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WORK



- ★ The global workforce is growing by 75 million a year
- ★ Two out of three workers in the poor world are self-employed. Three out of four work on the land.

With no social security in the Third World, people have to work. The problem is that the poor simply don't make enough from the work they do. Africa's workforce is predicted to double by the year 2000. Only ten per cent will get jobs in industry. The answer there, as elsewhere, is to give people control of sufficient productive resources - land, technology, capital - to make a living for themselves.

Another player in the theater of world development are those monoliths of power and mystery, the multinational corporations. They are marvels of modern organization: their activities are astounding results of worldwide communications, computers, and management. The misfortune is that instead of serving the advancement of people they serve only the interests of profit, often only of the short-term kind. These companies are so powerful precisely because of their multinational character; that is, the ease with which they can act simultaneously in different parts of the world, invest where the profit is the highest, maximize their earnings in countries where taxes are the lowest, to sell goods and services to companies controlled by them at totally artificial prices, and to apply very effective pressure on governments desiring to increase employment or increase their exports. Many of these countries have their bases in countries that are financial paradises (Remember K.C. Irving?), which in fact creates economic empires that are more powerful than nations. Of the 100 largest economic units in the world, 56 are multinationals and 44 are countries. Did you know that General Motors, for example has more financial assets than Belgium?

Basically, then, development is an economic problem. We can't forget about politics, though, although the line between politics and economics is very thin. But many countries are controlled by ruling elites, in some cases military, in other cases business, both groups however don't want things to change. We in Canada are in fact controlled by an economic elite too, and along with the other western nations support the neo-

colonialist countries by trading with them and supplying sometimes-misdirected foreign aid: hence the rich get richer; the basic problem of underdevelopment.

So, what can be done? Over the years, the solutions have changed to this question. The massive food airlifts of the 60's is basically a thing of the past: it was realized that, except for emergency situations, food aid actually creates another sort of dependence, that on the outside world. As time goes on, the only solution to world development that makes sense is the setting up of a new international economic order, a new order that benefits everybody, the suppliers, the producers, and the consumers of the world's resources. Many of the problems of the world will never be solved by making the rules of international trading fairer. For example, if a country is among the very poorest of nations with no raw materials to trade, then no measure of fairer trade will help it. Aid will be a final possibility when no other measures apply.

Development - a complex problem with seemingly complex solutions. Yet when

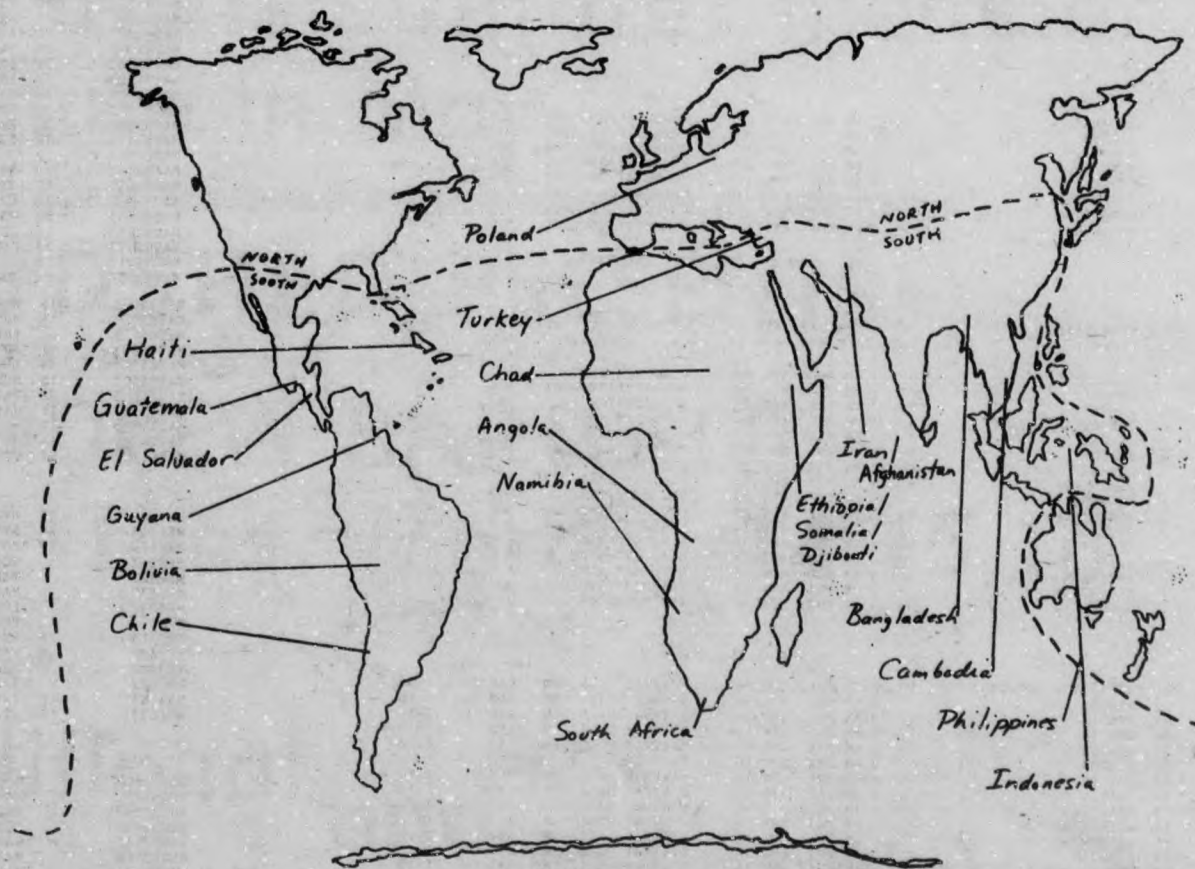
over two-thirds of the world's population lives in the developing world, and when the United Nations General Assembly now has a majority of representatives from the Third World, it is only a matter of time before things will have to change. Canadians on the whole tend to be quite ignorant of what is happening in the outside world; perhaps it has something to do with the fact that we are well-fed, materially satisfied, and physically comfortable. But remember, the next time you compare New Brunswick to Alberta, the same factors apply to development within Canada as to development of the world. If you've ever thought, "It isn't fair for us in New Brunswick," well... imagine what you would say if you lived in Haiti, or Botswana, or Indonesia...

POPULATION



- ★ After thousands of years of steady acceleration, the rate of world population growth has begun to slow down.
- ★ It is now predicted to reach 6 billion by the year 2000.

Contraceptives increase peoples' control over their lives. But they only lower birth rates if people want less children. Experience suggests that people want smaller families only when they are sure that their children will survive, when incomes increase so that child labour is no longer essential, and when security improves so that children are not the only means of support in illness and old age.



This map is a Peters Projection: while the polar and equatorial areas are distorted, the more densely settled earth zones appear in proper proportion to each other. This projection represents an important step away from the prevailing Eurocentric geographical and cultural concept of the world. Note the dividing line between the countries of the North and South. If you don't know what's going on in those countries mentioned on the map... well, time to do some research. Being informed is the duty of every world citizen.