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THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WILL GOVERNMENTS LISTEN TO PEOPLE?

by Marc Nerfin

Perhaps the most important fact about the United Nations, in this crisis-ridden anniversary year, is the result of an opinion survey carried out in the US, UK, Japan, FRG and France. It is described in some details on pp. 71-72 below, but the message from the five hard-core industrial countries is cristal-clear:

(i) whenever people have an opinion about the United Nations, the majority (except in Japan) considers that the UN is doing a good job;

(ii) an even larger majority, in all five countries, does not believe, as some American integrists claim, that the world would be better off without the UN; and

(iii) except in the US (where this is the position of just one half of those having an opinion), at least six out of ten people do not think that the Third World has too much influence on the UN.

In the United States of America, the country which contributed most to the establishment and shaping of the UN, the Administration is drifting away from multilateralism towards imperial unilaterism. Most Western governments follow suit without much discussion of the US Administration's negative criticisms of the UN. The media, more often than not, are mal-informing about the UN. Still, the majority of people trust the United Nations.

Once more, people are ahead of governments. There have always been people and associations ahead of governments, for peace, for human rights, for women liberation, for the environment, for consumers self-defense. This year, the people of North America and Western Europe have overwhelmingly expressed their solidarity with the people of Africa and convinced governments and inter-governmental agencies to take some action. Now they express their confidence in the United Nations.

This offers to the UN a line of action when, this fall, it thinks about its future: get closer to the people.

This would require a radical alternative to past and current thinking and practices.

The question is not to 'mobilize the opinion' (a catch phrase which you will hear in almost every anniversary speech, including those of the Secretary-General): the people are quite able to 'mobilize' themselves,

(continued on page 24)
KENYA: THE GREEN BELT MOVEMENT*

by Wangari Maathai
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KENYA: LE MOUVEMENT DES CEINTURES VERTE3

Résumé: Le mouvement des Ceintures Vertes est une activité de masse organisée par le Conseil National des Femmes du Kenya. Contre la déforestation, le surpâturage, l'érosion, la crise du bois de feu et la malnutrition, le projet contribue, par la plantation d'arbres - les ceintures vertes - à la défense et restauration des sols, à l'amélioration de l'environnement ainsi qu'à la création d'emplois et de revenus pour les femmes rurales, les pauvres des villes et les jeunes en général. L'aide extérieure permet d'acheter plants et outils et de payer le personnel technique. La plus grande partie du travail - creuser les trous, assurer l'approvisionnement en fumure, protéger et arroser les jeunes arbres, préparer les emplacements des pépinières, etc - est réalisé par les gens eux-mêmes sous la direction des pépiniéristes et des adjoints techniques. Il y a également un comité local pour chaque pépinière et chaque ceinture verte. D'innombrables arbres ont été produits et plantés dans plus de 700 ceintures vertes et quelque 50 pépinières sont gérées par des femmes, des clubs de jeunes et des écoles.

KENYA : EL MOVIMIENTO DE CINTURONES VERDES

Resumen: El movimiento de Cinturas Verdes es una actividad de masa organizada por el Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de Kenya. El movimiento lucha contra la desforestación, el uso excesivo de los lugares de pastoreo, la erosión del suelo, la crisis de la leña para combustible y la malnutrición, y contribuye mediante la plantación de árboles - los cinturones verdes - a la defensa y restauración del suelo, al mejoramiento del medio ambiente y a la creación de empleos e ingresos para las mujeres de las zonas rurales, los pobres de las ciudades y los jóvenes en general. La ayuda exterior permite comprar plantas y herramientas así como pagar al personal técnico. La mayor parte del trabajo - cavlar los agujeros, abonar las plantas, proteger y regar los árboles jóvenes, preparar el emplazamiento de los viveros - está a cargo de los propios interesados bajo la dirección de los arboricultores y de otros asesores técnicos. También se ha establecido un comité local para cada vivero y cada cinturón verde. Se ha producido y plantado una cantidad innumerable de árboles en más de 700 cinturones verdes y existen unos 50 viveros que se hallan a cargo de las mujeres, los clubs de jóvenes y las escuelas.

* Statement made on the occasion of the presentation of the Right Livelihood Award, 9 December 1984, Stockholm, Sweden.

Prof. Ms Wangari Maathai is a member of the IFDA Council. Cf also Dossier 45, p.82.
I have come to Stockholm to accept with the greatest humility and gratitude an award from the Right Livelihood Foundation. I have not only come on my own behalf but on behalf of the National Council of Women of Kenya (NCWK) especially the numerous women's groups who produce the tree seedlings in the fifty odd tree nurseries and the thousands of school children who plant them and take care of them under the dedicated leadership of their teachers. I have come on behalf of the green belt staff who give a presence of the movement in remote places of our country, the individuals who have planted trees on their plots and on behalf of any person who has sponsored a tree in any of the green belts. I have also come on behalf of those who gave us funds to be able to translate our ideas into a programme. And so represented here are the thousands in my country and abroad who have shared our thoughts, our aspirations and our demonstrations.

We have been informing our people informally. We have been telling them that if they be found ignorant it must not be in the understanding of the Laws of Nature. We have been telling them that drought and famine need not be an annual event, some diseases need not be, malnutrition need not be and some deaths need not be. We have been telling them that with a little bit of help from outside and much will to use their resources on their part they can reverse the trend. They are listening, they are responding and they are struggling hard.

The Right Livelihood Foundation surprised us most pleasantly when it gave the 1984 award to us. We can never be afraid again because we know now that as we walk these paths, we walk not alone. We are many and our number makes us strong.

And now for the work we are involved in:

The Green Belt Movement (GBM) is a broad-based grassroot tree planting activity currently taking place in Kenya. Since trees are planted in several rows around compounds or farm plots (shambas) the planting of trees appears to dress up the compounds in belts of green trees. In our adverse activities on the land, e.g. indiscriminate cutting down of trees, bush clearing, failure to stop soil erosion, overgrazing and overall general negligence towards our environment not only have we torn into rags the beautiful green dress of our mother-land but in some places we have stripped her naked. We have inflicted deep wounds on her and she is weak and unproductive. Yes, indeed, according to the prophet Isaiah, we have sinned against the Natural Laws (God, goodness, order of Nature) and we are being punished. The Natural Laws are taking their natural course which for us means
destruction and death. We must repent our sins (i.e. rectify our wrong doings) by dressing our mother, our mother-land in her original beautiful and full green dress. In planting trees we are adorning our mother-land with belts, green belts!

When we have repented (i.e. rectified) our mother-land will be healed and we shall reap a bounteous harvest. And thus our committal, which we recite before planting trees:

Being aware that Kenya is being threatened by the expansion of desert-like conditions, that desertification comes as a result of misuse of the land by indiscriminate cutting-down of trees, bush clearing and consequent soil erosion by the elements, and that these actions result in drought, malnutrition, famine and death, we resolve to save our land by averting this same desertification by tree planting wherever possible.

In pronouncing these words, we each make a personal commitment to our country to save it from actions and elements which would deprive present and future generations from reaping the bounty which is the birthright and property of all.

First: why we do what we do

The Kenya Government has a Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and a Presidential Commission on Soil Conservation and re-afforestation. Both bodies are responsible for re-afforestation efforts in the whole country. But we know that few governments, and less so in the Third World, can afford the financial and man-power resources required to do what needs to be done. It is necessary for private/voluntary associations and individuals to mobilize themselves to provide the man-power needed in afforestation programmes.

As soon as we took trees to the people we realized that there was great demand for trees. People clamoured for the trees we issued at public meetings. This was a pleasant sight. Unfortunately, we also discovered that they did not appreciate the fact that trees, like other crops, need to be planted properly, need after-planting care and have to be sheltered from livestock and human beings. It became obvious to us that there was need to teach almost all the people that they have to dig holes, apply manure, make sure that water is available and build shelter for protection.

The demand for trees necessitated the establishment of tree nurseries. In order to take more trees to a greater number of people we realized the need to train people to become seedling producers. Since we are a women's organization and many women are organized into groups, we saw in rural women groups our major asset. We trained them on the basics of raising seedlings more or less like they can raise their cabbage and potatoes. These groups have now been joined by youth groups and clubs.
In order to promote the seedling production, we decided to purchase seedlings at a minimal price of about US seven cents per seedling. This way not only do the groups gain new and useful knowledge but tree production becomes income-generating.

Most people are crop-farmers and livestock-keepers. They cannot turn all their land into woodlots because they need it for crops. They are encouraged to practise agroforestry, farming methods our people used before the European methods were introduced and erroneously considered superior.

Now the scientists are recommending this agroforestry approach and unfortunately the current generation has to be taught to inter-crop all over again. This requires some knowledge on the trees and the role they play in the soil and in respect to other crops. Most indigenous trees for example, are of course better suited ecologically but many are slow growing and do not have much economic value in the current market. This puts them at a disadvantage as farmers go for the exotic or imported trees which grow faster and have a well established market that is, at least today, when the trees grow in what is to them virgin land.

Several hundred years from now we may find that the exotic trees precipitated desertification and destruction of the varied life that flourishes in tropical ecological systems. To discourage the planting of imported trees we pay less to seedling producers (mostly women) for them and more for the indigenous and fruit trees which are more appropriate for agroforestry.

The original major objective of the Green Belt Movement was to help the needy urban poor of a certain area of Nairobi. In mind were the handicapped, school leavers and the very poor. The best way to help them was create jobs. So we hired them as green belt rangers and nursery attendants.

Many of the green belt rangers and nursery attendants have no training in nursery or forestry techniques. We would provide them with basic training to be able to nurse the trees and assist the school children each of whom attends a few trees. By employing such persons we were also, indirectly, rehabilitating and assisting them amongst their relatives and friends instead of having them institutionalized or having them move to towns where they become beggars.

Whenever possible we try to employ mothers or fathers so that the whole family benefits. We have had situations where the handicapped person (say blind) is assisted by his/her able-bodied companion.

The nursery attendants supervise the operations, help keep records, make monthly reports and issue the trees to people. They also teach newcomers the basics of how to produce seedlings for sale to the Green Belt Movement.
We noted that when the community identified a person who could play this role, they would mostly identify a very poor parent whose children may be having problems with school fees. Besides the very poor and the handicapped, school leavers are hired as promoters and follow-ups.

The promoters go ahead of everybody else in the field and talk to the members of the community about the problems of desertification, giving suggestions on what they can individually do, encouraging them to dig holes and apply manure to them. They send monthly reports on the number of holes they check and issue approval tokens which the applicants take to the nurseries so that they can be issued with trees. The Green Belt Movement expands and as fast as well as the promoters can effectively push it to the people.

The follow-ups attend to the planted trees to ensure that they are indeed planted, being attended to and are therefore surviving. They also send in monthly reports on the trees issued and the number surviving at the green belts.

A few fairly trained individuals are engaged as supervisors in the field. When operating at peak there may be 250-300 individuals of these categories earning their living from this programme. If we were able to substantially create more jobs in the rural areas we would help in curbing migration into the urban areas in search of jobs. Most migrants are from the youth and the rural poor. Migration into the urban centers only serves to aggravate the unemployment situation and the problem of the urban poor who live in shanties and city peripheral areas.

One of the most obvious results of deforestation and bush clearing is the soil erosion. During the rainy seasons rivers are red with the top soil. Lost top soil leaves behind impoverished sub-soil which cannot support agriculture and as a result food production goes down. Education is necessary so that farmers can appreciate the relationship between soil erosion and poor agricultural output.

Deforestation and bush clearing has precipitated an energy crisis because woodfuel has become scarce. Fetching of wood and preparation of food for the family is a responsibility of the women. And so as wood disappears women and children walk further and further from home to look for firewood which may only turn out to be twigs and sticks. Where these do not exist they will turn to agricultural residues and cowdung. These are products which should be returned to the soil in order to make it richer for food production. Burning these breaks the carbon-cycle and creates a vicious cycle in agricultural production.

The crisis of woodfuel precipitates another problem: malnutrition. A woman with little woodfuel opts to give her family food that requires little energy to prepare. If she has money she often turns to refined foods like bread, maize
meal, tea and soft drinks. A woman may not appreciate what she must give her family to ensure a balanced diet. That ignorance, coupled with shortage of woodfuel provides the background for undernourishment and diseases associated with poor feeding habits. If too many people are caught up in this situation one can easily have a sick and unproductive society. It is very important therefore, that the energy crisis of the poor is solved through provision of the wood and utilization of more efficient combustion devices which reduce wood consumption.

Indirectly, the project has been promoting a positive image of women which is a concern for the NCWK which strives to promote a balanced development of a woman's personality and to facilitate an environment in which this can take place. Even after 10 years of debate on women's issues, it appears appropriate for women to talk around development issues and cause positive change in themselves and their country. Development issues provide a good forum for women to be creative, assertive and effective leaders and the Green Belt Movement provides the forum to promote women's positive image.

This is very important because women have to become involved in development as equal participants. For currently, although women are the most numerous voters, very few women are voted into public offices. This is partially because women are not afforded a forum to develop leadership qualities as they mature and even during adulthood. They are always the followers but never the leaders. Women are therefore, too often, only nominated by men to positions of responsibilities. Women have always played a major role in the socio-economic and political arena of nations but they are not always publicly acclaimed, appreciated or proportionately rewarded. Indeed women are often silenced by small token positions of influence and responsibility while men are rewarded with positions they hardly deserve. Women have generally come to accept that they have to be extremely grateful for the very little they get from men both in private and public fora.

Those women who would point out the continued disproportionate representation of women in the decision-making structure (both political and economic) are conveniently given such labels as radicals, women libers, women elite and so forth. This is deliberately done to discredit them in the eyes of the public so that whatever they have to say or stand for is suspiciously scrutinized and preferably scorned.

Because of this the majority of women will opt for practices which dehumanize them and make them weak, unchallenging servants to their menfolk rather than partners in development. As in other areas of inequality deliberately promoted, the myths of the inferiority of women can only be demolished through glaring examples with which nobody can intelligently argue. The Green Belt Movement and other projects initiated
by women are some examples around which kitchens, babies, nappies and sex are not the points of reference.

Have we achieved our short and long-term objectives? Most of the short-term objectives have been realized. Some of these are:

(a) to encourage tree planting so as to provide the source of energy in the rural areas;
(b) to promote planting of multipurpose trees with special reference to nutritional and energy requirements of human beings and livestock;
(c) to promote the protection and maintenance of the environment and development through seminars, conferences, workshops etc;
(d) to encourage soil conservation, land reclamation and rehabilitation through tree planting;
(e) to develop methods for rational land use;
(f) to create an income-generating activity for rural women;
(g) to create self-employment opportunities especially for handicapped persons and the rural poor;
(h) to develop a replicable methodology for rural development;
(i) to carry out research in conjunction with the University of Nairobi and other research institutions;
(j) to create self-employment opportunities for young persons;
(k) to carry out any activities that promote those objectives.

Thousands of trees have been produced by women, planted by communities and school children in over 700 public green belts. Thousands of individuals have established private green belts. Tree planting has become an honourable activity for all. Community tree nurseries operated by women's groups, youth clubs and schools have been established in many parts of the country. At the moment they are about 50. Not only are the trees generating income for the producers but relevant knowledge is being imparted to them during demonstration sessions and visits by the trained personnel. Scores of individuals, especially the poor and the handicapped, have found jobs within their own environment amongst friends and relatives. Some children have completed their schooling because their parents were employed as green belt rangers.

Why has this approach worked?

Many people have wanted to know why the approach we have opted for has worked. There are a combination of reasons.
Some of the more obvious have been as follows:

- the Green Belt Movement pursues several goals at the same time and focuses on several groups all of whom can find their place in the movement;

- the short-term objectives are realized fast enough to maintain momentum and interest. People need success stories to believe;

- the Executive Committee of NCWK and those directly charged with the responsibility of guiding the movement have been very committed;

- there has been a good understanding of the issues involved. The leaders appreciated the cost of the high rate of population growth against the scarce land resource, they knew of the diminishing forest cover, they appreciated that the elimination of indigenous trees would precipitate a changed ecosystem. They felt that because they knew this it was their responsibility to initiate action.

**Have we encountered problems?**

Yes, indeed. By far our greatest problem has been lack of sufficient funds to allow the programme to expand as fast as demanded by the people. The second handicap was lack of appreciation of proper planting needed and after care of trees. Perhaps our third major hurdle is the difficulty of procuring accurate records. We must be told the truth from the field. The truth may mean less money, loss of an income and sheer hard work. Working at this truth can be taxing, time consuming not to mention the fact that it can be very expensive. The need for it is not always appreciated and can develop into a major hurdle.

**Who has funded the Movement?**

Initially, we worked with purely voluntary service which in our country is known as harambee. Then we introduced the idea of sponsoring trees which we would plant and take care of. Some substantial donations came from Mobil Oil (K) Ltd., the Environment Liaison Center, the Canadian Embassy, the German Embassy and the International Council of Women. The total amounted to about US$10,000. In 1981, we hit a jack pot and received US$100,000 from the Voluntary Fund of the United Nations, US$50,000 from the Norwegian Forestry Society and Norad and US$300,000 from the Danish Voluntary Fund for Developing Countries. All the grants have run currently and are scheduled to end before or in 1985. We have just received financial support from the Norwegian Norad of US$ 127,000.

**What do we do with the funds?**

We purchase tools for tree nurseries and green belts, organize workshops and seminars for new participants, purchase
seedlings from seedling producers (mostly women), pay green belt staff (nursery attendants, promoters, follow-ups, green belt rangers and supervisors) and maintain a small secretariat at the headquarters. People contribute in kind by:

- digging holes for tree planting
- providing manure
- sheltering, protecting and watering the trees
- preparing nursery sites including making of benches, seedbeds etc.
- collecting seeds.

Many of our members supervise the operations in the fields where they are and assist with on-site training for new participants.

I am often asked, "Why did it take the women to start the Green Belt Movement?"

The inspiration did not come to me because I was a woman. It came to me because my mind was searching for a solution to a very specific problem. Inspirations come to all of us but many of us may not have the right mental peace and tranquility at the critical time to allow the inspiration to grow beyond the stage when it appears like a dream. I think I was just lucky. I do not know why I nursed the inspiration until it became an idea and finally an activity.

I think that women in the NCWK were quite good at pursuing that idea which for a long time bore little fruit. But patience is not a prerogative of women. Men could have done the same if similarly inspired and sufficiently motivated. Perhaps the only thing that was characteristically women-like was our grouping and our rapid acceptance of the movement. But some observers claim that the motivating force in the field especially among women was the financial gain. May be, may be not. But if it is, very few men were so motivated until much, much later.

Liaison has been essential because of the nature of the project. The Green Belt Movement has worked closely with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources from the very beginning.

At a very early stage it was possible for our participants to walk into the forester's office and receive as many seedlings as had been prepared. Most, if not all, foresters have cooperated in this endeavour and all appreciate the complementary and rather unique contribution being made by the Green Belt Movement.

Each green belt or tree nursery is supervised by a local committee comprised of leaders from the local community. This is the committee which maintains the spirit of interest and awareness after the NCWK's launching party has gone. It is the nucleus around which the community will continue to
be motivated and involved. Under the leadership of the local green belt committee the community volunteers to dig holes, place manure in holes and only wait for the launching ceremony. Under the current methods such work, which would otherwise cost the tax-payer a lot of money and time is given free-of-charge by the community.

What of the future?

We must continue to care and bother about issues which are not immediately concerned with the gratification of our physical senses. We are a unique heritage to the ecosystem on this planet earth and we have a special responsibility. If to those to whom more has been given more will be expected then we must embrace our special responsibility which is more than is expected of the elephants and the butterflies. In making sure that they and their future generation survive we shall be ensuring the survival of our own species. People have been insensitive to the life of trees, of the life that flourishes in the top soil of cropland, of life of grass and shrubs, of young children, yes, of all living things we have witnessed indiscriminate deforestation, soil erosion, over-grazing, over-population, drought, desertification, famine and death.

More than 60% of Kenya's land is no longer available to the farmer, forests stand at the low level of 2.5%, some river levels have fallen to minimum low before they disappear altogether. Crop yields have fallen, livestock industry is not what it used to be and our towns have many who are poor and unemployed. But we continue to cross bridges in our expensive cars and aeroplanes and only give a passing glance to the muddy waters below, we cut our age-old indigenous trees to replace them with fast growing and economically valuable exotic ever-greens and we refuse to exert pressure where we should to avoid being unpopular and unsung. We are insensitive to the life of those others and we are perhaps ignorant of how much our own life depends on theirs. Yet Kenya may not be among the worst in Africa. And so we must go beyond Kenya and help raise public awareness in other parts of the continent.

The financial award will be used to establish a Trust which could be used to provide seed money for the establishment of programmes similar to the Green Belt Movement elsewhere in Africa. We are confident that once we start, such an effort would appeal to others who are concerned about desertification processes, prolonged drought, famine and death in our region.

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ZIGUINCHOR, MANIKGANJ, ILOILO & BOGOR:

STREET FOODS AS INCOME AND FOOD FOR THE POOR

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ZIGUINCHOR, MANIKGANJ, ILOILO & BOGOR:

LES ALIMENTS VENDUS DANS LA RUE, REVENU ET NOURRITURE POUR LES PAUVRES

Résumé: L'étude décrite dans cet article a porté sur les activités génératrices de revenu des femmes citadines ainsi que les activités féminines dans l'ensemble du secteur des aliments vendus dans la rue. Quatre études de cas ont été conduites, à Ziguinchor (Sénégal), Manikganj (Bangladesh), Iloilo (Philippines) et Bogor (Indonésie). Tous les vendeurs d'aliments prêts à la consommation ont été recensés, et des échantillons de vendeurs de rue ont été interviewés à plusieurs reprises. Les familles des vendeurs ont été interrogées, et des enquêtes de consommation ont été réalisées. Des séminaires ont eu lieu dans chacune des villes pour discuter les résultats et les actions de développement possible. Cet article examine (i) l'économie du commerce alimentaire de rue, (ii) la demande de tels aliments ainsi que (iii) les implications des conclusions pour les politiques et les programmes.

ZIGUINCHOR, MANIKGANJ, ILOILO & BOGOR:

LA VENTA DE COMIDAS EN LA CALLE: INGRESOS Y ALIMENTOS PARA LOS POBRES

Resumen: En el proyecto sobre las comidas vendidas en la calle se investigaron las actividades generadoras de ingresos de las mujeres en las zonas urbanas, así como las actividades femeninas dentro del sector de la venta de alimentos en la calle en su conjunto. Se prepararon cuatro monografías nacionales en Ziguinchor (Senegal), Manikganj (Bangladesh), Iloilo (Filipinas) y Bogor (Indonesia). En estas cuatro ciudades se levantó un censo de los vendedores de comidas listas para el consumo y se entrevistó en varias ocasiones a una muestra de los vendedores ambulantes de alimentos. Se interrogó a las familias de los vendedores y se efectuaron encuestas entre los consumidores. En cada una de las ciudades se celebraron seminarios para examinar los resultados obtenidos y las medidas que podrían adoptarse. En el presente artículo se estudian: i) la economía del comercio ambulante de alimentos, ii) la demanda de alimentos vendidos en la calle y iii) las consecuencias que pueden tener las conclusiones sobre la política y la programación.
The Street Foods Project was funded by the Women in Development Office of AID to investigate the street food trade, and women's role within it, in four Third World countries. The objectives of the project are:

1. to design interventions which will enhance the income or improve the product of the women and men working in this sector;
2. to identify policy issues which have inhibited the development of this sector;
3. to show how the findings of the project can and should be utilized by a wide range of sector planners and programmers.

CONCEPT AND DESIGN

The Street Food Project is unique in two ways: it focuses on income activities of urban women and it considers women's activities in terms of the total street food sector. Most previous studies of women's "invisible" contributions to the economy of their countries have focussed on rural activities including farming, food processing, and handicrafts. The project not only collected data on urban earnings but identified street food sellers as a market for goods produced and processed by rural women and men.

The decision to study the production, marketing and consumption of street foods arose from two considerations. First, it is necessary to understand the dynamics of the ready-to-eat street foods sector in order to understand and support the role of women within it. Secondly, because this sector has been neglected, there is no adequate data base upon which to build. Prepared food was selected because it reflects women's dual roles as provider for her family of both income and food.

Given the lack of data on street foods, the project design called first for a complete census of all sellers of ready-to-eat foods throughout all parts of the provincial towns selected for study. Street Foods, by our definition, include any food that could be eaten on the spot, which is immediately available to eat, and is sold on the street, from carts, or from shops with fewer than four permanent walls. While vendors are most visible in commercial and market areas, we wished to find out the extent to which street foods were important outside the downtown areas. Indeed, in several cities the ratio of neighbourhood to downtown vendors was as high as 1:4.
A sample of street food vendors, selected by type of food and selling location, were interviewed by local staff and revisited several times over a year to check for seasonal variations. The study was supervised by the EPOC country director who was a research scholar with experience in micro studies in the country or region. Vendor families, selected according to the importance of women's economic contributions to the trade, were visited and observed to document the activities of different family members in the preparation and selling of street foods. Data sought was related to economic issues such as individual income, use of paid or unpaid help, sales and profits and to products issues such as seasonality, variety and supply. Questions were also asked about the history of the enterprise, use of money earned, problems of enterprise survival and attitude towards the trade.

To document the demand for street foods, customer surveys were carried out. In two countries, general household food consumption studies were also completed. Foods were also tested for nutritional value and for safety. Nutritional interventions were actually tried in Bogor. Seminars were held in each provincial town and in the capital city to present the findings and discuss possible interventions to help the vendors either enhance their incomes or improve their products. Special concern was given to measures for supporting women vendors or processors. Discussions with members of the AID-mission were undertaken to illustrate how the findings related to on-going AID projects. In Bangladesh, a credit program for vendors was initiated.

