

72/16

Rome, 12 May 1972

To all Superiors General
 To all their delegates for Sedos
 To all members of the Sedos Group

1. THE SITUATION - SOCIAL SITUATION IN AFRICA

This is the last of the series (by continent) and highlights the basic, emerging social needs of Africa as well as the response being provided by Governments and by social thinkers. (p. 353/9)

2. U.N. CONFERENCE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

"The implications of the current debate on HUMAN ENVIRONMENT FOR THE MISSIONARY"

The Stockholm Conference on the Environment, due next month, is supposed to bring to a head the movements and initiatives which, during the last decade, have sought to sensitivizè public opinion on the threat of the consumer society to our mother Earth. The points made by the Holy See delegation summarize the situation. (p.360/2)

3. NEWS FROM AND FOR THE GENERALATES (p.363)

4. DOCUMENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST (p.364)

5. LIST OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED (p.365)

COMING EVENTS

15 May - Large Health Group	- 15.00 - 17.30 p.m. -	FAO
16 May - Missionary and Local Church (English Group 1)	- 15.30 p.m. -	SJ Curia
24 May - Development Work Group	- 16.00 p.m. -	SEDOS
30 May - Missionary and Local Church (English Group 2)	- 16.00 p.m. -	SJ Curia
(N.B. previously 29th)		

Sincerely yours,

P. Leonzio BANO, fscj

THE SITUATION

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The Social Situation in Africa *

Population trends

1. The population of Africa is small: 326 million (9% of world total) but growing very fast: 2.4% to 2.7% per annum very young: 45% between 0-14 years (=200m. by 1930) rural: only 15% live in areas of 20,000 and over.
2. The urban population, however, will rise considerably before 1975. After that, the rate will decline slightly. People will continue to move from the countryside to the towns, concentrating on one (or two) of the largest cities in each country (63% of the urban population is already there). This latter trend reflects the other trend of concentrating industrial development (=jobs) in the larger cities. Governments will have to step up investment in housing, health, schools and other services to cope with the consequent problems of social adjustment, unemployment and overcrowding.
3. This investment has to come from added income. Hence the importance given by governments to economic growth. In this respect, the industrial sector is expanding but is still very small. In contrast the agricultural sector is very large but quite sluggish. The overall result is a very moderate economic progress.
4. 77% of the economically active population of Africa was absorbed by agriculture between 1962-1965. Food production, however, was stagnant and the little growth which occurred was restricted to the other agricultural products (mostly for exports). The reason: "constraint on agriculture lies more on the demand than on the supply side" (1): few Africans buy food! Agricultural expansion is therefore becoming imperative and it must be based on a solid infrastructure provided by
 - a) investment in irrigation, roads, storage and processing facilities
 - b) the extension of education and
 - c) the creation of the concomitant institutions (see below).
5. Women will play an important role in both this agricultural production and this general development of rural communities. They will be supported by extension workers in a ratio of one per 1,000 farm families (target set by FAO). The idea is to reduce the number of formal training levels and increase in service programmes in order to get men and women into the field as quickly and economically as possible (2). Meanwhile the trend seems to be towards the nuclear (=one)

* See SEDOS 72/315 and 72/336

(1) DALTON, J: Food imports and African agricultural development ECA/FAO - joint Division Reference Unit p.49

(2) WATTS, E.R. Agricultural extension services in Uganda - Uganda Agric. Society Journal, Sept. 1969

rather than extended (more) family farm as the basic agricultural production unit.

