

Editorial

The British Journal of International Studies has been established to serve the needs of scholars concerned with politics, law, history, economics, economic history, technology and those other areas of social science which cultivate an interest in the academic study of the international arena.

Those responsible for the creation of the *Journal* have been encouraged by the considerable expansion in international studies in British universities, polytechnics and other institutions of higher education during the past decade. I believe that *The British Journal of International Studies* will call forth a substantial response from both established scholars and those who are beginning careers in disciplines falling under the general rubric of international studies. Indeed, I have been delighted with the interest shown by those initially approached to contribute to the first volume of the *Journal*. I would like to stress that the *Journal* is open to a wide variety of methodological approaches. In this sense, it will be genuinely eclectic, concerned to foster debate over matters of substance and procedure in international studies. Marxist and liberal, traditionalist and behaviourist, these and others will be welcome contributors to a *Journal* which, it is hoped, will reflect a diversity of scholarly argument as this finds expression in a variety of disciplines. It is also hoped to encourage the publication of articles which make a serious attempt to cross the traditional boundaries of academic enquiry, utilising skills of one discipline to illuminate the scope, method and argument of another. Contributors are urged to frame their analyses in terms reasonably intelligible to colleagues working in different, but related fields. Whilst being acutely aware of how difficult it can be to realize this objective, I remain convinced that the effort must be made if international studies are to flourish.

Each issue of the *Journal* will normally contain five substantial contributions together with two review articles designed to survey the literature in a particular field analysing its contribution to a general understanding of international society and its definition at various levels of analysis – economic, historical, legal or political. Occasional issues of the *Journal* will focus on topics sufficiently broad in scope to encourage specialists to analyse their implications from the aspect of their particular disciplines. I would be interested to receive suggestions for the composition of such issues. The *Journal* will in future include notes on research in progress and where possible, will encourage replies to published material in order to stimulate debate.

J. E. SPENCE

The British Journal of International Studies is to be published three times a year in April, July and October. Contributions (two copies) and all correspondence relating to editorial matters should be sent to: The Editor, Professor J. E. Spence (Department of Politics, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH) from whom a style sheet may be obtained.