

NEW WORLD NEWS

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Imagine the delegates of 156 countries in session in Manila as you read this. They are in the Philippines to share out more justly the slices of the world cake that everyone's work helps to make. And they have to recompose the corps of cooks who decide what kind of cake is baked and how it is divided. It is the fifth meeting of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 5).

MANKIND'S NEXT STRIDE FORWARD

by Russell Carpenter
Britain

A NEW INTERNATIONAL economic order is the bread and butter of the challenge facing our 'global village'.

There is compelling need for change. There are the cries of the desperately poor, the 28 children who die of starvation in the world each minute, and the stunted lives of millions more. One person in every five is below the level of 'absolute poverty' and does not have the minimum of food needed to lead a healthy life. The debt burden of the poor countries has mushroomed in the last five years, while the level of aid has sunk to the lowest proportion of Western countries' GNP since records were kept.

Sensitive

UNCTAD has for twenty years given a platform to the pent-up impatience of the poorer countries. Then the complacency of the rich was jolted by the concerted action of the oil-producers in 1974 to get fairer prices for their commodity. Now alarms are being sounded at the UN. Some individuals in Western governments are taking up the point, but seem powerless to have much effect on policies.

The industrialised countries are heading for a cul-de-sac if the millions in the world's great market places are too poor to buy what they produce. And there is a time-bomb at the end of it, when bitterness and frustration burst into violence.

As the delegates gather in Manila there is a chink of hope. After years of pressure by the LDCs (Less Developed Countries), agreements have just been signed to set up a Common Fund to stabilise the price they receive for their raw materials and so help their capacity to help themselves—for 85% of their earnings come from raw materials.

The LDCs will have 47% of the votes in the Fund's controlling body to the industrialised countries' 42%. Though the fund, at \$500 million, is much smaller than the LDCs hoped, it marks a start to the economic restructuring that a new order will need.

As the Group of 77—the organised lobby of the Third World countries, who now in fact number 107—met in Tanzania to prepare for the conference, President Nyerere summed up progress so far: 'The kind of dialogue we have been conducting has not succeeded in changing the structure of power.' This touches the sensitive heart of the matter.

It is not the money and resources alone but the control of them that needs to be shared. This is where the challenge spills over from the planning tables of the experts into the area of human relationships where all of us live. It is an area where experts are just people, and set answers do not exist. The experiences of others are signposts as we all make our way.

Resettlement

A small book just published in Nairobi gives one pointer. Entitled *Kenya's Land Resettlement Story*, it tells of the transfer of farming land from white to black hands in that country. The foreword is written by the Minister for Lands and Settlement (see box).

32,000 families were settled up to 1966, at a rate of never less than 1,000 each month for five years. Each one bought viable plots on credit terms that gave full title of possession. The out-going European farmers were paid the market price. Over two million acres have now changed hands. For all the imperfections, it was this that gave effect to the transfer of power in the birth of the new nation. As the new farmers got established productivity increased, living standards rose,

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From the foreword to 'Kenya's Land Resettlement Story'

From Cairo to Cape Town our resolve is to see all men free. Free from the dominance of another race, class or culture.

Our aim is to so live that Africa becomes the Answer Continent; where men and women learn to live as the sons and daughters of God, in countries free from hate, fear, greed, corruption and war.

We believe that our land resettlement programme has played its part in the rebuilding of Kenya; that lessons learnt from our experience and mistakes, could be helpful in other parts of the world, to remove the discrimination and mistrust that deprive people of their real freedom and prosperity.

I recommend that this land resettlement story be read throughout the world by those whose task it is to deal with land; how it should be owned, and how it should be farmed.

J H Angaine
Minister for Lands and Settlement

Trade union view

by Ron Howe
Full-time union official, Manchester

I BELIEVE that the trade unions are the key to Britain playing a major part in the Third World. Unless we are mindful of the Third World and how we can help them develop, then our jobs will be threatened. I don't think they will be threatened by our assisting them. I think they could be threatened if we don't.

The average British worker realises that we can no longer go on ignoring the Third World and their aspirations. The average Indian worker's yearly earnings is about £45. The British worker spends over £100 a year on cigarettes alone. He is not an idiot. He knows that cannot go on.

INDONESIA INVESTMENT CRITERIA



by Stan Barnes

who was decorated for services to the dairy industry and international relations in South-East Asia. His book, *Two hundred million hungry children*, will be published in Australia in July.

A WELL-KNOWN FEATURE of the lovely Mediterranean island of Malta in the 1930s was the goats which roamed the streets, ready at any time to be milked on the doorstep of a customer. But goats' milk was the carrier of the dreaded undulant fever bacteria.

The only answer was to pasteurise all the milk. In 1935, as a young manager in the dairy industry in England, I was shown an advertisement for a manager to establish such a scheme on the island.