**FINDINGS**

EPOC's four country study was undertaken in Ziguinchor in Senegal, Manikganj in Bangladesh, Iloilo in the Philippines and Bogor in Indonesia. City size and the total number of vendors in each city are given in Table I along with percentages of enterprises operated by women alone, by men alone and by couples working together. The dominance of women in Senegal and Philippines as well as the absence of women vendors in Bangladesh was to be expected. However the number of women operators in Bogor was lower than anticipated when compared to earlier studies of market vendors in Jojakarta; differences clearly reflect the cultural variation between these two towns on Java.

In both Bangladesh and Indonesia about one-quarter of the male vendors had daily help from their wives at home in the preparation of the foods for sale. In addition, some 12% of the vendors in Manikganj employed women helpers in their enterprises. Thus women are involved in 40% of all street foods establishments in Bogor and 37% in Manikganj. Of course, they did this work in addition to maintaining their households. It is important to note that in Ziguinchor the women vendors were largely relieved of their household du-
ties by other family members, only 20% of the women vendors said that they daily cooked meals at home for their family.

In Ziguinchor, women and men vendors sold distinct products, in the other countries there was little distinction by gender although no women sell ice cream in Iloilo and no women sell chicken noodle soup in Bogor. The mode of selling does not tend to vary between sexes; no women were observed pushing mobile carts and no men were seen balancing baskets on their heads. Foods sold on commission, ice cream in both Iloilo and Ziguinchor, as well as bread in Bogor, seemed to be reserved for men only.

ECONOMICS OF THE STREET FOOD TRADE

The invisibility of the street foods trade is not confined to its importance as a basis for income generation for women but extends to other aspects of the trade, including its contribution to the urban economy and the food system. In the four countries studied, the annual volume of sales generated by this prepared foods sector ranged from as high as US$67 million in Bogor, a city of quarter of a million in Indonesia, to US$ 2 million in Manikganj, a rural service center of 38,000 in Bangladesh (Tables II and III).

As a sector composed of a myriad of micro-enterprises, the significance of the street food trade at the level of the city applies as much to its contribution to output as to its role as a source of employment for the urban poor. All street food vendors consider themselves self-employed, even though many have contractual arrangements with their suppliers which are suggestive of dependence rather than independence.

At least a quarter of these enterprises in all countries employ either paid or unpaid labour. As a result, close to 6% of the labour force in Ziguinchor and Manikganj and between 15% and 26% in Iloilo and Bogor, respectively, derive an income from this economic activity.

Daily income to the street food operator indicates an economic activity that provides a competitive source of earnings.

- In Iloilo, the average gross earnings of vendors was 54 pesos daily which exceeds the daily minimum formal sector unskilled wage of 33 pesos;
- daily net income among street vendors in Bogor ranged from 790 to 8,910 rupiah, with 50% of the vendors concentrated in the 1,660-3,110 range. Average earnings are nearly twice the daily wages of construction workers;
- gross profits per street food firm in Ziguinchor averaged 370 cfa francs per day, a figure which is slightly in excess of the gross income of a craftsman, estimated at 355 cfa francs daily;
. In Manikganj the daily net income of a street food vendor is Tk.72, a level of earnings more than three times that of the daily agricultural wage.

In many households, street foods are the primary source of income: this applies to as many as 86% and 56% of the street food vendors in the Philippines and Bangladesh respectively; among the women vendors in Ziguinchor the comparable figure was 59%. In view of the scale of the enterprise and this high household dependence on this income source, it is not surprising to find that household and enterprise finances are frequently inseparable. Dipping into operating and investment capital when family emergencies arise is not uncommon and, in turn, limits the ability of street food establishments to accumulate capital regardless of net profit levels.

Among vendors able to build up a reserve, the tendency is not to expand the existing enterprise. An examination of formal sector food catering establishments in Iloilo indicated that none had "crossed the gap" from a micro-enterprise to a small scale firm. Rather the trend is for the street food entrepreneur to invest the surplus either by diversifying into other activities, particularly the sale of non-perishables, or in the next generation, i.e. social investment in their children's education.

Indeed, for an enterprise of this size it would seem that the levels of supply of foods and the demand for them are in a delicate balance. Thus, expansion is not necessarily a business objective. Actually, expansion may mean increased prices or greater spoilage, and so lead to business failure. At this level of enterprise, access to credit, while possibly not sought for growth reasons, is still needed - as working capital and as a buffer against bankruptcy that can strike when household emergencies inevitably force the drawing down of operating capital.

The tendency has been to classify street food establishments as distributive and service enterprises. Yet, the street food firm is no less important as a productive enterprise, involved in food processing as well as sales. These establishments undertake an integrated process extending from the purchase of the raw ingredients and their processing through to their marketing and distribution. For example, monie sellers are involved on a daily basis in milling as well as the manufacture and sale of their millet-based porridge. In Bangladesh women puff rice as a snack. The production process is not unlike that which takes place, albeit on a different scale, in the large-scale manufacture of breakfast cereals such as oatmeal or Rice Krispies.

This level of food processing was found to be largely the domain of women. Most prepare the food in their homes and later sell it on the streets. In Muslim countries the rules of seclusion result in the women either delegating the re-
tailing to other family members or selling their output to other food catering enterprises. As processors of some or all of the food they sell - a definition that is applicable to at least 75% of the vendors in the Philippines, Indonesia and Senegal and 42% in Bangladesh - the activities of many of street food establishments may have implications for the rural as well as the urban food processing sector. Evidence of such possibilities is suggested by the presence of small pickling enterprises in Bangladesh or steamed rice sweets in Indonesia. Frequently located in rural areas, these micro-level businesses sell their output to vendors who specialize in retailing in urban areas.

DEMAND FOR STREET FOODS

Household survey data from Indonesia and the Philippines identified a strong level of effective demand for street foods. Urban households in these two countries spend an average of 25% of their food budgets on street foods, a percentage which is consistent across income levels. Estimates from Senegal suggest a proportion of the household food budget allocated to street foods closer to 20%. Although street foods have been thought to be marginal to diet, the data reject this assumption and show these foodstuffs to be integral to diet.

- in Iloilo street foods appear to provide the fats and oils that are lacking in a diet defined exclusively in terms of household prepared foodstuffs;
- in Bogor it is possible to obtain more than half of the recommended daily allowance of protein, iron, vitamin A and C from a 30 cent street food meal.

Only in Bangladesh does the term "supplement" best describe the role of street foods in diet. In a country where few eat more than one full meal daily, any street food, the majority of which are snacks, is nonetheless an important dietary supplement.

The primary street food clientele are the vendors' peers, other members of the informal sector, and the urban poor. Even though their per capita levels of expenditure are lower than their middle and upper income counterparts, by their numbers they comprise the major group of consumers. Their purchases reflect rational choices. Many urban women, as well as men, living alone find it more economic to spend their time in income generating activities and to purchase street foods, than to shop for and cook many traditional foods which are both time consuming to prepare and perishable. Furthermore, the rising costs of fuel and ingredients, particularly in times of food scarcity, have meant that for many poor households, daily cooking has become expensive. As a result many may, in fact, find it cheaper to purchase street food meals where economies of scale bring the price of a serving below the cost of home preparation (Table IV).
Next in importance as consumers are students, both those who live away from home and elementary level pupils. The latter, the target group in school feeding programs, often purchase more than simply the odd snack or breakfast on the way to school. In urban Nigeria the data show that as many as 76% of school children in Ile-Ife eat two street food meals and 96% eat breakfast daily. In Nigeria the provision of health, hygiene and nutrition training to street vendors who sell to school children suggests an alternate approach for targeting nutrition assistance to this population.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY**

The street foods sector emerges as a pervasive and essential feature of Third World cities. Yet, most vendors operate in urban environments that are intrinsically hostile. In many countries the sector has no legal status and has a history of harassment and forcible removal from the streets. A primary finding of the project is the need to legitimize this sector, and so reduce the constant fear of the vendors for their livelihood. This calls for the establishment of institutional mechanisms, both by the vendors and the government, so that the two groups can work together to legitimize the presence of the sector.

Legitimation should bring with it the collection of a regular, if not a daily, tax. Contrary to conventional wisdom many vendors do pay some form of tax, if not to government then to other entities including vendor's associations. Thus, implementing such a regulation would not necessarily increase the vendor's costs of operation. Legitimation also requires the formulation of regulations that are feasible for both the vendors and government, particularly in the area of health and food safety. The provision of basic services or the encouragement of self regulation by the vendors are among actions that should also be part of this process.

EPOC's findings on the street food trade have implications for food policy that extend from production through processing and marketing to consumption.

a. Through backward linkages urban demand has implications for increasing certain types of domestic food production and rural incomes. Since most of the ingredients processed by vendors utilize domestic grains, the encouragement of this trade would seem not only to increase domestic demand but would also decrease imports.

b. The invisibility of vendors due to their lack of legitimacy is compounded by the lack of data on their role within the national, regional and urban food systems. Much of the unprocessed or semi-processed food used by street food sellers comes through micro-marketing channels which occur outside these larger scale marketing institutions. While the data do not permit a quantification of the sector's weight within the total urban food system, the data suggest that this amount is far from negligible and is important to the provision of low cost urban food.
c. At the level of the consumer, the integral role of these foods in diet suggests a potential role for the street food vendors in the introduction of new foods and in providing school children with nutritious meals.

d. Lastly, this study of the street food trade has suggested possibilities of linking street foods with food aid for development purposes. Food aid might be made available to vendors on a monetized basis. The capital generated from sales could be used to build a capital fund which in turn could be recycled to provide credit and other services to vendors.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAMMING**

Recommendations can conveniently be divided into those relating to support to the vendors on the one hand, and to the integration of the street food sector into larger scale programming on the other.

Economic support for the vendors includes credit, training in the basics of record keeping, and provision of health insurance. All of these services are best provided through a vendor-based organization; the existence of such a group would encourage the dialogue suggested above, which should lead to legitimation of the sector. Since women in mixed groups seldom take active leadership roles, it is recommended that separate women's groups be formed. Further, since women have a better pay-back rate than men, women should be allowed to borrow without requiring that the funds be used for business expansion. As long as the loans are repaid, it would appear unnecessary to limit the use for which loans are granted. The possibility of insurance for critical illness should be explored to see if such a provision could prevent business failures since in family, and especially in one-person, operations the illness of the owner not only stops income but uses up working capital.

Product support is also best delivered though small groups of vendors. These groups could facilitate bulk purchasing or establish direct links to producers, thus assuring regularity of supplies, reducing costs, and so increasing profits. The provision of water supply in areas where vendors congregate would not only reduce contamination of food but benefit the neighbourhoods in which vendors trade.

Recognition of the importance of the street food sector both to the urban food system and to employment has implications for large scale programming for several sectors including rainfed agriculture, and for promotion of private enterprise and good nutrition. Rainfed agriculture in Asia is associated with small scale plots; vegetables and fruit grown there have a natural market in street foods. Micro-processing of the food by rural or urban women and men provides a new source of income for the poor. Re-emphasis on traditional grains, such as millet and sorgham can be strengthened by recognizing street foods as a traditional market for the
food based on these grains. On the other hand, the ubiquitous nature of street foods makes them a possible method of introducing new foods utilizing secondary crops including millet, sorghum and cassava, and high protein beans such as soy and winged beans.

Street food vendors supply the major source of purchased food for school children and for many industrial and clerical workers. Instead of trying to supplant vendors with semi-western cafeterias, donors might follow the example of Singapore which allows vendors to contract for the use of institutionally-provided facilities. At a less ambitious level the Nigerian experience in training vendors might well be emulated. The right to sell on school grounds should be tied to vendor's upgrading the level of both sanitation and nutrition of the food they sell.

Street foods are obviously so important a source of income and food for the urban poor in Third World countries that both governments and donors should support and upgrade the sector. We are confident that EPOC's findings will aid in this policy and programmatic shift.

Table I: Street food vendors, by sex, in four countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Number of Vendors</th>
<th>Operators (by sex)</th>
<th>Women's Involvement*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Women (%)</td>
<td>Men (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manikganj</td>
<td>38 000</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ziguinchor</td>
<td>86 000</td>
<td>1 534</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iloilo</td>
<td>245 000</td>
<td>5 100</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bogor</td>
<td>248 000</td>
<td>17 760</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* in selling or in preparation or processing at home.

Sources: Barth 1983; Posner 1983; Owens and Hussain 1984; Chapman 1984.
Table II: Street food establishment daily earnings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Iloilo (pesos)</th>
<th>Bogor (rupiah)</th>
<th>Manikganj (thaka)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>182.38</td>
<td>11649.93</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>236.22</td>
<td>16027.31</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross profits</td>
<td>53.84</td>
<td>4377.38</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net profit per firm</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum wage</td>
<td>33.00</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>20 b/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* a/ based on weekly figures divided by 7.
* b/ average wage.
* n.a. not available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ziguinchor (cfa francs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Millet Porridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td>720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross profits</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net profit per firm</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum wage a/</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* a/ In Senegal, the minimum legal daily rate of 250 cfa for a maid was used.
### Table III: Economics of the urban street food trade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bogor Indonesia</th>
<th>Iloilo Philippines</th>
<th>Ziguinchor Senegal</th>
<th>Manikganj Bangladesh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of street food enterprises</td>
<td>17,760</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>1,534</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishments per head</td>
<td>1:14</td>
<td>1:49</td>
<td>1:56</td>
<td>1:69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of labour force active in street food trade</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggregate yearly sales (million US$)</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table IV: The street food customer, by occupation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Iloilo</th>
<th>Bogor</th>
<th>Manikganj</th>
<th>Ziguinchor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(percentage distribution)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Iloilo</th>
<th>Bogor</th>
<th>Manikganj</th>
<th>Ziguinchor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>16 a/</td>
<td>33 a/</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students b/</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White-collar workers</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal sector</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housewives</td>
<td>16 c/</td>
<td>16 c/</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24 d/</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Number)</td>
<td>(246)</td>
<td>(464)</td>
<td>(436)</td>
<td>(240)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a/ Includes students
b/ High school and college students
c/ Includes the unemployed
d/ Includes 22% farmers
n.a. not available
(continued from page 2)

if needed. The question is not how to tinker with the bureaucratic arrangements for the so-called 'non-governmental organizations' in 'consultative status' with the UN and its specialized agencies.

The question is whether the UN will be able to perceive that its real constituency, beyond governments, is the peoples and the people. The challenge is to seize the opportunity of the 40th anniversary and of the crisis to re-think and re-establish the relations of the UN with the people and their associations, the third system.

True, suggestions such as those of the editorial of IFDA Dossier 45 (United Nations: the next 40 years) are obviously too much ahead to be considered now by the Prince. But some steps in this direction are possible.

The aggiornamento and the strengthening of the United Nations calls for an initiative to associate in earnest people and their movements with the United Nations - the very first step being perhaps to accept that the UN is accountable to people. For the UN is much more than the 159 member states: it is a project which, as the only embryo of a planetary organization, belong to all of us, members of the human species living on this only one earth.

(see also pp.40, 63-70 and 71-72 below)

The United Nations should make it a law that any country that has the bomb no other country will talk to.

Nelson R
Age 7
Philadelphia

From: Please save my world, Children speak out against nuclear war (New York: Arbor House Publishing Company, 235 East 46th Street, NY 10017, USA).
A sign tacked next to the entrance to Dan Lagrou's home in Lansing, Michigan, reads, "This house has no fallout shelter. Peace is our only security".

To uphold that security, Lagrou, 29, a hospital orderly, and his wife, Mary, 34, a substitute teacher, refuse to hold full-time jobs, in part to have time to commit non-violent civil disobedience as part of their anti-nuclear activities.

"You can't go to jail if you have a full-time job", says Dan Lagrou. "We decided we were going to structure our job life to do that".

Not having full-time jobs also means that Dan and Mary, the parents of four-year-old Jamey, earn less than the federal income tax requirements, so they don't have to contribute to the US defence build-up through their tax dollars.

Dan and Mary Lagrou, while unknown nationally, are two of thousands of grass-roots activists across the US who form an important backbone of the anti-nuclear movement. And, like many such activists, the Lagrous concentrate their activities on their local communities.

Dan has been arrested - and expects to be arrested again - for civil disobedience while protesting the production of cruise missile engines at Williams International Corp., in Walled Lake, just outside Detroit. More than 100 people have been arrested at Williams since early 1983, when anti-nuclear protesters began asking that the plant be converted to production of non-military material. Outstanding criminal warrants have been issued against almost 100 more people.

The protesters have withstood Michigan winds, snow, sleet and drizzle. Some say they have been under surveillance by undercover officers from Oakland county. Others spent 11 days fasting in jail last July. In addition to occasional demonstrations, protesters hold weekly Monday night vigils outside the plant.

The protesters' tactics range from traditional demonstrations, to civil disobedience, to street theater, to spattering blood on Williams' property. A Williams official said
the corporation sympathises with the protesters but cannot condone their actions.

"We support the protesters' desire for peace and their desire for a reduction in arms", said David Jolivette, Williams international Vice President for public relations. "But we have a duty to our property and the employees, in particular ensuring that employee entrances are not blocked by the protests".

The protesters do not buy such arguments, however.

"People in our country can make the arms race a contemporary, blatant form of idolatry", said Rev. Tom Lumpkin, a 46-year-old catholic priest who is active in the protests at Williams. "The root of the nuclear arms race is, to whom do you look for your salvation?"

Lumpkin, who took part in the civil rights and anti-Vietnam war movements in the 1960's and now work with a Detroit hospitality house for the homeless, says he feels a moral compulsion to protest.

"It probably makes me live with myself better", he said, adding that "civil disobedience actions have been an essential component of the social changes I have seen take place".

The Rev. Pete Dougherty, a member of the Lansing-based group covenant for peace, said that for him, not protesting at Williams would be a "cop out of human existence".

Dougherty was recently arrested with two other protesters for scurrying over Williams' fence, climbing up to the roof of the plant, and unfurling a banner with a message for peace. "We are living out of vision of turning around the arms race", Dougherty said during a telephone conversation from the Oakland county jail. "It is part of the symphony all around the world of direct action".

While clergy and religious people play an important role in the Williams protest, students have also become involved.

Jeff Asbill, 24, a senior at Wayne State University in Detroit, played the role of the grim reaper of death during an easter Sunday protest of about 100 people, who ranged in age from the elderly to a three-month-old child.

"I find student apathy (about nuclear war) but I also find that in the general public", he said. "The idea of nuclear war is so hideous, people put it in their subconscious".

Dan Lagrou, meanwhile, said he has no intention of stopping his civil disobedience protests. "I am fully planning on it - it is a family thing", said Dan. "I see it as being a responsible parent".

26
CHILE: THEMES AND TASKS OF RECONSTRUCTION

Abstract: The following text is excerpted from a presentation by its author at a seminar of the Centre for development studies in Santiago. Ricardo Lagos is the representative of the socialist party (Salvador Allende's party) in the Democratic Alliance it now forms with the christian-democrats and several smaller parties. The author starts from the fact that Chile has been destroyed, both economically and socially. Reconstruction is the task of all, but four social actors have an essential role: the youth; the women; the "popular sectors", systematically marginalized during the last 10 years; and the professions. The reconstruction of democracy implies recognizing that democracy has been lost "by the errors of all"; that it be seen as a participatory process not limited to voting; and that human rights include respecting the minority. The economy must be at the service of the largest number of people, key decisions must be arrived at democratically, and the new economy will be diversified and integrated; employment and food security will be the priorities. The author concludes that socialism is not co-terminous with statism, and the state itself not limited to the government. The respect of such principles will require mechanisms enabling the civil society to hold the state accountable. Transition will be the prefiguration of the future democracy.

CHILI: THÈMES ET TÂCHES DE LA RECONSTRUCTION

Résumé: Le texte qui suit est constitué de larges extraits d'un exposé de son auteur à un séminaire du Centre d'études du développement à Santiago. Ricardo Lagos est le représentant du parti socialiste (le parti de Salvador Allende) au sein de l'Alliance démocratique qu'il forme avec le parti démocrate chrétien et plusieurs petits partis. L'auteur part de la constatation que le Chili est un pays détruit, économiquement et socialement. La reconstruction est la tâche de tous, mais quatre acteurs sociaux ont un rôle essentiel: les jeunes; les femmes; les "secteurs populaires", systématiquement marginalisés depuis 10 ans; et les "professionnels" (ingénieurs, médecins, enseignants, etc.). La reconstruction de la démocratie suppose que l'on reconnaîsse que la démocratie a été perdue "par les erreurs de tous"; qu'on la conçoive comme un processus participatif ne se limitant pas au vote; et que les droits de l'homme comprennent le respect de la minorité. L'économie sera mise au

(Suite à la page 39)
Ricardo Lagos

CHILE: LOS GRANDES TEMAS Y TAREAS DE LA RECONSTRUCCION

I. NUESTRO PUNTO DE PARTIDA ES UN CHILE DESTRUÍDO

Partimos de un Chile que está destruido. Luego de diez años, no tenemos institucionalidad. La institucionalidad fue destrozada el primer día, simbolizada por la destrucción de los registros electorales, por la violación de la Constitución y de aquello que nunca antes consideramos importante porque nos era dado como el aire: el respeto a los derechos del hombre. En diez años se destruyó lo que como país habíamos construido (...)

Hoy tenemos la producción de Chile de 1970; tenemos un ingreso por habitante equivalente al de 20 años atrás; no tenemos el parque industrial que tuvimos; no tenemos agricultura, sino un conjunto de agricultores quebrados a lo largo de Chile; es posible que no tengamos siquiera la riqueza básica, porque una ley dictada entre cuatro paredes, está lista para entregarla al mejor postor.

Además de esta institucionalidad violentada, de esta economía arrasada, se ha generado un abismo profundo entre dos Chiles; entre el Chile de los ricos y poderosos, ese Chile del gerente que gana 300 o 400 PEM al mes y el Chile de la gran Mayoría. Cómo es posible haber llegado a tener una sociedad en que de dos seres humanos de esta tierra, uno tenga un ingreso 400 veces superior a otro? ¿Qué lo justifica?

Y junto con tener dos Chiles, el tejido social que los chilenos fuimos construyendo a lo largo de 170 años, se ha ido atomizando, se ha ido disgregando. El concepto de solidaridad fue reemplazado por la ley de mercado y la ley del más fuerte; y de la solidaridad pasamos a un individualismo exacerbado. Y se quiso hacer de aquello la carne y el motor de la sociedad chilena. Pero claro, no convenía con el carácter nuestro y sólo ha logrado que ahora tengamos ese enorme abismo.

Por esto, las posibilidades de reconstruir al país, tienen que partir de preguntarnos qué hacemos con estos dos Chiles; qué hacemos con el Chile que justificó el exilio, ese Chile que calló ante la tortura, que en el fondo, por acción o por omisión fue cómplice de estos diez años. Es un tema central que tenemos que ser capaces de abordar al margen de nuestras diferencias, porque tampoco queremos construir un país, luego de una guerra civil, en que estos dos Chiles se enfrentan y uno destruye al otro. Nadie puede pretender reconstruir este país si no existe una mínima posibilidad de juntar, en alguna medida, esos dos Chiles, pero juntarlos con justicia, sin venganza.

Si no se restablecen canales de comunicación, es imposible que podamos reconstruir. Porque en estos diez años han des-
aparecido los canales de comunicación de la sociedad chilena, y la violación de los derechos humanos ha sido la respuesta de la bayoneta ante el deseo de algunos de expresar su inquietud, de querer comunicar su desesperanza ante la situación, de querer protestar.

Ante este Chile oficial, entonces, que no tiene institucionalidad; con su economía destruida, con un abismo profundo entre clases sociales antagónicas y con percepciones tan distintas sobre los derechos del ser humano, la tendencia natural es la ira; la tendencia natural es desarrollar un discurso que quisiera arrasar con lo acaecido.

Y hablo de la ira porque en estos días la he visto en los ojos de muchos chilenos y comprendo esa ira. Cualquiera que se acerque a una población, ve el hambre, ve la cesantía, y qué respuesta tiene uno ante esa hambre, ese atropello permanente del ser humano?

Uno puede comprender la ira, pero junto con comprenderla tiene que encauzarla. Hay que entender que la reconstrucción de Chile hay que hacerla sobre la base de planteamientos racionales y no de la ira. Por muy comprensible que ésta sea, no puede conducirnos a reconstruir la sociedad que todos queremos, no puede llevarnos a un Chile real.

Esta reconstrucción de Chile tiene que ser obra de todos. Para ello, hay que plantearse cuáles son los grandes temas de la reconstrucción de este Chile destruido, aniquilado, sin canales de expresión. Pero, cómo encontrarnos para debatir y reconstruir la sociedad?

Yo diría, en primer lugar, aprendamos algo del pasado. Abordemos los grandes temas con un grado de humildad. Cada uno cree en sus propias convicciones; yo creo en el socialismo, y me inclino por debatir los grandes temas de Chile desde mi óptica, pero con un cierto grado de humildad, sabiendo que mi verdad tiene que ser enfrentada y contrastada con otras verdades. Y ese debiera ser el gran hilo conductor de este diálogo que queremos iniciar.

En síntesis, iniciamos un camino difícil porque lo hacemos a partir de una destrucción como Chile no tiene recuerdo en su historia; porque no estamos acostumbrados a hablar entre nosotros mismos, porque vamos a tener que enfrentar a aquellos a quienes no reconocemos una jerarquía democrática para participar en el debate. Porque el debate tiene que ser entre aquellos que estamos de acuerdo en un conjunto de principios esenciales que permitan dirimir civilizadamente nuestros conflictos y no puede hacerse con aquéllos que callaron durante esto diez años ante tanta miseria humana.

