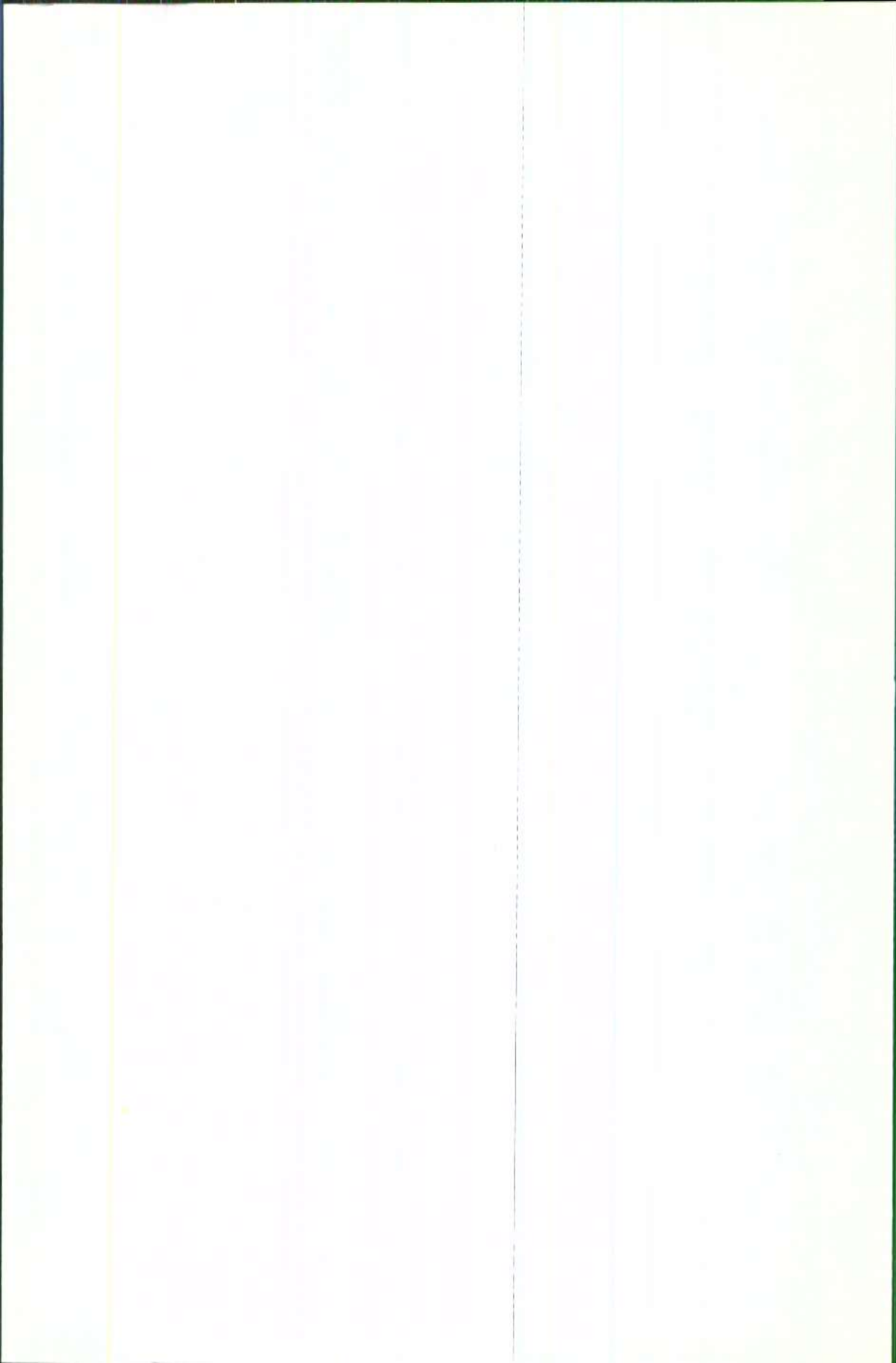


## REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS

---



**BEN EVERS**

*Development Research Institute, The Netherlands*

## Interface Issues in Development

A few of us have been asked to accomplish what might be called the "mission impossible" of transmitting to you the major points emerging from the discussions in the various working groups; in my case of the work done in the seven groups put together under the umbrella of interface issues.

The functioning of the working groups can indeed be seen as one of the crucial elements of Eadi, or as Professor Dudley Seers said "the proof of the pudding is in the eating".

This of course does not imply that I will be able to describe to you the taste of seven different puddings, most of which I could not even taste myself. The group rapporteurs and I had only a few hours this very morning to combine our information, so it is obvious that I cannot do justice to the ideas and the work of all of you. With this limitation in mind, I will start by briefly describing the major topics of the discussions as reported to me, following the order of the working groups as they appear in the programme. I will also present some of the major research suggestions and I will pass on some information as to the future plans of the various working groups.

In the working group in *Adjustment Policies* it became clear that the conceptual framework in which to place the adjustment problems should be re-thought. The restricted approach of adjustment, that is to look for ways and means to adequately cope with increasing

industrial imports from developing countries, appears to be less and less valid. Firstly, adjustment problems emanating from trade with less developed countries are only a part of the adjustments taking place in the industrial structure of Europe.

Secondly, adjustment in a low growth scenario is a much more complicated process than in high growth situations. If it is true that the employment problems, Europe will be confronted with in the future, will indeed be as great as expected, one should not only start re-thinking existing trade theory but one should also pay more attention to what I — for reasons of brevity — will call alternative life styles, a change in the structure of consumption, and so on.

It was suggested that a possible new approach might be found in defining explicitly what were called the structural preferences of societies, both developed and less developed and to try to find structures that in terms of social objectives would be complementary instead of contradictory.

