Preface

Introduction to the First Issue of *The Geneva Papers*, Originally Published in January 1976

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Beginning in 1973, a number of large European insurance companies decided to encourage the study of the economic problems associated with the rise of risk and the search for better security in the contemporary world. In this way, they showed their willingness to contribute to a better understanding of the evolution of our societies and to stimulate the interest of academics and researchers working in the fields of economics and insurance, while at the same time endeavouring to adapt their own management to the new prevailing conditions.

With this mission in mind, The Geneva Association launched a research and study programme to focus on the impact on the insurance world of the evolution of the economic and social environment; to show the increasing interdependence between insurance and the other sectors of the economy; and to find common grounds of interest and action, despite the traditional antagonism between the different actors.

The Geneva Association decided to publish the results of these research programmes to improve the understanding of the economic problems of insurance and to encourage dialogue and scientific discussions of these matters.

[...]

This first edition of *The Geneva Papers* illustrates perfectly the two objectives of the association: to help the industry make strategic decisions through better scientific knowledge of the insurance industry and to encourage constructive dialogue between this industry and its other social and economic partners.

Raymond Barre

First President of The Geneva Association, 1973-1976
Prime Minister of France, 1976-1981