Frente a ello creo que es legítimo decir: "Vamos a tender puentes", pero también queremos tener justicia. No vamos a ser capaces de enfrentar y cicatrizar las heridas de estos diez años si no se hace con justicia. Porque una cosa es
estar dispuestos a reiniciar el camino de todos los chilenos, y otra cosa es decir que aquellos que con su actitud no supieron estar a la altura de Chile, tendrán que tener un castigo; justo y no de venganza. Pero no podemos olvidarlo. Si lo hiciéramos, nuestros hijos y nuestros nietos pensarán que no estuvimos a la altura del momento que hoy vivimos.

II. A QUIENES CORRESPONDE LA TAREA DE LA RECONSTRUCCIÓN

En esta reconstrucción por todos los que creen en los principios centrales de esta patria nuestra, yo quisiera referirme especialmente a cuatro sectores que me parecen esenciales en la reconstrucción.

En primer lugar, la reconstrucción es tarea de los jóvenes. Ellos, hoy en Chile, significan una generación que no tuvo contacto vivencial con la historia democrática de nuestra patria. Sin idealizar, yo diría que Chile fue capaz de progresar de forma que cada generación joven que se incorporaba a Chile, lo hacía enraizada en lo que dejaba la generación anterior.

Si hoy hubiera elecciones en Chile, un 38 por ciento serían votantes por primera vez. Casi un 40 por ciento no sabe lo que es depositar un voto, pero más importante, no sabe lo que es un debate político abierto. En consecuencia, esos jóvenes que son esenciales para iniciar la reconstrucción, se criaron y se nutrieron en la dictadura y el autoritarismo. No tienen una práctica democrática, salvo la que ellos han sido capaces de construir en sus propias organizaciones, y que han dado testimonio de valentía, como lo hemos constatado en estos tiempos.

Y en las poblaciones esos jóvenes que son la mayoría, están cesantes, esos jóvenes no tienen una sociedad que les pueda ofrecer un destino mejor. Yo me pregunto, cómo podríamos iniciar la reconstrucción del país sin ellos?

- Porque no es una frase retórica decir que los jóvenes tienen que participar en la reconstrucción, no es sólo una parte de un discurso político tradicional de Chile - Cómo los incorporamos a un proceso para reconstruir un Chile que va a tener raíces en el pasado pero simultáneamente un Chile que ellos quieren proyectar al futuro, desde una sociedad que les ha cerrado sistemáticamente todas las puertas? Yo creo que este es un gran debate. Es preciso establecer canales de comunicación para incorporar a los jóvenes a él.

Junto con esos jóvenes, y además del símbolo de la juventud, habría que traer acá el símbolo de la mujer. Porque en estos diez años, amén de las cosas que han ocurrido aquí, han ocurrido cosas afuera, y me parece que si ha emergido un elemento importante de comprender, es esta toma de conciencia en cuanto a lo que significa la situación de la mujer, en cuanto a la marginación que ha tenido en general del sistema político chileno. La discriminación que ha tenido en el trabajo; la discriminación legal y educacional(...)
Junto a los jóvenes y a la mujer, hay un tercer sector que me parece fundamental y que son los sectores populares. En el Chile del pasado los sectores populares eran partícipes de cualquier debate público. Pero en estos diez años, si ha existido un elemento sistemático, éste ha sido la exclusión de estos sectores, la destrucción de sus canales normales de integración a la sociedad; este ha sido el plan laboral del señor Pinera, cuyo propósito central era atomizar el movimiento sindical, establecer el paralelismo y romper el avance de 50 o 60 años de historia social de Chile; ha sido la disgregación como resultado de los nuevos esquemas y modelos económicos enfrentados.

También es cierto que han surgido en estos diez años una fuente de solidaridad popular que debe ser la base de su participación en la nueva sociedad. Pero ya no es cuestión de decir como en el pasado: "Incorporamos a los dirigentes sindicales y tenemos garantizada la participación de los sectores populares en la construcción de la sociedad". El tema es mucho más complejo y yo creo que si esos sectores no tienen una presencia real después de lo que les ha acaecido en estos diez años, si están ausentes de la reconstrucción, lo que construyamos no va a tener la fuerza necesaria, porque ese sector es central en la sociedad chilena.

Esto nos obligará a crear canales que hoy no visualizamos con claridad. Cómo establecer su incorporación cuando tenemos un 35% de cesantes, incluidos el PEM y el POJH? Cómo establecer su participación si tenemos un 20 o 25% de la fuerza de trabajo que son simplemente vendedores ambulantes o cuidadores de autos? Cómo pueden participar esos sectores populares en un proceso de reconstrucción más allá de la retórica? Yo creo que éste es un tema central en el debate.

También es importante, y en el mismo sentido, el tema de los profesionales. Nadie puede dudar de la potencia creativa de ese sector, nadie puede dudar de lo que este sector significó en la construcción del Chile del siglo XX. Cómo se incorpora a los profesionales, luego de esta óptica liberal y se transita con ellos hacia la responsabilidad social que les cabe en cuanto tales? Hace diez, quince o veinte años atrás esto era un lugar común. Hoy, en cambio, no es fácil porque durante 10 años el discurso ha apuntado en una sola dirección. Por eso, cuando decimos: Cómo incorporarlos? estamos planteando en qué medida pueden insertarse en este proceso de reconstrucción.

III. LOS GRANDES TEMAS DE LA RECONSTRUCCIÓN

Ya hemos visto este primer elemento que son los actores sociales que en mi concepto tienen que tener una participación central en la reconstrucción.

Pero, cómo vamos a reconstruir? Vamos a reconstruir en democracia. ¿Qué vamos a reconstruir? Vamos a reconstruir las
bases materiales para que la democracia pueda funcionar. Y la vamos a reconstruir pensando en el largo plazo, de manera de abarcar el desarrollo de la creatividad científica, cultural y artística, porque sin creatividad, las bases materiales que tengamos van a tender a agotarse, y sin esas bases materiales, el sistema democrático que construyamos se va a extinguir.

Quiero, entonces, referirme a los que a mi juicio son los grandes temas de debate y cuáles son los nudos en los cuales debiéramos centrar cualquier conversación: el tema de la democracia, el de la economía y el de la creatividad.

Yo quisiera aquí plantear tres hechos centrales, solamente, sobre el tema de la democracia.

En primer lugar, en estos diez años se ha revalorizado el sistema democrático como respuesta a la experiencia dictatorial, y esta revalorización que hoy todos compartimos ha desarrollado una suerte de pensamiento común, pero también un deseo de enfrentar críticamente el pasado, ya que si bien teníamos un sistema democrático, lo perdimos por errores de todos. En otras palabras, caímos en la dictadura porque hubo inmadurez política, porque existieron deficiencias históricas de muchos sectores y porque hubo un naufragio de nuestra clase dirigente.

Creo que si queremos reconstruir y revalorizar el sistema democrático, tenemos que ser serios en el análisis de las causas de nuestro naufragio. Y la responsabilidad es de todos los que participamos en él y nadie puede excluirse.

Es cierto que hubo muchos elementos externos, que hubo influencias foráneas. También que muchos se negaron a aceptar determinados cambios. Pero también es cierto que tal vez hubo el deseo de otros de realizar cambios sin haber logrado el respaldo social adecuado para llevarlos a cabo.

Yo creo que tenemos que entender la raíz que dió origen a la dictadura, más allá de la retórica fácil. Porque revalorizar la democracia significa también examinar el propio sistema para entender por qué naufragamos.

En segundo lugar, hemos entendido que existe una democracia formal y existe lo que nosotros creemos es una democracia participativa.

Muchos dirán: es preferible lo primero si no tenemos lo segundo. Pero me parece a mí que si no somos capaces de avanzar rápidamente para terminar con las graves diferencias entre gobernantes y gobernados; de entender que el sistema democrático no se agota con el voto sino que requiere de la participación constante de cada uno de nosotros, difícilmente vamos a poder reconstruir un sistema lo suficientemente sólido. No podemos creer que nuestra responsabilidad individual se ejerce sólo cada seis años.
La responsabilidad personal tiene que ser el principio y fundamento central de un sistema democrático. Responsabilidad personal, tanto de aquel que quiere ejercer sus derechos, como la del que ejerce la autoridad en nombre del pueblo. Si algo hemos aprendido de la dictadura es que la responsabilidad del gobernante tiene que ser compartida permanentemente con los gobernados.

El tema, entonces, es que la democracia no es solamente una técnica para administrar el poder. La democracia tiene que ser también algo mucho más importante: un mecanismo permanente para construir y reconstruir la sociedad en la cual vivimos. En ese sentido, cuando decimos: soberanía y responsabilidad directa del pueblo, estamos también diciendo: democracia en los lugares de trabajo, democracia en cada sector de la sociedad donde exista un grupo de hombres y mujeres que trabajan mancomunadamente, y no sólo como un ejercicio de control sobre un poder político que se encuentra allá lejano, en un Congreso, en un Palacio de la Moneda, en un Poder Judicial.

Una democracia como la que queremos implica, entonces, la necesidad de vastas reformas sociales y modificaciones en la estructura económica. De lo contrario, sería una democracia vacía, construida sobre la base de un sector social que lo tiene todo luego de diez años de dictadura y gracias a la dictadura, y otro sector social que prácticamente lo ha perdido todo (...)

Nuestro proyecto como socialistas, que obviamente no tiene por que coincidir totalmente con el de otras fuerzas, debe garantizar a los sectores populares los derechos para que, desde su propia perspectiva, sean capaces de realizar lo que son sus demandas sociales en el proceso de reconstrucción democrática. Esto no es decir nada nuevo. Es intentar restablecer los equilibrios perdidos en la búsqueda de un sistema democrático para todo Chile.

Hay un tercer elemento que es esencial en el proceso de la democracia y se refiere a los derechos humanos. Los derechos humanos, como fundamento ético de la política.

La reacción de la comunidad chilena ante la violación sistemática de estos derechos, muestra que éstos se han revalorizado. La demanda por derechos humanos es hoy una reivindicación de todos los chilenos frente a la represión y frente al terror del Estado.

Este demanda tiene que pasar al plano político, sin perder su carácter ético y debe transformarse también en una demanda hacia todos los que participamos en la política, de tal forma que tengamos un compromiso real y profundo con ellos.

Pero definir los derechos humanos como el derecho a la vida, en contraposición a la concepción totalitaria y violenta de la política, implica también definir la política como un me-
dio civilizado de enfrentamiento, y no como una lucha frontal por el poder, en que un sector arrasa con otro sector; porque en ese caso estamos violando los derechos del sector arrasado. En consecuencia, cuando queremos incorporar los derechos humanos como un fundamento de la política, estamos diciendo algo más que una frase retórica. Estamos planteando lo que en mi concepto eso significa respecto del tipo de debate que queremos tener en Chile. Yo creo que ese es un tema central que tiene que ser analizado y planteado con mucha claridad (...)

IV. LA TRANSICIÓN: PREFIGURACIÓN DE LA DEMOCRACIA

Esta reconstrucción se va a iniciar al interior del impulso democrático dado por la transición.

Visualizo la transición no como un interregno entre dictadura y democracia, sino más bien como el momento crucial de la transformación democrática. Lo que no somos capaces de hacer durante la transición, durante ese momento cuando se desploma la dictadura, difícilmente lo podremos introducir después, salvo a través de un largo y lento proceso de maduración. Y en consecuencia, la transición para nosotros adquiere una importancia vital, porque ella va a marcar el destino posterior de la sociedad chilena durante largos años.

Es por esto, entonces, que para nosotros transición implica no sólo desmantelar el aparato represivo del Estado; no sólo transformar este aparato del Estado y hacerlo conforme a los derechos humanos que visualizamos. Transición también significa modificar las bases de la estructura económica, de los grupos y bancos que en estos diez años se han constituido en el país. No creo que sea posible iniciar la transición si este tema no se aborda frontalmente (...)

Nos parece, por lo tanto, que cuando la Alianza dice que frente a la transición y durante ella tiene que haber una Asamblea Constituyente, debiéramos pensar en la posibilidad de agregar algo más.

Es posible tener, durante la transición y en tanto esta Asamblea genera la nueva institucionalidad algún Consejo, algún ente que preserve los derechos de los chilenos durante esa transición: el derecho a opinar, el derecho a tener acceso a los medios de comunicación. Porque se puede hacer una declaración lírica sobre el derecho a opinar, pero, en el Chile que recibiremos, quiénes van a poder hacerlo? Quiénes tienen hoy la prensa?

Entonces, si este tema tiene ese grado de importancia, es necesario preguntarse cómo establecer un mecanismo durante la transición que realmente permita que todos podamos decir nuestra verdad. Y lo planteamos los socialistas porque tenemos viva conciencia de esos desequilibrios. La transición tiene que reconocerlos e incorporar estas demandas (...)

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Cuando se plantea reconstruir la economía, se plantea hacerlo en torno a tres principios fundamentales: primero, reconstruir para tener una economía al servicio de la mayoría nacional; segundo, reconstruir para tener una economía cuyas grandes decisiones y las más centrales se hacen mediante la participación democrática de todos, especialmente en lo que se refiere a los grandes flujos de inversión; y tercero, reconstruir una economía diversificada e integrada de acuerdo a lo que hoy son las necesidades de las grandes mayorías. Y la sociedad chilena, a diferencia de otras; y la economía chilena, a diferencia de otras, sí lo puede hacer. No es el caso entrar aquí en detalles, pero diversos estudios indican que si establecemos una línea de pobreza definida como el ingreso indispensable para tener acceso mínimo a los bienes y servicios esenciales desde el punto de vista de la nutrición, con un 4 % del producto que se desvía a esos sectores es suficiente, un 4 %.

Sobre la base de estos principios, y al igual que con la institucionalidad, tenemos que revisar lo que recibimos, toda la legislación sobre riquezas básicas. Creo que Chile tiene el derecho a decir: No fuimos consultados, y por lo tanto, no lo reconocemos.

En segundo lugar, tenemos que revisar todo lo que se refiere a la deuda externa. En este aspecto, por unos convenios en Nueva York, nos transformaron la deuda privada en pública. Ahora, los 11 mil millones de dólares que fueron a cinco grupos, los pagan todos los chilenos.

Esa entrega de la soberanía chilena -- lo dije tiempo atrás y no ha sido desmentido -- no tiene parangón en la historia de Chile.

En tanto Chile no sepa lo que se ha firmado, la sociedad chilena no está obligada al pago de aquéllo.

El tercer punto que tenemos que revisar son los derechos de propiedad. Todo lo acaecido en este último tiempo, si no fuera trágico, serviría para escribir un sainete. Porque este sistema, cuya base y esencia es la propiedad privada, se ha transformado en un sistema en que no sabemos de quién son las principales empresas y bancos de Chile.

Que dichas empresas estén dadas en garantía a los bancos; que los bancos estén adeudados con el Estado... y entonces pregunto: Quién es el dueño? Y el sacrosanto derecho de propiedad dónde quedó?

Habrá que revisar esos derechos de propiedad. Tenemos que saber quiénes son los dueños de ese que se está manejando sin sujeción a nada, por personas que son nombradas quizás con qué legalidad, y que implica una clarísima contradicción con todo lo que se habló en estos diez años. Estos tres elementos son, a mi juicio, componentes de la transición en lo económico.
V. LA RECONSTRUCCIÓN ECONÓMICA

A partir de los principios que hemos enunciado y luego de haber revisado esto que es lo mínimo a revisar, habrá que iniciar la reconstrucción. En ella el elemento central obviamente será el empleo, porque no puede existir una sociedad en que un porcentaje tan alto de los suyos no tiene una ocupación digna. Y crear empleo quiere decir reactivar; reactivar quiere decir poner en marcha lo que teníamos.

Pero si sólo reactivamos, estaremos reactivando para llegar a la misma sociedad que teníamos, con las diferencias de ingreso que teníamos y con las desigualdades que teníamos. Y en consecuencia, cuando planteamos reactivación, estamos planteando reactivación en un contexto de modificación sustancial de lo que estamos recibiendo.

Esta reactivación – y no es el caso entrar en detalles – tiene que tener ciertos motores centrales, y la base de ella tienen que ser aquéllos sectores que producen los bienes y servicios esenciales para esa población que hoy no come, que hoy no se nutre, que hoy no tiene techo y cuyas demandas, tenemos que satisfacer en primer lugar. Y eso pasa por modificar radicalmente la estructura productiva.

Habrá que entrar de allí al tema de la industria y los grados de apertura. Habrá que entrar al tema de la agricultura y qué significa ésta respecto de la producción de alimentos; qué significa respecto de la seguridad alimentaria de este país, cuando hace un año atrás la mitad del trigo debió ser importado; qué significa la agricultura respecto de las necesidades esenciales, de los cambios producidos en el agro. Habrá que partir de una economía que está destruida en lo industrial y destruida en lo agrícola. Creo que tanta destrucción quizá pueda tener como elemento positivo el poder replantearnos sobre las cuales queremos iniciar este proceso de reconstrucción en la industria y la agricultura como elementos centrales.

Entonces tendremos que explorar también cual va a ser el rol del Estado. En este punto quiero indicar dos cosas centrales: socialismo no es igual a estatismo. Socialismo sí, es igual a un estado grande, controlado por una participación democrática de todos. Y en este sentido y ante tanta destrucción, cualquiera sean las consecuencias y los proyectos que se impongan en el Chile del mañana, el rol del Estado tiene que ser central. Unos vamos a querer atribuirle un rol mayor que otros, pero cualquiera sea la ideología del gobierno, el rol del Estado va a ser esencial.

Si ello es así, entonces el tema es central, dado que el Estado lo va a cruzar todo. El Estado va a cruzar la industria, el Estado va a cruzar la agricultura, el Estado va a decidir el uso del excedente de la minería y de las riquezas básicas, el Estado va a ser el único ente capaz de restablecer los flujos crediticios del exterior. Nunca más será po-
sible que un capitalista privado vaya a conseguir plata al exterior, simplemente porque la situación internacional ya no lo permite.

En consecuencia, el Estado tendrá un rol preponderante en el sistema económico. Si en estos diez años, con todo el flujo financiero externo, el sector privado no fue capaz de llegar a los niveles de inversión históricos de Chile, en el futuro el Estado va a tener que hacer el resto de la inversión, cualquiera sea el sistema que se elija.

En nuestra concepción, hay un conjunto de áreas que son áreas del Estado. El sistema financiero debe ser del Estado. Algunos se escandalizan, pero en 1945 De Gaulle estatizó el 75% del sistema financiero y ahora Mitterand el 25% que quedaba. Y que yo sepa, la sociedad francesa no se ha modificado radicalmente, ni es una tiranía. Acostumbrémonos a debatir los temas con un cierto grado de madurez.

A mi juicio, más que debatir sobre este rol del Estado, que para unos será mayor y para otros será menor, es más importante que el debate se centre sobre cuáles son los controles de la sociedad civil sobre el Estado y que no confundamos Estado con gobierno, porque Estado es la expresión de una sociedad jurídicamente organizada y va más allá del poder ejecutivo del gobierno.

En consecuencia, cuando los Socialistas decimos que creemos en un rol central para el Estado, no estamos hablando de un estatismo burocratizado por algunos jerarcas iluminados en la Oficina de Planificación, diseñando las grandes líneas.

Lo que estamos planteando es que hay determinadas directrices centrales en la economía donde nos parece que el Estado, como representante de esa sociedad, lo hace mejor que el sector privado. Lo importante, una vez más, es debatir qué tipo de controles establecer sobre ese Estado. Aquí me parece que hay un campo muy importante que debiéramos ser capaces de dilucidar. Ello es también más importante que debatir si el Estado puede ser buen empresario. Después de lo acaecido en estos diez años sabemos muy bien quiénes son malos empresarios (...) Quiero, finalmente, señalar un par de temas más. Uno se refiere al más largo plazo. La construcción de un sistema democrático con ciertas bases materiales al servicio de la mayoría, no se sustenta a sí mismo si la sociedad no es capaz de establecer en el largo plazo mecanismos de creatividad en el campo de la inteligencia de la ciencia, del desarrollo de la cultura y del desarrollo del arte. En ese sentido, no es retórica decir que para que una sociedad tenga viabilidad nacional, tiene que tener una cierta capacidad para desarrollar ciencia y tecnología.

Es absurdo suponer, como se ha hecho en estos diez años, que basta con importar el último computador para creer que esta-
mos en la frontera del conocimiento. Creo que eso solamente
es propio de bárbaros de Chicago, que no tienen una conciencia clara de lo que es cultura y creación científica y que
han demostrado, en una aplicación de mecánica de cuatro ide-
as de texto y diagramas de pizarrón, una absoluta ignorancia
científica, empezando por la falta de humildad que han tenido.
Porque si algo caracteriza a la ciencia es un cierto
grado de humildad para aproximarse a los problemas.

En el caso de Chile, la ciencia y la tecnología, dada las
características de nuestro país, han estado intimamente li-
gadas a una institución: La Universidad (...)

De ahí entonces la necesidad de establecer un espacio ade-
cuado para la creación científica que nos lleva necesaria-
mente al campo de la Universidad, campo respecto del cual,
difícilmente vamos a poder restablecer un Chile distinto si
no es estableciendo el camino que ésta tuvo (...)

VI. UNA CONCEPCIÓN SOCIALISTA RENOVADA

Eugenio González escribía hace ya casi 30 años sobre el Es-
tado o la democracia, la economía, la ciencia y la técnica,
desde el punto de vista de la concepción del socialismo: "La
técnica, la economía y la política, de simples medios han
llegado a convertirse en fines eminentes. El socialismo, y
esa es la raíz de su fuerza ética y de su significado cul-
tural, tiende a restablecer la subordinación de los medios a
los fines y a determinar estos últimos de acuerdo con una
jerarquía de valores cuyo eje sea la dignidad de la persona.
Aprovechar la técnica, organizar la economía y configurar el
Estado de modo que sean posibles conjuntamente la libertad
política, la justicia económica y el desarrollo espiritual.
Podría decirse que el socialismo es una respuesta positiva
al desafío de las fuerzas disgregantes del mundo actual". (...)

En ese sentido, lo acaecido en estos diez años ha implicado
también un grado de renovación de muchos conceptos. Me pare-
ce, por ejemplo, que en el campo de la política del Estado y
la democracia, hemos aprendido que el partido no lo es todo,
que han surgido autonomías de determinados movimientos de
jóvenes, de mujeres y sindicales, al margen de las posicio-
nes ideológicas y de la adhesión a partidos de cada uno de
sus miembros. Esto nos enseña que existen campos o ámbitos
de la vida en sociedad respecto de los cuales es positivo el
grado de autonomía que se le reconozca como un elemento de-
mocratizador de la sociedad.

Si ello es así, quiere decir que cuando estamos planteando
aumentar los grados de participación en esos ámbitos del
movimiento social, estamos profundizando una determinada
concepción del socialismo, en tanto lo estamos definiendo
como un sistema que garantiza la participación de todos en
el manejo de la sociedad.
De igual modo, con respecto a la economía, estamos replanteando la vieja dicotomía entre planificación centralizada versus planificación descentralizada. Y de igual forma, frente a la propiedad de los medios de producción, lo que estamos diciendo es que el socialismo no es igual a que todos los medios de producción sean del Estado, que el Estado sea igual al gobierno y que el gobierno sea igual al partido.

No estamos planteando esa caricatura. Más bien la estamos rechazando. Sí estamos diciendo que sin esas bases materiales al servicio de todos no podemos construir esa democracia con el grado de participación que buscamos. En definitiva, por lo tanto, sin un grado de democratización profunda, sin un cierto grado de igualdad en lo económico no vamos a poder tener un verdadero sistema democrático. Este elemento es muy viejo pero permanentemente tiende a olvidarse cuando se hace esta caricatura de incompatibilidad entre socialismo y democracia, en circunstancias que, al menos en nuestra versión, la verdad es precisamente que más democracia implica más igualdad, más bases materiales y en consecuencia, así nos acercamos a un sistema socialista.

Hay, creo yo, una nueva y renovada óptica de lo que ha sido el socialismo en estos años. Han existido influencias externas, porque no somos una isla ni creemos que aquí desarrollemos todas nuestras ideas, como algunos lo andan preguntando cuando atacan las ideas "foráneas". Esto que nos llega de afuera, sin embargo, lo pasamos por el tamiz de lo nuestro.

Esta nueva y renovada óptica de cómo el socialismo quiere aprehender los grandes temas, no tiene por objeto sino alcanzar lo que en último término es el ideal socialista: el fin de la injusticia.

Son viejos temas, y queremos conversarlos con todos, aún con aquellos que no piensan en el socialismo como el ideal en que nosotros creemos. Pero queremos abordar e iniciar el debate con una cierta humildad; creyendo en nuestra verdad, pero aceptando, tiene que ser el sentido último del proceso de reconstrucción que queremos iniciar para Chile (...)

(Suite de la page 27)

service du plus grand nombre; les décisions-clé seront préparées démocratiquement et la nouvelle économie sera diversifiée et intégrée; l’emploi et de la sécurité alimentaire en seront les priorités. L’auteur conclut que le socialisme n’est pas synonyme d’étatisme, et que l’État lui-même ne se réduit pas à son gouvernement. Le respect de tels principes exige des mécanismes permettant à la société civile de demander des comptes à l’État. La transition sera la préfiguration de la démocratie à venir.
IFDA CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN

IFDA is contributing in its own ways to the 40th anniversary of the United Nations. Readers may have noticed the editorials of N°43 (US vs UN?), 44 (Pour un nouveau dialogue Nord-Sud), 45 (United Nations: the next 40 years), 47 (Majority must take lead in remaking the UN), 48 (Los tejemanejes de Nairobi). They will find in this issue (pp.63-70), a statement by the Ambassador of Canada to the UN in New York, Stephen Lewis, as well as an analysis of the opinion survey mentioned in the editorial.

