

Social Security Programs Throughout the World

1964

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Social Security Administration
Division of Research and Statistics**

**For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C., 20402 - Price \$1.75**

FOREWORD

THERE ARE NOW more than one hundred countries that have some form of social security program in operation. The right to social security is among the recognized aspirations of all peoples in the world community. Economic and social policy in both developing countries as well as in highly industrialized countries is increasingly reflecting the importance of programs of income maintenance and social services both for individual and family welfare and for economic and social advance.

As the movement of people from one area of the world to another increases, and as communities of nations take shape, social security programs become more and more significant as barriers or links in international relations. An understanding of the development of social security programs and institutions in any country, therefore, almost requires a knowledge of the major outlines and characteristics of social security programs in other parts of the world.

Since 1940, the Social Security Administration has been compiling and publishing periodic summaries of the major provisions of social security programs in all countries. This information is of direct interest to the Social Security Administration both for the light it may throw on alternative solutions to problems common to many systems and because of its use in the administration of old-age, survivors, and disability insurance benefit payments outside the United States of America. In addition, these periodic summaries have provided a basic refer-

ence source for information needed by other agencies of the government, by private organizations and citizens, and by students of social security in this and other countries.

Previous publications in this series have included *An Outline of Foreign Social Insurance and Assistance Laws*, issued in 1940; a second comprehensive report, entitled *Social Security Legislation Throughout the World*, published in 1949; and reports dealing with two individual branches of social security, *Old-Age, Survivors and Invalidity Programs Throughout the World*, 1954, and *Health and Maternity Insurance Throughout the World*, 1954. Comprehensive reports were again published in 1958 and 1961, both entitled *Social Security Programs Throughout the World*. A number of articles have also been published in the *Social Security Bulletin* reporting on social security developments abroad.

The present report has been prepared in the International Branch of the Division under the general direction of Daniel S. Gerig. Drafts of the majority of the charts for individual countries have been compiled by Carl H. Farman and Julia E. Carlson.

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MAY 1964.

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