Coming back to the adjustment problem in a more restricted sense, it was suggested that more detailed studies should be done on the costs and benefits of trade-related adjustment in order to clarify to the general public, and in particular to the most threatened groups in society, whether or not adjustment is justified. In addition, to what kind of trade should we adjust? Trade to the benefits of developing countries, yes. But what about trade motivated only by profit maximisation of multinational companies? Is it possible to elaborate an effective early warning system? Of course, there were many more points raised, however one conclusion emerged rather clearly; trade protectionism would not serve the interests of the less developed countries nor be in the interest of Europe. The working group on *Adjustment Problems* was quite convinced of the necessity to continue its co-operative research efforts and is planning new meetings.

In the working group on *Aid Performance and Policy*, discussions were concentrated on the future role and forms of aid, or as some preferred to call it "concessional resource transfers" since the former term may give offence and the concept of international "dole"

was seen by some as a recipe for disaster. Anyhow, there was general agreement that however successful efforts to restructure the international economy might be, concessionary resource transfers would still have a role to play, particularly for the poorest countries with limited access to capital markets.

The discussions dealt almost entirely with the donor end of the relationship; the effectiveness of aid therefore remains as a subject for future sessions. Major topics of this working group were firstly: should poverty redressal, or improved income distribution be the major objective of aid; secondly: should preference be given to programme or to project aid; thirdly: is aid used as a weapon. It was suggested that the so-called market for aid has become less imperfect, and gives more room for receiving countries to manipulate to some extent competing donors. With regard to food aid, the point was made that such aid might be most useful when it substitutes for commercial imports, thus freeing foreign exchange. It was noted, however, that this involves breaking international rules. The case for changing such rules was urged.

One future research topic which emerges from the group's report is an exploration of the reasons for the variations in aid efforts among European countries. This working group agreed to maintain contacts between participants on current and future research topics and eventually to organise a new session in the future.

The working group on *Cultural Dependence* started by making an inventory of the manyfold aspects of cultural dependence in developing countries and decided to concentrate on three topics.

In the first place, it became clear that the terminology used was not an adequate one and that the subjects to be studied could better be described as "cultural processes and development" in order to avoid the impression of a one-way process. This working group, therefore, decided to change its name accordingly.

Secondly one should not be overambitious but instead concentrate research on a crucial aspect of culture and development. It was generally agreed to concentrate on the aspect of language and its

influence in political, economic and social development. A major problem then is the choice of a national language in view of its significance for education, public administration, etc. In addition, the position and significance of foreign languages in developing countries were discussed in terms of their meaning as an indispensable bridge to foreign nations.

According to this group the choice of a national language is basically a political one, which should not only take into account the internal and external cultural power relations, but above all provide a possibility for effective participation of the whole population in the development process.

This group decided also to continue its research in a more or less co-operative form, but urgently asks Eadi to provide certain basic facilities in order to strengthen its efforts.

In the working group on *Migration and Development* many issues were raised, due to the multi-disciplinary character of this problem area. The three main aspects are the cultural, the social and the economic one. It was felt that in all three areas there is a serious lack of adequate statistics.

With regard to the first aspect it was concluded that research should concentrate on the problem of the loss of cultural identity (including religion); regarding the second aspect emphasis was laid on the problem of how to increase the possibility for migrants to more directly participate in the management of their own affairs and how to increase the political power of the migrant labourers (attention to this problem should be paid by both host and sending countries); regarding the third aspect two types of research were discussed, the research of particular problems on the basis of case studies, as well as macro-economic studies of a cost/benefit analysis type.

The group also agreed upon the necessity to carry out more prospective research, in particular since a change in the directions of the flows of migrant labour is to be expected.

It was felt that this working group could be re-activated with the

active support of Eadi and possibilities for new workshops were discussed such as on migration policies and on the political power of the migrant labourers.

In the working group on *Multinational Corporations, Transfer of Technology and Development* particular emphasis was given to the role played by the state, which was seen as a very significant actor in the field of multinational companies and development. It was also felt that a number of possible conflicts might arise between the working group on multinational companies and the adjustment policies group. Joint meetings between the two groups might therefore be desirable.

One of the most significant recommendations from this session was that a new working group should be set up on the role of the state. Within this, it was suggested that an important topic for research might be the role of the state in the economic development of Africa, focusing on those countries that follow a socialist pattern of development. Work in this group will also continue.

In the working group on *Tourism and Development* the debate took place around the following points:

- (a) a new methodology should be developed;
- (b) the research on this subject needs a multidisciplinary and integrated approach. Such a research should provide the elements to enable a multi-sectoral planning of tourism;
- (c) research on the tourism phenomenon should be simultaneously carried out in both sending and receiving countries;
- (d) with regard to the developed countries, research priority should be given to the elaboration of new forms of tourism, concomitant with the search for new life styles, but scepticism was also expressed on the viability of such an approach. With regard to developing countries their need for tourist planning was also emphasised. In addition more studies should be done as to possible conflicts of interests between developed and developing countries, studies that should indicate instruments for the latter to increase their bargaining power against Western multinational companies in this field. This

working group also decided to continue and expand its co-operative research efforts and to start preparing for new meetings. A lead institute is available.

Finally the working group on *World Trade and Commodity Policies*. On the basis of a number of papers, discussions were concentrated on three major problem areas:

- (a) European trade structures and commercial policies;
- (b) the integrated programme on commodities (Ipc) and its effects;
- (c) the effects of the enlargement of the Eec on developing countries.

Most members of this group agreed that a further co-ordinated research effort would be worthwhile. Many suggestions were made as to possible research subjects. We shall mention a few.

In relation to European trade structures and policies:

- (i) an international survey could be made on practices, reasons and effects of both old and new protectionism;
- (ii) attention should also be paid to the protective effects of policies in the field of industrial, regional, technological development, and so on.

In relation to commodity trade, research could be done in areas such as:

- (i) cost-benefit analysis of the integrated programme;
- (ii) the distribution of gains from the Ipc between producer and consumer countries and within these countries.