Furthermore, IFDA prepared a 22-page think piece, The future of the United Nations: Some questions on the occasion of an anniversary which has been circulated to members of its Committee and Council as well as to some 200 other persons. This paper is available on request.

IFDA also organized, in the context of the 18th Conference of the Society for International Development (Rome, 1-4 July) a panel on the Future of the UN. Under the chairmanship of Marc Nerfin, four IFDA panelists, Gamani Corea, former Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Helan Jaworski, Secretary-General of IPS Third World News Agency, Juan Somavia, President of ILET and Inga Thorsson, former chairperson of the Swedish delegation to the Conference on Disarmament, interacted with 17 discussants from all regions.

IFDA Executive Committee members present in Rome (Ismail-Sabri Abdalla, Marc Nerfin, Ignacy Sachs, Marie Angélique Savané, Juan Somavia, Rodolfo Stavenhagen and Inga Thorsson) met on 5 July together with Council members Gamani Corea, Idriss Jazairy, President of IFAD and Don Mills, former Representative of Jamaica to the UN, to discuss follow up action.

These activities stimulated many expressions of interest and new contributions. Among others, the following persons or institutions have cared to react, through letters, comments, discussions or documents to IFDA's "questions on the occasion of anniversary": Paul Berthoud, former senior UN civil servant; Maurice Bertrand, member of the UN Joint Inspection Unit; Elise Boulding and Gregory Prince of the Dartmouth College (US); Enrique Buj-Flores, Representative of Mexico to UNEP in Nairobi; Diego Luis Castellanos, former chairman of the Group of 77 in Geneva (Venezuela); the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation; Mahdi Elmandjra, Mohammed V University (Morocco); Lars-Göran Engfelt, Swedish Foreign Ministry; Richard Falk, Princeton University (US); Herb Feith, Monash University (Australia); Jack Fobes, former Deputy Director General of Unesco and chairman of Americans for the Universality of Unesco; Nashon Fitzwanga, International Law Association (Kenya); Peter Jankowitsch, Member of Parliament, International Secretary of the Socialist party of Austria; the King of Lesotho; Robert Muller, UN Assistant Secretary General; Hilkka Pietilä, Secretary General of the Finnish UN Association; Jean Ripert, UN Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation; John G. Ruggie, Colombia University (US); the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries; Bernard Wood, Executive Director of the North-South Institute (Canada)...

The materials and comments are being analyzed, and further action will be reported in due course.
Abstract: Nutrition is not only a problem of health. It is necessary to consider it as the biological translation of a number of socio-economic factors afflicting a given society. The author identifies six principle causes and examines the capacity of actual systems to reduce them. He describes the elements of an overall strategy as well as the specific role of the health sector. He concludes that any solution requires taking into account both the national and international perspectives and context.

Le rôle de la santé et de la nutrition dans le développement

Résumé: La malnutrition n'est pas seulement un problème de santé. Il faut y voir la traduction biologique d'un ensemble de facteurs socio-économiques agissant dans une société donnée. L'auteur identifie six causes principales et examine la capacité des systèmes actuels à les réduire. Il décrit les éléments d'une stratégie d'ensemble ainsi que le rôle spécifique du secteur de la santé. Il conclut que toute solution requiert la prise en compte des perspectives nationales et internationales.

El papel de la salud y la nutrición en el desarrollo

Resumen: La malnutrición no es sólo un problema de salud. Debe considerarse la interpretación biológica de un conjunto de factores socioeconómicos que actúan dentro de una sociedad dada. El autor identificó seis causas principales y examina la capacidad de los sistemas actuales para atenuarlas. Describe los elementos de una estrategia de conjunto y el papel específico del sector de la salud. Finalmente llega a la conclusión que toda solución exige tomar en cuenta las perspectivas nacionales e internacionales.
The solving of problems of malnutrition was for many years considered primarily a health activity and prerogative.

The modern approach to the problem - after having witnessed the failure of many attempts to solve malnutrition through health interventions alone - is to rather consider malnutrition as the biological translation of a variety of socioeconomic problems afflicting a given society. Therefore, we now approach the problem as a "food and nutrition" problem to avoid the above bias. This means looking at the root causes of malnutrition and at their resolution along the Food Chain, defined as the paths food follows from its production (or import) to its consumption and utilization by individuals in the population.

The traditional steps of this food chain are the following:

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Production | Transport | Marketing | Consumption | Utilization:
            |           |           |             | - Digestion
            |           |           |             | - Absorption
            |           |           |             | - Metabolization
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At each step of the chain one finds bottle-necks that directly or indirectly contribute to malnutrition. It is the task of the food and nutrition planning process to identify these multiple constraints and to propose viable solutions for as many of them as possible to allow for a smooth left-to-right flow of the different foods in the chain. In so doing, the aim is to minimize the negative impacts of each constraint, in maintaining malnutrition as a national problem.

It should come as no surprise that key elements of a host of economic, infrastructural, manpower, agricultural, educational, environmental, health and other constraints need to be considered in any diagnostic analysis of the problem and that solutions often far-removed from strict "nutritional" interventions are proposed as indispensable to achieve success in the battle against malnutrition. Special mention should be made of the immense potential of integrating two of the classical development programs at the crux of the malnutrition problem. We refer to the integration of primary health care with agricultural and rural development activities. Both require a food and nutrition input that needs to be coordinated.

A number of major constraints to better health and nutrition are probably common to most Third World countries.
Food and nutrition problems are strongly linked to the problem of urban migration. Every urban-migrating young adult male represents at the same time two less arms to produce food and one more mouth to feed in the city through the efforts of those who stayed behind (mostly women, children and elderly men). For this reason, increases foreseen in food supplies are probably going to be only moderate in the future. Therefore, cities will continue to deteriorate if the countryside does not prosper. On the other hand, the "traditional" agricultural sector will continue to be, for years to come, the number one moving force of the country, producing more than 80% of the food eaten in most countries. Availability of productive employment, revenue and food (basically staples) is often seasonal in rural areas thus compounding the problems of health and nutrition during the hungry season.

In most of these countries a sizeable proportion of the population (those of low income or subsistence status) get less than the FAO recommended averages daily calorie ration of 2200 calories. Although urban average often surpass the above recommendation, it is in the cities, also, where we find the largest income disparities. We can, therefore, safely assume that 30-40% of urban dwellers are also below the norm.

Moreover, the cost of a minimum cost diet for an average family of five or six members is often above the minimum wages of most unskilled workers in urban centers. Calorie deficiencies and malnutrition should come as no surprise under such circumstances.

The overall purchasing power of the population (mostly poor) will improve only very slowly, causing the effective demand for food to grow only very slowly as well. The demand for food is not equal for the different socio-economic groups and for the different types of food (especially those of animal origin).

Averages hide disparities of the economic behaviour of different sectors of the population. This heterogeneity in the possibility of acquiring food (secondary to income distribution disparities) can in the future generate social tensions.

Finally, another factor hampering well-being that needs to be tackled is the negative impact of the environment and infectious and parasitic diseases on the nutritional status of the low income groups. Environmental sanitation, potable water, immunizations, as well as overall preventive medical services and child spacing will become increasingly important in combating malnutrition in vulnerable groups as defined earlier.

The causes of malnutrition can arbitrarily be classified into six categories, namely:
1. Socio-economic causes;
2. Political causes (related to government policies);
3. Agricultural causes;
4. Health and environmental causes;
5. Educational causes (includes cultural determinants);
6. Administrative, managerial and infrastructural causes.

The ordering of the above causes in the sequence shown probably reflects their order of magnitude in perpetuating the problem. A deliberate effort to identify these causes should be made to put the problem of malnutrition, and the chances of doing something about it, in the proper perspective for each particular country. This exercise will also help to better design appropriate nutrition/health interventions with special reference to Primary Health Care.

CAPACITY OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

As the list of determinants of malnutrition is so extensive, intricaded and interrelated and as the scope of our efforts focuses more on health, interventions, let us first briefly analyze the set of overall policies and interventions needed to decidedly move towards erradicating the problem of malnutrition to then focus our attention on the special role of health interventions in this process.

Overall strategy

The capacity of the system to alleviate hunger and malnutrition in the long-run depends on the concerted efforts the government is making to tackle the root causes of malnutrition. This is in turn related to whether the government is really committed to this task. Equity oriented policies are at the center of this commitment since adequate food consumption due to poverty is the main underlying problem.

Commitment in this respect might be reflected, among other, by labour-intensive agricultural production, by high priority placed on production of crops for domestic consumption, by a reasonable equitable food distribution system and by a broad-based participatory system of health services. Based on past experience, the above capacity of the system to do something significant about malnutrition should be judged as poor unless a significant number of some of the following actions are foreseen and carried out in the national development plan:

- measures to slow down urban migration by increasing rural employment opportunities, making agriculture more profitable and providing a minimum of infrastructural services in rural communities.
This entails a change in investment priorities towards overall rural development:

- measures to curb urban unemployment;
- major staples in the country must be made profitable to producers;
- incorporation of women into the development process explicitly, i.e. making them eligible for bank loans and credit;
- government marketing boards to pay fair market prices to producers of cash crops in the traditional sector;
- agricultural banks to strike a fairer balance between cash-crop and food-crop credit allocation: favouring the latter;
- minimum wage policies to be based on minimum cost diet studies;
- higher import duties to be levied on luxury items, especially luxury foods and beverages;
- the volume of subsidies for selected durable inputs (i.e. tools and small machines) for small farmers to be increased;
- installation or expansion of rural cooperative systems;
- subsidization of fertilizers and pesticides imports and proper balance to be stricken between the proportion of these inputs going to food production as opposed to cash-crop production;
- logistical support for agricultural extension workers and community development workers;
- priority to home and school gardening programs and small dry-season irrigation projects;
- measures to improve farm-level food storage practices to significantly decrease food losses;
- primary school enrollment as percentage of eligible school-age children to be increased. Includes the opening of more schools and the progressive teaching of more work-related skills in the same (especially in agriculture);
- adult literacy campaign with emphasis on women to be intensified;
- strong drive for community development and organization to foster citizens participation in development activities at all levels;
- organization of a network of daycare centers and nurseries in the country.

This list of interventions is by no means complete, but probably reflects most of the more equity-oriented actions committed governments would embark on. The collection of some of the data related to the causes of malnutrition as depicted in the proceeding pages should help to objectivate the degree of commitment a given government has.

Although improving the nutritional status of vulnerable groups in the population remains closely related to the alleviation of poverty, it also requires specific interventions from many sectors. Some determinants of malnutrition are, for instance, amenable to partial or total correction through explicit health interventions.
Special role of the health sector in the battle against malnutrition

It is now quite universally accepted that primary health care (PHC) is the most viable, logical and best possible approach to eventually reach the goal of health for all by the year 2000. Whenever PHC gets a commitment beyond lip service in the allocation of resources in a country it actually has the potential, because of, among others, its appropriateness in design and choice of technology pointing towards higher degrees of self-sufficiency and its need for active community participation and involvement. As such, PHC both addresses the host of local health problems as felt by the beneficiaries and has the added potential to go beyond traditional health care concerns in organizing the people around some activities that eventually have an added potential to address some of the root causes of malnutrition and poverty. In short, PHC carries in it the seed for an important mobilization of the rural communities to change some of the determinants of their condition.

As can be suspected, a genuine PHC emphasis requires some painful re-shifting of priorities in health, often away from urban-biased, big-hospital and doctor-centered traditional approaches.

In general, the range of health interventions that point towards PHC goals (although not always strictly PHC activities) would be among the following:

- construction, staffing, equipping and opening to use of more primary health clinics. Includes training of necessary paramedical personnel, village health workers and traditional birth attendants;
- a higher percentage of the national health budget to be shifted to preventive services;
- expansion of national vaccination programs;
- expansion and extension of coverage of overall maternal-child health services including child-spacing and family planning services;
- emphasis to be given to preventive and curative approaches to intestinal parasites, malaria and diarrheal diseases including Oral re-hydration therapy (ORT);
- promotion activities to increase the number of deliveries properly attended by trained personnel and expansion of the pre-natal control of mothers (includes monitoring maternal nutrition during pregnancy and lactation and provision of iron and folate supplements plus tetanus vaccination and malaria prevention during pregnancy);
- promotion and expansion of latrine construction programs through self-help;
- the number of households with access to safe and sufficient drinking water to be increased through self-help projects;
introduction and use of growth charts in all clinics including the training of the personnel to use them properly and periodic reporting of growth retardation trends found;

retraining of field health personnel with emphasis on nutrition and preventive health activities;

development of nutrition protocols for the treatment of malnourished children to standardize the therapeutique approach at the national level;

mechanisms to record and periodically report birth weight data to be set up;

review and improvement of the nutrition curriculum in all university health related schools;

introduction of health and nutrition education through the radio;

introduction of health and nutrition modules in the science curricula of primary, secondary and technical schools;

import controls of baby formulas and baby weaning foods assuring reasonable margins of profit for wholesalers and retailers; promotion of these products through the media to be stopped.

Again, this list is not necessarily complete and, as said, includes some not strictly PHC policy options. Directly or indirectly, all of them are related to the problem of malnutrition and the ways and means to ameliorate it. Therefore, an assessment of whether national health plans incorporate these activities at all and to what degree will help to determine the capacity of the health sector to tackle some of the determinants of malnutrition in its realm. We all know that the implementation of all these interventions is very expensive - especially the expansion of all sorts of health coverages and the training efforts needed to achieve the same - and is, therefore, beyond the capacity of any average Third World country in the short run. Nevertheless, health policies can clearly point in the right direction (with PHC as a distinct priority) without major increases in economic resources allocated, or they can stay the course, relegating PHC to a token program within the health strategy.

The capacity of the health sector to affect changes, of course, does not only depend on the policy options chosen (the political instance) and the qualitative considerations about each intervention proposed (the technical instance) but very importantly on the budgetary, material and human resources available to carry out those plans (the infrastructure's capacity).

If we go back to the incorporation of nutrition components in the design and operation of PHC projects, this latter question is crucial. Can whatever we are going to ask to be done be really done with the existing infrastructure in primary health care in the country? If the answer is no, then the strengthening of that PHC structure is (or will become) the first priority of our effort to incorporate nutrition
considerations. Too often this has been overlooked and well conceived components of PHC programs have stayed unapplied.

Of primary importance, then, is that planners spend some time in inventoring available resources in PHC and nutrition as they exist at present in the country. Once this is done, the missing resources can be inventoried and the needs and areas for improvements can be identified, both for health and nutrition components, and both in infrastructure and in actual programme components, disaggregated by region or province and in budgetary, material and human resource terms.

In summary, food and nutrition interventions have to be looked upon, both in a national and an international perspective and context. Foreign aid, intended to alleviate hunger and malnutrition, has created dependency, the foreign debt it generates being a constant reminder of neo-colonial relationships between the countries of the North and the South. Part of the borrowed money has been used to maintain consumption levels (mostly urban) at a time when the prices of Third World countries' exports commodities are falling. Little of that borrowed money contributed to economic growth and food self-sufficiency has tended to fall.

So, do we need to invest more heavily in better health and nutrition programs? The answer is, obviously, YES. But we are told that governments cannot tolerate empowerment and autonomy of communities and primary health care should do exactly that. This is the challenge committed health workers face: to revert this grim picture, since the final, more profound solutions will depend on the resolution of the MACRO determinants we started to enumerate earlier.

We ought to be advocates of the poor. But, are we?...Is putting nutrition into PHC programs enough? There has been a general failure to tackle the profound underlying causes, such as land distribution, land shortages, low farm gate prices, lack of investment in the peasant sector, i.e. in health, education and water and an unwillingness to leave the control of food production in the hands of its producers; the peasants also are under pressure by their governments (who are pressured from outside themselves) to favour technically advanced, large-scale farms; agribusiness will not reverse the Third World's food shortages!

The main problem remains: POVERTY. Emphasis on production fails to address the problem of WHY people in rural areas are poor, in poor health and malnourished. They are not self-destructive or short-sighted, but oppressed. We must become better advocates towards a politization of the health sector. Our first goal is to universalize PHC so that it can acquire the capacity to carry a nutrition component.
SOCIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SELF-RELIANT DEVELOPMENT

STEVAN DEDIJER WRITES TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRY X

Prof. Stevan Dedijer has recently completed for the United Nations University a 47-page paper on "Social intelligence for self-reliant development, basis for government policy in the intelligence revolution", and, for the reasons he explains, he addresses it directly to the Chief Secretary to the Head of Government of any Third World country who may care to read it. The full text of the paper is available from the author (Dept. of Business Administration, Lund University, POB 5138, 22008 Lund, Sweden). Here is the text of the letter (cf. also IFDA Dossier 22, pp 15-24).

The Chief Secretary
Head of Government
20 March 1985

Dear Sir,

Dr Anouar Abdel Malek, the Coordinator of the United Nations University Project "The Emergence of New Social Thought", has invited me to write this paper on what may seem to you a strange subject.

Why am I sending this paper at the same time to you personally and to Dr Abdel Malek?

As you know, time is an essential development resource. Hence, I believe that the emergence of a new social thought in the most industrialised countries should reach you without the usual delay.

Thousands of signals from history, as those on the title page, tell that wise, inspired men, statesmen, philosophers, scientists have always perceived that the intellectual capability, the capability to create, acquire, distribute and use in action various types of knowledge, is essential for human development. Man has made endless numbers of innovations, artificial means to amplify, imitate and enhance the work of his brains. In this paper I present evidence that the most industrialised countries, the OECD countries, are creating a radical new expansion of the intellectual capacity of their individual citizens, enterprises, organisations, governments, of their countries cultures, as a whole. OECD countries are leading humanity into a new phase of evolution of its intellectual capability, its intelligence. We
are entering a new intelligence revolution. Our intelligence revolution can be compared in depth and impact only to such similar intelligence revolution in humanity's social evolving as that caused by the invention of writing in 3000BC, of mass communication media and scientific method in 1500-1700 AD.

This revolution in the cognitive power of humanity is so new, so complex that even in OECD countries creating it there is still confusion and debate what is really happening. Among hundreds such signals, one finds that professional observers of world changes, such as the President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, Professor Gunnar Hambraeus, notes in a 1984 report entitled "Towards the Future in an accelerating Tempo" that in the light of changes in our knowledge of machine intelligence, and human intelligence, there is confusion and debate on what intelligence is. Other observers of the world scene, use limited approaches, inadequate concepts to describe this emerging change in human intellectual capability.

The development of computers and digitalised communication technology has enormously expanded the hardware available for data capture ability, data storage capability and data processing speeds. Hence, technology fixated observers name what is happening a "Computer, Communication, Electronics Revolution", "Electronics Age", "Communication Era". Other observers are impressed by the fact that in the OECD countries the agriculture production sector employs today only from 3 to 6% of the labour force, the manufacturing sector from 20 to 35%, while from 35 to 65% of their labour force is employed now in the primary and secondary information industries, in various kinds of knowledge production and use sectors. Hence, they tend to call ours "the post-industrial society", "the information society", "informatics society", "knowledge industry revolution". Both groups of observers, first, do not perceive that information, knowledge and related technology are resources, raw materials for problem processing and decision making. Both groups of observers neglect to see the simultaneous, rapid, general development of human and machine software perceptivity, software flexibility, software efficiency and software range. These four integrated with the previous hardware factors constitute the ability of a system (artificial, living, social) to adjust appropriately to a changing world, that is, its intelligence.

A few observers who approach the changes in the intellectual capability broadly, see, as T. Kobayashi of Nippon Electric Corporation, the emergence of the intelligence revolution: "In the future, the interaction of Factor Man with the computers and digitalised will result in the Growth of intelligence of individuals, firms, governments, societies and internationally". The power of man's eyes, ears, brains, and skills to adapt to an evolving world is increasing so rapidly that it can be described as intelligence revolution.
Winners and Losers in the Intelligence Revolution. As in every revolution in history, there will be winners and losers in the emerging intelligence revolution. The OECD countries are incessantly creating the social, cognitive, technological innovations to increase the intellectual capability of their individual citizens, organisations and of their countries as a whole. One cannot blame the corporations, governments of OECD countries for using in their own interest this intelligence weapon. But one must blame the leaders of countries not creating this revolution for not making efforts to become aware of what is happening, for not devising ways to mobilise the intelligence resources of their nations for stable, secure development while interacting with OECD countries.

Inspired by UN agencies and information industry corporations, such efforts of Third World countries as "National information policy", "Information for development policy", "Computers-communications purchase policy" and even "Information technology policy" (aiming to develop the local computer-communication production), as I see it, are necessary but by far inadequate policy tools to avoid the threats and use the opportunities offered by the intelligence revolution for a country like yours. Today, computer illiteracy is just as dangerous for a country's development as the reading-writing illiteracy of the population in the past. This is only one, the most obvious, threat to your country from the emerging intelligence revolution. There are many more and equally serious such threats you must face in the near future.

In order to avoid the most dangerous of such threats — that of not being aware of the emerging intelligence revolution — I am sending this paper to you personally, right now, without waiting to reach you through "the usual channels". From long personal experience in a number of countries like yours, I know how important a position you occupy not only in relation to its head of government but to your society. At one time in 1945 I acted as chief of cabinet to the second most powerful man in Yugoslavia, Edward Kardelj. I was a friend to one of Tito's chief secretaries. I have worked with the Cabinet Secretary of Nehru and Shastri in India, talked with men occupying your position in Jamaica, Ethiopia, Portugal, etc. Thinking over such experience I know that you can help to increase the awareness of the head of government and the power establishment of the emerging intelligence revolution, of which the power establishments in the OECD countries are just beginning to be aware. Waiting that they become aware of this new, strange, emerging stage in the social evolution of humanity, which is the intelligence revolution by the usual, mostly OECD and United Nations channels, can greatly increase the lag of your country relative to the most industrialised ones. Such a delay to increase the awareness will only strengthen the disparity in the "intellectual capacity" inside and among various societies of which the editor of SCIENCE, Philip Abelson speaks.
By now, and especially when you read my analysis of underdevelopment, you will be strongly tempted to throw this paper away without finishing reading it. Instead of that, I propose that you do two things.

First, find two young bright men or women, and give them the task to scan the wide range of sources, data, facts, information, perceptions I have and have not used to check my hypothesis of the emergence of the intelligence revolution.

Second, if they confirm my perception of the emergence of the intelligence revolution, to report to you on the following questions:

- What is, in the sense of social intelligence as described in my paper, the intelligence capability of the Head of government of our country?
- What is the intelligence of other individuals occupying key positions in the power, economic, intellectual communities of our country?
- What is the intelligence capability of key organisations, agencies, enterprises, and production sectors in our country?
- How can we improve and use better for our stable, secure development the intelligence of every individual, every organisation and of our country as a whole?

These questions are the product of the emerging new social thought about the intelligence revolution. Every emerging new social thought, until it is tested, confirmed by numerous observers, makes most people — except those who produce it — uncomfortable. Its first formulations and explanations seem illogical, strange, inconsistent, contradictory to most one has learned or thought in the past. New social thought disturbs the ways of thinking, the "programs" of concepts and rules already existing in our brain, which seem "logical", "precise" in comparison with the new emerging ones. New social thought throws disorder in the well established framework through which we look at social reality around us. New social thought is based on new concepts which often give new meanings — unusual meanings — to old ones, we are used to.

I hope that you personally will have the patience and the curiosity to test its validity in relation to the development problems of your country.

Sincerely yours,

Stevan Dedijer

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RESUMÉ: L'auteur constate l'échec du projet européen, tant capitaliste que 'socialiste', de modernisation du Tiers Monde en général et de l'Afrique noire en particulier et en examine les causes. Ces tentatives ont notamment méconnu la dimension culturelle, au sens large, des sociétés non occidentales, et, marquées par un passé de colonisation et d'esclavage, elles vont de pair avec les contradictions des élites 'blanc/noir', le dualisme économique et la dépendance. L'article explore ensuite le dilemme entre un 'développement propre', rendu impossible par le rétrécissement de la planète, et un 'développement généralisé' dont les limites sont marquées précisément par l'échec du projet européen. Ce développement généralisé est cependant un moindre mal, pourvu qu'il soit assorti de conditions, dont le respect des différences et une autonomie à conquérir, notamment par une plus grande unité de l'Afrique.

NEGRO-AFRICAN SOCIETIES BETWEEN THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT AND GENERALIZED DEVELOPMENT

Abstract: The author takes note of the failure of the European project, both capitalist and 'socialist', of modernizing the Third World in general and black Africa in particular, and analyses some of its causes. Such attempts have, among others, ignored the cultural dimension in a broad sense of non-Western societies and are associated with both the heritage of colonization and slave trade and the contradictions of 'white/black' elites, economic dualism and dependence. The paper then discusses the dilemma between 'own development', which the shrinking of the planet makes impossible, and 'generalised development', whose limits are indicated precisely by the failure of the European project. Such a 'generalised development' is however the least ill, provided some conditions are imposed, notably the respect for differences, and autonomy - yet to be conquered - through, among other things, a greater African unity.

RESUMEN: El autor comprueba el fracaso del proyecto europeo, sea capitalista o "socialista", en la modernización del Tercer Mundo en general y del África negra en particular y analiza algunas de sus causas. Entre otras cosas, esos intentos no han tenido en cuenta la dimensión cultural, en un sentido amplio, de las sociedades no occidentales y han estado asociados tanto con el legado de la colonización y la trata de esclavos como con las contradicciones de las élites "blanco/negro", el dualismo económico y la dependencia. En el artículo se examina el dilema (sigue en la página 60)
SOC�T�S NEGRE-AFRICAINES ENTRE UN D�VELOPPEMENT PROPRE ET UN D�VELOPPEMENT G�N�RALIS�E

CONCEPTIONS DU D�VELOPPEMENT

C'est l'�mergence d'un groupe des pays aussi diff�rents les uns des autres, aussi disparates, h�t�rog�nes par leur histoire, leur g�ographie, leurs populations mais li�s par une chose, � savoir la colonisation politique et/ouconomique et culturelle avec ses cons�quences n�fastes: la mis�re, la famine, c'est ce groupe appel� aujourd'hui "Tiers Monde", qui a sug�r� l'Occident qu'il creusait un foss� effroyable entre le Nord et le Sud. L'histoire du concept "d�veloppement" commençait � partir de ce moment.

