

nations is a fairly recent phenomenon. The average inhabitant of Southeast Asia, prior to the industrial revolution, enjoyed a standard of life not so very different from his counterpart in Europe, despite the differences in their cultures and modes of life. Certainly, the vast material gulf which separates them today did not exist then.

In the last century, those nations which were in the vanguard of the industrial revolution have achieved unprecedented levels of economic activity. This has come about in large measure because of their ability to unlock the secrets of science and to develop technologies and techniques for the application of scientific knowledge to the processes of production and distribution. The burgeoning market economy of these nations continues to provide powerful incentives for the employment of our scientific and technological resources in the search for new products and processes for the affluent consumer.

Special Problems of Underdeveloped Areas

There is no similar incentive to apply science and technology to the problems of the less-developed world. The very science and technology which have provided the key to the wealth of the industrialized nations have added to the difficulties of the less-developed nations. Eradication of disease by mass immunization and the use of antibiotics has reduced death-rates in the developing countries dramatically and brought about rapid increases in population. It has proven much more difficult for these countries to develop the increased productive capacity required to provide their growing populations with the basic ingredients that enable men to live in dignity. At the same time, science has devised synthetic substitutes for many of the natural products which these countries have depended upon for most of their export earnings. Despite the fact that in absolute terms, the less-developed nations have made a significant amount of progress in recent years, the gap between them and the wealthy industrialized nations continues to grow.

A recent study indicates that some 98 per cent of all of the world's research and development expenditures continues to be made in the wealthy industrialized nations, which already have high growth-rates. There is almost as much money spent on research and development in the field of synthetics alone in the industrialized nations as is spent on all forms of research and development in the less-developed world. The scientific advances and the new technologies which will shape tomorrow's world will come out of today's research and development expenditures. The relative position of the less-developed nations can only worsen if the balance in the deployment of the world's scientific and technological resources remains so heavily biased against them.

It is not likely that this bias will be rectified except by a deliberate act of policy on the part of the industrialized nations that possess a near monopoly on the world's scientific and technological resources. A larger share of these resources must be made available to the less-developed nations. One of the