Initially I was not interested. I could see no reason to leave my secure and promising job to take up a temporary appointment in Malta. But I was learning to seek in quiet for God's guidance about my life—and the next morning I knew that God wanted me to apply for this position. So I became the first manager of Malta's Milk Marketing Depart-

ment. Today the island is free from undulant fever.

In Malta I obtained valuable experience in setting up a project and, for the next 30 years, I was to be involved in new dairy projects in a number of countries.

In 1967, as Project Manager for the Australian Dairy Produce Board, I was managing a new joint-venture company in Singapore. The countries of South-East Asia are notoriously short of milking animals, and have, for many years, depended on imported sweetened condensed milk. The Australian Dairy Board has already helped establish joint-venture companies in three South-East Asian countries to manufacture sweetened condensed milk and other dairy products, using milk powder and butter oil from Australia.

Across the water from Singapore, in Indonesia, control of the country was passing from President Sukarno to President Suharto and the bankrupt country was urgently seeking foreign investments. As the fifth largest country in the world, many foreign companies were anxious to have a part in its development. But the situation was unstable and the future very uncertain. So, at a time when the country urgently needed help in establishing new industries, most foreign companies were just keeping a foot in the door and adopting a 'wait and see' policy.

My clear thought one morning was that the Australian Dairy Board should give a lead to other countries and should set up manufacture in the country. The economic chaos made an orthodox feasibility study impossible. But, with the backing of the Dairy Board I visited the country and met

dealings. But I was challenged by what the President of Nigeria said: 'We of developing countries must stop trying to blame our failure on other people.' Honesty and change from both sides are necessary.

What changes need to happen in the leaders—and in us ordinary people—of the Third World to bring about the development we want? Have we been honest in the way aid is distributed? Is it used fully? Have we tackled corruption in our midst?

Irriation

In our own country there is often as great inequality between the rich elite and the poor masses as between rich and poor countries. We are demanding something from others which we ourselves are not ready to do.

When my parents decided to give part of our land to build a health centre for 300 families who had been victims of the civil war, my first reaction was 'why us?'

'We are also poor,' I said to myself, 'and

excellent joint-venture partners. Following a visit by the Chairman, the Board decided to establish an Indonesian company.

An application was lodged with the Government of Indonesia to establish a joint-venture company with a capital of two million dollars, 90 per cent of which would be provided initially by the Dairy Board. Once the Indonesian Foreign Investment Board—under the leadership of A R Suhud, now Minister for Industry—realised that we meant business, they gave every co-operation.

Security

I had been warned by overseas colleagues that we would have to bribe our way to make any progress. But we moved in with a policy of no bribes, a stand which was much appreciated by Mr Suhud.

In spite of the run-down infrastructure and the gross shortage of all building materials the factory was ready to start production in less than 18 months from the formation of the company and the purchase of a site. This joint venture company, P T Indomilk, has been successful from the start of operations. I believe it filled an important role, too, in giving a lead to other foreign investors during the critical time when Indonesia was seeking to develop and industrialise.

I believe God's guidance is an essential ingredient for a project manager. This does not mean that one ignores economic factors but does ensure that material gain is not the only consideration. One learns to assess projects on the basis that people matter and not to be ruled only by considerations of financial success and security.

my family has given so much already in material help and in time and energy.' When I thought more, I realised that my real concern was that piece of land could have been my inheritance. I had always been ready to help the poor people, but when it meant me giving up something myself, I was not so ready to do it.

My parents decided to be responsible for re-settling these 300 families. As we worked with them, we learned that the poorest farmers generally have better yields per acre than the big land owners because they have to make the best use of what they have. This encouraged my parents to let these farmers use our own land free. Then they asked some of the big landowners to lease land to these farmers at a very low rent.

When our Government saw their incentive to rebuild, they paid for the building of an irrigation system.

The UNCTAD conference will concentrate on material development. But unless we also keep our care for each other, this development will not satisfy us.

Development is people

by Genis Ibot
Philippines

WE IN THE less-developed countries have our pride. If something is given to us we want to give something back in return. Therefore, injustices in the field of trade have to be tackled. The price of the manufactured goods we import from the West has climbed steadily over the past 25 years—while the price of the raw materials which we supply to make them has not kept pace. And now large tariff barriers are being imposed against us.

These are among the issues being discussed at the UNCTAD 5 conference in my country. The economic side will be debated. But will human issues be overlooked?

Often I point my finger at the West and demand change. I feel resentful at the unjust

ZAMBIA CIVIL SERVANT LEARNS



by Paul Craig

who after three years in field development work in Zambia has taken up similar work in Nigeria.

ZAMBIA IS FACING HARD TIMES. Copper exports earn her over 90 per cent of her foreign exchange. When, in 1975 the copper prices on the London Metal Exchange fell to almost half their peak level of the year before, there suddenly was not enough money to pay for essential imports—foodstuffs, vehicle spare parts—or to run the extensive health care and education programmes.