6. Industrialization occupies a central place in the development plans of African countries. The result is that industry is the fastest growing sector - even though it is still the smallest. Zambia, Mauritania and Libya focus on extractive industry (copper, iron, oil -respectively) while the rest concentrate on light industry - mostly intended to substitute imports and to process food for the home markets. This policy has produced the desired effects: a decline in the imports of consumer goods (with the rise of imports of machinery and transport equipment). But the old, basic difficulties are still inhibiting progress:

- most internal markets are very small; only regional cooperation (see 7) can solve this problem.
- skilled manpower is very scarce and requires a huge effort in education and training (see below).
- capital funds are lacking; this seems to be beyond the control of African Governments - which rely too heavily on foreign sources of capital. (The latter look for profit rather than for "desirability" in selecting development projects.) Mali and Tanzania have taken steps to reduce this dependency on foreign capital.

7. To offset the first difficulty there have been four attempts at cooperation based on the idea of a customs union:

- Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland - now buried
- W. African Customs Union - little headway
- Equatorial Customs Union.

Cooperation remains essential if African countries are to attain high growth rates and to avoid the wasteful alternative of autarchic development.

8. Economic growth may be a necessary measure but it is not sufficient for social justice. An interesting feature of the African quest for the latter has been development planning. The idea of planning development on a national scale spread rapidly in Africa after independence. 30 out of 41 (excluding S.Africa) now have plans. These may vary in scope, in sophistication or in ideology, but they do present common, high priority objectives:

- a) raising the present, very low, per capita income (see 6 above).
- b) reducing inequalities between ethnic, social and other groups.
- c) improving social services (education, health, housing, social welfare, community development, manpower training, etc.)

9. The actual social development programmes initiated to achieve these objectives, fall into two categories:

- a) those which directly produce goods and services or improve the production of the individual (economic growth, community development, etc.) and

b) those which promote arts and culture, the welfare of women, children and youth, social security, old age pensions, delinquency programmes.

10. In terms of achievements, most countries failed to achieve global targets of their plans - at least 3 by 50%. However, failure to achieve a plan target does not necessarily mean that considerable progress has not been made. Still, 23 African countries, with 72% of the African population, show growth rates of 2% - which is too slow to be satisfactory.

11. The principal reasons for such failures seem to be:

- excessive reliance on foreign capital
- plans require much accurate information and skilled manpower, both of which are often lacking in Africa
- Governments have often failed to create the agencies (executive and coordinating) required to activate their plans
- **scarcity** of administrative capacity, of ability to evaluate and execute individual projects.

The need now is - to remodel the **political and institutional framework** **within** which planning takes place.

12. With that proviso, we may now focus on the various sectors which, between them, constitute the social situation of Africa - both as regards its needs and its responses. These sectors are six: education, manpower training, youth, health, housing and community development.

13. Education is considered as one of the most important means of lifting the population out of poverty and ignorance. A few countries (Tanzania etc) now give top priority to primary education. But most stress secondary school expansion. Meanwhile the numbers out of primary school are increasing, students tend to enrol in the humanities rather than in scientific and technological courses (at least in Middle Africa). Many countries opt for educational reform: e.g. in Ghana, replacing 3 year primary + 2 year continuation with 3 year integrated courses; re-organising the curricula by "ruralizing" the programme, as in Dahomey.

14. Manpower and training are critical: Africa is characterised by shortages at the middle and upper levels, and under-employment in the lower levels. Why? Because of:

- a) internal wastage within the educational system
- b) failures to match training with employment requirements (= lack of coordination between manpower and educational planners)
- c) non-acceptance of innovations by educational planners.

15. In general, employment opportunities tend to lag behind educational output. It is not that students reject technical training but that they shrewdly estimate where the best opportunities lie. Conditions, of course, vary but in general the

following responses seem to be valid:

- a) survey, analyse and plan manpower,
- b) expand secondary education; stress science and local environment, step up teacher training, increase teacher-student ratio at secondary and higher levels; step up vocational training; connect education with development planning.
- c) reorganise pay scales etc. to provide incentives,
- d) promote regional cooperation to coordinate training programmes,
- e) increase opportunity for external training,
- f) set up agencies to implement strategies to human resources development.

