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## Brain Drain

If the flow of talent from the poorer to the wealthier countries is to be reduced, the initiative must be taken by the losing rather than the receiving countries. A migrant moves partly because he is attracted to the new country but partly—sometimes chiefly—because conditions at home are unfavorable. To retain more of their talented young people, the losing countries may have to modernize their educational systems, offer higher salaries, modify promotion policies to place greater emphasis on merit, increase the number of senior posts in universities, or in other ways improve career opportunities. All of this requires money, but willingness to change is an even more important requirement.

We can help, however, by examining and perhaps modifying our own policies to be sure they are not working at cross purposes. In educating foreign students, we give some of them better preparation for work here than for work at home. Our research and educational assistance to other countries sometimes seems inadequately coordinated in terms of overall impact on the development of the countries we are trying to assist. Domestic policies which encourage the importation of talent may conflict with our foreign policies, which can be successful only if the countries we are trying to help can retain the people on whom their own economic and social advancement depends.

Our educational, economic, and technical missions can also help the countries to which they are assigned to recognize and make the necessary internal changes. And, if we wish, we can insist upon reasonable progress as a condition for continued financial aid. Obviously the conditions would have to be negotiated separately for each country, and surely there would be difficulties, but we can help a country that is willing to try to help itself.

We should not, however, try to stop migration. Scholars have always been a migratory lot—to Alexandria, Rome, Baghdad, Paris, and other centers, and now to western Europe and North America—and no one can contend that the world would now be better off if the migrants had been forced to stay at home. Reduction of migration must not stop the free movement of scholars, artists, artisans, and other venturesome souls within or across national boundaries.

A laissez-faire policy may not be best, however, and in any event it is likely to be impossible, for uneasiness about the situation here and jealousy and resentment abroad indicate that corrective actions are likely to be taken. Great Britain is studying her loss of medical talent. The Pan American Health Organization has studied the migration of professionals from Latin America. The Council on International and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Government recently held a conference on the migration of talent and skills. Senator Mondale's amendment to the International Education Act of 1966 will require a study of migration from the developing countries to the U.S. These studies are desirable, for we need more complete, more detailed, and more analytical information than we now have about the numbers and sources of migrants, the number who return, their fields of specialization, why they come, and why they do or do not return. Some information is available, but not enough to give confidence that we know how to take proper account of both national needs and individual rights under the different circumstances of different countries. As a principal beneficiary of the migration of scholars and professionals, the U.S. should take the lead in arranging with other countries to secure the information that can make action most reasonable and helpful.—DAEL WOLFE