

ONCE MORE, THE THIRD WORLD

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Here at home, President Reagan and his brain trusters are saying that old - fashioned volunteerism can make up for government slashes in social services. Then, turning to what State Secretary Haig glibly dubs "the so-called Third World," the Reagan concept for assistance to the developing nations is spoken of primarily as "the magic of the Market place."

Oh, for more sensitive conceptualizing!

For the harsh truth is that if the Third World nations, rich in natural resources but unschooled in the technological opportunities of our times, fall farther behind, growth in this our snug First World is certain to grind to a slow and costly pace.

The facts have been laid out often lately. At the Ottawa Summit on economic matters, Mr. Reagan was instructed. In New Delhi this past February, where bitterness about Soviet incursion into Afghanistan had top billing, the facts were marshalled again. At the British Commonwealth's gathering of 41 nations in Melbourne in October, a warning was issued that the coming economic crisis of universal size may dwarf the Great Depression of the 1930s. Most recently, such warnings abounded at the Cancun conference in Mexico.

Despite all such evidences of impending catastrophe, we continue to be fed the rhetoric that all the Third World needs to do is to raise the banner of honest toil, develop free - market economies, subscribe to our free enterprise system (plenty of seats in the gallery) and move into the Nirvana we enjoy inhabiting.

How then to encapsulate the bitter truths so that those who run will pause for a moment and grasp the enormity of the challenge?

Let's try: each year some 73 million people are added to the burgeoning world population; 90% in have - not lands. In the developing nations, the jobless rate is 40%. Millions live in rural areas, easy prey to new demagogues. Food availability shrinks; energy sources are primitive; 30 million children under five starve to death yearly; a half billion people suffer acute malnutrition; illiteracy is a brake on progress.

Recently when we marked World Food Day, all these facts and many more were set forth. At the long - awaited October conference on World Economic Development in Cancun, Mexico, attended by President Reagan, much was repeated. But America is preoccupied with East-West tensions and tends to drowse off when North - South supplications arise at Cancun.

Would it be worth while to throw the spotlight on the oil - rich nations, on the shakers and movers of the Arab world? Prince Talal of Saudi Arabia has said his nation will anti \$60 million towards a Human Development Foundation to help Third World countries. His cousins in other Arab lands talk of advancing \$200 million more. The oil is there for the digging. And wealth garnered from the black gold of Arab lands may spur those nations to investing heavily in the mineral - rich African and Asian holdings. The Arabs will have competition from industrial - wise Japan on such diggings. But where are the United States and Britain in this modern gold rush?

Yes, where are the Reagan forces here and the Margaret Thatcher forces in England? In Washington, the President has asked Congress for additional cuts in our contributions to the International loan programs for the emerging nations. In London, Prime Minister Thatcher, despite spiraling unemployment, offers sermons from the same economic textbooks. Glory, glory, to the "Magic of the Market Place."

It's not too late. Surely, there are Americans who will heed the advice of William J. Vanden Heuvel, former U.S. deputy permanent representative to the UN. He says that if we are unable to identify our own well - being in strengthening the economic foundations of the Third World, we are doomed to pay a price in much more than dollars. If we give ear to the warnings of Robert McNamara, after his 11-year stint as President of the World Bank, we may rivet attention on the fact that one - third of our export trade is with that struggling orphan

-- the denigrated Third World. (We sell more goods to those nations than to Western Europe and Japan combined.)

Boiled down, this is to say that if we continue oblivious to the strength our economy gets from the Third World, we are likely to suffer more unemployment and more inflation here at home. And a proud nation that once lighted up the sky with a compassionate and economically-sound Marshall Plan, may come to realize that we gain more by being compassionate at the North - South level than we do by sniffing out a new crisis each day along the East - West line.

DISPUTE OVER WAGNER MUSIC

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The bitter running controversy over the performance of the works of Richard Wagner by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra has centered on Zubin Mehta, the IPO's conductor and musical director. Dov Shilansky, a Herut member and Deputy Minister for Special Functions attached to the Prime

Minister's Office, demanded that Mehta, who is not an Israeli, leave the country, according to a report here.

But Knesset Speaker Menachem Savidor, also a Likud member, came to Mehta's defense, noting that the internationally famous conductor is a loyal and enthusiastic friend of Israel and has raised Israel's prestige in the international cultural community. Savidor told a group of visiting Columbia University lecturers that Mehta deserved an honored place in Israel's cultural life and that personal attacks against him should be rebuffed.

Meanwhile, the IPO management rejected Shilansky's attack on Mehta, noting that the decision to play Wagner was made by the orchestra as an institution. The performance of Wagner as an encore piece at a concert at Tel Aviv's Mann auditorium in early October enraged many Israelis because of the composer's anti-Semitism and the association of his music with Nazi ideology. But many other Israelis maintained that it was the music that counted, not the

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