



## *Dedication*

This volume is dedicated to the memory of Velimir Vouk, a founding member of the Scientific Group on Methodologies for the Safety Evaluation of Chemicals (SGOMSEC) as well as its devoted and skilled first editor. Dr Vouk's distinguished and outstanding career came to an untimely end in his 65th year on July 23, 1984, after a short illness.

Velimir Božidar Vouk was born in Yugoslavia in 1919 and took a degree in chemistry at the University of Zagreb in 1944. He continued his studies at the University of London where he received the PhD degree in 1948. He returned to Zagreb where he became Director at the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Medicine and Professor Extraordinary in Physical Chemistry at the University of Zagreb. He began his international tours of duty in 1964 in Cairo where he was appointed consultant for health and safety at the Atomic Energy Establishment. In 1967, he began extended service at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva where, in 1974, he became Chief of the Unit on Control of Environmental Pollution and Hazards. In 1978, he was appointed Manager of the Environmental Health Criteria and Standards Unit; both positions were within WHO's Division of Environmental Health. Dr Vouk was instrumental in developing Criteria Documents on health and environmental effects of environmental agents and in organizing the WHO International Programme on Chemical Safety.

On his retirement from WHO in 1980, he joined the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) in the United States where he remained until his death; shortly before his death, he was appointed Head of the Health Hazard Assessment Unit, a major component of that Institute.

Dr Vouk was active in formulating the concept of SGOMSEC and made major contributions to its early and continuing operation. Although he had important responsibilities at NIEHS he was unstinting in his efforts as editor of SGOMSEC.

Dr Vouk's publications are extensive and widely esteemed. It is fortunate that he occupied positions where his talents could exert an influence in both industrialized and developing nations throughout the world. Dr Vouk leaves a host of friends and admirers throughout the world among research scientists and those responsible for the control and regulation of toxic agents.

SGOMSEC will not be the same without his friendly presence and wise guidance.