16. Youth (14-25 years) often faces a modernizing society with little or no schooling or training for the new jobs, with a poor foundation of health, with uncertainty as to how best they can be involved in the development effort (1). Governments try to help by providing them with special facilities in the urban setting or by persuading them to stick to the rural areas (through programmes designed to increase their ability to contribute to their rural communities). In particular, one meets examples of vocational guidance and training for drop outs (of schools); recreational and cultural initiatives; youth corps for mobilizing unemployed youths, for development projects and special land settlement schemes for young people.
17. Health services face a critical shortage of doctors, nurses and related medical staff (Europe: 1 doctor for maximum 1,000 - Africa: 1 for 50,000): there are large rural areas without any doctor. Five countries have no medical school at all. Consequently, mortality rates tend to be high, (World 15.9 per 1000 - Africa 22.5 per 1000) with malnutrition, respiratory diseases, gastro-intestinal ailments as the main illness affecting children. All these illnesses are readily preventable if facilities are made available on the spot. Malaria remains the most serious problem. The fundamental problems are the poor environmental and sanitary conditions and ignorance of hygienic practices. Most countries allocate about 3% to the health services and now tend to give priority to preventive measures. The usual procedure is to build a network of health centres and dispensaries and mobile units. In many countries, however, hospital construction still takes up between 40/50 per cent of all planned investment in health.
18. Housing investment is relatively heavy but is concentrated in the urban areas. The greatest need is for low-cost housing and governments play a major role in this area, mainly through a national housing authority or through the promotion of cooperative housing societies. What seems to be more promising is the interest of a growing number of countries in self-help housing schemes.
19. Community development (or animation rurale) has become a major instrument of policy in many African States. It is intended to have a direct effect on the productivity of individuals and communities; on promoting local leadership, on effective coordination of the various social services. It relies on voluntary

(1) Economic Commission for Africa, E/CN, 14/SWSA/5 p.41

workers, the State coming in with financial subsidies, and technical expert assistance and stimulation. The community worker is either an agent (mobilizing the rural masses in the service of the State) or an adviser (helping villagers to identify and achieve their own targets).

SOCIAL REFORM AND INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

20. Social change in Africa is rapid and is marked by the following features:
- a) Most Africans are farmers or herders and live in communities based upon cooperation between individuals (each of whom accepts the fact of extensive rights and obligations towards the members of his group). The status of the latter is largely determined by his family ties rather than by his achievements. The group thus exerts a tremendous influence over the individual. Modernization often assumes that the individual will react - as an individual - to its promises. But the African individual is not always prepared for this kind of motivation. It is less easy for him to change age-old habits and customs.
Social change consequently departs from its Western models.
 21. b) The growth of industrial towns, however, often provides a break-through. The family is not much help in industry: it is the team of individuals with complementary skills, rather than the kin group that counts in this sector. Loyalty to the family is also challenged by such industrial groups as the trade unions. Finally, the urban setting often physically separates the individual from his kin. The consequence is clear: the powerful kin 'pull' becomes progressively weaker.
 22. c) Urbanization is also associated with the emergence of new élites - whether these follow the Western model or cling to traditional patterns (wealthy traders, chiefs, etc.). These élites may exploit the masses. But they often help to integrate them into the new, urban way of life.
 23. African Governments respond to these changes by applying temporary measures to solve the more urgent problems and by introducing radical reforms to change the basic institutions. Of particular importance are the initiatives to eliminate inequalities (a heritage of the past) and secondly to develop the stagnant countryside.
 24. a) Reducing the social inequalities
These are the growing gaps between:
 - the social classes
 - the ethnic groups
 - the sexes
 - different regions
 25. - Africa does not have the entrenched "landed aristocracies" of Asia and Latin America and a large class of local capitalist entrepreneurs.

- Ethnic differences exist not only between the African groups but between these and the immigrants in North, East and Southern Africa from Asia and Europe.

