

security. The purpose of the conference was to make people aware of the situation and of what was at stake, rather than to provide a detailed programme of action.

The conference discussed traditional aspects of security--diplomacy, regional conflict, disarmament and similar matters; development issues--poverty and population growth; and ecological matters--such as the degradation of the environment and eco-development. It would be difficult, however, to describe each presentation as falling under one or the other of these specific headings, since the subjects under discussion are so closely related. Despite this the following report is subdivided by theme in order to make it easier to read. The subject matter has been grouped under two major headings, diplomatic and military security on the one hand, and economic and environmental security on the other.

This distinction is not intended to create a false dichotomy between political issues and "the rest", but it seems unavoidable because the participants treated developmental and environmental issues as inextricably entangled.

Nevertheless, Mr. Lewis said, despite these hopeful developments we must not ignore the serious threats to our security which we will have to deal with in what remains of our century. Problems of poverty and under-development were far from being solved and it seemed likely that the next US president would be George Bush (he was in fact elected three days later) who would pay no more attention to these issues than did his predecessor. To make matters worse, Third World poverty was increasing rapidly: for example, if one excluded India and China, the amount spent by most of the poorer countries on health and education fell by forty percent from 1972 to 1987.

Mr. Lewis used the situation in Africa to illustrate the severity of the problem. If the debt continues to increase and there is no change in the amount devoted to development assistance, by the year 2000 the billion people living in Africa will have a lower standard of living than they do at present. The African countries' annual interest payments on the debt rose from US \$3 to 2 billion between 1980 and 1987 to US \$25 billion in 1989. By 1995 this figure could be as high as \$45 billion. One realizes