

*International Relations*

Great Britain, Japan, West Germany and elsewhere can attest to this fact.

Population problems are not confined to one area of the world and the implications of population increases are staggering. More important, they directly affect individuals and both perpetuate and exacerbate present inequalities in the world.

There is the problem of employment. In the developing countries between now and the end of the century, 800 million additional jobs need to be created. Indeed, the labour force in the less developed countries was projected to expand by over 90 per cent between 1970 and the year 2000, nearly doubling within the span of a single generation.

There is the problem of per capita consumption of resources, mostly by the developed world, which has engendered much pollution and waste and has contributed to worldwide shortages of key resources. Worldwatch Institute director, Mr. Lester Brown, has pointed out that human needs have already begun to outstrip the productive capacity of many local biological systems as presently managed. He has calculated that the world production per capita of key commodities peaked for wood in 1967, for fish in 1970, for beef in 1976, for mutton in 1972, and for cereals in 1976. In addition, crop lands are being diverted from essential food production for the purposes of making fuel. There must be a reduction in population growth to buy time to make new adjustments and develop new technologies.

Finally, population growth can affect peace and stability, of which we see all too little nowadays. Uncontrolled population increases will give rise to social unrest and despair. There may be forced migration and greater numbers of refugees, which are disruptive to the world's economic and political stability. The Brandt commission dealt with these problems in some depth.

Aside from the aggregate effect of uncontrolled population growth, costs are paid within societies. These costs include a decrease in the growth of per capita income and, more important, impede efforts to eradicate inequality. The World Bank Report of 1974 makes this point clearly:

For many countries population growth appears to affect the rate of growth of average per capita income less than the quality of the development process. Population growth contributes significantly to inequality. It has made social targets, such as universal literacy or full employment, much harder to attain and slowed down improvements in health and nutritional standards. It diminished an individual's chances for education and, in the competition for entry into the educational system, children from poorer backgrounds do relatively badly.

In addition, population increases push against limits of arable land, leading to smaller holdings and perpetuating poverty and malnutrition. Population growth, it can be seen, is an important cause of poverty. Trends of population growth, structure and distribution must be kept within the balance of social, economic and environmental factors. Population growth trends must be reversed for development efforts to take hold.

What is required is a multidisciplinary, comprehensive development approach with a strong population component. I must concur with the World Bank's conclusion that:

Direct population policies and general development policies reinforce each other in raising per capita incomes, especially among the poor, and in reducing fertility. Neither can adequately address the problem of rapid population growth alone. Direct population programs can accomplish much in most developing countries, but even the most elaborate programs will not reduce fertility sufficiently unless standards of living of poverty groups are significantly improved. It is therefore essential that population programs be integrated with over-all development strategies, and that the design of social and economic policies whose major objective is not demographic take explicit account of how they affect fertility.

For instance, it is known that healthy families tend to be smaller families, so to achieve this end programs may be set up to improve the health of mothers and children. Other programs might involve improving education or sanitation or providing for uncontaminated water, or for effective distribution and instruction in the use of contraceptives. In another case, a government may wish to know for its future planning the rate of urbanization and the rate of growth in different areas of the country. International organizations, such as the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, can provide this service.

It is important that population activities cover all population aspects of development which pertain to fertility rates, mortality and morbidity as they affect developmental aspects and human well-being. Population activities involve the collection of basic population data, population dynamics, population policy formulation and implementation, contraception and child spacing, communications and education. For UNFPA and other organizations, population assistance must be tailor-made for each recipient country, responding directly to its particular conditions and concerns.

Canadians have learned from the recent census just how important it is for governments to have reliable population statistics on hand while formulating policy. As recently as 1971, UNFPA was assisting 21 African countries to carry out a full or partial census on their populations, which in most cases had not been previously done.

Many countries in which economic development is being hampered by population growth are already drawing up developmental strategies and legislation aimed at influencing people to have smaller families. According to Dr. Salas, director of the UNFPA, a recent UN survey covering 114 developing countries showed that 83 of these have entrusted a central planning authority with the task of integrating population factors with development planning, while 69 countries were said to believe that their current rate of natural population increase imposed severe constraints on the attainment of developmental objectives.

Many successes have been recorded in reducing the rate of population growth. In each case, policies were implemented which suited the unique condition of each country. In Sri Lanka, a reduction in infant and child mortality has led to a decline in the birth rate. In Korea, increased economic growth and increased distribution of wealth has similarly led to a reduction. In India, there have been 11 million sterilizations. In China, a drastic reduction in the birth rate is due to the use of incentives and disincentives. Incentives can have wide application and might involve housing, maternity benefits, tax