Pour les puissances occidentales cependant, la maladie ne tarderait pas � �tre endigu�e car les rem�des �taient d�j� connus: ceux appliqu�s en Occident au lendemain du Krach de 1929 �taient aussi valables pour le Tiers Monde. Les th�oriciens s'empresser�nt d'identifier les causes de ces in�galit�s entre l'Occident et le Tiers Monde alors que certains d�finissaient le sous-d�veloppement comme un �tat de pauvret� mat�rielle et les autres une d�pendance � l'�gard de l'�tranger d'une part, et, d'autre part, d�pendance d'une partie de la population � l'�gard d'une minorit�. Tous comme "l'�chelon inf�rieur de l'histoire". Le d�veloppement pouvait donc descendre du Nord vers le Sud.

Aujourd'hui, la plupart des crit�res du sous-d�veloppement jadis �voqu� n'ont plus de signification et les nombreuses injecions de capitaux de techniques et d'expertise n'ont rien arran�. Au contraire, les pays du Tiers Monde sont devenus et deviennent de plus en plus m�tiss�s. Entre-temps, les th�oriciens du d�veloppement ont chang� le fusil d'�paule; le Tiers Monde n'est plus "compris" comme un autre monde, qui n'a pas eu la chance de se d�velopper comme les pays industrialis�s, mais bien comme la p�riph�rie de ces derniers 1/. Le "sous-d�veloppement" est devenu un "mal-d�veloppement", c'est-�-dire les in�galit�s qu'on remarque dans tous les pays, riches et pauvres, dans la r�partition de revenus.

Si cette approche dite "Centre-P�riph�rie" est proche de la r�alit� � certains �gards, elle risque de condamner � mort les pays neufs. En effet, les pays dits de "centre" n'ont-ils pas int�r�t � donner priorit� � leurs "p�riph�ries" plut�t qu'aux p�riph�ries des pays de la "p�riph�rie"?

1/ R.H. Strahm, Pourquoi sont-ils si pauvres (Newch�tel: La Baconni�re, 1978) p.27.
Il apparaît clairement que le phénomène "développement" est très complexe et que ses mécanismes sont difficiles à saisir. C'est plus précisément l'impossibilité de résoudre les problèmes du Tiers Monde qui donne libre cours à des nouvelles conceptions du développement. Ainsi donc nous pouvons dire avec Benachenhou, "il y a crie dans la théorie parce qu'il y a crie dans le développement" 2/.

Mais qu'est-ce que le développement, sinon "une expérience humaine synonyme de la réalisation par chaque individu de son potentiel mental, émotif et physique?" 3/ autrement dit la recherche du "plus être"? Peut-il exister dans cette condition un modèle de développement meilleur applicable à toutes les sociétés?

SYSTEMES ECONOMIQUES ET MODELES DE DEVELOPPEMENT ACTUELS

Deux systèmes économiques se partagent actuellement le monde; le système capitaliste et celui dit socialiste; peu importent les variantes qui existent au sein de chacun. Ces systèmes, comme d'aucuns peuvent le remarquer, décrivent en fait deux différents types d'économie et ce sont eux qui ont donné naissance aux modèles de développement que l'on a toujours imposés sans grand résultat aux pays du Tiers Monde.

Ce fiasco s'explique en grande partie justement parce que "les essais de systématisation de l'économie furent uniquement taillés à la mesure des réalités occidentales" 4/. Cela se comprend aisément lorsque l'on sait que les Occidentaux ont toujours méconnu la spécificité des problèmes sociaux, politiques et économiques de l'Afrique noire. La généralisation des théories économiques occidentales trouve son sens dans cette façon de voir les choses.

Les différents modèles de développement actuels sont issus indiscutablement de systèmes économiques enracinés dans le sol occidental. Ils ne peuvent être appliqués avec bonheur ailleurs car quelle signification et quelle importance peuvent avoir des termes comme "socialisme" ou "capitalisme" dans une société humaniste communautaire par nature qui n'a connu ni la "question sociale", ni le machinisme, ni le Krach de 1929?

2/ Abdellatif Benachenhou, "Théorie du développement et NOSEI" dans IFDA Dossier 16, mars/avril 1980, pp.75-86.
En outre, selon Werner Clément, les facteurs qui ont déterminé la nature et le développement de l'économie occidentale sont :

- l'ébranlement de la croyance que notre monde n'est qu'une préparation à l'au-delà ;
- la connaissance et l'utilisation consciente du facteur temps ;
- à la place de la pensée discursive, la Raison fut considérée comme la seule voie objective vers la connaissance ;
- l'ancienne unité de la vie humaine fut disloquée par une échappée du Moi hors de Nous. A la place de l'existence collective apparut l'individualisme et la responsabilité de chacun vis-à-vis de soi-même 5/.

Ces facteurs ne jouent pas actuellement et ne peuvent pas jouer en Afrique noire le même rôle qu'ils ont joué jadis en Occident.

Il semble donc qu'il n'y ait pas de développement possible en dehors de l'histoire naturelle de chaque peuple et pour réussir, tout modèle de développement doit tenir compte de cela.

DEVELOPPEMENT ET CIVILISATION

Interrogé par un groupe d'étudiants sur les problèmes de la vie moderne, un grand-père d'environ 70 ans disait : "malgré vos canions, vos avions, malgré votre argent, vos écoles, vous vivez dans un monde moins bon que celui dans lequel ont vécu par exemple mes grands-parents. Si c'était possible, je retournerais vivre dans ce monde-là".

Une certaine Mafa répondait à Daniel Sick de Radio France Internationale qui demandait si les habitants de Bahia au Brésil étaient contents de la vie qu'ils menaient : nombreux dans une petite maison, trop attachés aux traditions, bref, loin de la modernité : "Ils sont très heureux de vivre comme cela, vous ne les entendez jamais se plaindre de ces conditions".

Ce genre de réponses ne peuvent pas étonner tous ceux qui parcourrent l'Afrique noire et qui s'entretiennent avec des "vieux" sur les "choses de la vie". Ce sont des réponses banales peut-être mais qui donnent matière à réflexion. Elles prouvent que tous les peuples n'ont pas une même conception du "développement". Alors qu'est-ce qui autorise à qualifier de tels individus de sous-développés ? Puisque l'on dit que dans nos sociétés traditionnelles on vivait "bien", 5/ Werner, Ibidem.
peut-on prétendre que les gens ne déployaient aucun effort pour améliorer leurs conditions de vie? Nous ne le pensons pas.

Car la recherche du "mieux-être" est un sentiment universel. Nos sociétés traditionnelles produisent du surplus pour les fêtes, le commerce et les saisons prochaines. "Elles ne se sont jamais laissées accaparer toutes entières par leur problème de survie dans une nature hostile". Les ruines de Zimbabwe, de Tombouctou; les grands centres commerciaux: Gao, Djenné...; les vastes empires et royaumes qui ont émergé sur notre continent témoignent d'un développement avancé.

Les modèles de développement imposés à l'Afrique sont fonction d'une certaine conception de l'évolution qui veut que la variabilité et les différences entre les socio-cultures correspondent à des stades d'une seule et unique évolution culturelle. L'échec de tous ces modèles prouve qu'une telle conception est erronée. "Les universaux comme économie, religion et famille", écrit Herskovits, "ne sont que formels et leur contenu change selon les différentes cultures". Un projet de développement qui fait table rase de cette réalité est voué à l'échec. Ceci prouve bien qu'il y a une interdépendance réelle entre les normes socio-culturelles et le développement. Reconnaître cela ne signifie pas que l'on doive conserver à tout prix toutes les valeurs traditionnelles négro-africaines. D'ailleurs elles ne sont pas figées dans le temps et dans l'espace car chaque culture évolue et a toujours évolué au fil du temps, tout en gardant bien sûr l'essentiel.

Ce sont des valeurs authentiques essentielles qui permettent de découvrir l'être propre. Sans elles aucun développement n'est possible.

Développement propre de sociétés négo-africaines ou développement généralisé?

Le respect des valeurs authentiques des peuples n'implique pas l'idée d'un développement propre à chaque société. Un tel développement s'il pouvait être possible autrefois, n'est plus envisageable aujourd'hui pour quatre principales raisons:

(i) les sociétés africaines sont d'abord des sociétés colonisées dans le passé et dans le présent;
(ii) ce sont des sociétés qui ont connu la traite des esclaves;
(iii) le monde - du fait des progrès techniques - est devenu très petit au point qu'on a l'impression d'habiter tous le même pays;
(iv) non seulement l'isolement est impossible mais il conduirait au suicide.
Les deux premiers faits méritent d’être évoqués car leur impact sur l’évolution de nos sociétés est considérable: la traite notamment a vidé l’Afrique noire de ses éléments dynamiques et provoqué un traumatisme qui a perturbé sa marche normale. Quant à la colonisation, elle n’a fait que parachever l’oeuvre commencée par le mouvement esclavagiste: tout le système socio-culturel africain a été ébranlé: une nouvelle façon de vivre a été imposée aux sociétés africaines. Tout était désormais à refaire! De cela, l’Afrique noire n’est pas encore sortie puisque la colonisation se poursuit aujourd’hui par les programmes d’enseignement, par les systèmes économiques et politiques adoptés.

Aux quatre raisons ci-haut évoquées, on peut ajouter les suivantes, non moins importantes:

- il est impossible de rentrer dans le passé au niveau du développement de nos sociétés avant la colonisation;
- le Négro-africain actuel vit dans une situation ambivalente: il y a d’un côté l’homme de village, sans instruction, qui non seulement se plaint de voir lui échapper sa destinée (ceux qui décident sont ailleurs) mais aussi se méfie des "temps nouveaux", et de l’autre côté, celui de la ville, l’homme instruit, fier de maîtriser parfois avec une habileté extraordinaire la langue du blanc, aimant les choses importées mais qui, en réalité, n’est qu’un "mundele ndombe", "blanc-noir" (c’est-à-dire un Noir qui se comporte extérieurement comme un Occidental) hélas toujours prêt à rentrer dans les "sales" profondeurs du village, à boire dans les tasses en bois non nettoyées, à manger sans se laver les mains, à coucher dans une hutte à côté d’un feu quand il souffre d’un mal que le médecin ne parvient pas à diagnostiquer; quand il perd un emploi ou quand il est soumis à des nuits successives de mauvais rêves!

Cette dualité se remarque aussi au niveau économique et politique. Les économies africaines sont juxtaposées: à côté d’une économie de grandes firmes transnationales respirant toujours la prospérité coexistent, plus ou moins indépendants, un secteur urbain essentiellement consommateur, en mal d’argent, et un secteur traditionnel occupant plus de la moitié de la population mais sentant la misère. Au niveau politique, une minorité d’individus appartenant d’ailleurs à la catégorie de "blanc-noir", décident du sort de la population sans participation de celle-ci.

Enfin, une autre raison: l’Afrique noire est traînée à la chaîne par la locomotive occidentale. Les pas qu’elle marque ne sont pas voulus par elle. Elle marche donc sans s’y accommoder, au rythme des pays industrialisés. D’où des maladies de toutes sortes: famine, endettement, misère, etc...

Il ressort des lignes précédentes que le développement propre de civilisations serait la meilleure voie pour harmo-
niser les relations internationales mais malheureusement un tel développement, qui suppose au préalable un isolement, n'est plus possible. Est-ce au développement généralisé que l'on doit recourir?

Voici quelques arguments contre ce type de développement :

(i) l'imposition à l'Afrique de modèles de développement du Nord se situe dans l'optique d'un développement généralisé mais cela fait plus de quarante ans aujourd'hui que ces recettes sont appliquées sans rendement positif;

(ii) ce type de développement a été conçu en termes de modernisation elle-même conçue comme processus de transformation des pays du Tiers Monde en un prototype du monde occidental industrialisé. Il s'agit, comme l'explique Benachenhou "d'un projet d'occidentalisation conduisant à la reproduction dans le Tiers Monde d'un même système technologique, d'une forme analogue d'organisation de l'espèce par l'urbanisation, et de formes identiques d'organisation de la production et du travail" 6/;

(iii) les différents modèles, mieux les différentes variantes du modèle (modèle de développement par l'exportation de produits de base, par substitution aux importations et par les exportations industrielles 6/) proposé aux pays dits sous-développés comme un plat prêt à être consommé n'ont pas été à l'origine d'un processus authentique de développement. C'est la crise du premier par exemple qui a conduit au second modèle etc;

(iv) tel qu'appliqué jusqu'à ce jour, le développement généralisé est à l'origine des inégalités. Il a favorisé et entretient encore la dépendance de nos pays.

Néanmoins, un développement généralisé bien compris est le moindre mal. Il faut donc repenser ce développement, l'assortir d'une série de conditions dont la plus essentielle nous semble-t-il est "l'autonomie", tout au moins une certaine autonomie. Abdellatif Benachenhou écrit à ce propos : "Si nous identifions le développement précisément comme la croissance de la productivité du travail de toutes les personnes en âge et en mesure de travailler et l'utilisation de cette croissance à satisfaire les besoins de ces mêmes travailleurs, il est possible de dire que ce processus n'est imaginable qu'au prix d'une certaine autonomie vis-à-vis des forces qui structurent l'économie mondiale.

En d'autres termes, pour que le développement soit populaire dans ses objectifs sa mise en œuvre, ses moyens, il doit être autonome dans toute la mesure du possible. L'autonomie est définie ici comme un processus d'acquisition de pouvoir réel de négociations au plan mondial 6/.

L'autonomie en effet permet, comme dirait Hampate Ba "de créer ou recréer une Afrique africaine" 7/.

Mais cette autonomie - qu'on ne se trompe pas - il faut la conquérir de même que les pays colonisés ont conquis leur indépendance politique. Pour réussir, l'Afrique noire doit former un front commun et se présenter chaque fois devant l'Occident comme un seul bloc. Certes, la création d'un tel front est difficile à cause de la divergence des intérêts, des inégalités qui existent au sein même de l'Afrique noire, des nationalismes, des interventions extérieures surtout... mais tout est possible si les dirigeants politiques le veulent. La création d'une "ligue des Etats d'Afrique noire" serait une telle unité.

Enfin, que pouvons-nous retenir de ce qui précède? Le développement propre de sociétés négro-africaines est une question utopique dans ce monde d'aujourd'hui. Mais chaque peuple possède quelque chose de spécifique, attaché à lui et qui, une fois affecté, bloque tout mécanisme de développement. Ce quelque chose c'est ce que Senghor a appelé "négritude". Toutefois, dans ce monde rétrécì par le progrès technique, aucun pays ne peut se suffire à lui-même; aucun pays est démuni de tout. Les contacts entre différents peuples prouvent que pour survivre aujourd'hui, une interdépendance s'impose.

En d'autres termes, ce qu'il faut c'est un "développement généralisé" qui ne détruisse pas les valeurs fondamentales de civilisation, c'est-à-dire qui ne soit pas nivelé ou mieux encore, un "développement propre" qui tienne compte de l'environnement politique, social et économique mondial actuel.


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entre el "desarrollo propio", que resulta imposible en un mundo que se ha vuelto más pequeño, y el "desarrollo generalizado", cuyos límites están señalados precisamente por el fracaso del proyecto europeo. Este "desarrollo generalizado" es, sin embargo, el menor de los males, siempre que se presenten ciertas condiciones, como el respeto por las diferencias y la autonomía que todavía debe conquistarse, entre otras cosas, mediante una mayor unidad africana.
Un bon livre. Très intéressant à lire, surtout en cette année 1985: la famine sévit toujours et ses conséquences ne finiront pas de sitôt de marquer aujourd'hui et "demain" des millions d'Africains; 1985, c'est aussi le centenaire de la Conférence de Berlin qui a disposé de l'Afrique simplement comme on dispose d'une proie. L'Algérie et la Tunisie étaient déjà occupées. Edem Kodjo, par ce livre, semble exorciser la faim et commémorer le partage de l'Afrique en chantant l'avenir de son unité.

Secrétaire général de l'Organisation de l'Unité Africaine (O.A.U.) pendant cinq années (1978-1983), il en est sorti indemne avec ses espérances, avec son utopie. Mieux, le livre dit bien qu'il les a enrichies aux sources mêmes des échecs ou des dérèglements des indépendances handicapées au départ pour, entre autres, avoir hérité, avalisé et assumé les configurations dessinées à Berlin par les puissances coloniales.

Tout le projet que porte le livre de Kodjo se développe à partir de cet insoutenable héritage et de ses conséquences pour prendre fermement la démarche d'un processus de libération et de puissance réalisable seulement par et dans l'unité. Le morcellement de l'Afrique, fruit empoisonné des marchandages inter-coloniaux, demeure porteur de drames humains, de misère culturelle, d'impuissance; porteur en même temps d'êtres fictifs, d'indépendances irréelles, de despotismes "obscur".

L'unité sera l'espace et le ferment de la renaissance africaine; toute l'argumentation de Kodjo, toutes ses propositions se déroulent tout au long de l'ouvrage pour soutenir la nécessité, l'impératif, l'efficacité de l'unité de l'Afrique, c'est-à-dire, de sa libération, de son développement économique, de son renouveau culturel, de sa promotion stratégique.

Kodjo va tellement loin qu'on oublie l'utopie pour retenir le projet, qu'on voit l'utopie se couler dans une construction achevée, réalisable dans la ferveur et l'efficacité. Ce projet de l'unité africaine est bien l'héritier du panafri-canisme d'un Nkrumah; mais avec Edem Kodjo, il se veut rationalisé, comptant avec les impératifs de notre temps, les assumant sans complexe puisque cette unité partira de la
spécificité africaine au plan culturel, à celui de l'histoire, des ressources humaines, des richesses et potentielles matérielles.

Mais Kodjo, voulant convaincre, voulant être sûr de convaincre, ne craint pas d'étaler, parfois exagérément, les expériences non-africaines d'unité, d'unification nationale ou... continentale. Oui, elles sont étalées, répétées, ressassées; et les citations multipliées à l'envi qui semblent parfois attirées, appauvrissant quelque peu l'authenticité de l'inspiration et du souffle; heureusement ils ont bien résisté à cet alourdissement.

Mais Kodjo a voulu plus: aller lui-même et nous entraîner jusqu'à l'extrème de sa logique, de sa rationalité. Connaissant bien le point de départ savoir le morcellement, les famines, les despotismes, l'absence intolérable, on ne peut que se réjouir à l'étonnement émerveillé durant la galopade d'Edem qui ne s'est arrêtée qu'au milieu d'un arsenal atomique, qu'en pleine puissance nucléaire... Et le poids de l'Afrique, civilisation-mère de l'humanité, culture, sagesse, est devenu en l'espace de quelques chapitres, un poids nucléaire à l'image du poids d'autrui, d'un certain autrui, de certains autrui. Il faut dire que l'auteur nous a préparés à cette mue grâce au grand nombre de fois où le mot "puissance" est intervenu dans le texte. Heureusement que ce poids, l'Afrique aurait à l'acquérir au terme d'un long processus d'unification, de développement, de rayonnement; heureusement surtout que ce poids aurait à être celui de l'Afrique unie.

Espérons que, sur ce point en tous cas, le terme du processus ne deviendra jamais la religion de tel ou tel régime, de tel ou tel despote obscur voulant façonner une Prusse pour en être le Bismarck...et jouer avec le nucléaire guerrier grâce à la "coopération" empoisonnée de certains régimes racistes. Pour le moment et quant à moi, qui ai beaucoup aimé ce livre, je n'ai pas pu chasser de mon esprit un proverbe africain (de Tunisie) en arrivant à ce point du projet de Kodjo: "Nu et portant un diamant au doigt".

Et pourtant le projet d'une Afrique Unie n'est pas une fiction. Il est et demeure le plus noble motif de nos luttes pour l'indépendance, pour la libération des espaces africains jusqu'à ce que se construise leur unité pour la renaissance et la promotion de tous.

La génération actuelle n'a pas, toute, découvert sa mission; l'a-t-elle trahie avant même d'en prendre conscience ? Ceux parmi cette génération qui ont réussi à dissiper l'opacité et à s'engager, réussiront-ils à rallier les nouvelles générations pour remplir leur mission, pour construire l'unité et pour qui cette unité soit une puissance d'une autre qualité; de cette qualité civilisationnelle africaine où, à l'instar d'Edem, nous devons nous ressourcer continuellement.
THE UNITED NATIONS ARE A FIRST-RATE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION

by Stephen Lewis*
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This issue of the IFDA Dossier appears at a moment when, in the midst of a crisis of multilateralism and a wave of bilateralism, or rather unilateralism, the United Nations commemorate their 40th anniversary. No recent statement would be more appropriate to express, on this occasion, confidence and hope in the United Nations than that of Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations, Stephen Lewis. Stephen Lewis may be a rare case among ambassadors, but he certainly speaks for many of us, 'the peoples of the United Nations', in whose name the Charter was promulgated. And it is of special significance that this passionate plea comes from the Ambassador of a middle power of the North.

I am enormously pleased to be here. I say – with relief cascading over me – that Canada does not indulge in activities entitled "confirmation hearings" which, for some of us, is a blessed dispensation lest the conspiratorial interstices of our former lives be exposed to public view. I sat and listened to the discussion which preceded me with some interest, becoming only slightly discombobulated by the references to Jeane Kirkpatrick. I thought to myself, my God, is there no escape, can there be even an ex post facto impeachment?

I am delighted to be here for other reasons as well. I am delighted to have the chance to fill in for Ambassador Walters 1/. After all, you have rescued me from what has been a life of somnambulant obscurity, and I am positively intoxicated by this one taste of notoriety in my otherwise nondescript career. I am therefore forever in your debt. As a matter of fact, tonight constitutes a kind of liberation for me; an antidote to my normal speaking activities. I have

* transcribed text of a speech delivered on 29 April 1985, Roosevelt Hotel, New York, to the National Convention of the United Nations Association of the United States of America.

1/ (Editor's note) Lieut. General Vernon A. Walters has succeeded Jeane Kirkpatrick as Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations in New York. He was previously President Reagan's Ambassador at large and, earlier, Deputy Director of the CIA.
spent the year addressing a succession of what might charitably be called prepaleolithic neanderthals. Therefore, to be before an audience from whose collective visages there shines near-perfection is obviously immensely reassuring. More still, there is an exquisite irony in all of this for me which I must share with you. I have been all my life and was, throughout my active political life in my country, a democratic socialist (I use the word not to induce traumatic apoplexy in this audience but merely as a descriptive ideological reference). I have been a democratic socialist, embracing the kind of heretical past which probably had my name in the filing cabinets entitled "subversive" when Mr Walters was with the CIA. So it is both exquisite and delicious to be here this evening.

The 40th anniversary of the United Nations, as everyone knows, is a time for stocktaking. I like the United Nations. I've only been around this lovely and byzantine organization for about seven months but I quite like it. I'm a shameless apologist. I think it's a first-rate international institution and I don't much care for the gratuitous detractors. To be sure, all of us understand there are problems, there are imperfections, there are deficiencies in the United Nations system. I've often asked myself, as I view it in a novice's way, could it be otherwise after 40 years. Do you know of any human agglomeration which is unsullied after 40 years of evolution?

The litany of deficiency is as well-known to you as it is well-known to the protagonists here at the head table. We're often worried by the capacity of the superpowers - indeed, all of the Permanent Members of the Security Council - to thumb their noses with impunity at decisions which are taken in the United Nations. That happens from time to time in a way which is disconcerting, unnerving, occasionally frustrating. We know, all of us, of the proliferation of nation-states, and the way this has engendered within the arena of the General Assembly an excess of rhetorical spleen; some aggressive posturing; occasional extremist attacks. It bothers some more than others. (I will tell you honestly I quite enjoy it; but then, I've been given to hyperbolic frenzies all my adult life so for me it is merely finding a milieu which is palatable).

All of us are bothered by the truth that some problems seem endlessly intractable. We haven't got peace and disarmament; we haven't solved the problems of the Middle East; we can't seem to handle Namibia and South Africa. That is the crisis of credibility which some so often relate. And on top of all of that, there is the sense of incremental change. The detractors would describe it as a kind of immobility that leads to inertia, compounded by evidence of mismanagement.

When you set out that litany it is, I admit, a little unnerving. But without being disrespectful I'm inclined to say so what? Sure it's frustrating, sure it's difficult, all of us
have to cope with these truths, all of us have to understand their nature. But it doesn't for a moment - this is what is so important, and it is inconceivable to me that people don't understand it - it doesn't for a moment invalidate the tremendous contribution which the United Nations makes; it doesn't for a moment render us impotent; it doesn't for a moment diminish the value of working to reinforce the strengths of the United Nations.

Now, in a way which bespeaks a certain innocence, I sometimes wonder about the perceptions and motives of various of the detractors.

For some, it seems to me, the expectations have been extravagant: the achievement of peace and the rule of law is not ushered in over 40 years. Forty years is a whisper in the passage of time, all of us understand that. We haven't had nuclear war, we haven't had an atomic conflict in 40 years and part of that is attributable to the United Nations. Is that not an object worthy of celebration?

