

Book Reviews

to be independent and non-partisan, and provide "professional, policy-relevant research" in North-South issues. Mr. English's book is an example of this kind of work done at its best. It is well-written, well-researched and, above all, fair.

The author writes feelingly and knowledgeably about the serious, almost, one might say, intractable, problems existing in the public service on both sides of the Canada-Haiti relationship. A competent survey of Haitian history leads on to a tour d'horizon of such basic impediments to development as the state of health of the average rural Haitian, adult and child. The country's immense problems in geography, in the economy and elsewhere are assessed. Mr. English gets to grips with some of the basic questions about aid — and tries to answer some of them.

Three of the nine chapters are devoted to Canada's largest experiment in an integrated rural development project, DRIPP. This program also suffers from the distinction of being the first case in which CIDA cancelled a major project before completion. As such then, there has to be loads of material for a hard-hitting, yet sympathetic, constructive critic as Mr. English proves himself to be. He does this in some detail, sparing neither the Haitian nor the Canadian side, both government and NGO. He shows well how CIDA's plan in this respect made it a case where "ambition bordered on the unrealistic."

This Haiti study is the third in a series of independent evaluations of Canada's aid policy. Like the other two, on Bangladesh and Tanzania, this one aims at improving Canada's performance. It is not easy to write about an area in which problems both of structures and personalities are so entrenched and difficult to assess. Mr. English has however produced a first-class study.

Registering 1982

by Alexander Craig

The Annual Register. A Record of World Events 1982
edited by H.V. Hodson. London: Longmans (Detroit:
Gale Research), 1983, 549 pages, \$75.00US.

There are almanacs and almanacs. So it is a bit reassuring when glancing at the section immediately following that on Canada, the one on Argentina in *The Annual Register*, that the reader is asked to "see AR 1833, pp. 307-9." Of course, that may not exactly be to hand, so the editors have usefully added a documents and reference section with ten pages on what they unequivocally call "The Falklands War" (whence the 1833 reference).

First edited in 1758 by Edmund Burke, the AR is resolutely British. The first section, indeed, is called "History of the United Kingdom." Fifty-two pages are allotted to that, as compared to nineteen on the US and four on Canada. What happened in the rest of the world in 1982 is briskly and competently assessed by a wide range of specialists, drawn largely from Britain.

After individual countries are surveyed, the final two-fifths of the AR is devoted to sections on international organizations, religion, the sciences, the law, the arts, sports, and economic and social affairs. Other features include maps, photographs, obituaries, and a chronicle of principal events in 1982. The 21-page index gives an idea of how comprehensive and well-rounded this particular long-established year book is.

Alexander Craig is a freelance writer in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Letters to the Editor

Small is beautiful

Sir,

I am writing to you with reference to the article "Third World women and development" by David McKie which appeared in your July/August issue.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the article. This is such an important subject and does not, in my opinion, receive the media attention which it most assuredly warrants. Giant steps have been taken in some developing countries to further the position of women, and in particular rural women; but sadly, this is not universal and for many there is a long way to go before they will even begin to approach their rightful place alongside men.

Secondly, I must disagree with Mr. McKie's statement on page 15 that "CIDA is a cumbersome bureaucracy with a focus too broad to include local projects." This simply is not so. Of the 3,099 live bilateral projects which we have on our books, 2,155 are for less than \$500,000 and of that, 1761 are for less than \$50,000 and this is not including the \$73.181 million which is being spent on small projects through the non-government organizations. As you can see this in no way supports Mr. McKie's thesis.

Aside from this point, I must say that I found the article very interesting. It has, I think, provided its readers with both facts and ideas to ponder.

Margaret Catley-Carlson
President

Canadian International Development Agency, Ottawa