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PREFACE

The Socialist Register, 1964 is intended as the first of a series of annual volumes of socialist analysis and discussion. The need for such analysis is a constant one, and we believe that the possibility of fruitful discussion is now greater than for a long time past. It is now better realized among socialists that dogmatic reiteration cannot, any more than crass empiricism, provide answers to the problems of the present. We hope that *The Socialist Register* may help to further this awareness.

We bring to this venture a definite and committed point of view, and this bears a direct relationship, not only to what we write ourselves, but also to our choice of contributors. At the same time, we have no wish to imprison discussion within a narrow framework. We therefore propose to present a wide range of ideas and arguments, and it should not be thought that we necessarily share the views of any particular contributor.

Inevitably, and properly, given its provenance, *The Socialist Register* is bound to place some emphasis on events in Britain. But we propose to give each volume a pronounced international character, through our contributors, by the inclusion of essays on other countries and on international themes, and also by presenting British problems, wherever possible, within a comparative and international context.

Although it will be published annually, *The Socialist Register* is not a record of events of the previous year, or a calendar or chronicle. Our purpose is rather to select for analysis and discussion contemporary events, issues and ideas which are both of topical interest and also of lasting importance; and we intend also to publish more general essays and review-articles on major questions of socialist theory and practice.

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