

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, 1965. Edited by S. H. Robock and L. M. Solomon. [Dobbs Ferry: Oceana. 1966. vii + 197 pp. \$6.00].

This volume is an edited summary of the proceedings of the Seventh World Conference of the Society for International Development held in Washington in March 1965. Among the matters discussed were food, population, literacy, planning, investment, self-help and aid, the legal order, the Peace Corps, regionalism and the implications of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. A telling point is made by Dr. Woods, the President of the World Bank, in his introductory paper on international development as a moving target. He emphasises that development aid is a problem for the Communist as well as the capitalist States and comments that "it is refreshing to think that . . . they, too, are learning how sharper than a serpent's tooth is the thankless aid recipient" (p.1). He also points out that schemes of international development have produced 'the vocation of international development expert', which is experiencing its own population explosion, with the United Nations and its related agencies increasing from about 1000 in the fifties to five times that number today. If the bilateral arrangements are taken into consideration, the number is probably nearer 50,000. But "the way of the development adviser is hard. Very often . . . he goes out to his job with too little briefing, works under difficult local conditions, deals with people who do not understand how to be helped and may not even want to be helped. And when it comes to getting himself back into a career at home, he faces more re-entry problems than an astronaut" (pp.2-3).

In connection with regionalism, Robert K. Gardiner, the Executive Secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, mentioned a difficulty that is proving a political bone of contention among many of the members of the Organisation of African Unity: "One of the first problems in the development of the continent is posed by the frontiers of the African states, a legacy of the colonial phase in their history. They were established without regard to linguistic and ethnic affiliations and often included non-related groups, some of whom did not even recognise colonial frontiers. Beyond the boundaries of practically every state are men seeking to be reunited with those within. But as legacies of the colonial regime they are both resented and ardently defended." The E.C.A. has attempted to short-circuit these frontiers and national problems by dividing the continent into four sub-regions, which "constitute viable economic units and if they are used as bases for development, some of the difficulties created by the crazy political division of the continent may be overcome" (p. 147).

Mr. Sidney Dell was also concerned with regionalism, and although he is primarily interested in Latin America, he commenced his paper by emphasising a fact that is of concern throughout the world: "In a world of super-powers, it has become fashionable to regard the merging of small countries as an end in itself,

and nationalism as a luxury fit to be enjoyed only by those able to measure their military strength in nuclear megatons or those able to acquire such strength. . . . Of 112 under-developed countries throughout the world, 91 have populations of under 15 millions and 65 have less than 5 millions. In a congregation of giants, surely the 65 must be regarded as non-viable? Yet the small countries are entitled to say — here we are and here we stay. . . . Our right to freedom and independence cannot be denied simply by looking at the shape of the economics (*sic*) cost curves. Our soil is sustaining a very rapidly growing population — more rapidly growing, in fact, than ever before. Is that not in itself an indication of viability that even Darwin would have readily accepted?" (p. 154). He goes on to point out, however, that "viability is a relative term", and the problem is whether these states can raise their living standards as much and as quickly as they themselves would consider reasonable in the light of their population explosion.

Perhaps one of the most interesting sections of the book is that on 'development and legal order'. Professor Fatouros asks "is law a relevant factor to be taken seriously into consideration when dealing with economic development?", and suggests that in many under-developed countries the rule of law is often disregarded or casually treated (p. 111). At the Bangkok Conference of the International Commission of Jurists, the question received a dogmatically positive answer and it was suggested that if law and the lawyers played their proper role in the economic field there would be more respect for the rule of law. Professor Harvey, formerly Dean of the Faculty of Law at Ghana, reminded his listeners that the lawyers of modern Africa had been brought up in a legal system and tradition that was pluralistic in character and did not really fit in with the society in which they are living and practising; for, "instead of stable governmental institutions resting on a widespread consensus concerning basic values, there is in contemporary Africa the dominant problem of preserving public peace and order and the integrity of governments themselves. . . . There is grave doubt that African lawyers are equipped by their training to perform the law jobs demanded in this period of revolutionary transition." He suggests that western lawyers looking at Africa might work "for the clear articulation of allocations of public power and function, the provision of reliable standards of fair procedure and the statement of standards to guide discretion whenever grants of discretionary power are made; [while] African lawyers can also contribute towards neutralizing the adverse effects of the present political balkanisation. . . . Lawyers can also play an important role in developing structures for regional cooperation while the present political boundaries remain intact" (pp. 114-5). One might add to these comments, provided the African lawyers wish to accept the advice and assistance — and paternalism — of their western colleagues.

While it is true that the emphasis of the entire conference on International Development 1965 tended to be on Africa and Latin America, there is much in the proceedings on the role of the donor as well as the needs of the donee which will be of interest and assistance in other parts of the world. All those interested in aid and development will do well to read this little report.