

North/South Dialogue—Its time has come

by Patrick J. McManus

In his recent international tour, Prime Minister Trudeau expressed interest in the revitalization of the North/South dialogue. If successful, this would insure equal economic growth for the Third World under a new Global Economic Order. Dalhousie Political Science Professor, Timothy Shaw, is an expert on African International relations and has worked for several years in Africa. Shaw believes that the North/South dialogue's time has come.

Q: How did the North/South dialogue originate?

Shaw: It originated out of two related concerns. Firstly, the Third World had become independent largely at the beginning of the 1960's. By the beginning of the 70's, it was recognized that independence had its limitations. The Third World was seeking to improve the meaning and benefits of independence for their own

populations. Secondly, the post-war Bretton Wood period had led to rapid economic growth in the industrialized countries while for the rest of the international system this growth was minimal and in some cases negative. From this, the Third World became a part of the international system that was characterized by increased inequalities. Towards the end of the seventies it was felt that it was time to do something about changing some of the structures that lead to those inequalities.

Q: How did the dialogue develop and who were some of its major participants?

Shaw: In the early 1960's, the United Nations set up the UN Conference on Trade and Development. Major issues such as international aid and technology were debated. As this conference progressed, many Third World countries felt that it was time for a special United Nations General Assembly to deal with the International Economic Order de-

bate. Since that time, a number of Third World leaders have been important actors at various times. Algeria in particular was very influential in setting up the diplomatic agenda. In many ways, the debate peaked towards the end of the 1970's with the Conference on International Economic Co-operation held in Paris and with the special UN General Assembly that took place last fall in New York.

On the North side it would seem to me the major leaders have been the smaller First World countries. Primarily, countries like Sweden and Holland have been very much in the forefront. Trudeau has been a continuing figure in the middle of the debate. Canada did Co-chair the Paris Dialogue last year.

Q: We in the North are facing a dangerous economic crisis. With high inflation, unemployment, and interest rates, the dim prospect of recession constantly looms over us. Should not we be concerned with putting our own house in order?

Shaw: That rather parochial perception is misplaced because many of the problems the world faces can no longer be dealt with merely on a national level. The problems of energy, population, food, and scarce resources, concern everyone. It's misleading of the leaders of the North to give the impression that they can turn around their own economies without taking into account the impact such a move would have on the rest of the world. This is one reason why the North/South dialogue may be due for a revival. Leaders such as Trudeau realize that to come to grips with northern problems of recession and inflation require similar measures to be taken in the south.

Q: Prime Minister Trudeau's plan is to bring about a set of structural reforms giving more power to poor countries in two main international bodies—the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. How would this be beneficial?

Shaw: Part of the North/South debate feels that there is a lack of economic management in the international system and this had led to unfortunate results for the Third and Fourth Worlds. Due to terms of trade that move against them, Third World countries suffer from fluctuating exchange rates. These countries feel unable to effectively plan their own economies because it is not clear what is going to happen in the international economy.

How this restructuring should occur is, of course, a rather difficult and controversial question. Clearly it would be possible to set up more integrated programs for commodities to bring about a degree of order and stability in the cocoa, coffee, tin, and rubber markets to name a few.

I think that in general the Third World wants to go considerably beyond the piecemeal attempts and create an international economic order in which the world resources are effectively redistributed and the benefits flow to, rather than away from them.

Q: There appears to be great disunity amongst the Third World countries. The Group of '77, an organization of impoverished nations, is divided on the North/South dialogue. The OPEC states still have to take a stand.

Shaw: The whole question of the degree of unity in the Third World is very controversial. The smaller and weaker countries only have influence and leverage if they are united. The Group of '77 have tried very hard to hang together because they need each other in terms of maintaining any pressure for change. Moreover, they are more impoverished compared to the industrialized states. The average per capita income in Kuwait is clearly different from that in Tanzania. The average per capita income in the rich countries has continued to grow at a much faster rate than those of the Third and Fourth World's put together. To combat this, they have put together a bundle of proposals so that they can maintain their unity, increase the flow of international liquidity important to the affluent countries, and encourage stability of income in terms of exportation of cocoa, coffee, and other products imported to the less affluent countries. The politics of Third World unity are difficult and are likely to become more difficult. However, the success in maintaining the degree of unity that they have is considerable and commendable because it is essential to their whole bargaining position. Their degree of unity remains considerably higher than the unity, or lack of, which has been displayed by the rich industrialized states in the last five to ten years.