In relation to the enlargement of the Eec it was suggested that studies should be made on the following topics:

- (i) what industrial and agricultural policies are needed to avoid negative effects on less developed countries of the Eec enlargement;
- (ii) what are the regional implications of this enlargement (core-periphery approach?);
- (iii) what will be the future division of labour within the Eec, and what are the related adjustment problems.

In this working group various institutes expressed their willingness to organise research seminars in some of these fields.

The above, Mr. Chairman, is certainly not exhaustive, but gives only an impression of the research already done or still to be done; our working groups cannot certainly be accused of lack of dynamism. Now if you allow me a few final remarks, I would like to put the following questions.

(a) Did we come to definite conclusions on Europe's role in world development? I think certainly not, but then such an outcome could not be expected from the working groups in view of the time available. What came out quite clearly however is the need to study much more deeply Europe's role.

(b) Was the method of operation of the working groups satisfactory? On this point I have received a variety of opinions. Some groups were well prepared. In other groups papers only arrived during the conference. In some groups people already knew each other. In others people had to learn about each other. Some groups were of a reasonable size, others were so large as to make round table discussions well-nigh impossible. In some groups only researchers of the same discipline participated, in others many disciplines were present, and so on.

More important however than these points, which anyhow should be taken into account next time, are in my view the following ones:

- (i) many researchers established personal contacts and agreed on an exchange of research information;
- (ii) the need to continue with the working groups was generally expressed and various groups already agreed to start a kind of secretariat service among themselves;
- (iii) there was a demand for the creation of some new working groups;
- (iv) the need for more contacts between different working groups was voiced;

(v) finally, various working groups expressed the desire and the need not to restrict our work to European researchers but to try to engage in co-operative research with Third World groups.

If Eadi is what its members want it to be, then I think that we can conclude by saying that these are promising indications for the future of our Association.

**OLE DAVID KOHT NORBYE**

*The Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway*

## Primarily Internal Development Issues

The eight groups of issues discussed in special sessions yesterday were labelled as primarily internal development issues, as distinct from the so-called interface issues. We certainly all realise that hardly any development issue is exclusively or even predominantly internal, and that therefore the breakdown of the issues in two main groups does not mean that there is a clear borderline between interface issues and internal issues.

Nevertheless, the outcome of yesterday's discussion showed that the classification chosen by the organisers of the conference made more sense than we could have expected in advance. It turned out that, with one quite obvious exception — the European periphery — the groups discussed almost exclusively what the European research community could contribute to research on the problems of developing countries rather than the relevance of research on European problems for the development of the Third World. Although this might suggest that the various groups neglected the Eadi chairman's plea for more attention to our own problems, this outcome was to be expected, and was indeed rather unavoidable at the present stage.

In most of the groups interface problems were discussed, and in some of them they even played a dominant role. It was realised, in other words, that so-called internal development issues cannot be resolved by actions by the developing countries alone. They do indeed

work under very important international constraints.

The eight special sessions held yesterday had one feature in common. All of them reached the conclusion that contacts between the group members should continue in the future, and that there was a basis for co-operation on concrete research projects in due time. This being said it must be added that only few of the groups have arrived at more specific work programmes, including meetings scheduled even tentatively or research themes to concentrate on. But in the opinion of the group of rapporteurs who met this morning, this must not be considered as a disappointing outcome. We have to consider what the situation was before these reunions here in Milan.

In most cases the members of the groups met for the first time. The group activities started here, even though some useful preparatory work had been undertaken in advance. Some correspondence had gone on, some members of different groups did know each other. But in most cases group work started more or less from scratch. Of course, there were exceptions. The subject *The European Periphery* was dealt with in a workshop held at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex in November 1977. A workshop on rural development had been held at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, in October 1977, under the auspices of Eadi and with the support of the Chr. Michelsen Institute in Bergen. The group on *Women and Development* has been in existence since 1975. This prehistory was also reflected in the work of the groups concerned — they did have a selection of papers which became the subject of a discussion on substance during the better part of the meeting.

Another example should be mentioned: the group on *Income Distribution and Social Stratification* benefited from the work its convenor had done to collect information on ongoing research in Europe. He had received positive responses from some 120 researchers, inter alia working on some 30 to 40 research projects on income distribution and social stratification in developing countries. This work is, incidentally, published in a special issue of the Eadi *Bulletin* this year. On this basis the convenor was able to invite three

researchers to present papers that formed a good basis for the subsequent discussion.

In three of the other four remaining groups substantive discussion also dominated the proceedings, in part based on submitted papers. But the wealth of papers was in some instances such that it was not possible to give full justice to them, and one group dispensed with such a discussion all together, although it did devote some time to a free discussion of a substantive issue.

What kind of lessons can be drawn from this experience? We feel that in order to achieve as much as possible during the limited time that is available, some advance preparation is indispensable. But when sufficient preparation is impossible, it is nevertheless very valuable to have meetings of minds that think about the same problem area, although many times along very different lines and with highly diversified emphasis. Even if substantive discussions in some cases had to be limited to an exchange of fairly general views, they did succeed in clarifying some areas of mutual interests, and therefore in building the framework for a future research co-operation.

Which form such a co-operation may take will be dealt with under the different subject headings. But one general problem exists: what can Eadi do to assist in such co-operation? One answer is obvious — it can help by continuing to serve as a clearing house for concrete information and ideas. But it can also envisage to help organise meetings of some of the groups, on well-defined subject areas. However, we want to stress that no meeting should be organised for the sake of having a meeting. We would be tempted to say that meetings of a broader character must almost be considered as emergency solutions, rather than a normal course of events to be followed by Eadi. In general, we should rely on the many meetings, conferences, symposia and seminars which are being held anyhow to provide an opportunity for members of the research interest groups to meet and exchange information and ideas. When a meeting is needed to fill a gap in the international wealth of meetings, the interest should be so strong that the participating institutes and

individuals would be able to finance their own travel costs, and better yet, some institute should be able to act as host. Of course, it is up to the Eadi management to decide its own policy, but we felt in discussing the follow-up of the working groups that we should make the point that we are not advocating a flow of meetings as a necessary consequence of the future activities of the working groups.