On top of that Zambia has an acute transport problem. A land-locked country, her links with sea ports are tenuous. The Benguela railway through Zaire and Angola was blown up in 1976. Almost overnight Zambia had to re-route 40 per cent of her copper exports. The Tazara railway from the copperbelt through Tanzania has operational difficulties which are aggravated by massive congestion at its terminal at the port of Dar-es-Salaam.

There are also thousands of Zimbabwean guerrillas and refugees in Zambia.

One doesn't need to be an economist to appreciate what this all means—walk into any shop or bush store and you will find empty shelves. Many basic commodities have been unavailable for periods of up to a year at a time.

Equally one doesn't need to be an agriculturalist to be staggered by the fabulous potential for farming in that vast country, five times the size of England and Wales but with a population of only five million.

New ideas in the media

WHEN THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES met in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 1976, they passed a resolution that the poor nations had become 'passive recipients of biased, inadequate and distorted information.' The international press agencies, they felt, concentrated on the failures of the developing countries rather than their achievements, and so gave the world a false picture.

Since then there has been much rethinking

Yet there are constraints also. Thousands of tons of fertilizer were delayed in ports, and heavy rains reduced the maize yield in the 1977/78 season, whilst a drought earlier this year is likely to reduce the coming harvest.

During these last three difficult years of the country's history I have lived and worked in Zambia with my wife, Marguerite, and our family. I was a civil servant in the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development, responsible for advising and co-ordinating farmers and government on the development of better livestock production in the Eastern Province. I had a staff of 35 in the field and a labour force of 60 employed on cattle, pig and poultry development projects.

I realised that my task was to work myself out of the job—to train my staff to gain the technical knowledge, but also to take initiative and responsibility.

Weak roof

It was a new experience for all of us. Some things did go wrong. But through it all we grew in the desire to see that those in need got the required assistance. And most significantly, one or two found what I have found—that God is the ultimate expert on development.

I was responsible for the construction and equipping of a hatchery for day-old chickens. This involved extensive building of which neither I nor my staff had any experience. One day in quiet, I had the clear thought to delegate responsibility for the purchasing of the materials to one particular man. Some of my colleagues queried this but I went ahead. The man grew in initiative.

One day, however, I discovered that the roof trusses of one building were made of weaker poles than I had intended. I took expert advice and rectified the fault by doubling the number of trusses.

Some weeks later my boss came from Department headquarters in Lusaka. He spotted the weak roof. I blamed the man I had appointed—in his presence. Immedi-

ately I knew I had been wrong.

Next morning I felt I should apologise. I resisted, arguing to myself that such a move would undermine my authority and discipline might suffer. But the thought persisted. I called the man to my office and apologised for what I'd said in front of our superior officer. He replied immediately, 'But Mr Craig, you were right. That roof was my responsibility.' It led to a growing mutual confidence, such that now he is taking responsibility for the construction programme, and my leaving has been largely irrelevant as far as the programme is concerned.

Agriculturalist

As a civil servant I had to learn to serve. Most of the farmers whom I and my staff were employed to assist were much poorer and less educated than us. It was easy, when the pressure was on, to be offhand or dictatorial when they sought advice. I found help in the words of Christ: 'In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'

We saw afresh the relevance of Christ's way to the problems of the country, and decided to start a Bible study group. Twelve or fifteen people joined us each week, the number growing in the University vacations when local students came home.

The study was always related to our own lives and attitudes, and we learnt much from each other.

One who attended was my closest Zambian colleague—a university graduate and agriculturalist. He has now taken over my job. As I was leaving I told him how I had appreciated working with him. He reciprocated and then said, 'I think we have also grown spiritually.' He has the Bible study in his home now.

Marguerite and I miss our friends and the country. We have often heard people talk of the need for men of character and faith if a country is to progress. Our three years in Zambia have shown us the hope, satisfaction and possibilities when we heed God's directing hand.

in the Western media. Speaking to a Commonwealth Press Union conference last year, Derek Ingram, the managing editor of Gemini News Services—which specialises in Third World reporting—pointed to the 'tendency, in English-speaking countries at any rate, to wallow in bad news to the extent that the morale of the country itself can be badly shaken.... It is this kind of downbeat, often cynical approach, when applied to news of the developing countries, that causes annoyance.'

These issues were discussed at a seminar on the media in Colombo in March, which was opened by A de Alwis, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting. It fol-

lowed the MRA seminar 'Prospects of Democracy in Asia' in January and was planned by the YMCA and Marga Institute in collaboration with Moral Re-Armament.

Mr de Alwis said that he disliked control of the media, but also the 'publish and be damned' attitude in the West. He asked that ideas on the media's role in Sri Lanka, put forward in the seminar, be discussed on national radio.