Aliens that dominated in government, still dominate in industry and commerce. Hence measures for the reduction of differences centred around the appointment of Africans to the highly paid administrative positions, previously the preserve of expatriates. It has been found, however, that a disproportionate part of the budget in many African States is now spent on civil service salaries.

An important means of reducing income disparities is taxation. But the results are not rosy.

26. With the coming of independence, African teachers moved in large numbers to administrative posts, leaving an acute shortage of staff in the educational system (and making it necessary for authorities to bring in expatriates on contract terms.) On the whole, however, the process of Africanization in the public sector is advanced in most countries. The situation is different in the private sector. Most large enterprises are still foreign-owned.
27. Development has tended to concentrate around particular cities or areas (e.g. Dakar). Under laissez-faire conditions, of course, the more an area develops, the more it attracts further development and investment. The answer of some governments has been to channel investment into the depressed areas and/or to give local areas planning powers. The crucial level, however, is the more equitable distribution of wealth, the provision of incentives to peasants to adopt better farming techniques or changes in their value systems. The latter point is of paramount importance: behaviour is based upon values and promises which are normally culturally (rather than rationally!) determined.
28. It remains a fact that, despite the stress given by governments to rural development, this sector tends to receive less than its due share of capital investment.

b) Developing the countryside

29. A critical side of rural development is, of course, the question of land tenure. In Africa, land is generally regarded as belonging to the group rather than to the individual. The arguments for reform in this social institution are:
 - Farmers are not keen to invest on land on which they lack security of tenure.
 - With more security, they are more likely to adopt more 'economic' attitudes.
 - Farmers could use their land as security for loans.

All in all, reform of land tenure is too expensive and too risky. The African concept of ownership differs from that of the West, and land reform, Western style, for that reason, may create more problems than it can solve.

However, as the nuclear family, the extended family (see above), the case for land reform, African style, will probably become self-evident.

In Ethiopia and North Africa the situation is different because of the presence of large landowners and tenant farmers: here land reform means the break-up and redistribution of the latifundia.

30. Besides land reform, other steps are important:

- the high and low density settlement schemes of Kenya
- the cooperatives of the Sudan
- the Ujamaa movement in Tanzania
- the introduction of commercial agriculture
- the creation of supporting institutions: cooperatives, marketing facilities, credit organisations, small urban centres, agricultural extensions and training centres.

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B. Tonna

U.N. Conference on Human Environment - Stockholm, June 1972

"THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CURRENT DEBATE ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT FOR THE MISSIONARY TASK":

were highlighted during a meeting of the Holy See Delegation to the Stockholm Conference with Superiors General, rectors and ecclesiastical University professors in Rome - May 4th, 1972.

1. Professor Giorgio Nebbia, University of Bari, member of the delegation

stated that we have become a society consuming its natural reserves and at the same time spreading pollution with its by-products. He gave the most salient examples:

- a) Fertilizers and pesticides are seeping down to the artesian wells and, by polluting the water there, are compromising vegetative life.
- b) The natural, highly diversified chain of plants is being substituted by one species - the best. What will happen when the best exhausts the land and itself disappears?
- c) Cities are attracting factories with consequent concentration of persons, activities and waste.
- d) The seas are being polluted by deep dumping of radio-active materials and other matter.
- e) The new surrogates for natural products (plastics, synthetics etc.) are upsetting the previous equilibrium. The natural products were the only export of the Third World.

In conclusion, Prof. Nebbia said that the current proposal for a stationary society could be a question of justice and love of one's neighbour. At all events, we cannot shirk the duty of learning more about the ecological implications of what we are doing.

2. Dr. Marie Thérèse Graber-Duvernay

- said that from the medical point of view we seem to be on the eve of a major declaration on a very basic fact. Man and his environment are but one thing: environment shapes man. Consequently man must be knowledgeable about biological laws: the declaration would become the Magna Carta of the biological rights of man. Man is conceived and lives in an envelope - the envelope of his environment.

