

And if foreign aid does not accomplish its objective, governments in the donor countries will not be able to maintain public support for their foreign aid programmes. By insisting, therefore, that our foreign aid should be effectively used and that economic development in the countries receiving that aid should have a priority claim on the resources that are being generated, we are surely not surrounding our aid with conditions that are incompatible with their own best interests.

The concept of foreign aid is of relatively recent origin. Modest at its inception, it already encompasses the movement of significant resources from the advanced to the developing countries. Taking the advanced countries of the free world alone, the amounts provided from official sources for this purpose are now well in excess of \$6 billion a year.

Foreign aid is, of course, only one response to the challenge of under-development. It will not by itself close the widening gap in living standards and we should be under no illusion that it will do so. For the resources mobilized through foreign aid represent -- and will continue to represent -- only a small portion of the resources that will have to be mobilized if the developing countries are to achieve the momentum needed for self-sustaining growth. Meanwhile foreign aid can help, as William Clark recently put it in his preface to a Handbook on Developing Countries, "to put a floor under poverty". That it should succeed in doing so is a matter of enlightened self-interest for all of us.

The claim is sometimes made that man's scientific progress has outpaced his moral capacity to measure up to his responsibilities in a changing world. There is something to that claim but I would like to think that in this matter of foreign aid we are at least beginning to take the measure of the changing world around us.

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