Let me now turn briefly to the different working groups, realising that in this short intervention it is not at all possible to give any kind of justice to the many interesting exchanges of views on substantive issues that took place in these meetings.

The sessions on *Basic Needs Oriented Development Strategies* recorded an attendance of 42 people, but several others took part during some of the sessions. Three papers and one oral intervention formed the basis for the substantive discussions. There was some feeling that the basic needs strategy as a slogan may become short lived and that the real issue was to determine what kind of development strategies and policies could be expected to have the most positive impact on the betterment of the living conditions for the poorest population groups.

One of the papers raised the issue as to whether international trade helped to meet basic needs, and therefore questioned if the potential implementation of the New International Economic Order would be part of a basic needs oriented strategy or not. This question must not be interpreted as an objection against the new economic order as such, but rather as a warning that a better distribution of trade gains internationally is no guarantee of a better distribution of trade benefits trade nationally. Another paper raised a somewhat similar issue from another angle, viz. that the people themselves would be able to meet their basic needs, including participation and improved social relations, if they would be let in peace, and did not have to share their output with others in different manners. The author objected to policies which implied that the poor were given with one hand part of what had been taken away from them with the other. Real democratic control was a precondition for meeting basic

needs. It was objected that a massive transfer of resources from rich to poor countries and people nevertheless may be needed, and even desirable, because the international economic machinery is such that burdens and benefits, in fact, are very unevenly distributed, and that no easy solution is evident to end this injustice by more direct means.

The third paper and the oral intervention dealt with constraints and opportunities at the local level, and these interventions raised very interesting problems of research methodologies.

Local conditions vary since there is a great variety of social formations. Some may be altered through reforms, others seem to call for revolutions. To broaden our knowledge participatory research in the field is required.

Some twenty members among those who attended expressed interest in exchanging information with the view to enter into bilateral or broader co-operation on research. They promised to send information to the convenor of the group who would take charge of circulating the replies.

The Asian sister organisation of Eadi, Adipa, expressed strong interest in co-operation with European researchers on basic needs related studies.

The group was unable to define a number of themes as a basis for a research programme, but noted the interest in more research on the impact of the new economic order on basic needs; on the effects of different strategies (for example export-oriented development) on basic needs fulfilment; and at the local level on experiments with new research methodologies.

The session on *Employment and Education* assembled only nine people, but this did not prevent the group from having an extremely interesting discussion on a very central theme in development. Three papers had been submitted, and were discussed briefly. But the major thrust of the substantive sessions was on the employment problem which is characterised by some unemployment amongst people with the highest level of education, but lack of technicians at the lower end of the scale. This has had social reasons — lower prestige of engi-

neers and technicians than of academically trained people. Although the situation is improving, the state must enhance its efforts to guide people in their studies, even if manpower planning is admittedly a most difficult field. The group discussed Europe's role as one to encourage training in engineering subjects, and to raise the quality of education, but the adapters of the ideas must come from the developing countries themselves.

The working group wanted to continue and saw the role of Eadi as a clearing house for exchange of ideas, information and experience, with emphasis on correspondence contacts.

The session on *Environment and Development* assembled only six people, and was therefore the smallest of the groups, but was homogenous and conducted very efficient discussions. Six papers were discussed, of which three dealt with specific geographical areas (the settlement of the Amazonas, the problems of the Sahel). The need for a comprehensive approach which went beyond technical problems was stressed.

Two papers on "Ecodevelopment" were also discussed. The group took strong interest in the determination of the carrying capacity, with a longer term view in mind. Longer term thinking and the need for base material was stressed.

One issue was raised by one member of the group, viz. the need for a population group. He was alone to stress this, and was willing to organise such a group. The Eadi executive board will have to decide on this.

The group as a whole wanted to study the importance of environment for various other issues, such as rural development, quality of life, basic needs, and so on.

More specifically the group wanted to study the carrying capacity of different areas, and to clarify certain concepts, such as the meaning of the term ecosystem.

The convenor of the group plans to organise a meeting in Warsaw in 1980, with 10-15 people present, who will also deal with problems like basic needs and rural development.

The group on the *European Periphery* was the biggest of all. Thirty-five people had registered in advance, 48 people noted their names as attending the meeting and about 50/60 people participated in all. Already during the meeting participants indicated their fields of interest in writing. The big attendance was certainly explained by the previous activities in this field, and the presence of the Eadi chairman as convenor.

The basic idea is to apply a core-periphery model for Europe. Eleven papers had been submitted, some of which were discussed by an appointed discussant during the meeting.

The substantive discussion fell in two parts:

- (a) the core-periphery relations on the continental plane, and
- (b) these relations inside countries, including a discussion of regional planning.

This latter part of the discussion was the base for an invited paper. Many conceptual and methodological problems were raised, and the discussion was at times philosophical and even poetic, although it became more concrete towards the end.

The future work of the group was purposely broken down in three broad areas:

- 1) Methodological questions
- 2) Comparative country studies
- 3) Policy oriented topics.

A very specific research topic was agreed upon, viz. the impact of the enlargement of the European Communities with three Southern countries.

The group expects various conferences, workshops and seminars to be held, and envisages a more general meeting once a year. It will continue to issue a newsletter like the one that was sent out after the November 1977 Sussex Conference.

As mentioned before, the sessions on *Income Distribution and Social Stratification* which were attended by 23 people were based on three invited papers discussing problems on three levels: interna-

tional income distribution, national income distribution and the interrelationship between the two.