For others who are critics of the United Nations, the principle of sovereignty is not understood. Sovereignty is rooted in the Charter of the United Nations. It is not possible for the United Nations to impose its will on a number of sovereign states. You can't just say to Ethiopia - as much as some would wish it - that the government has to have a ceasefire; has to recognize the rebels; has to open supply lines to Eritrea and Tigre. You can't just say to Iran and Iraq: we determine that you end your beserk war; we insist that you bring yourselves to heel before this organization.

It isn't the institution of the United Nations, the body corporate, which is the problem. It is the behaviour of individual nation-states which is the problem. And it is a profound misunderstanding of the United Nations and the way it operates not to recognize that simple truth. There is no capacity under the Charter to interfere in the internal affairs of member countries. Those are difficult and aggravating complexities. They are also complexities which allow the place to work.

And then there are other critics, there are others still who are quite simply malevolent and they do great damage. They pretend to be dispassionate, analytic, concerned. Poppycock. Folderol. They are, by and large, neo-isolationists in their views of the world and they are made up of the Heritage Foundation and others of their ilk.

I want you, if you will, to forgive this moment of disrespect - I am a guest in your country - but I want to say to you, because it has distressed me, that the Heritage Foundation and those of its supporters, specialize not in insightful analysis, for heaven's sake, but in inspired sophistry. They are fundamentally anti-internationalist. They do not believe that the national interests of the United States
should ever be subsumed in the interests of the greater international community. And I want to say to you that that makes me impatient. Groups of people who do not understand the moral and human imperatives of the international community in 1985 demonstrate a philistinism for which none of us should have any time.

Yet it does great damage; I have to admit that. And although it saddens me to say so, people of such views, within this country and other countries - in particular, the Heritage Foundation - engage in easy slanders of the Secretariat for which the Secretary-General is hard-pressed to respond; they put Third World countries on the defensive; they provoke many Americans into needless opposition. So they need to be dealt with in precisely the fashion which was put to you: not as an obsession, not as an idée fixe, not as a preoccupation, but as a group which wields influence and therefore has to be responded to. I'm engaged in the self-immolating chore of reading tract after tract, monograph after monograph, article after article disgorged by the Heritage Foundation. Before long, I hope it will be possible thoughtfully to document the flaws, the weaknesses, the generalizations, the partial-truths, the factual errors in what will amount to a dossier of indictment. In other words, in a rational, persuasive and thoughtful way, to fight back in the defence of the United Nations. Indeed, I hope that we can mount a coterie of Ambassadors at the United Nations, champions of the United Nations, and gradually, over time, take our message right across the United States of America. We must say strongly and fervently and unapologetically that this is an institutional forum which deserves the celebration of humankind, not witless and gratuitous criticism.

In any event, that said, I think we should move to the strengths. I don't want to go into it in great detail because there isn't all that much time for embellishment; but when you are summoning the arguments in defence of the United Nations, let's not retreat into the old dialectic.

Think for a moment - number one if you will - of the specialized agencies. I've often thought to myself, as surely you have, that UNICEF almost single-handedly legitimizes the nature and character of the United Nations. Just reflect on it for a moment. Four hundred thousand youngsters under the age of five saved every year by UNICEF. Saved from death every year by UNICEF. When I stopped in a refugee camp five or six weeks ago in the Sudan, right on the border with Ethiopia, to which 80,000 Tigreans had made a migration desperately seeking survival... when I stood in that camp and chatted with the doctors from Médecins sans Frontières, and asked them how it was possible to keep children alive in circumstances of such eviscerating desolation, they said to me that "part of the reason is that we have these little packets of oral rehydration therapy to distribute - 15,000 of them a day in that way, Mr Lewis, we keep hundreds of children alive". Now it is important for the world to be
reminded over and over again, with unself-conscious vigour, that you'd never have that outcome without the United Nations. That's the kind of thing which the world body achieves.

More still, you have the United Nations Development Program which spends 675 to 700 million dollars American each year, turning such amounts into further billions of dollars of projects which speak to the economic long-term viability of the countries whose present economies verge on catastrophe because of the African famine. Beyond that, you have the UNHCR, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, which day in day out saves tens of thousands of people, and provides shelter and vaguely civilized environments, whether in Pakistan or in the Middle East or in The Sudan. One could set out - as you know as well as I - specialized agency after specialized agency doing ennobling work. Indeed - dare I say it - including UNESCO. Therefore it's important when summoning the arguments in defence of the United Nations not to forget the specialized agencies.

Nor - number two - is it possible to forget the kind of very special political environment which is created within the United Nations despite all of its difficulties. Throw your minds back if you will to the fall of 1984, recall with me that the world had not been at the negotiating table in Geneva for more than a year; that everybody felt we were perched on the precipice looking into some cataclysm of human destruction; and that the superpowers weren't talking. Lo and behold Andrei Gromyko comes to the General Assembly and makes a speech within which there is a hint that perhaps the bargaining process can be reinstated, and Ronald Reagan comes to the General Assembly - third year in a row, unprecedented in the history of presidential contributions since 1945 - and makes a speech within which there is a kernel of hope about reinstituting the negotiations, and a few months later those negotiations are consummated again in Geneva. I say to you what I think is palpably true: that could not have happened without the existence of an international agency through which ideological opposites can speak to each other, however obliquely. That is one of the great values of the United Nations.

And so to point number three: the question of some of the intransigent issues which seem to be so frustrating when we deal with them. Let me look at the most difficult of all, arms control and disarmament. Let me remind you, if I may, of the First Committee in the United Nations. Time and again, year after year, in what some would call a suffocating process - I would call a liberating intelligence - we deal with resolutions on a comprehensive test ban, on the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons, on the non-proliferation treaty, on the nuclear freeze, on nuclear winter, on a ban on fissionable materials, on the reduction of conventional arms - all of these resolutions, one after the other, addressed with vigour and passion and fervour by the
countries involved. Yet, say the critics: you never achieve anything... resolution after resolution is passed and then not embraced by the superpowers. But the fact of the matter is that such a view of the process is both trivial and distorted, because whether it is in the First Committee in the fall, or whether it's in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, or whether it's in the United Nations Disarmament Commission in May here in New York, we keep the pressure on the superpowers. They have to vote, they have to take a stand, they have to meet and speak to every single one of those resolutions... it's absolutely inescapable, and that in itself, in a very important, if unacknowledged, way helps to maintain a glimmer of sanity in an otherwise lunatic environment. One should therefore applaud and recognize the value of those arms forums even though we recognize as well that the ultimate decision will be made in Geneva.

Point number four: let me remind you of the emerging role of the Secretary-General. I think it's important to note what Edward Luck said: this is a new kind of Secretary-General; a man who is redefining the office in the contemporary world. We haven't seen his like since Dag Hammarskjöld. And that's a terribly important thing to understand.

I had the pleasure of accompanying Pérez de Cuéllar on a three-day visit to Canada in early March. He's an immensely impressive and formidable advocate one on one and in small groups. I observed him talking with my Prime Minister, with my Minister of External Affairs, with a number of senior public servants, and every time he met them in argument he did not retreat. He engages in an advocacy which is quite unrelenting and effective.

What it has done for Pérez de Cuéllar and the United Nations, I think, is to have created a sense of interventionist diplomacy on the one hand, and preventive diplomacy on the other, both of which are giving a new raison d'être to the United Nations system. It doesn't always work of course. What in this world does? But I remind you that when Pérez de Cuéllar wanders off to Southeast Asia to try to deal with Kampuchea; when he deals with the Soviet Union and Pakistan over Afghanistan; when he makes visits to Iran and Iraq; when he deals with the parties in Cyprus; when he moves heaven and earth to sustain the Contadora process in Central America, what Pérez de Cuéllar is doing is bringing the force of his office under Section 99 of the Charter to bear in a way which is ultimately helpful and civilizing.

What did New York Governor Cuomo say this afternoon: "The world is still talking; still"? That's precisely what Pérez de Cuéllar is reinforcing in his endless peripatetic wanderings around the planet. It is of immense value. Occasionally, it allows for a cessation of bombing civilian populations in a war like Iran/Iraq. Sometimes it may even result in reconciliation in a place like Cyprus - perhaps in the next year or two... that would be an enormous achievement.
for the United Nations. Sometimes it brings parties back to
discussion together which they would not otherwise contem-
plate. Always it prevents, to some extent, a mere fire from
becoming a conflagration. In the context of the United Na-
tions, of the international community, all of that is im-
mensely important: just keeping nations talking(...)

Finally - point five - I remind you of the continuing pro-
cess, year after year in the General Assembly and in the
committees associated with it, where we achieve concrete
things. That, too, is a matter to be celebrated and brought
to the attention of the American community.

Last session of the General Assembly - my first session -
there was an important resolution on international drug
trafficking, which resolution is now on its way to becoming
an international convention. There was, after seven years of
painful drafting in Geneva, a Convention on Torture; a Con-
vention which will permit us, after 20 countries have signed
and ratified it, to identify publicly those who continue to
engage in the obscenity of torture. And then there was, of
course, the extraordinary response to the African famine.

I want to point out that historians may look back 20 or 30
years hence and say that the response of the United Nations
to the tragedy of Africa was perhaps its finest hour. Not
only has the United Nations managed to galvanize tangible
international support in a way that has never been experi-
enced before, but in an equally exemplary fashion, it has
put in place on the ground in the 20 countries involved, the
kind of coordinating and distributing leadership which is
literally saving thousands of lives.

I was proud when I was in the Sudan to watch the work of the
United Nations personnel in UNICEF and UNDP and UNHCR. It
was something to behold - not only the extent of their com-
mitment, but the way in which the United Nations was deli-
vering food directly into the mouths of those who were star-
vling, and doing it with a level of mastery and resolve which
speaks to an extraordinary international body.

These matters are matters which should convey pride and con-
sequence by all of us who speak fervently for the interna-
tional body. The 40th anniversary is a good time to reassert
the focus and to deal with the distortions.

The United Nations is simply not as bad as some would have
it. Certainly it's polarized in the General Assembly, but
not terminally, for heaven's sake. The General Assembly re-
mains a forum to which the leaders come. Everyone believes
now that Gorbachev will come at the end of September 1985.
Do you think that is some kind of incidental inconsequence?
It's important that Gorbachev be there, and it is fascina-
ting that he regards the United Nations as an institution
sufficiently worthy to address on the 40th anniversary of
its life.
Certainly there is extremism. I understand that. But as Ed Luck said, there is tangible in the United Nations a new spirit of moderation, particularly from some of the Third World countries. All you have to do is look at the document "The Declaration on the African Economic Crisis" to see the extent to which the African countries accommodated the interests of the North; the extent to which they sought a rapprochement.

I say this to you cautiously... I want no one to take offense... but I think that the supporters of the United Nations - even some in this room - are excessively defensive. It is not necessary to be so defensive. It is not necessary to be dragooned into the arguments of the detractors. The arguments are not terrifically persuasive and they are riddled with self-serving sophistry. It is necessary simply to accumulate the defence and to set out chapter and verse.

Don't be intimidated by those who are critics. Don't succumb to the blandishments of vilifiers. The United Nations is a first-rate organization with the simple deficiencies of time and age and circumstance.

So what do you do in a situation like that? You analyze it, you speak to its strength, and then you go out and advocate its work.

Perhaps all of this is, in a sense, self-centeredly Canadian. I hope not. It's a little easier for Canada - we're a middle power, quite unthreatening as you can see, utterly non-nuclear, and a particular advantage in being bilingual so that we have special access to the francophone world. We have, above all, a lasting and visceral commitment to multilateralism which is ingrained in, and endemic to the Canadian character.

We share this continent with you, the United States; we are good friends, and we hope that we can in the future share as well Canada's more positive view of the United Nations. I've learned as I travelled over the last number of months that it is not hard to convey a more positive view of the United Nations. There's a yearning everywhere amongst people to affirm the validity of the international community and of an international organization. It's important, I think, to stand resilient and passionate in defence of the United Nations.

The Charter may, here and there, be under siege; but it's still an incomparable blueprint for a more just, civilized, humane and tolerant international community. One day we shall achieve it - infidels of all varieties notwithstanding. And so to this audience: the dreamers, the idealists, the pragmatists, the artisans in the vineyards of human betterment, the indefatigable apostles in the cause of peace... to all of you who are tenacious, and unrelenting, I which you well. I salute you and I ask you never to be cowed.
EVEN IN THE HARD CORE COUNTRIES OF THE NORTH
MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE IN THE UN

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, the New York Times, the International Herald Tribune and the CBS News arranged for an opinion survey which was carried out at mid-May in France, Japan, UK and West Germany by Gallup and in the US by the NYT and CBS. The principal results have been published in the International Herald Tribune of 26 June, including the table reproduced here.

The most salient results are as follows:

. Among those who expressed an opinion, more than 55% in the UK and the US and almost two thirds in France and Germany said that the UN was doing a 'good job' or a 'very good job';

. 58% of the French, 73% of the Germans, 79% of the British, 86% of the Americans and the Japanese clearly said NO to the provocative question 'would the world be better off without the UN?', and not one of six persons said 'yes' - a good response, especially in the US, to the Heritage Foundation and its pamphlet A world without the UN;

. on a question which seems to worry the supporters of the Western vested interests, half of the Americans, 59% of the Japanese, 60% of the British and French (former colonial powers) and 78% of the Germans did not believe that the Third World has 'too much influence in the UN'.

A finer analysis also reveals that

. women are more favourable to the UN than men (except in France);

. Americans below 40 appreciate the UN more than the older generation;

. in the US, the liberals support the UN more than the conservatives, but the situation is just the opposite in Germany, Japan and the UK;

. two fifths of the Americans believe that their country has too little influence on the UN (and 13% that it has too much of it).

On the negative side, the proportion of the 'don't know' is rather high (never lower than a quarter in France, Germany and Japan) and follow up interviews in the US showed 'a wide range of ignorance about the UN'. The British seem more aware, but the Japanese case is pathetic: two fifths have no
idea about the UN performance or whether the world would be better off without the UN, and seven out of ten just do not know about the Third World influence. Among the few who express themselves, only 20% consider that the UN is doing a good or a very good job.

Two conclusions - and one question - emerge clearly:

First, whatever the media and the governments say, the people of the majority 'in the UN believe'.

Second, there is much scope for re-thinking the relations with the people (both policies and practices), especially of course in Japan (whose nationals have run the public information of the UN for a number of years...).

Third, how is it that no similar survey has been organized in smaller countries (Sweden, Netherlands...) and in the Third World?

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**Opinion of the United Nations**

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<th>How is the UN doing in solving the problems it has had to face?</th>
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Based on 950 interviews conducted in West Germany from May 17 through 29; 888 in Great Britain from May 8 through 13; 940 in France from May 15 through 22; 1,446 in Japan from May 9 through 13; and 1,509 in the United States from May 29 through June 2.

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LA SOLIDARITÉ INTERNATIONALE EST FAITE DE RÉSEAUX

JUMELAGES ET MICRO-PROJETS

par Huguette Bouchardau
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Huguette Bouchardau, ministre française de l'environnement, devait participer à la réunion mondiale des associations pour l'environnement et le développement (Nairobi, février 1986). Elle en a été empêchée, mais son discours était prêt. Parlant en sa triple qualité de ministre, de ministre et d'Européenne, Huguette Bouchardau a formulé trois propositions, dont deux nous ont paru devoir intéresser nos lecteurs. Les voici.

Ma deuxième proposition s'adresse surtout aux collectivités régionales et locales d'Europe. Elles sont plus de 100 000. Elles ont l'histoire derrière elles, remontant, il y a plus d'un millénaire, aux temps des défrichements des grandes forêts et, il y a 3 siècles au moins, aux grandes conquêtes des libertés publiques. Elles vivent aujourd'hui, dans certains pays comme le mien, à l'heure de la décentralisation. Leur géographie est contrastée; plus encore, l'est celle des régions: des Länder tout puissants en République fédérale d'Allemagne, pas de région en Angleterre, des provinces équilibrées en Italie, des régions en devenir en France.

Toutes ces collectivités ont leurs atouts et leurs ombres. Les ombres sont celles que l'on attribue aux "notables" : celui parfois de privilégier les apparences ou le court terme, plutôt que la réponse aux besoins en profondeur. Les atouts, vous les connaissez: ces collectivités collent à la terre, aux ressources, aux identités. Elles sont plus que l'échelon de base de la participation. La participation ne peut se faire sans elles. "On peut gouverner de loin", a-t-on dit, on ne peut participer que de près.

Le fait nouveau, c'est qu'elles commencent à entrer dans le jeu de la vie internationale en tant qu'acteurs et à donner à la coopération une nouvelle dimension. Les jumelages de ville à ville ont été, depuis 30 ans en Europe, une occasion de tendre la main au-delà des frontières, à la réalité humaine d'autres pays. Et voilà que peu à peu, des cités se sentent concernées, responsables d'autres régions du monde, de la pauvreté, de la faim, de la soif. Dans mon pays, une cinquantaine de villes sont jumelées avec les villes de pays du Sud, quatre ou cinq régions ont engagé sur leur propre budget des actions dans des régions du Sud, l'Afrique en général. Plus de 7 000 communes ont pris l'engagement de souscrire à des actions contre la faim à travers "Survie 84". Des Fédérations comme celles des villes jumelées ou le Conseil des Communes d'Europe ont, ici, un rôle de plus en plus décisif.
Cette tendance va s'accentuer. Il nous faut en prendre la mesure et l'aider à s'affirmer. Donnons leur cette chance de jouer leur rôle en s'engageant dans des actions concrètes et utiles.

Faisons-le en levant des contraintes qui peuvent encore, ici ou là, leur interdire, par exemple, de dépenser en dehors de leur territoire; gardons-nous aussi de dicter leur choix ou de les embrigader.

Donnons leur enfin la possibilité de coopérer entre elles, d'échanger leurs expériences et, si elles le veulent, de jumeler leurs efforts ensemble, entre 2 ou 3 collectivités du Nord et 2 ou 3 collectivités ou régions du Sud.

Il faut aussi faire en sorte que cette contribution des communautés locales donne la main à celle des associations de développement et d'environnement qui ont l'expérience. Cela veut dire plusieurs choses. D'abord passer par dessus les sourcilllements des pouvoirs locaux sur la légitimité des associations. Mais ceci est une histoire interne, en grande partie dépassée. Ensuite, donner des moyens pour une concertation active entre communautés et associations.

Il va sans dire que ce mouvement de "coopération directe" n'a de sens que s'il est étroitement relié aux associations non gouvernementales qui ont déjà œuvré sur le terrain. Si l'on veut éviter, là aussi, une "coopération parallèle", commençons à prendre de bonnes habitudes et faisons en sorte que les associations et les collectivités du Nord travaillent ensemble sur les mêmes projets.

L'enjeu est important. Il est d'abord financier. Si, par exemple, chaque Européen donnait aux populations du Sud la valeur d'un m3 d'eau, sur les 100 qu'il consomme en moyenne annuellement, cela représenterait chaque année près de dix fois l'effort réalisé par les Communautés Européennes dans leur appui aux actions menées par les ONG.

Un objectif volontaire de ce type n'est pas hors de mesure. Quel symbole! Des habitants de pays qui consomment de l'eau, sans, la plupart du temps même, en connaître le prix, donnant aux pays qui en ont très peu, la clé de leur survie et de leur développement. Il mobiliserait pour toute l'Europe de l'Ouest, quelque 150 millions de dollars annuels.

Nous pourrions imaginer - et des associations y pensent - une autre manière de définir l'objectif volontaire : par exemple, que chacune des 100 000 collectivités territoriales d'Europe affecte à la solidarité mondiale 1% de son budget annuel.

Pour la France, cela représenterait entre 3 et 4 milliards de francs français. Extrapolée à l'Europe Occidentale, de façon, il est vrai, statistiquement très sommaire, cela représenterait environ plus d'un milliard et demi de dollars.
Ma troisième proposition consiste à faire en sorte que les moyens soient pris pour rendre plus efficaces les micro-projets. Il ne suffit pas de constater que la déperdition y est moins forte que pour les grands projets ou de préciser qu'au fil des ans le rendement s'améliore. Nous sommes tous condamnés à faire mieux chaque jour.

Etre efficace, cela veut dire, par exemple, amener davantage les scientifiques à s'intéresser aux micro-projets et éviter la tendance qui pourrait exister de consacrer trop peu de temps à ce qui est, pour certains, de la "dentelle".

Des institutions existent - je pense pour mon pays, à l'ORSTOM, à l'Institut Pasteur, au Gerdat - des coopérants existent, des mouvements se développent "d'ingénieurs sans frontières" ou de "scientifiques sans frontières". Elles pourraient être davantage associées.

Etre efficace, cela veut dire aussi permettre l'élosion plus rapide de "micro-projets", mobilisables et présentables, en langage clair, à des centaines de donateurs potentiels: cela veut dire aussi, permettre l'échange "conversational" entre donateurs et receveurs qui deviennent alors partenaires. La communication permet maintenant d'aller dans ce sens avec des technologies nouvelles (si l'on évite, il est vrai, leurs effets pervers, qui créent aussi des inégalités). Cela veut dire enfin, fournir des moyens de définir des projets, de les décrire, de les évaluer sans créer là, pour autant, une nouvelle administration, un nouveau pouvoir.

Le chemin n'est pas facile. Un système d'échanges ne se décrète pas: il se monte au fil des mois, en évitant le "prêt à porter", en travaillant avec les partenaires qui ont déjà mis la main à la pâte et savent de quoi on parle. Le programme "Solidarité-Eau" que nous lançons en Europe est de ces exercices qui montrent à la fois la nécessité de les entreprendre et la difficulté de les réussir.

C'est en juin 1984, que le Conseil des Ministres européens de l'Environnement, que je présidais, a adopté, à l'unanimité, une résolution tendant à encourager ce que l'on appelle la "coopération directe" pour de micro-projets ayant trait à l'eau et à jeter les bases d'un "réseau européen de projets". Cela signifie favoriser la prise en charge directe par une ville, une commune, une région, d'un projet précis dans un pays du Sud et, le cas échéant, encourager cette prise en charge par plusieurs collectivités jumelées de différents pays d'Europe. Ce programme européen "Solidarité-Eau", autour du symbole de l'eau, suscitera, je l'espère, un partenariat sur des micro-projets de développement dans le domaine de l'agriculture, de la santé et de l'hygiène, ainsi que la protection des milieux menacés comme la forêt.

Pour favoriser et rendre possible cette prise en charge directe qui, je le dis en passant, évite bien des déperdi-
tions, il était nécessaire de faire connaître des projets concrets susceptibles d'être pris en charge. Offre et demande, formulées le mieux possible et actualisées, apportaient un lieu de rencontre: ce lieu c'est une sorte de "bourse de projets", dotée des moyens de traitement, de stockage et de sélection et permettant l'échange, la conversation entre le Nord et le Sud.

Ce travail est en bonne voie grâce surtout à l'effort commun d'une quarantaine d'associations, avec l'appui du GRET et du Carrefour International de la Communication. Ce dispositif s'européanise progressivement et l'on pourra, pour l'eau et demain pour d'autres domaines - disposer d'un outil important pour ce type de coopération.

Cette bourse de projets progressivement informatisée, permettra aux collectivités locales et régionales européennes qui le désirent de soutenir ces projets. Autour de cette bourse se construira aussi un réseau de compétences sur le terrain et dans la Communauté européenne qui permettra à tous les partenaires de se connaître, d'échanger leurs expériences, leurs réussites et leurs idées.

Le C.I.E., ENDA, les associations de jumelage des villes, des membres du réseau SATIS et des ONG de développement européennes ont activement participé à la conception et au montage du programme.

Nous avons bon espoir de pouvoir, à la fin de cette année, avec tous nos partenaires, aboutir à une structure totalement décentralisée où les moyens financiers ou matériels iront directement au promoteur du projet sans passer par un organisme central (...)

* * *

L'appel à la solidarité internationale, dans ce qu'il a de dimension interpersonnelle, décentralisée, interactive, rejoint, dans son architecture la notion de "réseau". C'est à dire des relations à double sens, des relations en maille, en grappe, comme en parlent tous ceux qui, aujourd'hui travaillent dans les nouvelles techniques de la communication. Il ne peut que laisser derrière nous la conception pyramidale ou hiérarchique, la dimension paternaliste ou univoque qui a, depuis plus de deux siècles, présidé en Europe en tout cas, à la structure des institutions et des relations.

C'est pourquoi, si nous voulons aider à accentuer la coopération directe, la coopération décentralisée, nous devons de favoriser les outils de l'échange entre le Nord et le Sud, le Nord et le Nord, le Sud et le Sud, de les favoriser entre les collectivités, entre les associations, entre les personnes. Et de faire de la réalité Nord-Sud, une notion familière, une relation de voisinage (...)

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THE WORLD FOOD ASSEMBLY'S MANIFESTO
 THAT ALL MAY EAT - ACTION FOR CHANGE AND JUSTICE

Ten years after Henry Kissinger's speech of 1974 ("Within a decade no child should go to bed hungry..."), it seemed important to conduct an independent audit of what really happened in the decade since the UN's World Food Conference.

That was the original idea behind the World Food Assembly, a gathering of grassroots and other non-governmental development groups from nearly 50 countries which was held in Rome in November 1984 1/. As the conference poster said: "Governments and the aid establishment have had their chance - yet today more people are hungry, more rural families continue to be forced off their land, and more land is being destroyed."

In the 18 months leading up to the Assembly, a network of more than 300 people and groups working on food issues was built up and a 20-member International Committee formed to run the event. Significantly, this was the first time that such a large and diverse coalition had rallied to make common cause on world food issues, and in the course of planning it because apparent that the WFA network itself was potentially much more important than the Rome meeting. The Assembly therefore decided to establish the WFA as a continuing body to promote solidarity and pursue common objectives.

