

## INTRODUCTION

The present compilation is a volume in the United Nations Legislative Series published by the Secretariat of the United Nations in pursuance of a recommendation of the International Law Commission. Being a collection of texts of current national legislation on matters of international concern, the Series is designed as a means of making the evidence of customary international law more readily available. It is also intended to serve the needs of the International Law Commission which, in its work on the progressive development and codification of international law, must take account of the laws and practices of States.

This volume, prepared by the Division for the Development and Codification of International Law of the Legal Department of the Secretariat of the United Nations, contains the texts of the basic laws of various States concerning nationality. Regulations referring to measures of implementation have not been included. Most of these texts were furnished by Governments upon the request of the Secretary-General. Where no texts were made available by Governments, other sources were consulted, especially the official publications of States and Flournoy and Hudson's "A Collection of Nationality Laws of Various Countries as contained in Constitutions, Statutes and Treaties", published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in 1929<sup>1</sup>. To these Governments as well as to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is due an acknowledgment of appreciation.

The texts of laws are printed in the English alphabetical order of the names of the countries concerned. The English language has been used for all texts with the exception of those originally published in French. Certain countries publish, in addition to the edition in the national language, French or English versions of legal enactments in their Official Gazettes. Where available, these official versions have been reproduced. A number of Governments have forwarded to the Secretary-General English or French translations of their nationality laws. These texts appear as transmitted in the present collection. In all other cases the original texts were translated into English by the Secretariat of the United Nations.

As far as feasible, an effort has been made to secure uniformity of terminology in the translation of the texts contained in the present volume. This will facilitate, it is hoped, comparative study of the laws of the various States.

In the preparation of the present volume, all possible efforts have been made with a view to presenting a complete, accurate and up-to-date collection of the texts of nationality laws. It is possible, however, that imperfections are still to be found. In some cases, texts of the most recent legislation may not have been available and omissions may thus have occurred. Certain laws contained in the compilation may have been amended by the time the present volume appears. Translations may not in every instance render the exact meaning the legislator had intended to express. If attention is drawn to any such or other errors, corrections will be made in later editions.

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<sup>1</sup> Oxford University Press, New York, 1929.