It was observed that the less developed countries' goal with the New Economic Order is to redistribute world income in their favour, and enhance the growth rates of their GNP, but that there is no specific goal for better internal income distribution. These sessions raised the same question as the basic needs session did implicitly: will more trade improve internal income distribution? The conclusion of the papers was that trade does not follow neo-classical principles, but is dominated by multinational companies, and that income distribution is determined by the power structures.

The case study on Venezuela showed that whereas the Opec countries had managed to appropriate 3 per cent of GNP of the industrial countries, in the specific case of Venezuela no less than 50 per cent of the increased revenue was invested in industrialised countries.

The national income distribution problem was illustrated by an income distribution model for Mexico, compared with empirical data.

For the future the group wanted to broaden the area of research to include the relationship between development aid and income distribution. The possibility of tying aid to better performance on income distribution, and the constraints to such a policy, will be reviewed. Secondly, they want to foster interdisciplinary research and regretted that only three non-economists attended yesterday's sessions.

The convenor expects to be able to hold a meeting of the group in Germany in March-April next year.

The sessions on *Rural Development* were attended by about 40 people, of whom about 10 to 15 declared that they would write up their research projects for distribution amongst the members.

Part of the discussion was based on three papers which raised more general issues, and which put considerable emphasis on the historical background and the constraints on rural development which follow from the fact that the rural world is the weak side of the triangle rural-urban-international. Rural problems had too long been

looked at merely from a technical point of view; on the contrary, the role of people's participation, donor agencies, multinational companies, and so on, must also be considered.

By contrast, one participant highlighted the main issues in an integrated Rural Development Programme as the following:

- 1) higher yields;
- 2) higher prices;
- 3) improved services and infrastructure environment.

Two papers discussed agricultural reform, and the problems of implementing a socialist form for agriculture while raising productivity simultaneously. Political will and full support from the central government were highlighted as key issues.

There was wide disagreement in the group between those who stressed the need for more theoretical knowledge, mainly a structural approach, and more technical knowledge, a so-called pragmatic approach, advocated particularly by the development bankers.

The group wanted to continue to work together, on the basis of an exchange of names and research subjects, which might lead to contacts that would foster at least co-operation on a bilateral basis.

The group on *Science and Technology for Development* gathered to start with 27 participants. It concentrated its discussions on the need for and the role of an Eadi group on this subject. Thus it decided not to discuss the eleven papers that had been submitted, but wanted instead to hold a meeting, preferably as early as in December this year, to discuss these and other substantive matters, and to define future work.

Part of the sessions was devoted to a brain-storming discussion of appropriate technology, and the conditions for developing it. The group found it useful to continue its work and wanted to write to other people to make them indicate interest. The possible future work programme would include a very long list of subjects, which presumably would be discussed further in the group's next meeting.

Finally, the sessions on *Women and Development* gathered 15

participants of whom three belonged to the group that had existed since 1975. It based its discussions on three papers and one oral presentation.

It was noted that the main interest of this particular group has moved a bit from women in less developed countries to home, notably to women in the Mediterranean countries, the European periphery, but also to migrant women in Europe.

The group has rather homogenous interest in case studies. One subject of general interest was discussed, with the conclusion that there is no general formula possible as to how to assist women in developing countries through development projects.

The group was not entirely happy with its work here in Milan, due to little time, and late availability of papers. But it considered that the group should continue, and that Eadi should help to pull two other groups together:

- (a) an Unrisd group that study the impact on women of socio-economic change; and
- (b) a Unesco financed project on migration in Europe.

I am afraid that in spite of all the patience which I have forced you all to show, I have not been able to yield full justice to the interesting work in the eight sets of sessions yesterday. But I hope to have given you some glimpses of what has gone on. At this late hour I will not attempt any synthesis of views, but merely thank you for the attention.

JAKE JACOBS

*Institute of Development Studies, United Kingdom*

## Co-operation in Training

I shall try to minimise my contribution to the inevitable intellectual indigestion from which you must be now suffering.

The group concerned with *Co-operation in Training* considered in depth three of the eleven papers presented to it. The first by Roy Preiswerk on "Culture Shock" effectively disposed of certain myths concerning the relative value of poor and rich country training institutions. A group consensus was less easily obtained on the criteria for the location of training programmes and the debate on this continued in the later session devoted to that very subject. The process described by Dr. Preiswerk as self colonisation in the field of training — the photocopying of rich country institutions as it was defined — was challenged with some force by the discussant M.me Eliou. None denied the theme that culture shock was a factor in training and that it existed wherever cultures came together, at home or abroad.

Perhaps the liveliest part of the debate occurred in the discussion as to whether freedom of expression should be considered as a pre-requisite for effective training, particularly when a rich country institution was invited to operate in a poor country. It was impossible to generalise but it should not be overlooked that the mere presence of representatives from rich country institutions may offer opportunities in certain circumstances for freer discussion than might other-

wise be possible in countries where the political climate tended to inhibit freedom of expression.

This phenomenon might also be facilitated if the training process were labelled as educational.

The second session was in many ways the most important of our meetings. It afforded Dr. Luis Ramallo of Flacso to talk about "Co-operation in Training As Seen By a Third World Representative", in this case a Latin American. The examination of changes in relations between Europe and Latin America demanded a recognition of the fact that problems previously categorised as those of poor countries were also those of industrialised countries. It followed that at last perhaps there begins to be a more soundly based reason for believing that rich countries had something to contribute to the solution of the problems of poor countries.

To evolve a strategy for co-operation in training, it was surely in the interests of European institutions to seek partners rather than disciples. Co-operation could no longer be based on humanitarian considerations alone. It follows that Europe had a real self interest in developing closer relations with developing countries. But no longer should we be talking of transferring skills and expertise, but rather exchanging such skills and expertise. This was certainly not a mere question of semantics. Merely to send overseas its staff members for varying periods was not the best way of assisting poor countries in the creation and development of their own high level training and educational institutions.

