

**Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs  
Supplement No. 7**

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*Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*)

**Volume II**

**ARTICLE 15**

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>
Text of Article 15	
Note .....	1 - 4
** A.    Reports of the Security Council	
** B.    Reports of the Economic and Social Council	
C.    Reports of the International Court of Justice	2 - 3
** D.    Reports of the Secretary-General	

Notes

*Annex*

Reports of principal organs to the General Assembly with the relevant agenda items.

## ARTICLE 15

### TEXT OF ARTICLE 15

1. The General Assembly shall receive and consider annual and special reports from the Security Council; these reports shall include an account of the measures that the Security Council has decided upon or taken to maintain international peace and security.
2. The General Assembly shall receive and consider reports from the other organs of the United Nations.

### NOTE

1. Except for the case described below, there were no changes in the application of this Article. As indicated in *Supplement No. 5*, no report of the Trusteeship Council has been submitted to the Assembly since the thirty-first session.<sup>1</sup> From the fortieth to forty-third session, the General Assembly dealt with the reports according to the standard procedure as described in the *Repertory*.<sup>2</sup>

#### \*\* A. Reports of the Security Council

#### \*\* B. Reports of the Economic and Social Council

#### C. Reports of the International Court of Justice

2. The General Assembly usually just took note of the reports of the International Court of Justice without a debate. However, at its forty-second session,<sup>3</sup> the Assembly heard statements by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The representative of the Soviet Union stated, *inter alia*, as follows:

“The report of the International Court of Justice leads us to consider the role of the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and the potential for further enhancing it in the context of a comprehensive system of international security, the stability of which has become an urgent need of our time.

“In today’s interrelated and interdependent world, comprehensive security, which means demilitarization, democratization and the humanization of international relations, is attainable only on the basis of a universal legal system that guarantees the primacy of international law over the political ambitions of States. ...

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<sup>1</sup> See *Repertory, Supplement No.5*, under this Article, para.3.

<sup>2</sup> See *Repertory*, vol. I, under this Article, pp.481-500.

<sup>3</sup> A/42/PV.36, pp.3-8 (mimeographed).

“The purpose of comprehensive security is that peace should be guaranteed by political means alone, through the United Nations, on the basis of strict compliance with the principles and provisions of its Charter. An intrinsic element of this international machinery is, of course, the international judicial procedure, that is the United Nations International Court of Justice. Accordingly one needs to take a fresh look at the work of the Court and to outline new approaches for a more active use of its potential in the interests of international peace and legal order.”

3. The representative of the United Kingdom stated, as follows:

“I listened with interest to the statement just made by the representative of the Soviet Union. I want simply to remind this Assembly that the United Kingdom has from the inception of the Court in 1946 been a strong supporter of the Court and of the wider establishment of an international legal system. Alone among the permanent members of the Security Council, the United Kingdom has from the beginning accepted the Court’s compulsory jurisdiction. We hope that the other permanent members will do so too. Indeed, we can only say that the greater the number of Members of the United Nations who can do likewise the stronger will be the international system of law and the sentiments expressed by the representative of the Soviet Union. So I concur with what he has said. I remind all members of the Assembly of the importance of this issue and I commend the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court to all Member States who feel able to accept it.”

**\*\* D. Reports of the Secretary-General on the work  
of the Organization**

4. The table listing the reports of the principal organs to the General Assembly and the relevant agenda items is given in the annex to the present note.

## ANNEX

**Reports of the principal organs to the General Assembly  
with the relevant agenda items**

*Reports of the Security Council*

16 June 1984 to 15 June 1985	GA (40),	Suppl. No.2 (A/40/2) 11
16 June 1985 to 15 June 1986	GA (41),	A/41/2 (mimeographed)
16 June 1986 to 15 June 1987	GA (42),	Suppl. No.2 (A/42/2) 11
16 June 1987 to 15 June 1988	GA (43),	Suppl. No.2 (A/43/2) 11

*Reports of the Economic and Social Council*

For the year 1985	GA (40),	Suppl. No.3 (A/40/3/Rev.1) 12
For the year 1986	GA (41),	Suppl. No.3 (A/41/3) 12
For the year 1987	GA (42),	Suppl. No.3 (A/42/3/Rev.1) 12
For the year 1988	GA (43),	Suppl. No.3 (A/43/3/Rev.1) 12

*Reports of the International Court of Justice*

1 August 1984 to 31 July 1985	GA (40),	Suppl. No.4 (A/40/4) 13
1 August 1985 to 31 July 1986	GA (41),	Suppl. No.4 (A/41/4) 13
1 August 1986 to 31 July 1987	GA (42),	Suppl. No.4 (A/42/4) 13
1 August 1987 to 31 July 1988	GA (43),	Suppl. No.4 (A/43/4) 13

*Reports of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization*

4 September 1985	GA (40),	Suppl. No.1 (A/40/1) 10
9 September 1986	GA (41),	Suppl. No.1 (A/41/1) 10
9 September 1987	GA (42),	Suppl. No.1 (A/42/1) 10
14 September 1988	GA (43),	Suppl. No.1 (A/43/1) 10