Man must not only live but also coexist. It is a question not only of caring for man in his environment but also of caring for this environment.

3. Fr. Robert Faricy, SJ, Gregoriana University

explained why Christians have to be involved as Christians in the debate on human environment. He outlined the relevant elements in Christian revelation and tradition.

a) Genesis I, as the preamble of the Bible faces three relationships: GOD-CREATION, GOD-MAN, MAN-CREATION. It insists on the ineffable transcendence of God. Man is not in any way divine, but he is a special kind of creation: he is God's agent and God's image. Nature is God and nature is good. Man is responsible to God for nature.

b) Contrary to other religions, Christianity proposes that man is not related to God through nature. Man is a mediator between God and nature and not vice-versa. Man is the steward of the world in Christ.

c) Protestantism is at the root of the capitalist system. Since man is in charge of the earth, he is free to exploit it. This is the Lutheran interpretation of St. Augustine's theology of the two cities.

d) The Catholic Church has consistently applied the principle of the Incarnation: two natures united but not confused. Hence - nature is good, it belongs to God, is an object of salvation - nature is for man and man is responsible for it.

Conclusion This thinking is reflected in the U.N. Document prepared for the Stockholm Centre: the proposed declaration is the idea that environment is for man and so man has a responsibility to conserve and improve it. It is clear that the Church must be interested in man's welfare and must be interested in his environment since this is so essential to his welfare.

4. The Stockholm Conference will catalyze a number of movements for greater awareness of our responsibility vis à vis our environment. The industrial civilisation is sick and impoverished. But, - and this is the attitude of the Holy See - we must move on from fear to hope. A hope based on measures for conserving nature and to help the movements to surpass their fear. As it stands now, the draft declaration is rather nebulous and contradictory. The Stockholm Conference will take care of the technical side of the problems by facing questions raised by:
- the mushrooming cities
 - the educational implications of the ecology question
 - the implications of the same question for the development of the Third World.
5. During the discussion, it was suggested that:
- the Third World countries are afraid that this issue will make the First World more reluctant to help them in their development efforts

- the development of a **pastoral** ministry where questions like this are no longer marginal but become central, should characterise the work of the Church in the future.

6. The basic questions facing Christians in the Western World now seem to be:

- Do we need to consume all this?
- What should be the style of life of Christians in the post-industrialisation period?
- How should Christians be educated to this life style? (Graber)

B. Tonna

NEWS FROM AND FOR THE GENERALATES

1. L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE 1972 des Soeurs missionnaires de N.D. d'Afrique (Soeurs Blanches commencera le 21 mai - Pentecôte - à la Maison généralice, Villa Vecchia - FRASCATI.

Le Conseil général élargi, c'est-à-dire, le Conseil général permanent avec les quinze Supérieures provinciales, discutera surtout les questions soulevées par "L'EVALUATION DE LA CONGREGATION", faite durant l'année écoulée.

2. On May 8, 1972, there was a meeting of CONSULTATION ON COOPERATION at F.A.O. and 8 Roman Catholic Organizations in which SEDOS was represented by its Executive Secretary Fr. Tomna.

3. Rome, May 9th, 1972 - OMI Information Service

Father Richard Hanley has been elected ninth Superior General of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He is 41. He succeeds Father Leo Deschâtelets who resigned on May 8th after heading the 7,000 member congregation for 25 years.

Father Hanley was born in Brooklyn, New York, USA, on February 22nd, 1931. He studied philosophy and theology at the Angelicum, Rome, and the Catholic University of Washington, where he obtained a licentiate in philosophy and theology (Angelicum) and a doctorate in theology (Washington). He was ordained priest in 1953. The new General was a lecturer in theology at the Oblate Scholasticate of Washington before he was appointed Provincial of the Oblate Province of California, a post he has held until now.

DOCUMENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST
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1. CHURCH CONSTRUCTION - Working papers by the Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund 1971.
Index: Church of the Poor - Do we need a "Sacral" Church? - A functional building - Building for time, not eternity - What kind of churches should we build in Africa? - Buildings for India - Indonesia - Guidelines for project petitions - Topical bibliography.

The pamphlet can be had in English, German or French from the: Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund.
2. The NATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL of CANADA has written a number of papers on how to organize a missionary council at all levels: national, diocesan, parish, lay, etc. The two main papers are by Bishop Alexander Carter, national director, and by Fr. T. Cronin, MM, on Missions today.
3. S.M. COMMUNICATIONS, besides the regular official issue No. 14, 21st April 1972, in English and French, have also circulated to their members in French a "Reservé commentaire non officiel: RESULTATS DE L'ENQUETE réalisée parmi les capitulants à la fin du Chapitre général SM de 1971 a San Antonio, Texas," by R.P. Johann Roten, SM, Fribourg, January 1972. The paper probes deep into the working of a general chapter and may suggest guidelines for future ones.
4. M.S.C. LETTER OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATION TO THE CONGREGATION, May 1, 1972 (in French and English) and MSC BULLETIN GENERAL, avril 1972: NOTRE SOCIETE MSC EN STATISTIQUES.

After announcing a convention at Paray-le-Monial in the first part of June, for the feast of the Sacred Heart, to study "how to make a spirituality, centres on the Heart of Christ, vital in our times", on the initiative of the Bishop of Autun (in which diocese Paray is situated), and with the participation, it is hoped, of the Congregations devoted to the Heart of Christ, the letter goes on to examine some important aspects of MSC vocation and "community" life, suggesting new forceful lines for renewal in areas of actual or potential weaknesses.
5. VILLAGE TECHNICAL HANDBOOK by VITA. A practical simple directory on water sources, lifting, storage purification, sanitation, agriculture food processing and preservation, construction, etc. mimeographed pp. 338.
6. Declaration of the Church in the Federal Republic of Germany to the Third United Nations' Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD III) in Santiago de Chile April/May 1972: "PARTNERS IN WORLD TRADE" with "Propositions and suggestions of a group of experts of the Churches".

LISTS OF DOCUMENTS RECEIVED DURING APRIL

compiled by Sister Agnetta, S.Sp.S.

I. INTERNAL

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Institute</u>	<u>Title of Document</u>
1.126	OSU	Provinces of the OSU in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
1.127	CRSA	Addresses of CRSA Convents.
1.128	SCMM-M	Liberation, conscientization in our Society by Sister Renée Roache.
1.129	Ibid.	"Comunità di base" - by Sr. Vianney Schneider.
1.130	FSCJ	Tesi di laurea dei nostri confratelli.
1.131	SA	Unité - Pluralism (Fascicule B).

II. EXTERNAL

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Title of Document</u>
4.475	Pro Mundi Vita	Men and Women in Partnership in the Church and in Society. Special Note No. 21 in French and English copies.
4.476	CODOC	First Draft of CODOC Thesaurus of Keywords.
4.477	Diocèse de Bobo-Dioulasso, Africa	Session Pastorale 1971-1972.
4.478	Conference Episcopale du Mali, Africa	Prêtres, Frères, Religieuses et Développement.
4.479	INADES	Rapport d'activité, Année 1971.
4.480	WCC(PCR)	Namibia: The Struggle for Liberation.
4.481	Church of South India Vocational Centre, India	Progress Report of Survey Team.
4.482	INTERPHIL	Report of the Annual General Assembly 1972.

<u>Code No.</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Title of Document</u>
4.483	INTERPHIL	International Organizations on Philanthropy seek more understanding from governmental authorities.
4.484	UNITA	Angola, Document 2.
4.485	UNCTAD	Partners in World Trade.
4.486	U.S. Department of State	Background Notes: United Arab Republic.
4.487	Justice & Peace	This is action.