

## CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPMENT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THIRD WORLD PEOPLES

September 30 - October 2  
Center for Continuing Education  
12, Library Place  
Princeton, N.J.

The following questions, prepared by competent researchers committed to 3rd World concerns, will be used by the 10 workshops of the Consultation as a tool to stimulate dialogue in our search for some kind of consensus on development from the perspective of 3rd World Peoples.

In this dialogue what matters is the result of the work of the group as a group, and not the reaffirmation of well-known slogans and authoritative texts related to the discussion of development.

Q U E S T I O N S

The process of industrialization through the assimilation of modern technology in the areas of the Third World in which the accumulation of capital is low usually follows alternatives which reflect ideological conceptions. Basically three alternatives have been adopted in the last three decades.

The first alternative (the Brazilian model, for instance) consists in increasing the rate of exploitation and control of the labor force by the entrepreneurial elites. The working class is thus prevented from organizing itself and therefore cannot pressure for higher wages. At the same time this alternative stimulates increasing production of durable goods and their consumption by the international market to produce higher and higher profits, and to attract more and more foreign capital.

Page Two

The second alternative--the Hong Kong Model--is one which will promote the industrial development of the internal market. It exports non-durable goods according to the determination of the International Division of Labor, controlled by multi-national corporations. (Example: In the United states you cannot buy a car but you can buy a candle made in Hong Kong.)

The third alternative-- the Chinese Model--follows the self-reliance principle. It consists of the adjustments of the volume of production and consumption to a nationally planned rate of accumulation of wealth.

- I. Are these alternatives viable for Third World Peoples?
- II. Can development be an idea based on a myth (for instance the myth of modernization)?
- III. Is development as proposed by the Western Industrialized Centers (including Japan), a universal pattern for the whole world?
- IV. Is development a mechanistic evolutionary growth?
- V. According to the Club of Rome's Limits to Growth, the pressure of developmental growth on non- renewable resources plus all sorts of ecological damages (pollution and environmental destruction) would be of such a magnitude that the world economic system would collapse.  
 --Is this catastrophic vision correct?  
 --Is there, then, any alternative of development left to Third World Peoples.
- VI. Is it possible that the way development is being pursued in the industrialized centers will make these centers more and more dependent on the natural resources of underdeveloped areas? (9 of the 13 basic minerals used in operation of the U.S. industry will have to be imported by 1985.)
- VII. Since the pattern of development of the industrialized centers will result in the exhaustion of natural resources, should the 3rd World areas follow the same pattern?



- VIII. Given the unequal level of accumulation of wealth in the present days, would it be viable and desirable for 3rd World Peoples to reach, in two or three decades, the same levels accumulated by the industrialized centers?
- IX. Given the total control of the international Market by the Multinational Corporations, is there any possibility for the The Third World Areas to preserve their autonomy if they follow the pattern of capital intensive development?
- X. Is there any structural connection between underdevelopment and dependency? What are the factors which produce such structure?
- XI. What are the alternatives open to the underdeveloped areas which suffer the consequences of dependency on developed economies?
- XII. Wherever there is development side by side with unequal distribution of income; and wherever the state sanctions such a policy, can one call that kind of development DEVELOPMENT?
- XIII. The habit of determining the rate of development based on the calculation of the growth of the GNP works on the basis of the rate of wealth (by and large belonging to a small fraction of the population). Is this a scientific way of measuring growth since it measures only wealth and never poverty? What about variables like (1) unemployment (2) under-employment (3) inflation (4) increasing of cost of living, etc. ?
- XIV. Because the capitalist dealing in underdeveloped areas is by definition dependent on the capitalism of the centers, does it not necessarily generate
- (a) a power elite in the 3rd World?
  - (b) the alienation of the culture?
  - (c) the embezzlement of power?
  - (d) What else?
- XV. What are the choices for the areas in process of leaving their colonial status (Guinea) to become independent political entities? Is capitalism a viable alternative? Why?
- XVI. What type of social relations should 3rd World Peoples pursue to achieve
- (a) social equality
  - (b) social cooperation
  - (c) self-determination
- XVII. Do the kind of social, economic and political relations as prevailing in industrial capitalism favor the development of creative capabilities of human beings?

Page Four

- XVIII. Is development a pattern of quantitative measure (a kind of measuring tape) of the material production? Or is it something else? For instance:
- (a) an instrument to promote the full material and spiritual creation.
  - (b) What else?
- XIX. Should the principle of free market and free competition be the guiding principle for the development of 3rd World Peoples or should they follow the principle of planned economy and international cooperation?
- XX. Is it not the present moment of crisis for international capitalism (inflation and possible depression) a historical opportunity for 3rd World Peoples to have political consideration as the commanding element of the economic order to eliminate the disparities of wealth, power privilege and knowledge?
- XXI. How can 3rd World Peoples develop their own technological and scientific apparatus to promote their creative forces for progress and social knowledge?
- XXII. Recent studies estimate that the capitalist system has a population of about 2.5 billion. Of this total 800 million live in the center of the system; 1.7 million in the periphery. Would it be correct for 3rd World Peoples to adopt a policy of birth control as advocated by the industrialized centers?
- XXIII. How can 3rd World Peoples mobilize themselves so that the necessary sacrifices will be accepted (1) not to perpetuate archaic and oppressive cultural inheritance and (2) to break all forms of dependency which produces a predatory way of life in their search for development?