The Assembly also determined to produce its own Manifesto - not just another pious plea to governments, but rather, a commitment by those present to pursue themselves the lines of action which all agreed were vital for a sustainable future.

The Manifesto was published on 21 May 1985. Some of what it says may not be dramatically new, but it is dramatically different in approach from most of what is being done officially in the name of development today. And it gives voice to the experience of some of the most committed people in this field, who hope the WFA can become a megaphone to make themselves heard more effectively.

The Manifesto denounces the political root causes of world hunger, identifying essential reforms and setting out a programme to consolidate the independent food and development groups in their efforts for change.

Asserting that 'radical changes are needed if we are to meet our human responsibility of ensuring food for all', the WFA Manifesto declares that the first aim of its member groups will be to mobilise support for more equitable, human-scale paths of development. It has been shown, the document adds, that these paths are 'not only viable but a necessary precondition of any future worth having'.

1/ cf. IFDA Dossier 42, pp.76-77.
Based on the reports of eight working groups at the Rome Conference, the Manifesto is scorching in its critique of both national and international food policies. To a large extent, it says 'development' has meant the development of poverty. In many countries, and not only the poorest, economic policies which suit those at the centre of power are a direct cause of hunger - but since the hungry have little influence, these policies are politically affordable.

Farming systems in the North and in the South are increasingly being plugged into world markets: a global food auction where the poor can never hope to compete. Being encouraged to pursue unsustainable rates of growth, Third World countries have been driven deeper into debt and dependency. Their huge debt burden means that the poor are now actually paying the rich to keep the 'morally bankrupt' world economy afloat.

The WFA deplores the growth of authoritarian and dictatorial regimes in the South, and the economic and military support given to them by industrialised countries. At the same time, it urges international support for countries such as Nicaragua, where popular movements have overthrown repressive regimes, distributed land to the poor and introduced 'food first' policies.

A few governments and official agencies may recognise the kind of reforms needed to make food systems humanly and environmentally sustainable. But in general, the Manifesto says, 'these are not the priorities that governments choose to see' - hence the Assembly's emphasis on building a strong and autonomous people's movement to pursue its own alternative paths. For their future programme of work, the Manifesto signatories commit themselves to a 12-point action plan. Proposals in the plan include:

- an international network to investigate violations of the right to food;
- a campaign to expose disparities between the rhetoric and the reality of development aid, including food aid;
- combined efforts to challenge the austerity programmes imposed on Third World governments by the International Monetary Fund, which cut basic services to the poor while leaving military and other non-essential budgets largely intact;
- an independent biotechnology network of grassroots workers, non-government groups and workers in the industry to combat the near-monopoly of information by a few big companies in the biotech field;
- lobbying by food researchers and others for a reorientation of research priorities towards real food needs and sustainable farming methods.

Work is already underway on some of these proposals. Others will be worked out in more detail at a meeting of the WFA's 18-member International Liaison Committee to be held in Rome in July. The Committee, elected by the Assembly last November for a three-year term, is backed by a small London-based Secretariat responsible for coordinating the programme.

For further information please contact: Robin Sharp, WFA Secretariat, 16 Devonshire Terrace, London W2 5EW, UK.
ACTION NEEDED NOW TO END THIRD WORLD CRISIS

THE PENANG CONFERENCE ON "THIRD WORLD: DEVELOPMENT OR CRISIS"

Concrete action is urgently needed to tackle the problems faced by Third World countries. This was the conclusion reached by the participants in the "Development or Crisis" conference on the Third World organized last November by the Consumers Association of Penang, Malaysia. The conference voiced strong concern for the present crisis experienced by Third World peoples in various fields - economic, financial, social and cultural.

At the end of the Conference, the participants drew up a declaration that came up to 63 pages. The declaration stated that although most of the Third World countries have achieved independence, in many ways they are being subjected to more control by their former colonial masters and the industrialised countries.

The reality is that the Third World is not enjoying genuine development but is instead experiencing a deep and structural crisis. What is urgently required now is a genuine dialogue among concerned people and people's organisations which must lead to concrete effective action.

The participants came up with about 100 resolutions, categorised under economics; resources, basic needs and technology; culture and lifestyle; and international law. Some of these resolutions are:

. Third World countries should reduce their dependence on external trade, foreign loans and investment, and imported technology, to reduce the balance-of-payments deficit.

. Where transnational corporations are already participating actively in national economies, legislation should be enforced to curb an excessive outflow of profits. While measures to increase local ownership, domestic reinvestment stipulations and insistence on high local content production should be similarly enforced.

. The present method of putting off the debt crisis, that is debt relief and new loans under IMF (International Monetary Fund) conditions which include austerity measures borne by ordinary people, should be opposed and rejected.

. Countries facing serious debt problems should take measures to reduce their need for external loans. For example, expensive industries which manufacture luxury products should be rejected. Instead the emphasis should be on the production of food, cheap clothing, low-cost housing and the provision of health, sanitation and education facilities.

. The export of precious Third World resources for consumption in the rich countries should be curbed.

. Third World countries should strengthen their capacity to monitor, regulate and control the import of hazardous products and industries. A list of essential drugs that can satisfy the basic health needs of the people should be drawn up.
Third World countries must attempt to delink from the North by developing self-reliant economies that do not depend on the latter.

A basic needs approach should be adopted so that valuable resources are not wasted. At the same time, self-reliant industrialisation which is small-scale and labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive should be implemented.

Third World countries should evolve their own "appropriate technologies". Such technologies should make use of local resources, be labour-intensive, and should be based on sound ecological principles.

The production of nutritious food crops, adequate sanitation and clean water supply need to be given priority.

In many Third World countries where traditional medicine still exists, the promotion and development on the traditional system can improve health as well as foster dignity and self-confidence through self-reliance besides helping to reduce the country's imported medical bill.

The overwhelming control of the news media by a few agencies based in industrial countries should be reduced and critical coverage of development issues increased. While existing Third World international news and features agencies should be strengthened.

Third World governments should not make use of the New International Information Order to control the flow of information. They should instead strengthen their national news agencies.

All media should be free from foreign or local elite domination so that their presentation could reflect positive aspects of local culture and lifestyle.

Alternative media are necessary to fight against censorship and repression. In this respect Third World media should form a network to exchange and report information.

Control and prohibit, if necessary, the selling of foreign culture through, for example, the food and foodstuff industry (fast food chains, bottled drinks, etc.) and encourage instead local nutritious food.

People's movements from both South and North should mobilise victims of human rights abuses to publicise their plight and seek redress both at the national and international levels.

There must be an overall fundamental reconceptualisation of norms of law, justice and human rights. These rights must be seen from a Third World viewpoint, and must address the needs and aspirations of Third World people.

Third World intellectuals and people's movements must make efforts to initiate structural transformation in their social, economic, legal, education and scientific systems to break the chains of dependence on the North's institutions, technology and expertise.

(Third World Network, 87 Cantonment Road, Penang, Malaysia).

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The United Nations University (UNU) finds itself in a world which is characterized at once by two overarching phenomena. Firstly, global peace is threatened as never before by the ever-increasing weapons of mass destruction; the very survival of all living beings is at stake. Secondly, the world is going through a period of rapid transformation leading to the breakdown of established social and political structures both domestically and internationally; unmediated and lacking direction, the pace and character of this change threatens the survival of human civilizations. In this increasingly insecure and fragile world, we urgently need new ideas and solutions which are viable and persuasive.

The United Nations system with its specialized organizations is already engaged in the task of comprehending and dealing with specific problems facing the world. Of late, many "non-governmental" organizations, including universities, research institutions and popular movements have been engaged with the more urgent of these problems on behalf of the people whose voice is more often than not lost in the cacaphony of self-serving pronouncements of governments. The UNU University straddles both these sectors; it has identified its constituencies to be governments and inter-governmental institutions, the academic and the intellectual community and the general public across the globe. It is therefore in a position to address itself to both official and non-official actors and agencies that are concerned with pressing global problems with the assistance of those who can examine and analyse the problems in depth. What is more important, it can further take these analyses and proposals for action that emerge from them to action-oriented groups and movements for effective intervention.

The UNU Major Project has been organized around problem-clusters in the area of conflicts arising from conditions of mass inequity and deprivation, human rights and basic needs, peace and security, science and technology and their social and political consequences, environment and the conflict over natural resources, social conflicts over race, religion and ethnicity, and mechanisms of conflict resolution among nations, sub-national groups and regions. Such problems are studied at the global, regional and local levels. Research is undertaken through networks of university departments, research institutions as well as individual scholars working in governmental agencies. The results are published in a series of books, monographs, papers as well as the UNU bulletins. The funding comes from the UNU endowments as well as non-governmental sources, the latter usually being tied to specific programmes.

The Major Project on Peace and Global Transformation is a new research programme of the United Nations University. The work on conceptualization and planning for the Major Project was done during 1982. Sub-projects in different regions of the globe were planned during 1983 and the early part of 1984 and are now beginning to be implemented. The full programme extends up to the end of 1987, coinciding with the Medium Term Perspective of the UNU. But from 1984 it is divided into two biennial segments, 1984-85 and 1986-87. The first segment is devoted to empirical research in the local and regional spaces and during the second, the plan is to incorporate the research results from the first phase into
analyses in the global space along six of the most challenging global themes. These are:

1. Global, regional and local conflicts over natural resources (including non-material resources like radio-bands and satellite orbits);

2. the global economic crisis and its impact on different regions and countries;

3. the militarization process (including the arms race, military research and development and militarism as an ideology);

4. the role of the State and intergovernmental agencies;

5. the problems of human rights, basic needs and cultural identity and the related problems of violence in, and growing vulnerability of, individuals and communities; and

6. the role of science and technology in peace and transformation (and inversely in promoting violence and protecting the status quo).

Since each one of these problem areas is already receiving the attention of several UN agencies and academic institutions all over the world, research within these areas is not being sponsored by the UNU. The Major Project draws upon such available research and uses its conclusions. What the sub-programme is designed to do is to take a holistic perspective by studying the interactions and interlinkages among the problem areas. The idea is to identify the trends and counter-trends which are emerging as a result of the interlinkages. The trends, it may be said, outline the "danger zones" and within these the most dangerous points need to be identified, described and analysed. At the same time, the interlinkages among the problem areas also show counter-trends, some as a result of corrective steps taken at the State level or inter-governmental level but largely due to the actions of a growing number of popular movements for peace, ecological preservation, participative democracy, development with justice, human rights and for the survival of endangered cultures. The Major Project identifies within such counter-trends, the points at where the most efficacious and constructive intervention can take place. Conceptually, it operates at three levels: the conceptual, the empirical and the communicative; and all these levels are linked.

One of the innovations of the Peace and Global Transformation Major Project is the "Core Group Process". In a conventional research programme, coordinators are asked to establish research networks for a specific project; after the termination of the project, the networks are disbanded and the coordinators turn their attention to other tasks. In this Project, however, a world-wide research faculty has been established; officially designated as the "Core Group", it is intended to stay within the Major Project throughout its duration of five years.

The members of this "Core" have been drawn from different regions of the globe: East Asia, South-East Asia and South Asia, the Arab region and Africa, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, North America and Latin America. But this is no simple geographical division of research responsibili-
ties. Each member is also a scholar with deep interest in one or more of the themes being researched under the Major Project. She/he is made responsible for the theme as a whole, both regionally and globally. The Core Group meets at least once every year for an academic as well as organisational overview during which are brought out evolving regional perspectives on the global problematique, insights coming from empirical research in the different regions and the dynamics of interlinkages among the themes. The Core Group takes stock of the work done and plans collectively for the future.

An important by-product of this Core Group process is the "Composite Document" of which three editions are expected to be produced during the life of the Major Project. The Composite Document is conceived to be the collective expression of the programme "Core", weaving together different cultural, regional and ideological perspectives. The first such document, ready in a draft form, is an initial statement about the problematique of peace and transformation, an analysis of the six themes stated above in their regional settings, the nature and role of the new forces on the regional and world scene and an outline of the Core Group's collective thinking on the vision of a "liberating peace". The second document would sharpen the initial conceptualization in the light of the empirical and conceptual work done and enrich the analyses with events and processes in different regions. This will be produced at the end of 1985. The third and final document would be the summation of the entire research work done under the Major Project, strategies of transition towards intermediate goals and the building of an alternative theory as a catalyst for achieving peace with transformation. This will be produced in 1987.

Other publications arising out of the Major Project are on regional as well as global themes, monographs based on empirical studies in the regions and summaries of such studies in local languages intended to serve the peace and grass-roots movements. The object is to make a contribution to the "Global Debate" not only at the level of academic scholars but also at the level of the voluntary activists working in various movements.

Further information on activities already underway or details of sub-projects under the Peace and Global Transformation Major Project are available from: Rajni Kothari, Programme Director, Programme on Peace and Global Transformation, Exchange Building, 1st Floor, 13 Alipur Road, Delhi 110 054, India.

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AFRIQUE OCCIDENTALE: L'AFOTEC, SERVICE INTERNATIONAL D'APPUI À LA FORMATION ET AUX TECHNOLOGIES EN AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST/SAHEL

Fondation et historique

AFOTEC est le sigle du Service International d'Appui à la Formation et aux Technologies en Afrique de l'Ouest et au Sahel. Il est né de la volonté de plus en plus marquée des groupements paysans de mieux s'organiser pour résoudre leurs propres problèmes et du désir d'un certain nombre de cadres africains, paysans ou non, de contribuer à rendre cette prise en charge de soi, la plus effective possible. Car il ne s'agit pas de chanter sans arrêt "participation des populations, responsabilisation des populations" pour que cela marche de façon magique. Encore faut-il leur donner les moyens d'exercer réellement cette responsabilité en les y préparant concrètement. Combien de projets qu'on a voulu faire prendre en charge à la sauvegarde aux populations parce que l'aide se retirait, n'ont ils pas connu un échec retentissant?

AFOTEC est le fruit d'un long cheminement avec les groupements paysans. Il demeurerà en recherche permanente avec eux. AFOTEC a été officiellement fondé le 23 septembre 1983 à Dakar. Mais il était déjà opérationnel depuis janvier 1983 par l'organisation de sessions de formation à l'intention de groupements qui étaient de vieux partenaires des fondateurs qui comptaient d'ailleurs parmi eux un des responsables desdits groupements. On peut donc dire que la fondation de AFOTEC s'est faite à l'inverse de ce qui se passe habituellement.

Les premières actions ont été réalisées grâce aux contributions financières et en nature des groupements, aux contributions de diverses natures des membres fondateurs et à l'appui de l'Association "65".

But et objectifs

AFOTEC a pour but de renforcer la capacité des groupements à réaliser par eux-mêmes leurs projets. C'est-à-dire leur assurer progressivement une plus grande autonomie en les rendant capables d'organiser et gérer eux-mêmes des actions de toutes sortes, de trouver des solutions techniques, matériellement, socialement et culturellement acceptables pour eux, en exploitant d'abord et essentiellement les matériaux locaux, les ressources humaines et la créativité locales.

Pour atteindre ce but AFOTEC est en train de mettre en place des activités qui vont aider les groupements à:

- trouver des alternatives à leurs problèmes de développement,
- avoir accès à la formation,
- valoriser les ressources locales,
- valoriser la créativité locale,
- améliorer les techniques traditionnelles,
- adopter ou maîtriser les techniques nouvelles utiles pour eux,
- entreprendre des recherches et des expérimentations,
protéger leurs découvertes et leurs inventions,
faire des échanges et créer des solidarités avec d'autres groupements de leur zone, pays, sous-région, continent ou d'autres pays du Tiers Monde,
 créer un réseau de communication à la base pour soutenir ces échanges,
 construire une nouvelle stratégie de coopération sud/sud (partant essentiellement de la base),
 faire sortir les centres de recherches en Afrique de l'Ouest/Sahel de leurs laboratoires et coopérer avec eux.

Domaines de formation

AFOTEC n'a pas d'exclusive en la matière et répond en fonction des besoins et des demandes des groupements. Alors, compte tenu des besoins déjà exprimés par les groupements partenaires, dans les mois et années à venir, il mettra l'accent sur:

- les questions alimentaires qui incluent les problèmes hydrauliques, la conservation du sol, l'agriculture, la forêt, la pêche, l'élevage, les technologies post-récoltes, le transport et la commercialisation des produits, etc...
- la santé,
- l'organisation - gestion,
- l'épargne - crédit,
- l'alphabetisation et la post-alphabetisation,
- la petite industrie et l'artisanat,
- la culture et notamment la maîtrise culturelle du changement,
- l'emploi rural.

Cependant, quel que soit le domaine abordé, la préoccupation fondamentale de AFOTEC demeure l'homme. C'est le développement de l'homme que nous visons et la formation n'est que le moyen de parvenir à cela. C'est pour cela que cette formation sera aussi bien technique que théorique, aussi bien globale que spécifique. Il faut que l'homme soit à la fois capable d'agir et réfléchir en même temps.

Méthodes de réalisation des objectifs

Ces méthodes sont variées et adaptées à chaque groupement ou union de groupements. Un groupement peut bénéficier d'une ou plusieurs formules à la fois.

La formule la plus utilisée est l'organisation de sessions de formation qui reçoivent un groupe variable de délégués de plusieurs villages ou du même village. Cette formation se fait de façon pratique en réalisant concrètement la solution du problème posé. À la suite de cette première session les délégués formés animent immédiatement d'autres sessions à l'intention des membres de leurs groupements par la conduite de la même réalisation au niveau de leurs villages.
Par exemple en janvier dernier 40 femmes de Casamance ont bénéficié d'une formation pour la fabrication de pompes manuelles. Au cours de la formation chacune a fabriqué entièrement une pompe. Une fois rentrées chez elles, elles ont immédiatement réalisé d'autres pompes avec les membres de leurs groupements restés au village. Celles-ci apprennent aussi cette technique et cela permet en même temps de réaliser le projet du groupement qui est l'équipement de tous les puits en moyens d'exhaure. Mais cette formation ne sera pas seulement technique et s'accompagnera de notions sur la gestion et l'assainissement de l'eau, le principe même de la pompe etc...

Cependant il peut y avoir des formations individuelles, mais toujours au bénéfice d'un groupe. Par exemple, les CVD de Dissin (Comités Villageois de Développement) vont envoyer un forgeron en formation au Mali pour apprendre à fabriquer des équipements pour l'extraction de l'huile de karité. Il a été choisi par l'ensemble des villages. Les groupements lui offrent une formation qui va lui conférer de nouvelles compétences. En échange il va leur assurer un service dont ils ont besoin. Inutile de dire que les critères de sélection dans ce cas sont sévères.

Une autre forme de formation, non moins importante, est l'organisation de visites d'études et d'échanges entre des groupements ou entre des groupements et différents points d'appui qui peuvent élargir l'horizon des groupements tels que des centres de formation, des projets novateurs, etc... Les échanges inter-groupements sont un important facteur d'émulation et de formation notamment en organisation et méthodologie. En outre cela développe des solidarités qui sont sources d'une plus grande force pour les groupements. Dans les visites inter-groupements, il faut noter que nous attachons autant d'importance à la visite et l'étude des échecs que des expériences réussies.

**Le lieu de formation**

Le premier lieu de formation est le lieu de travail ou de réalisation de l'action en question. De ce fait les différentes formations se font le plus possible dans le village même, dans un village centre pour un groupe de villages ou dans la zone même. Mais en cas de besoin elle peut se dérouler auprès de groupements d'une autre zone du même pays ou du pays voisin, etc... Elle peut aussi se situer dans un centre de formation pour adultes spécialisés ou non, appartenant à des groupements ou non. Par exemple le Centre Agro-Pastoral de Sassal au Sénégal (paysan), l'Atelier mécanique de la Mission Catholique de Ségou (privé), le CESAO (ONG) ou le Centre de Schleg à Titao (ONG), etc...

**Les formateurs**

Sur ce point AFOTEC aide d'abord les groupements à recenser toutes les compétences dont ils disposent eux-mêmes et à les utiliser. Ensuite il fait appel aux autres compétences paysannes ou non (par exemple les services techniques stâthiques) mais disposés à se mettre au service des paysans. La priorité est donnée à une utilisation optimale des ressources humaines locales. Ensuite des compétences sont recherchées de plus en plus loin en fonction des besoins. Par exemple pour un groupement féminin de Casamance, la formation en culture atteinte va se faire sur place, celle des pompes au Mali par les moniteurs d'un centre, et celle de production de semences en Burkina par des paysans formateurs.
La stratégie de mise en œuvre des objectifs :
AFOTEC, un système d'appui

Nous tenons à insister sur cet aspect "Appui" qui est fondamental pour nous. AFOTEC ne fait pas de projets - pour rechercher après la participation des populations. Pour nous l'initiative revient aux groupements, ce sont leurs problèmes de développement, "c'est leur affaire". Ce sont eux qui font leurs projets et AFOTEC y participe, apporte son concours à tel ou tel stade, dans tel ou tel domaine, à la demande des groupements. Cela dans un esprit mutuel d'amitié, de fraternité, de solidarité, de confiance partagée.

AFOTEC soutient l'effort propre des groupements par une formation et une information appropriées et permanentes. Cette formation et cette information étant elles-mêmes servies par une recherche-action et une évaluation permanentes engagées avec les groupements.

Dans sa stratégie AFOTEC entend mettre l'accent sur les groupements féminins. En effet, en Afrique les femmes ont un rôle important dans la production, la conservation, la transformation et la commercialisation des produits agricoles, et notamment des produits vivrières. Elles jouent également un rôle non moins important dans la production artisanale. Pour ces raisons elles ont essentiellement la charge de l'entretien et de la survie du groupe familial et partant de la communauté. Cependant elles n'ont pas accès aux technologies améliorées, à la formation agricole, au crédit, généralement canalisés sur les cultures de rente et le profit. Or depuis quelques années les interrogations des femmes et des groupements se multiplient à ce sujet; par exemple où trouver le prêt qu'il faut pour acheter la charrue nécessaire pour le champ de riz, où trouver l'argent pour démarrer le petit commerce qui pourrait compenser un peu les mauvaises récoltes et le leitmotiv des hommes dans les réunions de groupements "nos femmes sont fatiguées..." Devant ce constat et à la demande de nombreux groupements, AFOTEC, dans son souci d'aider les groupements à acquérir les moyens de leur autonomie, a décidé d'orienter son appui particulièrement vers les femmes. Car elles apparaissent actuellement comme les éléments réellement porteurs des changements possibles parce que:

- dans les groupements elles représentent 60 à 80% des membres,
- elles sont plus facilement mobilisables malgré les apparences,
- elles assument la plus grande partie des activités génératrices de revenus qui peuvent permettre une épargne (elles le fond traditionnellement) et des investissements dans les villages,
- les actions qu'elles mènent sont plus susceptibles d'apporter de plus grands bénéfices à l'ensemble de la communauté. Exemple les cultures vivrières pour ne citer que cela. Les revenus qu'elles gèrent sont utilisés à des fins plus utiles (habits, médicaments, nourriture) que de prestige (montres, postes radios, etc.).

La mise en place d'un système de crédit et des formations accessibles aux femmes (Programme Nieleni ou CTP/Crédit - Technologie - Femmes) sera un élément important de l'appui AFOTEC aux groupements.
Zone d'action

Toute la région Afrique de l'Ouest/Sahel devra être progressivement touchée en fonction des demandes des groupements et des possibilités de AFOTEC. Les zones retenues pour le moment sont:

1985 - 1986: le Burkina, le Mali, le Sénégal, la Gambie, la Guinée, la Mauritanie, la Sierra-Léone, le Tchad.

Pour les trois premiers pays il s'agira de consolider les actions en cours et pour les autres de mieux étudier avec les groupements les actions à mener et d'évaluer leurs ressources propres disponibles pour ces mêmes actions. Ce qui permettra de mieux adapter notre appui.

Réalisations

. Actions en post-alphabétisation qui ont abouti à l'édition sur place, en langue nationale et par les paysans eux-mêmes d'affiches, de brochures et d'un journal de liaison mensuel "Yegle", des groupements de la zone de Bamba Thialène (Sénégal).
. Actions de restauration des sols et de préservation du couvert végétal dans la région de Thiès (Sénégal).
. Actions en santé avec la formation et le recyclage de 75 agents de santé villageois (hommes et femmes) dans la région de Koulikoro (Ouélessébougou) (Mali).
. Actions d'amélioration d'une technologie traditionnelle avec programme de formation des artisans locaux (Mali).
. Formation en gestion de responsables paysans (2 sessions d'un mois chacun à Méckhé et Sassal (Sénégal).
. Formation en maraîchage et culture attelée pour les groupements féminins, Casamance (Sénégal).
. AFOTEC assure aussi déjà un appui - secrétariat aux groupements paysans avec salle de travail et un service appui administratif, informations, dactylographie, tirage, photocopie, téléphone, télex et courrier. Ceci pour faciliter leurs démarches à Dakar et leurs contacts avec l'extérieur.

Les ressources de AFOTEC

Les ressources de AFOTEC sont constituées par: les apports propres des groupements: cotisations, journées de travail, contributions en nature; les cotisations des membres actifs; les cotisations des membres de soutien (les financements) et le produit éventuel d'activités de AFOTEC.

(La Secrétaire exécutive de l'AFOTEC est Bokiatou Tall, du Mali. Mme Tall est membre du Conseil de la FIPAU. Adresse: Villa 5227, Sixap Sacré Coeur I, Dakar, Sénégal).
ASIA: WOMEN’S RESEARCH AND ACTION NETWORK

We were a group of Asian women from ten countries gathered together at the International Conference on Teaching and Research related to Women in Montreal in August 1982. At several meetings we discussed the need to define feminism in specific Asian terms. We also expressed our need to integrate research and action to bring about vital changes in the lives of women, especially those in the grassroot communities of Asia.

