

2-3 July

Science, Development, and Human Values

The poorer areas of the world are developing in the sense that such indicators as gross national product, industrial production, and energy consumption are increasing. Even on a per capita basis these indicators have come close to doubling in the past 20 years. At the same time on a per capita basis the economies of the poor countries are growing no more rapidly than those of the rich. Viewed in absolute terms, the gap between the rich countries and the poor is widening at an alarming rate and if present trends continue the peoples of the world appear destined to remain divided into two quite separate groups: the affluent minority and the deprived majority. Further, within the poor countries themselves increased production is being distributed inequitably with the result that the gap between the rich and the poor appears to be increasing there as well.

Arrays of problems of extraordinary complexity are appearing in both the rich countries and the poor. The rich are suffering from the environmental effects of their vast consumption of energy and other raw materials and from a dwindling resource base. The poor are suffering from the consequences of rapid population growth, rapid urbanization, increasing unemployment, and inadequate expansion of agricultural and industrial production.

The prognosis for man's future is sufficiently alarming to warrant a re-examination of development goals and of our approaches to their attainment. Numerous questions come to mind. Where have the rich nations and the poor ones gone wrong in their efforts

since World War II? What lessons have we learned? Should the goal of the poor countries continue to be to create an urbanized, industrialized imitation of the rich countries as they are today, or should those goals be dramatically altered? How can we determine the basic needs and wants of peoples, set national priorities, and ensure optimal concern for human welfare? To what extent and how can science and technology contribute to the solution of these problems? What are the most urgent research priorities?

Some of these questions will be examined at the symposium on "Science, Development, and Human Values," which will focus primarily on Latin American countries. At least two-thirds of the participants are Latin American scientists, engineers, and philosophers who have been concerned with development programs and the process of social change.

The 2-day symposium, which will take place 2-3 July in Mexico City, has been organized by Victor Urquidi (El Colegio de Mexico) and Harrison Brown (National Academy of Sciences).

The symposium will feature Victor Urquidi and Kenneth Boulding (United States) on "Where have the rich nations

and the poor nations gone wrong?," Carlos Mallman (Argentina) on "Human values and happiness: Basic wants and needs," José Valenzuela (Chile) on "Research priorities for economic development in Latin America," and Luis Manuel Penalver (Venezuela) and Harvey Brooks (United States) on "The value of science and technology to human welfare."

The chairperson for the first session is political scientist Olga Pellicer de Brody of Mexico; discussants include Antonio Bacigalupo, Hollis Chenery, Enrique d'Etigny, and Rodrigo Botero.

The chairperson for the second session is sociologist Renée C. Fox of the United States; discussants include Luis Villoro, Leona Baumgartner, David Ibarra, and Norman Borlaug.

The chairperson for the third session is chemist Eloisa Mano of Brazil; discussants include George Bugliarello, Gerhard Jacob, Marcos Kaplan, and Marcos Moshinsky.

In the final session the co-organizers will review the major conclusions and recommendations emerging from the discussions.

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Health Services

The notion of health services as a system raises a number of questions whose answers lie, in part, in science and technology. What are feasible goals for the health services, and what resources and organization will be needed

to achieve them? What are the potential contributions of technology to the quality and productivity of health services? How shall we use our present scarce resources to best advantage? These questions will be answered in