Status of IFC in jeopardy

by Sheila Fardy

The (IFC) Inter-Fraternity Council has been demoted to a D society from a B society, which means they are no longer eligible for subsidies. This decision was reached by Dalhousie Student Union vice-president, Jeff Champion, but the rationale behind it differs depending on who you talk to.

Randy Kelly, president of the IFC, says that the IFC

submitted a list of officers and their constitution, thereby meeting the requirements of a B society.

Jeff Champion, vice-president of the Student Council, says that a B society must submit "an acceptable constitution". Champion says the IFC was never officially recognized as a B society. "They were given the privileges of a B society on the understanding that they would comply

with the requirements." Champion's complaint was that the Student Council had not received the constitutions of all the individual fraternities.

"He's directly contradicting himself," said Kelly, "he should have rules or no rules. How are we supposed to tell if we're a B society or not?"

The IFC applied for a grant of about \$1500 in November of 1980. They received \$300 in

January, 1981 from the Student Council, on the advice of the Grants Committee. Kelly says they were told to reapply for the remainder in the second term. A letter of January 22nd from the Student Council to the IFC said that if all member fraternities of the IFC didn't submit acceptable constitutions they would not be eligible for grants from the Student Union.

Kelly says, "The IFC should have the right to police and organize its own activities, and the Student Council agreed that the IFC has the ability to do so". The problem began when Phi Kappa Pi refused to submit its constitution to Student Union. According to Kelly, the Student Council and the IFC agreed that if Phi Kappa Pi refused to do so they would be suspended from the IFC.

Kelly says, "Phi Kappa Pi was suspended from the IFC, they submitted their constitution, and were readmitted. They have submitted something, but it wasn't a constitution" says Champion. "Maybe they have passed the real thing into the IFC, but not to me yet. Phi Kappa is playing little games with us." According to Kelly, the first Phi Kappa Pi constitution was not serious, but they have since submitted the actual thing.

"The IFC applied for the grant, not Phi Kappa Pi" says Kelly. "The question is, who is receiving the money? The IFC, not the individual fraternities."

A peek at the past

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We next ask where, for the great majority of young ladies, is this best education possible to be obtained? We answer unhesitatingly in Dalhousie College. . . . For some time to come the great majority of young ladies desirous of obtaining higher education will be residents of Halifax. For most of these it would be very inconvenient, perhaps impossible, to leave their homes and spend a year or more at one of the large boarding schools of the Province. . . . Moreover, we are inclined to believe that many parents of good sense, residing in the outlying parts of the Province, would prefer to send a daughter to the capital, where she might board with some trusted friend of the family, and under this safe guardianship be at once improved in style and manners by contact with city society, and pursue her studies under very superior instructors. If

then, young women would receive the best education possible, and this education can best be obtained in Dalhousie, it certainly follows that they should be admitted within the precincts of our Alma Mater.

Apart from the above argument, we decidedly tend to the opinion that it is best for young ladies to be educated in connection with young men. The industry of the latter is likely to prove a stimulant to the flagging zeal of the weaker sex; and the sterner, more practical, and logical character of masculine education will prove a most valuable corrective of the worst vices in the ordinary instruction afforded to girls.

In conclusion, we believe that there is nothing whatever in the Charter and Constitution of this College to prevent the admission of ladies. If application for admission were made, we doubt very much if any serious resistance would

be offered. It is neither necessary, nor on the whole desirable, for a lady to present herself for matriculation, with a view to completing the four years' course. To take certain classes as a general student would, we think, be better. The mathematics of the First Year would be of inestimable value to intending candidates for the Teachers' Examination. The Rhetoric, History, and Logic Classes are all admirably suited for the study of ladies. French, German, and even Latin, are well worthy of any girl's earnest study. Again we say, let some lady, or rather ladies, make application and the battle will be more than half won."

As you may have noticed, ladies eventually did gain access to the campus. Ironically, however, the contentions that favored them in 1876 are hardly endearing to the woman of the late twentieth century.