. The election of a Democrat as President of the United States is recorded, with voting figures state by state. The socialist President of France now 'cohabits' with a conservative government, there have been elections in Australia, Ireland, Israel and South Korea, and renewals of government in Cuba, Indonesia and China, the latter giving constitutional sanction to market forces in the economy. And as we go to press, referendums in Russia, Italy and Brazil suggest the possibility of fundamental political changes there.

Following the break-up of Czechoslovakia by mutual agreement, the Czech Republic and Slovakia now have their own places in the alphabetical sequence. The twelve members or associates of the Commonwealth of Independent States are still grouped together in the text, mainly to accommodate the corpus of data which is still common to them all, although some integrationist tendencies are discernible. Macedonia, which has only just gained admission to the United Nations under the name of 'Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia', and Bosnia-Herzegovina, where inter-ethnic fighting and atrocities are continuing despite the peacekeeping efforts of the international community, follow the entry for Yugoslavia.

The editor is very grateful to his colleagues for their work in the preparation of this edition, and to the many expert correspondents throughout the world whose contributions establish its authenticity and reliability.

THE STATESMAN'S YEAR-BOOK WORLD GAZETTEER, thoroughly revised for its fourth edition by the former editor, Dr John Paxton, is available for those seeking further details about towns and regions.

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THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD,
LITTLE ESSEX STREET,
LONDON WC2R 3LF

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