Once it was recognised that rich and poor countries shared certain problems, it should be easier to encourage poor country nationals to work in rich countries. They have a dual role to play. First to examine at first hand rich country experience to see if it might throw light on the solution of poor country problems. Secondly, in the development of the North-South dialogue, the poor country nationals have a teaching role to play. The North at last has something to learn from the South. But we must clear that it is the first of those two roles which has the priority. If it does not, the second role

can become little more than a new instrument of exploitation.

Finally, problems of training could not be dissociated from opportunities for research. This was a theme which was further developed in the third session which was based on Professor van Nienwenhuijze's paper, "The Location of Training Programmes for Third World Development Workers". Not all training institutions, whether in rich or poor countries, have the research capacity which is essential if training is to become innovatory.

Professor van Nienwenhuijze used his paper as a jumping-off point to elaborate further his thoughts on the location of training. To some extent the location was a non-problem in that by now the issue had been decided; training centres already existed in poor countries. The question was, how could they best be used and developed by their managers?

The choice of venue — where choice still existed — must be related to items of substance, namely what was to be taught and how? It should not be a question of here or there. Ideally it should be here and there so that there was an opportunity to relate both experiences to each other. The formula of so-called "modular" training was one possibility. But it was essential to recognise that training was not merely something that happened in training institutions.

The problems of ethnocentrism could be overstated. And in any event this characteristic was not peculiar to rich country institutions alone. One factor which had to be taken into account was the desire on the part of poor country nationals — in spite of everything — to experience training and education in the former metropolitan country. Whatever the reasons for this — and they are many and mixed — the situation had to be recognised. None denied that poor country nationals would continue to receive some training and education in rich countries. But perhaps more could be done to separate the inter-cultural aspects of visits to rich countries from the educational.

What then can I say emerged at the end of our deliberations? I hope that at all times we remembered two things. First that this was a conference on Europe's role in world development. Second that our

out-going President had made a special plea that something concrete and action-oriented might emerge from our deliberations.

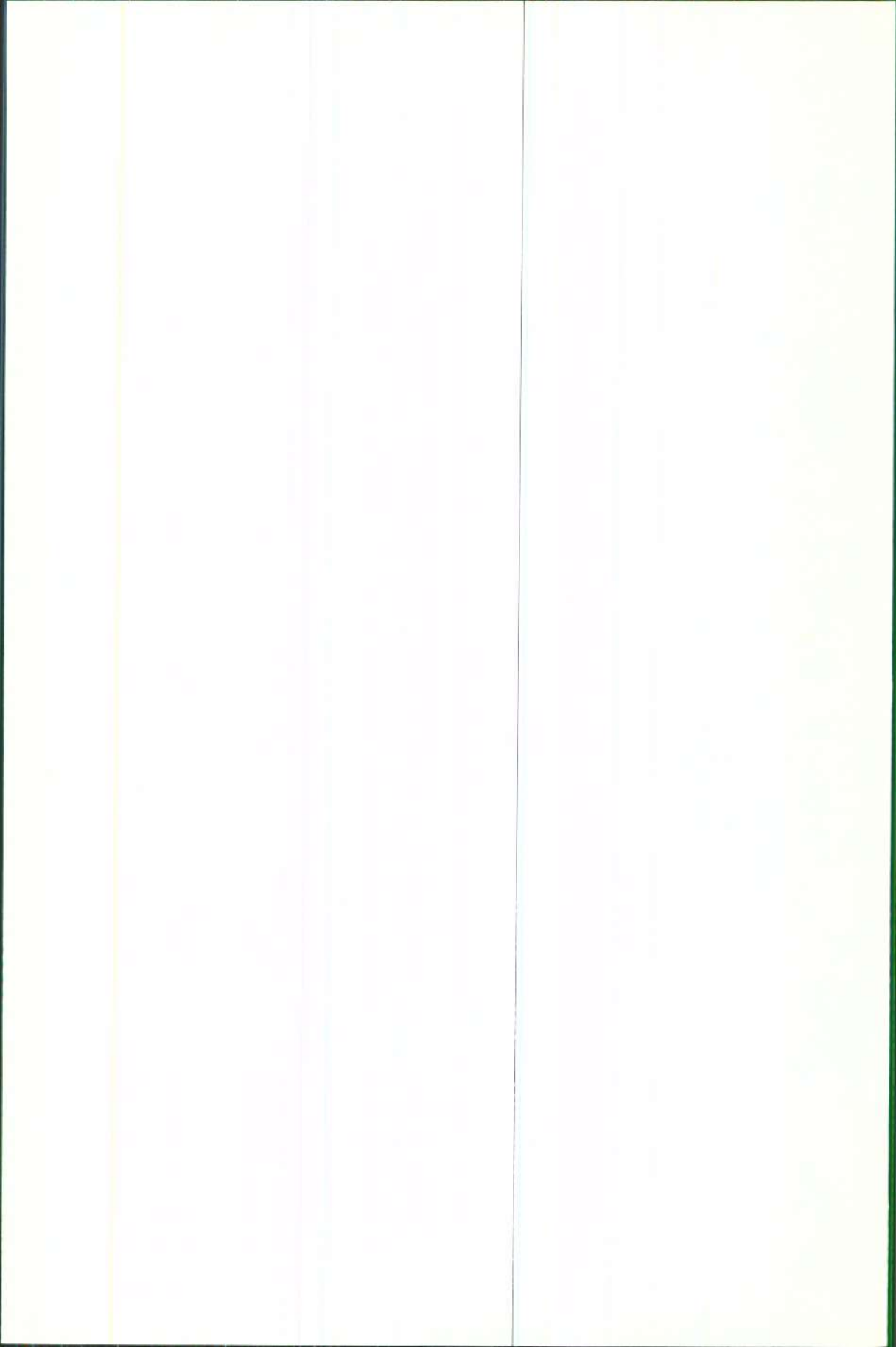
The group considered that further work needed to be done. Not surprisingly it thought it should remain in being. It welcomed Professor van Nienwenhuijze's willingness to continue at least pro-tempore to act as its convenor subject to one or two others being prepared to collaborate with him.

