

# The Economics of Non-Alignment

The Non-aligned Conference to be held in Colombo in August comes at a crucial time of the emerging new economic order. As UNCTAD Secretary-General, Gamani Corea mentioned in an interview with the Economic Review, the Non-aligned Conference has a crucial part to play in the new strategies aimed towards world distribution of wealth. The Conference takes place during a time when the call for a New Economic Order has reached sufficient acceptance as the following summary of opinions indicate.

## The Old World.....

"Today, the poor of the world are on the march, they are no longer satisfied with their conditions of life; they know that these conditions are not pre-destined and immutable—they know that they can be changed..... They have concluded that they must now take the initiative to bring about these changes..... it should be no surprise, therefore, that the developing nations are now mounting a determined drive for a more just and equitable world system which will be much more responsive to their interests and needs".

*Maurice Strong, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi.*

"The present crisis is an enduring crisis involving a redistribution of the world's resources".

*President Giscard D'Estang, France.*

"I am unable to detect any justice in the present system of economic and social relations".

*Willy Brandt addressing a UNICEF meeting, Geneva 1974.*

"I want to make it clear in what I propose today that my government fully accepts that the relationship, the balance between the rich and poor countries of the world is wrong and must be remedied..... that the wealth of the world must be redistributed in favour of the poverty stricken and the starving. This means a new deal in world economies, in trade between nations and the terms of that trade....."

*British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, speaking in Kingston, Jamaica, 1 May 1975.*

"If we do not regard the uneven distribution of income as a fundamental failure of the present system,

the answer to today's economic problems and to the demands of the Third World for a New Economic Order will be merely a continuation of the present system with marginal corrections".

*J. Den Uyl, Prime Minister of the Netherlands.*

"There is an anxiety in the world, and when people feel anxiety they want to create a new order. Chaos must surely show that a new order is possible".

*Dr. Ardeke Boerma, Director General, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome.*

"We are at the watershed. We are at a period which in retrospect is either going to be seen as a period of extraordinary creativity or a period when really the international order came apart, politically, economically and morally".

*Henry Kissinger, Secretary of State, U.S.A.*

"The existing order is coming apart, and rightly so, since it has failed to meet the needs of the vast majority of peoples and reserved its benefits for a privileged minority. The task is to create another one".

*1975 Dag Hammarskjöld Report*

.....and the New

"All peoples of the world stand to benefit from the New Economic Order".

*Manuel Perez Guerrero, Venezuela.*

"Not only the call to solidarity, but also our own self-interest, demand unmercifully that we identify our-

selves with the great mass of the poor outside our own rich man's oasis".

*Professor Georg Borgstrom, Norway.*

"It is vital to avoid a crowded glowering planet of massive inequalities of wealth, buttressed by stark force and endlessly threatened by desperate men in global ghettos of the underprivileged".

*European Working Party on Resources and International Development, August 1974.*

"A solution to the present economic difficulties, one which accommodates the legitimate interests of all countries, rich and poor, developed and developing, is not only possible—it is also essential if a stable and enjoyable structure of world economic order is to be maintained".

*Aziz Ahmad, Pakistan.*

"While some countries live in the conditions of unprecedented abundance, an increasing part of humanity lives constantly in poverty and on the brink of starvation. Such a state of affairs cannot be accepted as permanent—even less allowed further to deteriorate—not only for moral and ethical reasons but also because it creates conditions of instability which in the increasingly inter-dependent world presents a political as well as an economic danger to all".

*M. D. Mesarovic, speaking at a symposium in the New International Economic Order held in the Hague, 22 - 24 May 1975.*

"The choice is clear. Either we really become one world, with a problem of policy in certain areas being attacked scientifically on a world scale, or, alternatively, we recognize that there are two worlds—the rich world and the poor—and the latter gets down to the problem of protecting itself against the dominance of the former. The objectives of the people of the underdeveloped countries can, I think, be summed up in trade union phraseology—fair pay and conditions for a fair day's work".

*President Nyerere of Tanzania.*