

World Order

Development conference examines progress

NOTE: Cindy Truelove attended the Fifth Decade of Development Conference jointly coordinated by the United Nations Trade and Development Conference and the IBM Foundation for Global Equality. Reporting on the landmark meeting held in Accra, Ghana, M. Truelove shared the following text of the key note address by recently elected Secretary-General Juanita Burgos de Letelier of Peru.

"Gathering today to examine the progress of five decades of global planning, we bring with us a spurious zeal first expressed by planners in 1964 who challenged the economic injustice of a misguided world system. Though planners motivated member nations of the United Nations to eradicate gross economic inequalities in a world where the wealthiest 35 percent consumed 78 percent of the total world resources, the first three decades of

modernization minimally improved the quality of life for the majority. We, in 2028, must recognize the importance of the year 1985 in the economic history of planet Earth. Each of you can perhaps recall the feeling of despair as February of 1985 found the crowded country of Bangladesh virtually bankrupt. Countless thousands faced unemployment as the jute processing plants prepared to cease operations. Plagued by constantly fluctuating prices on the world market as well as an increasing debt from numerous international loans, the bankruptcy of the world's chief producer of jute because the impetus for the Common Fund instituted in 1990.

Since 1990 the Common Fund has provided a substantial and constant market for all of the world's primary product producers. Countries producing chromium, jute, coffee, cocoa, and tea are no longer subject to unstable

markets for their major products. As the Common Fund has functioned to insure market stability, the primary producers no longer suffering major debts to the wealthier nations. As insured importers of the world's goods, the primary producers now function to maintain a world free of tariffs and quotas which once plagued the world system. Gaining financial stability through the Common Fund for primary products, the primary producers now comprise the world's market for semi-finished industrial products--a phenomenon of the last twenty years. The antiquated General System of Preferences which gave special privileges to nations with developing economies has been discontinued in exchange for a world with no trade barriers and a conscious effort on the part of wealthier nations to import the semi-finished materials from their counterparts in the Common Fund.

We cannot overlook the important contribution of past Secretary-General Jerry Brown of the United States in committing the "wealthy 10" to the full allocation of 5 percent of their Gross National Products to the UN. Indeed, this increase represents a far-reaching commitment by the United States and other nations to global equality. Though Mr. Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State for the United States, committed his country to eradicating the economic imbalances as early as 1976 at the Kenya Conference on Development, it was not until Secretary Brown's administration in the State Department that the major investment funds was realized.

Numerous tools are now available to measure the actual level of the quality of life on our globe which could only be projected by the Gross National Products of former times. The code regulating the

transnational corporations instituted in 1980 has translated profit extraction and capital intensive production into profit sharing and appropriate technology which best utilizes the potential of heavily populated areas. As the quality of life has vastly improved with the reorientation of transnational corporations to just operation, our urban areas have become centers of human creativity world-wide.

Each of us today is challenged to develop a sense of history as we prepare to design a Fifth decade of Development. A philosopher of the mid-20th century observed that "civilized humankind marched across the face of the Earth and left a desert in its footprints." We must continue to create productive and plentiful islands in the midst of the desert in order for human equality and potential to be realized.

Business and Economics

Society projected as cashless, computerized

When one of Meredith's roving reporters, Frances Wooten, went around campus, back in 1978, asking individuals what they thought the business world would be like in 2028, she came up with some rather interesting replies!

Scholar Amy Davis stated that there would be a "cashless society" and everyone would be using credit cards.

A classmate, Mary Bowden, agreed and mentioned that the dollar would be "non-existent."

Another student, Nancy Caison, added that "cash will be out of style."

Barbara Sirles stated that the students would more than likely be taught by computers and that computer programming would be taught in the schools at all levels.

As for inventions, Kaki Mauney suggested that there would probably be telephonic screening where people could call one another and see each other while talking on the phone.

Cindy Edwards felt that more emphasis would be placed on the stock market and that a new business field would be created by 2028.

Reporter Wooten also consulted the professors and instructors in the Department of Business and Economics about their intuition concerning the business world of 2028.

Dr. Lois Frazier, chairperson of the Department of Business and Economics, stated that "basically the same courses would be taught

in 2028, but the students will be expected to synthesize ideas they have acquired from a variety of sources. The emphasis will be on trends, relationships, and applications."

Dr. Ivory Lyons believed that there would be courses on "Welfare Economics," "Universal Economics," "The Social Product," and "The Gross Universal Product."

Dr. Alden Peterson, the management professor, believed that there would be such courses as "Organization of Intergalactic Corporations," and "The Management of Humanoids." He expected to be instructing his students in how to use a cranial wave assimilator-dissimilator.

Instructor Charles Nelms suggested that there would be special courses and seminars on "telepathic and telemetric communication."

Mrs. Evelyn Simmons said that she will program her lectures into a robot. It will not be necessary for students to come to class to receive the lecture material. There will be computers in the students' rooms. They will store the lectures for future playback and studying. Students will hook up with computer assisted teaching machines to answer their questions. No texts will be necessary. All of the material will be contained in the computer retrieval system.

Dr. Lyons mentioned that his primary teaching equipment tool will be the satellite. Dr. Frazier added

that "machines will be used to reduce some of the recording, calculating, and other similar tasks."

Instructor Marjorie Hansen stated that "there will be more instruction with computers and other advanced machines." She went on to say "the cyclopean eye plus meticulous memory will be installed in all places of business to read the Universal Product Code on all products, goods and services alike."

Instructor Nancy Sasnett stated "Our energy source will be different; machines will be powered by solar energy, water, rechargeable batteries, or computers."

Mrs. Simmons feels that there will no longer be a parking problem. People will be propelled by their Buck Rogers Belts.

Mr. Nelms stated that "the labor force will not require everyone to work. Therefore, we will need special courses instructing people how to handle their leisure time." He went on to say "Those who do work will be more productive and efficient with the aid of more advanced machinery."

Mrs. Hansen feels that "the tax system will be totally revamped -- perhaps performed automatically at the point of purchase. Taxes will be higher, deducted immediately, and calculated by computers that remove all loopholes."

Dr. Frazier summed up the future in a most objective, realistic manner:

"The business world of 2028 will demand competent

employees, enlightened employers, streamlined procedures, efficiency in operation, development of sophisticated machines, and transfer of menial tasks to machines."

"A great deal of emphasis will be placed on the ethical and social responsibility of business. The number of service-oriented businesses

will increase. The people seeking careers in business will need a thorough basic education, knowledge of business principles, understanding of the role of business in society, a willingness to work and adaptability to change, which is constant!"

How much of this applies to the business world of 2028?

