

problems, and have taken most of the resources desperately needed for them.

Of these the most pressing and most intractable is population control in the third world. At current rates of increase among the poor three quarters of the human race, their numbers will double about every 30 years. There is no conceivable way that food production can keep up with this flood of human beings. Even less are the chances for progress toward a humane life at some minimum level of education and technological development. In the developed countries population growth is manageable because they have both the technological resources for nearly universal distribution of contraceptive information and devices, and the motivations of individual economic self-interest to limit family size. Both of these are lacking in the underdeveloped world. The only methods of population control open to them are war, disease and starvation. All will take their toll, at ever increasing rates and with ever greater threats to the complacent well-being of the rich countries.

Food production and economic development of the third world be massive problems even with a stable population. As a nation we have sought to add to our moral luster by pointing to our foreign aid program as proof of our unselfish concern for a suffering humanity. The truth of the matter is that any good we have done for suffering humanity has been an accidental bonus from, not the primary intended result, of our foreign aid dollars. The reconstruction of Europe through the post World War II Marshall plan was part of our cold war program to inhibit the potential expansion of the U.S.S.R. It involved neither the underdeveloped world or morality, but a calculation, now seen by some as in error, that it was a necessary action to prevent Russian armies from marching to the At-

lantic and the Mediteranean.

After the Marshall plan, the larger part of our generosity went to the circle of countries surrounding China. Those great friends of freedom, Chiang Kai-Shek, Syngman Rhee, and Ngo Dinh Diem were the favored recipients in return for commitments to serve as outposts of the U.S. containment policy in Asia. Pakistan and India received a modest portion, again tied to support of United States-China policy. The military component of this assistance is the largest, and is invariably used to suppress indigenous unrest, or, as with Pakistan and India, to attempt to settle old grudges against each other.

Africa and Latin America, being peripheral to the cold war containment of the U.S.S.R. and China, received correspondingly less assistance. Even their meager share was doled out with the attached strings of adherence to U.S. economic and political policies.

Today, most nations of the third world are losing ground, relatively speaking, to the rich industrial nations, both Communist and non-Communists, in the drive for economic well-being. Foreign economic assistance to them is increasingly being offset by demands for payment of interest and principal on former loans. The rich nations manipulate the prices for third world products, largely raw materials, while keeping the prices of their products, largely the sophisticated products of technology, as high as possible. The trained and educated personnel of many parts of the third world are being drained off to the rich nations by the attraction of higher economic rewards.

Instead of the old-style political Imperialism of the 19th Century, the United States—and most rich Western countries—today practices a more sophisticated form of economic imperialism. Its