We knew there existed women’s resource centers or networks in the region but these were limited in terms of either geographical coverage, function or focus.

We decided therefore to form the Asian Women’s Research and Action Network in order to promote feminism in research and action based on grassroots realities of Asia.

Objectives

1. To build an Asian network of women involved in research and action for their mutual support and development.
2. To exchange information and experiences.
3. To identify gaps in research subjects or methodology, and to promote work in these areas.
4. To bring research and action groups into ongoing interaction with each other’s work and output.
5. To engage in action on common issues.

What we have done

1. Published a newsletter which contains research abstracts, a listing of women’s groups in the region, news of activities, announcements of conferences and seminars, and feature articles on women’s programs and campaigns.
2. Organized a "conference by mail" on "what is Asian Feminism?".
3. Prepared an Alternative Asia/Pacific Report on the impact of the UN Decade for Women. Women's groups in 14 countries in Asia were joined by those in Australia and 26 countries in the Pacific in critically analyzing whether the condition of women had substantially improved between 1976-85. To prepare the report, AWRAN collaborated with the Pacific and Asian Women’s Forum (PAWF), Women and Development Network of Australia (WADNA) and the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau. This report was presented by a panel at the NGO Forum in Nairobi, Kenya in July 1985.
4. Organized an Asian women's conference dubbed "Asian Women Speak Out", in Davao City, Philippines. The conference assessed the over-all impact of the UN Decade for Women on the women of Asia. It also defined a development framework where women matter - from an Asian perspective.
How AWRAN works

AWRAN operates through Country Networks which draw on the relevant resources within the country to feed into the Regional Center. The Country Networks receive and promote information and initiatives from the Regional Center and undertake expansion of AWRAN within the country.

The Regional Center collects, collates and disseminates information on research on women being carried out in the region. It also promotes the growth of interaction between feminist research groups and feminist action groups.

Since its organization, the secretariat has been located at the headquarters of PILIPINA in the Philippines. Dues are $20 per year. Members are entitled to receive the network newsletter. They also have access to information services, technical assistance and training. They can also participate in cross-cultural exchanges and have opportunities for developing joint research and action projects with colleagues in other Asian countries.

If you are interested in knowing more about AWRAN or want to become a member, please write to: Irene M. Santiago, AWRAN Secretariat, c/o PILIPINA, P.O. Box 208, Davao City 8501, Philippines; or Teresita Quintos Deles, AWRAN Secretariat, c/o PILIPINA, 12 Pasaje de la Paz, Project 4, Quezon City, Philippines.

AWARDS OF THE BUILDING AND SOCIAL HOUSING FOUNDATION

This Foundation is offering two awards value £10,000 each, in each of the years 1985, 1986 and 1987.

We are seeking to identify human settlement projects, preferably existing, that offer sustainable futures to the residents: Award (a) in an industrialised country, a project which can be used as a model for replication and adaptation in mining areas such as North West Leicestershire, or elsewhere, where the traditional industries are shrinking fast; and award (b) a development in a Third World country, where the plight of the homeless worsens rapidly, and which project offers hope for the future.

In the first instance summaries only of the proposed submissions are required. The best of these will be selected for further consideration, and candidates at that stage will be required to produce project reports, supported by plans, diagrams and costings.

Each of the six awards of £10,000 will be divided into two elements. A prize of £3,000 for the successful individuals, and a further £7,000 for the production of a high quality presentation for international exhibition and demonstration.

For further details apply by letter to Peter Elderfield, Director, Building and social Housing Foundation, Memorial Square, Coalville, Leicester LE6 4EE, England. For the 1985 awards, preliminary submissions should be received by the Foundation no later than 30 September 1985.
FROM KENYA:

Recently I came about a copy of the IFDA Dossier among my brother's papers. I flashed through it but later I found myself delving more into it. These days I am the first to go to the post office to check for it.

It gives such insights into international affairs, I have recruited former university mates with whom I used to attend international relations courses to be my guests. We find it so stimulating, thought provoking and giving immense insights into issues that affect us in Third World, particularly alternatives of development.

Oscar Mundia, Nairobi.

FROM WALES:

I am hoping that the enclosed paper on "The Worlds of Different Peoples" may be of some interest to you and to the readers of the IFDA Dossier. It grows out of many years of teaching in a variety of environments and results from, I suppose, the meditation upon that teaching and upon the environments experienced.

It owes not a little, I believe, to your admirable Dossiers which for many years have been, for my wife and me, a source of intellectual stimulation, something which has become increasingly important with the homogenisation of so much of the media output. I suppose, in a way, it's an attempt to repay some little of the debt we owe IFDA - and also a small offering to the Dossiers' discussion of some of the issues I've attempted to touch on.

I hope you can use this paper.

May we, in closing, salute you and your colleagues for your work in keeping alive a discourse on our society and its problems in terms which are ecumenical in scope and deeply committed to a just world order. Visionary, certainly. But as is said "without vision, the people perish".

Keith Buchanan, Gwynedd, Wales, UK.

FROM INDIA:

I came across your Dossiers at Mr Charles Correa's office and I found them to be extremely useful. After going through few earlier Dossiers I felt that the literature printed in it truly bothers to know what bothers others and this is what interested me the most. These Dossiers gave me a feeling that what troubles others must trouble you. Now I have made it sure to make my contribution (in any possible terms) to these Dossiers in future.

Though I recently graduated from Bombay University (B.Arch 1984) I am planning to orient my architectural professional career serving most of
the Third World Nations. And I am sure, the IFDA Dossiers are the fine collections as a feedback to one's knowledge and not only that, such a valuable gift is a true fountainhead for new inspiring ideas.

Atul Kote, Architect, Solapur (Maharashtra).

FROM NIGERIA

I am a Ghanian resident in Nigeria. I am teaching in the School of Physical Sciences, Imo State University, Etiti Campus. I have just received my second copy of IFDA Dossier and I should say that these Dossiers are very informative on current events and research activities. I am very grateful to you for putting me on your mailing list. I hope to send some articles to you soon.

E. Prempeh, Etiti, Imo State.

FROM THE US:

Enclosed is a small sum in support of IFDA Dossier. I try to share as many of the articles as possible with those around me as they appear germane. It is important to spread the word that people(s) all over the world are working on important issues with or without American involvement. Too many of us believe in dependency and equate ourselves with the sine qua non of global dynamics, while in fact being smug, passive observers full of ideological righteousness.

David H. Parsons, Greensboro, NC.

FROM THE PHILIPPINES:

Thank you for sending us copies of IFDA Dossier 47. This is a most useful service for us and one we are grateful to you for. We take this opportunity to congratulate you for publishing your very useful Dossiers whose articles not only are informative but also motivate your readers to continue in development work.

Antonio L. Ledesma, Cendhura, San Juan, Metro Manila.

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IFDA DOSSIER - TARIF DES ABONNEMENTS

Word: 48 francs suisses or 80 dollars US
Sud: 24 francs suisses or 45 dollars US
LOCAL SPACE


. CEPAL, Five Studies on the Situation of Women in Latin America (Santiago: United Nations, 1983) 188pp. (UN sales N°E.82.11.C.10)


. Rafael M. Salas, The State of World Population 1985 (New York: UN Fund for Population Activities, 1985) 12pp. By 1985 world population stabilizes at the end of the next century there will be 175 million more women than men - according to the 1985 State of World Population Report from the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). The growing proportion of women will be the result of better health and safer childbirth. Women may be biologically more resilient than men but so far they have been held back in many areas and unable to exercise their natural advantages. "Swift action must be taken to assist women in attaining full equality with men in social, political and economic life", says UNFPA. This year marks the end of the United Nations Decade for women so the 1985 Report examines population issues related to women - including education, employment health and migration.


IFAD, Guiding principles for the design and use of monitoring and evaluation in rural development projects and programmes (ROME, IFAD, 1984) 76 pp.


Patrick McAuslan, Urban land and shelter for the poor (London: Earthscan, 1985) 143 pp. (3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD, UK).

Narindar Singh, Economics and the Crisis of Ecology (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1976) 181 pp. Has economics as it is paralysed today become irrelevant? - is the central question posed today by this scholarly and provocative work. The answer is in the affirmative as the author peels off layer upon layer of double-talk and double-think with which economists have unconsciously or willfully shrouded reality, not through technical failure but an ingrained ideological predilection for the status quo. In his pointed analysis of what is wrong with contemporary economic thinking and its repercussions on ecological stability, seen in a global perspective and graphically captured, the author makes a forceful plea for an economics that genuinely attempts to come to grips with reality, ceasing to be obsessed with logical consistency alone; for a genuinely progressive and humane society that at the very least ensures the conditions of its own continuance. (2/11 Ansari Road, New Delhi 110 002, India).


Kex Nettleford, Dance Jamaica, Cultural Definition and Artistic Discovery (New York: Grove Press Inc., 1985; 317 pp. One of the most innovative companies to have achieved world acclaim in the last half cen-
tury, the National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica blends the lore, music and dance traditions of Jamaica, Africa and the American south with both modern and classical dance forms. Written by founding artistic director and guiding spirit Rex Nettleford, and including almost 100 photographs, this history celebrates the company's first twenty-one years. This excellent and beautiful book tells the story of how a group of unpaid dancers, musicians, choreographers and designers became one of the most influential cultural voices of the Third World. Rex Nettleford describes the company's efforts to create a unique Caribbean dance out of a background of exusion, suffering and survival, as well as to express Jamaica's own identity and history. (196 West Houston Street, New York 10014, USA) Price: $29.95.


NATIONAL SPACE

. Patricia Politzer, Miedo en Chile (Santiago: CESOC, 1985) 376pp. Durante un ano la autora entrevistó en profundidad a numerosos chilenos y chilenas de los más variados orígenes e ideologías. En todos ellos, "en algún momento de la conversación, el temor surgió en forma más o menos explícita y con razones más o menos fundadas. Él algunos, era miedo a los militares, en otras, a la cesantía; en el siguiente a la pobreza, el sopionaje, a la represión, al comunismo, a los marxistas, al caos, a la violencia o al terrorismo. Cada uno tenía el suyo". En las vivencias de los últimos diez años de chilenos tan disímiles se encuentran elementos para reconstruir un pedazo de la historia reciente y para contribuir al "desafío que implica mirarnos y reconocernos tal cual somos, ni tan buenos ni tan malos como creíamos".


. Charles Edquist, Capitalism, Socialism and Technology, A comparative study of Cuba and Jamaica (London: Zed Press, 1985) 182pp. Do Third World socialist countries tackle issues of technological transfer and development in ways different from capitalist societies? In this meticulous comparative field study of sugar cane harvesting in two countries - Cuba and Jamaica - Charles Edquist finds that the causes and consequences of technological change differ significantly. He also shows that there are important lessons for other countries to learn from the experiences of Cuba and Jamaica.


reviews ten years of resource and environmental management in Malaysia and discusses the issues, the legislation and enforcement covering them and Government efforts in these areas. Ten years after the Environmental Quality Act has been passed in Parliament, it has become clear that concerted large-scale industrialization and enthusiastic introduction of new technology which are aimed at improving the quality of life have in reality produced a contrary result. (37 Lorong Birch, Penang, Malaysia).

Among the recent papers from the Council for Asian Manpower Studies: Hananto Sigit, Low Income Households in Indonesia, 92pp; Manuel F. Montes, Low Income Households in the Philippines, 103pp; Medhi Krongkaew and Aphichart Chamratrithirong, Poverty in the Northeast: A Study of Low-income Households in the Northeastern Region of Thailand, 103pp; Lita J. Domingo and Imelda Z. Feranil, Changing Labour Force in the Philippines, 334pp. (University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines).

THIRD WORLD SPACE

Thomas P. Fenton and Mary J. Hefron (eds), Third World Resource Directory, A Guide to Organizations and Publications (New York: Orbis Books, 1984) 304pp. Third World Resources gathers catalogs, annotates and publicizes education and action resources from and about the Third World. They are compiling a 12-volume set of paperback resource directories to be published by Orbis Books on a schedule of four per year beginning in 1986. The directories will update and expand the information on Third World-related organizations, books, periodicals, audiovisuals and other resources found in the Third World Resource Directory. Each volume in the set will contain resources gathered from all over the world on one Third World region or issue (issues cover food, hunger, agribusiness, human rights, militarism, peace and disarmament, multinational corporations and labour, women, native peoples, nuclear arms and energy). They are also publishing a quarterly newsletter with notices and descriptive listings of organizations and newly released print, audiovisual and other educational resources on Third world regions and issues. (Third World Resource, 464 19th Street, Oakland, CA 94612, USA).


GLOBAL SPACE

1. Issam El-Zaim, Recent Developments and Future Determinants of International and Arab Demand of Industrial Energy, 113pp; Present Situation and Sustainment of the Palestinian Industry and Economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 40pp. (Vienna: UNIDO, 1985).


GLOBAL SPACE

1. Didier Mattijesen (ed.), Church, Society and Change (Rotterdam: Ecumenical Research Exchange, 1985) 242pp. A report of an international conference held in Driebergen (NL) in 1984. The objective of this conference was to discuss policies and strategies towards a just, participatory and sustainable society (JPSS), the concept of the World Council of Churches since many years. Although this concept has been the subject of many discussions and studies, little is known of steps to operationalization of a JPSS. They all more or less deal with the sustainability and justice of the present economic system. They take into account the global power structures, the participation of deprived minorities, the ecological problems, the changing modes of production, the position of women, the food strategies in the Third World in contradiction with the agricultural policies of the European Community. The issues mentioned above can no longer be solved by national governments but ask for a strong international cooperation and the will to look beyond national boundaries. (Oostmaaslaan 950, 3063 DM Rotterdam, Netherlands). Price Dfl 21.-

1. Martín Hopkins, Del rostro de la noticia a la noticia en el rostro (ILET, 1984) 108pp. (Casilla 16637, Correo 9, Santiago, Chile).


. Lucia Lanzanova (a cura di), Il sistema dei trasporti nello sviluppo della cooperazione economica internazionale: L'Italia e i paesi in via di sviluppo (ICEL, 3 via Salvini, 20122 Milano, Italia).


PERIODICALS


. Church and Society, (Vol.37 N°1, January 1985): "Eccumenical Perspectives, Essays in honour of Paul Albrecht" (WCC, 150 rte de Ferney, 1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland).


. Interculture (N°86, janvier-mars 1985): "La persistance des valeurs autochtones" (Centre culturel Monchanin, 4917 rue Saint-Urban, Montréal, Québec, Canada H2T 2W1).

. Journal '85: "Emerging Strategies for Asian Rural Resources Manage- ment" by William H. Matthews; "New Challenges for International Environ- mental Institutions" by Peter Thacher; "Third World Cities - The Environ- ment of Poverty" by Jorge Bardoy and David Satterthwaite. (World Re- sources Institute, POB 620, Holmes, PA 19043-0620, USA).


. Utne Reader. Really, as they say, the best of the alternative press. And the Reader itself is getting better and better. In N°10, June/July 1985: "Seventeen directions toward peace" (pp.28-46); former California governor Jerry Brown interviews Nicaragua President Daniel Ortega (pp.88-93); Ralph Nader reconsidered (pp.107-111); etc, etc. (POB 1974, Marion, Ohio 43305, USA).

. The Bhopal catastrophe is still a dominating issue. *Media News in Perspective* (N°2, 1985), (19 Hazarimal Somani Marg, Bombay 400 001, India) and *Consumer Network* (Vol.1, N°2, 1985), (A Sesha Vilas, 3-5-203 1st Floor, Hyderguda, Hyderabad 500 029, India) devote their issues to the disaster, analyzing it from various angles. Also an article "The lessons of Bhopal" by M.E. Hurtada in South (June 1985), (14th Floor, New Zealand House, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TS, UK) - to list only a few publications on this topic.

. A report on the Afghanistan's struggle "Remember the Mujahedeen" by A. Nadeem and "Slavery, the legacy lingers on" by W. Walji, an article on the history of the Atlantic slave trade and its impact on contemporary white Americans' attitudes, and "Cultural autonomy in a dominated world" by S.P. Manzoor, in *Akbar Inquiry* (Vol.11, N°6, June 1985/Ramadan 1405), (55 Banner Street, London ECIY 8FX, UK).

. Ying and yang issues of *Seminar* "Using the army" (N°308, April 1985), and "A warless world" (N°310, June 1985), (Malhotra Building, Janpath, New Delhi 1, India).

. Year 1985 concludes the UN Decade of Women. Hence the appearance of a wealth of articles and publications devoted entirely to women's problems including: *Women*, a publication of the Lutheran World Federation, bringing, in its latest edition, a variety of news on the topic (150 Rue de Ferney, Geneva, Switzerland); *People* (Vol.12, N°2, 1985) discusses "Women: the next decade" (18-20 Lower Regent St. London SW1Y 4PW, UK); *Refugees* (N°18, 1985) contains a section on refugee women (UNHCR, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland); *Mainstream* includes "Divorce and Muslim women" by A.A. Engineer (N°39, 1985), (P-24 Bhagat Singh Market, New Delhi 1, India); *A Shift in the Wind* (The Hunger Project) in its 21st issue focuses on the role of women in ending hunger (2015 Steiner St., San Francisco, CA 94115, USA); "Women as innovators" in *Science for Villages* (N°67, Dec.84/Jan.85), (Magan Sangrahalaya, Wardha 442001, Maharashtra, India); plus many women oriented bulletins and newsletters: *Isis International* special "Women and media" collection of essays (1984, via Santa Maria dell’Anima 30, Rome, Italy or PAWT, 69 Gregory’s Road, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka); *AFSC Women's Newsletter*, includes in its Winter 1985 issue (Vol.6, N°1) an article, inter alia, on "Organizarao da Mulher Mocambicana: Women building a new Mozambique" (1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102, USA).
An extended study of the US economic involvement in Nicaragua reveals that some forty American corporations are making profits in that country. A partial directory is included in Multinational Monitor (Vol.6, No.4, 1985). The previous issue tells the story of the Depo-Provera contraceptive. (1346 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 411, Washington DC 20036, USA).

The Akosombo Dam on the River Volta in Ghana causes serious erosion damage in Togo and the large dams under construction in Senegal - the Diana Dam and the Manantali Dam - will push the small farmers out of their smallholdings since these will be turned into big, mechanised high-rise plantations in spite of successful peasant cooperatives. Earthscan Bulletin (Vol.8, No.2, 1985), (3 Endsleigh St., London WC1H ODD, UK). Also "Dams in Asia" in Balai (No.10, 1984), (POB SM-36, Manila, Philippines).

Center Focus (No.66, 1985) includes an uncompromising account by an anonymous contributor of his South African trip where the clear cut issues of the apartheid system have been blurred by the countless ifs and buts in the minds of many white South Africans (Center of Concern, 3700 13th St. NE, Washington DC 20017, USA).

The Ecologist (Vol.15, No.1/2, 1985) starts with a 5-page well-documented letter to IBRD President Clausen and accuses the Bank of financing poverty and famine. Included among many other articles is a report on the protest by a number of environmental organisations to Clausen about the destructive effects some of the World Bank projects have on the environment. This protest was partially successful as the World Bank has announced that it is reconsidering the financial commitment to the gigantic Polonoreste project in Brazil (Whitehay, Withiel, Bodmin, Cornwall, UK).

P. Houghton advocates the idea of "Villaging the city" in Common Future (No.2, 1985), (318 Summerlane, Birmingham B19 3RL, UK).

Acidification Research is a twice-yearly compilation (in English) of abstracts on selected environmental research projects in Sweden. (Box 1302, 171 25 Solna, Sweden).

Gustavo Gutierrez gives an account of his "25 years in the theology of liberation" in Simbayan (Ecumenical Center for Development, 879 Epi-fanio de los Santos Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines).

Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth) continues to publish the Environmental News Digest, but since Vol.3, No.1, 1985, it has a new style, format, layout, etc. It includes many information articles, largely from Asia (37 Lorong Birch, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia).

The relations between "Western Transnational Corporations and the Southern African Development Coordination Conference" and their future is discussed by E.A. Friendland, along with other articles on Africa in a special issue of Scandinavian Journal of Development Alternatives (Vol.IV, No.1, 1985), (POB 7339, 103 90 Stockholm, Sweden).

"The traditional Vietnamese village" by N.L. Jamieson constitutes a leading theme for Inter-Culture (No.86, 1985). With a view to a signifi-
cant number of Indochine refugees in North America, the magazine presents texts of Vietnamese culture. This is part of a forthcoming book Vietnam as a Value Oriental, Self-Integrated System by the same author 4917 St. Urbain Street, Montreal, Quebec H2T 2W1, Canada).

. Third World Network Digest is a new publication from Penang. In its first issue: Nicaragua, NGO's actions following the Bhopal gas leak and the Third World Concerned Lawyers' Network (87 Cantonment Road, Penang, Malaysia).

. "Informatics, is there a choice?" asks Development, Seeds of Change in its first 1985 issue directed by Mahdi Elmandjra with papers by Rajni Kothari, Soedjatmoko, Armand Mattelard, Michael Zammit Cutajar, Maurice Strong, and Ivan Illich. A very rich issue concluding, with Mahdi, that "the communication and information technologies have become a basic need for survival just as they are potentially the greatest force of destruction and annihilation of the human race" (SID, Palazzo della Civiltà del Lavoro, 00144 Roma-EUR, Italy).

. "Informatics and Third World" is also treated in IDOC Internazionale (Vol.16, No1, 1985), Via S.Maria dell'Anima 30, 00186 Rome, Italy).

. As the International campaign against apartheid slowly gains momentum the bi-monthly International Labour Reports (Issue 9, 1985) contains several articles dealing with South Africa and sanctions, and reports on rank and file actions by a group of dock workers in San Francisco and by a group of mainly women shop workers in Dublin (300 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9NS, UK).

. "The international scene and Latin America's external debt" by Luciano Tomassini appears among many other articles on the continent's economic problems in CEPAL Review (No24), (Casilla 179-D, Santiago Chile). Also "Latin America's response to the debt crisis" by R. Rett, in the Third World Quarterly (Vol.7, No2, 1985), (New Zealand House, 80 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4TS, UK).

. An extensive report from the pilot study "International communication within international non-governmental organizations" by V. Hercik in International Transnational Association (No1, 1985), (Rue Washington 40, 1050 Brussels, Belgium).

NOTE A NOS LECTEURS EN SUISSE

Le fait d'inclure un bulletin de versement dans chaque livraison du Dossier a donné des résultats positifs et nous remercions ceux d'entre vous qui l'ont utilisé. Cependant, pour des raisons pratiques, il nous est impossible de procéder à cette adjonction d'une manière sélective; aussi, nous nous excusons auprès de ceux qui, ayant déjà contribué, trouvent régulièrement un 'bulletin vert' dans leur Dossier.
N.B. Listing a paper below does not imply that it will be published. Decisions in this respect are based on the need for a certain balance between themes, actors, regions and languages. The editors regret that time makes it impossible to engage in direct correspondence with authors about papers. Papers may be obtained directly from the author.

LOCAL SPACE


Didier van Houts, Transforming the Informal Sector into a Self Development Sector (Rijksuniversitair Centrum Antwerpen, A. Goemaerelei 52, B-2018 Antwerpen, Netherlands) 15pp.

Swapan Mukherjee, A Study Report on Paddy Cumfish Cultivation (Centre for Communication and Development, Bidhan Pally, Madhyamgram PIN-743275, West Bengal, India) 61pp.

NATIONAL SPACE

David Seddon, Nationalist Opposition and the Overthrow of Numeiry in Sudan (School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, England) 5pp.


THIRD WORLD SPACE

Samir Amin, Note sur le concept de deconnexion, 9pp. (A Note on the Concept of Delinking, 11pp), (Forum du Tiers Monde, BP 3501, Dakar, Sénégal).

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A. Kerdoun, Technology Transfers from Developed Countries to Developing Countries (59 Southpark Avenue, Glasgow G 12, Scotland, UK) 4pp.


Georg Sorensen, Some Contradictions in a Rich Concept of Development (International Studies Programme, University of Aalborg, Fibigerstraede 1, 9220 Aalborg 0, Danemark) 17pp.

Hector Vera, Libération des peuples: autodetermination et responsabilité internationale (Université de Paix, Bd du Nord 4, 5000 Namur, Belgique) 9pp.
EUGENE WHELAN (CANADA), PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL MONDIAL DE L'ALIMENTATION:

S'IL S'ETAIT AGI DE LEUR FAIRE LA GUERRE...

(Parlant de l'aide d'urgence contre la famine en Afrique, et, plus précisément en Ethiopie), M. Eugène Whelan a déclaré: "S'il s'était agi de leur faire la guerre, les avions et les hélicoptères seraient arrivés à temps."

(Le Monde, 12 juin 1985)

HANNES ALFVÉN, 1970 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS:

THE ONLY REMEDY AGAINST THE NUCLEAR THREAT IS THE POPULAR MOVEMENT

What part can scientists play (in trying to prevent nuclear annihilation, or omnicide)? It is our profession to clarify the truth to ourselves and to our colleagues. It is also our duty to tell everybody the truth and nothing but the truth: to educate people about the real state of the world.

It has been thought that this should be done by whispering advice into the ears of the world's political leaders. Decades of sad experience in the nuclear debate have taught us this does not work. Politicians are under pressure from so many groups more powerful than scientists and, according to the rules of the political game, they listen - they must - to those who can exert most pressure. Of course they are concerned if their actions lead to world destruction, but clearly they are more concerned about losing the next election or, in dictorial states, about losing power to another individual or group.

Hence the only efficient remedy against the nuclear threat is that a popular movement becomes strong enough to exert decisive pressure on the politicians. As far as I can see, this is the only way to save our culture, the results of thousands of years of human activity, and the scientific and technical knowledge on which our civilisation rests.