

enlist to write for this volume. He has, for example, Dragoslav Avramovic on South-South financial cooperation, Robert Chambers on reaching the poorest in agrarian development, and Aldo Ferrer on the Argentinian debt crisis. In each instance he could hardly have done better. Moreover he has, I know not how, successfully avoided the iron law of edited volumes which threatens every editor. This law holds that the quality of an article in an edited collection varies inversely with the eminence of the contributor. Hardly any item appears as a stale or tired repetition of arguments and positions already many times repeated.

Six sections of the volume will in particular interest this journal's readers. They are the sections on Third World debt, South-South cooperation, agrarian development, South Africa, militarization, and Central America and the Caribbean. In nearly every instance the eighteen articles in

these six sections are informative, non-scholarly but also un-rhetorical and by highly competent persons. For example, the four articles on South Africa are by the Africa editor of the *Economist* Intelligence Unit, a *Guardian* and an *Observer* correspondent and a research officer of the South African Institute of Race Relations. It is an impressive team to have assembled and it is not untypical of the volume as a whole.

Anyone who might enjoy a fat volume of well-informed, politically progressive and imaginatively selected articles on Third World affairs, will surely find this volume rewarding.

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## Letters to the Editor

Sir,  
 Re: "Canadian sanctions and southern Africa" by Steve Godfrey.

Allow me to respond to the above article in your journal of November/December 1985.

Steve Godfrey may be the "expert" on southern African affairs, but shows lack of insight on how, in a modern society, diversity of peoples should be accommodated in one legal system. Let me, as an African, tell him that reconciliation/accommodation are spans in the bridge of peace/progress and stability in southern Africa; that South Africa has an enormous contribution to make to the continent as it is the motor/generator of development and progress and that it is the only country on the continent that receives no foreign aid. The social grammar of South Africa is changing, slowly perhaps, but balanced and it is a determined change — we must all win together or we shall all be losers.

Steve Godfrey urges the Canadian government and business people to shift its support to the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) as this will diminish the support given to the South African government. His own words show how contradictory this argument is when he states, "But South Africa represents one of the few countries in Africa where trade does not require aid support," and that "SADCC will need external support as it braces itself for the coming year," meaning cause yourself and those countries (neighboring states) to suffer and then ingratiate yourself by aiding them.

It is significant that intra-regional transport, trade, labor migration and other economic bonds have become stronger since 1980 when neighboring states joined in SADCC with the objective of decreasing their dependence

on South Africa. This strengthening of ties draws into question the frequently heard assertion that the relationship favors only South Africa at the expense of weaker countries. Moreover, there are a number of voices crying out for South Africa to join SADCC and such a resolution was put forward at a recent meeting in Swaziland. Apart from transport, trade and labor, the close network of regional economic interdependence also comprises cross-border supplies of electric power, the channeling of fuel and other petroleum products by South Africa and South Africa-based firms, technology and research in diverse fields.

It is quite clear that Steve Godfrey knows very little of the internal reforms (which he places in quotation marks) which have taken place in South Africa. May I list a few of the areas where reform, providing for the removal of discrimination, has taken place in recent years or is underway.

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| <b>Sport:</b>                              | Opened to all races.  |
| <b>Labor:</b>                              | Modern, sophisticated trade union opened to all races.  |
| <b>Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act:</b> | Repealed.   |
| <b>Influx control and Pass Laws:</b>       | President's Council's recommendation for phasing out, under sympathetic consideration for action during the next parliamentary session. |