The second recommendation stemmed from the recurring theme throughout the group's deliberation, of bringing about a more fruitful collaboration between rich and poor country training and research institutions. The group's second recommendation to the Eadi executive was therefore that a working group be established to study models of co-operation between rich and poor country institutions. Within Eadi a considerable body of knowledge on the subject existed. It needed to be brought together, analysed, refined and disseminated. It was hoped that the other regional institutions could be brought into this debate.

The group recognised throughout, that the logic of its deliberations required it to do all it could to contribute to the training efforts of poor country institutions in their own nations: in short to support in-country training. Very delicate issues were involved once it was recognised that rich country inputs into poor country training had to be something quite different from sending training teams overseas. It was proposed therefore to the Eadi executive that a short workshop be arranged to share experience in in-country training. How can it be achieved? What are the main problems? The idea would be to assist those contemplating entering this dangerous mine-field.

Our last suggestion is more of a *cri de coeur*. It embraces all three preceding proposals. Eadi is something more than a grouping of academics. The group attached considerable importance to the involvement of non-academics in all its recommended activities. Training programmes should not be determined by academics alone or even by academics and public officials alone, nor should discussions about co-operation in training.

That is it. I don't think we can pat ourselves on the back for this outcome of 9-10 hour discussions. Discussions which started with twenty-five participants and finished with ten. If the mountain has given birth to a mouse I am under no illusion as to what the role has been of the rapporteur in this painful process of parturition.



**MICHAEL HUGH ROGERS**

*Institute of Development Studies, United Kingdom*

## Information and Documentation

Seventeen participants attended the group, nearly all of them continuously over the two days.

The programme was loosely structured to allow for some critical questioning of assumptions underlying existing practices and methods employed by information specialists associated with and endeavouring to serve all sections of the development community.

The convenor, who also assumed the function of rapporteur, introduced the proceedings in an uncirculated paper which attempted to focus on ideal objectives of information exchange rather than on specific methods and practices currently employed to facilitate such exchange. From the viewpoint of the information specialist, reflecting common reactions of users who are not themselves engaged in research, which may be disputed, general criticism of rich country development research funding agencies and researchers was expressed on several counts. These were considered to include the frequent disregard of the obligation to disseminate research results in a language and form suitable for a variety of legitimately interested audiences; the often inadequately critical use of limited sources of information and the comparative ignorance of less familiar but instructive sources of information which are available for use.

Libraries and documentation centres, even with their acknowledged limitations, are capable of playing an educative role and could

fulfil it more positively in relation to the research community if researchers were more often prepared to avail themselves of the local library, documentation agencies and accessible services through more extensive information networks. More detailed study of the information-collecting behaviour of researchers and the reasons for their apparently limited recourse to and reliance on formal library and information services is urged, and the experience of researchers in the other regional associations would be particularly illuminating in such an investigation.

The session continued with a review of past and on-going information activities intended to link Eadi members more closely. Recent Oecd Development Centre initiatives in collaboration with all the regional associations were leading towards the systematic recording of development research in progress in areas and countries which were not at present compiling national registers. The Development Centre is also planning a new NGO Development Directory to record information on NGO's undertaking aid activities in developing countries and NGO's engaged in development education in Oecd member countries.

In comments on research registers, but applicable much more widely in the information field, the query arose whether the indexing language employed was sufficiently flexible and sensitive enough to cope with concepts and terms carrying different meanings in different cultural areas. More general limitations of development research registers were commented on, in particular their emphasis on current and recent economic and social processes rather than technical information on the one side and historical and comparative analyses on the other. This suggested the desirability for the group to increase its own awareness of the availability of and mechanisms for access to other national and international technical information systems and to reference files now operational in some intergovernmental agencies.

The discussion was extended, and considerable sympathy was expressed with the view that institutions in Europe still had an

important role to play in the transfer of knowledge and information already stored in many metropolitan countries, although it was recognised that this required the development of absorptive information infrastructures in recipient countries, possibly best achieved in the framework of the general information and Unisist programmes of Unesco.

The group was next provided with a survey of the genesis, objectives, system design and current state of implementation of Devsis by a committed advocate of this proposed international information system for development. Among its features are a mission-oriented purpose and a multi-disciplinary character; a subject scope delimited in relation to other existing or proposed intergovernmentally-sponsored information systems; and a territorial formula whereby national focal institutions or possibly supra-national regional centres are to be responsible for the selection of documents for recording in the system. It was argued that the fully operational system would be more economical than the existing range of disconnected and duplicative information services and very inexpensive by comparison with the investment in development research.

Nevertheless, the implementation of Devsis still awaits inter-governmental agency sponsorship and sustaining finance and political initiatives are required; Unctad 1979 offers an early opportunity for its further promotion. Meanwhile, a number of pilot experiments at country level have been or will soon be made and it was noted that a number of other Eadi member institutions were already employing practices which indicated a capacity to go further in the Devsis direction.

Doubts continued to be expressed about the capacity of the system to capture the very extensive proportion of the development literature described as "invisible" and consisting largely of information over which inter-governmental and government agencies, multinational and business consulting firms and private funding agencies claim proprietary rights. It was pointed out that formal and informal approaches to government sponsoring agencies have been known to

succeed in derestricting information of this kind, but the group was not optimistic that this would occur more generally or in the near future.

More positively, the consideration of Devsis, especially in its relation to other large scale information systems, prompted greater awareness of the need for development information specialists to acquire the skills necessary to take advantage of such systems in order that they, in turn, could develop a more active approach to training users and consumers of development literature at several different levels.

This section of the meeting concluded with the adoption of the following statement: Eadi is interested in the concept and implementation of Devsis, the proposed development sciences information system.

