

Unlocking the development trap

by Nina Miller

Developed countries like Canada should give greater opportunities to Third World countries to industrialize, according to Gary Holme, regional director for CUSO in Western Africa.

The debt for black African countries has jumped from \$20 billion to \$40 billion in the last five years.

Urbanization in West African countries such as Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone is increasing at a very fast rate, but national output is only increasing at about 1 percent per year.

There are massive problems which face these countries as they try to change from subsistence farming economies to industrialized ones, says Holme.

Trading laws favor developed countries and operate

to the detriment of countries dependent on primary goods as their chief sources of revenue. While world prices for raw commodities go down, prices for finished goods rise. Removing tariffs on imports of Third World products into the West would be a major step in improving the situation says Holme.

Western African countries have been experiencing increased urbanization, but their food production has remained constant. Farmers make barely enough for themselves and not enough to feed the urban populations. Therefore, food imports have been increasing to feed the growing urban populations.

As well, grants from developing countries and organizations come with strings attached, often to the detriment of

the country. For example, sometimes farmers are forced to make large capital expenditures for unnecessary equipment, says Holme.

Industrialized countries, facing their own economic difficulties have cut aid programs significantly. Canada's original target of donating 7 percent of the GNP to aid programs has been dropped to .5 percent, according to Holme.

In the midst of all this, CUSO's role has changed to adapt to the needs of these countries. Twenty years ago most of CUSO's energies were spent educating and training people for skilled and professional work; now the focus is on functional literary programs, community health programs, and agricultural improvement programs.

In fact, the number of CUSO workers in West Africa has dropped significantly, about 40 percent in Ghana and Sierra Leone.

CUSO works with rural villages and chiefdoms, teaching them new ways to assess problems and deal with them.

Holme says CUSO tries to work within the traditional structure of the community even if they don't agree with it.

Holme is surprised by the increasing consumerism he finds in urban areas.

This comes as something of a

shock to most CUSO workers, who usually enter the program questioning Western capitalistic values.

Returnees from the program often feel out of place in Canadian society.

"I am always amazed when I see how well off Canadians are," says Holme. "The standard of living here has risen enormously

from the early '70s to now. And then I look and see what's happening overseas - life is not as tough here."

Westscam

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But the university thinks exclusive contracts are justified in HUB.

"You generally don't create too much competition in a mall that size," says Gail Brown, director of University Housing and Food Services.

"Most malls do limit competition," adds lawyer Beilby. She says the rationale of commercial viability is "totally proper."

Edmonton Travel's R. W. Chapman agrees.

"We wouldn't have come in here (HUB) as a competitor," Chapman says. "If we were to lose our exclusivity we'd have to fold and leave the mall."

But there's some question about where the exclusivity came from in the first place.

Gail Brown isn't sure, saying "we inherited these things when we took over (from the Student's Union) in 1976."

Lawyer Beilby said the exclusive existed, was legal, and its history was irrelevant. R. W. Chapman said he bought the exclusive in 1977 when he bought Holiday Travel, then another HUB travel agency.

But former Holiday Travel manager Bonnie Irwin denies ever having had an exclusive. She says all Holiday Travel ever had was certification from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to sell airline tickets.

Cancer

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cancer treatment in the US). Industrial efficiency and stimulation of new industry are two economic advantages also ignored by the chemical industry according to Epstein.

Epstein also said the role of smoking in the development of lung cancer has been "massively

Ronneseth contacted the federal anti-combines commission to find out if the university could legally impose the exclusive.

The response was yes, although there "was a flaw in the law (concerning shopping malls), there was nothing to do about it."

The legal loophole is currently under review by the federal government.

In the meantime, Ronneseth found himself with a legal eviction notice last July 18. Within three weeks he moved to new premises on 88th Avenue and 109th Street.

exaggerated by industry to divert attention."

Twenty thousand people who have never smoked die each year in the US from lung cancer. The mortality rate for non-smokers, said Epstein, has doubled since 1959.



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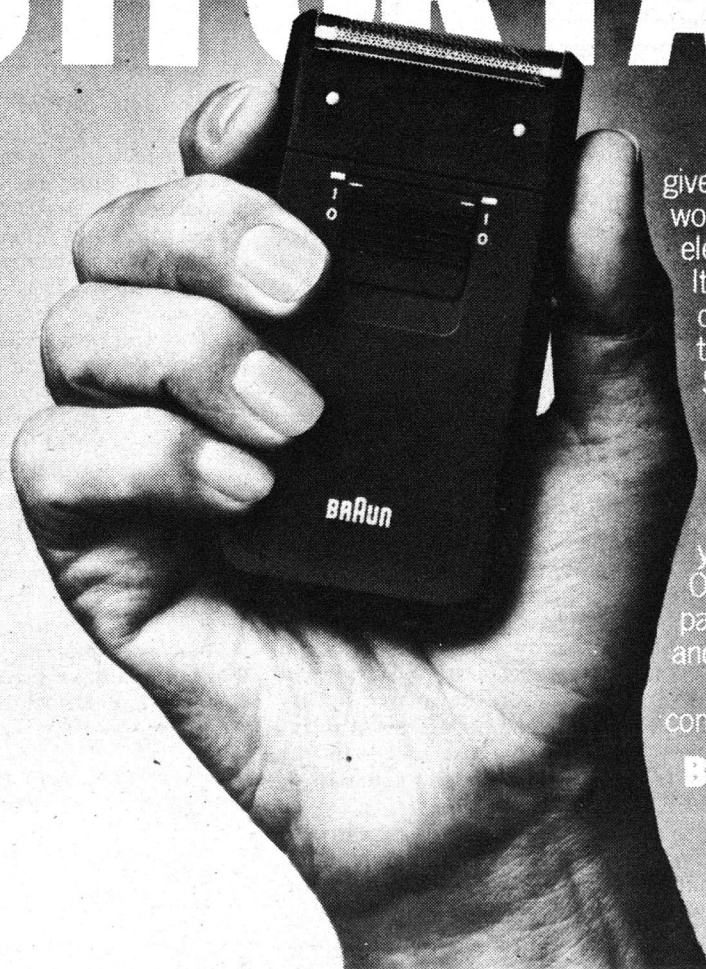
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