Journalists, academics and writers took part in study workshops on 'The "watchdog" role of the Press', 'The freedom of the Press in a developing country', 'Information needs for development' and 'The role of the media in national integration'.



and the national economy has been strengthened by an agricultural production which now far exceeds that at the time of independence in 1964.

All this was achieved in the bitter aftermath of Mau Mau. The influence of Moral Re-Armament on the lives and work of a number of those involved in the scheme and on the political feelings in the country is described as 'key to the whole re-settlement story' by the author, P D Abrams, who was

Deputy Director of the scheme. He describes Jomo Kenyatta's historic speech to European farmers in 1963, when he asked for and gave forgiveness for the past, as 'creating the climate of opinion which made it possible.'

Then consider the transition from British Empire to Commonwealth. 'The first requirement was to unwind the accursed chain of racial superiority which had blighted the British Empire,' writes Lord Gardner, head of the Commonwealth Office through the sixties, 'and to gain acceptance of the fact that tolerance was not an effort in condescension.'

Impulse

Progress in human affairs comes through conscious choice in response to the pressure of circumstances. An effort of imagination and will has to be made by some leader or group to pioneer a new way forward, or that part of the story can end and a Dark Age ensue.

To create a new economic order for the world is to take the next stride forward in the human story. Like the first stride by man on the moon, it will be a momentous event and the fruit of long, hard years of work. But this stride will involve all the people of the world, and will take us all on unknown paths.

dogmatism. The enemies of an answer to the world predicament are the people who say that only one way will work, and who discredit people who, though of a different persuasion, are doing valuable work.

1. There should be clear recognition of the problem. There is a danger that clever people argue the problem out of existence so as to protect their own self-interest and comfort.
2. We should attempt to translate our realisation that there is a worldwide problem into things ordinary folk can do now.
3. Our Western societies can learn the ancient Christian virtue of gratitude. If we recognise that we are privileged, we will be more ready to sacrifice, and to support our leaders and governments in doing what is necessary on an international level.
4. We should study how to become real equals. Living in a success-minded, education-oriented, affluent society, it is easy to think that everybody who is poor, uneducated and unsuccessful is to be treated as immature. There will never be a solution without a belief that all people have something to learn from others—that, in a sense, there are no experts.

The scientifically-advanced countries have no advantage in the search for the right path. In human relationships and the cohesion of society they are suffering malaise. Affluence has not brought satisfaction. The decay of character and purpose is creating problems that economics and technology cannot solve.

The President of the Ivory Coast said last year, 'In Europe reason kills the heart. What we Africans can give Europe is the discovery of a new form of human relationships.'

This is a crucial contribution. For behind the necessary efforts of the experts, who wrestle to build the structure of a new economic order, there has to be advance in human relationships. Relationships of trust must undergird the new economic order. We need some positive impulse which can free us from the drag of self-concern. Fear of doom or of cold-war rivalry will not be a sufficient spur.

The challenge is to the way we live and what we live for. None of us can escape that choice.

Kenya's Land Resettlement Story

by P D Abrams

will shortly be available from
Grosvenor Books, 54 Lyford Road
London SW18 3JJ

Everyone's guide to a new world order

by Peter Hintzen

Holland

THERE IS NO ONE SOLUTION. There is no panacea. The new world order has to be built from the top. Governments have to negotiate and agree on compromises which widen the opportunities for poor countries without requiring unbearable sacrifices from the rich.

But the work from the top will never be what it should if there is not simultaneously a new consciousness at the grass roots.

When I was in Bogota, Colombia, I was confronted every day with the terrible sight of the thousands of 'gamines', homeless boys. I began to feel this problem was so colossal as to be insoluble. Then I met several people and organisations who were doing something. They worked on so small a scale that it seemed insignificant. But in their efforts was human warmth and compassion. The few that were helped received something of value. All efforts count. If we all do what we can, the sum total will begin to tell.

My conclusion is that there should be no

Perhaps we should also admit to ourselves that this world shall not nor ought to be perfect. Most of us would like to live peacefully, selfishly and undisturbed. We get agitated when we hear about calamities, kidnappings and hijackings. But in a world of mass communication, we will be continuously disturbed. This is a good thing. It can make us act.

Mass communications have an important part to play. They should not depict problems in a better light than is warranted. But where they can they must underline the hope that people, even ordinary people, can do something.

This is why, in my view, the Marxist approach, though its analysis contains many valuable elements, is less than helpful. It reduces to victims people who could do much. It glorifies conflict and violence whereas answers will only come from co-operation and understanding—understanding based on truth and not make-believe or submission.

If man is unable to organise a just world, perhaps this is meant to make him humble enough to admit that human wisdom, with all its technological aids, has failed. Is it too bold to say that the baffling paradox in creation will only be conquered if we allow the Creator to work? And He may not work according to our design.