At the working group meeting in Berlin in April 1978, concern was expressed at the comparative lack of progress in the implementation of the full operational programme of Devsis.

In Milan, the group, taking note that some countries have already started to prepare potential inputs to Devsis, considered that a joint political initiative by governments of both industrialised and developing countries in the appropriate United Nations forum was a necessity and, for the initiative to be successful, this joint involvement of both industrialised and developing countries was indispensable.

The group requests the President of Eadi to transmit these comments to all members of the Executive Committee and to the Presidents and Executive Secretaries of the sister associations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Arab states.

Following the decision of the group's preparatory Berlin meeting, a wide-ranging discussion of dissemination problems occupied most of the second day. This was a difficult exercise in which the group felt acutely the absence of participants who could defend the research funding agencies and researchers against the general charges being made against them.

The group, composed of middlemen standing between the producers and consumers of information, had various perceptions of the limitations of their own skills and strong views on the responsibilities and obligations of those who fund, manage and conduct social science development research.

Although doubts were expressed about the desirability of making research agencies and individual researchers entirely and exclusively responsible for the dissemination of their results to all conceivable target groups, it was observed that all too often minimal responsibility was being recognised or accepted. A forceful plea was made for an active and continuous dialogue between researchers, users and information specialists, it being eventually accepted that the last group does have useful professional skills which are at the disposal of producers and consumers alike.

There was no obvious reason why the standards and practices commonly observed in the reporting of other, particularly scientific, fields could not be copied by social researchers. There was enthusiastic agreement that authors should be obliged to give their writings unambiguous and precise titles describing their specific content, rather than hyperbolic and esoteric ones. The provision of multilingual abstracts was also strongly advocated, though here the collaboration of author and specialist, abstracting professionals and journal editors, is advisable.

The different dissemination activities of the Sid and the Oecd Development Centre were described and helped to clarify issues relating to different stages of the information process. The Oecd Development Centre appeared to have more rigorous requirements for the conduct of its sponsored and funded research and included the dissemination function within its terms of reference. Sid, on the other hand, was performing, through a publication and meeting programme, an informative and educative function directed at a large dispersed membership. The effectiveness of this "invisible college" is clearly assumed but its relative efficiency by comparison with more formal modes of dissemination is unknown.

Suggestions made earlier in the meeting for giving priority to the improvement of Eadi's own information infrastructure, as an interim course of action before any final commitment, was made to Devsis, rather than possibly fruitless attacks on the more intractable obstacles to information flows roused considerable passions. In more specific details, a proposal was made to systematise and consolidate mailing lists of Eadi member institutions and some others to identify the "inner circle" of researchers, and to develop a bibliographic list of member institutions' publications which would circulate to all those included in the mailing list who, in turn, could request copies of documents. This scheme would, in effect, imply the assumption by a central clearing house or by a series of national centres of Devsis-type responsibilities. By extension, the scheme could be developed by the other regional associations.

Some participants more sympathetic towards Devsis welcomed the proposal but others considered that it would still not have much effect on what they thought was wrong with the research management regarding dissemination and free flows of information from the agencies responsible for most of the "invisible" literature.

The critique by information specialists who felt that they too were entitled to pass opinions about the quality of what they have to provide and make available to their users also extended to the relatively open academic community. Here, much development research activity appeared to be based on inadvertent or even deliberate disregard of many less familiar sources of information, not necessarily less reliable in the aggregate than those that are more commonly used. These include dissident opinion within rich countries themselves but more particularly information and opinion created in poorer countries, about themselves, about us, and about their participation in the international community. Some members of the group believed not only that such sources of information should be more widely used by rich country researchers, but that all research publications should include a critical survey of the range and reliability of such sources as had been used.

Many sources of data are commonly regarded as deficient but the information specialist has to look hard in the research literature to find reliable assessments of their quality. It was of course recognised that access to less familiar published sources was problematic, since few libraries collected them systematically. Nevertheless, it was sharply felt that they could illuminate many problems with a passion and concern so often lacking in the research literature.

Following from this, the desire was expressed to discover from the other regional associations the relevance and usefulness of the information disseminated to them by Eadi member institutions and to exchange views more regularly with information specialists from the sister associations, where new initiatives in developing intraregional communication flows are occurring and from which we may have much to learn. The suggestion for research on how development research is disseminated globally and what impact it has was repeated.

From an organisational point of view, the group was concerned at its relative isolation from the research community and conscious of the limitations imposed on it by that community, when it comes to disseminating information to users who are not themselves engaged in research. A request is therefore made to the organisers of general Eadi meetings for the group's future discussions to be enlarged by mutual participation, or for the inclusion of information issues in the agendas of primarily research-oriented sessions, as well as by the participation of information colleagues from the other regional associations.

The group gives preliminary announcement of its future meetings programme to which it hopes to invite specialists from the other associations and from international agencies.

1. A ten-day training course for heads of libraries and documentation centres of Eadi members: West Berlin, February 1979.
2. An expert meeting on the compilation of research registers: probably Paris, late 1979.

3. A meeting of directors of information and documentation training courses: West Berlin, spring 1980.
4. A workshop on information strategies for social science research on development: Bonn, autumn 1980.
5. A workshop for editors of development journals: prior to the Eadi general conference, 1981.

In summary, the group reports to the general conference:

1. Its statement on Devsis, already quoted.
2. Its welcome of initiatives by Sid and the Oecd Development Centre with regard to dissemination problems, and urging these sponsors to ensure the fullest possible participation by members of all regional associations.
3. Its intention to discuss further specific suggestions for improving the Eadi information infrastructure.
4. Its expressions of criticism of research funding agencies and the rich country research community specifically in terms not only of inadequate dissemination but also of relevance and quality.
5. Its desire for more extensive dialogue between information specialists and researchers on the particular responsibilities each group has for making constructive and freer use of the products of investment in research.

Finally, the group recommends that the convenor's unpublished paper is inserted in the Conference proceedings.